



NAAC2025 Book of Abstracts

Conference Welcome

Welcome to the 10th Numismatic Association of Australia Conference.

I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural NAA Conference in November 2005, held at the Powerhouse Museum and the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies at Macquarie University. I was immediately struck by the diversity of topics, the lively and engaging discussions, and—most of all—the warm welcome and inclusive atmosphere. That first experience left a lasting impression, and I’ve made every effort to attend as many subsequent conferences as possible.

It is a pleasure to see the conference return to Melbourne for the second time, and we look forward to another memorable gathering of scholars, collectors, and enthusiasts united by a shared passion for numismatics.

Finally, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to our generous sponsors—International Auction Galleries, Coinworks, Downies, Drake Sterling, Mowbray Collectables and Sterling & Currency—for their continued support. Their contributions help to defray the costs of both this conference and our ongoing journal publication.

We hope you find this conference stimulating, enriching, and enjoyable.

Professor Richard O’Hair (rohair@unimelb.edu.au) *NAAC2025 Conference Convenor*

Key information:

Conference Venue: University House, The Woodward Law Building, University of Melbourne, 10th floor, 106/185 Pelham St, Carlton VIC.

Conference Costs: \$200 per person for both days for NAA or Victorian Numismatic Society members. \$230 for all others. This package includes room hire (8am – 5pm), standard in-room

AV facilities, tea and coffee all day, sparkling mineral water and orange juice at every break, and full day catering (morning tea, networking style lunch and afternoon tea).

Conference Dinner: Monday 28 July 2025 at the Restaurant Maria's Trattoria, 122-124 Peel Street, North Melbourne. We will have the entire restaurant to ourselves. The cost is \$80 per person for a three-course meal that includes: starter of antipasto, choice of four different main courses, dessert and coffee.

As the NAA has signed contracts with both the conference venue and the restaurant, the NAA requires Registrants' payments to be made in advance by no later than Monday 14th July 2025 to the NAA via Direct Deposit:

Account name: Numismatic Association of Australia

Bank: National Australia Bank

BSB 083-004

Account number: 01943 8766

Be sure to include your family name and the word "NAAC2025 registration" or "NAAC2025 dinner" in the message field. When your payment is processed please contact Richard O'Hair.

Conference Medals: A total of 50 medals have been produced to commemorate the conference. All speakers will receive a free conference medal. The remaining medals will be available for \$40 each.

Related events:

Western Money Fair and Victorian Numismatic Societies Displays: 9am-4pm, Saturday 26 July 2025. Over 25 dealers will be in attendance.

Museum Tour: on Tuesday 29 July 2025. We will meet at the entrance of the Melbourne Museum (11 Nicholson St, Carlton VIC 3053, opposite the Royal Exhibition Building) at 8:30 am for a 9 am tour start. Due to security requirements, there will be a limit of 20 people for the visit, so anyone interested should contact Richard O'Hair.

Transport to City: Taxis from Melbourne Airport to the City range between \$70-\$80 depending on the time of day. The Skybus express bus service gets you in to Southern Cross Railway Station for \$24.60 one way or \$41.20 round trip.

Transport in City: The Public Transport Victoria (PTV) website provides plenty of information on getting around Melbourne, including a Journey planner. Melbourne's extensive Tram network should get you most places within the CBD. Tram operator Yarra Trams also have a useful tramTRACKER app. Melbourne's Train network is also an option for getting around the city and its environs, but you will need a Myki to access the network. Taxis and Ride Sharing Services are also available throughout the city.

Accommodation: This [Google Map Link](#) shows accommodation in the vicinity of University Square and the Melbourne Museum.

Please note: you should make your own arrangements for accommodation.

NAAC2025 Timetable

Saturday 26 July 2025					
10:00 to 15:00		Western Money Fair and Victorian Numismatic Societies Coin Displays.			
Monday 28 July 2025					
8:30 to 8:45		Conference registration			
8:45 to 9:00		Conference welcome			
9:00 to 10:00		Plenary	Stuart Kells	Rethinking Modern Money	Money
10:00 to 10:30		Speaker 1	David Mee	Executive Order 6102	Money
10:30 to 11:00		MORNING TEA			
11:00 to 11:30		Speaker 2	Andrew Cope	From respected to reviled: The life and times of Captain William Jarvey	Merchant tokens
11:30 to 12:00		Speaker 3	Michael Carter	Australasian Barber checks	Barber checks
12:00 to 12:30		Speaker 4	David Galt	An overview of NZ Tradesmen’s tokens	Merchant tokens
12:30 to 13:30		LUNCH			
13:30 to 14:00		Speaker 5	Lyn M Kidson	Aurelius Victor, the case of embezzlement in the Roman Mint, and the Rebellion of 271CE	Ancients/Mint
14:00 to 14:30		Speaker 6	Liesel Gentelli	Two suspiciously gold-silver coins from the Potosi mint	Modern/Mint
14:30 to 15:00		Speaker 7	Gil Davis and Ken Sheedy	Silver ore sources of Archaic Athenian coins	Ancients/Mint
15:00 to 15:30		Speaker 8	Bridget McClean	Reconsidering the arrangement of the Lettered Stater Dies issued by Poseidonia c. 420-350 BCE	Ancients/Mint
15:30 to 16:00		AFTERNOON TEA			
16:00 to 16:30		Speaker 9	Richard A J O’Hair	Numismatic items at and from the University of Melbourne	Melbourne collectors
16:30 to 17:00		Speaker 10	Walter R Bloom & Richard A J O’Hair	Coleman P. Hyman: Bowerbird collector and one of Australia’s first Numismatists	Biography, Australian numismatist
17:00 to 17:30		Speaker 11	Gary Kent	Dr Arthur Andrews: Australian numismatic pioneer	Biography, Australian numismatist
17:30 to 18:00		Speaker 12	Frank Robinson	Toogood & Sons Award medals	Biography, Medals
18:30 (for 19:00) to 21:00		DINNER: Maria’s Trattoria, 122-124 Peel Street, North Melbourne.			

Tuesday 29 July 2025				
8:30 to 9:00	Meet at the entrance of the Melbourne Museum (11 Nicholson St, Carlton VIC 3053, opposite the Royal Exhibition Building)			
9:00 to 10:00	Visit exhibition guided by Nick Crotty			
10:00 to 10:30	Return to University House			
10:30 to 11:00	MORNING TEA			
11:00 to 11:30	Speaker 13	Andrew Crellin	Shadows in the Cabinet: The challenges posed by counterfeit coins in Institutional collections	Counterfeits, Institutional collections
11:30 to 12:00	Speaker 14	Peter Lane, Jess de Nichilo & Richard Phillips	Queens Theatre Adelaide site: Numismatic finds	Institutional collection
12:00 to 12:30	Speaker 15	Kenneth A Sheedy & James Tindall	The Archaic drachms of Corinth	Ancients, Die studies
12:30 to 13:00	Speaker 16	Paul M Holland	Numismatic complexity of 1952-1959 Perth Mint pennies	Modern/Die studies
13:00 to 14:30	LUNCH AGM			
14:30 to 15:00	Speaker 17	Bruce Marshall	Augustus and the Capricorns	Ancients
15:00 to 15:30	Speaker 18	Katrina Shillam	Seats of significance – Chairs on Roman coins	Ancients/Iconography
15:30 to 16:00	Speaker 19	Michael Meszaros	The getting of ideas	Engraving of medallions
16:00 to 16:30	AFTERNOON TEA			
16:30 to 17:00	Speaker 20	David Rampling	The ‘unrivalled pencil’ – pre-photographic imagery in numismatics	Drawing and engraving of coins
17:00 to 17:30	Speaker 21	John Pearn	Thomas Webb (1760-1843) — Medallist	Biography, Medals
17:30 to 17:50	5 minute Numismatic Gems	TBA	TBA	TBA
17:50 to 18:00	Conference close			

Plenary Lecture

Rethinking modern money

Stuart Kells

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Money is important: it is central to the economy, the financial system and the payments system; it is an essential element of monetary and fiscal policy; and it is a zone of intense innovation, as is the money-adjacent sphere of cryptocurrencies. And yet the nature of modern money is widely misunderstood. In this presentation, Stuart Kells describes how the great majority of modern money works, including the two-tiered nature of inter-bank payments and government-to-bank payments. Kells concludes with how a more correct understanding of money has wide implications, including for fiscal ‘austerity’, dollarization policies, bank regulation, international financial aid, financial innovation and the integrity of the financial system.

Reference:

- (1) Stuart Kells, *AliceTM: The biggest untold story in the history of money*, Melbourne University Publishing, 2024.

Coleman P. Hyman: Bowerbird collector and one of Australia's first Numismatists

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While carrying research on the Numismatic holdings at The University of Melbourne, one of us (RAJO) discovered what appears to be a previously unrecorded Advance Whaling Ship Note that had once been in the collection of Coleman P. Hyman [1]. Although Hyman wrote one of the first books on Australian coins [2], and amassed an extensive collection that was shown at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, in Chicago [3], he has largely been forgotten by numismatists.

Hyman was a prolific writer of letters to the Sydney Morning Herald using his initials "C. P. H.". He wrote on a diverse range of topics including: volunteering of youth for service in the navy; taxes on profits from subdivision on lands; advice to the NSW Rail Commissioners regarding toilets; and the 50th Anniversary of the awards of VCs to three Australian soldiers who fought at the relief of Lucknow. Hyman penned several letters with relevance to Numismatics. The most important, was his article on "COINS AND CURRENCY IN AUSTRALIA", which was used as the basis of his book.

Hyman not only assembled one of the premier collections of Australian coins, tokens and banknotes, but appears to have had other diverse collecting interests, as evidenced by an exhibition held in the great hall of the Sydney University in connection with the Library Association of Australasia [4]. The exhibits focused on books, documents and autographs of Jewish interest, but also included "*a number of autographs of early Sydney notabilities, several old papers including Sydney Gazettes printed during the early years of the century, and a large collection of coins and currency of Australasia,*"

In his obituary [5], it was noted that: "*He was a keen collector of curios, china, coins, medals, historical documents, etc., and his rooms were like a museum containing as they did valuable mementoes of all kinds. These he took to England when he left Australia some years ago, and it is a pity that his valuable collection could not have been retained for the local institutions, as he had many original records of which there were no duplicates.*"

References:

- (1) R. A. J. O'Hair, Numismatic Gem and Puzzle: The Advance Whaling Ship Note from the Grimwade Collection - A Hidden Treasure from the University of Melbourne Archives, *Victorian Numismatic Journal*, **2024**, 9, 16-19.
- (2) C. P. Hyman, An account of the coins, coinages, and currency of Australasia, Published by Authority of the New South Wales Commissioners for the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893. This book was reprinted in 1973 by John Drury.
- (3) C. P. Hyman, Catalogue of coins, coinages and currency of Australasia : with specimens of medals exhibited by Coleman P. Hyman, Published by Authority of the New South Wales Commissioners for the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.
- (4) Jewish Herald, Friday 28 October 1898, page 12.
- (5) Australian Jewish Chronicle Thursday 27 February 1930, page 11.

Australasian Barber checks

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Barber checks or tally checks as they are called in America were used extensively in Australia and New Zealand. These value stated items were used by individual barbers to assist in the



payment process allowing the barber to deal with the next customer while payment by the previous customer is made at the front counter. The main feature of these checks as opposed to other value stated checks is a 'chair number' or identifier. The use of a set of uniquely identified checks allowed barbers to operate or hire an individual chair and be assured that at the end of the day, the relevant share of income for that chair could be readily identified.

Australia and New Zealand have a significant number of barber checks that can be assigned to them. However some of these checks were also

used in England and South Africa resulting in some confusion. This is due to the dominance of a few barber suppliers who while based in England supplied check sets throughout the world. These companies such as P&O, O.G. and Sons, Ogee, and R.Hovenden & Sons were major suppliers of these checks along with other supplies such as razors. Barbers would either bring a check set with them when they emigrated or ordered checks from barber suppliers back home once they were set up in their new counties. Fortunately for collectors and historians not all barbers used the standard checks and some barbers either customized their checks or had them manufactured especially for their own use.



This presentation describes the usage of barber checks and documents the main types and significant varieties of barber checks that were used in Australia and New Zealand.

From respected to reviled: The life and times of Captain William Jarvey

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William Andrew Jarvey came to Hobart circa 1843, in all likelihood aboard *East London*, a Convict ship filled with Irish convicts, mainly women. Onboard, Jarvey is understood to have fallen in love with Catherine Shaw, a 19-year-old blue-eyed convict of “prepossessing appearance”. Successfully petitioning her release, the couple immediately marry and have more than 10 children. A time where cessation transportation ends, Jarvey establishes a business in Hobart as a pawnbroker and general clothier and issued tradesmen’s tokens circa 1855.

Within 10 years and now living in Dunedin as Ship’s Captain of *Titania*, Jarvey poisoned his wife, leading to a riveting trial that captivated all of New Zealand and elsewhere.

This presentation draws together some historical threads of Jarvey’s life, the people who came into contact with him, numismatic aspects, the failed first trial and subsequent trial leading to him being hanged in Dunedin on 24 October 1865.

Shadows in the Cabinet: The challenges posed by counterfeit coins in Institutional collections

Andrew Crellin

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This paper is written in the spirit of constructive dialogue, aiming to support and strengthen the vital work undertaken by public institutions, researchers, and collectors. It addresses the persistent and often sensitive issue of counterfeit coins in institutional numismatic collections, acknowledging the immense value of these collections and the professionalism of those who manage them.

Systemic and Historical Factors

The presence of counterfeit material in public collections is rarely the result of negligence or intent, but rather the outcome of systemic and historical circumstances. These include:

- Limited engagement between institutional staff and numismatic experts;
- Restricted access to authentication tools and specialist references;
- Chronic under-resourcing in terms of staff and funding;
- The inherent difficulty in revisiting and acknowledging past misattributions.

Case Studies, Not Accusations

The paper will present several examples where counterfeit or questionable items have been identified within public collections. These are presented not as criticisms, but as learning opportunities to inform future best practices.

Implications for Research

The unchecked presence of counterfeit items can have significant consequences for numismatic scholarship and public trust, including:

- Disrupted provenance records;
- Inaccurate historical interpretations;
- Propagation of flawed data in academic literature;
- Market confusion and reputational risk for institutions.

Constructive Recommendations

To address these challenges, the following actions are proposed:

- Transparent acknowledgement of questionable items within collections;
- Proactive collaboration with external numismatic experts;
- Regular third-party audits or peer reviews of high-value or high-risk items.

Reaffirming the Value of Institutional Collections

Despite the challenges, institutional numismatic collections are foundational to our field. With thoughtful stewardship and open engagement, these institutions can lead the way in modeling transparency, scholarly integrity, and public accountability.

Silver ore sources of Archaic Athenian coins

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Current understandings of the silver ore sources used by the ancient Athenians to mint their earliest coinages, the *Wappenmünzen* followed by the ‘owls’ have derived from literary sources, and from isotopic and elemental analyses mostly conducted in the late 1970s. Two themes stand out. First, that the Athenian tyrant Peisistratos and his family primarily obtained silver from their base in exile in northern Greece; and second, that the Athenians found and exploited the immensely rich so-called ‘third contact’ silver deposits in Lavrion in south-east Attica late in the sixth century BCE. This in turn led to them minting large denomination tetradrachms and introducing the owl type as an ‘export’ currency.

Here we present new evidence from numismatic and isotopic [1] and elemental analyses [2] of 22 *Wappenmünzen* and 64 owls which substantially change our understandings. We demonstrate that the ore sources of the *Wappenmünzen* ranged from Spain to Romania and Türkiye; they were frequently mixed with very little from northern Greece and nothing from Lavrion. The results for the owls show that only a small proportion of the coins were wholly struck from Lavrion ore or other discrete sources while most of the coins were struck from Lavrion ore mixed with ore from a single or homogeneous, geologically older source. Crucially, this was not the multitude of external sources used for the preceding *Wappenmünzen* series. We deduce that the discovery of the third contact only occurred shortly before 483/2 BCE, at which point Lavrion silver came to represent the bulk of the supply. This forces a reappraisal of the current paradigm since it seems that there was no abrupt and complete change of ore source to Lavrion, and therefore this cannot be connected with the introduction of the tetradrachm or the owl coin type.

Footnotes:

(1) The isotopic analyses were conducted by the SILVER group based at the ENS Lyon of which Davis is part.

(2) The elemental analyses were conducted by Davis, Sheedy and MQ colleague Professor Damian Gore.

An overview of NZ Tradesmen's tokens

David Galt

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The talk provides an overview of the issues of New Zealand nineteenth century trademen's tokens, with illustrations, issued from 1857 to 1881.

The origins and links to prior Australian issues introduce the subject.

The talk will cover

- The history of issuance
- Geographical spread of issuers
- The range of Issuers
- Mints
- The composition of tokens
- Sizes
- Range of designs
- Rarity
- Patterns, Mules and Restrikes
- Typical Condition

Two suspiciously gold-silver coins from the Potosi mint

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Two coins minted at the Potosi mint (Bolivia) in the collection of the American Numismatic Society caught the attention of researchers due to their unusual yellowish colour. In their 1989 study of the composition of silver coins from Potosi, Gordus and Gordus analysed the content of one coin (an eight-reale piece minted between 1556 and 1598) that had to be removed from further statistical analysis.

“Omitted from the average is the one coin of Philip II from the ANS collection with a gold level of 12.1. The gold content of this 8-real coin is so high, about 11%, that it roughly doubles the intrinsic precious-metal net value of the coin. The coin has a slightly yellow color and its gold content could be easily determined by even the simple touchstone technique. This coin is either a mint error that escaped detection, was made directly from gold/silver artifacts stolen from the Incas, or was deliberately fabricated to have this high gold content.”
-(Gordus & Gordus, 1989).

While conducting research as part of the American Numismatic Society’s Eric P. Newman Graduate Summer Seminar in 2023, a second yellowish coin from the Potosi mint was identified, this time a two-reale piece minted in 1751. The two-reale was compositionally analysed by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis. Both suspect coins were found to have exceptionally high gold content, unsurprisingly, given the visible yellow colour of the coins, but very surprising given these particular denominations are typically silver/copper alloys.

It is of note that the two coins originate from the Potosi mint, given the infamous Great Potosi Mint Fraud of 1649, at which time coins from the mint were found to contain approximately 75% of the silver they were required to contain, the rest of the alloy being made up with excess copper. The fraud had lasting, global, repercussions for decades. Several assayers at the mint were fined, fired, and one assayer, along with an official, were executed for their crimes.

The two coins in question were minted approximately 200 years apart, one during the reign of Philip II (1556-1598), before the Potosi mint fraud, the other during the reign of Fernando VI (1746-1759), after the fraud. The possible conclusions drawn by Gordus and Gordus (1989) are investigated; that the two gold-rich coins are a result of undetected mint error, melted down Inca treasure, or an intentional fabrication.

Reference:

GORDUS, A. A., GORDUS, JEANNE P. Identification of Potosí silver usage in 16th-17th century European coinage through gold-impurity content of coins. In: BISCHOFF, W., ed. *Coinage of the Americas Conference*, 1989 New York. American Numismatic Society.

Numismatic complexity of 1952-1959 Perth Mint pennies

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In 1952, the Perth Mint began producing their own penny dies for the first time using distinctive master die tools directly supplied from London. Some years later, when pre-decimal proof pennies began to be produced to meet the growing demand of coin collectors, the Perth Mint's approach evolved into a unique style for producing proofs using special dies with sand blasted fields and enhanced rims that were hand ground post-strike. Together these developments contributed to the surprising complexity of 1952-1959 Perth Mint pennies.

This complexity has been investigated using mint records, numismatic observations on coins in my extensive reference collection, along with coin survey information in the numismatic literature. Results show unusual date numeral varieties on 1952 Perth Mint pennies, a "missing" 1953 reverse die type, the "mixing" of 1955-1956 obverse master die types on Perth Mint pennies, the use of different reverse master die types on 1957 Perth Mint pennies, and surprising complex features in Perth Mint penny proofs, including die linkages, die state progressions and reverse date order striking.

Dr Arthur Andrews: Australian numismatic pioneer

Gary Kent

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Dr Arthur Andrews (1848-1925) was a British-born general practitioner and surgeon who was a pioneering Australian numismatist. His enduring contribution to Australian numismatics was his *Australasian Tokens and Coins: A Handbook*. Published in 1921 by the Mitchell Library, it remained as the standard text on Australian trade tokens until the publication of Simon Gray's *A Study of Australasian Trade Tokens* in 2013. Andrews himself had a fine collection and was a founder and leading early member of the Australian Numismatic Society (ANS) and the Numismatic Society of Victoria (NSV).

This presentation will briefly outline Dr Arthur Andrews' life, commencing with his Hertfordshire origins and early medical career, his emigration to Australia in 1874, and the 45 years he spent in Albury, New South Wales, where he was one of the town's leading medical practitioners and public-spirited citizens. Brief mention will also be made of his pioneering histories of Albury (1912) and the Upper Murray district (1920).

The talk will focus on Dr Andrews' collection of coins and tokens, which was regarded as in the top rank of Australian collections, and his contributions to the numismatic literature, culminating in *Australasian Tokens and Coins*, which he completed following his retirement to Sydney in 1919. Mention will be made of the reception of the *Handbook* and its subsequent reprintings in 1965 and 1982.

Dr Andrews' relationships with other collectors will be examined, including his key role in the establishment of the ANS and the NSV, and interactions with leading numismatists such as Sir William Dixon, G. H. Abbott, Albert Le Souef and Alfred Yelland. Finally, an assessment will be attempted of Dr Andrews' numismatic legacy.

The talk will draw heavily on Dr Arthur Andrews' biography, by Charles Stitz and Gary Kent, published in 2023 by Australian Scholarly Publishing: *The Country Surgeon: The life and Times of Arthur Andrews of Albury (1848-1925)*.

Aurelius Victor, the case of embezzlement in the Roman Mint, and the Rebellion of 271CE

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Aurelius Victor writing in the fourth century describes a rebellion in Rome centred on the mint: “at the instigation of the treasurer (*rationalis*), Felicissimus, [the mint workers] had been filing off the coin marks, in fear of punishment they had fought so serious a war that after gathering on the Caelian Hill they killed about seven thousand troops” (*De Caesaribus*, §35.6; trans. Bird). Aurelius Victor is not known for his careful historiography, but rather is given to occasionally omitting facts which would tend to disprove his own contentions. Ted Nixon (1971) describes him as a moralist and a litterateur, relaying the orthodox tradition, “a compound of fact and fancy.” Yet this story involving the mint workers has a good deal of veracity. The Italian archaeologist Coarelli identifies damage to what has been acknowledged as the mint building to the revolt involving Felicissimus. But some things in the account don’t add up, as H. W. Bird says, Victor Aurelius tended to make his own judgements on individuals and classes, and adjust the storyline to suit those judgements. Even so there is enough here to invite investigation of the running of the mint, the opportunity for embezzlement, and the relationship of the *rationalis* to the emperor.

Queens Theatre Adelaide site: Numismatic finds

Peter Lane, Jess de Nichilo and Richard Phillips

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The Queens Theatre was opened in Adelaide in 1840, just a few years after the city was founded. The theatre site is a place of national cultural significance; it has a colourful past as a theatre, auction rooms, law courts, tavern, horse bazaars, car garage and parking station. An archaeological investigation and report was commissioned for Hooker Projects, Adelaide City Council, and the State Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning of South Australia. Excavation of the site was carried out in June and July 1989 and a report was completed by Heritage Group; Austral Archaeology and Lothar Brasse in December 1990. All work was undertaken in accordance with established archaeological practices and standards and the principles of the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter.

The artifacts unearthed: shards of crockery, smoking pipes, beads, makeup, coins and much more are stored at Flinders University College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. This article records the location of the coins and tokens, their condition including metal loss. Some coins predate the settlement of South Australia and some of the tokens found were from other Australian Colonies. This article illustrates the examples and summarises what is known about the coins and tokens in the South Australian landscape in the 19th century. The article also records details of businesses that had used the site, before and since the dig.

Augustus and the Capricorns

Bruce Marshall

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The Roman emperor Augustus was said by the imperial biographer Suetonius to have been born on 23 September 63 BC. Suetonius also says that his star-sign was Capricorn, which cannot be right, since Capricorn is the star-sign for January, while the star-sign for September is Libra. Many attempts, primarily based on complex astrology and astronomy, have been made to reconcile these two irreconcilable facts. It is time to draw a line under this much-discussed problem and simply order 'Cease firing!'

An examination, however, of various mediums, particularly Augustus' coinage on which the Capricorn appears prolifically from c. 28 BC onwards, and to a lesser extent engraved gems and cameos, suggests that the Capricorn was deliberately chosen by Augustus to be a symbol of his 'good fortune' and his control and direction of the Roman state.

Reconsidering the arrangement of the Lettered Stater Dies issued by Poseidonia c. 420-350BCE

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The Greek city of Poseidonia (South Italy) was founded by Sybaris around 600 BCE. Sometime in the last two decades of the fifth century, the city came under the control of the indigenous Lucanians. In this period, while the material record indicates that the city gradually became “Oscanized”, coin production continued uninterrupted. Between c. 420 and 350 BCE, some staters and fractions issued by the Poseidonian mint bore letters/numbers on the obverse and/or reverse. While not all letters of the alphabet are represented, there are several examples where a die with a letter is paired with a die without a letter. This linkage pattern suggests that the coins - both with and without letters - were issued simultaneously. The staters were studied by Noe (1952) and later, expanded by Kraay (1967), who added three dies to the corpus compiled by Noe. This paper re-examines these staters, identifying problems with the currently accepted arrangement of these coins. It therefore proposes a new sequence and suggests that two workstations may have been responsible for their production. In doing so, it offers insight into the minting practices of Poseidonia during a key period in the city’s history.

References:

- Kraay, C. M. (1967), Gli stateri a doppio rilievo di Poseidonia, *Atti e Memorie della Societa Magna Graecia*, vol. 8, 113-135.
- Noe, S. P. (1952), A Group of Die-Sequences at Poseidonia (430-410 B.C.), *American Numismatic Society Museum Notes*, vol. 5, 9-19.

Executive Order 6102

David Mee

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This presentation is not the usual numismatic talk, with the focus on numismatic objects of interest, talking about their design, their artistic merit, their period and historical associations. Rather it is a talk about money, the main purpose of most numismatic items and how they are used (and abused). This is usually more the topic of economics. It is also a talk on inflation, the scourge of modern life.

The year 1933 was a fateful year in world history and not very pleasant. Throughout the western world the Great Depression was raging. Hitler had been appointed by President Hindenburg as Chancellor of Germany, and this was followed by the burning of the Reichstag. Stalin was deliberately starving the people of Ukraine in an event now known as the Holodomor. Imperial Japan was invading Manchuria. In the USA, Franklin D Roosevelt had been elected President, succeeding Hoover. After the 1929 stock market crash, the Hoover administration had brought in tariffs to try to protect American farmers. In 1933, Roosevelt was persuaded that the fundamental cause of lack of spending and economic activity was the hoarding of gold coins, and he issued an edict known as Executive Order number 6102 which banned the use and holding of gold, other than as jewelry. All monetary gold had to be handed in to the Federal Reserve bank, on pain of \$10,000 fine and jail time. Bank notes to the same face value were to be provided in return. This order was followed by further orders concerning contracts which specified payments in gold, where these clauses were declared null and void, and banknotes had to be accepted instead. Many court battles ensued but none succeeded. Most other countries, including Australia, followed suit.

This paper looks at the events following this executive order, the Bretton Woods agreement in 1944 which restored gold to international transactions between sovereign states, but not for individuals. This culminated in 1971 by the Nixon shock, whereby then President Richard Nixon unilaterally abrogated the agreement and refused to exchange gold for dollars. Today no country has circulating gold money, but gold is as popular as ever and has continued to have a value which preserves its former purchasing power, as opposed to fiduciary currency which is designed and intended to inflate away. Much of the demand for gold bullion today is from Government purchases to hold in central banks. Despite the fears that there is insufficient gold for gold to be money again, technological advance in mining and extraction has ensured that there is today just as much mined gold in the world per person as there was in 1900, with Australian mines alone contributing 300 tonnes annually, or about 10% of the annual production worldwide. This translates to 9.6 million troy ounces worth \$A45 billion.

The getting of ideas

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The process of getting ideas, artistic or otherwise, is an entirely individual undertaking. Since nobody can look into another person's mind, it is impossible to understand how another person's mind works and how they generate their ideas.

Since every person is a synthesis of a multitude of factors which make up their personality, mentality and abilities, everyone's mind will operate differently.

Since I cannot comment on how other artist's minds operate, I can only attempt to explain, as far as possible, how my own mind works and how I arrive at my designs.

Since even I do not fully understand where some of my ideas come from, this is not an easy thing to do.

I will speak about generating ideas in general and then I will try to explain, using illustrations, how I arrived at a range of designs, both for commissioned and for personal exhibition works.

The responses to an artist's work are just as variable, since the minds of viewers are even more varied. Thus, the interaction between artist and viewer is virtually infinite.

Numismatic items at and from the University of Melbourne

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The University of Melbourne, founded in 1853, has over 30 different museum collections [1] that have been used for teaching and research purposes and various numismatic items have found their way into these collections. In addition, various medals have been issued by the University of Melbourne to recognize the achievements of students and staff. This talk represents the first survey of items of Numismatic interest associated with the University of Melbourne, and is divided into the following parts:

- (1) The Jessie Webb Collection of ancient coins in the Faculty of Arts that was used for teaching purposes.[2,3]
- (2) Numismatic items in the University of Melbourne Archives,[4] including those from the Grimwade Bequest.
- (3) Items from other University of Melbourne collections.
- (4) Medals awarded by the University of Melbourne to students and staff.
- (5) Non-numismatic items at the University of Melbourne that are of historical interest such as the Monetary National Income Analogue Computer (MONIAC) invented by Alban William Housego Phillips and used to model macroeconomic calculations [5], and architectural remnants of Victorian colonial banks.

References:

- (1) University of Melbourne Museums and Collections, 2018.
- (2) Amanda Burritt and Andrew Jamieson, Ancient coins Heads and tales from antique lands, University of Melbourne Collections, issue 7, December 2010, p.49-51.
- (3) Kathleen Fitzpatrick, 'Webb, Jessie Stobo (1880–1944)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/webb-jessie-stobo-9025/text15893>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 13 February 2025.
- (4) Primary sources: 50 years of the Archives, S. Jaehrling Ed., University of Melbourne, 2010.
- (5) Anna Corkhill, A superb explanatory device: The MONIAC, an early hydraulic analog computer', University of Melbourne Collections, issue 10, June 2012, p.26

Thomas Webb (1760-1843) — Medallist

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It is a paradox that whereas medallic pieces endure in relatively incorruptible form, the medallic sculptor who designed them often has no formal biography. One such example is the British medallist, Thomas Webb (1760-1843) whose extensive and beautiful numismatic creations record some of the most significant events of the first quarter of the 19th century. While Forrer and others have recorded his works,[1] his personal details have hitherto remained in relative obscurity. Thomas Webb was born in Croxall, Derbyshire on 26 February 1760, the son of Samson Webb and his wife Mary (née Bircher). He became an indentured apprentice as a button maker and engraver in Birmingham. At the age of 22, on 7 July 1782 he married Betty Fryer at St Martin's Church, Birmingham. The couple had nine children. Webb's most productive years were reflected in his work as a medallic sculptor in Birmingham from 1800 to 1830. For a period he worked for the former Royal Marine, James Mudie (1779-1852) in the latter's venture business, making commemorative medals of events and heroes in the Napoleonic wars.[2] Thomas Webb exhibited a particular flare for sculpting busts of significant historical figures; and in particular of producing "extraordinary specimens of medallic engraving of nearly a front view... with likenesses, fleshinesses and neatness,[which] place Webb among the very first of model medallists in the class of busts".[3]

Webb's best known historical medals are struck in bronze, although gold and silver pieces were also included, particularly as gifts to the monarch (George III and George IV) and senior dignitaries. He produced scores of fine medals of great historical significance, including tribute pieces of George III; Admiral Lord Duncan; the Royal Navy victory at Camperdown; Sir Ralph Abercrombie; Lord Hutchinson; Field Marshal Frederick, Duke of York; the foundation of the Royal Military College in 1802; Lord Beresford; the capture of St Sebastian, 1813; Duke of Cambridge; British victory at Hanover, 1814; the surrender of Napoleon 15 July 1815; William Henry Betty, 1804 (the actor); Samuel Birch, Lord Mayor of London, 1815; Opposition to the Corn Bill; death of Princess Charlotte, 1817; Sir William Sidney Smith, 1805; William Wilberforce; the abolition of the slave trade, 1807; capture of Badajoz 1812; George Washington, first President of the United States, 1805 (one of the Eccleston medals); and many others.

Thomas Webb was one of four engravers who were admitted as Members or Associates of the Royal Birmingham Society of Arts.[4] The earliest record of his skill as an engraver was his production, in 1796, of three Penny Blanks as potential tokens for two businesses in Bristol.[5]

References:

- (1) L. Forrer, *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, Spink & Sons, 1916, vol. 6, 400-402.
- (2) J. Mudie, *An Historical and Critical Account of a Grand Series of National Medals*, Colburn and Co., London, 1820.
- (3) L. Forrer, 400.
- (4) B. Flynn, *RBSA. A place of Art. The story of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists*. Call Print, Liverpool, 24, 52.
- (5) Charles Pye [Snr], "Names of Die-Sinkers and Manufacturers", in *A Corrected Complete Representation of All the Provincial Copper Coins, Tokens of Trade Cards of Addresses....* Second Edition. Matthew Young, London, 1801, Plate X, 6-8.

The ‘unrivalled pencil’ – pre-photographic imagery in numismatics

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The accurate illustration of coins prior to the middle of the nineteenth century required superior artistic abilities informed by numismatic knowledge. These attainments reached their zenith not long before the advent of photography superseded their primacy in publications.

Beginning at this pivotal point, my paper traces retrospectively the evolution of the drawing and engraving of coins, with examples taken from British numismatic literature. Emphasis is given to the artistry of the creators, the diverse responses of the audiences for whom their art was created, and the influence of the contemporary cultural milieu.

Toogood & Sons Award medals

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Toogood & Sons of Southampton, England, was established in 1815. They were suppliers of seeds and held Royal warrants as seedsmen to Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, and King George V.

Toogood & Sons awarded prize medals at various events from about 1900 until at least the 1930s. There are at least nine types of these prize medals which were issued uninscribed. While some medals have been inscribed with the winner's name, and sometimes a year, many have not been inscribed.

The speaker has developed a provisional classification of the various types of these medals.

The Archaic drachms of Corinth

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The three important mints of central Greece during the archaic period, or more precisely, from c.540 BC until 480 BC, were those of Aegina, Athens and Corinth. Oddly enough, today we are lacking a modern study of all three. For Aegina we rely on Ross Holloway's unpublished thesis of 1960. For Athens we have Seltman's book of 1924 (soon to be replaced by a study from Sheedy and Davis). For Corinth we have Sally Anne Coupar's 2000 doctoral thesis on the tri-drachm staters of Corinth down to the Peloponnesian War. This study also remains unpublished but is available on the internet. Unfortunately, it did not consider fractions.

In this paper we present the results of a study of over 100 archaic Corinthian drachms of the archaic period. The issues we have focused on all have the famous swastika reverse incuse pattern. Surprisingly there are more obverse than reverse dies. We have prepared a die study showing that production was sporadic and involved a limited number of dies.

Finally, we consider the evidence for the production of drachms at Corinth within the context of the supply of small coins by Greek mints in the 6th century BC. We believe that the evidence shows only a limited engagement with the monetization of commercial transactions.

Seats of significance – Chairs on Roman coins

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Chairs as a unique design element are rare on ancient coins, they are commonly only portrayed as seats for deities or rulers. This symbolic use of chairs as a principal feature is confined to Roman or Roman-influenced coinage. Forms of the chair such as the *sella curulis* (curule chair), *sella castrensis* and *pulvinar* are defined. All coin types featuring these are identified and investigated. The iconography of chair portrayal is explored through republican and imperial Roman coinage, with a focus on historical and cultural significances, and the Etruscan influence on Roman numismatic traditions.