

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