

Volume 32

# Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



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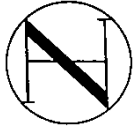
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Front cover: Photo of Mr. Billing's Gold Medal for Law (see article Figure 2 page 88).

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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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# The Antinous Medallions of Tarsus: An Update

Andrew Michael Chugg

## Abstract

*In a previous article in JNAA 31, I described various discrepancies among the surviving corpus of specimens of Antinous medallions from Tarsus that put in doubt the authenticity of some specimens. In the interim, new evidence has emerged that takes the provenance of some specimens in question back to the sixteenth century. This tends to suggest that some, though not all, of the discrepancies are attributable to haphazard production standards, probably due to them having been produced outside of the official system of mints.*

## Key words

[Antinous] [Hadrian] [Tarsus] [Roman Provincial Coinage] [panther] [ivy] [Paduan fake] [Renaissance]

Antinous was a youth who was the lover and favourite of the emperor Hadrian until he drowned in the Nile in October AD 130, following which Hadrian had him deified and tens of Greek cities within the Roman Empire issued medallions with his image. My article on the Antinous medallions from Tarsus was published in *JNAA* 31, 2022, since which significant new information has come to my attention concerning the panther group among them, which has been at the focus of my investigations. First, I became aware, through its incorporation in the Roman Provincial Coinage (RPC) online database, as RPC III 3287A.1 (Figure 1) that a hitherto unpublished specimen from the panther medallion group was sold at auction by Leu Numismatik in December 2021 (EA 18, 18-20 Dec 2021, lot 2095). I noticed that the obverse is a probable die match for RPC III 3285.1 (Figure 2), due especially to precise correspondence of the beading, exactly matching crowns and stars and faithful reproduction of other features, and notably vestiges of a band with rosettes at both ends beneath the crown. Second, Andrew Burnett of RPC traced photographs of the only other known specimen of type RPC III 3285 and posted them on the RPC website (Figure 3).<sup>1</sup> He also advised me that the eagle symbol beneath the  $\text{HP}\Omega\text{C}$  inscription on the obverse of this specimen (3282.2) was a silver countermark applied by its former owners, the d'Este family, and he sent me a copy of an article by Hadrien J. Rambach on the subject of the dating

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<sup>1</sup> This coin is in The Civic Numismatic and Medal Collection of Milan in the state-owned part of the collection known as the Brera, item 3266; see G. Nicodemi, *Catalogo delle raccolte numismatiche II, Le monete dell'Impero romano da Adriano ad Elio Cesare* (Milan, 1940), Tav. XVI; <https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/coin/74622>.

of the application of these countermarks.<sup>2</sup> This article is held to have shown that the countermarks were applied no later than 1614 and most probably in the early 1570s.

I observed from the new photographs of 3285.2 that it was struck using the same pair of dies as 3285.1 (Figure 2), despite some superficial differences attributable to wear and corrosion. The most convincing reason is that die flaws in the inscriptions appear on both medallions on both their obverses and their reverses: specifically, a die flaw between the  $\Omega$  of  $HP\Omega C$  and the beading on the obverses and another between the P and final O of  $NEOKOPOY$  on the reverses. Logically, this means that specimen 3285.1 was in existence before 1614. I suggested in my *JNAA* 31 article that 3285.1 might be a fake copied from RPC III 3286.1 (Figure 4). There does indeed remain a possibility that it was a hammered Paduan fake produced in Renaissance Italy, but 3285.1 reproduces the form and details of 3286.1 quite precisely overall and it is doubtful whether such precision would have been employed in the Renaissance (or earlier). This led me to re-examine the only other credible hypothesis: that 3285.1 was struck using the same obverse die as 3286.1.

Despite many rather precise correspondences, there also appear to be numerous differences in the details between the obverses of 3285.1 and 3286.1. That was why I previously considered that the obverse of 3285.1 was likely a copy of 3286.1 rather than a die match. I explained the precision with which other details had been reproduced by postulating a photographic reproduction technique. However, since it is now revealed that 3285.1 must have been created long before the invention of photography, there is an increased burden of proof to show that 3286.1 (obverse) could not have been struck using the same die as 3285.1 in order to uphold the hypothesis that the latter is a copy of the former. The details that seem to provide strong evidence for the two obverses having been struck from different dies include:

1. There appear to be a few strands of hair beneath the horizontal bar of the crown on 3286.1 and a few of these strands appear to stray into the area occupied by the band-with-rosettes on 3285.1, making it appear that there was no such band on 3286.1
2. The gap between the mantle and the ivy leaf nearest the mantle appears to be a bit larger on 3285.1 than on 3286.1
3. There is a broad ivy leaf in the vicinity of the lower ear on 3286.1, whereas 3285.1 has either a narrow ivy leaf or a broad ivy leaf vertically split by a wide groove here
4. The form of the letter H in  $HP\Omega C$  looks quite differently formed on 3285.1 than on 3286.1: for example, the latter appears to have curling serifs and its vertical bars appear to converge towards the base of the letter

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2 Hadrien J. Rambach, *On the Countermarked Ancient Coins from the Collection of Alphonso II d'Este, The Asylum*, Vol 36 No 1, Spring 2018, pp. 13-18.

Nevertheless, it now appears to me to be feasible that the obverses of 3285.1 and 3286.1 were struck with the same die. Regarding the hair strands of point 1, close examination shows that 3286.1 may have been overenthusiastically cleaned with a pointed instrument at some point and the cleaner may have scratched some features into existence that were not original to the coin. Regarding the gap in point 2, close examination of 3286.1 reveals some diagonal striations across the lower righthand edge of the ivy leaf that could be explained by fracturing across that edge on the die (this would also make 3286.1 a later strike than 3285.1). On point 3, the photo of 3285.2, which we now know to have been struck from the same dies as 3285.1, has a broad ivy leaf closely matching 3286.1. Probably, the groove in the ivy leaf on 3285.1 was either a post-striking gouge or reflects some subtle undulation that has become highlighted by the wear pattern on 3285.1. Point 4 is the most difficult to explain, but again the exotic letter form on 3286.1 could conceivably be the result of overenthusiastic cleaning.

These considerations would still leave the matter in the balance, except that there is another new observation that tips this balance towards a die match between 3285.1 and 3286.1. I have argued that 3285.1 and 3285.2 are die matches especially because of the repetition of flaws associated with letters in their inscriptions. But the obverse of 3286.4 (Figure 5) also exhibits the die flaw between the  $\Omega$  of  $\text{HP}\Omega\text{C}$  and the beading. Furthermore, it bears vestiges of the righthand rosette from the band-with-rosettes beneath the crown. Other features are consistent with its being a die match to the obverse of 3285.1, yet it clearly has the type 3286 reverse of the panther and cantharus.

The most probable conclusion in the light of the new evidence is therefore that 3285.1, 3285.2, 3286.1, 3286.4 and 3287A.1 were all struck with the same obverse die. That is to say that that die was used to strike coins of at least three different types in the RPC database and was paired with at least four different reverse dies.

There is also a strong association of this group with my own specimen 3286.2 (Figure 6), because the reverse die of 3286.4 is closely connected with the reverse of 3286.2: they both have particularly long-necked panthers and they both employ the device of extending the tail of the panther into the C of  $\text{MHTPOIIOAE}\Omega\text{C}$  in the inscription. In fact, such is their similarity that one reviewer queried whether the reverse of 3286.2 is a die match to the reverse of 3286.4. However, on scaling and orienting images of these reverses, so as optimally to align their inscriptions, I saw clear disparities, especially in that 3286.2 has a longer neck and a larger head on its panther. My specimen (3286.2) also has an obverse closely echoing that used for 3286.1, though not a die match and lacking the band-with-rosettes and the star, although there are vestiges of a smaller version of the crown and both versions of the portrait wear similar ivy wreaths.

If 3286.2 joins the group using the 3285.1 obverse die, then it means that two different spellings of the inscription were used on the reverse dies in Tarsus, since  $\text{NE}\Omega\text{KOPOY}$

appears on 3286.2 and NEOKOPOY is used on 3285.1. Is this inconsistency a problem for the grouping? Apparently not, because the newly catalogued specimen 3287A.1 (Figure 1) now associates the 3285-type obverse with the 3287-type bearing a panther pawing a thyrus on its reverse. At least one reverse of the 3287-type has the NEOKOPOY spelling (Figure 7), so it looks as though this inconsistency probably did arise within the original 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD production of these medallions.

Exacerbating this chaotic picture of the production process for the panther group of Antinous medallions from Tarsus, it may be noted that despite 3285.1 having been struck with the same pair of dies as 3285.2 the former is 62% heavier at 33.26g than the latter's 20.5g. Furthermore, the obverses of the 3287-type have neither star nor ivy wreath nor band-with-rosettes, a diminutive crown and the profile faces left instead of right. Finally, the reverse design of type 3285 is also seen on some of the Antinous medallions from Tion (RPC III 1191 – e.g. Figure 8) and that of the 3287-type is repeated on some of the Antinous medallions from Smyrna (RPC III 1977 & 1978 – e.g. Figure 9).

In the cases of other cities, we know that a local priest, magistrate or other leading citizen commissioned issues of Antinous medallions.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps the haphazard nature of the Tarsus Antinous medallion production attests to them having been similarly struck as private commissions outside the standard system of mints.

### Author biography

*Andrew M. Chugg is a graduate of the University of Cambridge. He is the author of papers on Alexander's tomb published in Greece & Rome and The American Journal of Ancient History and a paper on Alexander's royal journal published in the Ancient History Bulletin. He is also the author of four books: The Lost Tomb of Alexander the Great, Alexander's Lovers, The Quest for the Tomb of Alexander the Great and Concerning Alexander the Great: A Reconstruction of Cleitarchus with another on The Pharos Lighthouse in Alexandria to be published by Routledge on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. He has also appeared in several TV documentaries on Alexander the Great, including the Alexander's tomb episode of National Geographic's Secrets of Egypt series and the same channel's Mystery Files. Andrew is also the author of chapter 27 on Antinous in The Routledge Companion to the Reception of Ancient Greek and Roman Gender and Sexuality (published August 2022) and several articles on ancient coins associated with Alexander the Great in The Celator magazine and is a co-author of the article on The Porus medallions of Alexander in JNAA 29.*

*The author is pleased to express his sincere thanks to the Editor and the Reviewers for their diligent and helpful comments and support for this article.*

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3 For example, the name of a magistrate or notable citizen called Vetourius (BETOYPIOC) was inscribed on dies for Antinous medallions produced in Arcadia (Mantineia); medallions from Corinth were issued by a priest named Hostilius Marcellus (OCTIAIOC MAPKEAAOC).





Figure 1. RPC III 3287A.1 (Leu EA 18, 18-20 Dec. 2021, lot 2095, 37mm, axis=1, 18.73g)



Figure 2. RPC III 3285.1 (36.9mm, 33.26g, axis =6 with ref to flan crack)



Figure 3. RPC III 3285.2 (39.8mm, 20.5g)



Figure 4. RPC III 3286.1 (axis=6)



Figure 5. RPC III 3286.4 (axis=6 with ref to rim protuberance)



Figure 6. RPC III 3286.2 (axis=6)



Figure 7. A specimen of RPC III 3287 not currently in the RPC database, but sold at auction by Numphil 10/06/2014, lot 101 (somewhat retooled)



Figure 8. An Antinous medallion from Tion with the same reverse type as RPC III 3285 from Tarsus



Figure 9. An Antinous medallion from Smyrna with the same reverse type as RPC III 3287 & 3287A from Tarsus



# *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 any area of numismatics, ancient through modern, though preference is given to Australian and New Zealand related material.

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

### **All submitted articles are refereed before being accepted for publication**

#### ***Submissions:***

*Articles:* should be sent as an email attachment as an MS Word file, .doc or .rtf format following the layout in the last volume.

*Images and tables:* submit article images and tables individually and separately 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.

*Author statement:* supply a brief numismatic biographical statement which will be appended to the published article with full name and email address.

#### ***Article format details:***

*References:* the JNAA uses **footnote referencing**. Text reference numbers are placed after punctuation marks e.g. end.<sup>3</sup> They follow sequentially through the text. Alternatively, the **citation-sequence** may be noted.

*Images and tables:* all images must 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 needs to be indicated by <Insert Fig. 'x'> with figure caption text.

*Lists:* all lists should be presented as tables.

*Captions:* figure and table captions should explain images fully and independently of the main text. **All images must be referenced and have copyright clearance.**

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

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