



Volume 21



Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia

Joyce Alma Hanley

11 November 1921 - 11 November 2009



Joyce Hanley was affectionately known as the mother of the Australian Numismatic Society. Her husband, and partner in life, Tom, was the backbone of the Society who for some fifty years, mostly served as Honorary Secretary. Tom, who received his Paul Simon Award in 1979 in recognition for outstanding contribution to the Australian numismatic fraternity, passed away in 2000. Joyce received her Paul Simon Award in 2006, the only woman to ever receive the award; this was unanimously supported by the Award Committee and all who knew her.

Joyce was a tireless worker for the ANS and made a contribution right up to her 80s. Until recently, she would look after the refreshments and bring freshly baked cakes and other goodies for the suppers following the meetings. During the 1950s through to the early 1990s, ANS Council meetings were often held at the Hanley home at 75 Pacific Street, Caringbah, where they had lived since 1954, and there were always plenty of cakes and scones made by Joyce – a highlight of the evening. Joyce attended Port Macquarie conferences and often made room in the family car for an

interstate member to travel from Sydney to the conference and back. She would always have extra sandwiches on the Friday night for members who visited her and Tom in their room. In the 1990s she joined the Council in her own right and was always constructive and would offer positive advice.

When Tom passed away in 2000 she missed him greatly, but still continued to attend meetings. In September 2008, Joyce was awarded the ANS Bronze medal for services to the Society. To supplement her pension after Tom died she decided to let his friends buy the more modest value interesting medals, and over a period of years a number of other friends disposed of pieces on her behalf. Some of these pieces were illustrated in Tom's Australian Coins, Notes & Medals, which was published jointly with Bill Myatt in 1980; one such piece was the 1901 Victorian Commonwealth Celebrations Medal appearing on page 172.

The bulk of Tom and Joyce's numismatic collection, including their personal award medals, were auctioned by Noble Numismatics over two auctions - Sales 87 and 89. Many collectors bid at the auction simply to have something that had been touched by the father and the mother of modern Australian numismatics. Some thought that their personal awards might have been presented to a NSW institution, but this was not to be. In the absence of children, the Hanley's bequeathed most of their estate to various charities, including the

Salvation Army, Sutherland Hospital and Calvary Hospital. One interesting item in Tom's collection was his collection of Primitive Money which eventually was acquired by the Bank of Greece in Athens, where it is currently on display.