



The Numismatic Society of South Australia Incorporated

NEWSLETTER 151, December 2024.

Society meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide 7.30 pm., visitors welcome.

Postal address **P.O. Box 312 Magill 5072.**

For further information, contact the Secretary, Richard Welling; secretary@sanumismatics.org.au

NSSA web page -- sanumismatics.org.au Webmaster: Mark.

Newsletter edited and illustrated by Mick Vort-Ronald, primarily from minutes of Society meetings recorded by the Secretary. Contact details for Mick are; phone (08) 8522 4490, mobile 0417 212 906, no text or SMS messages please, or P.O. Box 653 Willaston S.A. 5118. email vortronald@yp-connect.net

Annual membership **subscriptions now fall due in January** each year, \$30 for members in Australia and overseas. They can also be paid by EFT to BSB 015 590 A/c 4981 20308 (ANZ) stating surname and/or postcode. If paying by EFT please email Treasurer Virginia, at treasurer@sanumismatics.org.au

Members attending meetings speaking on various topics are encouraged to provide the secretary with brief details of the subjects and examples produced in writing on the night or preferably sent by email to allow accurate recording in the Society minutes. This will make his task much easier and ensure that correct information is later used in this newsletter for the information of other members and clubs. Most items are photographed by Mick at meetings, but members can also send text and images of their items direct to Mick.

Newsletters are sent via email to members who have the capacity to receive them. In this way you get your newsletter quicker and better than a printed version, **AND IN COLOUR**. Please advise the Secretary of your email address for future issues.

This is more efficient and saves the society money. For those who do not have access to the Internet, or still want hard copy in black and white, some copies will still be produced and posted if requested.

As a result of sending our emailed newsletters to other clubs in Australia and New Zealand, we receive their emailed newsletters and these are also being forwarded on to our financial members by email.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Next meeting, Number 1017 - Thursday 16th January 2025, 7.30 pm at 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.

Next Numismatic Bourse – Thursday 20th March 2025 from approximately 6 pm to 7.30 pm – 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.

Meeting 1014, SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide, 17th October 2024.

Present: 13 members and numerous apologies.

NAA 2025 conference will be held in Melbourne.



Early birds at the RAM queue and David handing out a raffle prize, images, Helen.

Coin Expo report:

The NSSA Coin & Banknote Expo on the 5th & 6th October was a success with over 1,500 coin enthusiasts in attendance. Our hard-working volunteers and many others helped greatly to make this event work and we thank all who contributed for their assistance. The NSSA is always learning and is aiming to make the 2025 Coin & Banknote Expo an even more successful and enjoyable experience for all attendees. For anyone interested in discussing aspects of and the future of the NSSA Coin Expo, we will meet informally at our next meeting on November 21st, half an hour before our main meeting to listen to any thoughts or suggestions you may have.

Door Prizes: Two Australian Coin Review magazines were won by members.

General Business;

Gerry and Paul S. attended the funeral of **David Matthews**, former Fellow of the NSSA, and spoke about him.

Big thanks to **Helen** for providing another great supper for the members. What a diamond you are.

We wish to produce a **medal in 2026** to commemorate 100 years of the NSSA. We are using our Adelaide Pound logo on one side and have yet to decide on a design for the other side. A suggestion was made to put the names and/or images of past notable members of the NSSA or perhaps the image of a building that was previously used by the NSSA to host meetings. Or perhaps details of our two 50-year members, P.L. & D.R. What do you think? Have you any ideas for the obverse side of the 100th anniversary medal? Would you like to help with the medal and be the understudy to Barrie who is handling the engraving and design of the medal? If so, email your thoughts to him at adelaidemint@bigpond.com

Numismatics:

David spoke about and showed a **Public Service medal** awarded in 2003 to **P. Beach** for meritorious service, a large 57mm bronze medal weighing 68 grams, in a case.

V. P. spoke about and showed **Bluey coins** and a possible \$10 note error.

Greg spoke about and showed a **copper As of Caligula** (37-41 AD) This infamous Emperor only had a fairly short reign and his coins are always of interest to collectors.

Gerry spoke about and showed **fake Australian kookaburra** bullion coins in fake NGS slabs. He also spoke about Irish coin dealer Richard Walsh and recounted some amusing stories, and spoke about and showed a large, handsome 70mm silver medal by Emile Fuchs, Cessation of the Boer War.

Richard spoke about and showed a silver 18th century medal of **Jean Dassier**, showing a portrait of Oliver Cromwell.

No images are available due to absence of Mick, who had Covid following a fall. The day after the fall he attended the Expo wearing a “beanie” to cover up 29 staples on the top of his head, since completely healed.

Meeting 1015 held at SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide, 21st November 2024.

Present: 21 members, 6 apologies, and visitor JW who attended and signed up as a member, welcome.

Coin Expo report: We have made a tentative booking for the venue, same time (October long weekend) next year.

Door Prizes: Harry kindly donated two bottles of wine, plus we gave away the ACR monthly coin magazine and some books to members including Paul J. and Neil.

General Business: Big thanks to Helen for providing another great supper for the members.

Numismatics:



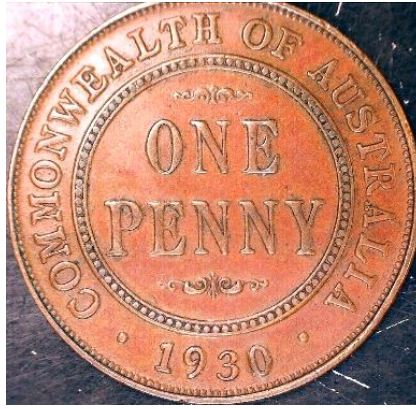
David spoke about and showed the 1919-1969 50th Anniversary of the **England to Australia Air Race** medal featuring the famous Vickers-Vimy aircraft and also showed some original post cards of the period.

Gerry showed an engraved 1898 GB silver half-crown to **Hector Shelley**, who served in the Boer War with the 6th Imperial Bushmen and also served in WW1. He lived to the good age of 82. A beautifully engraved piece.

Peter.L. spoke about some work he is doing for the **Flinders University** on a hoard of old copper coins that had been immersed in water for a long period.



Alan spoke about and showed a **Sestertius of Marcus Aurelis**. This famous Roman Emperor ruled from 161 to 180 AD and spawned an unworthy son.



Richard spoke about and showed a **1930 penny** with a cleverly altered date.

Paul J. spoke about and showed a quarter and a half denomination of the **Indian Gold Mohurs** from the Australian Proclamation period – story following.

The Bengal Presidency, referred to as the Bengal Province, was the largest of all three presidencies of British India during Company rule which later became a province of India. At its height it covered large parts of what is now South Asia and Southeast Asia. Bengal covered present-day Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal.

The East India Company's victories at the Battle of Plassey (1757) and the Battle of Buxar (against the Nawabs of Bengal and Oudh in 1764) led to the abolition of local rule in Bengal in 1793. A year before that George Washington sent an Ambassador to Bengal but he was not recognised by the British. During this time Robert Clive had to reintroduce the Mohurs as silver coins became scarcer as they were paid to his soldiers. The popularity of Mohurs dropped off when silver was more readily available and half and quarter Mohurs were minted. From the Battle of Plassey between Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula and Robert Clive's armies the English eventually took control of Bengal in 1793, this became a launching pad for the Company to expand its territories across India and Southeast Asia.

In Governor Kings Proclamation of 1800 a Mohur was worth 1 Pound 17 Shillings and 6 Pence.

Commissioner Bigge reported that there were 21 merchants in New South Wales between 1788 and 1821, as well as 13 mercantile houses.



INDIA, Bengal Presidency, gold half Mohur, Murshidabad type (1793), 22mm, 6.03 grams. Calcutta Mint. *Obverse Design*. EIC, gold quarter Mohur, Murshidabad type (1793), 15mm, 3.07 grams. Calcutta Mint.

Persian script in three lines which translates to “Defender of the Mohammedan Faith, Reflection of Divine Excellence, the Emperor Shah Alam II has struck this coin to be current throughout the seven climes”.

Reverse Design, Persian script in three lines which translates to “Struck at Murshidabad in the year 19 of his fortunate reign”. The exploding sun is on the right of the middle section.

At one stage Bengal stretched from the Khyber Pass to Singapore.



Shah Alam II was the 15th Mughal Emperor.
Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah – General at Plassey.



Plassey Monument, Nadia district, West Bengal, India.



Robert Clive after the Battle of Plassey.
Clive's house in Bengal but there are statues of him all over England.

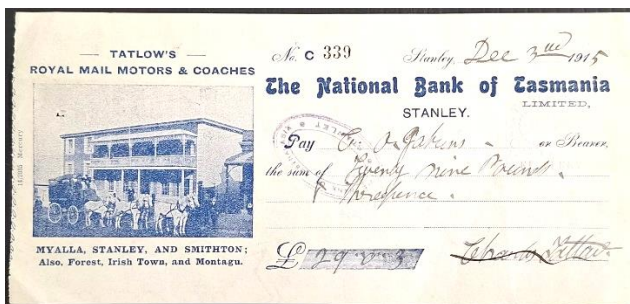
Reference;
www.sterlingcurrency.com.au/
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
commons.wikimedia.org/
The Coinage of Colonial Australia/Andrew Crellin.



Piero spoke about and showed a **Charles II silver half-crown from 1678**. The Merry Monarch lived through an interesting time including the plague and the fire of London.



A member spoke about and showed a Junior Soldier SA (English) badge of the **Salvation Army** and also a Scotch College Old Scholars 9ct gold badge, number 329.



Mick spoke about and showed **Stanley Tasmania** pictorial and standard type cheques from over 100 years ago. The former bank premises is now a holiday home. He also spoke about million numbered notes and his latest book about them, and **100000 in polymer** notes as above – article in ACR “A new kind of million”.

Meeting 1016 held at SAPHIL House 22 Gray Court, Adelaide, 19th December 2024.

Present: 33 members, 6 apologies, 1 visitor G.M.

Coin Expo report:

We have made a tentative booking for the venue, same time (October long weekend) next year.

The Mint will not be attending any shows this coming year.

Door Prizes: Harry kindly donated three bottles of wine, plus we gave away the ACR monthly coin magazine and some more bottles of wine. Winners included Helen, Barrie, E.M., R.H and Michael.

Another year is done. The NSSA is in good financial shape; our Expos held over the last 8 years have been successful, thanks in the main part to our volunteers. Membership has increased and the venue we are currently using for our monthly meetings is friendly and inclusive.

Special thanks to Gerry, Helen, David, Mick, Harry, J.W., Barrie and Mark for all your help with the NSSA over the past years.

Mick has done a fantastic job with the newsletters and taking photos of member presentations. But, like us all, he is not getting any younger. Anyone prepared to help him with the newsletter/photos? An understudy to Barrie for the preparation of our 100th anniversary medal would also be a good idea.

Societies such as ours run on the goodwill and time of only a few people. Without them, things don't run as well, or at all. If you wish to see the NSSA continue in good shape, be prepared to donate a bit of your time and talent to help our society succeed and flourish, so we can continue to share our fascination with numismatics. Be prepared to spend a bit of our money we have saved on technology. In that regard, we are way off the ball at present.

Thanks again to all who attended and contributed. I also find the numismatic show and tell part of our meetings to be very informative and I thank members, particularly Paul and Mick for their interesting presentations. It was good to see Barrie back after a nasty fall. Happy New Year, Richard.

Numismatics:

Paul J. spoke about and showed 19th century French Napoleon Bonaparte gold 40 Franc and 20 Franc coins.



The coins were originally minted in two denominations, 20 and 40 Francs for Napoléon Bonaparte. The 20-franc coins are 21mm in diameter, weight 6.45 grams and 90% pure, contain 0.1867 troy ounces (5.807g) of pure gold. They were issued during the reign of Napoleon and the obverse features his portrait, sometimes bare headed and other times wearing a Laurel Wreath, which was the Roman symbol of imperial glory. Depending upon the political status of France, the words on the front: either Bonaparte – Premier Consul or Napoléon Empereur (emperor). On the reverse: the legends read either "RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE" (French Republic) or after 1809, "EMPIRE FRANÇAIS" (French Empire).

One year after this coin was minted France invaded Russia and to show the size of this venture Napoleon mustered approximately 685,000 men to Russia's 723,000 men. This was a brutal war where approximately 910,00 soldiers died and 50,000 deserted from both sides. It is believed that a guesstimate of both military and civilian losses was in the vicinity of 1 million.



Napoleon

Battle of Ostrovno.



Spain 1804 Gold 2 Escudos. Obverse - Armoured and draped bust, facing right; "CAROL·III·D·G·HISP·ET·IND·R·"; (date) below, between dots.

Reverse - Crowned Arms in Collar of the Golden Fleece, within 2 at left and S at right; "IN·UTROQ·FELIX·AUSPICE·DEO·" translated (Happy in both (worlds), under the gaze of God).

When this coin was minted in 1804, the British made a surprise attack without declaring war. The British navy attacked a Spanish squadron of Frigates that was carrying gold and silver bullion to Cadiz. The Spanish Flagship blew up and the British captured the rest. The capture of this treasure and the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar between the Spanish and French Fleets against the English Fleet put a stop to any thought of a French invasion of England.



Painting showing the capture of the treasure ships.



This 1758 M - Royal Mint of Spain 1/2 Escudo King Ferdinand VI Gold coin the coin weighs 1.7 gm and has a diameter of 15 mm. The designer, Tomás Francisco Prieto Martín. Its reeded rim and the mint mark "M" signifies its origin at the Royal Mint of Spain in Madrid.

Obverse: Bust right, with hair behind neck, Legend: FERDINAND * VI * D * G *

Reverse: Crowned arms Legend: HISPANIARUM * REX *



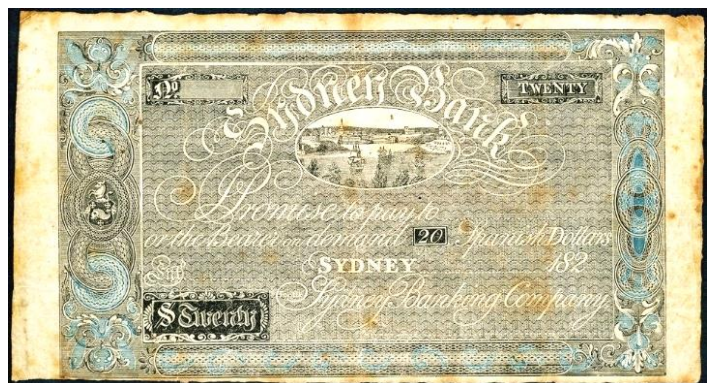
Ferdinand was a charitable ruler, relieving drought-stricken Andalusia from all taxes in 1755 and devoting large sums of money to the reconstruction of that part of the country. As king, he deferred many of his judgments to his leading ministers and his wife Queen Barbara.

King Ferdinand was an isolationist who tried to keep out of wars as he was rebuilding his country after the seven years' war. His wife, Barbara, had always feared that Ferdinand would die before her and leave her destitute, so she had amassed a huge personal wealth as a safeguard against this. She was the one who would precede him, dying in 1758. Deeply distraught by her death, Ferdinand became apathetic to his duties as king, and indeed, suicidal. He died a year later, in 1759.

References; en.wikipedia.org/ www.bing.com commons.wikimedia.org coinstrail.com/ goldinsilver.com

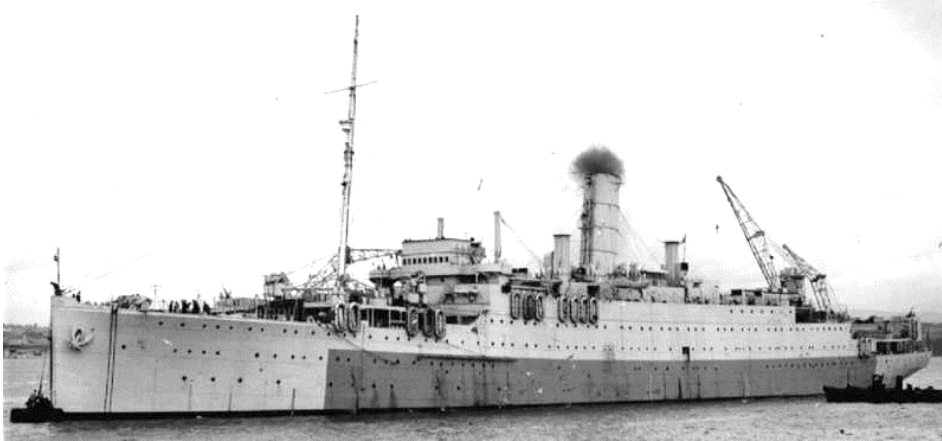


Piero spoke about and showed a Japanese Calendar Medal, very intricate, with the dates 1948 to 2006.

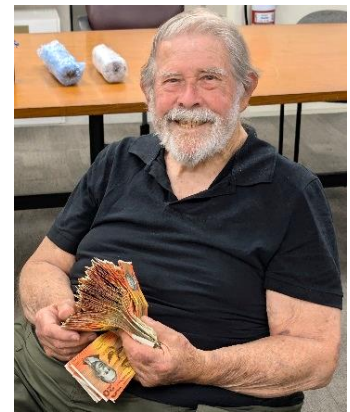
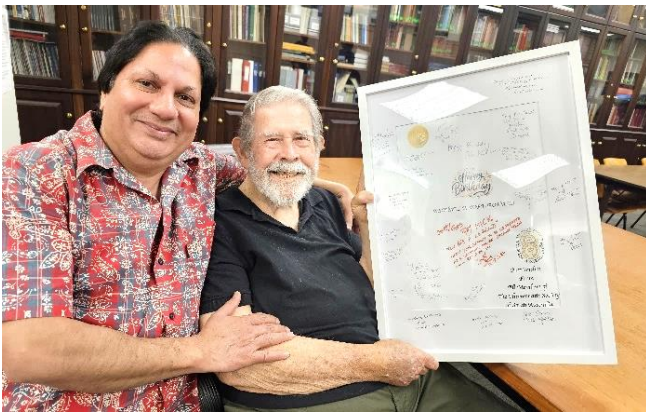


Mick spoke about the banknotes of the **Sydney Bank**, which tried to form in the 1820s, but did not proceed after the Bank of NSW allowed the public to buy BNSW shares.

Only three unissued notes are known in private hands, one 10 Spanish dollars (left), which sold for \$2,000, and two 20 Spanish dollars (right). The \$20 note shown above sold for \$53,590 in 1906 and again in December this year by I.A.G. at the reserve price of \$1,200 after failing to sell in three auctions.



Mick also showed some memorabilia of Able Seaman **J. R. Cox**, a crew member of the **repair ship Artifex**, formerly the S.S. Aurania launched in 1924 and requisitioned for war service in 1939. It hit an iceberg in 1941 and three months later was torpedoed by a German submarine, but survived. In 1961 she was towed to Italy and broken up. Nine cheques of the National Bank of Tasmania, **Stanley**, Tas., were handed around.



1. A special toast and large framed certificate was organized by Harry for Mick's 81st birthday and signed by all present.
2. Helen, monthly provider of much-appreciated suppers at meetings.
3. Mick sorting through a large pile of used paper \$20 notes being sold at face value at the bourse before the meeting. Of the 30 notes selected, five showed strong fluorescence on the backs, three with solid yellow vertical fluorescence and two with alternating fluorescent horizontal wavy lines. The notes had Knight/Stone, Johnston/Stone and Johnston/Fraser signatures. \$20 photo by Piero, Harry photo by Helen. Helen photo by Harry.

Next meeting, Number 1017 - Thursday 16th January 2025, 7.30 pm at 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.
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HAPPY NEW YEAR !