

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



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Obituary – Leonard Terence Pepperell

28 April 1935-18 December 2013



Terry Pepperell joined the Melbourne Numismatic Society (MNS) in 1971 and the Numismatic Association of Victoria (NAV) in 1978 as member No 920. Terry was highly involved in both the MNS and NAV. He presented many papers at meetings, and was a regular exhibitor at shows. He was a calligrapher by profession, and this came to the fore when he prepared numismatic displays and designed medallions.

In 1991, Terry was awarded the Paul Simon Memorial Award. This Award was established by Jessica Simon to recognize the outstanding contribution by any person in promoting numismatics within numismatic organizations in Australia. In the two decades since, Terry continued his work in both the MNS and NAV.

Melbourne Numismatic Society

The outstanding service Terry gave to the MNS from when he first joined in 1971 until his untimely death in December 2013 cannot be overestimated. In this vein he was a well–deserved recipient of an Honorary Life Membership, awarded only to those giving extraordinary and exceptional service to the MNS.

Terry held several positions on the MNS committee including President, Vice President and Treasurer, which he performed with distinction and dignity. He was the syllabus speaker at the MNS on occasions too numerous to count, and could speak on such diverse subjects as *The Rising Sun Australian Military Badge*, *Cash of the Ching Dynasty*, and *Heraldry*. We found his discourses enlightening, stimulating, and always with a touch of comedy and jocularity.

Numismatic Association of Victoria

Terry served on the Council of the NAV from 1981 to 1996 and again from 1999 to 2005 – a total of twenty-three years, including an unbroken run of sixteen years. He served as President in 1983 and 1984, and again from 2003 to 2005, and as Vice President from 1993 to 1996. He was the Editor of the *Australian Numismatist* (the NAV's yearly journal) from 1992 to 1995. Terry received many awards from the NAV, including the Award of Merit in 1990 – this is the NAV's highest award and also bestows Honorary Life Membership.

Terry gave over forty talks at NAV meetings, including eighteen main talks as well as many short talks at theme nights. Terry won the Max Stern Trophy (for the best talk during the year by a member) four times: in 1981 for *Coinage of Ireland*; 1990 for *ANZAC*; 1993 for *On the Designing of Medals*; and in 2007 for *Mallee Children's Holiday and Medals from Melbourne City Council*. Four of his papers were published in the NAV journal. He won the NAV Council Award in 1998 and 2008 (he was ineligible most years as this award cannot be given to a serving member of Council).

Exhibitions

Terry's displays were always amazing. Every time we thought that "Terry will never outdo his last effort", he always came up with something more astonishingly creative, artistic and impeccably researched. His remarkable gift for calligraphy nearly always gave him an edge; even in this advanced computer age his calligraphic skill outmatched any computer software.

Thanks to his efforts the MNS won many awards at various conventions, most prominent being the VCNS (Victorian Council of Numismatic Societies) Shield. He was individual champion of the show at countless Coin Fairs, including the MNS biennial show, but always accepted his awards with modesty and grace. On the few occasions Terry was beaten in his chosen category he was absolutely delighted for winners. He was gracious in both victory and defeat. He even went interstate where his displays also won prizes. Terry was responsible for the bulk of the advertising for the MNS Show in the last few years, producing the 'flyers', and his calligraphic signs were always 'eye-catching'.

The ANDA – NAV Perpetual Shield was first awarded in 1999 for the best numismatic display at the annual ANDA Melbourne Coin and Banknote Fairs. In the fifteen years since then, Terry won it outright five times (2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2012) and shared it on another four occasions (1999, 2001, 2009, and 2013). On seven occasions

he also won the award for the 'Most Popular Display' (since 2011 named the 'Tom May Award') as voted by the public.

In 2014, the NAV, with the agreement of both Lorna Pepperell (Terry's widow) and ANDA, renamed the ANDA – NAV Perpetual Shield in his honour as the 'Terry Pepperell Shield'.

Medallions

Terry was the designer of the eleven NAV medallions issued from 1979 (Captain Cook plaque for the 200th anniversary of Cook's death) through to 2008 (Centenary of Scouting), as well as designing a number of other proposed medallions that were never struck. He was responsible for the design on the MNS prize medals.

General

Terry had enormous perseverance and determination. At one time, fire destroyed his home and much of his vast numismatic collection, yet he never let it discourage him. Undaunted, he started again from scratch, amassing immense collections of coins, medallions, badges and other varied items from the world of numismatics. This was an inspiration as it would have been all too easy for Terry to have just given up after losing everything.

He was very obliging and supportive to all the members of both the MNS and NAV. There was not much that Terry did not know about history, heraldry and numismatics, and his general knowledge was immeasurable.

Terry passed away on 18th December 2013. He will be sadly missed by every member of the MNS and NAV, and by everyone who knew him. He will also be remembered with love and respect.

To Lorna, his widow, and all their family, we offer our sincere condolences.

Frank Robinson–Vice President, Numismatic Association of Victoria Monica de Knecht–Secretary, Melbourne Numismatic Society