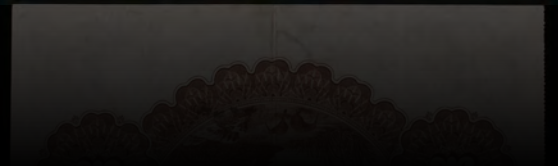


Volume 29

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



Contents

President's Report	iv
Editor's Note and Editorial Board	vi
Lloyd W. H. Taylor	
The Karne Alexanders	1
Michael E. Habicht, Andrew M. Chugg, Elena Varotto, Francesco M. Galassi	
The so-called Porus medallions of Alexander the Great – crucial historical numismatic objects or clever counterfeits?	24
Rachel Mansfield	
A new coin type from Severan Jaffa	51
Bruce Marshall	
A slogan on a Late Roman Republican <i>denarius</i>	59
Christian Cuello	
Goths Franks or Romans? New perspectives on an old problem in Late Antique numismatics	66
Andrew Clifford and Robert Tonner	
New Zealand trading banknotes of the official issuers 1840–1934	79
David Galt	
The New Zealand medal for the New Zealand wars	96
Richard A. J. O'Hair and Carmel S. O'Hair	
Early Australian Highland Society medals and awards: The Geelong Commun Na Feinne Society	107
Darren Burgess	
1942 Centenary of Sydney and Melbourne commemorative medallions	125
Yuri Rapoport	
The Unicorn Penny: A fifth variety of the 1931 Penny	149
Darren Burgess	
Numismatic gem: A very uncivil war	167
Barrie M. Newman	
Numismatic Gem: Coincidences and opportunities from a Roman coin in Egypt	173
David J. Rampling	
Book review: The Coin Cabinet - A cultural history of the numismatic collection in the Art Gallery of South Australia by Peter Lane	177
Lee L. Brice and Jeremy Armstrong	
Obituary: Matthew Freeman Trundle	179
Ray Jewell Award Recipients	181
Paul Simon Memorial Award Honour Roll	182
Sponsors	183
Guidelines for Authors	185

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.

Dr Gil Davis

Managing Editor

gil.davis@mq.edu.au

EDITORIAL BOARD

Managing Editor

Dr Gil Davis
Macquarie University
editor@numismatics.org.au

Dr Clare Rowan
(Roman coinage; ancient tokens)
Warwick University
c.rowan@warwick.ac.uk

Editorial Board

Mr Philip Attwood
(British and World Commemorative medals)
Keeper of Coins and Medals
The British Museum
pattwood@britishmuseum.org

Emeritus Professor Walter R Bloom
(Australian coins, medals and badges)
Murdoch University and Western Australian Museum
w.bloom@murdoch.edu.au,
walter.bloom@museum.wa.gov.au

Mr Peter Lane
(Australiana)
Art Gallery of South Australia
pnj.lane@bigpond.com

Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones
(Greek, Roman, Byzantine and late antiquity)
University of Western Australia
john.melville-jones@uwa.edu.au

Mr Martin Purdy
(New Zealand coins, medals and badges)
Translate Ltd
translate@ihug.co.nz

Dr Kenneth A Sheedy
(Greek, Roman and Hellenistic)
Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatics
ken.sheedy@mq.edu.au

Dr Mark Stocker
(Historical International Art)
Te Papa Museum, Wellington
mark.stocker@tepapa.govt.nz

Mr Christian Stoess
(Mediaeval)
Berlin Coin Cabinet
c.stoess@smb.spk-berlin.de

Technical Editors

Mr Barrie Newman
Production Editor

Mr John O'Connor
Proof Editor

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.

Early Australian Highland Society medals and awards: The Geelong Comunn Na Feinne Society.

Richard A. J. O'Hair* and Carmel S. O'Hair

Abstract

Founded in 1856 and disestablished in the 1940s, the Comunn na Feinne Society was one of the earliest Scottish Highland Societies of the Colony of Victoria. Its aims were to foster Scottish culture, which was achieved through sports and school competitions. An array of prizes were awarded including sterling silver cups and medals. One of these prizes includes a remarkable brass plate awarded to King Jerry of the Dan-Dan-Nook (Barrabool) tribe. Prizes such as these provide a tangible link with the Aboriginal people, whose involvement had an effect on the colonial history of Australia.

Keywords

[Comunn na Feinne Society Medal] [Scottish Highland Societies] [Victorian Sports and School Competitions] [Interactions between Colonists and Aboriginal People]

1. Introduction

A number of highland societies were formed in Australia throughout the 1850s and 1860s and several of these issued medals and other awards, typically as prizes for competitions in highland gatherings.¹ Here we focus on the Geelong Comunn Na Feinne Society, describing their medal and other awards including a unique award to the Geelong Aboriginal “King Jerry”, which has been recently rediscovered.

1 Chisholm's excellent book gives a short overview of the various highland societies of the Colony of Victoria and also notes some other Australian highland societies. It is not clear which of the societies in the Colony of Victoria produced the first medals. The Buninyong Highland Society had handmade medals manufactured and these were issued as early as 1860. For an example dated in that year, see the Chapman collection (Noble (2008) 88: 763). Other societies to issue medals in the 1860s include the Bendigo St Andrews Society (Noble (2010) 94: 774; Downies (2010) 304: 762) and the Maryborough Highland Society Medal: Lane, P. (2015) “Peter Cameron and his Highland Society North West Province (Maryborough, Victoria) medals”, *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, 26: 91-95.

2. Overview of the Comunn Na Feinne Society of Geelong

The Comunn Na Feinne Society was founded in December of 1856, and eventually “languished and died” during the period between the two world wars.² It was the first Scottish society in the Colony of Victoria.³ Evidence of the high regard it was held in can be gleaned from the fact that the Governor of Victoria was its President during several of the early years.⁴ During its heyday, the Comunn na Feinne Society was very active in promoting a range of activities, including: school examinations, sporting activities, shooting, musical and elocutionary competitions. The first annual highland gathering was held in 1857 and attracted around 5-6,000 people.⁵ The popularity of these gatherings became well known, as evidenced by the publication of a story in the Illustrated London News in 1863, which also included the engraving shown in Figure 1.⁶ The Comunn na Feinne was large enough to field its own cricket team in a local club competition.⁷ It had sufficient funds to help subsidize the local hospital.⁸ Around 1912 the society bought its own building, the former St Andrews Presbyterian Church.⁹

2 Brownhill, pp 35-36, 260-263. Some of the last highland gatherings of the Comunn Na Feinne were held in the 1920s. For example, the 66th highland gathering was held in 1923 (ARG, January 1st, 1923). The Commun na Feinne was holding art competitions as late as 1928 (ARG, March 15th, 1928). One of the last newspaper accounts on the Commun na Feinne is entitled “Passing of Geelong Commun Na Feinne” and describes the disposal of their property by the Trustees (ARG, March 7th, 1946).

3 Chisholm notes “With the coming of 1930 the Geelong Society had been in existence for 74 years and was the oldest Scottish society in the State, leading the Maryborough Highland Society by one year. Some years previously its President for a lengthy period, Dr John Small, had died, and when the secretary of many years’ standing, James Galbraith, gave up in 1929, the Society began to lose much of its drive. Anyway, it was a great pity that such an organization was allowed to fall away and then dissolve.” pp. 88-89.

4 Sir Henry Barkly, Governor of Victoria was presented with a ticket of membership and made chief of the Comunn Na Feinne. AGE, July 1st, 1857.

5 GA, January 3rd, 1857.

6 ‘Meeting of The Highland Society (Comunn na Feinne) at Geelong, Australia,’ Illustrated London News, April 11th, 1863.

7 GA, April 28th, 1863.

8 In the first quarterly meeting, it was noted (GA, February 3rd, 1857) that “it had been arranged that a subscription of ten pounds yearly be given to the hospital in consideration of benefits which members may derive from that institution.”

9 GA, August 23rd, 1913.



Figure 1: Hand coloured illustration of 'Meeting of The Highland Society (Comunn Na Feinne) at Geelong, Australia', from the Illustrated London News, April 11th, 1863 (collection of the authors).

3. The Medals

3.1 Description of the Struck Medal.

The Comunn na Feinne medal is a large (51 mm diameter) uniface struck medal, as shown in Figure 2. On the struck (obverse) side it consists of a shield with a rampant lion at the center, with a castle and scales above and Scottish thistles below. The shield is supported by a Highlander on the left and an aboriginal with a boomerang and a spear on the right. The Motto above is "Coram Na Feinn" and the motto below reads "Seas Cuis". This would appear to be one of the first depictions of an aboriginal on a coin, token, medal or medalet, at least contemporary with the well-known Hogarth and Erichsen token of 1860.¹⁰ It definitely predates the "Ricketty Dick" medalets by around a decade.¹¹ While the exact date of manufacture, the medallist and the designer are unknown, photocopies of handwritten records in the Geelong Research Centre (1075/1 and 2) suggest that:

10 Skinner, D.H. (1989) Rennicks Coin and Banknote Guide, 25th Ed., Rennicks Books, Burnside, Token #257, p.257.

11 Carlisle, L.J. (2008) Australian Historical Medals 1788 -1988, Ligare Book Printing, Sydney, pp 16 – 20.

“The Society has also resolved to award the Society’s silver medal made in London with the Society’s Crest in front to the best scholars in each of the subjoined branches of learning.” 10th Dec 1857

All the issued Comunn na Feinne medals that have survived are mounted with an ornate loop and brooch, and have a reverse that is hand engraved, stating the purpose of the award and the date of issue. For example, Figure 2 shows this award:

Geography Prize of Comunn Na Feinne To Robert Camm Geelong Jan^y 1st 1861



Figure 2: The Comunn Na Feinne medal in the collection of the authors: (a) obverse; (b) reverse.

3.2 List of Existing Medals in Public and Private Collections.

Table 1 is a compilation of all the recorded and known Commun na Feinne medals. Although it seems that these medals were also struck in gold, only 13 silver medals appear to have survived. The earliest surviving dated medal is that awarded to the famous wine merchant, pastoralist and member of parliament, John Riddoch, as a prize for the sport of tilting for the New Year’s Highlands competition in 1860.¹² Another medal, which has been defaced to remove the name is also dated for 1860. Although the latest dated medal is for 1877, most of the surviving medals are dated from 1861-1864, with the largest cluster being awarded for the 1861 New Year’s competitions. While the exact number of medals issued is uncertain, based on newspaper accounts discussed below and the existing medals, we estimate around 50 might have been manufactured and awarded.

12 Dictionary of Australian Biography, Volume 11, pp 390-391; Peter Rymill, P. (1995) *The Founders*, Penola Branch, National Trust of South Australia.

Table 1: List of known Commun na Feinne Medals by year and type of award, based on unpublished manuscripts and auction records

Year	Award	Awarded to	Reverse Inscription	Notes
1860	Sports: Tilting	John Riddock	TILTING/1st PRIZE OF/COMMUN NA FEINNE/JOHN RIDDOCK/GEELONG JAN 2nd 1860	Private Collection
1860	Sports: Light Stone	name is erased	'Light Stone / 1st Prize of / Commun Na Feinne / to / ____ / Geelong Jany 2nd 1860'	Ex Chapman Collection, Noble Sale 88, 2008: Lot 764
1861	Sports: Tilting	David M. Barry	Tilting/1st Prize of/ Commun na Feinne to/David M. Barry/ Geelong Jany. 1st 1861	Spink Australia Sales: 16, 1985, Lot 1297; 34 15th November 1990 Lot 795
1861	Sports: Foot Race in Kilts	Joseph Bertrum	'Foot Race in Kilts/1st Prize of/Commun Na Feinne/Joseph Bertrum/ Geelong Jany. 1st 1861' wreathed border	Noble Sale 47, 1995: Lot 542
1861	Sports: Dancing, Reel of Tulloch	W A Stewart	'Reel of Tulloch/1st Prize of Commun Na Feinne/ TO/W A Stewart/ Geelong Jan 1861	Ex Noble Sale 33, 1990, Lot 2618
1861	Sports: Dancing	W A Stewart	'Dancing/seantrms/1st Prize/ of / Commun Na Feinne/to /W A Stewart/ Geelong Jan 1st 1861	Noble Sale 33, 1990, Lot 2617.
1862	Sports: Archery	John Middlemiss	'ARCHERY/1st Prize of /Commun Na Feinne/ to John Middlemiss/ Geelong Jan 1st 1862	Held in the Dixson Library (DN/M 714), listed in the Gullick Manuscript. ^(a)

Year	Award	Awarded to	Reverse Inscription	Notes
1866	Sports: Quoits	William Sharp	'Commun Na Feinne/ William Sharp/ Quoits/ Geelong January 1st 1866/ Geelong	Noble Sale 104, 2013, Lot 745.
1861	Education: Geography	Robert Camm	Geography/Prize of/ Commun Na Feinne/to/ Robert Camm/Geelong Jan 1st 1861	Downies Sale 311, 2012, Lot 1538.
1863	Education: For Proficiency in all subjects in the Middle Class	William Watts	PRESENTED TO/ WILLIAM WATTS/ FOR PROFICIENCY IN ALL SUBJECTS/ IN THE/MIDDLE CLASS/COMMUN NA FEINNE/ EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION/JANY. 1st 1863	Noble Sale 49, 1995, Lot 4087: and Downies Sale 261, 1996, Lot 2065.
1864	Education: For General Proficiency in Middle Class	Margaret Wallace	COMMUN NA FEINNE/Educational Examination Novr 1,2 & 3, 1884. 1st Prize for General Proficiency in Middle Class - Awarded to Margaret Wallace	Ex Chapman Collection, Noble Sale 88, 2008: Lot 783. Listed as I4562 in the Hayes Manuscript (National Library of Australia). ^(b)
1867	Service	Robert De B. Johnstone	COMMUN NA FEINNE/TO/Robert De B. Johnstone Esq/ Mayor/for conducting the/EDUCATIONAL EXAMINATIONS/of the Society with Great/ Credit. Geelong./1867	Held as item GRS1286/5-20 in The Geelong Heritage Center.

Year	Award	Awarded to	Reverse Inscription	Notes
1877	Service	Mr. J.S. Mackay	COMMUN NA FEINNE to Mr. J.S. Mackay IN RECOGNITION of his Valuable Services as HON. SEC. Geelong Jany. 1877.	Museum Victoria. Listed as I5308 in the Hayes Manuscript (National Library of Australia) ^(b,c)

(a) This medal is described and illustrated in the unpublished work “Australian Medals and Badges” by William Gullick on page 13, which is also held in the Dixon Library (reference Q91/136).

(b) The National Library of Australia holds an unpublished manuscript “Australian Medals” by the Reverend E.E. Hayes (MS 3547, MS 1076, MS 738), which lists two Commun na Feinne medals

(c) Can be viewed at the website: http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/coins/1865/comunn_na_feinne_medal.html

2.3 Contemporary Evidence for the Medals.

The medals appear to have first been issued in 1858, with several reports on awards of the medal in the Geelong Advertiser during that year. Both gold and silver medals were awarded. At the second highland gathering, a total of nine silver medals appear to have been awarded as the first prize to the following competitors:¹³

Throwing heavy stone: Donald Cameron

Throwing light stone: Alexander Mackenzie

Throwing heavy hammer: Hugh Rankin

Throwing light hammer: James Cameron

Piobaireachd and marches: Donald Rowan (also awarded 2 guineas)

Strathspey and reels: Donald Rowan

Dancing highland fling: Peter Anderson

Best dressed highlander: Donald Rowan (also awarded 2 guineas)

Best dressed boy: Peter Sinclair

The first gold medal appears to have been awarded to the departing President:¹⁴

“The President having been requested to vacate the chair, the members appointed Mr Thos. Brown in his place, and passed a resolution for presenting to the president a gold medal as a token of the esteem in which his services in the promotion of the society were held by the members.”

¹³ GA, January 4th, 1858.

¹⁴ GA, February 2nd, 1858.

4. Background of the Awards

It is clear from the list of known medals shown in Table 1 that the Commun na Feine Society medal was a general purpose medal, which was awarded to: the best pupils in School competitions; winning competitors in various activities for the Annual Grand Highland Gatherings; and committee members in recognition of their service to the society. It is not the purpose of this article to provide complete details of the circumstance in which all the awards were made, but rather to give select examples of these three categories.

4.1 The Annual School Examinations.

The Commun na Feine Society held annual school examinations for children of different ages. These are described in various editions of the Geelong Advertiser. The first mention that we have found for awards for scholarship is from the description of the 2nd highland gathering:¹⁵

“The Society have also judiciously thought fit to distribute prizes as well for learning as for amusements, and the best scholar in each of the subjoined branches of learning will receive a silver medal: General, advanced, and mental arithmetic; English composition and grammar, geography, natural science, Gaelic orthography, the latter receiving 2 guineas additional.”

In addition, the State Library of Victoria holds two rare advertisements/regulation booklets sent by the secretary of examinations of the Commun na Feine to various Schools.¹⁶ These exams were held in high regard and were fiercely contested and the important role that they played in the education of the local students can be inferred from the following:

- (i) The significant numbers of students taking them: In a 1864 letter to the editor, it was noted that “at their last examination, nearly 200 students from sixteen schools, competed.”¹⁷

¹⁵ GA, January 1st, 1858.

¹⁶ 2nd March 1863, by J. Bertram, which lists the exam as being held at the Mechanics Institute on Monday, November 2, 1863. The competitions were for the following categories: 10 years old and under; 11 years old; 12 or 13 years old. This document is bound as pages 99-102 of the 1864 “Presbyterianism in Victoria” book of press cuttings. 12th April 1864, by Robert Maxwell, which lists the exam as being held at the Mechanics Institute on Tuesday, November 2, 1864. The completions were for the following categories: 10 years old and under; 11 years old; 12 or 13 years old. This document is bound as pages 103-105 of the same book of press cuttings.

¹⁷ GA, June 2nd, 1864.

- (ii) The involvement of experts: In the 1862 Annual report of the Society, it was noted that Professor Hill of Melbourne was involved in the reading part of the examination, and that:¹⁸
 “a great amount of interest is being taken in the society’s educational department, and in addition to the Riddoch Prize, two additional prizes of 5 pounds each have been placed at its disposal.”
- (iii) The outrage expressed at an incident in which the exam papers were stolen;¹⁹
- (iv) The award of substantial prizes to winning students.

In fact, it appears that gold versions of the medal of the Commun Na Feine Society were reserved for the highest educational prize in the competitions for 12 and 13year olds and for outstanding service to the Commun Na Feine Society. For example, in 1863:

“Gold Medal of Honour for the highest number of marks on all the subjects... The medal of honour was won by Henry Smith, who attends Central Wesleyan school.... It may be stated that this boy has distinguished himself at the examinations on two previous occasions, and in addition to the gold medal he now wins is the possessor of one of the society’s silver medals and other prizes.”²⁰

Table 2: Commun na Feinne Society Gold Fobs Awarded.

Year	Obverse Inscription	Reverse Inscription	Notes
1919	CNF/I.C./JAN 1919	2 FLING/OPEN/UNDER 12 I.CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1919	C.N.F/I.C./1919	Strathspeys/&REELS/ UNDER 16/IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1919	C.N.F/ SHEANTRIUS/1919	UNDER 14/IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1919	C.N.F/1919	1 ST FLING UNDER 14/ IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1919	C.N.F/1919	2 ND FLING/UNDER 12/ IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors

18 GA, February 4th, 1863.

19 See the series of letters in GA, November 15th, 16th and 17th, 1864.

20 GA, December 14th, 1863; GA, August 18th, 1866.

Year	Obverse Inscription	Reverse Inscription	Notes
1920	C.N.F/1920	SHEANTRIUS/1 ST UNDER 14/3 UNDER 16/ WON BY/I. CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1920	C.N.F	1920/ Strathspeys/& REELS/1 ST UNDER 12/ IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1920	C.N.F/1920	H FLING/2 UNDER 12/ IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1920	C.N.F/1920	H FLING/2 UNDER 16/ IONA CAMERON	9ct, Collection of the authors
1920	none	COMUNN NA FEINNE 1920/GEELONG 1920/ CORNET SOLO/WON BY/J. C. MEYERS	Downies Sale 334, 2019, Lot 1863

4.2 The Annual Grand Highland Gatherings, Held January 1st.

The Commun Na Feine Society held an Annual Grand Highland Gatherings on January 1st of every year. During these gatherings, a range of competitions were held and winning competitors received a range of different prizes, including cash prizes, presentation cups and the Society's Medal. It was typical for the Society to advertise the Annual Grand Highland Gatherings in December in the Geelong Advertiser. Figure 3 illustrates an example of such an advertisement. Noteworthy is the use of the seal, which is identical to the design of the medal. In addition, advertising pamphlets were distributed.²¹ It appears that the prize medal was slowly replaced by cash prizes. For example, by 1865 only three classes were awarded medals: quoit tournament; fencing; Member's race.²² In that year a special silver cup donated by Captain Bell was awarded for "throwing a cannon ball".²³

21 A rare example can be found in the State Library of Victoria, 1868, which advertises the 1869 program and timetable. See "Presbyterianism in Victoria" book of press cuttings, 1868, page 535. This lists Sir J.H.T. Manners-Sutton, the Governor-in-Chief of Victoria as the "Chief" of the society. Only cash prizes are listed in this advertisement. Spear throwing and foot races by aboriginals are noted.

22 GA, December 10th, 1864.

23 GA, January 3rd, 1865.



Figure 3: Advertisement for the 5th Annual Highland Gathering of the Comunn Na Feinne, Geelong Advertiser December 20th, 1860.

The competitions varied slightly from year to year, but they were always open to a wide range of contestants, including those visiting from other colonies. In fact, at the second gathering it was noted that:²⁴

“The winner of the footrace is a very smart young American, known to many as the “Yankee Pirate” and the same man that won the foot and hurdle races at Ballarat on Boxing Day.”

4.3 The First Meeting

The first annual gathering of the Society was held on Thursday January 1, 1857. The Geelong Advertiser reported on a key meeting in which the following details were reported on the plans for the first meeting:²⁵

“COMUNN NA FEINNE.- A public meeting of the members of the Comunn na Feinne (or Highland society) was held last evening at Mr Rae’s Argyle Hotel, Aberdeen Street. The following program of sports for New Year’s day was read by the Secretary and approved by the meeting: Throwing the heavy hammer, two prizes; throwing the light stone, two prizes; “putting” the heavy stone, two prizes; “putting” the light stone, two prizes; tossing caber, one prize; running leap, one prize; standing leap, one prize; long leap, one prize; foot race, three prizes; boys’ footrace, two prizes; dancing Gillie Callum, one prize; dancing

²⁴ GA, January 2nd, 1858.

²⁵ GA, December 20th, 1856.

Reel of Tulloch, one prize; dancing Reel Sathspray time, one prize. Also, prizes to be awarded to the two best dressed Highlanders, in national costume; to the two best dressed boys in Highland costume; to the two best Highland bagpipers (provided there be four competitors). Twenty-six prizes in all will be awarded. Competition to be open to the Highlanders in all the Australian colonies. The games to come off on the vacant ground south of Geelong. Many new members were admitted; and subscriptions to the amount of 60 pounds were reported by the treasurer to have been already received.”

A further advertisement for this gathering appeared, which gave the following additional details: the names of the Comunn na Feinne officials presiding over the competition; the date, location and time of the gathering; list of all prizes and prize monies, which ranged from “BOYS’ FOOT RACE 1st prize £1” to “BEST HIGHLAND BAGPIPE PLAYER– 1st prize £3 3s”; the rules of the competition and the entrance fee for competitors “Men, 5s; Boys, 2s 6d”.²⁶

An account of the meeting noted that:

“The number of constant spectators was set down as five or six thousand.”²⁵

This is a substantial number given that the entire population of Geelong at that time was 23,338.²⁷ By all accounts, this first meeting was a great success.

4.4 Other Awards.

4.4.1 Presentation Cups:

As noted in a previous publication, Louis Kitz, a Geelong jeweller made 3 presentation cups for the Commun na Feinne.²⁸ The Geelong Advertiser described these in some detail:

“We have been favoured by Mr. L Kitz, jeweler of Moorabool-street, with an inspection of the designs for the three silver cups to be presented by the Comunn Na Feinne, to the successful competitors at the Grand Rifle Match, open to all volunteers in the colony, which comes off at the Butts, East Geelong, on Saturday, the 29th and Monday, the 31st instant. The most valuable of the prizes estimated to cost 34 pounds, is a very elegant cup and cover, a volunteer rifleman, standing at ease, surmounting the lid: the body of the cup will be highly ornamented with wreaths of thistles and the impression of the Comunn

²⁶ GA, January 1st, 1857.

²⁷ We have used the 1857 census result for Geelong and Suburbs reported in: Watson, A. B (2003) *Lost and Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria. A Comprehensive Analysis of Census Results for Victoria 1841-1901*, A. B Watson and Andrew MacMillan Art and Design, p 177.

²⁸ Houstone, J., O'Hair, R. A. J. and O'Hair, C. S. (2008) “Louis Kitz: A Newly Identified Early Australian Goldsmith and Silversmith”, *Australiana*, 30: 13-19.

Na Feinne medal. The other two cups, valued respectively at 22 pounds 10 shillings and 8 pounds 10 shillings, are to be made after very chaste designs, in the ornamentation of which the thistle and copies of the medal will predominate. No doubt these specimens of colonial work of art will be done full justice to by Mr. Kitz.²⁹

In addition, there are newspaper accounts on the presentation of two cups at a special Dinner Event held on the 30th March 1859 in honour of Mr Shirra and Mr de Bruce Johnstone, who were respectively the secretary and treasurer of the Comunn Na Feinne.³⁰

“The chairman then handed to Messrs Shirra and Johnston the cups which have been purchased for the occasion – two very handsome silver goblets, which were immediately brimmed with champagne and passed around”.

During our research at the Geelong Heritage Centre, we discovered the cup presented to Mr Robert de Bruce Johnstone.³¹ The cup is hallmarked for London, dated 1858, and is made by Daniel Houle and Charles Houle. It is 210 mm high, 110 mm wide at top and has engraved:

Presented to
Mr Robert de Bruce Johnstone
by Members of Commun na Feinne
in appreciation of his Zeal and Efficiency as Honorary Treasurer
Geelong March 30th. 1859

It appears as if a badge had been affixed below the engraving, but this is now missing.

The cup is very ornate and as such is difficult to photograph. Surrounding the inscription are flowers and a dog below. The remaining parts are taken up by a farm scene of two men resting with two horses and two sheep, with trees, a cottage and haystacks in the background. One of the horses is harnessed to a plow, upon which one of the men is sitting whilst having a drink from a cup. The other man is resting on the ground.

4.4.2 Fobs for competitions held in the early 20th Century:

A total of 9 gold fobs from the interwar period are listed in Table 2. 8 were awarded to a schoolgirl Iona Cameron for various forms of dancing.³² An examination of the

29 GA, December 20th, 1860.

30 GA, March 19th and 31st, 1859.

31 Geelong Heritage Centre, GRS 1286/5-17.

32 Iona Cameron also won a range of gold fobs for competitions held by other Scottish Societies in Victoria, including: 2 from Colac (in 1919); 1 from Bunyip (in 1920); 3 from Ballarat (1920) and 5 from the South Street Ballarat (in 1919 and 1920).

newspapers of the era and the Scottish magazine "The Scot at Hame an' Abroad" highlights that the activities of the Commun na Feine spiked just after the 1st world war.³³ The following entries from "The Scot at Hame an' Abroad" are relevant:

February 1, 1919 discusses the Gathering at Geelong and notes that:

"...the sports programme commenced, the attendance being well up to the best of past years."

In the results section:

"in the under 12 years, I. Cameron two 3rds" "Under 14 years – I. Cameron one 1st and 1 2nd." "Under 16 years I. Cameron one 3rd"

February 1, 1920 discusses the Gathering at Geelong, noting that:

"The New Year's gathering of the society was held in the presence of a large number of people."

The results section:

"The open Dancing competitions for lads and lassies under 16 years of age were well contested...I. Cameron one 1st prize"

"In the local competitions for boys and girls under 12 years, I. Cameron one 1st and one 2nd." "For dancers under 16 years, I. Cameron one 2nd"

4.4.3 Other presentation pieces:

It seems that medals were no longer given for retiring office bearers and that other presents were given instead:

"The directors of the Commun-na-Feinne have presented their vice-president (Mr. James Smith), who is leaving Geelong to take charge of the Colonial Bank at Ballarat, with a set of gold sleeve-links."³⁴

5. Interactions between the Comunn Na Feinne Society and the Local Aboriginal Tribe

One of the remarkable aspects is the interaction between the Society and the local aboriginal population, who were included as active participants in the early Annual Gatherings. In the 1858 New Year's Day event, the local aboriginals appear to have been given honorary Scots status, with the men being "dressed out in short drawers and jumpers made of plaid stuff" and the women "were each presented with a flaming

³³ The Scot at Hame an' Abroad first appeared in June 1902 and was published by James T. Picken. See Chisholm, Chapter 6.

³⁴ ARG, March 22nd, 1911.

shawl”.³⁵ In 1859 they were invited again, where the “kilted and turbaned” aboriginals competed in foot races and spear and boomerang throwing competitions.³⁶

Members of the Corio tribe were encouraged to attend and to compete in their own events. In an advertisement for the 1869 gathering, it was noted that at 5:50 pm “Spear Throwing and Footraces by Aborigines – suitable prizes will be awarded”.²¹

In the 1862/3 Annual report, it was noted that:³⁷

“This society having from its origin taken great interest in the welfare of the Aborigines, on every occasion invited their attendance at the annual gathering, and supplied them with suitable clothing; they have competed in the athletic sports and obtained silver and other medals as prizes for proficiency. Your directors regret that only six were at the sports on New Year’s Day, being all that are left of the once numerous Corio Tribe; only three years ago as many as 20 having been present.”

5.1 Brass medallion (with chain) presented to “King Jerry”

Brownhill’s book illustrates “King Jerry” (Figure 4 below) and has the following Figure caption:²

“King Jerry, of the Dan-Dan-Nook (Barrabool) tribe. A frequent visitor to the town. The large inscribed medal which he proudly wore was a gift from the Commun na Feinne society, whose athletic meetings he rarely missed. The photograph was by Wilmot and Key, of the portrait Gallery, Malop-street West. King Jerry died in October, 1870.”

We have recently rediscovered the medal, which is in the possession of the Geelong Heritage Centre.³¹ Figure 5 is a photograph of the actual medal, which is made of brass, has a diameter of 131mm and thickness of 1.5 mm, and has engraved:

KING
DAN – DAN – NOOK
Jerry
Best Runner
Geelong
1860

35 ARG, January 5th, 1858.

36 ARG, January 4th, 1859.

37 GA, February 4th, 1863.

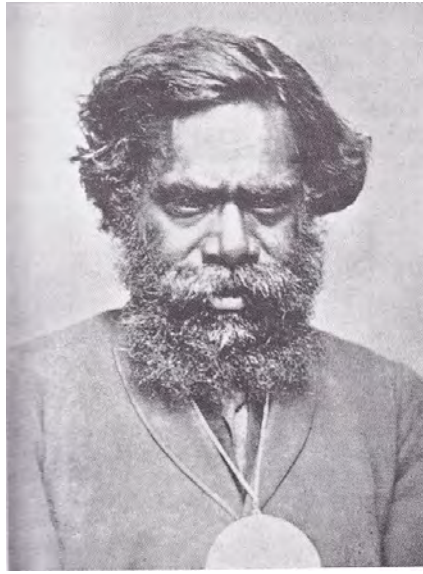


Figure 4: Photograph of King Jerry with Medal.



Figure 5: Actual Medal given to King Jerry, held in the Geelong Heritage Centre.

Brownhill notes that:²

“Jerry and Billy were known by almost every resident of Geelong. They were the final remnants of the once strong Barrabool tribe. They were frequently in town and at every open-air public gathering. For years Jerry was a familiar figure at Commun na Feinne sports. The Society presented him with a large medal, on which his name was engraved. Jerry treasured it and wore it conspicuously on all special occasions. He died in Geelong hospital on 21th October, 1870, aged about 50 years.”³⁸

38 For a further discussion of King Jerry, see: Broome, R. (2005) *Aboriginal Victorians*, Allen & Unwin, pp 102-103.

Contemporary evidence of this medal comes from King Jerry's obituary:³⁹

"King Jerry, the last monarch of his tribe, died in the Geelong Hospital on Friday evening week at eight o'clock, having been admitted on the last occasion on the 3rd August. In the books of the institution it is recorded that he was forty five years old, and of the Baptist religion. Jerry's title, as inscribed on a brass plate or badge which was suspended round his neck by a brass parrot chain, was "Jerry, King of Dan Dan Noc, the fastest runner in Geelong." His sable majesty had long been ailing, and when he died was a mere skeleton."

It appears that he was very proud of his medal and wore it on several important occasions that were reported by the press, including:

1. the opening of the Ballarat-Geelong railway;⁴⁰
2. when he was presented to the Governor during his visit to Geelong;⁴¹
3. the visit of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh to Geelong, where King Jerry presented "a copy of Bunce's Language of the Aborigines, bound in blue morocco, with King Jerry's portrait inside" and received a sovereign from the Duke, which was later stolen;⁴²
4. when he met the visiting aboriginal cricket team prior to their trip to England. Unfortunately the cricket team members "show no fealty, or even recognition of King Jerry, whose spelter chain and brass insignia of majesty they regarded with contempt."⁴³

An obituary of King Jerry not only notes that "never was King Jerry prouder in his life than when presented by the society with a large brass plate, on which was engraved his name and title, and which he wore to the last day of his life" but also explains how the medal ended up in the Geelong Heritage Centre "This medal it is proposed to present to the Corporation of Geelong as a memento of the last native prince of the land on which stands the town they govern."⁴⁴

6. Conclusions

The Commun na Feinne society was an important early Australian Scottish society, devoted to the promotion of Scottish culture via a range of activities, including school examinations, sporting activities, shooting, musical and elocutionary competitions. Apart from cash prizes, the society awarded medals, trophies and gold fobs to competitors. Although the society appears to have made efforts to include the local

39 AGE, October 24th, 1870.

40 ARG, April 11th, 1862.

41 ARG, October 11th, 1866; BS, October 22nd, 1866.

42 ARG, December 2nd, 1867; GA, December 27th, 1867; ARG, March 9th, 1869.

43 GA, January 8th, 1867.

44 GA, October 24th, 1870.

aboriginal population in their events, the recently rediscovered unique award to the Geelong Aboriginal King Jerry is a poignant reminder of the disappearance of many local indigenous tribes.⁴⁵

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank: Les Carlisle for help in collating all known and reported examples listed in Table 1; John Sharples (Museum Victoria) and Mark Hildebrand (State Library of New South Wales) for sharing information on the Communa na Feinne medals. Finally, we wish to thank the librarians from the: Rare Book Collection of the University of Melbourne and State Library of Victoria and the Geelong Heritage Centre.

Author biographies

* *Corresponding author: Professor Richard O'Hair, School of Chemistry, Bio21 Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology, Building 102, 30 Flemington Road, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010.*

Richard A. J. O'Hair is Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne and has published over 300 scientific papers and several book chapters. He has been an avid coin collector since the age of 11 and has published several numismatics papers, winning the Ray Jewell Award for his article on the convict hulk token of George Barrington. Carmel O'Hair is his daughter, a BA student whose interest in Australian History was sparked by a school project on the Ballarat goldfields. This is the third manuscript they have published together.

Abbreviations

AGE = The Age newspaper

ARG = Argus newspaper

Brownhill = Brownhill, W. R. (1990) *The history of Geelong and Corio Bay, with postscript 1955-1990* by I. Wynd, Geelong Advertiser, Geelong.

BS = The Ballarat Star newspaper

Chisholm = Chisholm, A.H. (1950) *Scots wha hae : history of the Royal Caledonian Society of Melbourne*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson.

Downies = Downies Coin Auction Catalogues (year) Catalogue #: Lot #

GA = Geelong Advertiser newspaper

Noble = Noble Coin Auction Catalogues (year) Catalogue #: Lot #

⁴⁵ The fifth report (ARG June 4th, 1866) of the Board responsible for oversight of the interests of the Victorian Aboriginals makes for depressing reading. It lists only 5 remaining members of the Geelong tribe and notes that summonses against publicans had to be brought to prevent the sale of hard liquor to the aborigines.



Sterling and Currency

Dealers in Australian Rare Coins & Notes
Proud to Sponsor the NAA Journal

Our website has a wide range of Australian coins and notes, each with a hi-res image in full colour, coupled with a detailed description regarding the item's history, rarity and value.

Street: Shop 22; 35 William St
 FREMANTLE; WA; 6160
 Postal: PO Box 364; FREMANTLE; WA; 6959
 Phone: 08 6468 2467 Fax: 08 9336 1433
 ABN: 24 120 655 469

<http://www.sterlingcurrency.com.au>

drakesterling
 numismatics

All coins **INDEPENDENTLY-AUTHENTICATED**
 and **INDEPENDENTLY-GRADED**

GOLD SOVEREIGNS | AUSTRALIAN COINS | WORLD GOLD COINS

Free call **1800 832 328**
www.drakesterling.com.au
info@drakesterling.com.au

BUYING OR SELLING?

OUR RESULTS TELL THE STORY.

If you are looking to acquire an Australian rare coin. Or sell an existing collection, our team is ready to guide you through the process with an on-going commitment to achieve your goals. And sellers please note. Our commission rates are competitive.

For more information on Australia's finest rare coins visit www.coinworks.com.au or call (03) 9642 3133.

coinworks EST. 2008
coinworks.com.au



Vintage Coins & Banknotes

VINTAGE COINS & BANKNOTES

Professional, family owned online numismatics business with over 35 years experience

- We provide an honest, friendly and diligent service
- Valuations for private collections and deceased estates
- Specialising in buying and selling Australian and World coins, banknotes and gold
- Full range of accessories
- Secure online store accepting credit cards, PayPal, Afterpay and ZipPay

Free call: 1800 818 621
Email: sales@vintagecoinsandbanknotes.com.au
Website: vintagecoinsandbanknotes.com.au

VISA MasterCard
zipPay afterpay

Numismatic Association of Australia

From New Zealand's Leading Auction House

COIN, BANKNOTE & MEDAL AUCTION

Friday 6th March 2020

12.30pm, West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand

- ★ World, Americas, British & NZ Coins ★ Medals & Banknotes ★
- ★ George I to George VI Gold ★ NZ Colonial Bank £1 1887 ★
- ★ BNZ Notes ★ NZ 50 Pounds Notes ★ NZ Proof 1964 Threepence ★
- ★ NZ Traffic Service Medals ★

Catalogue online February at
www.mowbraycollectables.com

Contact us now to receive a free printed catalogue

MOWBRAY COLLECTABLES

Private Bag 63000, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Phone +64 6 364 8270, Fax +64 6 364 8252
Email auctions@mowbrays.co.nz

Consign with us Now

DOWNIES
AUSTRALIAN COIN AUCTIONS

CONSIGNMENTS WANTED

- ▶ Professional advice on all aspects of your collection, and obligation-free appraisals
- ▶ Worldwide market exposure – every lot published at www.downies.com
- ▶ Industry leading clearance rates – exceptional prices realised
- ▶ Comprehensive pre-sale viewing – superbly produced, fully illustrated catalogue
- ▶ Auction house of choice for the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Royal Australian Mint, and Australia's leading numismatists

2018 AUCTION DATES

SALE 327
MAY 22 - 24

SALE 328
AUGUST 21 - 23

SALE 329
OCT 30 - NOV 1

Contact Us ☎ (03) 8456 8456 🌐 www.downies.com/aca
✉ PO Box 3131, Nunawading VIC 3131

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia Inc (JNAA)

Guidelines for authors

Submitted articles can be on any worthwhile numismatic topic, keeping the following guidelines in mind:

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.

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.

Submissions:

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.

Images and Tables: Submit article images and tables individually to the text document in high resolution JPEGs or TIFFs for images, or a separate MS Word or MS Excel document for tables. DO NOT supply images and tables only within the body of your document.

Special Fonts: If special characters or fonts are used within the text, please supply the relevant file with your submission.

Author Statement: Authors are asked to supply a brief numismatic biographical statement, which is appended to their published article with full name and email address.

Article format details:

<http://www.numismatics.org.au/pdfword/JNAAGuidelines.pdf>

References: The *JNAA* uses **footnote referencing**. Text reference numbers are placed after punctuation marks e.g. end.³ They follow sequentially through the text. If two references are needed at one point, separate them by a semicolon ';' in the footnote.

Images and Tables: All images should be referenced in the text. Text references to images should be numbered as (Fig. 1), (Figs. 1 and 2); (Table 1), (Tables 1 and 2); etc. The location of images and tables within the article needs to be indicated by <Insert Figure 'x'> or similar with figure caption text.

Lists: All lists should be presented as tables. These can be submitted within the body of the document or in a separate file.

Captions: Figure and table captions should explain images fully and read independently of the main text (in case they are moved). **All images must be referenced and have copyright clearance.**

Quoting: use quotation marks for quotes under two lines. Italicise and indent quotes longer than two lines. All quotes need to be referenced in the footnotes.

Proofs: Authors will receive a .pdf proof of their article for comment by email. Author comments can be made by placing comment tabs in the .pdf, or listing corrections/comments by page, column, and line number in a separate document. Comments must be returned by email to the Managing Editor no more than 5 days after receiving the proof.

Enquiries: Please direct all communications to the Managing Editor, Dr Gil Davis:

post: 1/1 Kiara Close, North Sydney, NSW 2060 Australia

email: editor@numismatics.org.au



Be Part Of Our Success

With three major international numismatic auctions each year, you can be sure that your collection is in the hands of the very best. All our consignments are carefully catalogued and showcased in specialised catalogues in print and online.

For your free, confidential valuation call (02) 9223 4578 or visit www.noble.com.au



169 Macquarie St, Sydney
7/350 Collins St, Melbourne



NOBLE
NUMISMATICS PTY LTD