



Volume 29

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: Coincidences and opportunities from a Roman coin in Egypt

Barrie M. Newman

A Roman coin was found by Capt Eric Rule, an Australian Infantry Officer, during World War 2. He picked it up when his boot kicked up what he thought was a stone, as he marched a group of Italian prisoners past the pyramids in Egypt.



(Not to scale - actual size 19mm)

Captain Rule was a close friend of my mother's cousin. I had not met him before he came to visit us on his return to Australia in 1945. He asked me whether I collected coins and, having been thrown a few one cent US coins by American soldiers marching past our house in Fremantle a year or so earlier, I said that I did. He then gave me the Roman coin saying it could have an interesting history. I was 10 years of age and he was 27. He was afterwards posted to Army Headquarters in Victoria and I never saw him again.

In 1950, as a boarder at Scotch College in Western Australia, I took the coin to the Perth Mint and asked the well-dressed young gentleman who came to the gate if he could tell me something about the coin and its possible value. He took the coin and said that he would find out some details and let me know.

Two days later I received a letter posted to Master Barrie Newman at Scotch College from Geoffrey W. Robinson returning the coin and advising the following:

"The coin is of Emperor Diocletian AD284-305, struck in Alexandria (Egypt) under Romans, dated year 4 of Diocletian's reign, AD287; Metal: billon, a mixture of silver and bronze; Denomination: Tetradrachm; Collector's value: about two shillings."

GEOFFREY W. ROBINSON
24 PARK ROAD
MOUNT LAWLEY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

13 Dec 1956

Dear Barrie,

I have finally got a complete classification of your coin. My first impression was incorrect, which does not surprise me - that is why I was unwilling to hand the coin back to you until I had gone thoroughly into the matter. You can rely on this description:

The coin is of **EMPEROR DIOCLETIAN** ^{AD 284-305}
Struck in Alexandria (Egypt) under Roman

Obverse legend in Greek

ΑΥ ΓΟ ΒΑ ΔΙΚΛΗΤΙΑΝΟΣ ΣΕΒ

(abbreviated form of Autokrator ^{Sebastokrator} ~~Augustus~~
Valerianus Diocletianus ~~Augustus~~
= Emperor ^{Sebastokrator} Valerian Diocletian
(Augustus))

Reverse

Eagle (Symbol of both Jupiter and Egypt)
between two omphalos.

Date ΛΔ = Year 4 of Diocletian's reign = ^{AD} 287

Metal = Billon (mixture of silver and bronze)

Denomination: Tetradrachm

Collector's value: about 2/-.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey W. Robinson

I was amazed that such an old coin could only be worth two shillings. This coin started my interest in coins and, when I joined The Bank of Adelaide in Perth in 1953, I started collecting Australia's currency coins. Little did I then know that this coin would also provide a number of interesting coincidences, culminating in important opportunities for me and my family. Let me quickly elaborate.

Following my National Service Military Training at Swanbourne in Western Australia, in 1954, I joined the Citizens Military Forces (CMF), now the Army Reserve. I was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Australian Artillery in 1955 and, after 10 years part-time Service, was posted by the Australian Army to Kashmir as one of Australia's six Military Observers to the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan from 1964 to 1966. My overseas deployment was during the Indo-Pak War of 1965 and the Bank had given me special leave to undertake this deployment.

While in Kashmir I was interested to note that a Captain Eric Rule had also been deployed to Kashmir from 1958 to 1961, just three years before me. I saw a number of his reports from investigations he had conducted along the Cease Fire Line. What a coincidence, I thought, and how I would have loved to have been able to compare notes on Kashmir with this man, whom I had met briefly 20 years earlier.

Army List of Officers of the Australian Military Forces Active List 31st July 1970 Captains

RULE, Eric David. Born 18/3/18.

Lt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn 26/4/43. PSL (Aust Inf) 4/8/44. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn 15/6/45. 68 Aust Inf Bn 16/10/45. (T/Capt 27/11/44 to 14/6/45.) R of O (R Aust Inf) (S Comd) 11/10/46. Lt 59 Inf Bn 12/9/57. (T/Capt 26/5/58 to 1/10/58.) Capt 59 Inf Bn 2/10/58. R Aust Inf 22/12/58. T/Maj 16/5/69.

RASR 22/12/58 to 5/11/64.

RAS 6/11/64.

Instr OCTU 22/9/44 to 14/6/45. Secd Dept of External Affairs (UN Mil Observer Kashmir) 22/12/58 to 5/2/61. Att S Comd Pers Depot 6/2/61 to 4/5/61. Adj 2 RVR 5/5/61 to 30/4/65. Adj 6 RVR 1/5/65 to 12/2/68. SC A & Q HQ OTG S Comd 13/2/68 to 13/10/68. 2 RTB 14/10/68 to 9/11/69. Maj I/C Admin OCS 10/11/69.

NEWMAN, Barrie Malcolm, ED. Born 19/9/35.

Lt RAA (Coast) (W Comd) 14/11/56. RAA (Fd Bch) (W Comd) 8/4/57. RAA (Fd Bch) (E Comd) 11/12/59. (T/Capt 1/5/63 to 15/8/63.) Capt RAA (Fd Bch) (E Comd) 16/8/63. RAA 12/11/64. RAA (Fd Bch) (E Comd) 13/1/66. RAA (Fd Bch) (C Comd) 1/4/66.

RAS 12/11/64 to 12/1/66.

Secd Dept of External Affairs (UN Mil Observer Kashmir) 12/11/64 to 12/1/66. GSO 3 (Air) HQ 9 TF 1/10/67 to 17/11/68. GSO 3 (Air) HQ 9 TF 13/11/69.

On returning from Kashmir, and while still employed as a senior staff member of The Bank of Adelaide in Adelaide, I became involved in marketing commemorative coins for the Governments of Western Samoa, Fiji, Tokelau, Nepal and the Solomon Islands. The coins raised important royalties for these emerging countries. I attempted to do likewise for the Dalai Lama and Tibetan refugees in exile. In 1977, I approached a number of mints with whom we had agreements, including the Royal Australian Mint, to see whether they would be able to strike a special coin issue for the Dalai Lama. They all declined on political grounds and, while I was visiting my parents in Perth, I thought it might just be possible for the Perth Mint to help us out. I visited the Perth Mint and asked to see the Director.

I was introduced to the Director, Mr Geoffrey Robinson, the same person whom I had met as a boy almost 30 years previously when asking about the Diocletian coin. We were both astounded at this coincidence, which subsequently led to a warm friendship and business arrangements over many years. Unfortunately, he too was unable to get approval for the Perth Mint to produce the coins for the Dalai Lama, but we had many interesting conversations over the years about these matters and he stayed with us whenever he visited Adelaide.

This coin had these interesting coincidences for me and was instrumental in my becoming involved, not only in coin collecting, but also in forging my business and future career with The Adelaide Mint, which I formally established on 15 February 1982. The coin, for me, is a numismatic gem.

Author Biography

Barrie Newman is Executive Director of The Adelaide Mint, PO Box 2183, Kent Town, South Australia 5071. He is a Past President, Fellow and currently Secretary of The Numismatic Society of South Australia Inc. He received the 2017 Paul Simon Memorial award and medal for outstanding contribution to Australian numismatics.



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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.

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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Articles: should be sent as an MS Word file, .doc, .docx or .rtf format. Submission should be made in the first instance by email attachment.

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