

Geelong  
Numismatic  
Society

Journal

---

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a Periodical — Price 15c.

---

GEE LONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(Founded 1965)

P.O.Box 423, G.P.O.,  
Geelong 3220, Victoria,  
AUSTRALIA.

President

N.M.Clement

Hon.Secretary

K.D.C.Bain

Hon.Treasurer

E.S.Bond

Monthly Meetings-- Fourth Friday of each Month

8.00 pm. Guild Hall, Myers St., Geelong.

VOLUME 2 - Number 2

SEPTEMBER 1969

E D I T O R I A L

Dear Member,

It is most encouraging to have found this new Journal so well received by everyone, and although as you can imagine, there is a lot of work involved in its production, this is very well worth while if it is the sort of thing Members want. In any case, we intend to chop and change it a bit with the aim of improving its usefulness, so do please let us know what you like and what you don't like.

This month we are changing the layout slightly, in that instead of making the last page the Mart, as was intended, this information is being placed on the same sheet as the Tender Sale list. This is so that if you wish to remove your Tender Sale list from the Journal before keeping each issue, you will be able to do so without removing any of the Articles etc. Also, the pages are being numbered in a way to permit this. It is our intention, however, to continue to provide Tender Sale lists for each person present at the Meeting, and these will be placed on the table on that night, so if you either forget or don't want to bring your Journal, don't worry.

We would very much like to receive not only articles for the Journal from you, but also your comments on the articles printed. Your comments, either adding to the information in an article or correcting any statement you believe to be inaccurate in the light of anything you have observed or read yourself. These comments will be published in the Journal as "Letters to the Editor" and we hope will create additional interest.

## G. N. S. NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGENeil Clement

Dear Members,

I take this opportunity to inform you of your Board's plans for the remainder of the year, and to comment on some of the changes which have been made recently to our Meeting procedures. Changes which I believe have greatly improved our Meetings.

At the September Meeting Mr. Ian Barnes will be Guest Speaker. Ian has been a collector of War Medals for many years, and he will, with the aid of displays, cover the basic points in collecting, identifying and housing War Medals.

October is a big month for us. We are, for the first time, to have two Meetings in the one month, both of which will be away from Geelong. The first, on Thursday 9th October, will be a visit to the Melbourne Numismatic Society, where we will be able to meet and talk with fellow numismatists and collectors of another city.

On the fourth Friday, October 24th, our normal night, we are holding our Meeting at Ocean Grove. This is the first of several attempts at reaching collectors in the nearby towns, with whom up till now, we have had little or no contact.

November is our break-up night. Our present plans are that the club should travel to Melbourne by bus with wives, husbands or girl-friends and have an evening out at the theatre. Spending money on them for a change. Make your plans now, so that we can have the pleasure of your company on this happy occasion.

My comments about the Monthly Meetings are as follows:

Meetings start on time and finish early - i.e. 10.15-10.30

Meetings are friendlier and more informative than they have been for many months.

Many more Members are participating in the Meetings by displays and talks.

The Board members are now "hopping in" and we can look forward to many more enjoyable and worthwhile Meetings if this spirit continues.

My thanks go to all those who are doing their best to enable our Society to function as it should.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September Meeting will be held on Friday 26th September, at the Guild Hall at 8.00 pm.

The Programme will feature a Talk on Collecting Medals by Mr. Ian Barnes, and we feel that if you are able to attend, you will be most interested in what Mr. Barnes has to tell us on this subject. Please make him feel at home in our midst and show your interest by asking him any questions you wish - we are sure he will be more than happy to answer them.

The approximate Timetable for the Meeting will be as follows:-

Bourse (Fixed Price Table)	7.30 - 8.00 pm.
	10.15 - Close
General Society Business	8.00 - 8.30 pm.
<u>Guest Speaker - Mr. Barnes</u>	<u>8.30 - 9.45 pm.</u>
Tender Sale	9.45 - 10.15 pm.

We look forward to seeing as many Members as possible there, and do bring any friend who shares our various interests.

## COMING MEETINGS

Friday, October 24th is our next regular Monthly Meeting, and as already announced, this will be held at Ocean Grove. Details at the coming meeting and final arrangements will be set out in the next Journal.

## SPECIAL (Visit)

Thursday, 9th October. We have now heard from the Melbourne Numismatic Society that they would be very happy to welcome on that night any of our Members who wish to attend. This should be an enjoyable and instructive outing, and we are hoping to show our appreciation to the M.N.S. by a good turn-up. Details re. transport, etc. at the coming meeting.

Friday, 28th November - That's the Theatre Night - Have you mentioned it at home yet, or are you just stalling?

NEW ISSUES & GENERALAUSTRALIAN PROOF SETS 1969

We are now able to accept Orders from Members for these Sets available from the Royal Australian Mint, Canberra. They are Sets of SIX coins, including the new 50 Cent piece, packed in a hard plastic case, and are \$10.00 (Ten Dollars) per Set inclusive of Postage and Packing.

Orders will be accepted by the Treasurer or Secretary at any time up to and including the October Meeting (Friday 24th Oct.) but we must receive your remittance for \$10 per set ordered at the time of ordering. So we look forward to seeing you with money in hand. Centenary Florins in good nick will be accepted by the Secretary in lieu of cash.

MELBOURNE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEDALLION

The above Society is having a Medallion struck to commemorate the Bi-centenary of Captain Cook's landing on the coast of Australia in April 1770. Details are as follows:-

Total Striking	-	200	Maximum
Silver	-	Not more than	50
Silver			
(Oxidised)		Not more than	75
Copper/Bronze	-do-		75

Size 1½" Diameter, Edges numbered, Manufactured by Stokes.

Obverse: Head of Captain James Cook facing left on a decagon base forming inner surround. Wording inside surround - "Captain James Cook, R.N., F.R.S." with wording outside decagon margin - "Bi-centenary of Landing in Australia 1770"

Reverse: Ornamental scroll background with wording superimposed - "Melbourne Numismatic Society - Founded 1965"

Prices: Sterling Silver \$10.50; Silver Oxidised \$5.25;  
Bronze Toning (Copper base & Bronze relieved) \$4.50.

Orders received promptly will be delivered at the October 9th Meeting of the M.N.S. Please contact our own Secretary if you are interested.

## THE MARKET PLACE

Any items which are wanted for your collection can be publicised here by notifying the Hon. Secretary, and you may also advertise here any material which you wish to exchange or sell by negotiation with any person interested.

The items listed may from time to time be identified by use of the normal catalogue symbols, e.g. Y-Yeoman, R-Renniks, S-Seaby, C-Craig etcetera.

WANTED - By Neil Clement, Phone 74027

Great Britain - 1863 Farthing - Fine to Very Fine

Will pay \$20 - \$30

Great Britain - Crown 1902 - Very Fine or better

Great Britain - Crown 1927 - 36 - Very Fine or better

English Hammered Coinage.

<u>Saudi Arabia</u>	-	Y4a (Yeoman)	-	F or Better	\$4.00
		Y13	"	-do-	\$8.00
<u>Iraq</u>	-	Y19	"	-do-	\$1.00
		Y20	"	-do-	\$1.50
		Y22	"	-do-	\$2.00
<u>Muscat &amp; Oman</u>	-	Y1	"	-do-	\$3.00
		Y4	"	-do-	\$3.00
		Y5	"	-do-	\$4.00
		Y6	"	-do-	\$5.00
		Y9	"	-do-	\$4.00

EXCHANGE - Contact John Hosford, Phone 72204

Great Britain - Will Exchange S 3161 (Seaby)

1887-90 Double Florin EF

For S 3163 1887-92 Florin EF

and also exch.S 3166 1887 Sixpence UNC

For S 3165 1889-92 Shilling EF-UNC

or S 3169 1887-93 Threepence EF-UNC.

If you can assist - please contact these Members DIRECT by Phone

Lot No.	Country of Issue	DESCRIPTION	No. of Coins	Cond'n.	
901	Gibraltar	Crown 1968 - in case	1	EF	\$1.40
902	(Mixture)	Pennies - U.K. 1899, N.Z. 1962, Eire 1950 East Africa 1945, S.Africa 1942	5	G-VF	20
903	South Africa	Half Crown 1940	1	F	80
904	(Mixture)	8 Countries	X 10	G-VF	10
905	England	Sixpence - George VIII & Victoria	2	P	10
906	England	Victoria Jubilee Silver Medallion	1	-	1-70
907	Australia	Australian Numismatic Society - National Convention Medal, Sydney 1966	1	-	\$2.50
908	(Mixture)	15 Countries	X 21	P-EF	20
909	Austria	Franz Joseph World War I Medal 1914.	1	-	\$2-
910	South Africa	Florin 1940.	1	F	50
911	South Africa	1c 1967, 2c 1968, 5c 1965, 10c 1965.	4	F	20
912	(Asia)	Mixture 5 Countries	X 10	P-F	40
913	(Mixture)	10 Countries	X 20	P-VF	20
914	(Mixture)	Mainly England - Copper and Bronze	52	P-EF	20
915	England	Penny - George IV 1827 - rare date. 2c. \$1.	1	VG	\$1-10
916	England	Cartwheel Penny 1797	1	P	50
917	England	Halfpennies - All Different 1891 - 1966	14	G-EF	30
918	England	Pennies - All Different 1879 - 1962	27	P-F	10
919	England	Halfpennies - All Different 1866 - 1965	50	P-VF	80
920	England	Pennies - All Different 1863 - 1965	58	P-VF	50

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

Material is urgently required for the next Tender Sale -  
Any spare items which you may wish to dispose of will be  
gratefully received by Bob Jordan at the G.W.S.T. Office.

POSTAL BID FORM

NOTE: To be valid, this form must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary at least ONE CLEAR DAY prior to the date of the Tender Sale.

To the Tender Sale Organiser,

Please enter the postal bids shown on my behalf. I understand that the Society accepts no liability in respect of this notification.

LOT No.	BID

Name & Address:  
(Please Print)

---

---

---

Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For the record....

## PRICES REALISED AT TENDER SALE 22/8/69

Lot No.	Price	Lot No.	Price
801	0.20	816	0.10
802	0.50	817	0.70
803	0.20	818	0.50
804	1.60	819	0.70
805	1.70	820	0.60
806	2.00	821	0.90
807	0.30	822	0.50
808	0.40	823	0.20
809	0.20	824	0.10
810	0.10	825	0.20
811	1.00	826	0.90
812	0.60	827	1.60
813	1.60	828	0.20
814	0.60	829	0.20
815	0.20	830	1.50

## ATTENDANCE AT AUGUST MEETING

Members	-	21
Visitors	-	3
Apologies	-	2

To The Hon. Secretary,  
 Geelong Numismatic Society,  
 Box 423, GPO, GEE LONG 3220 Vic.

## COUNTERMARKS & CHOPMARKS (2)

(1) These are a sign or device, such as lettering, numerals etc., stamped on a coin subsequent to its issue, whereby a fresh or further guarantee is given to the coin, or the value of the coin is changed, or the coin is rendered current in some other country from that in which it was issued. A well known example is the Spanish Dollar countermarked for use in England in the reign of George III, and of course, in a slightly more drastic way, our own Holely Dollar and Dump of the Colony of New South Wales.

(2) Chopmarks are so named from the Hindustani "chhap" - an official mark on weights and measures, or a customs-house stamp or seal showing duty paid. Until recent times, the native merchants of Hong Kong and other south China ports impressed their private marks on all dollars that passed through their hands, as a guarantee of genuineness. A coin so marked is known as a "chopped" coin, and an unchopped dollar is known as a "clean" dollar.

### BENEDETTO PISTRUCCI

Benedetto Pistrucci (1784-1855) was an Italian Medallist, who went to England in 1815, and succeeded Thomas Wyon as Chief Engraver to the Royal Mint. In 1817 he designed the new coins of George III, which although dated 1816 were not issued until the following year, and he also designed those issued for George IV. The famous design of St. George and the Dragon on the reverse of the English gold coins and silver crown was originated by him. Many famous commemorative medals, including the Coronation Medal of Queen Victoria were also struck by him.

In 1828 he was appointed Chief Medallist to the Mint, William Wyon succeeding him as Chief Engraver. In 1849 there appeared the dies of the great plaque commemorating the victory of Waterloo, on which he had in fact been working for twenty-one years. The medal was never actually issued, because by the time it was ready for striking, all those whom it was intended to honour (with the exception of the aged Duke of Wellington) were dead.

Pistrucci's work has stood the test of time as a reward for its excellence, however, as the Festival of Britain 1951 Crown bears his design, and was in fact struck to commemorate also that Great Exhibition which was held just before his death in 1851. Also, even today the Sovereign is still being struck with the same reverse as it has since the reign of George III.

## MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

### No. 2: The Iron Cross

The Iron Cross is, of course, the most famous German award, and it is not generally realised that, until Hitler revived it in 1939 as a German Order, it had previously been Prussian, not German. It had always been awarded by the King of Prussia, although from 1871 he also happened to be Emperor of Germany.

Furthermore, it was not a permanent award, being instituted in 1813 by Prussia for the Napoleonic Wars, discontinued until revived in 1870, for the Franco-Prussian War, and then revived again in 1914 at the start of World War I.

It has been awarded to a number of British Subjects, a few of whom have received it with the black ribbon with white side stripes, as combatants; most of the awards were made with the white ribbon with black side stripes, to medical officers. With this latter ribbon, the decoration is often quite incorrectly described (even in some German books) as the "civil" Iron Cross. The Iron Cross is essentially a military decoration, but when awarded to non-combatant troops or to civilian personnel serving with the armed forces, the white ribbon was used.

Recipients of the 1870 Iron Cross during the the Franco-Prussian War, who were still living in 1895, received a "jubilee" addition of an oakleaf cluster, with the figure "25", worn just above the ring of the Cross, while any who qualified for a further award of the Cross in the 1914-18 War, received a bar bearing a miniature Iron Cross and the date, 1914; this was worn on the ribbon, just above the oak leaves.

Holders of the 1914 Iron Cross who were nominated for the Hitler Iron Cross of the same Class, continued to wear their original Cross with the addition of an emblem, dated 1939, with the Nazi eagle and swastika.

The Iron Cross, in German "Das Eiserne Kreuz", was divided in 1813, 1870 and 1914 into two classes and one Grand Cross class. In 1939, the Iron Cross was divided into four degrees, the third degree being divided during the course of the war into five stages.

These four degrees of the decoration in World War II were:-

The Grand Cross, the Knight's (Ritter) Cross, (in five stages), the Iron Cross 1st Class, and the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

BANKNOTESCanadian Fractional Currency Notes (25 Cents)

Fractional Currency notes in the U.S. and Canada are often called "shinplasters", a term believed to have originated during the American War of Independence when the revolutionary soldiers were sometimes paid in such notes, and believed them to be of doubtful value. In other words they were only good for lining their boots to prevent them from chafing, or like brown paper soaked in vinegar, as medication for a barked shin. Similarly, such soldiers were often paid in European banknotes, known to them as "continentals", which they often had a hard time spending - hence the present day American slang of "not worth a Continental".

As a result of the derogatory term of "shinplasters" being applied to these American notes, the same term has been used in Canada to describe the issues of fractional currency notes (i.e. less than one dollar). The Canadian issues are, however, and always have been, redeemable at full face value.

The first Canadian issue appears to have been (in 1870) in the nature of an emergency issue. Both the Banks and the Government had become seriously worried by the amount of United States silver coinage at that time circulating in Canada, in default of any adequate supply of regnal coins. Their worry arose from the fact that the U.S. Dollar was at the time worth just eighty cents in Canada, with the result that those trusting individuals who had accepted U.S. silver at face value found, when they came to bank it, that they were faced with a 20% loss.

The Canadian Government, therefore, decided to take steps to call in the U.S. silver and to replace it by an issue of Canadian coins. As some time would elapse before these coins were available, and as it was desired to withdraw the U.S. coins without further delay, it was decided to meet the inevitable shortage of small change that was bound to ensue, by issuing the twenty-five cent notes. It seems clear that the issue was never intended to be more than temporary in nature, but evidently the small notes were found useful in many ways, and instead of their being systematically withdrawn as intended, the Government was compelled to make further issues in 1900 and 1923.

More than 5 million of these notes were in circulation in 1929, but since then the number has steadily declined. In 1935 the Bank of Canada decided to recall all "shinplasters" from circulation, and as a result they are now seldom seen, other than as souvenirs or in collect-ions.

### THOSE T(H)ALERS AGAIN.....

Towards the end of the fifteenth century silver began to be more plentiful in Europe, and also the increasing volume of trade required heavier pieces of silver than had been current hitherto.

Large silver-mines in the Tyrol and in Bohemia were opened up, and in 1516 the famous mines of Joachimsthal were exploited, resulting in the broad and heavy silver dollars which began to be struck in 1518, with the figure of St. Joachim (Father of the Blessed Virgin) on the obverse. These coins became popular all over Europe, and were imitated under the names of "dollar", "daler" and "tallero", etc. Other names given to this type of large silver coin are peso, ecu, crown, scudo, piastre, etc.

For some four hundred years, the thaler was the standard type of European silver coins, deriving its name from the original Joachimsthaler. The Thaler (now spelt Taler) became the currency unit of the German Monetary Union until 1871, when it was decreed to be replaced by the Mark, the minting of which began in 1873.

---

### GUN MONEY

This term relates to a coinage, consisting of crowns, half-crowns, shillings and sixpences, struck as emergency money in Ireland in 1689 and 1690, by the dethroned James II. It was so called because it was cast from scrap metal, such as old cannons, bells, kitchen utensils, etc.

James landed in Ireland in 1689 and set up his Mints in Dublin and Limerick. At first, the issue consisted of sixpences, shillings and half-crowns, but later, crowns were issued showing the "King" on horse-back, and these were usually re-struck on the large half-crowns. Often parts of the older coin can be seen through the re-strike, creating a blundered impression.

A curiosity of this coinage is that on all the coins, except the crowns, the actual month of minting is shown, in addition to the year. There is no doubt that James intended redeeming the coins month by month had his cause achieved success. On the accession of William and Mary, however, this coinage was reduced to its mere metal value by Royal Decree, and the result of that disastrous decree was that coins representing a value of £22,500 were redeemed for £640.

---