

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 at
8.00 p.m., Guild Hall, Myers St., Geelong.

VOLUME 2 - Number 5

DEC 1969/FEB 70

E D I T O R I A L

Dear Member,

Unfortunately, owing to the holiday season (bless it) having its proper measure of priority, and also with the fourth Friday of January arriving inconsiderately early, it just was not possible to produce the Journal as intended in time for mailing before the January Meeting. However, the very poor attendance at that meeting could not have been due solely to the fact that people were not aware the meeting was on. Many of you were no doubt away on holiday, if not physically then no doubt in mind, but I must confess to being just a little cheered to find that one or two of you missed the meeting because the Journal had not arrived to remind you of it. If the Journal is being of use like this in keeping you in touch with what is going on, then it is fulfilling one of its purposes.

So - 1970 is upon us, and now we must give some of our thoughts to what we are going to do in numismatic effort during the year. Our next Meeting, on Friday, is our Annual General Meeting, and the fortunes and activities of the Society will be steered by a new President and Committee for the next 12 months. If you have even a very little spare time that you could devote to assisting them and making their job easier and more effective, please do so, because their efforts will be all the better with a little bit of practical encouragement.

The Editor.

G. N. S. NEWSFEBRUARY MEETING

The February Monthly Meeting will be held as usual at the Guild Hall, and on Friday next, 27th February, at 8.00 p.m.

The normal activities of the monthly meeting will be preceded by the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Society, and the Election of Office Bearers for the year 1970/71. Nominations for these Offices and for Committee were received at the January Meeting, but if any of those not present at that meeting wish to either nominate another Member or accept nomination themselves, would they please contact the President Neil Clement at the latest at the start of next Friday's gathering, and before the Annual General Meeting opens.

We hope that as many Members as possible will make a special effort to attend the Annual General Meeting and any opinions which they may wish to express on possible development and activities in the Society will be eagerly heard. This is your main opportunity to give the incoming and enthusiastic Committee some indication of what you would like to see them do during their year of office.

The Programme for the Meeting will obviously be flexible to allow for the amount of discussion arising, but will follow the general pattern outlined below:

7.30 - 8.00 Bourse (Fixed Price Table)
 8.15 - 9.00 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 9.00 - 9.45 Monthly Meeting
 9.45 -10.00 Break
 10.00 -10.30 Tender Sale.

V.C.N.S. 1970 NUMISMATIC CONVENTION.

You are reminded that the 1970 Convention will be held at BENDIGO on Saturday, 7th March at the PETER HARCOURT CENTRE, HAVLIN STREET, off Williamson Street, Bendigo, during the afternoon and evening. See details on Page 7.

GENERAL NOTES

Have you heard ?

That the mintage of the 1970 New Zealand Royal Visit Crown will be 600,000. No proofs will be issued.

That as from 31st December, 1969, English Half-Crowns ceased to be legal tender.

That Italian coins are being re-struck. Can you supply details?

That Don Hewitt has a baby daughter.

That Bob Jordan has resigned as Tender Sale Convenor due to pressure of studies. His successor is Christine Engledow, and I am sure you will give Christine and Paul all the help you can.

That a Mint in Italy is striking coins as a business venture. In return for a percentage of the take, several countries officially accept these coins as legal tender, regardless of the fact they will never circulate in those countries. Issues noted so far have been officially approved by Jordan, Tunisia and Fujairah (Moon Landing Commemoratives) What do you think about these issues?

That Chris Olsen was at our January Meeting. It is good to see him about again after his car accident.

That the delivery of 1969 Australian Proof Sets has been delayed by a hold-up in supply of the plastic cases.

That the New Zealand sets that you ordered, and didn't pick up at the January Meeting haven't been sold yet. Please collect them at the February Meeting.

That Sheila Carey is not going to Bendigo to the Convention on the 7th March. I hear that Bernie can therefore buy whatever he likes at the Tender Sale. Is this true?

That Ken Bain is taking orders for the Midlands Numismatic Soc. Medallion to commemorate the finding of the "Welcome Stranger" gold nugget. This is a good buy at \$2.00. (The Medallion, not the Nugget)

That Paul Engledow has a beaut '23 halfpenny for disposal.

That there is still one set of Jamaican 1969 Decimals for sale - available from the President.

Have you heard ? . . . (Cont'd)

That the Prince Charles Investiture Medallions which you could have ordered from the President at \$4.60 are now being advertised in the U.K. at Eight Pounds Sterling. I wonder if Ken Bain or Don Hewitt would sell theirs for that price (\$17.00 Aust.)? (Editor's Note - "Jealousy'll get yer nowhere")

That two more books have been donated to the club Library. "Collecting Coins" by Frank Purvey was donated by Erling Andersen, after winning it in the competition at the January meeting. Walter Meyer has donated "The Shadow" by Vince Kelly - a novel about crime detection with a strong emphasis on forging and counterfeiting. Thank you fellows, they are both much appreciated.

That Walter Meyer is wanting ot go to Bendigo on the Saturday of the Convention. Can any of you give the little chap a lift up and back on Saturday, 7th March?

That the Jamaican sets are \$3.70. Neil Clement.

THE STRANGE METAL - GOLD

Gold was the first metal known to early Man. His sharo eyes easily picked up the gleam of yellow gold nuggets in creek beds, for gold does not tarnish or oxidise as other metals do.

Gold has many other strange qualities. It is a very heavy metal and soft, but does not rust or corrode. A gold wedding ring of today could contain a grain of gold brought to King Solomon by the Queen of Sheba (about the period 970-933 B.C.). Gold can be melted, cast, dissolved in acids and recovered, or beaten into different shapes, again and again and again, with little loss of weight. It can be carved as wood can be carved, or it can be cast into fine delicate shapes - as fine as the body and wings of a mosquito. A very small part of an ounce of gold can be drawn out into a wire two miles long, or hammered into leaves thinner than .00003 of an inch - so thin that light passes through them. When strong ammonia is added to a certain gold compound (auric oxide) a black powder is formed, which if scraped or heated explodes without warning and with terrifying force.

Men in separate ages and countries have thought that gold is a magic or mystery metal, and in fact there are still some mysteries about it. For example, the roots of some plants collect gold from the surrounding soil - exactly how, and why, no-one knows.

THE MARKET PLACE

IMPORTANT - Please see once again our URGENT plea for material for inclusion in our Tender Sales. There must be some item in your spares which you would be prepared to sell to other Members of the Society - you can nominate your own reserve price, and if the item is not sold it will not cost you a cent. If the material is sold, 10% of the sale price goes into the Society's funds to help build a stronger club by providing a larger Library for your use, improving this Journal, organising some better activities for our Monthly Meetings, and so on.

Please don't expect that it should always be the other fellow who should take this trouble for you, thereby saving you the least little bother. You are a Member too, and the Society is depending on you as much as any of the others, remember.

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE

1923 Halfpenny and also 1932 Florin - F/VF.

Also South Africa, Great Britain and Australian - most dates available.

Contact; Paul Engledow - Phone 7-9888.

WANTED URGENTLY

INFORMATION and DISPLAY ITEMS to illustrate and enlarge the Society's Exhibition Entry of EDWARD VII COLONIAL COINAGE for the coming V.C.N.S. Convention in Bendigo on Saturday, March 7th.

If you have anything you think might be of interest and assistance, please contact Bern, Carey immediately by phone.

HAVE YOU ANY SPECIAL WANTS OR DISPOSABLE ITEMS WHICH WE CAN ADVERTISE FOR YOU ON THIS PAGE? YOU WON'T FIND CHEAPER SPACE.

Lot No.	Country of Issue	DESCRIPTION	No. of Coins	Cond.
1	Tonga	1 Pa'anga 1967 - Coronation	1	EF/Unc #1.
2	France	5 Francs 1848 - Strasbourg	1	F #1.
3	France	5 Francs 1867 - Paris	1	F #1.
4	Britain	Crown 1889	1	F(RD) #1.
5	Britain	Crown 1892	1	VG/F #3.
6	Australia	Florin 1933	1	F 70 ^c
7	Australia	Florin 1939	1	F 70
8	Australia	Florins 1925, 1927 (Canberra)	2	VG/F #1
9	Australia	Shillings 1939,40,41,43.	4	F/VF 90 ^c
10	Australia	Shillings 1914 (G/VG), 1931 (F), 1935(F/VF)	3	- 60 ^c
11	Mixture	-	56	P/VF 30 ^c
12	Australia	1/2d. Token - L.Friedman	1	F 60
13	Australia	Shilling 1933 (Scarce Date)	1	VG/F #2-10
14	Australia	Shillings 1935,1940,1943.	3	F 70 ^c
15	Australia	Shilling 1910, Sixpence 1910.	2	G/VG 90 ^c
16	Australia	Shilling 1943 .	1	VF 20 ^c
17	China	Banknotes - 5, 10, 100 yuan 1940	3	- 30
18	China	Banknotes - 10, 20, 50 custom gold units	3	- 40
19	China	Banknotes - 5, 10, 100 yuan 1936-41.	3	- 40
20	Japan	Invasion Paper Money \$1.00, \$10.00, 100 yen.	3	Crisp 40 ^c

20th

U.S.A.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Suitable Material is still urgently required for these Monthly Tender Sales - if you have any good spare coins, banknotes or Medallions and wish to dispose of them to the other Members, would you please hand them to Paul and Christine Engledow for inclusion.

64 14 pieces in Plastic Page.

Various other Res. #1

Bought

#1.

For your records.....

PRICES REALISED AT TENDER SALE HELD ON
FRIDAY, 28th NOVEMBER 1969.

Lot No.	Price	Lot No.	Price
101	1.50	111	1.60
102	2.40	112	0.50
103	0.20	113	0.60
104	0.20	114	2.00
105	0.60	115	1.00
106	(\$12)*	116	0.90
107	2.00	117	0.70
108	0.70	118	(\$3)*
109	(\$4)*	119	(\$4)*
110	(\$3)*	120	1.00

* Passed In - Bids not reaching Reserve shown thus (-)

ATTENDANCES at Meetings:

	NOV.	JAN.
Members	19	11
Visitors	1	-
Apologies	6	2

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

THE CUMBERLAND JACK

The original piece is a copy in brass of the English Queen Victoria sovereign, with the legend "Victoria Regina" on the obverse in place of the regular legend. The St. George on the reverse of the sovereign is replaced by a crowned horseman fighting a two-headed dragon, with the legend above "To Hanover" and the date 1837 in the exergue.

This was a satirical medalet, referring to the departure of the Duke of Cumberland to occupy the throne of Hanover in succession to his brother William IV, whose niece, Queen Victoria, was excluded from succession as no females were allowed to reign.

The Duke of Cumberland was extremely unpopular with the Liberals in England, as well as many other sections of the community, and when he succeeded to the Hanoverian Throne in 1837, the wave of unpopularity he left behind was evidenced by the jubilation at his departure.

Although the Cumberland Jack was produced as a typical token of early Victorian scorn, it was no doubt distributed as a play counter for cribbage and other popular games of the days. Many there were who used its similarity to the sovereign to exploit the less worldly amongst whom they moved, however.

Christine Engledow.

BRITISH COLONIAL COINS - The Copper Third-Farthing.

These coins were made for use in Malta, and were the first pieces issued specially for the island after it became a British possession. The regular English Farthing was already circulating there as three Maltese "Grains", and the new coin was made to a similar design and exactly one-third the weight, to pass as one Grain. The dies were engraved by William Wyon, and a total of 3,951,520 pieces were struck, dated 1827 and 1835. In 1844 a further 1,301,040 pieces were struck for Victoria, but at the next issue in 1866 this denomination was struck in bronze.

COMPETITION - In this issue of the Journal there is one DELIBERATE MISTAKE - there will be a Prize for the first Member to draw the attention of the Editor to it.

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

No.5 - The Legion of Honour (Legion d'Honneur) - France.

The Legion of Honour was founded on 19th May, 1802, by the First Consul of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, with the object of creating a decoration for courage, honour and heroic services to replace the Orders of the Royal Family, which had been abolished by a decree of 30th July, 1791.

The Legion was originally divided into four classes, but in 1805 it was extended by a fifth. In the years up to 1816, the classes received their final and present designations which, together with the Division, formed the basis for most of the newer Orders of Merit.

The Legion may be conferred on Frenchmen and on foreigners for military bravery and for civil achievement. It may also be conferred posthumously. The holders of the highest class of the Legion receive a monthly allowance of 5 Francs.

The Legion ranks before all French Orders and decorations. The President of France is the Grand Master of the Legion, which is administered by a Chancellery, the Chancellor being elected for life. Nominations and promotions are approved by the President following recommendation by a Minister of State or by the Chancellery.

The Legion has five classes: Grand Cross; Grand Officer; Commander; Officer, and Knight. The first two classes wear both the Star of the Order and the Badge of the Order, the other three classes wearing the Badge of the Order only.

The Badge of the Order is a 5-rayed white-enamelled star in gold (in silver for the 5th Class) with a wreath of oak and laurel leaves between the rays. The obverse medallion bears the symbolic female head of the Republic with the legend "Republique Francaise" (The French Republic) on a blue background, and the reverse medallion bears a set of crossed tricolours with the legend "Honneur et Patrie" (Honour and Country). The Badge of the Order has an oak and laurel wreath as a mounting.

The Star of the Order is a faceted silver star in the form of the Badge of the Order, with plain rays between the arms. The centre Medallion bears the legend "Republique Francaise - Honneur et Patrie" and the female head of the Republic.

THE V.C.N.S. 1970 Numismatic Convention

To be held at the PETER HARCOURT CENTRE, Havlin Street, off Williamson Street, BENDIGO, on SATURDAY, 7th MARCH, 1970.

<u>PROGRAMME:</u>	10.30 a.m.	Hall Opened
	1.30 p.m.	Official Opening
	2.00 p.m.	V.C.N.S. Annual Meeting
	3.45 p.m.	Tender Sale
	6.00 p.m.	Convention Dinner and Presentation of Prizes
	10.00 p.m.	Conclusion

There will be Features, Displays, Trading, Competitions, Films, Papers and Short Talks, and Afternoon Tea.

Any of the Geelong Numismatic Society Members who wish to visit the Convention and have not yet arranged any transport to and from Bendigo, are asked to contact President Neil Clement as soon as possible. Also if any Member can help out in this regard please also contact Neil.

REPORT FROM OUR MAN IN CANBERRA

Ern. Bond got up to Canberra over the holidays and visited the Royal Australian Mint. Ern's main impression is one of some disappointment, for a variety of reasons.

First, he tells me that the view one gets of the process is from behind glass but also from a distance that makes it virtually impossible to identify the coins in manufacture. What appeared to be new 50c. pieces he was told by an attendant were new Dollars for New Zealand.

Furthermore, he reports that it was most disappointing to him to find that the attendants appeared to know very little about the process and next to nothing about some of the interesting exhibits - they apparently regard the extent of their job to be ensuring the visitor does not improve his collection at the expense of the Mint.

THE AMERICAN CENT

The American Cent was first minted in 1793 following an Act of Congress in the previous year. The original large cent had three weight changes and many designs before it gave way to the small cent in 1857.

In 1859 yet another design appeared when the Indian Head cent was issued in copper-nickel alloy. This alloy was changed to bronze in 1864.

The Lincoln Head cent appeared in 1909, and has held its place as a medium of exchange longer than any other cent. A survivor of two World Wars, it has been subjected to numerous metallic alterations. In 1943 cents were made of zinc-coated steel. In 1962 the composition was again varied from the traditional when it was changed to a copper zinc alloy, and tin due to its rising value was taken from the cent.

On the 150th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 1959, a depiction of the Lincoln Memorial was introduced on the reverse. The cent had originally been issued in 1909 on the centenary of Lincoln's birth as a commemorative coin but has survived to become today's most popular coin in the American collecting field.

(Courtesy Rockhampton Numismatics)

SMALL CHANGE

1964 saw a move in Britain to restore the "Groat" or fourpenny piece to general circulation.

The groat was first struck by Edward II about 1279, and has been minted in various sizes since then.

For a short time last century it was re-introduced as normal currency, when in 1836 largely through the efforts of Joseph Hime, MP, it was brought into use as a convenient coin for payment of short distance cab fares.

Its issue was suspended in 1856 mainly because of the increase in popularity of the threepenny piece for general use. The latest effort to bring it back in 1964 failed with Decimalisation being on the horizon.