

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



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Front cover: Obverse die and medallion of West Australian Newspaper Award (see article "Royal Australian Institute of Architects - WA Chapter award medals")

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President's Report

Our seventh biennial international numismatic conference NAAC2017, which was held in Melbourne in October, was a great success. National Organiser Walter Bloom and the local Organizing Committee chaired by Darren Burgess put together an interesting program, one of the consequences of which was the marvellous selection of papers for this volume of the Journal.

This last year has seen the publication of Peter Lane's *The Coin Cabinet*, and the winning of the Paul Simon Memorial Award by Barrie Newman. Both Peter and Barrie are great contributors to the Association.

Our Vice-President, Darren Burgess, has advised that he won't be renominating at our coming AGM due to the pressure of work and the need to progress some NAV activities. I am grateful to Darren for all the work he puts into the NAA, in particular last year's biennial conference and the Facebook page, not to mention the steady stream of news items. In fact Darren is not completely off the hook as he has become the Victorian State Representative to the Association.

Stewart Wright of Status International has kindly offered us use of a room for the Association's AGM on Monday 16 April (commencing 1pm) at his new premises at 64 Parramatta Rd, Forest Lodge, close to the University of Sydney.

The NAA continues to enjoy sponsorship at a sustainable level, with Noble Numismatics (Gold), Coinworks, Downies (Silver), Drake Sterling, Sterling & Currency and Vintage Coins & Banknotes (Bronze) all contributing to ensure the Association's continued success. However expenses are rising and receipts are falling, even with the steady level of membership. On the positive side, many are taking out ten-year memberships.

I am appreciative of the support of Council and other NAA members throughout the year, and particularly our Secretary, Jonathan Cohen, and Treasurer, Lyn Bloom, who are pivotal in the running of the Association, and our Managing Editor, Gil Davis, for his work in producing this Volume 28 of JNAA.

Walter R Bloom

President, NAA www.numismatics.org.au March 2017

Editor's Note

The 28th volume of the journal is a bumper issue and my eighth as Managing Editor. There are eleven articles reflecting a remarkable range of numismatic interests. I am particularly pleased to see the balance of modern Australian and historical numismatic interests, and the excellent scholarship throughout. Many of the articles derive from presentations given at the wonderful NAA conference held in Melbourne from 21-22 October, 2017. I thank the presenters for being willing to quickly turn their talks into articles, despite the hard work this entailed, as well as the dedication of the other contributors.

This journal is the annual publication of the peak numismatic body in the country. As noted in the last volume, I have been working with the President and the Editorial Committee to ensure the standard of all articles we publish compares favourably with the best international numismatic journals. This includes a rigorous double-blind peer-review process. I thank the members of the Editorial Committee (listed below) and the two anonymous reviewers assigned to each article for their prompt and constructive help.

I also wish to express my thanks to the two key people who work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to help me get this journal out: John O'Connor (Nobles) who proofreads the articles, and Barrie Newman (Adelaide Mint) who carefully looks after the production process.

In this volume we have six articles on modern Australian topics. The articles by Paul Holland and Walter bloom are numismatic studies respectively of George V pennies and award medals struck by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, WA chapter. Their treatments are exemplary demonstrations of the 'arcane art' of numismatic studies combining detailed knowledge with keen observation. These are foundational studies for others to follow. Vincent Verheyen uses his expertise in chemistry to analyse surface marks on predecimal proof coins made at the Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint. He successfully demonstrates that some of the marks result from production rather than careless handling, a finding that will have implications for collectors of proofs generally. Jeremy McEachern, Barrie Newman and David Rampling show another side of numismatics – how it can be used to inform our understanding of the past. Their entertaining articles range from illuminating the story of one of Australia's earliest dealers (Rampling on Isidore Kozminsky), to the sporting achievements of one of the country's celebrated early athletes (McEachern on Richmond 'Dick' Eve and the collection of his memorabilia in the National Sports Museum), and even the sorry tale of an 'official' fraudster who nonetheless got away with his misdeeds (Newman on a Ugandan High Commissioner).

The volume also contains five articles on matters historical. Three of them deal with iconography and make fascinating reading, especially when taken together. Bridget McClean looks at Tarentine civic coinage c. 470–450 BC. Charlotte Mann and Rachel Mansfield both deal with iconography under emperors of the Severan dynasty of Rome in the early third century AD. Charlotte deals with the imperial portraiture of Caracalla, while Rachel examines the civic coinage of the eastern city of Antipatris under Elagabalus. The results of their studies are illuminating about how important coins were for disseminating propaganda, and in turn, understanding what was important to the emperors and cities that commissioned them. Christian Cuello takes us to the world of the Visigoths, best known for sacking Rome, but also producers of coinage, some of which reside in the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies collection at Macquarie University, which he catalogues and discusses. Finally, Frank Robinson provides a careful study of bank notes of the Empire of Brazil which will be of interest to aficionados of paper money.

There is something for everyone in this volume.

Dr Gil Davis

Managing Editor

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Diving into history: The Richmond 'Dick' Eve Collection

Jeremy McEachern

Abstract

Richmond 'Dick' Eve was a prominent Australian diver of the early 20th century. A Gold medallist at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games and five-time dual Australian and NSW state champion, Eve was a dominant presence in the pool both domestically and internationally. This article provides a biographical account of Eve's life and aquatic career presented alongside a collection of sporting medals donated to the National Sports Museum by the Eve family.

Keywords

[Olympics] [Eve] [Diving] [Sport] [Medal]

In September 2015 the National Sports Museum acquired a collection of sporting medals and other items relating to the life and career of Richmond 'Dick' Eve. Winning Gold at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games and claiming numerous state, national and international titles, Eve was Australia's most successful diver of the early 20th century. The collection represents an almost complete biographical illustration of Eve's career, allowing us to chart his rise from youthful prodigy to Olympic champion.¹

A Family Affair

If family history is anything to go by, Eve's success was assured the moment he came into this world. Born in Parramatta in 1901, his father Albert Sydney Eve was manager of the Manly Baths and naturally took a keen interest in the aquatic development of his sons, Dick, Jim and Allen. His mother Fredda came from illustrious stock. An accomplished swimmer and diver in her own right, her father was the man known as the 'professor of swimming' Frederick Cavill. Alongside his six sons and three daughters, Cavill did much to promote Australian swimming around the world.²

Under his parents' tutelage, Eve quickly developed into one of the finest junior swimmers and divers in Australia, winning the New South Wales junior diving title in 1913.³ In 1915 the family relocated to California when Eve's father took up a position as manager

¹ All medals referred to in this article were kindly donated to the National Sports Museum by Mrs. Joyce Eve on behalf of the Eve family.

² http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/eve-richmond-cavill-10685, accessed 29 November 2017.

³ The Telegraph, 31 January 1925, 19.

of a beach resort in Alameda, east of San Francisco.⁴ Whilst in the United States, he continued to excel in the pool. In a letter published in the Australian press, their father reported that 'our youngsters are making quite a name for themselves by winning all events to date. Both Jim and Dick have beaten the boy champion of San Francisco on four occasions and have won two very nice silver cups and a number of medals.⁵



Figure 1: Winner's medal – 50 Yards 105lbs Boys Race – San Francisco Panama Pacific International Exposition, 1915.



Figure 2: Columbus Day medal – San Francisco Panama Pacific International Exposition, 1915. Surviving from this haul are a winner's medal awarded for the 50 yards 105 lbs boys race at the San Francisco Panama Pacific International Exposition (Figure 1), a Columbus Day medal from the same event (Figure 2), and a second place medal for the 50 yards race at the junior championships of Oakland (Figure 3). Despite finding success in the pool, the family's stay in the United States was short-lived and they returned to Australia in November of 1915.⁶



Figure 3: Second place medal – 50 yards race – Junior Championships of Oakland, 1915.

⁴ *The Referee*, 24 November 1915, 16.

⁵ The Express and Telegraph, 9 September 1915, 7.

⁶ The Referee, 24 November 1915, 16.

Domestic Dominance

The following years witnessed Eve move from strength to strength as he transitioned from junior competition to the adult ranks. He regained the NSW junior diving championship in 1917 (Figure 4), 1918 and 1919 and was Manly Amateur Swimming Club diving champion in 1920 (Figure 5).⁷ In the same year, he placed second at the senior NSW championships in a performance that *The Referee* described as "exceptionally good and [which] was loudly cheered".⁸



Figure 4: Winner's medal – Under 20 Diving Championship – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1917/18



Figure 5: Winner's medal – Diving Championship - Manly Amateur Swimming Club Championships, 1920.



Figure 6: Winner's medal – Men's High Dive – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1921. It was in 1921 that Eve first achieved the feat of holding both state and national senior titles simultaneously. He claimed his first NSW state title (Figure 6) in January at the Domain Baths, defeating the previous year's winner R. Provan with a score of 93.8.⁹ He

⁷ The Sun, 14 March 1920, 11.

⁸ *The Referee*, 7 January 1920, 18.

⁹ Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, 24 January 1921, 3.

put in an even more impressive performance to triumph at the Australian Amateur Swimming Championships in Melbourne later in the year – the first time that diving had been included on the program (Figure 7). *The Sydney Mail* was fulsome in its praise when it stated: "the event...gave ample evidence (with one exception) of the absence of good divers in this country. The exception was the young Sydney diver, Richard [sic] Eve, who, in winning the event, showed himself to be far superior to any other diver in Australia."¹⁰



Figure 7: Winner's medal – Men's Plain High Dive – Australian Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1921.



Figure 8: Winner's medal – Men's High Dive – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1922.



Figure 9: Winner's medal – Men's Plain High Dive – Australian Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1922.

Eve's performances during the 1921 season marked the start of an incredible run of success at domestic level – success which would ultimately pave the way for his Olympic title. He regained both his NSW state title (Figure 8) and the Australian championship (Figure 9) in 1922 – the latter despite another competitor, T.W. Morris of Victoria, being electrocuted prior to the event.¹¹ 1923 proved no different for Eve, with success at state

¹⁰ The Sydney Mail, 1 June 1921, 32.

¹¹ The Sun, 22 January 1922, 5. Morris recovered to finish in third place.

level in diving (Figure 10), as well as both the 440 yards scratch race (Figure 11) and the 880 yards team race (Figure 12), to go with another national championship (Figure 13).



Figure 10: Winner's medal – Men's High Dive – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1923.



Figure 11: Winner's medal – 440 Yards 1st Grade Scratch Race – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1923.





Figure 12: Winner's medal – 880 Yards Teams Championship – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1923.



Figure 13: Men's Plain High Dive - Australian Amateur Swimming Association Championships 1923.

On the World Stage

With the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris fast approaching, Eve's fourth consecutive year of holding both the NSW state (Figure 14) and Australian national titles (Figure 15) propelled his case for selection. Competition for places was fierce, particularly for the aquatic events, with only six places available for swimmers and divers on the Australian team. Ultimately, Eve was ranked second in order of preference by the selectors, and was the only diver picked to make the journey.¹²



Figure 14: Winner's medal – Men's High Dive – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1924.



Figure 15: Winner's medal – Men's Plain High Dive – Australian Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1924.

For the team of 37 athletes and officials, the five-week journey on the RMS *Ormonde* was hardly conducive to a full-time training program.¹³ Indeed, with only a 3x3 metres canvas pool on board, Eve's preparations must have been near on non-existent.

Despite his status as Australia's premier diver, Eve was still regarded as an outsider heading into the competition due to his lack of international experience. He was also battling a persistent ear ache – one which had hampered his performance at the 1924 NSW championships and had failed to abate over the course of the journey to the Games.¹⁴ His early form in the practice rounds drew admiring praise from the Australian press, yet it was clear that his ear was bothering him.¹⁵ Unfortunately, it forced his

¹² The Sydney Morning Herald, 23 February 1924, 18.

¹³ Harry Gordon, *From Athens with Pride: The Official History of the Australian Olympic Movement 1894-*2014 (St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 2014), 65-66.

¹⁴ The Sun, 17 July 1924, 1.

¹⁵ The Advocate, 2 July 1924, 3.

Jeremy McEachern

withdrawal from the fancy highboard event, and contributed to a disappointing fifthplace finish in the springboard. It was in the plain highboard event that Eve would write his name into the history books as the only Australian to win an Olympic diving Gold medal in the 20th century (Figures 16, 17, 18). He snatched victory by a single point from Sweden's Karl 'John' Jansson and Britain's Harold Clarke with his final effort – a perfectly executed swallow dive.¹⁶ Back in Australia, the press was fulsome in its praise for Eve's performance, stating that he was "superior in every test".¹⁷ Eve's victory completed a hattrick of Gold medals for Australia – and for the Sydney suburb of Manly – alongside Anthony 'Nick' Winter in the triple jump, and Andrew 'Boy' Charlton in the 1500m freestyle.¹⁸



Figure 16: Participation medal - 1924 Paris Olympic Games.



Figure 17: Gold medal – Men's Plain High Dive – 1924 Paris Olympic Games.

Following the completion of the Games and the success of the Australian team in the pool – a Silver and two Bronze medals had also been secured – Eve and the swimmers were in high demand across Europe. After attending a carnival in Brussels, the team manager Oswald Merrett made the then unusual decision to charter a plane to fly the team to Britain.¹⁹ This innovative decision paid dividends for Eve, enabling him to compete in the National Graceful Diving Competition at Highgate Pond in London.

¹⁶ The Age, 17 July 1924, 9.

¹⁷ The Sydney Morning Herald, 17 July 1924, 9.

¹⁸ Kevin Berry, 'The Manly Triumph of 1924', Journal of Olympic History, vol. 8, no. 2 (May 2000), 49.

¹⁹ Gordon, From Athens with Pride, 68.

In what *The Referee* described as an 'easy' victory, Eve triumphed by 23 ½ points over a field which included fellow Olympian and previous year's champion, Englishman Albert Dickin (Figure 19).²⁰



Figure 18: Competitor's badge – 1924 Paris Olympic Games.



Figure 19: Winner's medal – National Graceful Diving Competition – Amateur Diving Association, 1924. The next stop for Eve and the Australians was Dublin for the Tailteann Games. Created in 1922, the Irish Free State was in the process of emerging from a brutal civil war. A revival of the ancient Tailteann Games – whereby athletes from across Ireland would compete in a variety of sporting events – was seen as a way to assert a national identity, while also attracting international athletes and visitors.²¹ The Australians were based at St. Patrick's Training College in the north of the city, with the press reporting that the team were 'supplied with their own bread, vegetables and milk in unlimited quantities' and enjoying 'motor trips every day, and other entertainments each night'.²² These perks failed to distract Eve, who continued the fancy and plain diving events "by a big margin of points" from his nearest rivals.²³ He also teamed up with Boy Charlton, Ivan Stedman and Ernest Henry to easily win the 400m teams' race by 60 yards (Figures 20, 21, 22).²⁴

²⁰ The Referee, 17 September 1924, 14.

²¹ http://www.theirishstory.com/2011/02/23/the-tailteann-games-1924-1936/#.WiXS1HllNaQ, accessed 5 December 2017.

²² Southern Cross, 15 August 1924, 14.

²³ The Referee, 20 August 1924, 11.

²⁴ The Daily Mail, 17 August 1924, 5.



Figure 20: Winner's medal – 1924 Tailteann Games.



Figure 21: Winner's medal - 1924 Tailteann Games.



Figure 22: Winner's medal – 1924 Tailteann Games.

A Hero's Welcome

Eve and the Australian team returned to Sydney on the RMS *Tahiti* on 4 October to a hero's welcome.²⁵ *The Register* reported that "many motor launches and other small craft, gaily decorated, and crowded with enthusiasts, met the steamer. The passage up the harbour was a veritable triumphal procession... [while] the strains of "See the Conquering Hero Comes" and "Back Again to Dear Old Aussie" were crashed forth by the Fire Brigade Band, and shouts of welcome rent the air."²⁶ Eve and the other Manly Gold medallists, Charlton and Winter, were afforded a lavish dinner organised by the mayor and alderman of Manly at which they were praised for having put the 'village' on the map.²⁷

²⁵ Gordon, From Athens with Pride, 69.

²⁶ The Register, 7 October 1924, 7.

²⁷ The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 October 1924, 9.

Eve's status as a world champion ensured that crowds flocked to witness his appearances at swimming carnivals across NSW–an estimated 5000-6000 people attended a demonstration at Tamworth that he participated in alongside Charlton.²⁸ Unsurprisingly, he retained both his NSW state title (Figure 23) and the Australian championship (Figure 24) in 1925. He quite clearly had not lost his form from the European tour six months prior. *The Telegraph* described his performance at the latter event as "perfection itself", while also opining that "it would be hard to image a human being improving on some of the dives he accomplished."²⁹



Figure 23: Winner's medal – Men's High Dive – NSW Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1925.



Figure 24: Winner's medal – Men's Plain High Dive – Australian Amateur Swimming Association Championships, 1925.

An Unexpected End

Unexpectedly, 1925 marked the final time that Eve would hold either the state or national title. In November 1926, he was appointed to his father's old position as manager of the Manly Baths at a salary of £6 per week including accommodation.³⁰ Both the NSW Amateur Swimming Association and the Australian Amateur Swimming Association deemed this to be a breach of his amateur status and subsequently stripped him of his right to compete.³¹ The decision to class Eve as a professional caused widespread discussion in the press over the coming years, with most journalists seemingly sympathetic to his plight. *The Referee* in particular took up his case, memorably outlining that he was "no

²⁸ ibid, 24 February 1925, 12.

²⁹ The Telegraph, 26 January 1925, 5.

³⁰ The Sun, 10 November 1926, 15.

³¹ The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 November 1926, 12.

more a professional swimmer than an usher at a theatre is a professional actor."³² Despite talk of a reprieve as late as 1931, it would never come.³³

In the years immediately following his ban, Eve cycled through a number of jobs. He managed the municipal baths at both Singleton and Moree, followed by a stint as a publican in Sydney and Wagga.³⁴ By 1931 he had returned to Sydney and was working as a woolclasser, while also teaching swimming lessons. He died in Sydney in 1970.³⁵

Today, Dick Eve's medals proudly reside in the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum Collection, cared for by the National Sports Museum as a living testament to his place amongst Australia's finest athletes.

Author

Jeremy McEachern is an Assistant Curator at the National Sports Museum and Melbourne Cricket Club. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in history from Monash University and a Masters of Cultural Heritage from Deakin University. His primary areas of interest are military history and Australian sporting history, with a particular focus on cricket, soccer and rugby union.

³² The Referee, 10 August 1927, 14.

³³ *ibid*, 4 November 1931, 20.

³⁴ *The Sydney Sportsman*, 29 October 1929, 12.

³⁵ http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/eve-richmond-cavill-10685, accessed 21 December 2017.



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All submitted articles are refereed before being accepted for publication

Once their work has been published in the *JNAA*, authors are asked not to re-publish that work elsewhere within a two-year period. Any applications for exemption from this requirement should be submitted in writing to the Managing Editor.

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