

Volume 32

# Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



# Numismatic Association of Australia Inc.

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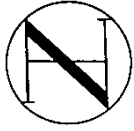
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Front cover: Photo of Mr. Billing's Gold Medal for Law (see article Figure 2 page 88).

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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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*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.*

# The Joys of Marketing a Mint

Barrie M. Newman

## Abstract

*This short piece describes my sadly unsuccessful proposal to produce 1oz gold and silver ingots to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the United Arab Emirates. More goes into creating these pieces than might be imagined.*

When an old school-friend of mine, a mining engineer who was involved in the gold-mining industry in Australia, decided to accompany his wife, who was posted as a specialist schoolteacher to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates in 2009, I thought it could be an opportunity to get him to act on behalf of The Adelaide Mint on a special project. I suggested that he approach the Central Bank in Abu Dhabi to discuss the production of a commemorative gold ingot for issue and sale by the seven countries of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to recognize the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the UAE in 1971 and to raise royalties for their respective countries. Previously members of each of the Sheikdoms comprising the UAE had produced gold and silver commemorative coins. I hoped that a commemorative gold ingot could be an interesting way of commemorating this important event on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011.

My friend agreed to act as our representative for this proposal. Over the next few months we exchanged many emails as I sought to educate him about our industry, reputation and unique marketing advantages in order to properly represent us. He also had to provide us with the official Coat-of-Arms of the UAE and the accurate Arabic wording to be included on the ingots and to source the best princely state with which to commence discussions.

On assessing the production costs, including design and artwork, cost of the dies and vitreous enamelling of the coloured Coat-of-Arms, cost of the precious metal, exchange and currency requirements, freight etc, we recognised that a 1oz pure gold specially designed ingot would be an expensive item for the peoples of the UAE and collectors alike to purchase such a commemorative item. Accordingly, we decided to also consider producing a pure silver ingot which would cost far less and be more acceptable as a collector item, with the only design alteration being the change in the Arabic wording from 'gold' to 'silver'.

To make our proposal fully authentic we decided to produce a sample ingot for my friend to show our prospective clients. Rather than produce separate dies for both the gold and silver ingots, for our presentation purposes, we decided to produce only the silver die and then strike both the gold and silver presentation ingots using the silver

die, advising that the gold wording in Arabic would be correctly changed when making the new 'gold' die once the proposal was approved and production begun.

We produced two x .999 silver sample ingots and then using the same die produced one .999 gold sample ingot and sent the gold ingot, boxed and with appropriate Certificate of Authenticity, to my friend who would arrange a meeting with the appropriate Government Minister who could authorise the production of the commemorative ingots and presenting him with the sample ingot. He was also supplied with a draft Agreement which would be presented for discussion.

At the first meeting with a representative of the Governor of the Central Bank in Abu Dhabi, he expressed concerns that the gold ingot had the word 'silver' instead of 'gold' embossed on it, and then commented that it would be unlikely for the peoples of the UAE to purchase any commemorative ingots at a premium to the actual gold or silver prices, when they could easily purchase 1oz gold ingots from vending machines in bank premises around the UAE at normal gold prices. The ingot was temporarily retained and shown to various senior bank officials before being returned to my friend, with the proposal being summarily rejected without further discussion, on the grounds of expense.

It may well be that as no personal connection was made, the project was rejected because so much business in the Arab world depends on close relationships between buyer to seller. With hindsight, we should have only presented the silver presentation ingot to the Central Bank and arranged that this and future representations be made through the Australian Embassy, who could have arranged meetings with their high-level contacts. Sadly, these expensive 'learning curves' are part of the joys of doing business.

The original boxed gold and silver sample ingots and Certificates of Authenticity, together with a photocopy of the proposed change in Arabic wording from "silver" to "gold" and the die used for production of the ingots are shown here (Figures 1-6).

### **About the author**

*Barrie Newman is Executive Director of The Adelaide Mint, PO Box 2183, Kent Town, South Australia. He is a Past President, Past Secretary and Fellow of The Numismatic Society of South Australia Inc. He received the 2017 NAA Paul Simon Memorial Award and medal for outstanding contribution to Australian numismatics. Barrie has continuously been involved in the production of the NAA Journals since Volume 17 in 2006, initially on the Editorial Committee, then the Editorial Board and, since Volume 27 in 2016, as Production Editor. This current edition is his 16<sup>th</sup> Journal.*



Fig 1. Obverse Die of the UAE 40th Anniversary .999silver ingot.



Fig 2. top – Obverses of 1 ounce .999silver & 1 ounce .999gold ingots showing UAE Coat-of-Arms in coloured vitreous enamel.  
bottom – Reverse of 1 ounce .999silver ingot.

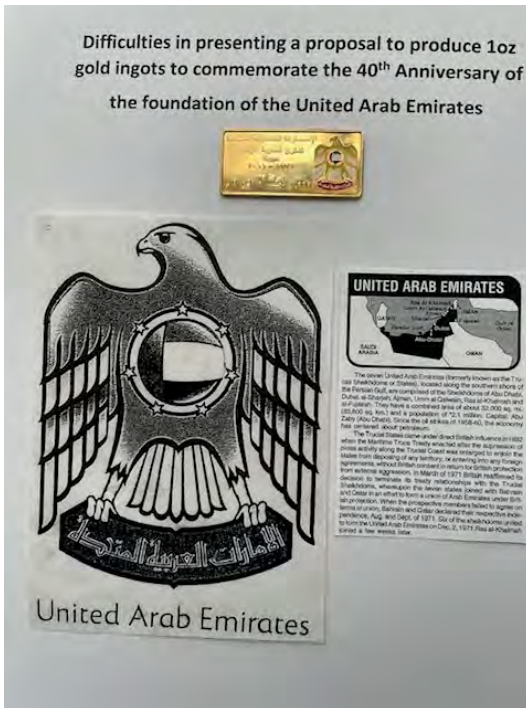


Fig 3. Enlarged UAE Coat-of-Arms and copy from 1982 Edition of Standard Catalog of World Coins.

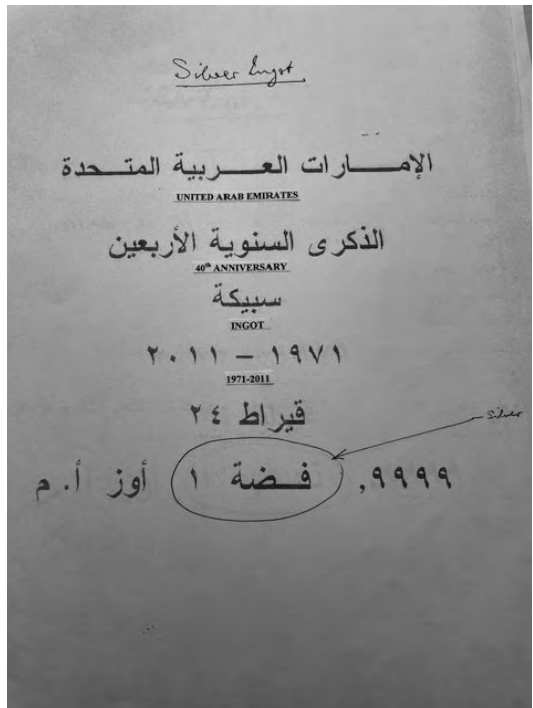
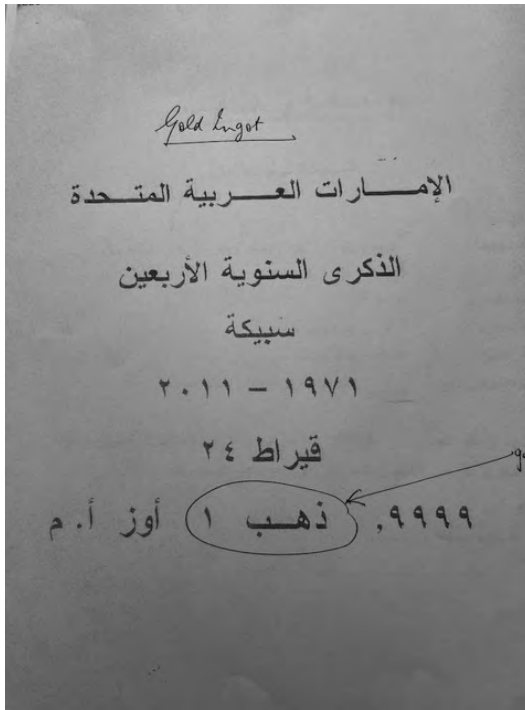
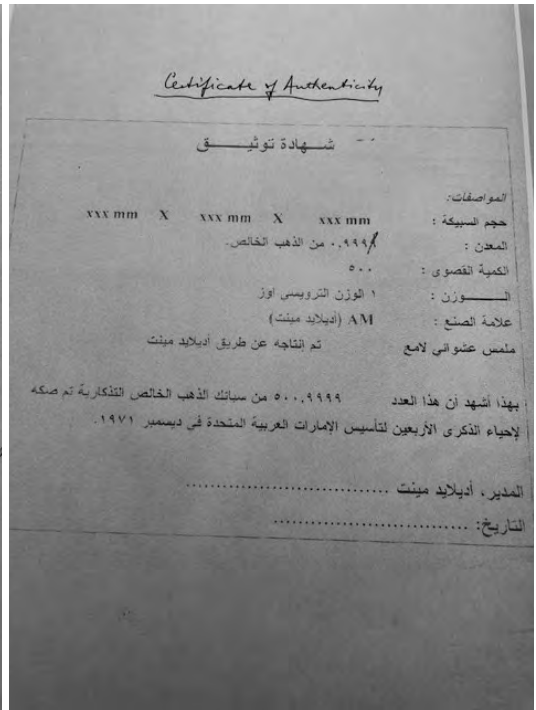


Fig 4. Arabic wording on UAE silver ingot with English interpretation indicated below Arabic lines.



**Fig 5.** Arabic wording to be used for UAE 1 ounce gold ingot showing only change being for the word “gold” instead of “silver”.



**Fig 6.** Arabic wording to be used on Certificate of Authenticity for UAE sales, to be signed by The Adelaide Mint.





# *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.

***Proofs:*** Authors will receive a .pdf proof of their article for comment by email. Author comments can be made by placing comment tabs in the .pdf, or listing corrections by page, column and line number in a separate document. Corrections must be received by email by the Managing Editor no more than five days after receiving the proof. Changes to the edited text at the proofing stage will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the Managing Editor.

***Enquiries:*** please direct all communications to the Managing Editor, Associate Professor Gil Davis at [editor@numismatics.org.au](mailto:editor@numismatics.org.au).



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