

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

T.B.Carey

Hon. Secretary

W.P.R.Olsen

Hon. Treasurer

E.S.Bond

Monthly Meetings - Fourth Friday of each Month -

8.00 p.m., Guild Hall, Myers Street, Geelong.

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The Journal is issued Monthly, during week prior to Monthly Meeting.

VOLUME 2 - Number 8

MAY 1970

E D I T O R I A L

Dear Member,

In spite of periodic and heart-rending pleas for some assistance with material of a literary nature for this Journal, it appears that few indeed of our members regard themselves to be involved in the affairs of our Society, or their hobby, to consider doing anything in this direction. Or so it seems from where I am sitting.

Not everyone has either the time or the ability and knowledge to do original researches into numismatica, but every one of you has the time (and surely the interest) to ring up either the Editor or any Member of Committee and tell us the bits and pieces of numismatic and personal news which will be enlightening to us all as members of the Society.

Unfortunately, I myself happen to have got very heavily committed over the last few weeks - so much so that until mid-June I have no Fridays available to even attend the Monthly Meetings. Surely, in this event I am not asking too much to expect that other members will contact me to give me news for YOUR Journal? Or am I?

Any of you who feel that you can help need only 'phone 43-4216 and give the facts, or it may be more convenient for you to pop a cutting or short note into an envelope, TO P.O.Box 423.

G. N. S. NEWSMAY MEETING

The May Monthly Meeting of the Society will be held on Friday next, 22nd May, in the Guild Hall at 8.00 p.m.

The main event that evening will be an address by Mr. Ed. Philpotts, who has very kindly accepted our invitation to be our Guest Speaker.

Many of you will remember an earlier visit and address by this very knowledgeable numismatist, and to you he needs no introduction. For the other members, we can assure you of a very interesting talk, as apart from his being a Foundation Member of the Numismatic Association of Victoria (N.A.V.), Mr. Philpotts is also a Past President of that body and Foundation President of the Melbourne Numismatic Society.

In his address next Friday, he will be telling us about three medallions - The Investiture Medallion, The Table Mountain Medallion, and The Tower of London Medallion. In addition, he will read a short Paper on the Birmingham Mint.

This promises to be an instructive and entertaining evening, and you are cordially invited to bring any of your friends along.

The Programme for the Meeting will be as follows:-

7.30 - 8.00	Bourse (Fixed Price Table)
8.00 - 8.30	General Business
8.30 - 9.30	<u>Guest Speaker</u> - Mr. Ed. Philpotts
9.30 - 9.45	Break
9.45 - 10.15	Tender Sale
10.15 - Close	Bourse.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Committee again wishes to remind those Members who have not yet paid their 1970/71 Subscription to the Hon. Treasurer to do so as soon as possible. Don't wait until you see him - send it to P.O. Box 423 and be done with it.

COMPETITION

In this Issue of the Journal there is a hidden coin - this takes the place of the Deliberate Mistake (See Page 8) - so do look for it, and if you find it RING 43-4216. The first correct answer to the Editor will be declared the winner, and there will be a PRIZE at the Meeting on Friday.

HAVE YOU HEARD....?

(by the Editor - temporarily)

That it is rumoured Neil Clement has gone home to Mother? This could be why we have not heard any have you heards from him for this issue.

JUNE MEETING

At the June Meeting of the Society, to be held at the Guild Hall on FRIDAY, 26th June, we will be having a PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION by WALTER MEYER of how to take effective photographs of coins and other numismatic material. Walter has, we believe already arranged with Camera House for the necessary equipment, as this is being lent by Camera House through the kindness of their Mr. Roydhouse.

As previously mentioned in an issue of this Journal, Walter has been a professional photographer and so his demonstration and advice on these aspects of the art should be well worth your attention.

VISIT TO CANBERRA 1971.

Mention was made at the last Meeting of the fact that a Labour Day Weekend visit to Canberra is tentatively being arranged for MARCH 1971.

The plan is that the visit will be by bus Geelong-Canberra-Geelong, leaving Geelong on the Saturday and returning late on Monday. It is intended that the trip will be straight through both ways, staying Saturday night and Sunday night in Canberra.

The Sunday will be either free time in Canberra or an option of tour/sightseeing, and on the Monday a.m. there will be a visit to the Royal Australian Mint.

The approximate cost per head, including fare, accommodation and meals will be \$30.00, and arrangements are being made by the Treasurer to open a special bank account into which those wishing to go to Canberra can have amounts of contribution credited to them. If you want to be in it, all you need do is start paying any amounts you like to Ern. Bond as from the next Meeting, and this, if you wish to take advantage of the scheme, will avoid you having to pay it all in one lump sum when the time comes.

Give some thought to whether you would like to go, but if you pay money in and later change your mind you will get a refund.

TENDER SALE NEXT FRIDAY, 22nd MAY.

Please note that no Tender Sale List has been included in the Journal this month, but there will be a Tender Sale at next Friday's Meeting.

At the April Meeting the Tender Sale arranged for that night was postponed owing to the late hour - Mr. Peter Wall's talk had lasted much longer than was anticipated - and the Tender Sale List published in last month's Journal is therefore carried over to this coming Meeting.

Duplicates of the April list will be available to you at the meeting so do not worry about bringing last month's Journal along with you.

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THE INCREDIBLE MISTAKE

or IS THERE A CUCKOO IN NASSER'S MINT ?

Egypt has issued a 1970 Crown-sized ONE POUND Silver Coin to commemorate the 1000th Anniversary of the foundation of the Al-Azhar Mosque.

The coin is inscribed solely in Arabic, though dated according to both the Christian and Mohammedan calendars. This is usual. What is not so usual is to find the 1970 A.D. date in Arabic at the left hand of the coin translated into the A.H. equivalent of 1940 at the right hand.

That an error of this kind could escape the notice of the many literate Arabs who handled the design from plaster model to striking is almost beyond belief.

Is there a story behind this ? Did some heads roll, metaphorically? There is talk of recalling the coins - but they won't get mine back.

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Peter Olsen.

THE FLORIN AGAIN-

The Florin introduced in Britain in 1849 (known as the Godless and Graceless Florin, because the inscription 'Dei Gratia' was missing) was the first move towards decimalisation. The reverse of that and the subsequent issue of florin bears the inscription "ONE FLORIN - ONE TENTH OF A POUND". Other suggested names for the coin had been Centum, Decaded Dime and 100 Milles, but the name of Florin was no innovation and perhaps better suited that era. The first Florin was struck in 1343 in gold, and was an imitation of the coin that had been minted for almost a century in the Italian city of Florence - which was almost pure gold at 995 Fine. The name of Florin came from the Italian "Fiorino", itself derived from "Fiore" (Flower) - a reference to the Lily of the Florentine Coat Of Arms on the obverse of the coin.

Walter Meyer.

## THE COINAGE OF BOLIVIA

General Sucre, one of Bolivar's lieutenants, detached Upper Peru in 1825 and created a new republic with the name of Bolivia. Potosi, one of the great mints in Peru in the Spanish period, was situated in this territory and was used to strike the new Bolivian coinage, supplemented later in 1853 by another mint at La Paz. Gold escudos and multiples honoured Bolivar by placing his bust in uniform on the obverse, clearly labelled with his name below and with an inscription "Libre por la Constitution". The reverse showed a mountain with rising sun and a llama in the foreground. The silver sueldo with multiples up to 8 and divisionary pieces also bore the portrait of Bolivar but had a different reverse, two llamas recumbent at the foot of a tree.

A decimal coinage, introduced in 1863, had as its unit the peso or boliviano in silver, divided into 100 centavos with types, an oval shield, flanked by flags and surmounted by a condor on obverse and the value on reverse. Copper centavo values in 1878 had the condor only on the obverse. In 1893 the 5 and 10 centavo pieces in nickel began to be issued with the Arms, which are formed from the reverse type of the original Bolivian coins as obverse and a staff of Aesculapius and value on the reverse, and from 1939 a 50 centavo coin with the same types has been struck.

The coinage of 1951 consists of 1, 5 and 10 boliviano pieces, all with value reverse and with on obverse the Bolivian types, arms between flags or the bust of Bolivar.

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## TYPE SET AS COLLECTING AIM

Have you considered how much pleasure the collecting of type set specimens of various countries' coinage can give you, and at the same time assist you in avoiding the frustrations or expense of filling those very hard date gaps ?

It depends of course on just what your collecting interests are and how wide a collection you are hoping to build. If you are more inclined to selective acquisition in making your collection as representative as possible, why go for all that duplication of dates?

There are many rare types which can be employed to give you the numismatic heebie-jeebies, and type collecting is far from being a breeze, so this aim does not in any way curtail the interest as it helps to reduce the necessary storage.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following New Members who were elected at the April Meeting:-

Francis Charles CURRIE, of Ocean Grove.

Patricia FLOUNDERS )  
Roland FLOUNDERS ) previously of the Coventry (UK) Society

We wish you every enjoyment in participating fully in the activities of our Society.

NEW ? PUBLICATION

One of our Members reports finding a hitherto (to me) unknown coin magazine at Purdey's, Moorabool Street.

This is "COIN MONTHLY" and styles itself "Britain's Leading Coin Magazine", which may of course be so. The edition spotted was for April 1970 so it pretty much current, and the price is 40 cents here.

I have not seen the actual goods but from what my informant quoted as the contents, I would agree that it seems well worth the price and would recommend an inspection of the magazine to you.

Apart from the news items, advertisements etc., the April issue includes the following articles (amongst others) - Britannia, Coinage of William IV, English Coin Prices, War Medals, Special Constabulary Medal, Scotland's Coinage, How to take Coin Rubbings, History of British Copper Coinage, Hammered Coinage 1066-1662, Numismatic Diary of events.

Worth a look ?

CROOK

We hear that there was a robbery at Newcombe this week in which \$2000 worth of Australian Coins changed hands. No further information is available - we don't know that they weren't all Captain Cook 50c. pieces, but it is as well for all members to know of the event having happened, and be alert if an unusually attractive offer (of coins) is encountered.

BANKNOTE GUIDE

We understand that Ern. Bond has acquired the first volume of a monumental American reference guide (in six Volumes) to the banknotes of the world.

## EARLY ENGLISH FIND

One of the most interesting finds of Early English coins was made at Tutbury, England, just over a hundred years ago, when a large hoard of Silver Pennies was found in the River Dove.

Workmen who were clearing a point in the river of gravel so that a bridge could be repaired, found the remains of a treasure chest, which records proved had been lost during a battle between the armies of Edward II and the Earl of Lancaster near Tutbury in 1322.

The chest had apparently been lost by the Earl's escort when they were trying to cross the river and were overcome by the fast current.

All the coins belonged to the reigns of Edward I and Edward II and were have to been used to pay the Earl's soldiers. The coins numbered some thousands, and although the river had been running over them for some 600 years, they were still in fairly good condition, some being in a concreted mass.

Christine Engledow.

## DID YOU KNOW ? . . . .

That the Australian Crown struck in 1937 was intended as an issue to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI. In all there were 1,008,000 minted, but the commemorative value of the coin was spoiled by the further issue the following year of another 101,600 crowns of identical design, bearing the date 1938.

This was done to test public reaction to a Crown-sized coin in circulation, but the coin proved unpopular (except for 5/- bets at race meetings) and quickly disappeared from daily use. Many were put away as souvenirs or collectors' pieces, but what happened to the rest ?

Rumour has it that in 1948 about 40,000 Crowns were sold to the Chinese Government and were re-struck as Sun Yat Sen Dollars, but this has never been officially confirmed.

Walter Meyer.



ENGLISH PATTERN DECIMAL COINS

Patterns of Decimal bronze coins for 1857-59, together with a few un-dated ones, were made in anticipation of a change to decimal coinage, for which there had been much agitation during the preceding 20 years. Two Commissions, in 1841 and 1843, had reported in favour of decimalisation, and somewhat as an appeasement the Florin appeared in 1849. In 1854, the Decimal Association was founded to keep the movement alive, but history has not shown this to have been very effective.

Coupled with these moves, there was also an increasing demand for smaller or lighter coins, and the variety of colours in the various patterns made is indicative of experimentation with many bronze and other alloys. It is not possible to establish the exact composition or correct technical name for many of these, but it is certain that nickel was used in them.

In 1961, just 102 years later, designs were prepared for a "One Cent" and a "Two Cent" coin. Although little has been published about these patterns, we have some details.

For the two cent coin, the obverse of the current halfpenny was used, and the reverse showed an ornamented trident head with a crown, from punches as used for the pattern decimal penny of 1859. There is a figure 2 at each side of the crown and CENTS around, at either side of the trident, with the date 1961 below.

The obverse of the one cent pattern was the die used for the farthings of 1954-56. A monogram -ER II- in scroll letters appears on the reverse, and above this 1 CENT, and again the date 1961. Around the outer regions is ONE DECIMAL PENNY, and a beaded border and narrow raised rim are featured.

The specimens from which these descriptions are taken are unknown - none exist at present in official collections at Museums or Mints.

(Acknowledgements to Adelaide Coin Club - Ref: English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958. )

DELIBERATE MISTAKES AND ALL THAT .....

If this Journal ever aspires to, and reaches, the dizzy heights of being quoted, our deliberate mistakes might lead to someone's embarrassment somewhere - so we are not continuing them. Any mistakes you find from now on, you will please remain silent and tactful about.