



NAAC2017 ABSTRACTS

PLENARY TALKS

The numismatic complexity of Australian predecimal bronze coinage

Paul M. Holland

Australian predecimal bronze coinage is surprisingly complex, with coins struck at seven different mints using some thirty different master die types. Initially, the Royal Mint in London struck bronze pennies and halfpennies for the newly formed Australian Commonwealth, and then produced dies for other mints to strike coins. These included the Heaton mint in Birmingham, the Calcutta mint in India, and then beginning in 1919 the Melbourne mint in Australia. From this point, the Melbourne mint assumed a dominant role in the Commonwealth coinage, striking both silver and bronze coins, and in turn supplying dies to the mints in Sydney and Perth for coining bronze. During World War II it also supplied die tools to the Bombay mint, which inexplicably produced their own distinctive dies for coining pennies and halfpennies. Finally in 1951, the Perth mint began producing their own dies for striking bronze coins, while the Melbourne mint continued striking bronze coins including nearly fifty million pennies in 1964.

As a consequence, Australian predecimal bronze and especially the pennies are far richer in important mintmark and master die varieties than any other series in Oceania. Master dies were often associated with particular mints, with the well known 'English' and 'Indian' obverse dies of George V pennies allowing 1922 pennies struck at the Perth mint and 1924 pennies from the Sydney mint to be identified. Other master die types associated with particular mints include distinctive 'Bombay' and 'London' mint reverse die types for George VI pennies, and 'Melbourne' and 'Perth' die types for Elizabeth II pennies. Pairings of these dies have resulted in a number of scarce or rare varieties of Australian pennies including 'English' die pennies of 1920-21, 'Indian' die pennies of 1924, 1927 and 1931, 1943 Bombay pennies with 1942 style denticles, the Melbourne mint penny of 1953 without serifs on the 5 using the new reverse die type of 1955-59, and Perth mint penny 'mules' of 1955-56 with either the newer 'Perth' type obverse or older 'Melbourne' style obverse, respectively. While the halfpennies are less complex in this regard, they are also of interest, with distinctive Bombay mint varieties, and mixed pairings of obverse and reverse dies prepared at the Melbourne and Perth mints in 1951.

Besides different die types and their pairings, Australian predecimal bronze coins exhibit variation in the style, position and spacing of date numerals, mintmark variations, numerous examples of doubled dies, and the important 1933/2 overdate penny. Die cracks and flaws including rusted dies offer individual working die 'fingerprints' which can be useful in numismatic research, as well as providing a wide range of amusing and sometimes colorfully named varieties. Coinage errors and misstrikes can reveal useful information about the minting process. Even predecimal bronze proofs offer unexpected complexity, especially those from the Perth mint.

On Debut: new acquisitions by the National Sports Museum collection 2014-2017

Helen Walpole

We will present an illustrated overview of some notable new acquisitions by the National Sports Museum from recent years. These include a collection of aquatics medals relating to Olympian Richmond "Dick" Eve (1920s-30s); boxing medals from Henry Nissen (1960s); rugby union and rugby league medals from the career of Albert Broomham (1900s-1910s) and a large collection of cycling medals, badges and sashes awarded to Iddo "Snowy" Munro (1930s). Through these case studies, we will also highlight some of the complex issues around acquisition, decay, conservation and display of these historic items.

SESSION TALKS

Medals from three Brisbane schools

Bernie Begley

There are three large, long-established schools along Brisbane's Gregory Terrace, just 1.8 km from the GPO. They were all established in the years between 1869 and 1875 in the then newly separated colony of Queensland. Each of these schools acknowledged the influence of the great schools and universities of Sydney and Melbourne which in turn drew upon a British educational heritage, part of which involved medals given to recognise student achievements. Most of these awards are still given to this day.

Prestigious benefactors, past-scholar groups and parents all helped establish a range of medallic awards, mostly in gold and silver, given to the dux or for other academic attainments and achievements in other areas of school life. These medals formed one vital part of a range of student rewards which included books, cups, shields and even cash.

Some medals were locally commissioned, and diesinker Robert Capner was engaged to prepare the dies. Others were made in Britain by famous names like the Wyons and struck by Pinches. Later striking was undertaken in Brisbane by firms such as Handfords.

WW1 saw a number of medals and other awards created to commemorate those who lost their lives fighting in "the war to end all wars". It is unsurprising that almost a century later, these have not been continued till today. Other medals have been adapted to reflect modern school usages, a particular example being the Beanland medal.

Each of these large schools have active archives which contain original documentation, some of which sheds light on the background to how the medals were made, why manufacture was changed to Australia, the carat of gold used in medals and of course the costs. They also have some examples of awards from their school which have been presented back to the school archives by families who felt that was the best repository for them. This is most fortunate for numismatic researchers as these medals are not commonly encountered.

Vandal coins and the formation of the Vandal state

Jason Blockley

Over the course of the 430s CE the Vandals, a migratory Germanic tribal confederation, invaded Roman North Africa and gradually carved out an independent kingdom from the ruins of the imperial provinces. For the next century, the Vandals ruled a powerful kingdom from Carthage and, as part of their stately duties, issued a series of coins. The history and typology of Vandal coins provides some crucial insights into the formation of the Vandal state, which is otherwise poorly attested in the historical and archaeological record. Initially Vandal coinage was minted sporadically, and consisted only of crude imitations of dated imperial *siliquae* and small bronze *nummi*. However during the reign of the third king Gunthamund the character of Vandal coinage changed drastically. African mints began striking a series of uniquely Vandal, value denominated coins. The shift in minting can be explained by, and is evidence for, a fundamental shift in the nature of Vandal rule in Africa. Previously, Vandal rule in Africa maintained vestiges of their migratory habits, and for the first few decades there could be no guarantee that the Vandals would remain in Carthage, whether moved on by necessity or opportunity as they had previously. During this early period of Vandal rule in Africa their kingdom lacked a sophisticated state administration that required general monetary liquidity to operate. By the time Gunthamund assumed the kingship Vandal rule in Africa was truly secure, which allowed state structures to formalise. A new, uniquely African currency was thus created to supplement and/or replace the old imperial and Vandal coins that remained in circulation, allowing the nascent Vandal administration to properly function and grow.

A numismatic history of the Australian Institute of Architects (WA)

Walter Bloom

On Wednesday 27 May 1896 The West Australian reported that on the preceding day a meeting of architects in the Criterion Hotel established the Institute of Architects in Western Australia. At that meeting George Temple-Poole was elected as the first President and the entire Committee was established.

When the Institute applied for incorporation in 1902, the Government Gazette described the objectives of the Institute as follows:

“The cultivation of the Science and Art of Architecture, advancing, protecting and elevating the practice of it in its several branches, and encouraging intellectual and social discourse among the members.”

The Institute’s motto was *Ad Altiora* - “Towards higher things”.

In July 1921, additional recognition was accorded to the Western Australia Institute of Architects when the Governor proclaimed that King George V had given permission for the association to be known forthwith as the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia (RIAWA).

During the later part of the 1920s discussions were held with the Institutes of Architects in other States regarding the need for a national Institute to be formed. However, due to the general lack of enthusiasm exhibited in WA for federation, Western Australia declined an invitation to become one of the founding partners of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects when it was formally created in 1930. Instead formal links were established with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London.

Moves to joining the national body continued, and approved by a special meeting of the RIAWA Council on 5 January 1943 and at a special general meeting of members on the next day. The public announcement of the formation of the WA Chapter of the RIAA appeared in the March 1943 edition of *The Architect*. At the first meeting of the new Chapter, A.E. Clare's efforts in guiding the merger to a successful conclusion were acknowledged by his election as the first President of the W.A. Chapter.

In this talk we track the history of the Australian Institute of Architects (WA) award medals in the context of the Institute's development.

A numismatic history of the Royal Society of Victoria

Darren Burgess

In 1854, only three years after Victoria separated from the colony of New South Wales, two organisations were founded with very similar aims. The Victorian Institute for the Advancements of Science (VIAS) and the Philosophical Society of Victoria (PSV) both had their main objectives as the promotion of science within the newly formed colony of Victoria.

A year after they were formed, both societies merged to create the Philosophical Institute of Victoria (PIV). When the PIV eventually received its Royal Charter in 1859 it became the Royal Society of Victoria (RSV). The RSV was modelled after the Royal Society, which was originally founded in London in 1660. The RSV continues to this day "advocating for and advancing the value, prestige, excellence and visibility of scientific education, methodology and achievement within and for the benefit of Victoria."

This paper aims to look at the early history, and some of the key founding members of these institutions from a predominantly numismatic perspective. As you would expect there are many award medals along the way, a few medallions commemorating major achievements, but there are also some surprising links to gaseous metals and some of the earliest attempts at producing coinage within Australia

Victoria's contribution to numismatics - Beyond Carlisle

Mike Carter

Victoria is one of the oldest states of Australia and its capital city of Melbourne was, at one stage, the capital of Australia itself. This rich history of Victoria is reflected in its numismatic history, particularly through the listing of medallions by Carlisle. But there are many other numismatic items that are special to Victoria.

While many collectors are familiar with Tradesmen tokens, the background to their use, and their subsequent demise, collectors may not realise the importance of tokens to businesses, particularly as a means of advertising and for encouraging repeat business.

The early thriving financial centre of Melbourne well understood this factor and there are many old tokens, as well as modern ones, that have been produced in the spirit of the Tradesmen tokens. Melbourne also hosted a large number of clubs that produced their own "club money". In addition many Victorian organisations in regional and commercial centres have produced their own tokens as mementos and advertising for their operations.

This presentation ranges from Abbott's Hotel through to the Woods Point Brewery Company, picking up a few Carlisle-listed items on way to highlight those uniquely Victorian items that are worth a second look.

Silver Isotopes and the rise of money

Gil Davis

Silver was the primary metal of economic exchange and military finances in ancient Mediterranean and Near-Eastern societies. However, its silver mineral sources, monetary sinks, and major transfer routes are not well understood. This is because of the reliance upon (i) problematic literary evidence; (ii) isotopic analysis of trace elements (Pb and Cu); and (iii) chemical analysis which is poor at determining provenance. The speaker is part of an international team based in Lyon, France which has won a huge grant (2.5 mil euros) to use high precision, stable silver isotope analysis to test the actual metal from which the coins were made, namely silver. We will test ore from mines as well as silver artefacts and coinage from Iran to Spain. We will also bring together all previous studies to produce a comprehensive new understanding and to address a number of major historical, economic and numismatic research questions. This talk discusses some of the methodological problems and the questions we hope to answer

Australia's top rarities

Belinda Downie

The car industry has its Rolls Royce and its Bentleys, those aspirational vehicles that are the lynch pin of their industry.

The numismatic industry has its own 'aspirational' pieces, the Proof 1930 Penny, the Madrid Holey Dollar, the first banknote of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Number One Ten Shillings, and it has been my privilege to be associated with all of them.

This is a great industry. I love it. In my view the core strength of our industry is inextricably linked to the caliber of - and the history behind - Australia's top rarities. Belinda Downie

shares her experiences of buying and selling Australia's top rarities and the clients she's met along the way.

Mutilated Australian currency

Alan Flint

Both of Australia's main money-makers, namely Note Printing Australia and the Royal Australian Mint, produce products which the public and especially collectors, have more than a passing interest. While this paper may not be high in numismatic content, indeed it will be a light-hearted view on a subject most collectors and the public would not be aware, it is intended to educate those present with details of what they may not have previously known about aspects of mutilated Australian currency.

Banknotes and coins can be saved, spent, bought, sold and researched to any extent; it is likely most collectors would take special care of their holdings. However, and in particular, there are a surprising number of banknotes from collections, hoards or lost by the public, yet found later to be in such bad condition from being inappropriately stored, that they are not deemed acceptable if tendered in commercial transactions.

While coins in normal use are far less destructible than banknotes, any damaged coins brought back into the banking system can, in most cases, be quickly identified and a reimbursement made. As for banknotes, whether manufactured on paper or polymer, the determination of how much one can receive must go through quite a process following the initial examination of the material submitted. Banknotes mutilated by bushfire, flood, or abused by the public, pose a far different task. At times, forensic methods might need to be used to assist arriving at any monetary value to be paid.

The claiming process will be covered as well as mentioning a significant numismatic collection recovered from a Victorian bushfire, even though it was held in a fireproof safe. As severe as this loss was, examples of a more humorous nature will highlight how some other people have been either unlucky or just silly in the manner in which they have treated their currency. Details from a claim form giving an explanation of what had happened to a damaged \$10 note (submitted by a customer from a country Victorian Westpac branch during the 1980's), should invite a modicum of laughter to end the session.

A modern cabinet of curiosities

Peter Lane

Nowadays institutions rarely fill cabinets with just numismatic specimens. The global trend is to have a mix of objects on a single theme, for example displaying Roman armour together with a Roman coin depicting a soldier. This presentation focuses on Australian numismatic specimens and a selection of objects that would complement each other in a cabinet of curiosities.

The iconography from the mint of Antipatris

Rachel Mansfield

In this paper I discuss the use of iconography on the coins minted at Antipatris during the Severan Age. This coinage has been chosen largely due to the mint only operating during a

single period under Elagabalus, c.218-222CE, an unusually short span due to the cost of minting. I propose that Elagabalus needed to ensure that there was some form of imbursement for undertaking the minting of coins in this period.

The iconography on the coins differs from the 'norm' as represented by coinage from other Decapolis cities, in that it shows a clear connection to the worship of a river god. This is an uncommon theme in the area of the Decapolis, leading me to consider the background of the city and its common worship and iconography, alongside parallels with coinage minted in Rome.

This mint has hitherto received little attention. While there have been publications of handfuls of these coins, there has not been a comprehensive collection and publication of the coins of Antipatris. Of particular note are coins found in the archaeological excavation of Aphek - Antipatris, which have neither been catalogued nor published.

This paper draws conclusions between the iconographical representations on the coins themselves, discussing how the city of Antipatris came to choose these images as well as possible motivations for the minting.

Secret Portuguese business

David Mee

This talk begins with a review of the history and coins of Portugal from its foundations in the 11th and 12th centuries, its consolidation in the 13th and 14th centuries and its rise to its golden age in the Renaissance and age of discovery in the 15th and early 16th centuries. Along the way, the paper will mention some of the leading characters, their relationships and achievements. Portuguese knowledge of their discoveries in Africa, America and India and further east, and the trade winds of Atlantic and Indian oceans, were all state secrets, the revealing of which to foreigners was a capital offence. They also had to be very careful not to encroach on the territories of their more powerful neighbours in Spain, as defined by mutual treaties. A brief mention will be made of the evidence and possibility that in fact 250 years before Cook travelled north up the East coast of Australia, the Portuguese travelled in the opposite direction, from Cape York to Kangaroo Island, mapping as they went. They may have lost a caravel, wrecked somewhere between Warnambool and Port Fairy, on Victoria's notorious shipwreck coast.

Mr. Billing's Gold Medal for Law

Richard A.J. O'Hair

The University of Melbourne, which was founded in 1855, has a long tradition in recognizing the scholastic achievements of its students. Amongst the earliest medals awarded to students are the "Mr Billing's Gold Medal" for law students, which was awarded on 15 occasions from 1858 to 1874. The Medal has been mentioned briefly in passing in histories of the University of Melbourne and in its Law Faculty, and in a recent PhD thesis John Waugh notes that "none of Billing's medals can now be traced". The discovery of one of these gold medals, awarded to Edward Carlisle, has prompted research into this fascinating relic of early colonial law education.

**‘Our varied collections’: the numismatic legacy of
Isidore Kozminsky (1870-1944)**

David J Rampling

It may come as a surprise to many collectors that the state of Victoria had a numismatic dealership at least as early as 1851. Coins formed part of the stock of Messrs. S. Kozminsky & Co. founded in that year. This historic Melbourne establishment, now known as Kozminsky, Jewellers and Fine Art Dealers, closed its doors in February after 166 years of catering to the tastes of collectors and connoisseurs. Isidore Kozminsky, the son of the firm’s founder and a subsequent partner in its operations, had numismatics amongst his many interests, and oversaw the company’s dealings in coins during the early years of the twentieth century. This paper will explore what I have been able to learn of this enigmatic figure, and the perspectives he brought to the significance of coins and medals.

National Treasury notes of the Empire of Brazil

Frank Robinson

The Empire of Brazil was proclaimed in 1822 and lasted until 1889. Under a decree of 1833, paper money was issued by the National Treasury from 1835; these notes were initially printed in England (until 1870) and later issues were printed in the USA (from 1869 to 1889). Each time a new order of notes was placed, the designs were changed; this resulted in up to six different designs for the English printings and up to four different designs for the American printings. The notes printed in the USA are a very different style from the English ones.

A find of classical Greek silver coins at Tobruk

Kenneth Sheedy

A find of 15 silver tetrobols minted on the Cycladic island of Kythnos has been reported from Tobruk in North Africa. The find was made in the 1950s, but went unrecorded. The coins are currently in private possession.

German South West Africa Colonial Passes (1904-1915)

Rion van Zyl Smit

In 1884, Imperial Germany annexed the country currently known as Namibia. The establishment of Deutsche Süd-West Afrika (German South West Africa) formed part of Germany’s effort to gain colonies around the world, similar to those already held by its European rivals.

During colonial times there were a number of indigenous uprisings caused primarily by German settlers encroaching on tribal pastoral lands. These colonial wars were mostly fought between German troops and the people from the local Nama and Herero tribes. The most significant of these wars occurred during the five year period commencing in 1904.

During this war the Nama and Herero tribes were significantly defeated by the Germans. The Herero suffered significant numbers of non-combat casualties caused primarily by unaccustomed conditions in the prisoner of war camps.

Pass control measures, to regulate movements of the native population, were considered prior to the war and a country wide pass control system was instituted during the war. Not all indigenous people were however subject to the pass regime, with those people living in Ovamboland and the Caprivi Strip being exempt from these pass control measures.

Indigenous people had to wear (and be able to produce the on request) an elliptical brass pass, pierced at the top and worn around the neck. All passes were embossed with the name of the geographical area where they were issued and early passes also included the words BZ or Bezirk (district). Each pass was individually numbered. The issue of each tag and the details of its wearer were recorded in a pass control register. These uniface passes were initially manufactured in Germany and the later passes were numbered locally.

The identification tokens remained in use until 1917, by which time the Union of South Africa, who as part of the Allied war effort, invaded the colony and defeated the German forces stationed there, instituted a different control method.

With a few exceptions, such as a BZ Keetmanshoop Tecklenberg pass, copies of passes are readily available and do not command exorbitant prices. Finding unnumbered passes and passes repurposed as tool checks are not uncommon. These passes are also interesting as they are not evidence of the payment of a tax but more akin to an internal identification document.

In 2016, after an extensive period of agitation, the German Government made the controversial and potentially far-reaching admission that genocide was committed during the 1904-1908 German-Herero War. Germany has agreed to recompense the Namibian people by way of funding infrastructure and the provision of bursaries to local students.

The passes are a poignant reminder of a difficult time in German and African history.
(*Ex Africa semper aliquid novi*)

A metallurgical origin for problematic surface marks on Australia's larger predecimal proof coins

T. Vincent Verheyen

This paper outlines an alternative explanation to post strike physical damage, which can account for many of the tiny surface marks generally observed on particular proof coins. Close examination of the larger denominations made at Melbourne (post 1960) reveal that many of their "scratches" or surface impediments are actually the result of their manufacture and not mishandling. Both optical and scanning electron microscopy are used to examine a 1963 proof florin exhibiting typical problematic surfaces. These techniques reveal the bulk of the imperfections in the highest relief

areas of the coin are Mint derived and occur during striking. They result from metallurgical problems associated with their planchets (blanks) comprising a brittle inhomogeneous quaternary alloy. These properties negatively affect metal flow into areas of highest relief during impact from the dies. The florin's surface in regions such as the Queen's shoulder exhibit irregular incuse stress relief cracks and exfoliation. These are just visible to the unaided eye and have generally been attributed to mishandling. However, the observation that a minority of proof shillings and florins do not exhibit this problem suggests quality control in proof coin production at the Melbourne Mint during its last years was unsatisfactory. This article presents new evidence to support the view that surface impediments on these proof coins should not be judged so harshly as they result from production issues and not mishandling.

Richard III – English Coinage from 1483 to 1485

Michael Wade

The remarkable discovery of the remains of Richard III under a carpark in Leicester in 2012, and their subsequent unambiguous identification, was an achievement based on a combination of historical research, archaeological research and modern science. These were mixed with a large dose of good fortune. Richard III (1483-1485) was the last King of England to be killed in battle, at Bosworth Field, near Leicester in 1485. The discovery has resulted in renewed interest in this controversial monarch, his life and times.

However the English coinage of 1483-1485 has long been subject to extensive numismatic research and controversy over the past century and a half. There were four monarchs during that period: Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III and Henry VII. The latter was the victor at Bosworth and the first Tudor monarch. The reign of Edward V the 12-year old "Prince in the Tower" lasted only 12 weeks in mid-1483 before the throne was taken by Richard. Edward V soon disappeared and was never seen alive again. Research has focussed on the sequencing of coins during this period, in particular attempts to assign issues to the short reign of Edward V. In this presentation I will review the coinage of 1483-1485, the techniques and documentary information used to identify and arrange medieval English coins and current thinking on coins of 1483-1485. The evidence of the extant coins – lettering, initial marks and detailed classification of dies – and surviving mintage records and mint indentures enable significant conclusions to be drawn. This is despite the remoteness of the events in time, the small number of surviving coins and documents and the lack of contemporary historical accounts. I will conclude with what is probably the finest example of the first Tudor silver groat and the on-going research on it.