

# **Victorian Numismatic Newsletter**



**Issue Three**

**August 2020**

# Welcome



*Numismatics in action! Victorian numismatists attending the ANDA 2018 Melbourne Money Expo.*

Welcome to the third in our series of newsletters, which we hope you're finding informative and a welcome distraction.

This photograph is here to remind us of the good times celebrating the hobby with members of the Victorian numismatic community at ANDA's 2018 Melbourne Money Expo.

Currently in Victoria times are difficult and the importance of keeping ourselves as healthy and safe as we can is clear. While physical activity is vital, engaging in mental tasks is equally important. What better way to engage your brain than the pursuit of our shared hobby.

We encourage you to be positive, proactive and to stay in touch wherever possible with your

friends (at an appropriate distance of course). Whether it's a deeper study of your collection, a search for varieties or writing up that acquisition there's plenty to keep you occupied.

Of course if you do manage to write that article we can certainly find a home for it, either in this newsletter or for the forthcoming Victorian Numismatic Journal. Next year, the NAV will mark 75 years of service to the numismatic community and our publications will play a major part of those celebrations. For any comments and questions please do not hesitate to drop us a line; our contact details are shown below.

We hope you enjoy our latest effort to keep you up-to-date and that it lifts your spirits in these trying times. Kind Regards, Darren Burgess (Secretary, NAV) and Bill Xynos (President, NAV)

## Content

The front cover depicts one of the medals featured in the article 'Skylab Medals', starting on page 4 of the issue.

Page 3	Editorial / Brief News from the NAV / NAV Meetings: Zooming into the Future
Page 4	Skylab Medals
Page 7	A Brief Chronology of the Coins of Hong Kong
Page 9	New Acquisitions
Page 11	Forthcoming Events & News from around the World
Page 14	Brief News from the Geelong, Melbourne and Morwell Numismatic Societies

## Contact Us

There are many ways to contact the NAV and these can be found right below. To make sure we can contact you please notify us if you've recently changed address or updated your email.

Bill Xynos, Editor      Darren Burgess, Copy-Editor

By Post:	P.O. Box 288, Flinders Lane, VIC, 8009	By Email:	<a href="mailto:contactus@navic.org.au">contactus@navic.org.au</a>		
Website:	<a href="http://www.navic.org.au">www.navic.org.au</a>	Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/numisvic">www.facebook.com/numisvic</a>	Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/NumisVic">@NumisVic</a>

# Editorial

Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions have forced many clubs, societies and fairs to continue to suspend their physical gatherings. We will continue to update our website's [Numismatic Calendar](#) to inform you what events are and are not occurring. This Newsletter is distributed by email to NAV members and other numismatic societies for distribution to their members. It's also available as a hardcopy mailed out to NAV members that don't have access to email. A copy is also uploaded on to the NAV website and we thank all our readers for their support and feedback. We will continue to hold NAV meetings over the Zoom platform for the foreseeable future and members of other clubs are more than welcome to join us. Details can be found below on how you can join these ever increasingly popular events. In the meantime the NAV Committee will continue monitoring the official health advice and inform you of any changes through all of communication channels. Finally, if you have any questions or suggestions for content, please write or email us. As always we hope you enjoy the content, continue to stay safe, keep calm and coin on!

## Brief News from the NAV

The July meeting of the NAV was held on 17th as a Zoom video conference due to Stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions in Melbourne. This didn't stop a record number of nineteen attendees sharing their latest acquisitions, presenting short talks and honouring recently deceased colleagues. In the absence of a speaker it was decided to offer members the opportunity to present a short talk on a numismatic item related to this day in history. The results were wide and varied from the deaths of



Russian royals, a British Prime Minister and a Scottish economist (Adam Smith pictured left on a Penny Token of 1797), to land speed records and two space missions. More details can be found [here](#). The next meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> August, with three members offering to give a series of shorter talks on topics of their choice. We very much hope you can make it.

## NAV Meetings - Zooming into the Future

The NAV will continue holding Zoom meetings at the same dates and times as a regular meetings, at least until it is safer to meet in person. Members with an email address will receive an invitation-email from the NAV Secretary to join each meeting. 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 or Tablet then you can download the Zoom App from the relevant store and participate on your device. Failing that, the meeting also can be accessed by phone.

You can download the latest version of Zoom from their [Download Center](#). [Learn more about downloading Zoom](#). If someone invites you to their meeting, you can join as a participant without creating an account. 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](#). 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](#). 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.



# Skylab Medallions

By Frank Robinson (NAV 713)

The 1960s saw the advent of manned spaceflight and a space race between the United States of America (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Both of these nations were fierce competitors to be the first in various aspects of space flight. Initially, the USSR led the way with the USA playing catch-up. However the USA concentrated on President Kennedy's aim of sending a man to the moon, a goal that they achieved in July 1969. After six successful manned landings on the moon (the last being in December 1972), budget cuts forced the cancellation of further planned lunar landings.

Once Apollo 11 succeeded in the first manned lunar landing, the USSR started to work on developing a series of space stations which would allow their cosmonauts to live and work in space for extended periods. Their first space station was designated as Salyut 1 and was launched in April 1971 with one crew visiting for 23 days; Salyut 1 re-entered the atmosphere later that year. The next two attempts for a USSR space station were Salyut 2 and Cosmos 557, both of which were launched in April 1973 and failed shortly afterwards without any crew visiting them.

## Skylab Missions

Meanwhile, after the cancellation of the Apollo manned lunar program, the USA decided to use some of the leftover hardware for a space station. Skylab, the name given to the USA space station, was constructed from the fourth stage (S-IVB) of a Saturn V rocket. It was launched on 14 May 1973, but suffered damage during the launch – part of the meteoroid shield was torn off taking one of the two solar panel wings with it. This meant that Skylab was underpowered and also heated up to dangerous levels.

Eleven days later, the first manned mission to Skylab<sup>1</sup> was launched with astronauts Charles Conrad, Dr Joseph Kerwin, and Paul Weitz; they found that the remaining solar panel wing had not deployed (they managed to release it on 7 June). One of their first tasks after entering Skylab was to deploy (through an airlock) a parasol-like sunshade which successfully reduced the internal temperature. While in Skylab, they conducted observations of the sun through Skylab's telescopes, photographed over 10 million square kilometres of the earth's surface, and conducted biomedical experiments. The astronauts returned to earth on 22 June 1973 after a 28 day mission.



*Skylab photographed by the final mission crew as they left on 8 February 1974. The sunshield is over the section nearest the camera. The lost solar panel wing should have been on the left side.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Designation of the manned missions to Skylab is confusing. It was intended that the launch of Skylab itself would be designated Skylab 1 and the successive missions would be designated as Skylab 2, Skylab 3, and Skylab 4. However an apparent muck-up in NASA paperwork led to the official mission crew patches being numbered as Skylab I, Skylab II, and Skylab 3. As a result, in some sources, the first manned mission is referred to as Skylab 1 and in others as Skylab 2 – both designations occur on the NASA website! The official mission crew patches, which are depicted on the medallions, have the manned missions as Skylab I, Skylab II, and Skylab 3.

The second manned mission to Skylab was launched on 28 July 1973, the crew were Alan Bean, Owen Garriott, and Jack Lousma. They conducted experiments in the fields of biology, space medicine, solar physics, astrophysics, Earth observation, and technology. They also installed a twin pole sunshade over the earlier sunshade (the one the first crew had installed). They returned to earth 25 September 1973 after a 59 day mission.

The final mission to Skylab was launched on 16 November 1973 with astronauts Gerald Carr, Dr Edward Gibson, and William Pogue. They continued observations of the sun and spent a lot of time on major medical experiments. They also performed more physical exercises and, when they returned to earth on 8 February 1974, they were in better physical condition than any previous space crew.

Each of the three manned missions to Skylab set progressive space duration records; the 84 days of the third Skylab crew remained the record for four years.



*The paths of the final orbits of Skylab over Australia and showing the area where debris landed in Western Australia.*

### Skylab's Re-entry

It had been hoped that Skylab would continue to orbit until the early 1980s when it was intended that an early space shuttle flight would visit it and attach a small rocket to boost its altitude. However, frictional drag from the outer fringes of earth's atmosphere (which had expanded due to solar flare activity in 1978-79) caused its orbit to decay and it re-entered the atmosphere in the early hours of 12 July 1979<sup>2</sup> on orbit number 34 981.

While much of the debris fell into the southern Indian Ocean, significant fragments landed on the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia, in an area stretching from Esperance to Rawlinna; these included two oxygen tanks which were found near Rawlinna.

### Skylab Medallions

A number of medallions were issued for Skylab, of which I have three. The first I have was struck by Lombardo in Canada and is for the second manned mission to Skylab. This 38 mm bronze medallion shows the official patch of the mission on the obverse, which consists of two superimposed human figures in a rectangle on a circle which is a hemisphere of the sun (left half of the circle) and the western hemisphere of the earth (showing the two American continents, in the right half of the circle) with "BEAN GARRIOTT LOUSMA" around above and "SKYLAB II" below. The reverse of this medallion shows the three astronauts with their surnames on their portraits.



*Medallion for the second manned mission to Skylab by Alan Bean, Owen Garriott and Jack Lousma; struck by Lombardo in Canada. The obverse shows the official mission patch.*

<sup>2</sup> Re-entry commenced about 00:37 hrs Western Australian time; most references give the date as 11 July which was the date in most of the rest of the world, including the USA.



Galaxy in the USA struck a 39 mm brass medallion for the final manned mission to Skylab.

The obverse has the official patch of the third manned mission to Skylab which shows a large “3” with a tree in its upper section and an object (presumably Skylab) in orbit; to the left of the “3” is a circle with a human figure on it and with six arcs (of the rainbow) joining it to the “3”; the legend is “SKYLAB” above, “NOV 16 / 1973” at right, and “CARR-GIBSON-POGUE” below.

The reverse has the official patch of the Skylab program which shows Skylab as it should have looked in orbit in its lower section, with both its solar panel wings, with the earth in the background, the sun at upper left and “Skylab” above; “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA” is around below. This medallion has been pierced for suspension.

My third medallion, which is 32 mm diameter, was struck by Stokes in Melbourne from a piece of one of the oxygen tanks from Skylab.

The obverse shows Skylab above a map of Australia and New Zealand with the landing site in Western Australia marked, with the legend “LAUNCHED MAY 14 1973 / RE ENTRY JULY 12 1979”.

The reverse has the legend “AN AUTHENTIC PIECE OF OXYGEN CYLINDER FROM THE U.S.A. SKYLAB ORBITAL WORKSHOP FOUND NEAR RAWLINNA WESTERN AUSTRALIA” inside a laurel wreath and “STOKES MELB.” below.



*Medallion for the third manned mission to Skylab by Gerald Carr, Dr Edward Gibson, and William Pogue; struck by Galaxy in USA. The reverse shows the official patch of the Skylab program (note the solar wings).*



*Medallion for the re-entry of Skylab over Western Australia; struck by Stokes in Melbourne from a piece of one of the oxygen cylinders recovered near Rawlinna. Note that the view of Skylab shows the sunshield and only one solar wing.*

## References

- Gatland, K, & Clarke, AC, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Space Technology*, Salamander Books, 1981
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skylab>
- [https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/skylab](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/skylab)
- Yenne, B, *The Encyclopedia of US Spacecraft*, Bison Books, 1985

# A Brief Chronology of the Coins of Hong Kong

By William Wong (NAV 1184)

Hong Kong has long been a haven for fishermen, pirates and opium smugglers. The island of Hong Kong was ceded to Britain after China lost the first Opium War (1839 - 1842). The Kowloon Peninsula and Stonecutter's Island were ceded in 1860, and the New Territories were leased to Britain for 99 years in 1898.



Figure 1: An old Chinese map showed Hong Kong's geographic location within Guang-Dong Province

Before Hong Kong became a British colony in 1841, it had a long history of being a part of China Empire. The first time when this geographic location was mentioned as Hong Kong was in Yue Da Ji, in Chinese: 《粤大记》, in year 1595 during the Ming Dynasty China, it was then a small fishing village situated in the south of Ming Empire.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese Dao-Guang Emperor's Reign (1838), Lin Ze-Xu were summoned to ban opium trades in Guang Zhou, which led to the defeat of Chinese Qing Empire. In the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Chinese Dao-Guang Emperor's Reign (1842), the Treaty of Nanking were signed, which was a peace treaty which ended the First Opium War (1839 - 1842). One term of this treaty was cession of Hong Kong from the Qing government to the British Queen, Queen Victoria.



Figure 4: 1863 Hong Kong One Mil is the first coin under the British rule.

Chinese cash coins and silver tael was in circulation (Fig.2 & 3) until the British colonist currency started. The first decimal coin by the British ruler was the Hong Kong one mil, with bilingual legends, in 1863. Obverse side shows Chinese value "wen 文", and the reverse shows "One Mil". Copper cents were also issued in the same year, with young Queen Victoria's bust on the obverse and bilingual Hong Kong One Cent on the reverse (Fig.4).

Hong Kong's old monetary system are:

- 10 Mils (Wen 文) = 1 Cent (Hsien 仙)
- 10 Cents = 1 Chiao 毫
- 100 Cents = 10 Chiao = 1 Dollar (Yuan 圓)



Figure 5: 1905 Hong Kong 50 Cents showing the bust of King Edward VII.

In 1902, the British Hong Kong issued coins with King Edward VII, still with bilingual legend on the reverse (Fig.5).



Figure 2: Wan-Li Tong Bao One Cash (issued 1573 AD – 1620 AD). These coins were circulated through the country in Ming Dynasty of China.



Figure 3: Chinese cash were used before British coinage: Dao-Guang Tong Bao (1821 AD – 1850 AD).





Figure 6: A 1926 Hong Kong One Cent coin featured King George V on the Obverse.



Figure 7: A 1937 Hong Kong 10 cents coin featured King George VI's portrait.



Figure 8: A 1978 Hong Kong Five Dollars coin showing Arnold Machin's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. On reverse, the coin features a crowned British lion holding a pearl which symbolised Hong Kong.



Figure 9: A 1993 Hong Kong bi-metal ten dollars coin featured a Bauhinia flower.

In 1997, Hong Kong was peacefully handed over from the UK to China and became what is now known as Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR). A commemorative coin was issued featuring the two saints of harmony, the Ho-Ho brothers, to commemorate this historical event. It is interesting to find that the Hong Kong Two Dollars coins are in Scallop shapes (Fig.10).

Today, according to Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Hong Kong's currency notes are issued by three commercial banks, except for the \$10 notes which are issued by the Hong Kong SAR government (Fig.11). All coins are issued by the government.



Figure 10: A set of 1997 Hong Kong Coins that celebrated Hong Kong's Return to China.



Figure 11: Hong Kong \$10 banknotes are issued by the Hong Kong SAR Government.



## New Acquisitions: Item 1 - Norway 100 Kronor silver coin

There is no doubt that this coin is one of the most impressive designs adopted in modern Norwegian coinage history. At first glance, this coin has the illusion of being a commemorative medallion or 'piedford' strike. In fact, that was the instant recollection of the NAV collector (who submitted this image similar to his coin). He added that as soon as he rotated the coin, the denomination detail of "100 KR" was revealed, and concluded that 'because he was impressed and attracted by the medallic appearance and design of the coin, (he) had no hesitation in sealing the purchase at a good price'.

Data from en.numista website reveal that this was a commemorative issue on the 25th Anniversary of King Olav's Reign. The obverse shows the effigy of King Olav V facing left. The reverse's design, modelled after a design by Hallvard Trættebergs, shows the nation's 'Coat of Arms', crowned with the King's Crown. The engraver of the coin is Øivind Hansen and the mintmark is K. Issued only in 1982 with a mintage figure of 800 000, this coin has a smooth edge, a weight of 24.7 grams, a diameter of 33 mm, a thickness of 3.43mm and a silver purity of 92.50%. This coin is catalogued as KM #426 and has a Numista rarity index is 49 out of 100.

Source: Numista website



## New Acquisitions: Item 2 - El Banco Espanol de la Isla de Cuba

Details about another numismatic item of great quality have arrived just in time for this issue. According to a member of the IBNS's Melbourne Chapter, his banknote is very similar to this one shown below and it's one of the colourful notes produced for the Spanish Bank of the Island of Cuba.



While Cuba was the last Latin American country to gain independence from Spain (1898) the issues of this bank continued to circulate for several years thereafter.

Catalogued as Pick No.50b, the 50 Pesos banknote is dated 15 May 1896, has a size of about 111 x 202 mm and was printed by Bradbury Wilkinson Co.

Obverse: Black ink on red and green underprint, Coat of Arms at top right, allegorical maiden with lamb and lion at left, value at top centre and right, three hand-stamped signatures below.

Reverse: Green and red, head of Columbus at centre, red PLATA (silver) probably indicating of its exchangeability to silver coinage.

Source: Standard Catalogue of World Paper Money, General Issues (1968-1960), 11th Ed., 2006, Krause Publications.

## New Acquisitions: Item 3 - Austrian Thaler 1782

The VNN Editors are pleased to present another wonderful item, a silver coin dated 1782 from the German city of Regensburg, located in the country's south-eastern region. According to the collector commenting on the coin and the shown three-dimensional representation of the town: "*numismatics is art!*". Certainly, this little gem has the large tick of approval from us. On obverse, we have the portraiture of Joseph II and the titles: IOSEPHVS II D G ROM IMP S A (Iosephus II Dei Gratia Romanorum Imperator Semper Augustus).



Joseph II (1741 – 1790) was Holy Roman Emperor from August 1765 and sole ruler of the Habsburg lands from November 1780 until his death. He was the eldest son of Empress Maria Theresa and her husband, Emperor Francis I, and the brother of Marie Antoinette. He was a proponent of enlightened absolutism; however, his commitment to reforms raised opposition, significant enough to impact his programs. He was a supporter of the arts, and most importantly of composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. He died with no sons and was succeeded by his younger brother, Leopold II.



The name of 'KÖRNLEIN' inscribed at the bottom of the bust refers to Johann Nikolaus Kornlein, the Engraver. On reverse, the coin shows a three-dimensional representation of the town. The titles 'MONETA REIP RATISPON / XX ST EINE F C M / 1782 / G.C.B.' translate to: Coin of the city of Regensburg / One-Twentieth of Cologne Mark / 1782 / G.C.B. (Georg Christoph Busch, the Mintmaster).

The coin is a standard circulation coin (ref. KM.444) with a value of Half Thaler and has a diameter of 36mm. The 'en.numista' website considers this coin to have a rarity factor of 97 out of 100. Other sources: en.numista website, Wikipedia

## New Acquisitions: Item 4 - Melbourne Regatta, 1887



In honouring the legacy that Dr. John Chapman has left on most Australian numismatists over many decades, a member of the NAV has proudly submitted the one and only medal he acquired from the 'John Chapman Collection', auctioned by Noble Numismatics in July 2008 (Sale No.88).

The medal is in silver (41.5mm) with loop mount at top, by W.J.Taylor, London, inscribed on reverse

'Melbourne Regatta / 1887 / Maiden Sculls / John Cazaly'. With original case by Walsh Bros, 53 Collins St, East Melbourne. Its condition was graded as 'good extremely fine with grey toning'. Any information sent to the editor about the history of Melbourne Regatta in that period would be appreciated. Source: Noble Numismatics website



## New Acquisitions: Item 5 - Unrecorded Maltese coin dated 1748

P10



P13



A member of the NAV showed a unique item recently, an uncatalogued Carlino bronze coin issued under Emmanuel Pinto's reign. Dated 1748, the coin has a distinct mark of a large 'X' underneath the two hands, identifying it as a new variety. It was acquired from the Spanish auction house Tauler & Fau. Further details on Maltese coins can be found on the following website: <http://www.coinsofmalta.com>

## Forthcoming On-Line Events

15 August : [Edlins of Canberra Auction 224](#) (Postal Bid Sale)

18-20 August : [Downies Auction 337](#)

28-30 August : [NNP Symposium 2020](#)

## News from around the World



### How Has the World Pandemic Lockdown Affected the Numismatic Trade?

From Andrew Crellin, published on the [Sterling & Currently Website](#), 6th June 2020

You don't need me to let you know what life has been like since March 12th - that distant bygone date when the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Just in Australia, we've had restricted movement not only internationally and interstate but within states and within regions. This has forced many of us to be at home for many, many more hours than we otherwise would have been, and as the Devil is said to find work for idle hands, many of us have turned to our hobbies to keep ourselves occupied and with some sense of forward movement.

As the magnitude of this disease unfolded around the world, and we began to read forecasts of the impact it would and could have on incomes for businesses and individuals, I absolutely expected the economic consequences to be far worse than we've seen so far.

### **Collectors Without Income or Savings - Forced Sellers**

I was concerned we'd see people who were without income and savings being forced to sell items from their collections and wasn't sure just what demand there would be for them from those that happened to be better positioned to cope. How wrong I was - whether it's due to the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper program, the better financial health of the general man than I expected or complete indifference to financial ruin, many collectors have been quite content to focus on their collections over the past two and a half months.

Will this activity run out of puff as soon as JobKeeper ends its run? Once the next few credit card

statements come in? Or are we going to keep ticking along well into 2021? One thing we do know about markets is that they feed off themselves - as behaviour is reinforced positively with movement upward in prices, market momentum builds over time.

### **Online Shopping and Payments Facilitates Activity**

Online shopping is obviously facilitating this activity, it's a way of keeping busy while remaining isolated at the same time. One interesting nuance of this current situation is the impact that social distancing; concern for health and the prevention of anything-but-local travel is having on the oft-quoted "supply chain" for numismatic items on the secondary market.

It's been some time since I was active in any meaningful way in coins and sets offered directly from Australia's mints, but I expect if I were actively selling them and I sold out, I could replenish my stocks as soon as they ran out, simply by placing an order with the relevant Mint.

### **The Supply Chain for the Secondary Market - Will It Break Before We Return to "Normal"?**

When it comes to products on the secondary market however, re-supply isn't quite as simple. When I know that a customer has a specific coin, note or set that they're no longer beholden with, I know I can contact them with an idea of perhaps selling it or trading it against something else that suits their current collecting patterns more closely. In the absence of that, it is challenging to locate regular supply when the general public and collectors aren't entertaining heading out and about to deal with a relatively complex project such as selling a collection of coins or notes. I reckon most of us are specifically focused on getting through each day or week at the moment and are waiting for some kind of indication that life is returning to "normal" before we get stuck into anything that requires a good degree of planning and exercise of the grey cells.

One major challenge for someone looking to sell a valuable collection of tangible assets without being able to physically deliver it to a dealer and discuss it in detail is, how do you deliver it and discuss it in detail without leaving yourself open to the risk of loss in transit or having a whole lot of hassle once it has been delivered? That's a whole other discussion that'll be forthcoming in the coming months, but I've mentioned it because if this situation doesn't change in the coming months, dealers such as myself will find it challenging to replenish their stock by any means! If the conversations I've had with my colleagues that run auction houses are any guide at all, they're in exactly the same position - this means we could see some strong price movement as dealers begin to compete with an already-active cohort of collectors.

### **Numismatic Auction Activity Between March and June 2020**

So how has the Australian and world numismatic industry fared during this pandemic lockdown?

If I remember rightly, the IAG Auction 91 was held just after the WHO pandemic declaration, but before Australia's interstate borders were closed. That was a solid sale, one that went ahead in unprecedented conditions and brought a lot of buyers and sellers together. Noble 123 was held (virtually) in Sydney in the weeks that followed - those conditions were also unprecedented, yet did little to dent enthusiasm for the coins and notes on offer.

The next event was Downie's Auction 336 - total turnover including the buyer's premium cracked the million-dollar mark. The clearance rate sat at 91.87% overall, which is remarkable for a sale containing 3,678 lots. The average lot value was around \$250, which although relatively low reflected the material on offer. Just 3 lots valued above \$10,000 got away, which again was a reflection of the material available rather than the demand at play. IAG held their 15th online sale just last week, and that was also a bumper event. A clearance rate in excess of 90% coupled with interest from more than 1,300 participants shows activity is certainly widespread at the moment.

One additional auction held that has a lot of relevance to our market didn't take place within Austral-



ia's boundaries - it was the Caranett Collection of Commonwealth sovereigns, sold by Heritage Auction Galleries in Dallas (USA). Heritage is acknowledged as the largest auctioneers of collectables in the world, their systems and reach are, without doubt, first-class.

### **The Caranett Collection Auction - Heritage in Dallas (USA)**

The Caranett Collection was a named set of gold sovereigns of the British Commonwealth, one that had been well known and admired on the PCGS Registry Set boards for some years. At the time it went to auction, it had a current #1 rank in at least five different sets. The collection included 285 different coins across 4 countries, which makes the total realisation of US\$694,490 (equivalent to A\$1,083,543) from 387 bidders all the more remarkable.

I don't have the time right at the moment to show you the prices realised for the Australian gold sovereigns in this auction in their full context - ideally, I'd like you to see just how strong they were against the "catalogue" value they have.

This is, of course, problematic, in that the current printed catalogue is a woefully inadequate guide to this market, if not to the value of coins that can be readily understood under the "raw" standard, then certainly to coins in superlative condition. So we will simply show the results as-is (*Editor: Please click on the link at the beginning of the article for accessing the tabulated results*). Those of you that have some knowledge of this area of the Australian numismatic market will know just how strong some of these results are, and just how different some of them are relative to where they were 5, 10 or 20 years ago.

### **How Does This Bode for the Market for Australian Gold Coins?**

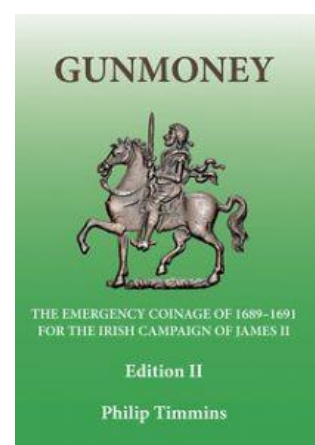
The old saying goes that one swallow doesn't make a spring, but there's no doubt to me the above activity is more a reflection of the demand that has been ticking along for the past few years rather than a sudden jump in activity due to the pandemic lockdown or the recent rise in precious metal prices. The market for Australian gold sovereigns and half sovereigns is truly global, as this auction indicates. The difference is though, this is arguably the first auction of a comprehensive collection of such coins that has been PCGS-graded and features a wide range of coins in superior grade.

I believe the results here show a market that is perhaps 8 years behind the market for Australian Commonwealth coins - values in that segment boomed when it was clear to collectors just how much additional value could be gained for top-quality examples that have been independently assessed by PCGS. Good quality Australian gold coins that have been independently assessed by PCGS look to be well in favour with collectors at the moment - the amazing thing is that these results have been achieved at a time when those collectors have been active without fanfare or recognition.

## **Second Edition on Irish Gunmoney published**

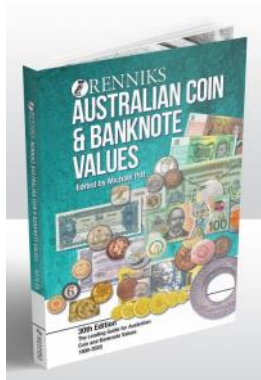
Phil Timmins has announced a second edition of his book on the fascinating numismatic area of Irish Gunmoney. The book incorporates new features that were not included in the first edition. This includes a new layout with current prices for all variants, together with a new chapter detailing the off-metal gunmoney coinage of the period. An article with more detail is available in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's online newsletter [the E-Sylum](#).

*GUNMONEY: The emergency coinage of 1689-1691 for the Irish campaign of James II* is a scholarly publication written for collectors, dealers and students of Irish numismatics. If you're interested in a copy you can contact the author directly [timmins.phil@gmail.com](mailto:timmins.phil@gmail.com), for further details.



## **NNP Symposium 2020**

The NNP Symposium is an entirely virtual numismatic event, including speakers from all fields of the hobby on a wide range of topics. Sponsored by the Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP) and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNES) they are hosting together a line-up of live presentations and meetings to be delivered via Zoom on August 28 and 29, 2020. Anyone can apply to present, and anyone can attend - all completely free of charge. More details, including on how to register, can be found [here](#).



### **Renniks 'Australian Coin & Banknote Values 30th Edition**

Australia's leading numismatic guide is now available in soft-cover for \$39.95. This comprehensive guide to Australian Coin & Banknote Values contains over 3,850 images and countless thousands of valuations. This book is a must for all collectors, whether you are just beginning or an advanced collector. Latest information compiled using weighted averages where possible to ensure the accuracy of pricing. Quality reproduction of photos makes it easy to identify

items. Covered are copper, silver, gold, nickel and alloy coins and notes used in Australia from 1800 to present. Subjects include Pre-Decimal and Decimal currency, as well as privately issued banknotes, war issues, and privately issued tokens. Also included are latest Royal Australian Mint, Perth Mint & Australia Post Numismatic Covers. More details available at [Renniks website](#) and an insightful review from Andrew Crellin can be found [here](#). The book is also available in hardback and can be purchased direct from Renniks or approach your usual dealer who's bound to have a copy or two.

## **Brief News from the Geelong, Melbourne and Morwell Numismatic Societies**

### **Geelong Numismatic Society**

We have been having zoom meetings on the 4th Friday of the month at 7.00 pm and every one that participates learns something new. With many numismatic topics and current news discussed at such meetings, we would like to have more members attending. Regards, P. Richards (Treasurer) **Ed**—*Geelong have also recently set up a Facebook Group, which non-members are most welcome to join [here](#).*

### **Melbourne Numismatic Society**

As we were back to Stage 3 restrictions and the hall where we meet is closed, most probably to the end of the year, Gary suggested that we might have our own little newsletter, incorporating new acquisitions, interesting finds and short articles from our members, so as we don't get 'rusty' from non face to face meetings. Many of us were not able to 'zoom in' to Zoom. Jan and I were given the task of collating all the items and articles and I thought, at first, it would be only a couple of pages; but was highly delighted to find that it became quite an extensive newsletter. Regards, Monica (Secretary)

### **Morwell Numismatic Society**

We are still unable to hold a meeting under the current pandemic restrictions and 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. Our Newsletter will hopefully keep you occupied. In the meantime, I understand that Woolworths supermarkets are ready to release the new \$2 Tokyo Olympics coins to come out progressively. Further details at the Royal Australian Mint. Regards, Tilo Junge (President)