

Geelong
Numismatic
Society

Journal

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GEELONG NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(Founded 1965)

P.O.Box 423, G.P.O.,
Geelong, Victoria, 3220,
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 p.m. Guild Hall, Myers St., Geelong.

VOLUME 2 - Number 4

NOVEMBER 1969

E D I T O R I A L

Dear Member,

It seems that the present size and form of this Journal is acceptable to you, or should I say, there have so far been no comments to the contrary or suggestions for its improvement. Therefore for the time being we will maintain the present form and seek to concentrate efforts on the variety and usefulness of the articles and information which the Journal contains. In this you have an important part to play, and if you have not already made a contribution of written material, what about it. Don't forget, one submission for our pages is worth a dozen vague bits of advice.

We have one major development in hand which was part of our original intention when introducing the new Journal. This is to have it accepted for registration by the G.P.O. Melbourne as a periodical, and if we are successful in this it means we will be able to bulk post each issue at about one tenth of the present cost of mailing. This is a saving well worth having, and which can be applied to further improvement of the standard of the publication, so that we may take pride in it ourselves and also distribute it on a regular basis to other Societies in acknowledgement of their similar courtesies.

This form of posting, which will we hope eventuate early in the New Year, will mean the Journal must be mailed in a wrapper and not in an envelope as at present. The wrapper has already been designed some time ago, and this together with copies of past issues of the Journal must accompany the application to the G.P.O.

The Editor.

G. N. S. NEWSNOVEMBER MEETING

The November Monthly Meeting will be held as usual at the Guild Hall, and on Friday, 28th November.

This will be the last Monthly Meeting of the Society for 1969 as there will be no December meeting. The 1970 programme will open with the Monthly Meeting on the fourth Friday in January - the 23rd. Since this November meeting is the final one of the year, it would be nice to have as many as possible of our Members present so please do your best to attend, won't you ?

The Programme for the November Meeting will be as follows:-

- 7.30-- 8.00 Bourse(Fixed Price Table)
- 8.00 - 8.30 General Business
- 8.30 - 9.30 Guest Speaker : Mr.Peter Wall
- 9.30 - 9.45 Break
- 9.45 - 10.15 Tender Sale
- 10.15 -- Close - Bourse.

In addition there will be various displays available for your inspection, so don't pass these by. Have a word with those who have gone to the trouble of providing them, and you may well learn something useful to yourself in pursuit of our hobby.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL

Owing to unforeseen difficulties in arranging for tentative group booking for a suitable theatre show in Melbourne, and the necessity of providing early details of minimum transport requirements (and guarantee) your Committee has been obliged to cancel the proposed social outing planned for Saturday, 29th November. We regret any disappointment caused to those few who had already expressed an interest in the project, but it may be possible to hold an event of this kind during 1970 at a less busy period.

THE JOURNAL

It is hoped that it will be possible to prepare and distribute an issue of the Journal for December/ January.

GENERAL NOTES1970 V.C.N.S. Convention

It is proposed that the Society will present a Paper and a Display on the Colonial Coinage of Edward VII as our part in the Convention.

For the purpose of completing the series for this display we are still requiring the following:-

British Guiana	- Four Pence - Silver
West Africa	- 1/10 Penny - Aluminium
Canada	- One Sovereign
Newfoundland	- 5, 10, and 20 Cents - Silver
Ceylon	- 1/4 Cent Bronze, 50 Cents Silver
Cyprus	- ¼, ½ and 1 Piastre Bronze, 18 Piastres Silver
East Africa	- ½ Cent Aluminium, ½, 5 and 10 Cents Copper-nickel
Jamaica	- 1 Farthing, Halfpenny and Penny Copper-nickel with Horizontal Shading
	- 1 Farthing, Halfpenny and Penny Copper-nickel with Vertical Shading.
Sailana	- ½ Anna 1908 - Copper.

Also, we require any Articles you may be able to provide dealing with the Colonial Edward VII series, to assist the organisers of our submission to prepare a Paper on the subject.

If you are able to help either with any of the above coins or with suitable reference information, would you please contact Fern Carey or any other member of the Committee.

THE OCTOBER MEETING (OCEAN GROVE)

A very successful meeting was held at Ocean Grove Youth Club (Hosts) on Friday, 24th October, and although only 12 of our own Members were able to attend, a great deal of interest was apparent.

Australian numismatic history was the theme of the talks and display provided by our members, and these were enjoyed by our young hosts.

Our appreciation to Eric Jones, whose organising and participation made the evening first of all possible, and also successful. We hope to see some of the Ocean Grove Youth Club members paying a return visit to some of our Geelong meetings in the near future.

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

No.4 - The Florence Nightingale Medal (International Red Cross)

The Florence Nightingale Medal was instituted on 16th May, 1912 in memory of the British philanthropist Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), whose unselfish services to the improvement of hygiene and military nursing during the Crimean War were epoch-making in relation to modern nursing and the training of nurses.

The Medal may be conferred on nurses who have distinguished themselves by special devotion to, and nursing of the sick and wounded in war and in peace. It may also be conferred on voluntary auxiliary nurses of the Red Cross who, in time of war or during civil catastrophies have rendered outstanding services, and to sisters in management or administration. It may also be conferred posthumously.

The Medal is conferred by the Committee of the International Red Cross in Geneva on the recommendation of national Red Cross Committees, and the actual conferment of the award takes place every second year on 12th May, Florence Nightingale's birthday, but to a maximum number of 36 recipients.

The Medal itself is an oval pointed medallion in silver gilt, the obverse bearing a picture of "The Lady with the Lamp" as Florence Nightingale was called by the soldiers in the Crimea, and with the legend "Ad memoriam Florence Nightingale 1820-1910" (In memory of Florence Nightingale 1820-1910).

The reverse bears the legend "Pro vera et cara humanitate perennis decor universalis" (For true and loving humanitarianism - a lasting general propriety), and has space for the engraving of the holder's name and the date of conferment.

As a mounting link, the medal has a Geneva Cross garlanded by a green-enamelled laurel wreath.

The Riband of the Order is white with narrow yellow border stripes and wide red selvedges.

THE MARKET PLACE

IMPORTANT - Please note our URGENT plea for material for inclusion in our Tender Sales. Unfortunately unless we can get some suitable material by about mid-January at the very latest we will have to abandon the monthly sale. PLEASE look out some of your spares for us during the Xmas Holiday period.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE (Or Sell) - 1968 New Zealand cased Proof Set and 1893M Sovereign VF, also all dates Australian (except 1930 Penny) FOR South African Gold pre-1960, also the following South African Yeoman Nos.:-

Y- 7, 7a, 11, 11a, 12a, 16, 19a, 21a, 23, 30, 46, 47,
49a, 49, 60. -- At least G-VF.

CONTACT - Paul Engledow - Phone 7-9388.

FOR DISPOSAL - Offers or Exchange.

COMPLETE SET of all Issues of AUSTRALIAN COIN WORLD - which was published from November 1966 to April 1968 (18 issues)

1966 Australian Decimal Proof Set in Case of Issue.

Australian 1916 Penny EF+ - Excellent Type Coin.

CONTACT - Ken Bain - Phone 43-4216.

WANTED TO BUY - British and Foreign Military Decorations and Campaign Medals in any reasonable condition, ALSO Civil and societies awards and other Medallions. Medallions in Fine condition or better.

CONTACT - 'MEDAL COLLECTOR' c/o Box 423, G.P.O., Geelong.

Lot No.	Country of Issue	DESCRIPTION	No.	Cond.
101	Australia	Royal Australian Mint Proof Case	1	---
102	Australia	Crown 1937	1	VF
103	Australia	Sixpences 1912 (G), 1943D (VF)	2	---
104	Australia	Sixpence 1935	1	F
105	Australia	Florin 1917	1	VG/F
106	Australia	Florin 1932	1	VG/F
107	Australia	Parker Penny Token	1	F
108	Australia	Token - L.Friedman $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1857	1	VG/F
109	Britain	Crown 1889 (RD)	1	F
110	Britain	Crown 1892	1	VG/F
111	Britain	War Medal 1914-1918	1	VF
112	Britain	Threepences - Silver 1917, 1919.	2	F
113	Britain	George III Silver Coin 1757 (Holed)	1	---
114	Austria	50 Schilling 1967 - Donauwalzer Commem.	1	Unc.
115	Canada	Dollar 1964 - Charlottetown Commemorative.	1	F/VF
116	Gambia	Four Shillings 1966	1	EF
117	Hungary	5 Pengo 1943	1	B.Unc.
118	France	5 Francs 1848	1	F
119	France	5 Francs 1867	1	F
120	---	War Medal 1914 - 19	1	---

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of now, Bob Jordan has exactly ONE COIN left as his material for the next Tender Sale. If we are to continue the sales at future Meetings it is essential that all Members do what they can to help out by submitting spare material for sale. Over the Xmas break, will you please look out any spare coins you have and either let Bob Jordan have them or pass them to any member of the Committee.

For your records.....

PRICES REALISED AT TENDER SALE HELD
ON FRIDAY, 24th OCTOBER.

Lot No.	Price	Lot No.	Price
001	1.40	016	0.30
002	0.70	017	2.00
003	1.00	018	0.30
004	0.60	019	0.40
005	1.00	020	2.20
006	0.90	021	1.00
007	0.10	022	3.20
008	0.40	023	0.00
009	0.50	024	1.70
010	0.90	025	0.30
011	0.60	026	-
012	0.30	027	0.90
013	2.60	028	0.30
014	0.30	029	0.10
015	0.30	030	0.10

TO: The Honorary Secretary,
Geelong Numismatic Society,
P.O.Box 423, GEELONG, 3220.

ATTENDANCE AT OCTOBER MEETING --
(HELD AT OCEAN GROVE)

Members -
Visitors -
Apologies -

BANKNOTES

About those Tens.....Good or bad.....

Forgery is a crime usually thought of in connection with paper money, although the production and circulation of bogus currency notes is properly known as counterfeiting. Forgery is applied to the alteration of the figures or the signature on documents such as promissory notes, or on the early banknotes which were really no more than a special sort of promissory note.

Forgery of this kind was a crime more common in the days of hand-written documents, and successful though many were at it, the practice brought some very talented men to Australia in the early days, under escort. As the poem puts it, they left their country for their country's good, but in the case of Francis Howard Greenway, it was for Australia's good as well.

Greenway was an architect, who was sentenced to death in 1812 for having forged an endorsement on a contract. This sentence was later commuted to one of transportation for 14 years, and Greenway reached Sydney in February 1814.

He was at once employed on architectural work in the Colony, and with Governor Macquarie's encouragement, for a while it looked as if all would be well. Greenway designed some of early Sydney's finest buildings, but he ended his days in poverty and bitterness under suspicion of having forged a letter in an attempt to gain ownership of a cottage which Macquarie had allowed him to occupy.

Now, his genius remembered and his offence overlooked, Greenway the Architect, and not the Forger, looks out on us from the face of our current Australian \$10 banknote.

One wonders whether Francis Greenway's ghost was very far away when the recent wave of \$10 counterfeits were in processing, as it appears that he would have had a double interest in the final product.

THE GILT DRAGON

Even though over 300 years have passed since the event, the sinking of the "Gilt Dragon" (Vergulde Draecke), a vessel belonging to the Dutch East India Company, is still shrouded in mystery and can claim to be Australia's most famous shipwreck. Certainly in the minds of Australian numismatists it holds a special place.

The story of this ship and of her crew is still incomplete - the fate of 68 Dutch sailors of her complement of 193 is still unknown and seems likely to remain a mystery. Certain facts we do know, however, such as the exact spot of the shipwreck on the Western Australian coast, but let us just recount the facts of the case.

The Gilt Dragon left Texel, Holland, on the 4th October, 1655, bound for the East Indies, under the command of Captain Pieter Alberts and with a ship's crew of 193 souls. She followed the usual sea route of the time round the Cape of Good Hope, and more than likely called at the Table Bay settlement there set up by Jan van Riebeeck just over three years earlier as a supply base for ships on the Indies run.

From the Cape she sailed with the prevailing westerlies across the Indian Ocean, Captain Alberts no doubt intending to make landfall before setting his precise course for Java. However, the Gilt Dragon in fact made landfall on the Western Australian coast about 65 miles north of where Perth stands today, and turning north along this uncharted coast she struck and was wrecked on a reef by Ledge Point, some five miles off shore.

The survivors could pinpoint the time and day exactly - the Gilt Dragon foundered at 4.0 a.m. on the 28th April 1656. Of the 193 aboard 118 were drowned, but the remaining 75 managed to get ashore. A small ship's boat had been saved, and eventually seven of the survivors set out in this to try and get help for the remainder of the castaways.

After 49 days at sea this small party in the open boat finally succeeded in reaching Batavia in mid-June, and on receipt of their news, two rescue ships left for the scene of the shipwreck the next day. They subsequently found wreckage from the Gilt Dragon strewn along several miles of coastline, and search parties both looked for the wreck itself and also scoured the beaches and immediate inland areas for any sign of the survivors. They neither found the wreck, however, nor any sign of the missing 68 persons known to have reached the shore.

Two years later, as a result of pressure from those who believed that some of the survivors might yet be found alive, another rescue

attempt was made, when the Dutch ship "Waeckende Boey" sailed from Batavia to search for them once more. On arrival at the scene of the now mysterious shipwreck, a large party left the ship in small boats and searched the coastal areas thoroughly. Whether the Captain of the rescue ship was impatient or just nervous the record does not make clear, but it appears he departed once more without waiting for the searchers to return, and what further adventures befell the searchers in getting back to Batavia (which they did) we can only surmise.

Over the years the story of the wreck of the "Gilt Dragon" was forgotten, until interest was revived in 1931 when three schoolboys playing in the sand saw a number of very worn silver coins. But even this discovery did not spark off a search for buried treasure, and it was not until 1963 that a group of men, including a journalist, began a skin-diving search in earnest.

So far the items discovered and brought ashore have included ships guns, at least 14 small clay bricks of the type used in 17th century Holland, some ivory tusks and pottery jugs. But even more important, amongst the wreckage and in and around the underwater caves of the reef, old silver coins have been found stuck together in lumps. Few of the coins have been good enough to save, but some are in good condition and it is these that hold tremendous numismatic interest. Most of the coins have proved to be Spanish pieces of eight, some even sixteenth century, but most from the 1640's and 1650's. The last, and key date is 1655 - the year the "Gilt Dragon" left Holland.

Recently there has been a considerable amount of publicity given to the fact that certain coins have been sold to collectors which purported to be from the wreck of the "Gilt Dragon", but have in fact been shown to be counterfeit.

THE LAST FLORINS.....

After a career of seven hundred and eighty-two years, the florin as we know it seems about to become a part of numismatic history. Since the florin was first struck in Florence, Italy, in 1189 it has been struck in both gold and silver and in many different countries. The English Florin was first struck in gold in the reign of Edward III, but it became unpopular and disappeared from circulation, not being replaced until 500 years later by the silver florin of 1849, the Godless Florin, which was introduced with the reverse legend "One Tenth of a Pound" as a first step towards decimal currency.

WHAT IS MONEY ?

Money is best defined by stating its functions, and these can be set down as follows:-

1. To serve as a medium of exchange.
2. To serve as a measure of value.
3. To serve as a store of value.

Any commodity or token which primarily serves these three functions may be regarded as money, whether it be in the form of Gold, Silver, Paper Notes, Tobacco, Shells, Cattle or Sheep. All these and many other things have been used as money in the exchange of goods, as a medium and a measure of the relative values of the different things exchanged, and also as a store of wealth, although some of them served the last purpose less efficiently than others.

Apart from the metals, Gold, Silver Copper and Bronze, probably the most widely used commodity for measuring values and effecting exchanges has been cattle. In Greece and Rome, in early Britain and Europe, and even today in the more primitive areas, cattle have served as the money of the community. Homer mentions the value of a suit of armour as being equal to 100 oxen. The Latin word "pecus" (A head of cattle) is the root of the word "pecunia" which means 'money', and is familiar to us in the English words 'pecuniary' and 'impecunious'.

(Source - Modern World Encyclopaedia)

Walter Meyer.

FROM THE PAST....."Paper Marks Called In"

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) has been notified by the German Government through Dr. H. C. Busing, German Consul-General, that the Directors of the German Reichsbank have called in all Reichsbank notes issued before October 11th, 1924. The notes thus called in will cease to be legal tender after June 5th, 1925. It is stated, however, that persons holding such notes may, after that date and up to July 5th, 1925, exchange them at all branches of the Reichsbank at the rate of one billion marks to one Reichsmark (R.M.) fixed by the German Legislature according to the Dawes Plan. German paper marks will, therefore, be valueless after July 5th, 1925.

Extract from the 'Hamilton Spectator' 1925. - (Courtesy Erling Andersen)