

NAAC2019 ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The future of collecting and the role of the Royal Australian Mint

Ross MacDiarmid

TO BE SUPPLIED

Mint Condition: New directions for numismatic conservation in Australia

Claire Rowson

An ability to adapt, innovate and integrate new technologies with historic processes has seen the surviving world mints endure into the twenty-first century. However in an increasingly automated and digital age, threats to both the material culture of minting and the rare trade skills of its experts exist.

This paper details the experiences of Perth Mint's most recently trained Numismatic Artist/Fabricator Claire Rowson and presents her recent efforts to facilitate conservation projects at the Perth Mint. Having recently upskilled to include a Master of Cultural Materials Conservation, integrating these projects with an innate knowledge of the production processes of minting is proving invaluable. Road-map ideas to encourage a national dialogue on the future of minting and advocacy for the preservation of its rare skills are discussed.

SESSION SPEAKERS

The Canning Mint: From Elephants to Mules

Mike Carter

The Canning Mint has provided a specialised service to coin societies, collectors and those wishing for a commemorative souvenir since 1983.

The "King of Odd Jobs," otherwise known as Bruce 'Jack' Canning, has produced a range of medals and medalettes, that has to be seen to be believed. This keen hobbyist uses a small but sophisticated press to produce items in a range of materials including gold, silver, brass, aluminium, and copper. Initially based in Mount Tamborine, and now working in a front room in 'Elsewhere,' locally known as Gatton, Bruce has die-sunk dies, embedded coins and bashed metallic items to produce unique products that are distinctively identifiable as a Canning product.

Mike's presentation introduces a uniquely Australian operation which runs on the premise that no job is too small and correct spelling is optional.

New Zealand Trading Banks and early paper currency

Andrew Clifford

New Zealand lacks any history of its own minted coinage, however, it does have a rich history of gold-backed paper currency. From the time of its founding as a British colony in 1840, until the Great War period of 1914-18, the economy benefited hugely from being on a sound-money system. Officially authorised promissory notes of twelve private trading banks were universally accepted by the public. The banker Falconer Larkworthy (1814-88) remarked in his memoirs concerning the gold-fields of the early 1860s "Strange! Paper a substitute for gold. Yes, the diggers had a confidence in the institutions which issued this paper - these engraved promises to pay - and preferred them to the heavier, solid, yellow, but inconvenient, gold sovereigns."

One issue of Bank of New Zealand £20 notes circulated unchanged for 57 years! A significant period of continuity which doubtless aided public confidence in treating such notes "as good as gold".

This presentation is a high-level overview of the subject of New Zealand's private banknote issues, from 1837 until 1934, including both unofficial tradesmen's notes, official trading bank notes, and a short-lived government issue of the 1850s. It explores the role of banknote domiciles, types of printing technology, the major printing firms and the battle to outwit determined forgers. It also overviews how specimen and proof notes form the backbone of research into variations and print-runs.

Some of the trading banks had a short lifespan, while others traded throughout the colonial period and became part of today's major banks such as the ANZ and Westpac. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand gained a monopoly on note-issue from 1934, significantly, a late date compared to most other countries, hence more advanced printing technology is seen in New Zealand's final issues of private notes.

Goths, Frank or Romans? New perspectives on an old problem in Late Antique numismatics

Christian Cuello

The prevalent view of barbarian coinage is that these "pseudo-Imperial" or "imitation" pieces are unoriginal, of low quality, and at worst, forgeries. Through the analysis of a peculiar 6th Century gold *tremiss* - bearing a distinctive •T• mark on the reverse - the aim of this paper is to demonstrate that there is more to this story.

Minted during the reign of Anastasius and featuring the Emperor's name and portrait in the Late Roman style, this coin type has traditionally been attributed to the Frankish king Thierry I, son of the famous king Clovis. This claim by Lenormant in 1858 was championed by Lafaurie almost a century later and is generally accepted amongst the numismatic community today.

However, a rigorous critique of the scholarship reveals that the attribution is tenuous at best. With new archaeological evidence, and a growing corpus of coins, another contender for the •T• mark emerges: Theoderic the Great, king of Ostrogothic Italy, and later regent-king of the Visigoths.

This revised attribution also allows us to address broader questions of authority and minting practices in Late Antiquity, and better understand continuing diplomatic relations between the Byzantine East and what remained of the Western Empire; the coins serving the dual purpose of reinforcing Imperial authority and Theoderic's constitutional position amongst the barbarian kingdoms.

The New Zealand Medal for the New Zealand Wars

David Galt

The New Zealand Wars took place over the period 1845 to the early 1870's, caused by clashes between Maori and British settlers over land.

The talk outlines the major developments in the New Zealand Wars, often not well known by New Zealanders, explains what the New Zealand Medal is and illustrates it through the awards to three colonials, Lieutenant W H Free, Colonel Charles Stapp and Private James Johnston. The first two fought in both the initial 1845 campaigns in Northland and in Taranaki in the 1860's while James Johnston fought only in the Waikato in the 1860's.

The medal is acknowledged to be the most complex of the British campaign medals.

Professor Donald Simpson AO (1927-2018) of Adelaide, Neurosurgeon, Historian and Numismatist: His collection, records and legacy

Peter Lane

Donald Adrian Allen Simpson was born into a well-known Adelaide family. In the 19th century his forebears established a foundry business in Adelaide and some of the family members went into the medical profession. He followed in the footsteps of the latter. He was a bright student, winning the Tennyson Medal, a Matriculation prize for English, then attending Adelaide and Oxford Universities.

His father, Alfred Allen Simpson was a coin collector and his coins were passed down to Donald. His numismatic records reveal Donald was buying coins from at least the early 1960s from an Adelaide coin dealer, and later bought coins from interstate and overseas dealers and auction houses. His overseas purchases were bought through dealers' catalogues or on overseas trips. He collected mainly European thalers and Asian and Subcontinent silver and gold coins from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Not satisfied with just collecting coins, he wanted to read about the rulers and the countries where they circulated. In the process he amassed a vast library of many thousands of history books, as well as numismatic publications. He at times sought a second opinion on his coins by corresponding with museum and dealer experts and these papers are now held in the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) research library. Donald was a member of the Numismatic Association of Australia, but did not write articles for the Journal nor give a paper at their conferences. He was invited to give a paper but at the time his health was failing and he had to decline; a pity as it was said that his lectures were always marked by deep learning and a captivating unique style.

Another of his collecting passions was surgical equipment and he was very active in the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia's Museum. He was its curator and donated his collection to that museum.

After his death his executors approached the AGSA, to see if they were interested in his numismatic collection and other objects that he had in his home. I along with a number of curators visited his home and selected 111 items from his numismatic collection, all his numismatic books, and other objects. What impressed the curators was that everything was well documented as to provenance, be it a family heirloom or a purchase in Donald's life time. The remainder of his numismatic collection is to be sold by Noble Numismatics at their auction immediately prior to the conference.

Myths on Ancient coins: The case of Jaffa

Rachel Mansfield

Currently, I am working on my PhD which looks at the coin types of nine coastal cities during the Severan period (third century CE). These cities are all diverse, and their iconographical representations are often diverse and common only to the individual city, or only two cities, almost as if the various types were acting as city identifiers or types of parasemons. In this talk I present the types of the coinage of Jaffa which were unique to this city, and to Akko-Ptolemais.

Jaffa was and remains a coastal Mediterranean city. In the Severan period, it was an important hub with a commercial port, though its importance was reduced due to the influence of Caesarea Maritima in the area. Nevertheless, it was the connecting road between Jaffa and (the difficultly accessed) Jerusalem which maintained the importance of this city and port throughout history.

The city of Jaffa, during the Severan period, depicted motifs of the myth of Perseus and Andromeda. As far as the myth goes, Perseus came upon Andromeda tied to a rock in the ocean at the precipice of her being sacrificed to a sea monster, upon his returning from his quest of slaying the Gorgon Medusa. In exchange for Andromeda's hand in marriage, Perseus promised to kill the sea monster, a curse from Poseidon. The place of this myth was associated with an outcrop of rocks near the harbour of Jaffa (still visible to this day) by the traveller Pausanias, the geographer Strabo and the historian of the Jews Josephus (Pausanias iv.35.9; Strabo xvi.2.28; Josephus, Jewish War iii.9.3). This myth's representation on the coinage of Jaffa is interesting, as it identifies a continued connection of the myth with the city after multiple generations, and was used to function as a form of legitimacy for the importance of the city in the Severan Period. Notably, the iconographical representations of the Perseus myth are only present on the Severan coins of Jaffa.

This paper will discuss the coin types minted in Severan Jaffa, in addition to the audience and the inhabitants of the city in the third century CE. There are three types which represent this mythological story which were minted in Jaffa which this paper will study. These are: 1. Perseus wearing a Phrygian hat and winged boots, holding a harpa and extending the severed head of Medusa; 2. A Horseman spearing a monster (most likely the emperor being associated with the Perseus myth for further legitimacy to the city); and 3. A bulls torso, facing to the right, which is argued to have been symbolic of the sacrifice which Perseus offered. To understand the culture and the inhabitants of the city, there will be a short study of the archaeological record to attempt to identify whether there is any evidence as to which peoples were the authoritarians of the city- be they Greeks, Romans or Jews, potentially a mix of all three.

Two Late Roman Republican *Denarii*, with slogans

Bruce Marshall

Following the introduction by the Romans of the *denarius* during the Second Punic War (c. 211 BC), it became common for moneyers to place scenes or images of their forebears on coins, to emphasise the family's achievements. Later three trends emerged, designed to serve the interests of factional rivalry: one, more recent events were depicted, even contemporary events and figures; two, personifications (e.g. Concordia or Libertas) became more frequent in place of deities; and three, items representing personal achievements were included to make the coins more readily recognisable.

There was another trend: written slogans. The earliest I have found dates to 110 or 109 BC: a *denarius* issued by Publius Porcius Laeca, with the slogan PROVOCO on the reverse. Another followed soon after in : a *denarius* of Marcus Herennius, with PIETAS on the obverse, and a scene of Pietas in action on the reverse. It is these two *denarii* which I want to look at today, and about which I will make some outrageous speculations as to their interpretation-

The slogans on late Roman republican coins seems designed to re-inforce the message contained in the other images on them, as well as to push a particular "message". They set a trend which was more fully developed on Roman imperial coinage, where slogans were common, sometimes more to express a hope than a reality. An examination of these written slogans may also have a small part to play in the vexed question of levels of literacy.

Short Biography:

Bruce Marshall retired as an Associate Professor from the University of New England in 1995 after nearly 30 years teaching and researching Greek, Latin and Ancient Greek and Roman history there. His particular area of research was – and still is – the late Roman republic, on which he has published extensively. Lately his interest has focused on late Roman republican coinage. For many years he was Honorary Secretary of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies. For his work on behalf of the Society, and for his general promotion of the Humanities at the secondary and tertiary levels in Australia and New Zealand, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013. He is currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Macquarie University. He plays a bit of golf, takes a few photographs, saves up to travel occasionally, and generally potters about in retirement.

The King, the Pope and the Grand Master

David Mee, AFANS

This presentation looks at the history and coinage of the last of the direct Capetian line of French medieval kings. King Philippe IV "Le Bel" and his 3 sons ruled one after the other in France from 1285 till 1328, until the last died without issue and the period of the 100 years' war was started to determine who of the various contenders for the throne of France was successful. Philippe le Bel was the grandson of Louis IX, subsequently called Saint Louis, in a direct line of descent from Hugh Capet in the 10th century following the collapse of the Carolingian dynasty. Numismatically, the small coins of Philippe were not all that different from his predecessors. The famous gros tournois, first issued by Saint Louis, was continued. New however was the initiation of a sequence of spectacularly

beautiful and quite scarce to rare gold coins, and from those times France always had a gold coinage up to and following the revolution till the first world war. A major event in the lifetime of Philippe le Bel was the brutal suppression of the crusading military order of the Templars. The series “Knightfall” shown on SBS TV in 2018 was a somewhat fanciful version of events of the period. The talk will be illustrated with images of coins from the author’s collection.

Provenance: Can it enhance the value of a coin?

Barrie Newman

Provenance plays an important role in estimating the value of most artworks and antiquities and dealers and auctioneers go to great lengths to highlight the provenance of the items they are presenting for sale.

But what part does provenance play in the value of coins, which themselves can be works of art and, indeed, antiquities in their own right?

Barrie Newman provides an insight from his own experiences relating to matters of provenance.

The significance of the Watlington hoard

Wayne Newman

How much can any new hoard tell us? Can the numismatic knowledge gained from any one recovered hoard have a significant effect on our wider political understanding of the period concerned? In the case of the hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins recovered from a field in Oxfordshire late in 2015, it is almost impossible to overstate the importance of the find. The cache of ‘Viking’ silver discovered at Watlington will prompt the revision of the standard numismatic and political histories of Anglo-Saxon England and requires a thorough reconsideration of the numismatic and political sophistication of ninth century English rulers.

Some early Colonial school medals from Melbourne and Geelong

Professor Richard O’Hair

The award of school medals for academic and sporting achievements has a rich history that dates back to medals presented in Germany and Austria in the 1550s [1]. In the 1750s the first school medals were awarded in England, while those presented in Colonial American had to wait until a decade later [2]. The first school medal issued in Colonial Australia appears to date from 1819, awarded from the school originally referred to as ‘Dr Halloran’s Establishment’. Ex-convict Laurence Halloran was the founder and headmaster and the medals were made by another famous convict, the convicted forger Samuel Clayton.

In this talk I will discuss some early school medals from early Melbourne and Geelong. I will focus on:

(1) The Port Phillip Academical Institution, which was founded in 1844 and for which medals exist that were issued in 1844 and 1845.

(2) Medals awarded to the Captain of the Geelong Grammar School Eleven in 1858, who played in one of the first recorded Cricket matches between Geelong Grammar and Scotch College.

(3) A 1882 medal from Geelong College.

A brief history of the schools and the awardees will be given. Although the medals are unsigned, their possible creators will be discussed.

References:

- (1) Erlanger, H.J., Origin and Development of the European Prize Medal to the End of the XVIIIth Century, Haarlem: Schuyt. 1975.
- (2) Sallay, J., American School Medals, Medal Collectors of America, July 28, 2005 Meeting.

The enchantment of numismatics

David Rampling

In this paper I will suggest that the fullest appreciation, enjoyment and usefulness of numismatics is to be had by giving a voice to the multifaceted stories inherent in numismatic items. Coins and medals convey by their fabric, designs, legends, engravings, or stampings an historical significance that invites exploration along various channels. Such an exploration has its original stimulus from handling the coin or medal. This 'touching history' by its inherent ambiguities, is the portal through which a numismatic adventure may begin, a course that has personal rewards, as well as contributing to the fabric of history.

New Zealand Trading Bank notes (official issues)

Robert Tonner

New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi, was signed on 6th February 1840 between the British and more than 500 Maori chiefs. Britain's main concern was to establish New Zealand as a sovereign territory within the British Empire to head off attention of the French, and the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi resulted in the declaration of British Sovereignty over New Zealand.

The start of a new British Colony meant there was a need for banking services especially for the commercial, agricultural, whaling and gold mining sectors of the new Colony. Twelve days after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi a group of businessmen and formed the New Zealand Banking Company with an initial capital of fifty thousand pounds, which opened for business on 4th September 1840. Unfortunately no issued or proof banknotes from this Bank have survived.

In all there were thirteen official issuers of Trading Bank notes:

1. Bank of Auckland
2. The Bank of Australasia
3. Bank of New South Wales
4. Bank of New Zealand
5. The Bank of Otago
6. Colonial Bank of Issue
7. The Colonial Bank of New Zealand
8. The Commercial Bank of Australia Limited
9. The Commercial Bank of New Zealand Limited

10. The National Bank of New Zealand Limited
11. New Zealand Banking Company
12. The Oriental Bank Corporation and
13. The Union Bank of Australia Limited

The Union Bank issued trading Bank notes for a period spanning 94 years.

The authorized Trading Banks had to meet certain conditions, the most important being that the Banks' notes had to be backed by gold. Many of the Banks survived until 1934 when the Reserve Bank of NZ issued the country's currency. Fortunately for collectors of New Zealand Trading Bank notes these are varied, colourful and elaborately designed when compared with contemporary English provincial notes and notes from other colonies. Unfortunately for collectors, the Trading Bank notes of some of the Banks represent some of the rarest in the world, often with just a single example surviving of each type.

In the 1970's significant number of London printers' proofs of NZ Trading Bank notes came onto the market making a more comprehensive analysis of New Zealand's private notes issues possible.

In June 1861 New Zealand's first and only home grown international Bank came into being following an argument between a customer of the Oriental Bank and the manager of the Oriental Bank. That customer was Thomas Russell [1830-1904] and the Manager said to Russell "go and start your own Bank" to which Russell replied "I will". The Bank of New Zealand was formed in June 1861 and the Bank grew to a stage where it eventually achieved 45% of the domestic note circulation in New Zealand.

The Bank of New Zealand opened for business in Auckland in October 1861 and subsequently opened branches in Dunedin, Wellington and Nelson. A branch was opened in London in October 1862 and the Bank expanded its operations to Melbourne in 1872 and Sydney in 1875, and later in Fiji. The Bank of New Zealand grew and the Oriental Bank ceased to operate by May 1884.

The Bank of New Zealand issued twenty, fifty and one hundred pound notes in the 1920's. There is only a single one hundred pound note known to exist in private hands, dated 1 April 1928. It was found by a second hand furniture dealer who had put his hand down between the cushions searching for loose coins when he found an envelope which to his surprise contained the 100 pound note. The Bank of New Zealand 100 pound note was sold in sale 54 by Noble Numismatics in July 1997 as part of the Ross Meads collection of New Zealand banknotes and resold in their auction No.69 in March 2002.

There are only two Bank of New Zealand issued fifty pound notes known to exist in private hands.

NUMISMATIC GEM COMPETITION

A very Uncivil War

Darren Burgess

Britain at a time of great upheaval, economic uncertainty and polarised views. No, not the Brexit referendum of 2016, but the aftermath of the Civil War. We take a brief look at a 17th Century British token, the impact the war had on the town that it originated from and the legacy of the man whose name appears on it.

The two-faced Athenian

Gil Davis

A Roman coin picked up by an Australian soldier during World War II leads to a number of strange coincidences and opportunities

Barrie Newman

Research into a Diocletian coin found in Egypt during World War II has future implications for its subsequent owner

Akko and her harbour, a special relationship

Rachel Mansfield

The port of Akko-Ptolemais was a very important part of the city's economy and the people of the city minted coins depicting it in a very limited series. We briefly discuss the depictions on the coins, which have limited studies, and also look at its place in comparison to other coins minted in the area.

Bucephalus, Alexander's horse

Robert Tonner