

Victorian Numismatic Newsletter



Issue One

May/June 2020

Welcome



Welcome to the first in a series of newsletters that are designed to fill the void of our regular in-person meetings, which are currently suspended due to COVID-19.

We are glad to bring some numismatic news to our

membership during these uncertain times. This production aims to broadcast the latest news from Victorian numismatic societies and from regions around Australia and the world. This publication is not designed to replace the Victorian Numismatic Journal (VNJ), but complement it during these unusual times.

For any comments and questions, please do not hesitate to drop us a line, our contact details are on page 3. We hope that you find the content interesting and informative. Until we can meet again stay safe.

Darren Burgess, Secretary NAV
Bill Xynos, President NAV

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Contact Us

At times like this is more important than ever to stay in touch. There are many ways to contact the NAV and these can be found on the right.

To make sure we can contact you please

notify us if you've recently changed address or updated your email.

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Editorial

We are all aware of the present restrictions on the holding of physical meetings. These restrictions also apply to the way we administer the Association. Fortunately our new rules allow us to use video-conferencing for our committee meetings and we had our first successful on-line meeting a few weeks ago. This means we can continue to run the Association. Internet banking is also helping us to pay the bills, which is most useful.

We're aware that for some of our members video conferencing technology may not be so accessible, which is one of the reasons for this newsletter. Those of you that do have access to this technology we would urge you to join us as it is providing a great way to communicate, not just locally but globally. Further details on how we're intending to extend use of this marvel of the modern age to our members can be found on page 4.

International Token Web Conference

Live Online Video Meeting - Monday, 18 May 2020

News has reached us of a free international video gathering of token collectors and researchers. The conference will cover all types of numismatic tokens and features **top speakers from around the world. As it's international the timing are a little unfriendly for Australian attendees, with the conference starting a 1am on Monday 18th May. Still you won't have to travel far and it's free! Attendees must register at this link**

Attendees must register at this link <https://bit.ly/TokenConferenceRegistration> and more details and updates can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/TokenWebConference/>



Zooming in to the Future

Video Meetings

The NAV has recently successfully trialled the use of Zoom for video meetings. As a result we are going to be holding them at the same dates and times as a regular meetings, at least until restrictions are lifted to enable us to meet.

Members who have provided an email address will received an email from the Secretary of the NAV that invites them to the meetings. This email contains a link that should be clicked around the time that the meeting is due to start.

*As a minimum you will need internet access and a computer with a microphone and speakers. **If your device has a camera that's an added bonus. Alternatively if you have a Smartphone** then you can download the Zoom App from the relevant store and participate on your mobile device. Failing that the meeting also can be accessed by phone. Outlined below are a couple of frequently asked questions regarding Zoom Meetings.*

Getting Started with Zoom

Where do I download the latest version of Zoom?

You can download the latest version of Zoom from our [Download Center](#). [Learn more about downloading Zoom](#).

Do you need an account to use Zoom?

A Zoom account is not required if you are strictly joining Zoom Meetings as a participant. If someone invites you to their meeting, you can join as a participant without creating an account.

Joining a Meeting

How do I join a Zoom meeting?

You can join a meeting by clicking the meeting link or going to join.zoom.us and entering in the meeting ID, which will be provided in the invite. [Learn more about joining a meeting](#).

How do I join computer/device audio?

On most devices, you can join computer/device audio by clicking Join Audio, Join with Computer Audio, or Audio to access the audio settings. [Learn more about connecting your audio](#).

Do I have to have a webcam to join on Zoom?

While you are not required to have a webcam to join a Zoom Meeting or Webinar, you will not be able to transmit video of yourself. You will continue to be able to listen and speak during the meeting, share your screen, and view the webcam video of other participants.

We believe that in these times of physical restrictions, this type of communication certainly beats the basic telephone call. If a friend or relative has a compatible tool (computer), that you could use that would be most useful for you to see and speak to each other.

Ahh, the benefits of modern technology!

General Meetings

The Association is aware of the present medical restrictions that directly affect the physical setting of our General Meetings. As soon as the medical and local authorities authorise public meetings in close physical spaces to begin, the Committee will consider all options and notify all members in writing.

Thank you.

New Acquisition #1

Lambert and Son - One Shilling token



This is a token of 'one shilling' from the firm Lambert & Son, based in Melbourne at 252 Collins St. He operated from 1898 to 1919. Further research is needed about the firm

and about the stamping of the number. The token was acquired from a dealer at an early Melbourne Numismatic Society Exhibition and Coin Show at a community hall in Mitcham, Victoria.

New Acquisition #2

Blackfriars Bridge and Holborn Valley Viaduct medal



This numismatic item is one of the key medals in British medals collection. It depicts the Blackfriars Bridge and the Holborn Valley Viaduct, opened in 1869. The bronze medal has a diameter of 76mm diameter. Designed by G.G.Adams, it was issued by the Corporation of London.

Obverse: Bust of crowned Queen Victoria facing left with legends: VICTORIA D:G: BRIT: REGINA F:D:

Reverse: City of London shield in the centre linking two wreaths, each containing a view: HOLBORN VIADUCT above and BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE below. On the left, Londinia with a scroll inscribed OPENED NOV.6 and on the right, Britannia. At the top, 1869. The medal came in the original Corporation of London box with the gilt lettering on the lid. Only 400 were struck and the catalogue reference is Eimer 1604.

The medal came into the current owner's possession from the Timothy Millett collection

(a UK dealer), after spotting his catalogue lying on a table at an early NSSA-NAV Conference many years ago. Many years ago, similar medals were also exhibited at the VCNS Exhibition (Salvation Army Hall, Nelson Road, Box Hill, Vic) and naturally, the owner recollects that the contents of the catalogue caused great sensation and this was how this purchase was achieved.

Source of images: <https://www.londoncoins.co.uk>

New Acquisition #3

250th Anniversary of the Tumba Bruk



In 1668, the Riksdag, Sweden's parliament, decided to found Riksens Ständers Bank (the Estates of the Realm Bank), which in 1867 received the name Sveriges Riksbank. The Riksbank is thus the world's oldest central bank.

Obverse: The personification of Sweden (Mother Svea), a design that was adopted for a number of banknote designs from 1890 to 1963. The designer of the note was Julius Kronberg. Underneath, a small size inscription of '2005, 250 years of Tumba Paper Mill'.

Reverse: These two images are sourced from Denis Diderot's French Encyclopaedia circa 1750's. Above, a map of Tumba village and its paper mill in early 1800's. Below, the process of producing paper for banknote production. Tumba Bruk was founded by Sveriges Riksbank in 1755 to produce banknotes.

The new owner has had the fortune to acquire an example of this issue some years back through eBay and considers the note to be of exceptional quality in terms of design, colour usage and positioning of the banknote's elements such as security features, security band, the style of horizontal borders and titles, the chosen colours and the design of Mother Svea. Finally, the incorporation of the Tumba map and the scene of coin production relates so well

to this unique anniversary. This commemorative note is assigned as P-68 according to the SCWPM (Pick) catalogue and was released in a special folder.

Source: <https://www.riksbank.se>

New Acquisition #4

Ancient Greek Coin - Calabria / Taras



This coin was acquired in April 2012 from the Noble Numismatics auction. Previously owned by the late NAV member Tom May, the coin was part of a collection of ancient Greek coins displayed at VCNS and ANDA Coin Shows. Here are the technical details:

*Lot 3296, ITALY, Calabria, Tarentum (Taras), (4th-3rd century B.C.), silver diobol, (1.24 gm), obv. head of Athena to right wearing crested Corinthian helmet, ornamented with Skylla, rev. Herakles standing to right strangling a lion, behind him a club above TAP[.], between legs **D*, (S.351, Vlasto 1289, SNG ANS 1385). Well centred, extremely fine and very rare as such.*

Information from Wikipedia details that from around 1500 BC a tribe called the Oenotri ("vine-cultivators") settled in the region. According to Greek mythology they were Greeks who were led to the region by their king, Oenotrus. The Greeks used the term 'italoi', which according to some ancient Greek writers was derived from a legendary king of the Oenotri, Italus and according to others from the bull. Originally the Greeks used 'italoi' to indicate Calabrians and later it became synonymous with the rest of the peninsula. Calabria therefore was the first region to be called Italia (Italy).

During the eighth and seventh centuries BC, Greek settlers founded many colonies (settlements) on the coast of southern Italy (Magna Grecia). In Calabria they founded Chone (Pallagorio), Cosentia (Cosenza), Clamptia (Amantea), Scyllaeum (Scilla), Sybaris (Sibari), Hipponion (Vibo Valentia), Locri Epizefiri (Locri), Kaulon (Monasterace), Krimisa (Cirò

Marina), Kroton (Crotone), Laüs (comune of Santa Maria del Cedro), Medma (Rosarno), Metauros (Gioia Tauro), Petelia (Strongoli), Rhégion (Reggio Calabria), Scylletium (Borgia), Temesa (Campora San Giovanni), Terina (Nocera Terinese), Pandosia (Acri) and Thurii, (Thurio, commune of Corigliano Calabro).

The readers realise that this subject is so rich in history that deserves a separate article to be opened in the future.

Source: Noble Numismatics (images), Wikipedia (brief introductory history of Calabria).

Brief News from the NAV

Since the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent restrictions on gatherings, we've had to make some changes and, to paraphrase the famous quote: "One small step for a few friends, one giant leap for the NAV!" An email invite was sent to all members and disappointingly only



one person responded. Undaunted on Friday evening, the 17th of April 2020, a small group of NAV members and one visitor got together over a video conference and had a chat. That's a first in NAV history: an internet meeting!

We are pleased to report the successful Zoom video-conferencing and according to Darren, it worked surprisingly well and everyone seemed to enjoy the proceedings.

As there was no formal agenda or talk prepared members shared their latest acquisitions, which covered a wide range of numismatics. After the initial 'live' session's technical setup by the participants, the chat was on. Technical 'video' difficulties were encountered by one participant, but the audio part was working just fine and they were able to contribute.

Details of the meeting were posted on the NAV's [website](#) and the Secretary will soon initiate another session for the 15th May, with members being invited by email, which will be forward to other Victorian clubs should they wish to join us. We hope you can make it, it would be great to see you.

Brief News from the Geelong, Melbourne and Morwell Numismatic Societies

Geelong Numismatic Society

The present restrictions imposed by the health and local authorities have forced the cancellation of the Western Money Fair on a temporary basis, until the situation improves. According to the **GNS's Treasurer, Mr Richards, this action was unavoidable and the well-being** of the public, attending collectors and dealers is of paramount importance. In the meantime, the GNS held an video meeting using Zoom on the evening of 24th April with 6 members and one visitor in attendance. Ron from CommCoinage was able to show the latest releases from the Royal Australian and Perth Mints as well as ANDA editions from the now cancelled Brisbane Show. A follow-up meeting is planned for next month.

Melbourne Numismatic Society

Physical meetings are postponed until further notice. Efforts are currently being made to enable **all members to have access to 'Zoom' on a suitable device (iPad, smart phone or laptop/** computer with microphone/speaker), and to find out if they would be willing to log in at our normal meeting time. NAV Secretary Darren Burgess has already set up an NAV meeting that is very simple to use once a member is registered. An alternative, if too few of our members are available for a viable meeting, is to log in as guests to NAV meetings, if invited. This is an amazing tool for NAV who could look at a live stream of their meetings to their more distant members. MNS President Michael Wade will contact the British Numismatic Society to see if something like this could be developed for their international members – albeit at 4-5 in the morning.

Morwell Numismatic Society

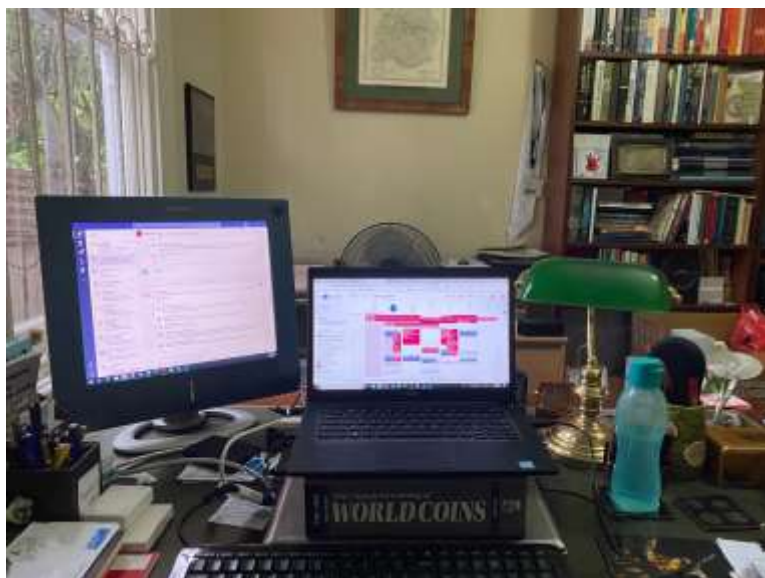
As I assume everyone is aware, we remain unable to hold a meeting under the current pandemic restrictions. Though I hope everyone has been able to keep safe and likewise manage to survive with their essential only travel and working from home or the like. To assist with the extra spare time you may have, John & I have put together some extra activities to keep you occupied. I also participated in a 'Zoom' get together, one done over the internet organised by Darren Burgess, with some members from the NAV & Geelong which was interesting. I haven't noticed anything new on the coin and note front, though I understand that many businesses have been reluctant to take cash! Interesting times. Finally, as far as coin fairs are concerned, the Bairnsdale and Warragul Fairs have been cancelled. See you all soon.

Regards Tilo Junge

News from around the World

Paper Books Obsolete? No Way!

Starting locally, it is fascinating how human ingenuity can be quickly applied when we try to overcome technical difficulties. With this damn Covid-19 virus invading our lives, the acute



awareness of the present restrictions has practically driven some of us crazy!

As some of us are advised to work from home, suddenly our organising skills must be practiced! A member has sent us a perfect example of this adaptability.

“Working from home has been challenging but I’ve been enjoying some of the flexibility it provides.

As I started to have more and more video conferences I noticed that the web-camera on my laptop was taking images of me from an unflatteringly low angle. In order to raise the height of my laptop I raided my numismatic library and made excellent use of one of the larger editions of the Krause catalogue. **The only time it’s inconvenient is if I want to check the value of a 20th century world coin!”**

So, it doesn’t matter if it’s the 1980’s or 1990’s edition, these books are just perfect for the office; perhaps a door-stopper, a “drinks” coaster, or whatever! Nothing goes wasted....

Do we spread the Coronavirus via Cash?

Article by Björn Schöpe, www.coinsweekly.com (9.4.2020)

The coronavirus currently determines daily life all over the world: stay home if possible, **keep distance when you’re outside, wash your hands. A few general rules are supposed to help us get through everyday life as safely as possible. At the same time there’s a lot of uncertainty as governments have different opinions about what are appropriate and reasonable restrictions in order to protect people. A stricter approach of some people can lead to uncertainty of others as to whether they should take additional measures, too. Cue: mandatory face masks.**

When I'm grocery shopping I wonder: is cash safe or are we carrying the coronavirus in our wallets?

Wash Your Hands or Wash Your Money?

At the beginning of April, the media reported that Thailand is issuing 31 billion new coins to cover its cash demand. Coins and banknotes which had been in circulation before will be collected for a thorough clean-up. In order to eliminate the virus SARS-CoV-2, the money will be treated with ultraviolet light at 200 degrees Celsius. According to press reports, the Thai government recommended people at home to clean cash with detergent or alcohol and to let it dry under the sunlight.

Thailand is thus following the example of China, where banks disinfected, sealed and stored banknotes for 7 to 14 days before putting them back into circulation as early as in February. There are reports about similar measures taken by South Korea, Costa Rica, Russia, Indonesia and Iran. Even the Federal Reserve is said to quarantine banknotes from Europe and Asia for 7 to 10 days. In fact, virologists explained that studies have shown that the coronavirus can survive on surfaces for up to 9 days. In contrast, the WHO and the company De La Rue refer to results of their own studies which show that the virus can only survive on banknotes for a few hours.

Is Cash a Risk?

Can these viruses transmit COVID-19 to humans from surfaces? In Germany, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is responsible for such issues. A BfR survey demonstrates: 45 percent of those questioned are worried that they could catch the virus from contaminated cash. At the same time, the BfR points out that not a single case has been recorded worldwide in which a contamination occurred by touching a surface. It might be possible, theoretically, but is extremely unlikely in the light of what we know so far.

That's why, the public health institute of Germany (Robert Koch Institute) does not discourage the use of cash. This recommendation is in line with that of the WHO and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Those who use coins and banknotes for payments have to adhere to the same hygiene rules as everybody else: wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands.

Why is money with pathogenic agents not necessarily dangerous for health, which coins can be swallowed by toddlers without any major risk and what exactly are bacteria and viruses in **the first place? Find out all of this in our first MindWorld Compendium "Coins and Good Health".**

Reuters, CNN and CNBC reported about how different countries are dealing with the issue of cash and the coronavirus. And MarketWatch explained the WHO's opinion about it.

[On the BfR website you can read the institute's risk assessment (in German).]

Wash your hands especially well after withdrawing money: ATMs are actually quite dirty! And credit cards are even dirtier, as a US study demonstrates. On the other hand, it's important to recognise the value of cash even in these days. Recently, a study found that cash is a public good.

[British Royal Mint joins fight for PPE by making 2 million visors for NHS](#)

The Royal Mint is all set to manufacture nearly two million medical visors to help protect NHS staff after engineers developed a successful prototype in just 48 hours. The Royal Mint, which is more commonly known for making coins and investment products, has transformed its visitor attraction into an emergency production line. The production line is said to be making more than 100,000 medical visors per week. Production has now moved up to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at the Royal Mint's site in Llantrisant, South Wales.



Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, who is also Master of the Mint, said: "I applaud the Royal Mint for refocusing their efforts and working around the clock to play their part during this national emergency."

Anne Jessopp, chief executive of the Royal Mint, added: "We want to play our part in the fight

against coronavirus by providing NHS staff with the protective equipment they need to keep the nation and themselves safe. When people think of the Royal Mint, they think about the coins in their pockets, but we've been making useful products for the nation for 1,100 years and have a team of skilled designers, engineers and production staff. Together they turned a rudimentary visor design into a working model in just 48 hours, and within a week we were manufacturing thousands per day."

60th Anniversary of the Reserve Bank of Australia's Logo

Source: Reserve Bank of Australia website www.rba.gov.au



It was noted by a member attending our video meeting on the 17th April that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the design of the Reserve Banks of Australia (RBA) logo.

The abstract design was devised by [Gordon Andrews](#), who also designed the first Australian decimal bank-notes in the 1960s, and was part of the advisory panel that oversaw the design of the first polymer series of notes. He passed away in January 2001.

It's interesting to note that early designs (left) were eventually simplified to the final design (centre). It's also worth noting that the design is not symmetrical, with the right side slightly higher than the left. This detail **has not been observed by most of the session's participants!**

One musically inclined member noted some similarity to the logo used by US based 90's hip hop band the [Wu-Tang Clan](#) (right). We'll let you decide on their relative artistic merits.

