

"AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST"

July, 1965



Vol. 19. No. 7

Official Organ of

THE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA



Meetings are held on Third Friday each Month

at

NATIONAL GALLERY THEATRETTE

Latrobe Street, Melbourne

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical.

NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

—◆—
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Vol. 19 No. 7.

Price 2/3d. per copy July, 1965.
or 25 cents U.S.A.

MINUTES OF THE 232nd GENERAL MEETING
OF THE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
HELD ON JUNE 18th, 1965 AT THE THEATRETTE-
NATIONAL GALLERY, SWANSTON STREET,
MELBOURNE.

232nd GENERAL MEETING 18/6/1965.

IN THE CHAIR:

In the absence of the President,
Mr. R.G. Stewart, Mr. P. Simon
F.R.N.S. Vice President,
occupied the chair.

PRESENT:

Seventy members and ten visitors.

APOLOGIES:

Mrs. Freane, Messrs. Griffiths,
Philpotts, Jones, Stewart, Enscoe,
Schaffer and Murray.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of 230th and 231st
General Meetings were read and
confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Sgt. R.A. McEachren, Maine State
Police, Lincoln Maine, 04457, USA
wishes to exchange Canadian and
USA minor coins for Australian
and New Zealand coins.
Letter was placed on table for
information of members.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS:

The following were unanimously
elected.

610

Mrs. I.R. Jennings,
4 Railway Gve., Middle Brighton.

- 611 Mrs. Catherine Corbett,
28 Harvesta Avenue, Dandenong.
- 612 Mrs. J. McCrorie,
28 Harvesta Ave., Dandenong.
- 613 O.R. Lloyd,
1 Breen St., Preston. N.18.

NOMINATIONS:

The following applications for membership were lodged with the Secretary.

J.B. Carey,
32 Bay St. North Geelong.

R.J. Cogan,
110 Victoria Street,
Ballarat.

L. Ireland,
18 Walmer St., Kew. E.4.

E.R. James,
117 Roberts St. Yarraville.

J.M. Lancaster,
19 Glen Rd., Toorak. S.E.2.

M. Tierney,
15 Cornwall St., West Brunswick.

A.P. Stewart,
35 McCarthy Grove, Montmorency.

Applications to be tabled for one month.

EVENING SYLLABUS:

Mr. Taub read a paper on "The Worlds Bank Notes". He also exhibited a very comprehensive collection of world paper money.

EXHIBIT:

Mr. Clark exhibited a bleak microscopic or comparator used for comparing two coins at the one time.

A small tender sale was ably conducted by Messrs. Pethard and Whelan.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

VACANCY ON COUNCIL: In accordance with its powers the Council appointed Mr. R.W. Kummer to fill a vacancy.

The following motions were passed by the Council.

- A. Tender sales and/or Auction sales at meetings shall be limited to one only per month, preferably the Friday meeting and the number of lots to be offered not to exceed 75 in all. Except as provided by this motion buying and selling of coins at meetings of the Association shall not be permitted.
- B. That the proposed motion now resolved shall take effect as from August 1st, 1965.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

July meetings will be held on Wednesday 7th and Friday 16th respectively.

SYLLABUS: July 7th, 1965 "Australiana"
R. Jewell Esq. F.R.N.S.
1st Milled English Coinage.
H. Higson. Esq.

SYLLABUS: July 16th, 1965 : "The Story of Maria Therese Thaler -
E.J. Hibble, Esq.

Usual Tender Sale will be held.

WORLD BANK NOTES - Y. Taub, Esq.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all I would like to say that it is a privilege and a pleasure for me to speak to you. I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Harold Higson, who on behalf of the Council of the Numismatic Association of Victoria asked me to favour you with a paper about Banknotes this night.

I understand very well the intention of the Council. As the literature on this new branch of Numismatics is still very poor, especially in comparison with the immense number of books dealing with coins, you want to share my experience of collecting banknotes. I accept the invitation with pleasure and I shall do my best.

2. In recent years, the collecting of paper money has become an increasingly popular branch of Numismatics. There are many reasons for this growing interest in paper money but perhaps the strongest is that banknotes are literally tangible evidences of history. Through military currency, occupation and emergency issues, prisoner of war and concentration camp notes, one can trace the tides of war by a study of banknotes issued by both victor and vanquished.

Revolutions and civil wars have put in circulation a flood of assignats or paper money - the only currency they can offer to the payee and a part solution to the problems of financing the war action.

These issues of banknotes, which are temporarily called "money", were mostly of dubious legality and had no metal backing; their validity was only for a short time; they were soon devaluated and never redeemed.

Eras of inflation and depression are reflected by the bank notes of those periods and some inflationary notes bear denominations of astronomical proportions. At the same time workers often preferred to receive their pay in bread rather than paper money.

In addition, the currency of a nation reflects its symbols, ideals and heroes as well as local landscapes and objects of national art.

Paper money offers the virtues of both stamps and coins, combining the finest and most beautiful examples of the printers'

and engravers' art with the graphic and colourful illustration of centuries of economic and monetary history.

A modest collection can offer just as much pleasure as an extensive one and has the advantage of being more easily mounted, studied and displayed. Money has a fascination for nearly every-one, and even non-collectors will show interest in a display.

3. KINDS OF COLLECTIONS: First of all it is advisable to collect old and new banknotes of your own country. Then it is easy to obtain and collect notes of your neighbouring countries.

Later a rewarding but expensive aspect is the collection of every old banknote for example of the 19th century and earlier. Paper currency, so called "Banknotes", can trace the history of the two world wars, civil wars, revolutions and all types of prisoner of war and concentration camps.

As well as regular banknotes the collection of inflation money, emergency issues, promissory notes and private tokens all give a valuable insight into historical, social and commercial events.

4. RARITY OF BANKNOTES: Some notes are very rare, for instance the banknotes in Mark denominations from our Treasury issued in October 1914 after the capture of German New-Guinea. In 1916 the branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia superseded the "German Marks" and a complete change to Sterling was made. These Australian "Mark Bank notes" for New-Guinea are now very hard to find and we cannot even see them in Museums.

Others have been withdrawn from circulation for years and most of them were incinerated (burnt) when a new issue came out. Banknotes in a country are often changed for different reasons and curiously people who were so familiar with the old banknotes forget them quickly and after only a few years the public does not even recognize them.

5. BUILDING UP A COLLECTION: Just as it is hard to collect banknotes from all over the world because of their big variety, it is also very difficult to find and complete a

collection of one country, even your own. For the first issues of banknotes were by private banks and it is impossible to trace and find out the exact number of banknotes printed, issued, redeemed and finally destroyed by the bank authorities.

As the interest in collecting banknotes is growing rapidly and many people round the world wish to exchange different items, the beginner might be tempted to cover too much ground with his collection. However, it is advisable to concentrate on one country (not necessarily your own) or one period of time, then any banknotes you have that do not fit into your collection can be exchanged for more suitable ones.

No matter what your speciality you will be rewarded in building up a fine display, which will offer you pleasure and arouse interest in your friends.

I don't need to tell you about collecting as a hobby and I am sure that banknotes will not disappoint you.

6. SPECIMEN COLLECTIONS FOR DISPLAY: Some of you may have been interested in my display at the Exhibition of the Numismatic Association of Victoria in the Melbourne Town Hall last year. It included banknotes prior to the year 1900, others from the United States Civil War and notes from prisoner of war camps, concentration camps and ghettos in Europe during World War II. However, my space there was limited and I have brought some additional items for you tonight. These are :-

1. Russia from 1807 till the present day.
2. Military and Occupation Currency during World War II.
3. Mexican Revolutions.

I am sorry my time this evening is limited, but if you wish I can bring you on another occasion more collections and also give you more detailed information about collecting banknotes.

BERMUDA - Its History and Coinage. by Peter B. Wall.
30/5/65.

Lying about 669 miles south-east of New York and about halfway between the West Indies and Nova Scotia are the group of islands known as the Bermudas (or simply Bermuda). This British Crown Colony (total length 22 miles, land area 21.3 square miles) is made up of some 360 islands, islets and rocks of which only about 60 are inhabited.

The discovery of Bermuda resulted from the shipwreck of Juan de Bermudez (a Spanish explorer who followed Christopher Columbus) whilst on a voyage from Spain to Cuba in the year 1515. The wrecked ship was carrying a cargo of hogs, many of which escaped to the islands and multiplied. A century later these hogs were to be an important part of the diet of the early colonizers and the inspiration for the main design on the early coinage.

Late in the 16th Century (1593 to be exact) Henry May, an Englishman, was also shipwrecked on one of the innumerable coral reefs that surround and comprise the Bermudas. Next to disturb the peace of the hogs was another Englishman, Admiral Sir George Somers commanding the ship "Sea Venture". He was wrecked in 1609 en route to the Virginia Plantation. Somers named the islands "Sommers Islands", "Summer Islands" etc. (there were various spellings) and established the first permanent settlement, the town of St. George (named after the Patron Saint of England). Fortresses were built to surround the town which was the capital from 1612 until 1815.

It is interesting at this point to mention that Shakespeares last play "The Tempest" (written in 1610 or 1611) was based on account of Somers' Shipwreck given by one of the survivors and published in England in 1610.

In 1612 the Bermudas were granted to an offshoot of the Virginian Company and a party of 60 persons under the leadership of Henry More proceeded to the islands.

It is somewhere between 1614 and 1624 that Bermudas first coinage appeared. The coins known as "Hoggies" or "Hogge Money" were made of brass (or a similar substance, possibly copper) lightly silvered. Four denominations were issued consisting of the shilling, sixpence, threepence and

twopence. The hog facing left is the main device on each with the value in Roman numerals above. On the shilling and sixpence appears the legend "Sommer Islands" surrounding a beaded circle. The reverse of each shows a full-rigged galleon sailing to the left with the flag of St. George on each of the four masts. This rather crudely-struck coinage can claim two distinctions, one that it is probably the first struck in British North America, and the other, it is the earliest distinctive British Colonial coinage (the Portcullis dollar etc.). These coins did not remain in circulation for long as very few specimens are in existence today and all are rare. There are two varieties of the sixpence with the galleon having either large or small portholes, the latter being extremely rare.

Bermudas first Governor was Daniel Tucker when the islands were given representative government in 1620. From 1614 to 1684, when the islands were taken over by the Crown, they had been governed by the "Bermuda Company" which played an important part in the colonizing of the islands.

English coins together with an assortment brought in by the crew of foreign ships trading with the islands met the entire coinage needs until 1793 when a distinctive copper halfpenny was issued. This coin may have been issued out of fear that the French might attempt to take over the islands, or it may have been issued to commemorate the founding of the town of Hamilton in 1790, but incorporated in 1793.

The obverse of this beautiful copper coin shows the laureated bust of George III facing right (the work of F. Drog, a German engraver employed at the Royal Mint) with the legend "Georgius III D.G. Rex". The reverse shows a ship in full sail with the word "Bermuda" above, and 1793 in the exergue. Proofs are known to exist in gold (unique) also silver and bronze.

The town of Hamilton rose on the farmlands and pastures formerly owned by the Earl of Pembroke, a shareholder of the original Bermuda Company in Londong. The logical geographical centre of the islands, Hamilton became established as a new centre of trade and was made the Capital (though still not officially a "City") in 1815. The Legislature moved from the old capital to the new Sessions House in 1817. In the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, Hamilton was raised to the dignity of a city. Today Hamilton has become known as the "Show Window of the British Empire" where merchants offer quality goods to the tens of

thousands of visitors (mainly from the United States) who are attracted to the islands each year by the mild healthful climate and many tourist attractions. The mean annual temperature is 71°F.; Rainfall average is 58 inches. The islands are divided into nine "parishes" or "tribes" as they were known earlier. Sandys, Southampton, Warwick, Paget, Pembroke, Devonshire, Smith, Hamilton and St. Georges. The population is approx. 42,000 of which approx. 22,000 are negroes (mostly decendants of the slaves freed in 1834). At least 85% of the revenue is derived from the tourist trade. There is no income, land or inheritance taxes. Early vegetables, lily flowers and bulbs are exported in large quantities (mainly to the U.S.). Most meat is imported but dairy cattle supply local fresh milk. Indigenous mammals, birds and reptiles are few, but ants swarm destructively in the heat. Fish are plentiful.

Bermuda is the headquarters of the West Indies and Atlantic squadron of the British Navy. In 1941 the United States was granted a 99 year lease of 526 acres on Great Island for air and naval bases. A light railway which had been built connecting Somerset, Hamilton and St. George was dismantled in 1947. Automobiles were legalised in 1946 (prior to this they had been banned) but the speed limit is 20 m.p.h. and the maximum horsepower is 10. No used cars may be imported and only one car is permitted to a family or household. About 120 miles of very good roads serve the islands, but the bicycle - either pedal or motorized - is still the most popular form of private transport. Bridges and causeways connect the main islands.

In 1959 a commemorative crown was issued on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Bermuda's founding as a British colony. The obverse shows the official profile of Her Majesty the Queen, which is encircled with the words "Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina". The reverse shows a map of the islands with the internationally famed Bermuda Sloop above and the equally noted fitted dinghy below. The legend "1609 * Bermuda * 1959 * One Crown".

In 1964 another crown piece was released as a supplement to the coinage. This coin is smaller than crown size (equal in size to the Canadian silver dollar). The obverse is

similar to the 1959 issue, but the reverse shows the official coat of arms of the Bermudas separating the date 1964. On the crest is the latin motto "Quo Fata Ferunt". The legend: "One Bermuda Crown". Neither of these crowns saw much circulation, the 1964 issue was probably struck primarily for numismatists. Today both English and United States coins circulate on the islands, but Bermuda has its own Bank notes.

LIBRARY NOTES:

Additions to List No. 65/1.

48 x Ninety Fourth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint ... 1963.

Through the courtesy of the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint Melbourne.

49 B British Copper Coins and their values. Part I Regal Coins, Part 2 Tokens. Seaby's Numismatic Publications.

50 x A Catalog of Modern World Coins .. 6th. Edition. R.S. Yeoman.

51 U Silver Dollars of North and South America. 2nd. Edition Wayte Raymond.

53 X Pageant of World Commemorative Coins .. Thos Becker.

Nos. 50, 51, 53 acknowledged with thanks. Donated by Allan W. Gowan esq.

52 X Domestic Coin Manufactured by Mints of U.S.A. Acknowledged with thanks, donated by B. Hirsh. Esq.

54/A Aust. Bank Notes 1817-1963 by G. W. Tomlinson.

55/R Roman Coins and their values by David R. Sean - Sealy's Publication.

A list of library books which is available gratis.

Members who cannot attend meetings and desire to obtain the loan of books, please advise the librarian by mail addressed to 61 Dendy St., Brighton. S.5., or 'phone - 92.7127 and every endeavour will be made to forward the books in question. If these books are not available at the time a record will be kept on the 'waiting list' and forwarded later.

H. Higson.
Librarian.

WHY COINS?

by C.L. Coffing.

Why do you collect coins? This is a question frequently asked of me. Many times the most innocuous-looking question can produce a great deal of thought and bewilderment.

But why do we - you - I - collect coins or numismatic items? How would you answer a person innocent of our hobby? You cannot say for investment purposes, because, if this is so, you are not a hobbyist. Surely we don't do it because we are all historians, or architects, or economists or art lovers or geographers or linguists.

But before we plead *nolo contendere*, let's face facts - we ARE coin collectors due to at least a few of the above items. If we weren't when we started collecting, we are now. Before we have many coins, we learn the language and numbering systems, appreciate the art, learn of the historical significance of the person or place of the coin, locate the nation on a map, and delve into the economic factors concerning its metal or circumstance of issue.

Of course there are the same satisfactions and rewards in coin collecting as any other collecting interest or hobby. We have our displays, friendships, club meetings, the satisfaction of completing sets and goals, the pursuit of those elusive, hard-to-get pieces. But to a dyed-in-the-wool collector, we think our hard coins beat fragile stamps, rolling rolls of coins better than rolling a bowling ball, an evening working on our coins more worth-while than bridge or poker or bingo. A

flavour peculiar to coin collecting permeates our being, and while we may respect another's interests, we know in our hearts we've made the right hobby choice.

As the hours slip quietly away as we are lost in concentration and contemplation of our coins, we answer many times over, though perhaps unconsciously, the question, "Why do you collect coins"?

By the way, just why do YOU collect coins?

From Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletin -
January 1963.

THE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA

Established 1946

OBJECTS :

Briefly, the objects for which the Association was established, are—

- To encourage the study of Numismatics in all its branches
- To represent generally the views and interests of all Numismatists
- To provide education in the field of Numismatics, and to encourage sound and methodical collecting practice

ACTIVITIES :

- Discussion at Monthly Meetings
- Reading of Papers
- Assisting members in the study and acquisition of numismatic specimens
- An Annual Exhibition
- A monthly publication containing articles and items of interest to all Numismatists
- Stimulating research into the currency of Australia
- Encouraging correspondence between members throughout the world