

Volume 32

# Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



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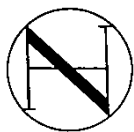
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Front cover: Photo of Mr. Billing's Gold Medal for Law (see article Figure 2 page 88).

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# NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

## President's Report

You are looking at Volume 32 of the *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia* (JNAA). It is a result of authors who have been sufficiently excited about a numismatic topic to carry out original research and put 'pen to paper', reviewers who have been willing to offer constructive criticisms to make the manuscripts the best they can be and the efforts of the editor who shepherds all the articles through the whole process and adds a 'final polish'. I acknowledge everyone involved, with special thanks to Managing Editor Gil Davis and Production Editor Barrie Newman for their continued efforts at maintaining a high-quality journal.

Much has happened since the last president's report published in Volume 31. The opening up of COVID-19 restrictions saw a welcome return to the NAA conference (NAAC2023), which was held in Adelaide at the Naval, Military & Air Force Club on the weekend of 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and hosted by the Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA). The conference was preceded by the 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NSSA on the evening of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. I would like to congratulate the NSSA for reaching this impressive milestone and for their major efforts in hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> NAA conference. The conference was an outstanding success, with attendees from every state of Australia and New Zealand. The conference program consisted of an opening talk by Ms Lainie Anderson (author of the *Long Flight Home*), two plenary lectures, 12 regular talks and a short talk. All talks were of a high standard and highlighted the diverse interests of the Australian and New Zealand numismatic community.

One of the highlights of the conference was the dinner, during which the Ray Jewell Silver Medal was awarded to the JNAA Managing Editor, Associate Professor Gillan Davis. This important award for 'outstanding contribution to Australian numismatics and the Numismatic Association of Australia' recognises Gil for his services to the NAA, and his numismatic research in Australia and overseas for which he is internationally renowned. Given that Gil is only the 8<sup>th</sup> recipient since the award was first presented in 1998, I have asked Walter Bloom to prepare a separate short report based on his presentation speech, which can be found in this volume.

The AGM, held at the conference, saw a 'changing of the guard', with Walter Bloom and Lyn Bloom handing over the reins as president and treasurer respectively. I personally want to thank Walter and Lyn for their tireless efforts in maintaining the local and international profile of the NAA over many years, including during the difficult COVID-19 period.

The following Office Bearers were elected at the 2023 AGM:

Treasurer – Rachel Mansfield

Secretary – Bridget McClean

President – Richard O'Hair

Vice President – Walter Bloom

Managing Editor – Gil Davis

I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of the NAA: Noble Numismatics (Gold), Coinworks, Downies (Silver), Drake Sterling, Mowbray Collectables and Sterling & Currency.

Finally, a valuable part of NAAC2023 was a round table discussion on the future of the Numismatic Association of Australia. Prior to the conference, clubs and societies were asked to send their feedback on the following:

- Any views of the Society/Club about the NAA, especially its activities and how these serve Australian numismatics.
- What would the Society/Club like to see from the NAA in the future?

The feedback received and the discussions had at the conference were valuable and the Council will work through the issues raised. The most important issue which was identified is one with which many societies are grappling: how to maintain an active membership that is willing and able to volunteer to help out with the various activities required to maintain the society. So, I would encourage all of you to think about how you might contribute to your local club or society and the NAA. We welcome your submissions to the JNAA and hope to see you at the NAAC2025 (details to appear in 2024)!

Professor Richard A. J. O'Hair

President, NAA

27 November 2023

# Report on the Silver Ray Jewell Award to Associate Professor Gillan Davis

We acknowledge the important work that Associate Professor Gillan Davis, as Managing Editor of the *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia (JNAA)*, has undertaken for the NAA over the past 11 years. Gil has been Managing Editor of each of the Journals consecutively since 2011 – Volume 22 through to Volume 31 in 2023, and has almost completed finalising the articles for JNAA32, 2023. His contribution for all these Journals has been outstanding.

The Journal is now recognised internationally, and Gil has been instrumental in sourcing contributors and assessing their input. His attention to detail and editorial work is unsurpassed and we believe Gil should be recognised by the NAA for his support and services to the Association by being awarded the silver Ray Jewell Award.

Gil has included an Editor's Letter or Note in all the NAA Journals issued since the 2012 edition (No 23) in which he has highlighted the Journal as the showcase of the NAA, the peak body for numismatics in Australia.

He strongly promotes the NAA through each Journal and through his involvement with Macquarie University and its Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS) and students.

Gil has sourced many of the unique articles from highly qualified Australian and international numismatic authors and supported Australian PhD students in their numismatic research in digs in Israel and the Middle East. He has ensured that there is a good mix of modern and ancients coverage throughout each Journal.

Gil was instrumental in introducing the Journal electronically in 2015 and it is now readily available to members and the public alike on our website. Through his efforts the Journal has now become a major teaching aid in subjects such as history and humanities, as he has highlighted in Journal No 30, 'teaching with numismatics – coins are useful teaching tools'.

Gil has truly supported the NAA in all his endeavours and is most deserving of the Ray Jewell silver award.

Gillan (Gil) Davis has given me (in my previous role as President) excellent advice on many issues arising in the NAA outside of his editorial expertise. I always value his input, and indeed continue to do so.



After Gil moved to the Australian Catholic University, where he is the Director of the Ancient Israel Program at the Australian Catholic University which offers a full major and minor in Archaeology to students in Arts, Education, Theology and the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation together with an annual dig in Israel and school outreach, he faced establishing a new degree programme, supervising students and liaising with ACANS, continuing with his Middle Eastern digs, and being an important member of the European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant titled 'Silver Isotopes and the Rise of Money', based in Lyon, which is geolocating and isotopically identifying ancient silver ore sources and matching them with coins and silver artefacts.

Gil is a personal friend and we are in frequent contact, but still I continue to be impressed about how he has managed to fit in all of these activities after a change mid-life from Real Estate to academia.



**Figure 1:** Presentation of the silver Ray Jewell Award by Professor Walter Bloom to Associate Professor Gillan Davis at the dinner of the NAA Conference 2023 in Adelaide, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Professor Walter Bloom  
12 December 2023



# Editor's note

This is an eclectic volume covering a wide range of interesting topics. The concentration is on modern material while the 'ancients' deal with Roman coins and medals. Many of the papers were also given as presentations at the highly successful Numismatic Association of Australia conference held in Adelaide earlier in the year. As always, it is a pleasure to see domestic scholarship supplemented by overseas contributors from the United States, the UK, Italy and New Zealand.

Paul Holland gives us interesting information about that perennial Australian favourite – the 1930 penny, providing details of the mint records and earliest numismatic literature. Mint records are used in another way by Eric Frazer in his analysis of the patterns of coin circulation in Australia over the last two decades. He quantifies the decline in the number of coins in circulation per person speculating on the probable phasing out of 5 and 10 cents coins. Eric provides a second and complementary article analysing the circulation of foreign coins among Australian decimal coinage and their sources of origin; the list may surprise you.

A topic that intrigues ancient through to early modern numismatists is estimating the production rate of mints. This is essential for quantification studies and it is fair to state that opinions are greatly divided. So, it is with interest that we present a detailed study by Pierluigi Debernardi on the production of denarii of Crepusius, an otherwise unknown moneyer in the Roman Republic dated to 82 BCE. The software that he has developed provides a mintage model which successfully matches the coin evidence.

While in the Roman period, we have an article by Bruce Marshall on the so-called 'Restoration' coins of the CE first century emperors Vespasian and Titus which, he argues, by reviving Augustan types, served as propaganda to justify their seizure of power. Andrew Chugg takes us into the second century with a short note updating his earlier article (*JNAA* 31) on the authenticity of some of the specimens of the medallion struck by the emperor Hadrian to commemorate his lover and favourite, the youth Antinous, who drowned in the Nile in CE 130.

Vaughn Humberstone usefully provides a comprehensive and fully referenced listing of the 45 New Zealand trade tokens issued between 1857 and 1875 together with background on the circumstances which led to them being struck despite never being legal tender and interesting details on the merchants and the dies they employed. Across the ditch and almost exactly contemporaneously, NAA President Richard O'Hair has contributed a study of the gold medal for law awarded by Mr Billing at the University of Melbourne. The research was prompted by the discovery of one of the 15 medals awarded between 1858 and 1874.

Finally we have a pair of articles dealing with remembrance by two stalwarts of the NAA. Barrie Newman, our Production Editor, shares a lovely story of his proposal to sell commemorative ingots to the United Arab Emirates for his company, The Adelaide Mint. Sadly, it did not end well. Channelling Marcel Proust à la recherche du temps perdu, Walter Bloom, President of the NAA for many years, narrates the story of his numismatic life. It is like walking through a wonderful antiquarian bookshop with a friend. Along the way, he tells the story of numismatics and coin dealers and medallists in this country, as well as his personal, often quirky, research and collecting interests.

As always, I sincerely thank the many anonymous reviewers who have reviewed the papers with special thanks to Barrie Newman for his careful attention to the role of Production Editor and John Melville-Jones for proofreading many of the articles.

On a personal note, I thank the selection committee of the NAA for awarding me the Ray Jewell silver medal which I shall always treasure.

Associate Professor Gil Davis  
Managing Editor

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# Earliest Documentation and Catalogue Listings for the 1930 Australian Penny

Paul M. Holland

## Abstract

*Besides the study of coins themselves, numismatics depends on key source materials, especially mint records and early numismatic literature. The goal of this article is to document the earliest surviving mint records and the first catalogue listings for the 1930 Australian penny, information that might otherwise not be widely available to numismatists and researchers. This includes pages from the Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account book from 1930-31, the earliest published catalogue listing of the 1930 penny in 1945, and early Australian coin catalogues from 1961-62 that provide the first price listings, mintage figures, and illustrations for these coins.*

## Keywords

[1930 Australian penny] [mint records] [numismatic literature]

The most famous Australian coin is undoubtedly the 1930 penny. While the existence of a few specimen coins of record for museum collections had long been known, that any 1930 dated pennies were struck using an ordinary coining press and released to the public came as a great surprise to the numismatic community when the first examples were discovered in circulation in the early 1940s. In response to enquiries, mint officials at first denied that any 1930 pennies were struck for circulation. But as more examples turned up, eventually the mint acknowledged that an unknown number of these iconic coins were struck and released into circulation, although exactly how many has remained a mystery.

The first serious research into this problem was conducted by John Sharples and published in volume 3 of this *Journal*. In his article, Sharples discusses a *Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account* book that records eleven 1930 dated penny dies and goes on to say that ‘The press note books for 1930 have not been found, and may not survive’.<sup>1</sup> Fortunately during the late Jon Saxton’s visit to the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra many years ago, he scanned some pages from this same *Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account* book and kindly shared them with me. These have not been previously published. A cropped image from the page with 1930 dated penny dies is shown in Figure 1, with white arrows highlighting the entries when the eleven 1930 dated reverse dies were produced. The longer arrow indicates the entry for the three reverse dies

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<sup>1</sup> Sharples, 1987.

known to have been used for striking 1930 pennies based on analysis by William J. Mullett, who later located the relevant press note books from 1930-31.<sup>2</sup> In view of its potential interest to Australian numismatists, the entire page from the *Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account* book along with its facing page for obverse penny dies is provided in the Appendix along with further comments and discussion. Note that together these pages cover the period from January 1, 1930 through to December 31, 1931.

RECEIPTS.						DISPOSAL.			
Date 1930	Particulars.	Good.	Worn.	Obsolete	Total.	Date.	Particulars.	Number.	Remarks.
1 Jan	Balance	12			12		Destroyed	9	
May 13		1			1		super 1 obs	8	
June 25		2			2				
25		5			5		Balance	11	1-1921 2-1922 5-1930
					20			20	
	Balance	11			11		No 94 returned from C. Press 1074	8	
13 Aug		3			3		sec Destroyed 1-1921 2-1922 5-1930	8	
					14		Balance	6	
								14	

Figure 1. Portion of page from *Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account* book showing entries for the production of 1930 penny dies at the Melbourne mint (courtesy of the late Jon Saxton).

Although details of mint records and how 1930 Australian pennies came to be struck at the Melbourne mint is not the primary focus of the present article, I note that a total of eleven 1930 dated reverse penny dies were made, one on May 13, seven on June 25 and three on August 13, in agreement with the Royal Mint report for 1930.<sup>3</sup> For more details I will refer the interested reader to detailed discussions of the 1930 penny in John Sharples' article,<sup>4</sup> Walter Bloom's careful study of specimen strikes of 1930 pennies,<sup>5</sup> and extensive discussion and analysis of Melbourne mint records by William J. Mullett,

2 Mullett, 1991.

3 Royal Mint 1930.

4 Sharples, 1987.

5 Bloom, 2010.

former Senior Technical Officer of the Melbourne Branch of the Royal Mint, in his 1991 book.<sup>6</sup>

Of special interest, Mullett provides details from ‘press note books’ held by the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra, not seen by the author or, apparently, by Saxton or Sharples. This includes the Melbourne branch mint experiments with dies, hubs, punches and types of steel during the period 1929-1930. Regarding the 1930 penny, Mullett focuses on three 1930 dated penny reverse dies S74/S76 sunk on 30 July 1930 using Skellington steel, that were delivered on 13 August 1930. That same day S74 was paired with an ‘Indian’ obverse die for producing specimen pennies, with twelve specimen pieces being selected from a coining press run and supplied to the Deputy Master, of which six are known today. Mullett suggests that these six specimens were further selected by the Deputy Master from the twelve coins supplied.<sup>7</sup>

In any case, no precise numbers on how many 1930 dated pennies were struck exists, since there were no counters on the coining press and in usual operation, the supervisor would simply estimate production amounts (in thousands) based on the number of canvas bags of 2,400 penny coinage blanks consumed. The output of coining press runs using 1930 dated penny dies was recorded as ‘nil thousands’ in all cases. Interestingly, in August 1931 there were also experiments involving the three 1930 dated reverse dies S74/S76 paired with both ‘Indian’ and ‘English’ obverse penny dies. Details of different master die types of George V pennies and their evolution is given elsewhere.<sup>8</sup> Although it is not exactly clear which pairings of dies were employed, this provides an explanation of how a few extremely rare ‘English’ die 1930 pennies may have been struck. According to Mullett, any 1930 pennies struck in such small quantities when preparing specimen pieces or during these later die experiments would have been placed in small calico bags, then simply added to partial bags of penny blanks for accounting purposes. This explains why there are no official production figures given for 1930 pennies in either mint records or the annual report.<sup>9</sup>

The initial discovery of a 1930 Australian penny in circulation is credited to Fritz Schafer, Curator of the Victorian State numismatic collection and member of the Victorian Numismatic Society. This is believed to have occurred in the early 1940s as recalled by Syd Hagley and Gilbert Heyde.<sup>10</sup> While there is some confusion about the date, it cannot have been earlier than the end of March 1941, based on Syd Hagley’s acquisition of a specimen of the 1930 penny from duplicates of the Art Gallery of South Australia,<sup>11</sup>

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6 Mullett, 1991.

7 Mullett, 1991.

8 Holland, 2017.

9 Mullett, 1991.

10 Hagley, 1950; Heyde, 2005.

11 Bloom, 2010; Lane, 2017.



which occurred before he knew that any circulation strikes existed. In Gilbert Heyde's memoir he states that 'about 1942 Sydney Hagley told me there was an Australian 1930 penny, and he had been shown one', although the 'Mint said that none had been made or issued that year'.<sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> Owen Fleming recalls how he obtained his first 1930 penny on March 14, 1945.<sup>14</sup> The discovery of the first 1930 Australian pennies discovered in circulation and early advertised attempts to buy them from the public is also the subject of a recent well-documented article by Andrew Crellin in the *Australian Coin Review*.<sup>15</sup>

Not long afterwards during 1943 or 1944 according to Tom Hanley, Dave Raymond, the only coin dealer in Sydney, convinced Gilbert C. Heyde to write a book,<sup>16</sup> and this 1945 book titled *Coins* became the first to catalogue the existence of 1930 Australian pennies.<sup>17</sup> Heyde himself was an accomplished numismatist and President of the Numismatic Society of New South Wales (later incorporated into the Australian Numismatic Society). I am fortunate in having several copies of Heyde's 52-page book, allowing a detailed comparison between them.

The earliest printing in my collection is an unpriced presentation copy signed by Gilbert Heyde at the Preface beside the words 'Sydney, 1944' with the No. 3 printed on the back cover, as shown in Figure 2. This date establishes that the catalogue was completed during 1944. Furthermore, an owner's marking on the title page of this presentation copy indicates it was received on April 8, 1945. The printed No. 3 on the back cover shows this to be the third signed presentation copy, and above it is printed a list of sales agents in Australia. Not surprisingly this includes D. Raymond at 128 Bathurst Street in Sydney. Also listed are R. C. Walker in Melbourne, R. W. Harrison in Brisbane and H. G. Williams in Otago, New Zealand.

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<sup>12</sup> Bloom, 2010.

<sup>13</sup> Heyde, 2005.

<sup>14</sup> Fleming, 1985.

<sup>15</sup> Crellin, 2023.

<sup>16</sup> Hanley, 1994.

<sup>17</sup> Heyde, 1945.

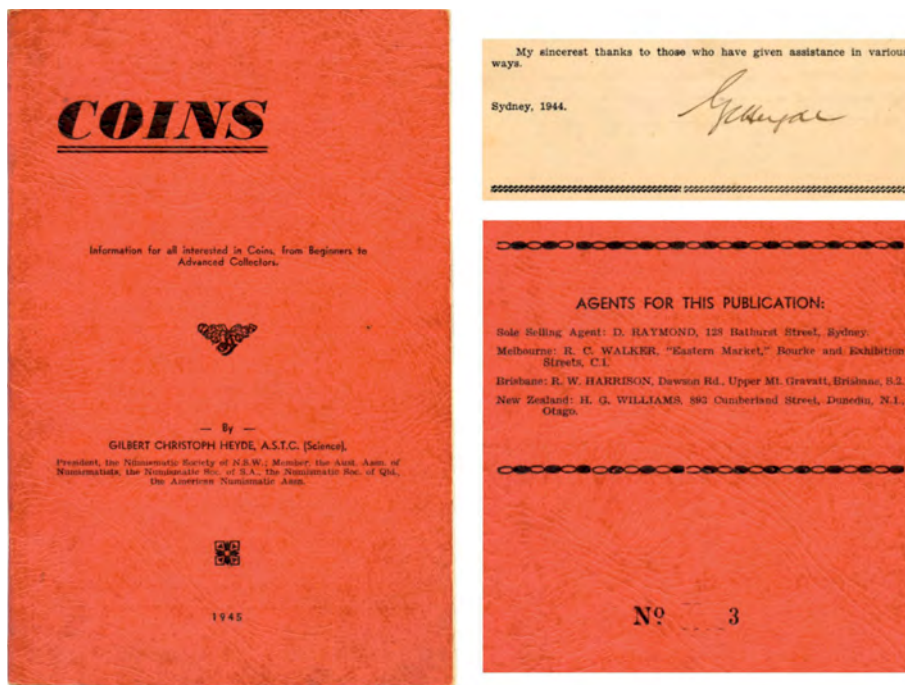


Figure 2. Signed presentation copy No. 3 of Gilbert Heyde's book *Coins*.

Of special interest is Page 39, with its detailed listing of pennies into the year 1944 shown in Figure 3. Scarce pennies are marked '(s)' and the 1930 penny is rated '(vr)' or very rare, with an enlarged closeup of Heyde's 1930 penny listing shown below. Note that besides mintmarks, Heyde lists 1919-20 and 1940-44 pennies with various dot varieties.

PENNIES.					
Catalogue Number	Year	Notes	Catalogue Number	Year	Notes
B 1	1911	no mm	B23	1929	no mm
B 2	1912	mm H	B24	1930	no mm (vr)
B 3	1913	no mm	B25	1931	no mm
B 4	1914	no mm (s)	B26	1932	no mm
B 5	1915	no mm	B27	1933	no mm
B 6	1915	mm H	B28	1934	no mm
B 7	1916	mm I	B29	1935	no mm
B 8	1917	mm I	B30	1936	no mm
B 9	1918	mm I	B31	1938	no mm
B10	1919	no mm	B32	1939	no mm
B11	1919	small dot + 1	B33	1940	no mm
B12	1920	no mm	B34	1940	small dot + 4
B13	1920	small dot + 1	B35	1941	no mm
B14	1920	small dot + 2	B36	1941	small dot + 4
B15	1921	no mm	B37	1941	small dot + 3
B16	1922	no mm	B38	1942	mm I
B17	1923	no mm	B39	1942	small dot + 3
B18	1924	no mm	B40	1943	no mm
B19	1925	no mm (s)	B41	1943	mm I
B20	1926	no mm	B42	1943	small dot + 3
B21	1927	no mm	B43	1944	no mm
B22	1928	no mm	B44	1944	small dot + 3

Small dot + 1 is below the scroll below "penny."  
 Small dot + 2 is above the scroll below "penny."  
 Small dot + 3 is a very small dot after "penny," and not to be confused with the large one found with the mm I.  
 Small dot + 4 is between K and G.  
 (s) denotes that the pieces are scarce, and (vr) very rare.

PENNIES.			
Catalogue			
Number	Year	Notes	
B23	1929	no mm	
B24	1930	no mm (vr)	
B25	1931	no mm	

Figure 3. First catalogue listing of the 1930 penny (Gilbert Heyde's 1945 catalogue).

Besides presentation copies, Heyde's catalogue was also sold to collectors with a printed inscription on the front cover showing 'Price in Australia, 5/9' as shown in Figure 4.

These are otherwise identical to the presentation copies. Interestingly, Owen Fleming had been given presentation copy No. 6 and in a letter to him, Gilbert Heyde says ‘as I am not supposed to be handing any copies out it might be very diplomatic if you said nothing about it to bloody David and purchased another copy from him.’<sup>18</sup> Versions for sale to collectors must have been made almost simultaneously, since one of my ordinary copies is inscribed with the date April 28, 1945.

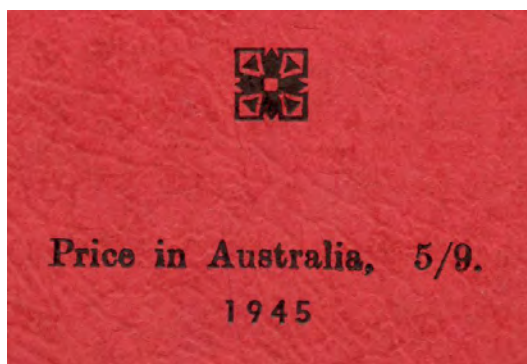


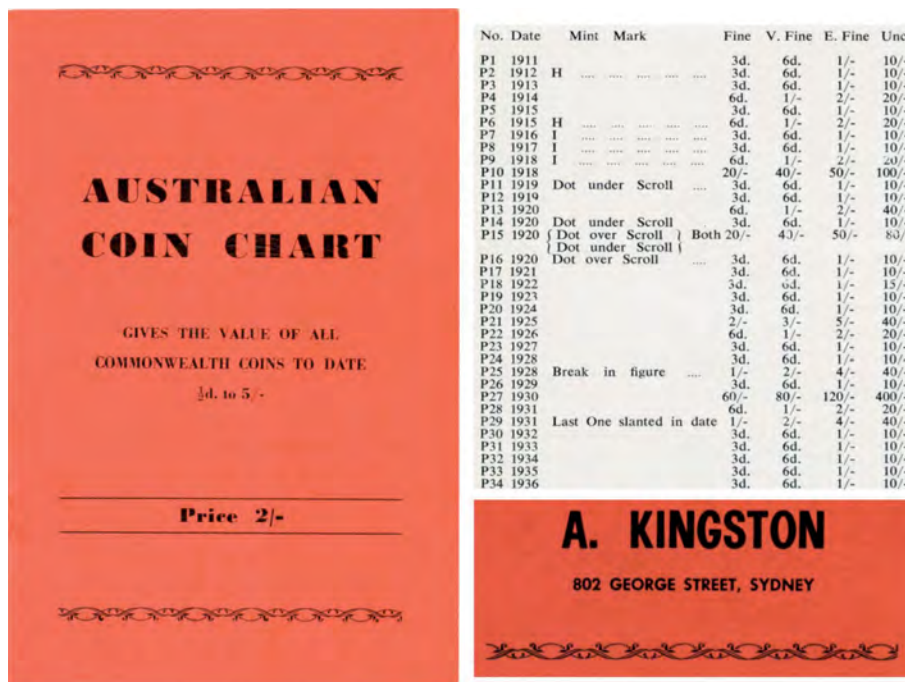
Figure 4. Printed price for sale to collectors on the front cover of Heyde’s book.

The earliest priced catalogue that includes a listing for the 1930 penny is the first edition of the *Australian Coin Chart* published by Richard Arthur Kingston in Sydney.<sup>19</sup> My example of this eight-page undated pamphlet that originally sold for 2/- is shown in Figure 5 together with 1911-36 penny pricing. Kingston was a colourful character and coin dealer who had opened a small kiosk at 802 George Street near the Central Railway Station in Sydney, and sensing collector need for a priced guide to Australian predecimal coins, published his *Australian Coin Chart*. He was well known to the young Jim Noble and Colin Pitchfork.<sup>20</sup> A closeup showing Kingston’s price listing for the 1930 penny in fine, very fine, extremely fine, and uncirculated condition is in Figure 6. Prices range from 60/- to 400/- or £3 to £20. Dating Kingston’s first edition is problematic since there is no printed date in the catalogue and no bibliographic information seems to be available. For example, even the Australian National Library in Canberra and the Mitchell Library in Sydney lack copies of Kingston’s 1<sup>st</sup> edition, although they do have some later editions. Likewise, it is not listed in the collections of any major numismatic libraries internationally, such as those at the American Numismatic Society or the American Numismatic Association. Fortunately, internal analysis of the contents of the first edition can provide important clues. While no pricing information is shown for recent common coins, dates continue to be listed with 1961 shillings and florins shown, establishing a publication date sometime during 1961.

18 Heyde letter to Owen Fleming, undated, likely April 1945.

19 Kingston 1961a.

20 Colin Pitchfork, personal communication.

Figure 5. First edition of Kingston's *Australian Coin Chart* (early 1961).

P25	1928	Break in figure	....	1/-	2/-	4/-	40/-
P26	1929			3d.	6d.	1/-	10/-
P27	1930			60/-	80/-	120/-	400/-
P28	1931			6d.	1/-	2/-	20/-
P29	1931	Last One slanted in date		1/-	2/-	4/-	40/-

Figure 6. Closeup of the priced 1930 penny listing in 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Kingston's *Australian Coin Chart*.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Kingston's *Australian Coin Chart* was expanded to twelve pages and is dated October 1961, as shown on the front cover in Figure 7.<sup>21</sup> By then prices for the 1930 penny had roughly doubled, ranging from 120/- to 1000/- or £6 to £50. Comparing internal evidence between the two editions, while the 1<sup>st</sup> edition shows 1960 as the most recent listed date for halfpennies, threepence and sixpence coins and 1959 for pennies, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition shows 1961 for all coins but the sixpence. This suggests that Kingston's first edition must have been published early in 1961, before many 1961 dated coins had reached circulation in Sydney. Also, according to Tom Hanley, he and Ken J. Irons carefully went through Kingston's 1<sup>st</sup> edition and noted errors, which were then corrected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.<sup>22</sup> As an aside, Irons also co-authored an unpriced catalogue with some illustrations in 1961, noting that "according to the Royal Mint Report no pennies were struck in 1930" but that 'some bearing this date have been found'.<sup>23</sup> Additions to

<sup>21</sup> Kingston 1961b.

<sup>22</sup> Hanley 1994.

<sup>23</sup> Deacon and Irons 1961.



Kingston's 2<sup>nd</sup> edition penny listing included the 1919 double dot coin at an astounding £20. In the 1990s I got to know Tom Hanley and we shared a common interest in numismatic literature. As I recall, he provided me with copies of the first two editions of Kingston's *Australian Coin Chart* (shown here) and I, in turn, was able to supply him with editions of the Robert L. Clarke catalogues (published in the United States) that were missing from his collection.

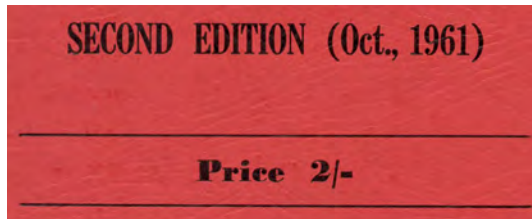


Figure 7. Closeup from cover of 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Kingston's *Australian Coin Chart* (author's collection).

Interestingly, the first illustrated catalogue, which also provided both mintage figures and prices for the 1930 penny was published in the United States in 1962 by Robert L. Clarke of Pasadena, California.<sup>24</sup> Shown in Figure 8, this has a 1930 Australian penny and 1935 proof Waitangi crown on the cover and is titled *Modern Australian & New Zealand Coins*. In this 48-page illustrated catalogue, Clarke makes prominent reference to the 2nd edition of Kingston's *Australian Coin Chart* on the first page. An example illustrated page that includes Clarke's priced listing of the 1930 Australian penny is shown in Figure 9.

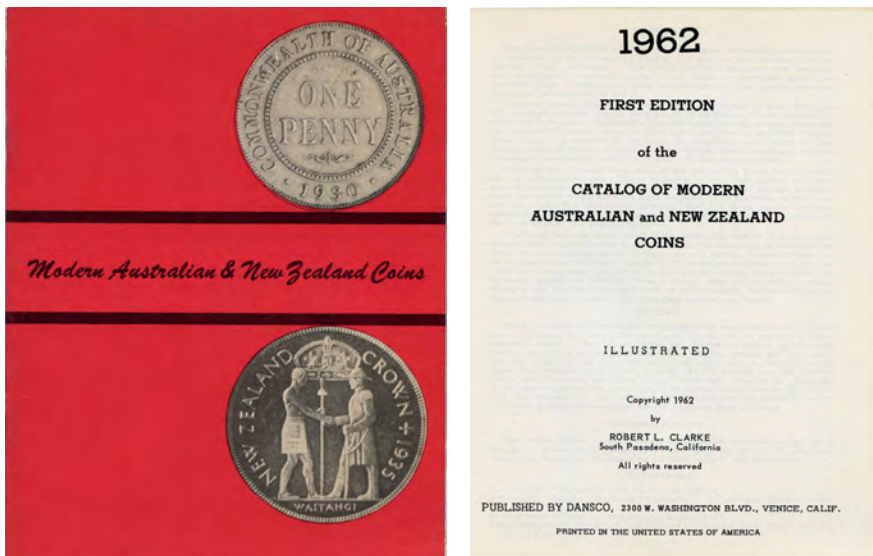



Figure 8. 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Robert L. Clarke's 1962 catalogue (author's collection).


<sup>24</sup> Clarke, 1962.

Date	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Good	VG	Fine	VF	EF
1923	M		5,280,000	.30	.35	.40	.60	1.00
1924	M		1,334,000)*	.35	.40	.50	.75	1.25
	Sy		2,016,000)	.35	.40	.50	.75	1.25
	M	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Incl. above</i>	.50	.75	1.00	1.25	1.50
		<i>or</i>	<i>Center of 4 is</i>					
		<i>4</i>	<i>filled</i>					
	Sy?							
1925	M		1,632,000	.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	3.00
1926	M		984,000)*	.30	.40	.50	.75	1.00
	Sy		823,200)					
1927	M		4,920,000	.30	.35	.40	.50	.75
1928	M		3,024,000	.30	.35	.40	.50	.75
	M	<i>Broken</i>	<i>Incl. above</i>	.50	.75	1.00	1.25	1.50
		<i>8</i>	<i>Bottom curve of</i>					
			<i>8 is missing</i>					
1929	M		2,592,000	.30	.35	.40	.50	.75
1930	M		Est. 600	17.50	25.00	50.00	75.00	100.00
1931	M		504,000	.50	.75	1.00	1.25	2.00
	M	<i>Last 1</i>	<i>Incl. above</i>	1.00	1.25	1.50	2.00	3.00
		<i>misa-</i>						
		<i>igned</i>						
1932	M		2,112,800	.25	.30	.40	.50	.60
1933	M		5,817,600	.20	.25	.30	.40	.50
1934	M		5,808,000	.20	.25	.30	.40	.50
1935	M		3,720,000	.20	.25	.30	.40	.50
1936	M		9,888,000	.20	.25	.30	.40	.50


  




NORMAL DATE




WIDE DATE




FILLED 4



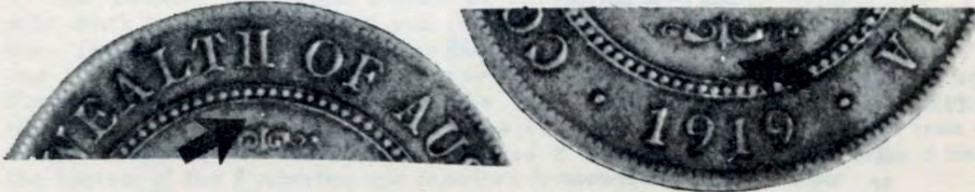
NORMAL DATE



MISALIGNED 1



BROKEN 8



DOUBLE DOT

- 10 -

Figure 9. Page 10 from Clarke's 1962 catalogue with 1930 penny listing and illustrations.



Note that Clarke's US dollar price listing for 1930 pennies in good to extremely fine condition ranges from \$17.50 to \$100 with an estimated mintage figure of 600. Clarke was also clearly interested in die varieties of Australian pennies and his catalogue lists both 1919 and 1920 'double dot' pennies, unpriced as 'extremely rare' and 'very rare', respectively, with enlarged photographs of the 1919 coin shown. In fact, my first 1919 double dot penny came several years after his death from Clarke's own collection in a 2x2 with his hand-written attribution.

It should be pointed out that there is much evidence of international cooperation, with the first edition of Clarke's book offered for sale by Kingston in his March 1963 3<sup>rd</sup> edition for 10/-, where he says: 'Beautiful illustrations and a mighty neat printing job', going on to say that he had ordered a supply that 'should be here about the middle of December 1962'.<sup>25</sup> In turn, Clarke's 1964 second edition references Kingston's 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, as well as acknowledging help from Australian numismatists R. M. Greig and Ray Jewell.<sup>26</sup>

By 1964 with the announcement of decimalization, collector interest in predecimal Australian coins exploded and a flood of new publications ensued. Of these, I will highlight the two examples shown in Figure 10. First is the appearance of the *Australian Coin Review* edited by John Dean in July 1964, the initial article of which: 'Beware the 1930 Penny Forgery!' provided illustrated descriptions of 'English' and 'Indian' obverse dies and much detail about identifying the correct 1930 penny reverse die.<sup>27</sup> An enlarged image of John Dean's own 1930 penny graced the front cover of the *Australian Coin Review* in this issue and for many years to come, providing an instant visual reference for coin collectors. Furthermore, John Dean's publication in 1964 of his book *The 1965 Australian Coin Varieties Catalogue* led to a substantial boom in collector interest in pursuing die varieties.<sup>28</sup> In fact, it was my encounter with John Dean's book in the library of American Numismatic Association that triggered my own interest in predecimal Australian bronze coinage, and I feel very fortunate to have met and talked with him about this in July 2000 at a Noble Numismatics auction in Melbourne.

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25 Kingston, 1963a.

26 Clarke, 1964.

27 Dean, 1964a.

28 Dean, 1964b.



Figure 10. Early publications in Australian numismatics (author's collection).

As for Kingston, he died in early 1964 not long after the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of his *Australian Coin Chart* came out in October 1963.<sup>29</sup> This is my favourite edition, as Kingston employs the otherwise blank first page in this to reflect on the meaning of life in a short epitaph titled: 'Call no man lucky', as shown in Figure 11. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of January 1964 was his last, although Kingston had arranged for Ronald F. Webb, a fellow member of the Australian Numismatic Society, to continue publication until the 12<sup>th</sup> and final edition of the *Australian Coin Chart* came out in 1969.<sup>30</sup> By this time, the price of 1930 Australian pennies had increased to \$400 to \$1500 (AUD) in fine to uncirculated condition. Robert L. Clarke's catalogues continued until his 164-page fifth edition, expanded to include Australian tokens and decimal coins, was published in 1971. It should also be mentioned that in 1964 the illustrated 28-page first edition of the *Rennicks Australian Commonwealth Coinage Guide* appeared, valuing a 1930 penny at £80 to £125 from good to extremely fine condition.<sup>31</sup> Note that Rennicks is the author's name Skinner spelt backwards. Greatly expanded in its many subsequent editions, this catalogue has become a standard resource for Australian coin collectors and is still published today. While a few other priced catalogues began appearing in 1964, they do not have illustrations. Among these are the *Australia Coin List* from April 1964, by E. D. Duma,<sup>32</sup> three editions of *Foster's Catalogue of Australian Coin Varieties* beginning in 1964,<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Kingston, 1963b.

<sup>30</sup> Hanley, 1994.

<sup>31</sup> Skinner, 1994.

<sup>32</sup> Duma, 1964.

<sup>33</sup> Foster, 1964.

and at least eight editions of *The Standard Australian Coin Catalogue* by John Gartner beginning in 1965.<sup>34</sup>

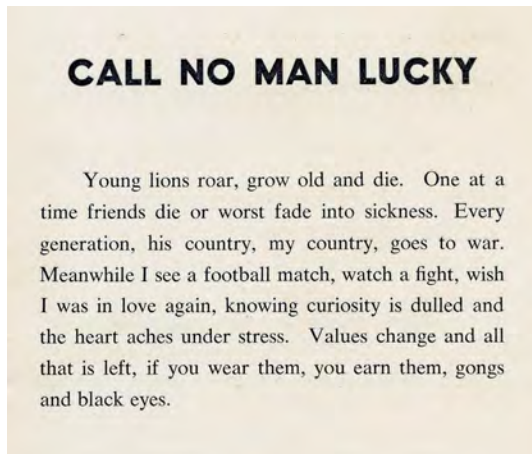


Figure 11. Kingston's philosophical commentary in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of his *Australian Coin Chart*.

A comprehensive approach in collecting numismatic literature can be very rewarding, although it sometimes seems like a neglected pursuit. Often relatively inexpensive, some of these items seem to be genuinely rare and are unavailable in the collections of major libraries, making it important to document their existence and key information they may contain for numismatists and researchers in the future. The danger for Australian numismatics is that if not carefully preserved, much early numismatic literature may be lost.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the late Jon Saxton for providing images from the *Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account* book and Professor Walter Bloom for providing a digital copy of Gilbert Heyde's lengthy memoir, *Letter to Oscar* and to all members of our extended family, published in 2005 by Victor von der Heyde. The author would also like to acknowledge the reviewers for very helpful comments and suggestions.

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<sup>34</sup> Gartner, 1965.

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## Appendix

Pages from the *Melbourne Mint Workshop Die Account* book for penny dies covering the period from January 1, 1930 through to December 31, 1931 (courtesy Jon Saxton). This is a bound ledger, with facing pages for obverse dies at the left, reverse dies on the right. It is hand-numbered 49 at the upper right of the page for reverse dies.

The obverse penny page shows that fourteen dies were carried over from 1929, one made on May 13, one on June 1, twelve on June 25 and two on August 29. The page for reverse penny dies shows that a total of eleven 1930 dated penny reverse dies were made, one on May 13, seven on June 25 and three on August 13, in agreement with the Royal Mint report for 1930.<sup>35</sup> Of these, five 1930 dated penny reverse dies were destroyed in December leaving a balance of six 1930 dated reverse dies. There are also several pencilled notes 'Destroy 1930' and two separate pencilled notes '2 unsuitable' likely referring to 1931 dated dies, according to Mullett.<sup>36</sup> Information from 'press note books' discussed by Mullett also shows that reverse die No. 94 in the pencilled notation highlighted by Sharples was part of a batch of six reverse dies produced on 30 July 1929 that were clearly dated 1929, not 1930.<sup>37</sup> It should be noted for the reader that coins bearing the previous year's date were often struck, potentially complicating the determination of mintage figures by the date(s) shown on the coin. Finally, ten reverse dies are reported as being destroyed on December 21, 1931. Presumably this included the six remaining 1930 dated reverse dies and four unsuitable 1931 dated reverse dies.

Although regrettably they cannot be shown here, the 'press note books' referenced by Mullett record an identification number and estimated production of each die.<sup>38</sup> These records appear to be very similar to copies of Perth Mint records held by the author that provide dated information by die identification number concerning the usage of each

35 Royal Mint 1930.

36 Mullett, 1991.

37 Sharples, 1987.

38 Mullett, 1991.



die, including the coining press used, how many coins were struck and why each die was removed (eg. worn, cracked, etc.).<sup>39</sup> While such information was originally recorded to allow the mint to closely monitor the production process and the performance of dies, it provides the later day numismatist with a wealth of detailed information. The author first obtained a signed copy of Bill Mullett's book in 1993 and began corresponding with him about die types used for the coinage of Australian bronze in August 1993. This continued through 1994 and we even discussed collaborating on numismatic research on later Australian pre-decimal bronze coins with the author providing detailed analysis of master die types and Mullett analysing the corresponding Melbourne mint records, but Bill began experiencing health problems and unfortunately died in April 1996. The current location of the 'press note books' analysed by Mullett is unknown to the author, but enquires to the Royal Australian Mint have been made.

*T. X. Commonwealth*

OBVERSE.							
RECEIPTS.				DISPOSAL.			
Date.	Particulars.	Good.	Worn.	Total.	Date.	Particulars.	Remarks.
1 June	Balance	14		14	June	Destroyed (broken 2)	13
May 13		1		1		(that 1)	
June 3		1		1		(Gully 10)	
25		12		12		Balance	15
				28			28
1 July	Balance	15		15			
24 Aug		2		2		Balance	17
				17			17
1 Jan 1931	Balance	17		17		Balance	17
1 July	Balance	17		17			
2 Sept		1		1			
14 "		6		6		2 very severely	
15 "		6		6			
21 "		1		1			
		31		31		Pres. Perished	10
						Balance	21
						Worn	
				31			31

<sup>39</sup> Holland, 1999.



RECEIPTS.				DISPOSAL.			
Date	Particulars.	Good.	Worn.	Total.	Date.	Particulars.	Number.
1950							
1 Jan	Balance	12		12		Destroyed	9
May 10		1		1		exp 1	
June 25		2		2		obs 8	
15		5		5		Balance	11
				20			7
							1-1921 2-1922 3-1920
		20		20			20
	Balance	11		11			11
10 Aug		3		3		See Destroyed 1-1921 5-1922 5-1920	8
				14		Balance	6
1 Aug 51							14
	Balance	6		6		Balance	6
	Destroy 1920					Destroy 1920	
1 July	Balance	6		6			
21 Aug 20		3		3		2 unaccounted	
2 Sept 2		1		1			
10		5		5			
15		6		6			
Per		7		7		Per Destroyed	10
						Balance	18
						Worn	
		28		28			28

## The Author

*Dr. Paul M. Holland from Santa Barbara, California is a retired scientist whose company Thorleaf Research, Inc. developed miniaturized spaceflight instrumentation for NASA. He is a long-time specialist collector of Australian and British predecimal bronze coinage, including die varieties and numismatic literature. For his numismatic research and writing Dr. Holland has received the Ray Jewell Bronze Award from the Numismatic Association of Australia and the Tom Hanley Cup from the Australian Numismatic Society.*



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