

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia





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President's Report

Our eighth biennial international numismatic conference (NAAC2019) was held at the State Library of New South Wales. National Organiser Walter Bloom and the local Organising Committee of Ken Sheedy and Gil Davis put together an interesting program, the fruits of which can be seen in this current volume of the Journal. Highlights included keynote speakers, Ross MacDiarmid, RAM Director (*The future of collecting and the role of the Royal Australian Mint*) and Claire Rowson, Perth Mint (*Mint Condition: New directions for numismatic conservation in Australia*). We were pleased to see a strong New Zealand contingent in Sydney and for the first time in some years the conference ran at a (slight) profit.

I am delighted to advise the winning of the 2019 Paul Simon Memorial Award by Graeme Petterwood. Graeme has been very active on the Tasmania numismatic scene, even when the Tasmanian Numismatic Society had spent a significant time in hibernation. Over this crucial period he kept the Society on the numismatic map with his publishing of the bi-monthly newsletter *Tasmanian Numismatist*. Graeme's contribution to the Society has been recognised with the McDonald Encouragement Award, 1994; R V McNeice Literary Award 1995, 1996; Lockwood Medal 1998; Tasmanian Numismatic Society Bronze Medallion 1996, 2000, 2003; TNS President's Award 2000; TNS Distinguished Service Medal 2013; and TNS Life Membership 2014. Graeme also won the André Fecteau Prize (Association des Numismates Francophones du Canada; http://anfc.info/) literary award. Congratulations Graeme from the Australian numismatic community.

The NAA website has experienced some serious issues, well beyond my expertise as Website Manager. After many unsuccessful attempts at fixing the problems, both through the hosting company and the website developer, the Association is looking to pay an expert to get the website back on-line.

We continue to enjoy sponsorship at a sustainable level, with Noble Numismatics (Gold), Coinworks, Downies (Silver), Drake Sterling, Mowbray Collectables, 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 continue to take out ten-year memberships which is certainly good for the short to medium term.

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 ongoing work with the journal. The Association is looking to hold its 2020 AGM in Perth with those members in the Eastern States invited to skype into the meeting. With 15 NAA members in WA including three Office Bearers, we should have no difficulty making a physical quorum.

Finally, I was sorry to miss this year in Sydney (due to illness), my first missed conference since their inception in 2005, and also my first missed AGM since I took up the Presidency in 2006.

Professor Walter R. Bloom President, NAA www.numismatics.org.au

Editor's Note

This journal is the showcase of the Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA), the peak body for numismatics in the country. It provides a venue for excellent scholarship with a requirement that all articles either offer new material or fresh interpretations. All submissions are required to undergo a rigorous, double-blind peer review. The 29th volume is the largest we have produced and comes as a result of a decision to combine 2018 and 2019 into one volume, with many of the articles generated from the biennial NAA conference held on 6-7 April 2019. Once again, there is a good balance of modern and ancient interests reflected in a remarkably diverse range of topics. It is pleasing to see the contributions made on New Zealand numismatics.

We have a strong international editorial board who contribute their wisdom, experience and help. I thank them and mourn the premature loss of one of our number, the late Professor Matthew Trundle whose obituary appears at the end of the volume. I thank Professor John Melville-Jones and Mr John O'Connor for their skill and application in proof-reading the articles and Mr Barrie Newman for his dedication in producing the volume. As always, I thank Professor Walter Bloom, President of the NAA, for his personal support and encouragement in dealing with the myriad of matters that editing a journal entails.

This volume has some changes from its predecessors. At the conference we ran a session in which a number of speakers gave a short presentation on a 'Numismatic Gem'. This was highly successful and amusing. Two of the presentations have been turned into brief articles including the winning entry by Darren Burgess on a 'humble' token from the English Civil War, and a charming story by Barrie Newman on his first coin, which led him to a lifelong interest in collecting. We have also included a review by David Rampling of the important book by Peter Lane on the South Australian 'Coin Cabinet'.

There are five articles on modern topics. The first two are about New Zealand with Andrew Clifford and Robert Tonner presenting a history of New Zealand banknotes, superbly illustrated from Robert's own collection, and David Galt following up with medals issued for the New Zealand Wars. Richard and Carmel S. O'Hair take us into the world of early Australian medals issued by a Geelong Highland society, while Darren Burgess provides a full listing and discussion of the Centenary of Sydney and Melbourne Commemorative medals. Yuri Rapoport suggests, perhaps controversially, that there is a fifth variety of the 1931 penny. There are also five large articles on topics spanning a thousand years of ancient history. Lloyd Taylor provides an exemplary study of the Alexander tetradrachms that he attributes to the Phoenician port city of Karne. From there, we segue into the vexed question of the so-called Porus medallions of Alexander, explored in detail by Michael Habicht and his colleagues. Staying in the ancient East, Rachel Mansfield reattributes a previously incorrectly identified coin type minted in the Levantine port city of Jaffa under the Severan emperors. Bruce Marshall discusses the introduction of slogans to Roman republican denarii. Finally, Christian Cuello discusses the extent to which imperial authority was conveyed in the 'imitation' coinage of 'barbarian' rulers in late antiquity.

All the articles contain significant research providing the volume with enduring value. They are well written and informative. I hope you enjoy reading them.

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Articles must comprise original research on numismatic material including but not limited to Australasian numismatics (coins, tokens, medals, banknotes) or ancient or mediaeval numismatics. Manuscripts can be emailed to any member of the Editorial Board in your area of research, along with a copy to the Managing Editor.

Numismatic gem: A very uncivil war

Darren Burgess

When this paper was first delivered, at the Numismatic Association of Australia Conference in early April, 2019, we had just passed the first deadline for the United Kingdom to exit the European Union, an event commonly known as Brexit. As I write this in mid-December of the same year, we have now surpassed yet another deadline, October 31, and just days away from a General Election, which is just another chapter in this ongoing farrago.

Back in late October of 2018 the Chancellor of the time, Phillip Hammond, advised that a special 50 pence piece was to be issued, as a collector's only coin, to commemorate the departure of the UK from the EU (BBC, 2018). The resulting design, one of the most uninspiring to come out of the British Royal Mint (BRM) for some time, featured simply the phrase "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations",¹ with the planned exit date of 29 March, 2019 underneath. On 18 March, 2019, following a series of protracted and unsuccessful negotiations with the EU, Her Majesty's Treasury advised that the release of this coin was being delayed, with a then likely date of 30 June (Alexander, 2019). While a number of coins featuring the October 31 deadline were struck they have subsequently been destroyed, with any further plans for this troublesome numismatic item on hold for the time being.

Fig. 1 – Initial Reverse Design for the Brexit Commemorative 50p Coin

¹ Borrowed from a quote by Thomas Jefferson, author of the USA's declaration of independence.

The topical subject of Brexit was raised to frame another point in history where Britain was divided on the subject of sovereignty, the English Civil War (1642-1651). An episode from that divisive conflict occurred between 31 March and 26 April 1646 in the small market town of Bridgnorth, in the county of Shropshire. Up until this point Bridgnorth had been a Royalist stronghold. However, after successfully taking Shrewsbury, the town was besieged by Parliamentarian troops.



Fig.2 - Extract from a Postcard of Reginald Phillimore²

Knowing that only the Castle would be defensible, the Royalist garrison demolished the Town Hall and other buildings in the town. Their defence did not last long and in their retreat from the town the Royalist troops set fire to what remained, destroying the entire High Street and leaving 300 families homeless. This wanton act of destruction meant that the town remained largely in a state of ruin during the Commonwealth period (Farrow, 1926).



Fig. 3 - Late Declaration Sixpence (ex. Tom May Collection), image courtesy of Noble Numismatics³

² The date of 1649 shown on the card is incorrect.

³ Note the "B" mint mark on the Obverse leading to the supposition of minting at Bridgnorth.

Late Declaration coins of this date have been variously attributed to a number of minting locations over the years. George Boon postulates Bridgnorth as the primary candidate for the location of the striking of these coins (Boon, 1981), and this is supported in the subsequent publication of the Brooker Collection (North & Preston-Morley, 1984). At present many catalogues continue to refer to the town as Bridgnorth-on-Severn and although the town does lie directly on the river Severn, it has never knowingly been referred to by this term locally. There is also no archaeological evidence to support this theory despite the Castle being the subject of a number of studies.⁴

However, the numismatic gem presented to the audience was not one of these desirable Late Declaration pieces, but something a little less regal. The gem in question comes from a decade or so after the war, when a shortage of state issued coinage led to the proliferation of locally issued tokens. It is a humble 17th Century Farthing, with an obverse that features the issuer's name, Symon Beauchamp, with the "p" unceremoniously crammed in on the legend. In the centre is the Drapers Arms, signifying the issuer's trade. On the heavily worn reverse is a monogram of the issuer's initials "SB" surrounded by the legend "In Bridgnorth".⁵



Fig. 4 - Beauchamp Token (ex. David Griffith Collection), image courtesy of Dix Noonan Webb.

Symon Beauchamp was not only a Draper, but also a bailiff of the town in 1850 when the building of a new Town Hall commenced (Randall, 1863). The building still stands proudly in the centre of the High Street today.

⁴ Even the subject of an episode of Time Team from March 2001.

⁵ Shropshire (Salop) No. 10 in Seventeenth Century Tokens of the British Isles and Their Values (Dickinson, 2004).



Fig. 5 - Bridgnorth Town Hall - July 2016, image courtesy of the author

We also know that Symon was married to Anne and evidently she was mentioned in his Will. His Will, which remains on record today (The National Archives, 1671) is dated 11 August, 1671. In it he mentions *being weak in body but of good and perfect Memory.* He lists a number of items he wishes to bequeath and the total value of the estate is £1,338. Anne's Will is also on record (The National Archives, 1678). She too lists a number of items that are important to her and shows her estate to be valued at £457 18s. This does not necessarily mean she ran Beauchamp's affairs poorly after he died, as it is likely she only inherited a third of his estate, as was customary at the time. These detailed records provide a rare insight into the lives of single women at the time and as such they have been used in published works on the subject (Hussey & Ponsonby, 2015)

Meanwhile back in the 21st century, with the October 31st deadline looming, a new Chancellor, under a new Prime Minister, has announced that not only is the 50p coin going to be released (with a revised date of course), but it was now planned to be a circulating piece (Press Association, 2019). With Symon Beauchamp commissioning the striking of a token in the 17th Century he and his wife are remembered as having

contributed positively to the fabric of British society. Can the same be said for this proposed Brexit 50p and the people behind it?



Fig. 6 - Concept for Obverse of Brexit Commemorative 50p Coin

Author Biography

Darren Burgess is a Project manager for a Melbourne based software company that specialises in Infrastructure Asset Management. As a result of his various roles in this space he has worked extensively with Local Governments in his native UK as well as New Zealand, Australia, South East Asia and North America. He has been President of the Numismatic Association of Victoria (NAV) since 2013, twice recipient of the Max Stern Trophy and is a previous Vice-President of the NAA.

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Subject Matter: should offer new information or throw new light on an area of numismatics, although preference is given to Australian and New Zealand authors or subject matter.

Submitted Articles: should be as much as possible the result of **original research**. Articles should not have been previously published or presently be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

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