

Volume 32

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



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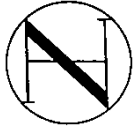
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Front cover: Photo of Mr. Billing's Gold Medal for Law (see article Figure 2 page 88).

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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 – 20th October 2023, and hosted by the Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA). The conference was preceded by the 1000th meeting of the NSSA on the evening of Friday 18th October 2023. I would like to congratulate the NSSA for reaching this impressive milestone and for their major efforts in hosting the 9th 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 8th 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, 19th 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.

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Managing Editor

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

Half a Century of an Australian in Numismatics: a personal reflection

Walter R Bloom

Abstract

In this paper I look at my numismatic life, first as a beginning collector, then as a more advanced collector and researcher, and finally as one heavily involved in the organising and running of numismatic activities locally, nation-wide, and internationally. During this journey I have encountered some fascinating characters and others have encountered me! I detail some of these as they have contributed to my numismatic development.

Key words

[Numismatics] [Australia] [Israel] [research] [shipwreck coins] [mintmasters] [mintmarks] [taler] [medal] [Meszaros] [Paul Vincze] [St Elegius] [Berlin Coin Cabinet] [1930 penny] [genealogy]

Introduction

Numismatic histories tend to focus on three main approaches:

1. The development of numismatics of the country (if small enough) or a suitable sub-region.
2. The development of a well-defined area of numismatics in the country.
3. The history of a (usually deceased) numismatist.

In the context of Australia: the first might look at coinage since 1800 (or the Proclamation) or banknotes of South Australia. For the second, there has been a lot of work done on Australian (and New Zealand) merchant tokens and this has been well covered by Alfred Chitty, Arthur Andrews and more recently Simon Gray (*A study of Australasian trade tokens*, 2013). And for the third, there is the detailed history of the late Sedley Towler and her work in the Art Gallery of South Australia in *The Coin Cabinet*, 2017 by Peter Lane (and edited by Walter R Bloom), a publication known to most South Australian numismatists.

I would first say that deep down I am a collector, which sounds much better than hoarder, but over the decades this has morphed into serious research in my favourite areas of coins, medals and tokens.

Research is a word that has changed in meaning over my lifetime. Today you hear of a person doing the *research* to decide where best to buy a washing machine, for example. I always thought of research as something done only by scientists, which looking back is a little strange as my late mother was a poet and playwright, and my late father Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tasmania. An opinion piece in *The West Australian* in July by Nobel Prize Laureate Barry Marshall, known for his discovery with Robin Warren of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* as playing a major rôle in causing many peptic ulcers, is quoted as saying:

In science, discovery is driven by curiosity — a desire to understand the world, to make sense of it and share that understanding. What successful creative people have in common is they are driven by curiosity, and the need to work on what is interesting, not what is known. I believe the arts and science are not diametrically opposed. There are so many instances where art and science produce a happy and healthy marriage.

Numismatics is truly such a marriage. I plan to demonstrate this in the paper through my development as a Numismatist.

The Early Period

Auckland, New Zealand

In the beginning in my country of birth, New Zealand, I collected marbles, but that wasn't long term. Then it was stamps, but one day I swapped my stamp collection for marbles. My parents took it surprisingly well, but deep down I'm sure they thought that I had lost my marbles.

My numismatic life began when I was about 10. My father had been on trips and brought back coins, and two doors up I used to visit an elderly brother and sister, who gave my brother and me many coins including a New Zealand 1935 threepence. My first coin was Portuguese given to me earlier by an elderly lady down the road. Keep in mind that 'elderly' was probably younger than most of the readers!



Portuguese 40 Reis (Pataco) “Pataco Joao VI” 1819 - 1825

Obverse: Laureate bust right

JOANNES D G PORT ET ALG P REGENS 1825

Reverse: Shield on crowned globe, value below

UTILITATI PUBLICAE 40 = THE PUBLIC GOOD 40

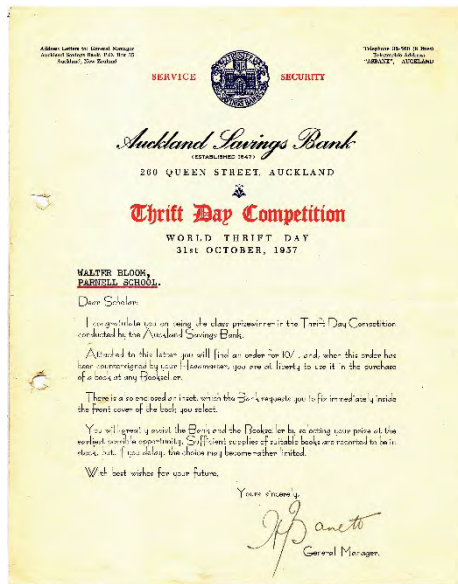
My first memorable numismatic experiences in New Zealand were:

1. When visiting Tauranga in 1958 I bought a birthday present for my mother, a small ceramic dog.



I handed over my half-crown (a lot of money then), the shopkeeper handed me the wrapped pooch, and then asked for the money. I said that I had already given it to her and that it was dated 1951. She checked the till and there was the half-crown sitting on top with the date as described. I don't know whether she knew the possible range of dates and did a swift calculation on the probability of my guessing correctly.

2. I wasn't too interested in English or Social Studies or History, a problem that remained with me until well into my university studies, but I was very good at foreign languages. I would look enviously as the Class Honour Board showed students at the top with strings of gold stars. These were almost all girls, and I was somewhere below floor level with a bronze or perhaps silver star or two for Mathematics. So, it came as considerable surprise to everyone in New Zealand when I was the class prize-winner in the Auckland Savings Bank Thrift Day Competition for World Thrift Day, 31st October 1957.



The budding and parsimonious numismatist had appeared at age nine.

Tasmania, Australia

In late 1960, the family moved to Tasmania and I went to Hobart High School, which was rather lean for coins, I was concentrating on chess and languages and developing friendships. The family lived in the US for eight months or so in 1963 and I can remember collecting coins in 1963 during this period when I attended Berkeley High School. I would drop by the local bank on my way home to buy some pennies (cents), while others were buying bags of silver dollars. This was the last year of silver in circulation virtually anywhere, except for the 1964 Kennedy half dollar and the Australian 1964 threepence and 1966 50 cents. A fellow student at Berkeley High had befriended me and offered me a set in a blue Whitman folder of uncirculated Roosevelt dimes for double face value. To me that was exorbitant, a word better describing the price of such a set now.

Back in Hobart and decimal currency was on the horizon. Collecting Australian coins was taking off, not that I had much in the way of any cash.

The next numismatic event was when I spent nine months in Israel (with my family) from 1966 until just before the six-day war in June 1967, and scored big on coins of modern Israel and the Palestine Mandate under which my father was born. The coin shops in Tel Aviv were amazing. Towards the end of our trip my father had to use some Israel pounds which were not negotiable outside the country, so we went to the coin shop to fill in ONE of the two gaps in my modern Israel date set. The choices were a 100 prutot of 1954 minted in Tel Aviv with a Utrecht die, the other a 50 prutot of 1949 from the Heaton's (ICI) Mints with a pearl below the scroll.



They were the same price. My father wasn't about to fork out a load of Israeli pounds for what was essentially a dot, so I ended up with the Utrecht die 100 prutot. In the meantime, the Utrecht die 100 prutot remains rare and a hoard of pearls has appeared which meant years down the track I could buy a BU specimen for \$25 (but they are now a little difficult to find). My father was cannier than I realised at the time. My Israel collection came back with me in a full TAA bag, my parents didn't believe in excess baggage charges, so while they were checking in, I had a bag weighing the best part of 12 kg on my arm hidden by the family's thick overcoats getting damp from the tears of pain.

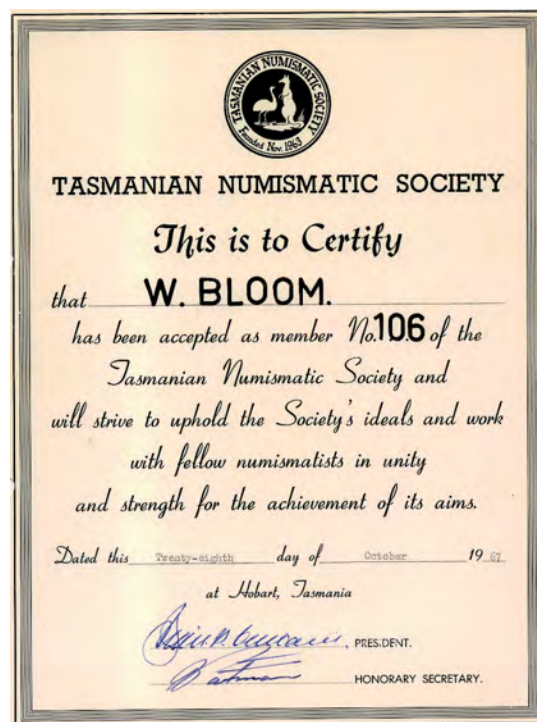


Our return in July 1967 saw my studying part-time for my degree and teaching for half a year at my *alma mater* now called Hobart Matriculation College. I felt rich and spent considerable time looking out for coins in Hobart. Decimal currency had been introduced on Valentine's Day 1966, coin catalogues were proliferating, and everyone I knew was interested in coins.



Coin dealers found that not only could they get valuable advertising, but they could also make money by publishing coin catalogues. The early ones were essentially pricelists. Many of the values and mintages were just copied from someone else's listing, and these sold out quickly. Some of these predated Renniks.

Roger McNeice introduced me to the Tasmanian Numismatic Society, and I became a member in October 1967:



the same year as the late Stephen Cole as he and I discovered decades later. Alas many of the members from that era have since died.

A friend of mine from Hobart and I happened to meet up in Melbourne one time and he took me to a coin dealer in Russell St where he explained to me that I should be buying better condition Australian sixpences. I didn't and he was of course right.

Canberra, Australia

In 1971, I took up a postgraduate scholarship at the Australian National University and moved some coins there; the rest of the now-expanding collection remained with my parents in Hobart. I would visit a coin dealer in Garena Place, Ed Cummings, I played table tennis in the local competition and was ferried to and from by a collector Leo Jakimow who died not so long ago. One day Leo was tidying up his messy car as I was getting in and found on the floor a 1922/21 overdate Australian threepence. Later that year I married the love of my life who was until recently the Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA) Treasurer. Lyn encouraged my coin collecting, which at that stage consisted of subscribing to the Franklin Mint and buying Royal Australia Mint (RAM) proof sets. We would have been better off spending the money on Australian Sydney Mint sovereigns, then available for \$22.50 each from Max Stern in Melbourne.

MAX STERN AND COMPANY	
P.O. Box 997H, Melbourne 3001	Phone 63 6751
UNITED STATES	
1971 Proof Set, San Francisco Mint, 5 coins, Mint-sealed in rigid plastic pack, FDC	7.50
ISRAEL	
"Let My People Go", 1971, 10 Pound Commemorative annual crown size commemorative	10.00
Unc. Mint Mark Star of David	17.50
Proof, Mint Marked with "Mem"	17.50
ST. VINCENT	
1970, FAO, 4 Dollars, Sixth in the series of 8 coins issued by the East Caribbean Currency Authority	8.00
Proof in presentation case	3.00
Unc. rigid plastic case	3.00
GOLD COINS OF THE WORLD	
The third edition of Friedberg's book listing all the gold issues of the entire world. A classic reference book revised and brought up to date.	18.50
AUSTRALIANA	
<i>Interment Camp Tokens</i> : Threepence, EF	3.50
Penny, chip from edge, VF	2.50
Five Shillings, hole off centre, and through "IV" of FIVE, EF	45.00
<i>Proclamation Coins</i> : 8 Reales, Charles III, 1796, gVF/EF	20.00
2 Reales, 1801, Mexico, VF	7.00
1 Real, 1798, Mexico, sVF/VF	4.25
1 Real, 1801, Mexico, EF	4.75
1 Real, 1803, Mexico, VF	4.75
1 Real, 1806, Mexico, sEF	4.75
1 Real, 1798, Mexico, F/VF	2.50
<i>Coinage</i> : Halfpenny, 1948 V, Proof, dark red tone, A Rarity, superb	35.00
1960 Melbourne Proof Set, 4 coins, 2/-, 1/-, 6d, and 3d	17.50
1955 Sixpence, scarce in good condition, gEF	35.00
Unc.	35.00
1933 Halfpenny, nice edges, sF	25.00
<i>Gold Coins</i> : Sydney Mint, 1866 Sovereign, 2nd type, EF/gEF	65.00
1855, 1st type, most attractive, F/VF	155.00
Sydney Mint Sovereigns, 2nd type, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1870 each, VG	22.50
Adelaide Pound, 1872, type 2, three minute edge knicks but generally EF	185.00
<i>Medallions</i> : Melbourne Exhibition, 1888, copper, 75 mm, named, Unc.	10.00
N.A.V. Anzac, silver, 38 mm, Mint	12.50
Victorian Exhibition, 1872, pewter, 45 mm, sEF	3.00
Cash with order please, postage and packing 25 cents extra. All coins sent at buyer's risk. Please add additional 50 cents for registration if required.	
COMMEMORATIVES, CROWNS, SETS	
<i>Antigua</i> , 1970, FAO, 4 Dollar, Crown Size, Unc.	9.00
Proof, Presentation Case, FDC	8.00
<i>Austria</i> , 1971, 25 Schilling, Stock Exchange, Unc.	2.30
50 Sch., 1971, Raab, Unc. 325; Proof	4.25
25 Sch., 1971, Stock Exchange, Proof	2.50
1971 seven coin Proof Set, Mint-sealed	3.00
1971 nine coin Proof Set, Mint-sealed	11.00
<i>Bahamas</i> , 1970, 5 Dollars, 45 mm, Unc.	11.00
1970, 2 Dollars, Full Crown, 39 mm, Unc.	5.00
1970, 1 Dollar, Small Crown, 24 mm, Unc.	3.00
<i>Barbados</i> , 1970, FAO, 4 Dollars, Crown Size, Unc.	8.00
Proof, Presentation Case, FDC	8.00
<i>Bahra</i> , Silver Pound, Crown Size, 36 mm, Unc.	6.00
Pound Note, A Curio, crisp, Unc.	.65
<i>Canada</i> , 1971, Proof Like Cased Silver Dollar	5.00
<i>Dominica</i> , 1970, FAO, 4 Dollars, Crown, Unc.	3.00
Proof, Presentation Case, FDC	8.00
<i>Fiji</i> , Independence Dollar, Cupro-nickel Proof in presentation case	7.50
<i>Finland</i> , 1971, 10 Markkaa, Crown European Athletic Championships, Unc.	5.00
<i>Germany</i> , 10 Marks, 1972, Olympics, 1st Design	6.00
Proofs, F, D, J and G mint marks, each FDC	4.50
Olympic, 10 Marks, 2nd Design, Unc.	4.50
<i>Gibraltar</i> , 1970 Crown, plastic case, Unc.	2.00
<i>Grenada</i> , 1970, FAO, 400; Crown, Unc.	3.00
Cased Proof, FDC	8.00
<i>Irish</i> , 1970, 250 Fils, FAO, Unc.	8.00
1971, 100 MG, Armed Services, Unc.	8.75
1971, 1 Dinar, 40 mm, Armed Services, Unc.	11.00
<i>Ireland</i> , Decimals, 4 to 10 New Pence, 6 coins in attractive wallet, Unc.	3.00
<i>Italy</i> , 1970, Mint-sealed, 9 coin Proof Set, includes 1000 Lire Rome Commemorative	12.00
<i>Jamaica</i> , Decimals, 1969, 6 coins to Dollar, Unc.	4.00
<i>Malaysia</i> , 5 Dollars, 1971, 43 mm, Crown, Unc.	4.00
<i>Malawi</i> , 1970, Decimals, cased Proofs, 6 coins, FDC, 11.50 unscratched in rigid plastic case	5.00
<i>New Zealand</i> , 1971, Mint-sealed 7 coin set, Unc.	4.00
1971 Dollar, rigid plastic case	2.00
<i>Paraguay</i> 50 Esc. Carrasco, Silver, 14 mm, Unc.	5.00
<i>Ras Al Khaima</i> , Eichenhower, 10 Riyals, B, Unc.	7.50
<i>Rep. of Equatorial Guinea</i> , 1970, 10 Pesetas, Nailed	9.00
Matix by Goya, superb, wallet, Proof, FDC	9.00
<i>Singapore</i> , 1969 Unc. Set in plastic wallet, six-coin set, Dollar to Cent	2.00
<i>South Africa</i> , 1971, 4 Rand, Gold, Br. Unc.	7.50
1971, 2 Rand, Gold, Br. Unc.	14.00
<i>Somalia</i> , 1970, 5 Shillings, FAO, Unc.	1.00
<i>Turkey</i> , 1970, 25 Lire, National Assembly, Unc.	7.50
<i>St. Kitts</i> , 1970, FAO, 4 Dollars, Crown Size, Unc.	3.00
Proof, Presentation Box, FDC	8.00
<i>Uruguay</i> , 1000 Peso, 1969, FAO, Unc.	8.00
<i>West Samoa</i> , 1970, Tala, Pope's Visit, Unc.	2.50
Proof, in presentation case, FDC	8.00
<i>Vatican</i> , 1970, 8 coins in card holder, Unc.	7.00

I once had three uncirculated dollar banknotes of Coombes/Wilson and Coombes/Randall, distinguished by stars next to their serial numbers. Being more interested in Australian coins I answered an advertisement from a New South Wales dealer who displayed his Justice of the Peace prominently. I was naïve enough to think this denoted honesty. A swap was arranged after he received the notes agreeing they were as described, and he sent me a range of Australian silver coins which were much worse than the stated VF description. After protesting I received a couple more, but way short of the value of the star notes even at that time. Greed does not engender return customers.

Perth, Western Australia

In 1974, Lyn and I moved to Hobart, and in 1975 to Perth. Then came new jobs and house buying which put paid to spending money on coins. But the bug wasn't so easily squashed, especially with my spending sabbatical leave in Tübingen in Southern Germany in 1980, visiting Trier and going to coin shops and fairs. This was replicated in 1987, 1991 and 1998. My first wonderful purchase there was a taler of Saxony, Albertinian Line.



SAXONY 1 Taler 1657 acorn Assumption of the Vicariat upon death of Emperor Ferdinand III. Johann Georg II (1656-1680) as Elector wearing robe and electoral hat; carrying sword over right shoulder; on horseback to right; small oval shield of two-fold arms of electoral and ducal Saxony below. *Davenport 7630*

Obverse: DEO ET - PATRIÆ. 1657

Reverse: D.G. IOHAN.GEORG II DVX SAX I C & MON.S.R.IMP.ARCHIM.ELECT.AT.Q.POST.EXCESS DIV IM.FERDIN.III.AUG.VICARI.LANDG.THUR.MAR.MISNÆ.SUP.& INF.LUSATIA.BURGG.MAGD.COM. DE.MARC. & RAVENS B.DOM IN RAVENSTEIN. (acorn)

(DEI GRATIA IOHANNES GEORGIUS II DVX SAXONIAE JULIACI CLIVIAE ET MONTIUM SACRI ROMANI IMPERII ARCHIMARESCHALLUS ELECTOR ATQUE POST EXCESSUM DIVI IMPERII FERDINANDI III AUG VACARIAS LANDGRAVIUS THURINGAE MARCHIO MISNAE SUPERIORIS ET INFERIORIS LUSATIAE BURGRAVIUS MAGDEBURGENSIS COMES DE MARCA ET RAVENSBERGA DOMINUS IN RAVENSTEIN)

Struck upon the death of Emperor Ferdinand III. Duke Johann Georg II served as one of the seven Electors, and on the coin, he is portrayed in his robes riding a horse.

Becoming a Numismatist

The turning point in my numismatic life came with striking up close friendships with the late Haydn Powell, for many years the engine of the Perth Numismatic Society (PNS), and John Wheatley and organising the sesquicentennial activities for the Society in 1979. I joined the Society in 1982 after my return from Germany. The PNS was large and very active in those days and remains so, bucking the decline in the last decade of numismatic clubs and societies across the country. As President of the PNS for some 23 years in total I have made it my mission to encourage collectors, ensure a gender friendly environment and hunt for younger collectors; the age range in the Society is now 12 up and the gender balance has improved markedly. Monthly meetings attract 40-50, we hold five fairs a year and publish about 4 issues of our journal annually.

I was lucky to be able to travel interstate on a regular basis, because of our jobs and families and my enthusiasm for travel. I would appear regularly in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane coin shops. It was amusing to be told that this item of interest had just come in when I remembered it from previous visits; very useful when negotiating.

I loved to hear stories of collections, collectors, rogues, etc. of which there was no shortage.

Australian numismatists/dealers

South Australia

Ian Arie Mudde trading as 'Intercoin', Claridge Arcade off Gawler Place, published a price catalogue of Australian coins in 1964, as did Dion Skinner (Unley Rd) in the same year, the latter also in subsequent years. Skinner's catalogues are called *Renniks* (Skinner spelt backwards) and Mudde's catalogue shows the author as E D Duma (A Mudde spelt backwards). I have no idea who first came up with this attempt to partially disguise their names. Arie Mudde is listed under *Appraisers and Auctioneers* in *Genealogy South Australia*.

Unfortunately, I met neither of these gentlemen. Nor did I meet Alan Levien, Grenfell St nor Guido Dioric, YMCA Building. But I do remember Phil Dawson, Adelaide Arcade, who was perched on a stool in the middle of the Arcade with passers-by on both sides, and Egon Domac, Bank St Coins on my way from the Railway station to the city centre. My most vivid memory of Domac was that he was always sweeping the footpath outside his shop. These dealers have long since died.

Lawrence (Lawrie) Nugent ran a large coin business in Rundle St in the late 1960s through to the 1970s, with comprehensive catalogues of Australian and World coins ranging from average through to spectacular pieces. Nugent also had a close connection with the late Allan Robinson who gained notoriety with his salvaging of *Vergulde Draeck*

(*Gilt Dragon*) and moved significant quantities of coins off this wreck from Western Australia to South Australia, and then to the Eastern Seaboard. It has since emerged that Robinson was melting down inferior condition coins and having them made using a local jeweller into copies of better condition genuine specimens from *Gilt Dragon*. It is likely that many of these forgeries with their genuine metal composition have found their way into both private and public collections Australia-wide. The forgeries to date have been identified as having exact die matches with other *Gilt Dragon* coins; such twins are essentially impossible to occur given the striking method.

Nugent's shop was taken over by Graham Parry and the late John Downey. There was also David Carr, NSSA Secretary and active member of the Royal Geographic Society, who worked part-time with Grant Morton, then for IS Wright in Lonsdale St, Melbourne and now is in the Sydney Store.

I met Peter Lane at the 2005 Melbourne NAA Council meeting and we have become close friends since. In fact, on the way back to Perth from that meeting, I had an appointment with a specialist at Flinders Medical Centre. I flew to Adelaide, Peter met me at the airport and took me to Medical Centre, waited while I endured the (not-anticipated) torture by manipulation, acupuncture etc, was taken to his home to meet Janis and partially recover and then back to the airport for the evening plane to Perth. It was a terrible day, but it would have been much worse without the kindness shown by Peter and Janis.

Queensland

I first dealt with Peter Brooks at Colonial Coins when he was a student, so contact was by telephone and snail mail. Peter is very much self-taught and has an amazing numismatic knowledge. He took over that well-placed coin shop in Adelaide St (just down from central Station) from Frank Taylor (Taylor's Coin Services). Vic and Annette Powers in Upper Mt Gravatt and Bob Dallow in the city also received many visits from me. Then there were the late Aussie and June Winter out in Cleveland. I once visited a Gold Coast dealer whose name I can't remember, but what I do remember is a mess of rare coins lying in dusty heaps on the floor. Now we have Bob Innes and Scott Waterman running auctions in Brisbane, with both of whom I have had quite a bit of contact, and Paul Hannaford at the Gold Coast



(Australia, £ One Penny, 1930 [ACPD8-14] | Colonial Coins & Medals)

On the private front, Howard Mills took me under his wing during my early visits to Brisbane. Subsequently so did Faye and George Dean. Howard has long since passed away, Faye is in a Nursing Home and George isn't in good shape.

New South Wales

There was the late Bob Roberts, whom I first visited at his coin shop in Elizabeth St, Sydney before he moved into the Hunter Arcade, and Bob Jaggard when he was in North Sydney. These two senior dealers provided the training ground for many of the next-generation dealers whom we know today, including under Bob Roberts, Barrie Winsor, David Allen, David Harris, David Fulger (deceased), Joe Dettling who now runs MR Roberts', Walter Holt and Mark Duff, and under Bob Jaggard, Andrew Crellin, Chris Buesnell, Kurt Jaggard, Tony Richardson and Jeffrey Dick; the last two went on to form Moneterium Coins. There was also John Nielsen, the late Barry Sparks (who went to IS Wright), David Tully (who set up a shop in Sydney) and John O'Connor (who set up a shop in Town Hall Arcade, Sydney). Stewart Wright had shops all over the place, and I often saw him in Perth and Singapore as well. His store fronts are now down to the one in Forest Lodge near the University of Sydney.



I have had a long friendship with Colin Pitchfork with whom I have published jointly in the *NAA Journal* and discussed at length the Australian numismatic scene. I have had even more contact with Les Carlisle (see below).

Victoria

The late Len Henderson was always very kind to me when we met in Melbourne and his *impromptu* guided tours from the Victoria Museum near the Exhibition Building to the city centre showed an amazingly wide interest in the local history. I spent a lot of time at Downie's underground cavern in Elizabeth St, which was reminiscent of some of the areas under Rome. I would see Ken Downie, Chris Meallin and John Freestone, and separately Peter Hutchinson, Stuart Anderson and Tony Shields. In the olden days, the late Phil Downie had a retail outlet on the sixth floor of Myers Melbourne Lonsdale St Store. And there was John Sharples, the former Numismatics Curator at Museum Victoria. In true institutional style Sharples was made redundant and then re-employed as an Honorary Curator before he eventually retired. What a way to treat one of Australia's premier numismatists.

July 1983 saw the prices of Australian high quality pre-decimal silver coins go through the roof at the annual Spink (Australia) Sale. We happened to be in Melbourne at that time and I was very much taken up with the frenzy. Barry Sparks had a table outside the auction room selling his \$500+ florins as the crowds descended. They then rushed up to Orlo Smith in Collins St, but Orlo was faster, and he reached the shop before them and turned over all the price tickets of the Australian silver on display in the window. An interesting pen-sketch by John McDonald of Orlo Smith & Co can be found in the *PNS Journal* (Vol 55, No 1 March 2023, pp 13-16). This was also the time that Lyn noticed that we had the princely sum of \$10 left in our bank account. The moral of the story is while encouraging your spouse's interests, keep a careful eye on where this encouragement is heading.

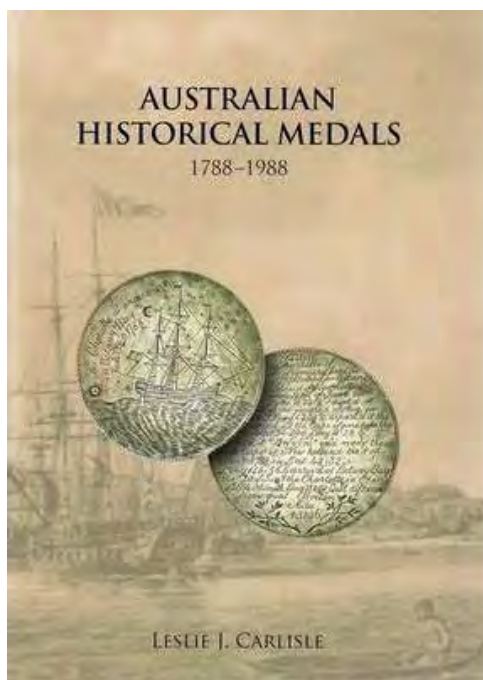
Research Directions

The main themes of my numismatic research are Western Australian local history through medallions and badges, some national areas such as the Greek presence in Australia and immigration from the British Palestine Mandate, shipwreck coins (the main area of my work at the Western Australian Shipwrecks Museum), together with

die studies that inform some of the above. The latter two are very much international research areas in numismatics.

The Rise and Fall of the Australian Commemorative Medal

I carried out a lot of work with Les Carlisle on the history of Stokes, a medal-making firm in Melbourne established in 1855. Les had an old manuscript of the late Laurie Blackburn and Glyn James which we edited and published (almost complete) on the NAA website. For those who don't know, Les wrote the definitive reference *Australian Historical Medals*, the first edition in 1983 and the second in 2008 encompassing medals up to and including Australia's Bicentennial of European settlement.



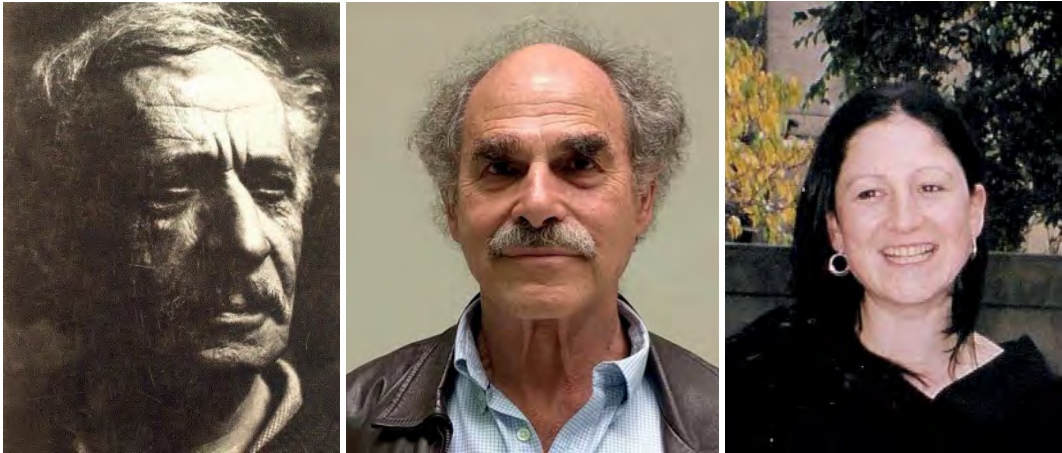
At this stage the collecting of Australian historical medals was at its peak. Major collections had been formed by John Chapman, Hugh Armstrong and George Dean to name just a few. Les' book ran to some 650 pages, but with relatively little on Western Australia. I have been working on a Western Australia version in the same format and it already has reached over 700 pages.

So, with all this activity, why do I describe this section with a phrase commonly associated with the Roman Empire? Well, John Chapman and Hugh Armstrong have died and their collections dispersed to private and public collections, and while there are still collectors of this material, especially in South Australia and Queensland, and to a lesser extent Western Australia, they are mostly on the mature side. The younger collectors don't seem to share the same enthusiasm for these works of art.

Medallists

Meszaros family

Many international collectors follow their favourite medallists, and in Australia we have a famous family of them: the late Andor Meszaros, Michael Meszaros and his niece Anna Meszaros, an amazingly talented family from Hungary. I never met Andor, but I admire his work as much as that of the other two.



I arranged to have Michael speak at the 2011 biennial conference of the Numismatic Association of Australia at Macquarie University and Anna at Association's 2015 biennial conference in Adelaide. Anna has worked *inter alia* on certain coin designs for the Royal Australian Mint. My persuading Michael to prepare a paper and speak was an experience as initially he wasn't that enamoured with the idea. So, when I was in Melbourne on one occasion, I arranged to visit him at his home. The split-level house had an upstairs living area and downstairs his workshop. I was given the grand tour and Michael and I chatted. It was only after I offered to organise the PowerPoint slides for his presentation that Michael then agreed to give a talk. When I was about to leave, Michael offered to drive me to the train station and imagine my surprise when I was met out the front by this quiet gentleman in his open top flashy sports car.

As one gets more immersed in the medal world, the style and quality of the artist becomes more intriguing. Andor Meszaros was well-known for his Stations of the Cross series which come in two sizes, those for collectors 2½" (63mm). and the massive 7" (177mm) ones that adorn the walls of various churches. I first saw these at a church in Blackfriars Priory School in Prospect next to North Adelaide, then at St Georges Cathedral in Perth. Here are 12 of the standard size:



Andor Meszaros' Bronze Stations of the Cross Medallions - Religious Objects - Precious Objects
(carters.com.au)

Unfortunately, at St George's Cathedral, the 10th medal in the series has been mounted upside down.



The artistry of Michael Meszaros is instantly recognisable, and I have many favourites, but perhaps the courtship series is paramount; here is one of the six medallions:



a position that some of the readers might have been in at some stage. And Anna Meszaros' medal 'Alone' possibly goes hand in hand.



Paul Vincze

My favourite non-Australian 20th century medallist is Paul Vincze, also from Hungary, who died some 30 years ago.



© reserved; collection National Portrait Gallery, London

National Portrait Gallery, London

Paul Vincze (1907-1994) was a sculptor and medallist, born in Galgagyork, Hungary. He studied at the State School of Arts and Crafts, Budapest, later privately under the great medallist Ede Talcs and in Rome from 1935-1937, having won a travelling scholarship. Although he returned to Hungary, Nazi persecution forced him to leave and in 1938 he moved to England, setting up a studio in London. He was made a British subject in 1948, became an Art Workers' Guild member and a fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors in 1961, and retired in 1978. Vincze exhibited at the Royal Academy and widely abroad and his work is represented in national collections and museums around the world, including the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. His awards included a Premio Especial at the International Exhibition, Madrid in 1951, a silver medal at the Paris Salon, 1964, and the first gold medal of the American Numismatic Association, in 1966. Paul Vincze also worked for the Royal Mint and designed a range of coins for the British Commonwealth ([Vincze, Paul, 1907-1994 | Art UK](#)) and engraved many medals for Israel.



Sir Francis Chichester Medallion – Paul Vincze

Other Numismatic Areas

One can be purist and think only of coins and banknotes, but there are related areas that are equally rewarding. I have already mentioned historical medallions.

Engraved (brass) plates are another of my numismatic interests, especially those related to Western Australia, and this one advertising Laubman & Pank, Opticians at their Perth office is very interesting.



455 × 250 mm

Born Carl Wilhelm Laubmann to German parents in Stepney, Adelaide, Carl was one of seven children. He left school and entered the workforce when he was just 14, finding employment and training with renowned Adelaide surgeon Dr Thomas Kinley Hamilton. At 21, Laubmann recognised the demand for opticians in rural areas and moved to Broken Hill to set up a practice. He also travelled to the outback offering services in areas such as White Cliffs and Wilcannia, until he met another young optometrist from Adelaide, Harold George Pank. In 1908, Laubmann and Pank became partners and commenced business in Victoria Square, Adelaide. The second 'n' in Laubmann was dropped leading up to the First World War (many German immigrants de-Germanised their names for the same reason (see [Our Story | Laubman&Pank \(laubmanandpank.com.au\)](#))).

Here is a safe plate of The Birmingham Mint (Ralph Heaton & Sons).

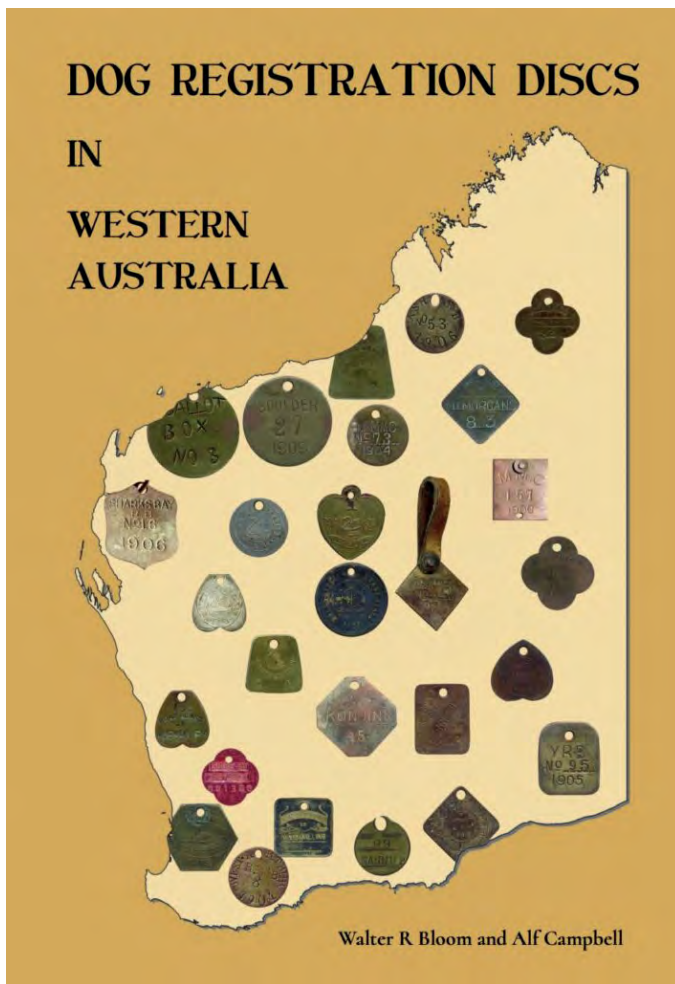


Heaton & Sons Mint, Birmingham, England - Coins and Australia - Articles on Australian coins

Heaton & Sons is so well-known in the modern numismatic world that I hardly need to spend time discussing the firm.

Masonic pennies. Mike Carter has talked at NAAC2023 on Masonic pennies, so I won't say anything about these interesting pieces.

Dog registration discs, I have written a book jointly with the late Alf Campbell on *Dog Registration Discs of Western Australia*:



When I meet someone and tell them about these fascinating pieces of metal, the eyebrows tend to be raised and the inevitable yawn stifled. Even when I enthusiastically discuss latest finds with my darling wife of 52 years, the reaction is much the same. I always thought that spouses were legally required to at least pretend to be enthusiastic about their partner's interests. And you can imagine the reaction to the next volume that I am working on, *Camel and Goat Registration Discs of Western Australia*.



Mt Magnet 1907 camel disc #135

At least the metal detecting fraternity in Western Australia appreciates the value of this research. And numismatic research it certainly is. The breakthrough with these areas was when I was able to inspect many specimens. The Alf Campbell and Walter Bloom collections are together by far the largest accumulation of these objects worldwide, and I was able with the help of TROVE, Minutes of the Roads Boards and Municipal Councils, and the Western Australian Government Gazette, to identify the manufacturers for the vast majority of the known discs, which were made by the major medal and badge manufacturers of Western Australia, Sheridan's and Cumpston's, along with various fly-by-night manufacturers in the early years trying to make money from the 1904 State Government Act that mandated the registration of dogs. Some discs were made in South Australia and England. There was also a small number of private manufacturers in the early years who are generally very difficult to identify, but I had success with this one.



Malcom Council 1904 dog disc #37

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. (1904, February 12). *The Malcolm Chronicle and Leonora Advertiser* (WA: 1897 - 1905), p. 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228046961>

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The fortnightly meeting of the Malcolm Municipal Council was held on the 9th inst. Present — The Mayor, Cn Dawson, Dismtrie, and James.

The Mayor swore in Cr Jones, and welcomed him to the council table.

The Mayor reported that after being interviewed by the Chairman of the Hospital he had written to the Premier asking if the Government could see their way to subsidise the hospital to the extent of 10s in the £ on subscriptions asked.

The Mayor referred to the absence of the town clerk from his office on the day of Cr Jones' election. It was decided that the town clerk remain in his office from 2 till 4 p.m. on nomination days.

A long letter was received from J. W. Meir regarding arrears of rates on Railway Hotel. It was decided to take final steps for the recovery of the rates.

The resignation of Cr Cotter was accepted with regret.

On the motion of Cr Dismtrie and Dawson the price given by Mr Woodfield for 60 dog discs was accepted.

It was then a question of tracking down Mr (Henry Humphrey) Woodfield, Iron, Zinc and Tin Plate worker, who was previously in Northam and before that (in 1877) part of Woodfield & Gore in Castlemaine, Victoria. Woodfield was found dead in his bed at the P&O Hotel, Fremantle on 20th December 1905.

Miscellaneous related tokens



1909 Boulder Ballot Box #3



1909 Cottesloe (Beach) Bathing Hut (Ladies No 15) Key Tag



Cottesloe Beach bathing Huts 1907
(Image courtesy Western Australian State Library)



1909 Cottesloe Beach dog registration disc

Note that the Cottesloe Beach Road Board went from July 1909 through to 1930. Discs were usually ordered towards the end of the preceding year, but in this case the Road Board didn't actually start until halfway through the year, so perhaps the manufacturer used leftover and/or damaged discs? This, along with the two larger discs above, were struck by Cumpston & Mason, By the following year Mason was no longer a partner and the disc below (1929 shape) was struck by Cumpston's.



The Centenary Pavilion, Cottesloe Beach bathing locker key tag



The Centenary Pavilion, Cottesloe Beach, Perth. 1930
OLD PERTH | The Centenary Pavilion, Cottesloe Beach, Perth.... (tumblr.com)

This area immersed me in Western Australian history; I avoid telling the locals that I am an out-of-towner.

Being a Numismatist

What is a numismatist, and why was James Hunt Deacon called a numismatologist? A quick look at the on-line *Free Dictionary* gives three terms: coin collector; numismatist; numismatologist, each being a collector and student of money (coins in particular). In an interview with Deacon in the *Smith's Weekly*, Saturday 15th June 1946 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article240011973>), he made the following distinction:

There is a subtle difference between a numismatist and a numismatologist. (The) former concentrates only on his (*sic*) own private collection while the latter covers history of all coins and kindred articles in all its aspects.

So presumably there is the general term coin collector, the more specialist numismatist, and the more polymath numismatologist, not that the article has such a clear distinction among these. Note that research in Deacon's mind is confined to history.

Numismatic Library

I worked out quite early on the importance of having a good numismatic library, which meant time being spent in bookshops and best of all, the vast accumulation at Noble Numismatics. In those days I would be left to hunt around the compacta shelves and pick out items of interest. Nowadays there is just a small bookshelf at the front near the main desk. I also had the advantage of burrowing around bookshops in England and Germany. And I didn't stop there. On a relatively recent cruise around New Zealand, I found in Port Chalmers, Dunedin a copy of *The Mint* by Sir John Craig, a real classic. I also ordered books by mail.

Why are books important when we have the internet? Of course, the internet is wonderful and I have found references there that I would never have located in a book. But for specialist topics, much information contained in books is simply not available on the internet. What is now most useful is a combination of the internet and the printed source. In this regard, there are many important numismatic works that are downloadable from the internet and well outside copyright. Many of these are in German, a language well worth learning for the serious numismatist. Closer to home, downloadable books include:

Arthur Andrews, *Australasian tokens and coins*, 1921

C W Stainsfield, *A descriptive catalogue of Australian tradesmen tokens*, 1883

Leonard Forrer, *Biographical dictionary of medallists* (eight volumes), 1904-1916

Moyston Arthur Byrnes, *A search for minting varieties on Australian pre-decimal coins 1910-1964*, 2000

and

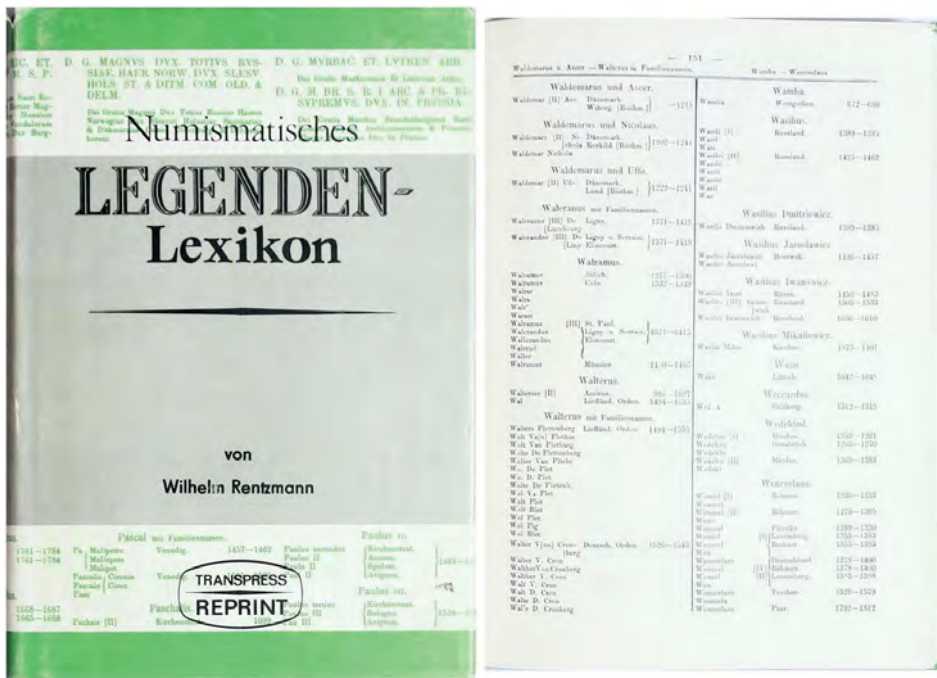
W Carew Hazlitt, *The coinage of the European continent*, 1893

Josef Neumann, *Beschreibung der bekanntesten Kupfermünzen* (six volumes), 1858

Wilhelm Rentzmann, *Numismatisches Legenden-Lexikon*, 1865

F W A Schlickeysen (ed R Pallman), *Erklaerung der Abkuerzungen auf Muenzen der neueren Zeit*, 1882

The last four are some of the most important books for anyone studying European numismatics or even trying to identify a coin or ruler. The last three can be understood with minimal German.



I have over 16,000 files containing numismatic books, journals and articles. These include a wide range of ancients, but I am steering clear of this topic in this paper even though I am very involved in the coins of the Roman and Ancient Jewish periods.

Many numismatic books are downloadable from www.archive.org or www.coingallery.de, but in most cases it is necessary to apply Optical Character recognition (OCR) on them if you want to take advantage of the searching facility. A wonderful listing of

numismatic books can be found at Digital Numismatic Library, but it seems to have disappeared from the Web. I have tried contacting the author, so far without success. However, there is a very good listing of free and downloadable e-books at [Numismatic Coin Collecting Books \(coincommunity.com\)](http://NumismaticCoinCollectingBooks.coincommunity.com).

And for a raw numismatic listing see [Medieval Coins Bibliography Listing \(medievalcoinage.com\)](http://MedievalCoinsBibliographyListing.medievalcoinage.com).

The internet

I wonder whether getting meaningful information via the internet is becoming more difficult for the specialist, in stark contrast to the well-advertised inevitable taking-over of our lives by Artificial Intelligence. There seems to be a much higher profile on GOOGLE of popular culture and advertisements. For example, I was looking for the meaning of KStE in the pre-nominal of the Editor of the *Australian Numismatic Society Journal*, KStE Judy Blackman FRCNA, FONA, who resides in Canada. I was already familiar with her post-nominals for Fellow of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (FRCNA) and Fellow of the Ontario Numismatic Association (FONA), but what was this KStE that the talented Judy Blackman has in front of her name?



ONA member Judy Blackman (left) stands with RCNA President Henry Nienhuis. Blackman designed this year's ONA Convention medal.

The top search hit was Radio Sacramento 650 KSTE, clearly incorrect, but after that I spent quite a bit of time searching before I thought of Knight Order of Saint E, where E was to be determined. Then to my dictionary of saints, also a blank, before I stumbled across Eligius, which of course I should have known since he is the Patron Saint of numismatics. Eligius (French: Éloi, 11 June 588 – 1 December 660), venerated as Saint Eligius, was a Frankish goldsmith, courtier and bishop who was chief counsellor to

Dagobert I and later Bishop of Noyon–Tournai. His deeds were recorded in *Vita Sancti Eligii*, written by his friend Audoin of Rouen (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Eligius).



Statue of Saint Eligius in the church of St. Marcel in St. Marcel (Aveyron), France. At the saint's right foot are the tools of his original trade.

Eligius is the Patron Saint of horses and cattle and is also the Patron Saint of goldsmiths, blacksmiths, and metalworkers in general, so it didn't take long for Eligius to be grabbed as the Patron Saint of numismatics. Claude Proulx, Chancellor, founded the Order of the Knights of St Eligius first in July 1989 in Quebec City and then across other parts of Canada, then throughout Europe. Proulx honoured Frank Galindo bringing him into the Order, and Frank Galindo then founded the Brotherhood in the US in 2009.

Proulx founded the Order to create a friendly informal environment in which people of like mind can associate in pursuit of their common interest. Its members are the Knights of St. Eligius. One of its charitable programs is the promotion of numismatic knowledge, particularly among youth. The International Committee meets for selecting numismatists who will be inducted into the order.

Research supervision

I was a supervisor for Liesel Gentelli's PhD (UWA) on silver analysis of shipwreck coins, important for economic and trade studies, and for Grace Eldon's Honours (UWA) on Allan Robinson and *Gilt Dragon*, both through the Western Australian Shipwrecks Museum and the University of Western Australia. As I have already mentioned, the latter is of significance in that Robinson's excellent copies of cobs in the original silver are found around Australia and will be in collections, both public and private. This is the subject of an on-going project with Dr Ian MacLeod and Dr Deb Shefi. Both student projects involved science and history.

Australia is an ancient land with its very long history preceding European settlement, but its known numismatic history is much more recent. Perhaps this history started with shipwreck coinage, which together with die studies and metal analysis are truly international, much more so than many other (nevertheless) important areas of numismatic research in this country. As such the Western Australian Shipwrecks Museum and the Australian National Maritime Museum (Darling Harbour, Sydney) are of considerable interest world-wide.

Organising Numismatic Activities

I was the Convenor of the Western Australian Numismatic Study Group (WANSG) from 1994 to 2011, at which stage two of our members had died and the remaining were becoming fairly advanced in years. We studied English coins and historical medals. I also convene the Western Australian Roman Coin Study Group (WARCSG) which has been going strong since 2002, with a membership of 20 of whom at least a dozen attend each monthly meeting.

I teamed up with Peter Lane to start the NAA biennial conferences in 2005, this one named NAAC2005. I already had experience in organising mathematics and scientific conferences, Peter had detailed knowledge of the national numismatic scene, and we ran the first few conferences at Macquarie University (ACANS), then went further afield to Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and then in Adelaide once again. Through these conferences we established close ties with New Zealand, mainly through David Galt and Martin Purdy.

I serve as President of the PNS and until NAAC2023, President of the NAA and I am now Vice-President, also I was Vice-President of ICOMON (International Committee of Money and Banking Museums (part of the Paris-based International Council of Museums (ICOM))), together with periods of editorial managing for all three bodies and website managing for the first two.

Berlin Coin Cabinet

I held an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellowship for research in Germany, first in Mathematics (Universities of Tübingen and Eichstätt), then in Numismatics (Prussian Cultural Organisation). If you say Mathematics and Numismatics quickly then they sound very similar! The latter saw my undertaking research at the Berlin Coin Cabinet in the Bode Museum, where (pre-COVID-19) Lyn and I visited virtually yearly.



The Bode Museum Berlin Germany Photograph by Michal Bednarek – Pixels

The outcomes of the project with Dr Karsten Dahmen at the Coin Cabinet on Mintmarks and Mintmasters on German talers were successively recorded at <https://nomisma.org>, run under the auspices of:



The British Museum



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE Humanities



Arts & Humanities Research Council



Münzkabinett
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation icon was added when it was supporting my work there. *Nomisma* is an international collaborative project to provide stable digital representations of numismatic concepts according to the principles of Linked Open Data (LOD). These take the form of HTTP URLs that also provide access to reusable information about those concepts, along with links to other resources. The *Nomisma* community maintains a formalised RDF Ontology and a data model for encoding concepts, coins, typologies, hoards, and other types of numismatic objects as LOD.

Foundations of the Numismatic Association of Australia

A national body of numismatics was a dream over 80 years ago (reported in the *Melbourne Age* on 11th July 1939 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article204926492>) and in the *Hobart Mercury* on 14th July 1939 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25600889>):



Also wishing to establish a national numismatic body, (James Hunt) Deacon founded or at least co-founded the Association of Australian Numismatists and wrote to a number of collectors in other states to see if they were interested in the idea. The association was founded on 1 July 1939 in Adelaide. Its main aim was to establish a record house on Australian numismatics. Membership was limited to Australian-born and Australian-residing numismatists. Inaugural members were Deacon as president, vice-presidents Alfred S. Kenyon (Vic.), Mr T.P. Leppinus (SA) and Dave Raymond (NSW),

treasurer Ron J. Byatt (NSW), secretary Ronald G. (George) Appleyard of the Art Gallery (SA), and councillors Cyril A. Priaulx (SA) and D. Elliott-Smith (NSW). Many of these numismatists traded or swapped with the Coin Room. All were members of the Numismatic Society of South Australia at the time except for Smith, who joined two years later. The Australian Numismatists Association ceased in 1947. (*The Coin Cabinet*, p 140)

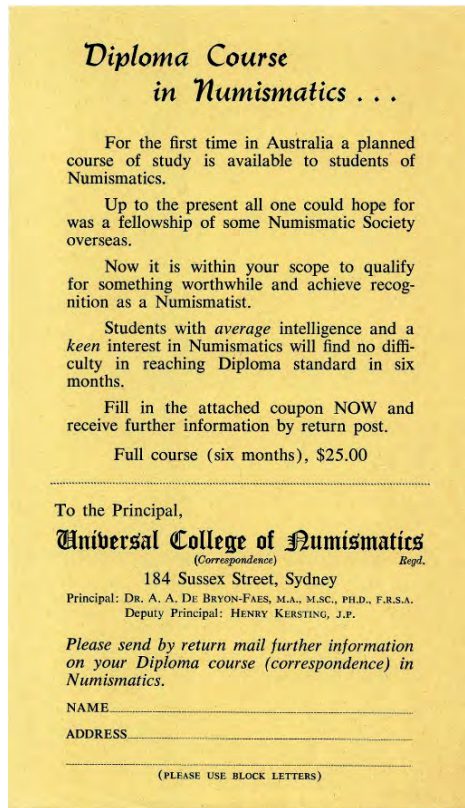
Note the heavy bias to the south-eastern corner of mainland Australia, and as an aside, because of the Australian-born requirement, I wouldn't be eligible to be a member. Following the demise of the Association of Australian Numismatists, the Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA) partially took over the national mantle; indeed its 1949-1950 Council lists five honorary Vice-Presidents, all NSSA members from the other States:

New South Wales	C J V Weaver (Chris Weaver, Sec ANS and NS NSW)
Queensland	Dr Egmont Schmidt
Tasmania	J J Freeman
Victoria	Raymond Marcollo, BDSc
Western Australia	G W Robinson (Geoff Robinson)

This tradition continued until 1965, with Robinson the only one to last the whole period, during which year there was a change to Special Representatives from Canada, United States and United Kingdom with no mention of State Representatives; this was the year before Deacon retired. It seems that there was no longer a driving force behind a national numismatic body, something that would have to wait until the late Ray Jewell took up the cudgel in the early 1980s.

Numismatic courses

There was an early attempt to set up a Diploma in Numismatics.



While the pamphlet is undated, I found this in the 1st edition of H. Kersting: *Coinage of Australia* (May 1966). The Hon. Roger August Alfred Faes, de BRYON-FAES, GOHS, KLJ, MA, MSc, PhD (Temple, PA). (1914 - 2001) was a Member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1961 to 1981. Incidentally, in 1966 Kersting also produced a 40-page catalogue *Kersting's Guide to New Zealand, New Guinea and Roman coinage*, perhaps the first popular Australian-produced catalogue of Roman coins.

While there are some units with elements of numismatics at two universities in Australia, Macquarie University and the Australian Catholic University, and more in Europe and the United States, the only place where it is possible to take a full degree in this area is in Vienna. In practice, most of the great numismatists come from diverse backgrounds: archaeologists, librarians, scientists, medical practitioners, lawyers, real estate agents, coin dealers, *etc.*

Numismatic Research

Die Studies

Die studies of Australian coins have been well tackled by Paul Holland, who has published extensively in the NAA Journal. My excursion in this area was the study of the so-called proof 1930 penny, the iconic coin of the modern Australian series, see:

Walter R Bloom, The proof (specimen) Australian 1930 Penny, *JNAA* 2011, vol 21, pp 1-10.

My research into this coin took me in the one year to the three public institutions holding proof (specimen) 1930 pennies, namely the British Museum, Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) and Museum Victoria (Melbourne Museum). The most professionally operated one of these was the British Museum. I booked to see their example, it was brought out (in the Student Room) on a tray and I could examine it under the assigned conditions (which included wearing gloves and not taking photographs). I also arranged for a high-resolution image to be sent to me, which at the time was possible as I knew Phillip Attwood, the then Keeper of the Coin Room.

My connection at the AGSA was its (now-retired) Honorary Curator Peter Lane. Its 1930 penny was produced, same conditions as before, but I observed that many other objects were not so well stored which I understand has since been rectified.

Then I made an appointment at the Melbourne Museum, and with no specialised numismatic curator, I was virtually handed the coin and made various (hopefully helpful) suggestions.

The advantage of having the coins in hand was that die varieties could be more easily detected, and this I did with the 1930 pennies.



Image courtesy of the Art Gallery of South Australia





AGSA



British Museum



Melbourne Museum

I first noticed what seemed to be a pimple (labelled B) between the two beads above the left-hand top of the “F” in “OF” and then the misshapen bead to the left of the pimple. Of course, I had no way of knowing at the time whether the former was just a stray piece of metal on that flan or something more fundamental. But then I saw the same blemishes on the AGSA and Melbourne Museum specimens, so these were clearly die flaws.



Image courtesy of Coinworks

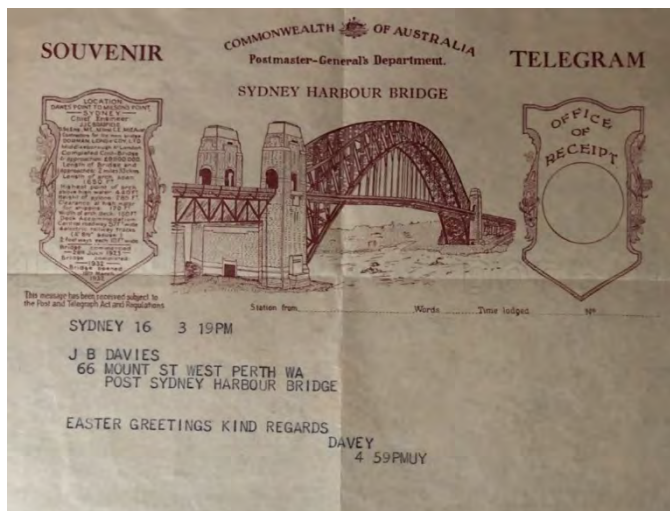
There were also three other such pennies to be tracked down, which I did through the various Noble Numismatics sales. A lovely privately held example has clearly identified flaws, with the image above supplied by Coinworks. It was an interesting exercise tracking the three examples, with the early images low resolution in black and white.

Numismatic curators in Australian museums

What about the curators? Well, the British Museum has an army of numismatic specialists, but the only such curators in Australian museums are Kenneth Sheedy at the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatics (ACANS) and me at the Western Australian Shipwrecks Museum. I have been Honorary Curator for some 25 years and one day I too will retire. I am in the process of training one of the curators, Dr Deb Shefi, who now has this speciality as one of her major duties, and I hope that this will continue the interest in what is a spectacular collection on the world scene. Aside from the usual advice you might expect me to give her, I also talk about the value of informed imagination. What do I mean by this?



The Costa Rica News
Art, Imagination, and Insight (thecostaricanews.com)



Examining a coin, in particular one that is corroded and acid etched, some important details might be obscure, for example the date or assayer marks on an 8 Reales cob from a shipwreck. My advice is to have the coin in hand, tilt it various ways towards a good light and hope to detect changes that indicate the obscured device. But more importantly, when shown such a coin I do this and then say with the confidence of a con artist, its 1654. If you manage this with a flourish and a smile, then you can get away with anything. However, I don't think that I would have such success with selling the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

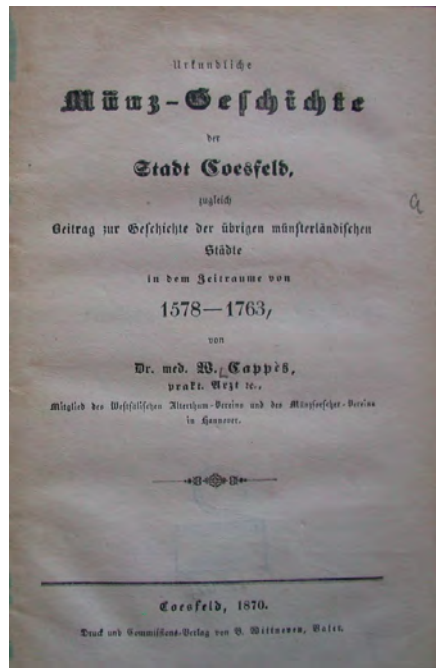
The news for other Australian museums is not so promising. I field queries from around the country, including the Melbourne Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney (Powerhouse Museum) as well as a range of smaller museums. If the younger readers don't step up and help with these collections, then when I and other senior numismatists shuffle off this mortal coil, an important part of modern Australian cultural history will just lie in vaults completely unappreciated.

Analytical Methods

Liesel Gentelli has reported on her work at NAAC2023 so there is no need for me to write about this. But I will say that I have participated in all the International Numismatic Congresses from Brussels (1981), Berlin (1987), Glasgow (1993), Madrid (1999), to Taormina (2015), but my plan to attend Warsaw (2022) was thwarted by COVID. I wrote the Oceania sections of the Survey of International Numismatic Research for the last four of these Congresses, but I digress. What I want to say is that I regularly went to the sessions on analytical techniques that have gained increasing interest over the last couple of decades. The various groups have their favourite techniques, XRF used by the local jewellers, SEM, Micro CT, isotope analysis and the list goes on. The problem is that none of these techniques is all that useful on its own; it is using them in combination that is essential. I won't dwell on this, but there are some quite amazing results that come from careful analytic studies.

Genealogical approach

There is a large fragmentation of numismatic studies in modern Germany as people concentrate on their own region. The primary source was the regularly scheduled *Reichsmünzfuß*, a coinage standard officially adopted across the Holy Roman Empire. Documents from these meetings where coins were tested and mintmasters and assayers interviewed showed the quality control that was in operation for the Empire; think today of the Royal Mint reports and the Trial of the Pyx in the United Kingdom. The secondary sources largely concentrated in the 18th and 19th centuries can be found in regional books and articles,



the well-researched and profusely illustrated auction catalogues, and then the modern tomes relying on all these which are slowly appearing, perhaps one or two a year; there is a long way to go! I was fortunate that the library of the Berlin Coin Cabinet has an extensive range of these not to mention its collection of over half a million numismatic items. Here is an image of the safe room:

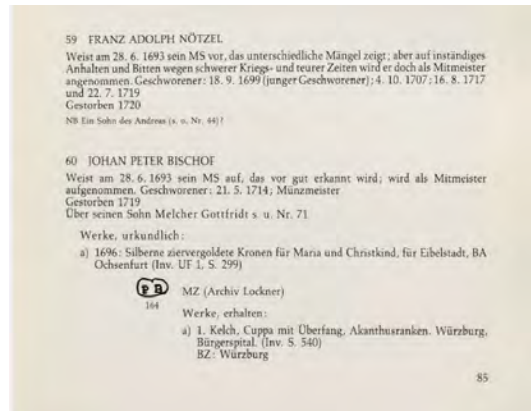


And here the study room with its early Berlin journals which is where I spent much time over several years and the results slowly entered in NOMISMA.



It was relatively late in my research that I developed another approach which I have to say was at first met with some scepticism by my Berlin colleagues. I noticed that some of the mintmasters were well-known goldsmiths and silversmiths, and that some family names were recurring over decades or longer.

This led me to a series authored by Wolfgang Scheffler mostly published years previously by Walter de Gruyter where I (jointly with my late colleague and dear friend, Professor Herbert Heyer) had a research mathematics monograph published. These were listings by major region of the silversmiths of the Renaissance and Baroque periods which in numismatic terms is referred to as the Modern period. The example shown below is unusual in that it was an earlier edition from a different publisher. The problem was that firstly these books are unobtainable, secondly that when available they are very expensive (up to \$1,000 each), and for some there are electronic versions which are just as pricey. It turned out that the main library in Berlin, the Staatsbibliothek, had most of the volumes, the library was three blocks from where we were living, and the Coin Cabinet had a library access card that I could use. So, for my last two visits, this is what I did.



This is where modern genealogical research enters the equation, as I found subtle ways of accessing parts of the electronic versions on-line. Many readers will be familiar with locating a book on-line and seeing a sneak preview of several pages in Google Books. What I would do is search for particular terms but restrict the search to one of the books in question, which came up (most of the time) with pages containing the terms and either complete or partial book entries, and then I would refer to the library's hard copy to take images of the complete entries. This shortened the process considerably as the books themselves were a bit like thesauri and very difficult to navigate. What about all those sample pages that were left blank to stop the reader from just downloading the entire book? Well, this is where I used my contact at the publisher to request from time-to-time copies of various pages which he obligingly sent me. I would also try to access relevant family trees.

I have found the above technique very useful in carrying out *real* genealogical research and I recently joined the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of Western Australia to further my interest in this area. In this case I navigate around excerpts of the various commercial family trees, for only two of which I have subscriptions (it would be too expensive to subscribe to all of them).

Recently in Perth, Dr Mark Allison gave a talk on his eventually successful hunt for details of his Jewish father. The person turned out to be a serial liar and serial bigamist; Mark's upbringing was full of half-truths, lies and the occasional truth. With the help of

his ANCESTRY DNA, two professional genealogists, a large dose of perseverance and a lot of luck, the conman was finally identified. As Mark wryly put it, the process would have been a lot shorter if he had thought to start out with the Police Gazettes of South Australia and Western Australia.

Conclusion

And this is how research progresses, dogged determination, many blind alleys negotiating truths, half-truths, and downright contradictions. It can be frustrating, it is always time-consuming, and it can be highly rewarding. It doesn't matter whether we are talking about the Arts or the Sciences or a combination of the two, research progresses in the same way. In numismatics research, as in all subject areas, we are looking for that *Eureka* moment when everything falls into place.

MAY YOU ALL ENJOY THAT JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN.

This paper was the subject of a Plenary talk given by the author at NAAC2023, 18-19 August 2023 in Adelaide.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Colin Pitchfork for our many recent conversations offering several insights into Australian numismatics.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Walter Bloom is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Murdoch University and Honorary Curator (Numismatics) at the Western Australian Museum. Professor Bloom is President of the Perth Numismatic Society and has after many years just stepped down from being the President of the Numismatic Association of Australia (and is now Vice-President). He is a regular contributor to the Perth Numismatic Journal and the Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia and has recently co-authored a book (Hesperian Press) with Alf Campbell titled Dog Registration Discs in Western Australia. Professor Bloom is currently working on two books Camel and Goat Registration Discs in Western Australia and Western Australian Historical Medals as part of his on-going research into Western Australian numismatica.

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