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## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COINAGE OF THE FIRST BRITISH EMPIRE

By Norman Shiel, B.A., F.R.N.S.

School of Hellenic and Roman Studies, University of Birmingham

As the sources tell us,<sup>1</sup> the admiral Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius,<sup>2</sup> in 286 A.D., took the forces of his channel command against the pirates over to Britain and declared his independence of the central authorities. The latter half of the third century saw the rise and fall of several such independent 'empires', the most durable being that which Postumus established in 259. Britain must have been a part of the 'Imperium Galliarum' of Postumus and his successors, but this period in her history is ill documented and archaeological evidence does not fill in the picture to any great extent. Carausius was the first to base his empire in Britain, and indeed even at his height he never controlled more than a small amount of Gallic territory in addition. This he had lost before his assassination. The evidence for the first British Empire consists almost entirely in the extensive coinage which the usurpers issued, as literary sources are few and epigraphic evidence minimal.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of this paper is to provide a basic outline of this important body of evidence and to raise some of the main problems associated with it.

As with all usurpers, Carausius was faced with an immediate necessity to produce money with which to pay his troops and it has generally been assumed that the coarser coins, which have no mint-marks, constitute his first issues. This problem is bedevilled by the large number of coins of a more or less 'barbarous' nature, on which opinions vary to extremes. Those who see anything less than almost perfect as the illegitimate product of an unofficial striker would have to discount a very great number of unmarked and marked Carausian coins. Those who admit of all but the blatant barbarisms that they are official pieces must presume a remarkable range of competence and efficiency in a small mint over a short period of time. The answer must lie in between these two extremes, perhaps inclining towards the more embracing one.

Where the mint which produced these unmarked coins was, is another problem. Indeed it is only Carausius chief mint at London, the mark of which incorporates an L into it, that can be located with certainty. For the unmarked pieces Carson argues a mint at Boulogne<sup>4</sup> but, as he admits, the evidence is not conclusive. It is equally likely that these coins were issued from the London mint on its inception and came to be superseded by those with the ML mark.<sup>5</sup> Apart from the London mark the other common group consists of marks incorporating the letter C. This occurs on a large number of antoniniani, but not at all on gold or silver.<sup>6</sup> The popular

view, which harks back to the erratic work of William Stakeley,<sup>7</sup> the first English authority on Carausius, is that these coins were minted at Clausentum, the modern Bitterne near Southampton. An examination of the evidence shows, however, that, in spite of the apparent oddity of a second mint so close to London, Colchester has a far stronger claim than Clausentum.

One group of antoniniani is very different in style and fabric from all the rest. A large hoard of these was found near Rouen<sup>8</sup> early in the last century and some pieces have the letter R in the exergue so that Rotomagus (Rouen) has been assumed their mint or origin. Whether this was so they were certainly made on the continent during the time when Carausius' power was at its height, probably after his success against Maximian in 289. A very small group of antoniniani have the mint-mark BRI. One school of thought assigns these coins to a mint at Wroxeter because the first specimen to come to light was found there and because BRI can be seen as an abbreviation of BRICONIVM, an alternative form of the Roman name for Wroxeter. I have recently discovered other provenanced specimens the distribution of which militates against a local mint at Wroxeter. The view that BRI simply stands for BRItannia seems most likely to be correct. The coins fit readily into a London mint content at the time mint-marks were being introduced. It is salutary to consider that the obvious explanation of a Roman abbreviation is usually the correct one.

The remaining mint-mark brings with it the question of denominations. Carausius gold is very rare with less than twenty specimens in existence. Allectus gold survives to about the same number but this is from a shorter period of time. As well as gold and the normal antoniniani, however, Carausius issued denarii in a silver far finer than anything that had been produced anywhere in the Roman Empire for several decades. This, in a sense, anticipated the fine silver issues of Diocletian's reformed coinage. Carausius' issue was not large; there are fewer than two hundred surviving specimens. It probably represents an attempt by Carausius to compensate for his shortage of gold coin. Britain was, of course, relatively rich in silver. A large proportion of these denarii, as well as some antoniniani and one aureus struck from antoninianus dies, bear the mint-mark RSR. Various suggestions have been offered to explain these letters usually involving the name of some would-be mint town beginning with R. The main Carausian naval base at Richborough has been the favourite choice with its Roman name Rutupiae, but again the more obvious expansion of the letters seems the best one. They refer not to a mint town but to an issuing authority, the Rationalis Summae Rei.<sup>9</sup> Allectus did not continue this issue in silver. In his last year in power he did introduce a new denomination which is generally called the quinarius because of the letter Q which occurs on all specimens. The size of these coins would suggest they were worth more than half an antoninianus but it is difficult to give them any exact value in relative terms.

Carausius' coin legends provide a revealing insight into the usurper at the helm of this empire. His main propagandist theme was PAX. A very high proportion of his coins bear this legend. It is significantly absent from his 'Rouen' antoniniani, however; pre-

sumably the immediacy of war was too real to pretend that peace was at hand and so the issue emphasises TUTELA, SPES and SECURITAS. Some of the denarii bear legends which have been assumed to date them to the earliest days of the usurpation. ADVENTUS AUG and EXSPECTATE VENI<sup>10</sup> need not refer to Carausius' act of usurpation at all, however, but may very well relate to his return to the Gallic coastal territory after gaining an advantage over Maximian's fleet in 289. Such a date would certainly suit the style and quality of the denarii much better than 286-7.

Exactly what was Carausius' ultimate ambition is unknown. He issued a series of coins in gold and bronze with the triple termination AVGGG in the reverse legend suggesting three Augusti. He issued coins in the name of Diocletian and Maximian which bore their portraits; and, most remarkable of all, he issued antoniniani bearing on the obverse the jugate busts of himself and the two central emperors with the legend CARAVSIVS ET FRATRES SUI. He certainly wanted to appear as a colleague of the central emperors and his coins advertise this fact very clearly. It is extremely unlikely that his gesture met with any reciprocation from Diocletian or Maximian; no agreement is recorded in any source nor do we have any coins issued by either of them bearing any reference to Carausius. It may be that this policy of overt 'fraternisation' with the central authorities helped to undermine Carausius' popularity and enabled Allectus' usurpation to pass off as smoothly as it seems to have done.

By contrast to that of his predecessor the coinage of Allectus exhibits far fewer varieties and generally has less interesting types. PAX is still the commonest but not to the same degree. The legends on the 'guinarii' were either VIRTUS AVG on all those from London or this together with LAETITIA AVG on those from Colchester. Allectus' coins were copied very infrequently and the general standard of execution is high. The Latinity of the legends also improves progressively from Carausius' earliest issues until vulgar forms have all but vanished by the time of Allectus' first issue.

Coins of Carausius and Allectus are found on sites from all over England and Wales. No Allectus coins have been found north of Hadrian's Wall and only a very few of Carausius. Hoards closing with coins of this period tend to concentrate in the south east or the West Country. Site finds are numerous reaching four figures on some of the larger sites such as Richborough, a probable Carausian foundation.<sup>11</sup>

This British Empire was short-lived and its end is commemorated by the fine medallion of Constantius Chlorus, from the Arras hoard, which depicts Chlorus' triumphal entry into the city of London and bears the reverse legend REDITOR LVCIS AETERNAE. Carausius was obviously a man of considerable talent and character, a fitting founder of this island empire, as his coinage helps us to realise.

#### NOTES

1. Pan. Max. Dictus. (289 AD) ch. XI sq.; Incert. Pan. C. Caes. dict. (296 AD) ch. VI sq.; A. Victor. De. Caes. ch XXXIX sq.; Eutropius. Hist. Bk. IX sect. 21 sq. P. Orosius. Hist. adv. Payanos. Bk. VII ch. 25.

2. For his full name cf. RIB 2291, a milestone found near Carlisle.
3. This milestone (cf. note 2) is in fact the only epigraphic evidence.
4. R.A.G. Carson. "The sequence-marks on the coinage of Carausius and Allectus" in 'Mints, Dies and Currency' R.A.G. Carson ed. pp. 57-66.
5. cf. R.A.G. Carson op.cit. for detailed account of the dating sequence.
6. There are a very few freak exceptions.
7. W. Stukeley. 'The Medallic History of Carausius' London 2 vols. 1757, '59.
8. An eminent French numismatist has grave doubts on the circumstances surrounding the alleged discovery of this hoard.
9. For a summary of evidence concerning this official and the incidents of this abbreviation cf. J.P.C. Kent, 'The relations and gradual separation of the Finance Departments, 3rd and 4th centuries'. Ph.D. thesis. London University 1951.
10. cf. Vergil. Aen. II. 11. 282-283. This is the only quotation from classical literature which occurs on a Roman coin.
11. But cf. J.S. Johnson. 'The Date of the Construction of the Saxon Shore Fort at Richborough'. *Britannia*. vol. I pp. 240-248.

### BOOK REVIEW

**THE NEW ZEALAND WARS: 1845-1866: Medal rolls of officers and men of the New Zealand colonial units who received the Medal for services in the New Zealand wars, 1845-1866.** Compiled, printed and published by H.G. Longley (P.O. Box 21-262, Henderson, Auckland, 8, New Zealand), 1972. 48 pages (limited edition of 350 copies). Price NZ\$4.00.

P.P. O'Shea

This monograph has been awaited by many interested in the New Zealand (Maori) War Medal since the publication of Mr Longley's medal roll for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines in 1967.

One will not be disappointed with this companion volume which, like the first roll, is very well presented; perhaps reflecting the care the compiler has taken as both printer and publisher. It is divided according to unit, some 147 listed alphabetically, including a number of 'one man outfits' with interesting titles. A roll of the recipients of the New Zealand Cross, together with a line drawing of the cross, is appended for quick reference. The introduction describes the medal, its institution and extension to the colonial units.

A point not clearly stated by the compiler is the fact that the work is a roll of all those known to be entitled to the medal and whose claims were proved, but it does not mean that all were actually issued. It is a known fact that many colonial awards were never 'collected' or issued. However this point in no way affects the value of the monograph.

Until now the source for checking awards to colonial or New Zealand units has been the scattered entries in the *New Zealand Gazette* and the Reports of the Commissioner of Claims in the *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*; also the source for the 'roll' published in T. Gudgeon's *The Defenders of New Zealand* (1887). One can now refer to this new roll assured that accuracy has been of paramount importance to the compiler.

Mr Longley is to be commended for this valuable publication, and being familiar with his earlier work I can unhesitatingly recommend this roll to those interested in the New Zealand War Medal.

P.P. O'Shea

## **The Freedom of Canea Medal and its Associated History**

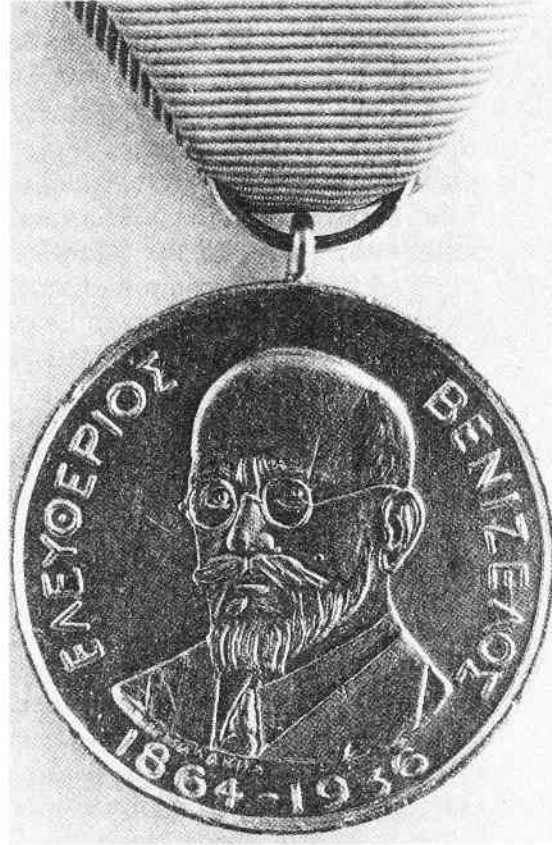
**By J.V. Griffiths**

The town of Canea is situated on the north west coast of Crete and is the capital of the island Canea. Kania, Chania or Xania takes its name from the old capital Kandia. It was the scene of an important battle fought in 1941 during the defence of Crete. Following the defeat of Greek and Allied forces in Greece the surviving troops were withdrawn to the island to rest and regroup. They were placed under the command of General Freyberg V.C., later to become our Governor-General. Crete was an important sea supply base and from here the R.A.F. could attack occupying German forces on the mainland. To Hitler the island was "a thorn in his side" and he planned to take it by a massive airborne attack, as it was necessary in his master plan to invade England.

In May 1941 German paratroopers were dropped in four main groups with glider landings in the Canea-Maleme area. Heavy fighting took place throughout most of the island especially around the Maleme airstrip where the 28th Maori Battalion fought gallantly. Although the Australians, British and the New Zealanders fought fiercely the greater numbers of the attackers started to take its effect. Slowly the Allies were forced back and were finally evacuated to Alexandria. It was during the defence of Crete that two New Zealanders won the Victoria Cross: Sergeant Clive Alfred Hume for gallant leadership in the fighting in the Maleme/Suda Bay and Stylos areas, and Second Lieutenant Charles Hazlitt Upham for single handedly destroying several enemy machine gun posts with grenades and for gallant leadership of his platoon in Maleme, Galatos and Sphakia. Upham later went on to win a second Victoria Cross in North Africa. After the liberation of Greece and Crete in 1945 the States of the country each struck their own unofficial medals as a token of thanks to those living and dead who had taken part in the defence of their country.

### **The Canea Medal**

This medal was first struck in 1936 by the Canea Municipal Committee to commemorate the death of Elefthierios Venizelos (ve-en-ze-los), a great statesman and first Republic Prime Minister of Greece. Venizelos was born in Canea on August 23rd, 1864. He studied law at the University of Athens and set up a practice on the island. In 1896 he played a part in the anti-Turkish revolt and because of this was elected to the Cretian Assembly and became Minister of Justice. In 1908 he brought about the fall of Prince George of Greece who was trying to monopolise power in the country and declared Crete part of Greece. He went to Athens in 1909 and was elected Prime Minister in 1910. As Prime Minister he reformed the army and navy, adjusted taxes and was responsible for the enlargement of Greece to its present boundaries, during the Balkan (1912-13) and First World Wars. He was defeated at the polls in 1920 but was re-elected in 1928. The depression brought about his fall in 1932 leaving him a broken man. After escaping an attempted assassination in 1933 he went into exile after taking part in an unsuccessful coup in 1935. He died in Paris on March 18th, 1936, aged 72.





## THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE CROWN OF THAI

By Michael Simpson (Junior Member, R.N.S.N.Z.)

King Chulalongkorn, or Rama V, ascended the throne of Thailand on the death of his father King Mongkut, in 1868. As Chulalongkorn was only fifteen years old when his father died, the Accession Council decided that the Chief Minister, Chae P'raya Sri Suriyawongse, should be Regent until Chulalongkorn was old enough to enter the priesthood, i.e. 20 years of age.

*Institution:* On December 29th, 1869, the Regent instituted the Order of the Crown of Thai, in the form of the second and fourth classes of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant. In 1873 Chulalongkorn ascended the throne and was crowned king. In the first year of his reign he began to set up an honours system styled in much the same manner as that of France.

*Re-Institution of the Order:* In the first year of his reign, 1873, Chulalongkorn re-instituted the Order of the Crown of Thai as a separate Order and styled it "The Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thai — Benchamaporn Mungkut Thai". According to the Royal Decoration Act B.E. 2416, the actual date of re-institution was the 28th day of the 10th month of the year B.E. 2416, or between 2 September and 2 October, 1873.

Chulalongkorn instituted the Order for three reasons: primarily as an award by which he could distinguish those who had given faithful service to him; secondly, as a decoration to commemorate his reign; and thirdly, to mark the era of happiness and prosperity handed to his people by his Government.

*Classes of the Order [at re-institution]:* The order when re-instituted in 1873 had seven classes, i.e.: Knight Grand Cross, Knight Commander, Commander, Companion, Member, a Gold Medal of the Order, a Silver Medal of the Order.

*Additional Class:* An eighth class was instituted by King Chulalongkorn's son, King Vajiravudh, or Rama VI, in 1918. This additional class ranks above all others of this Order, and was styled "Knight Grand Cordon of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thai".

*Description and Wearing of the Order:* The obverse of the badge of the Order is an eight-pointed silver star superimposed on a gold band of diamond shaped links. Placed on the silver star is a gold device, representing a seven-tiered umbrella superimposed on blue enamel which rests on a badge of gold and red enamel. The silver star and gold band are made of one piece of silver-gilt, the gilt has then been cut away from the eight points of the star, the arms of which are cut into leaf shapes. The reverse bears a replica, in gold and blue enamel, of the personal crest of King Chulalongkorn, mounted on a gold and red enamel badge of similar design to that on the obverse.

*Suspension:* The badges of all the classes lower than Knight Grand Cross are suspended from a silver-gilt tiered umbrella.

*Wearing:* The Knight Commander and Commander's badges are worn from the neck, with the star of the Knight Commander being worn on the left breast. The badges for all lower classes are worn on the left breast.

*The Grand Cordon:* The design of the badge for the Knight Grand Cordon differs from that of the lower classes by the addition of a replica of the legendary weapon of the god Indra, which is called Vajiravudh which is also the name of the institutor of this class. The sash and badge are worn from the left shoulder and a star of similar design is worn on the left breast.

*Knight Grand Cross:* The Knight Grand Cross is a gold rimmed, red enamel cross with silver symbols on each arm. The centre medallion is blue and has a diamond studded Thai inscription surrounded by a band of diamonds. On the top part of the cross is a small gold replica of a seven tiered umbrella. The badge is suspended from a white enamelled seven tiered umbrella, topped by a circular device symbolic of the rays of the sun. The sash and badge are worn from the right shoulder, and the star is worn on the left breast. The Star of the Grand Cross is the Grand Cross obverse superimposed on a silver and gold plaque.

*The Star, Knight Commander:* The star of the Knight Commander is the badge superimposed on a silver plaque.

*The Ribbon of the Order:* The ribbon of the Knight Grand Cross and Knight Commander is blue with narrow white and red stripes towards each edge. For all the lower classes the ribbon is blue with a wide green stripe on each side, separated by stripes of red and gold.

*Manufacture:* The insignia are manufactured by the person or persons who can put forward the lowest tender. This form of production leads to variations in design.

*Awards:* Though the decoration is primarily for awarding to Government Officials, both male and female, it can be awarded to foreigners. The names of those for whom the award is to be given are submitted by their superiors along the official chains of communication to the Minister who then submits them to the Secretary of the Council of Ministers, for final approval of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister then has the authority to sign for the king.

*Return of Insignia:* The decoration must be returned at death or on promotion to a higher class of the same order. The award may be removed, if it is considered that the recipient is no longer entitled to hold such an honour.

*Acknowledgments:* Colonel Kraves Sudasna Na Avudhya, Royal Thai Army Attache to Australia and New Zealand, Canberra.

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GREEK TREASURE TROVE: HOARDS AND HOARDERS<sup>1</sup>

By Christopher Ehrhardt

All of us, I suppose, dream of finding a hoard of old and valuable coins, from which to enrich our collections — and ourselves. Two years ago, the American Numismatic Society published an *Inventory* of the recorded finds of Greek coin hoards<sup>2</sup>, and though it is not really a bedside book, it is a mine of fascinating information about economics, politics and societies, both ancient and modern. But before beginning to describe the details which are found in it, or can be extracted from it, it is first necessary to stress some of the *Inventory's* inevitable limitations.

The first, most basic, and most serious limitation is that it can only include recorded finds — ones which someone has noted in writing. These include, of course, all the finds which are published in numismatic literature, and most of those which are brought to museums (though in all too many museums, much of the stock — not only of coins — is as effectually buried and lost as if it had never seen the light of day<sup>3</sup>). They also, however, include large numbers which are recorded less formally — again and again, entries in the *Inventory* conclude with notes like “seen in commerce”, “note in ANS”, “information from Athens correspondent”, etc., some of which bring up visions of cloak and dagger secrecy. But a great number of finds, particularly the smaller ones, are never recorded in any way: if a labourer or peasant finds half a dozen coins, or even two dozen, these may well find their way into the antique trade without their provenance ever being noted. The size of the hoards recorded in the *Inventory* ranges from two coins to tens of thousands, but the great bulk falls into the range from a dozen to a few hundred, and this is probably very misleading, for very small hoards, which certainly must have been very numerous, are very scantily represented.

Secondly, it is only in a small minority of cases that the *Inventory* can give complete and accurate lists of the original contents of hoards: first, the hoard must have been found complete — and only if it is in a pot or similar container can one be reasonably sure of that; then it has to reach a museum or numismatic scholar without losing any pieces on the way; and finally it has to be adequately published — and regrettably there are scholars with good reputations who can produce extraordinarily bad publications. But when a hoard is found, it is much more likely that it is split up among the finders, or by the dealer who first handles it, and picks out the best or most interesting or popular pieces to sell separately<sup>4</sup>; even if it is taken to a museum, some pieces may have disappeared on the way, and when it arrives, it may be put in a box or drawer with no note of who found it, when, or where, and then perhaps, when years later someone on the museum staff opens the box and rediscovers the box, he may tidily put them in their places in the trays of the coin cabinet. So one must assume that the recorded details of a hoard are normally less than its original contents. However, it seems possible to infer from the *Inventory* that over the last thirty years or so much

closer co-operation has been established between scholars and at least some dealers<sup>5</sup>, and that there is now a much better chance that someone competent will be informed that a hoard has been found — and even be told the place and circumstances of the find — and be allowed to study the coins, perhaps even to photograph them and make casts, before the coins are sold. Of course, the very strict laws governing the discovery, sale and export of antiquities in countries such as Greece and Italy can make such co-operation risky.

The number of hoards recorded from any country bears no close relation to the number found there; it is much more closely related to the country's accessibility and popularity with educated tourists. This is clearly exemplified by nineteenth century hoards: more than half the hoards recorded from France were found before 1900, a large number were reported from Italy, and quite a lot from Egypt; in contrast, there were only six reported from Bulgaria before 1900 — compared with over 180 since 1945 — and only one from Iraq.

After all these preliminary warnings, what can be said with some confidence about the hoards noted in the *Inventory*? First of all, that the reports contain a mass of fascinating and often surprising detail; and secondly, that though all interpretations are liable to error, as has already been shown, the information in the *Inventory* makes possible many inferences which increase our understanding of both ancient and modern societies.

First, some statistics: The *Inventory* lists 2,387 hoards which contained Greek coins and were buried or lost in the 600 years or so between the invention of coinage and the time of Augustus. Even this total, 2,387, is not quite definite, for some entries may combine several hoards, some hoards may be split between two or more entries, and some entries not be hoards at all, but it does give a notion of the enormous amounts which have been found and at least partially recorded; to which must be added the certainly much greater number which have remained unknown to scholarship.

The geographic spread of hoards is also very wide. The easternmost is one allegedly found in Sinkiang, in western China (no. 1821), but both findspot and details are *very* suspicious; however, some half dozen hoards have been found in Soviet Central Asia, about as many in Afghanistan, about twenty-five in Pakistan, and fifteen in India, as far east as Delhi; most of these comprise coins of the Greek kings of Bactria and North West India, but several, particularly of the earlier ones, include coins from states in Greece and Asia Minor.

The most westerly hoard is one discovered on the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic, in 1749 (no. 2299), but I very much doubt if it was buried there in ancient times. From the continent, there are forty-two from Spain and the Balearic Islands; most of the Greek coins they contain are from Sicily and Massilia (Marseilles) and its colony Emporiae in north-east Spain, and many have Carthaginian coins, including those of Hannibal's family; but several also have a few from mainland Greece and from Rhodes. The northernmost find is not, as one might expect, from the Soviet Union (there are 141 hoards from the north coast of the Black Sea, and 30 from Georgia), but one of the many finds of Massilian silver in France. Most of these come from the south of France, but the northernmost (no. 2381) is from near Auxerre, only ninety miles south-east of Paris. A few of

the hoards from Rumania also are as northerly as any from the U.S.S.R.

The southernmost are from Wadi Halfa, on the border between Egypt and the Sudan (nos. 1685, 1704). Thus the hoards cover the whole extent of the world where Greeks were active, but the greatest number, of course, come from the chief centres of Greek settlement: nearly 700 from Greece, about 440 from Asia Minor, and nearly 400 from Italy and Sicily. However, there are also astonishingly many from the Balkans: one would scarcely suppose that about 300 would be recorded from Bulgaria and about 140 from Rumania, which both lie well off the beaten track for tourists and travellers; the twenty-five from Yugoslavia, eighteen from Albania, and two from Hungary are less surprising.

Though most of the recorded hoards contain between a dozen and a few hundred coins, some quite colossal ones have been reported. By far the most valuable would be one found in the 1540s in Transylvania (no. 670), allegedly containing about 40,000 gold staters, which would weigh about 345 kilograms or over 11,000 ounces troy, and as bullion at current prices would be worth about \$US2,000,000. Of course that hoard is dispersed. Better authenticated, and partially preserved, is one from Sidon in Phoenicia (no. 1508), found in three lots in the nineteenth century, comprising over 7,200 gold staters and double staters. In 1969 a hoard of over 2,000 Persian gold darics was found in north-west Asia Minor (no. 1241); what has happened to it is unknown.

The standard metal for Greek coins was silver, and silver hoards are by far the most numerous; some of them are very large: one found in Iran about 1955 (no. 1814) allegedly contained about 13,000 drachms and tetradrachms, of which 41 have reached museums; one found in 1823 off the Turkish coast (no. 1216) is said to have contained about 10,000, of which nine-tenths were melted down; the famous Demanhur hoard of 1905 (no. 1664), which is crucial for analysing Alexander the Great's coinage, contained over 8,000 tetradrachms, of which about 6,000 were recorded; in contrast, between 5,000 and 7,000 were found in Thessaly in 1970 (no. 150), of which only a few dozen were recorded, and the hoard is dispersed.

Bronze was not frequently hoarded, but there have been some very large finds: the largest was in a pot found in Sicily about 1900 (no. 2222), which allegedly contained about 60,000 coins; 60 of them reached the museum in Syracuse. No other hoard of any sort approaches this size: the next largest bronze hoard came to light in Egypt before 1905 (no. 1728) and allegedly contained 140 kilograms, which would equal about 7,000 large bronzes; what happened to them is unknown.

The recorded — or, all too often, unrecorded — fates of the hoards can give interesting information. The best chance that hoards will be preserved intact and will be fully published is if they are found during excavations; in the dark ages of archaeology, extending till about the 1920s, this was by no means universal, but more recently full preservation and publication have become the rule. Nonetheless, there are too many exceptions: of three hoards found in excavations in Iran in 1962-63 (nos 1793-95) the *Inventory's* editors say,

“disposition: Teheran?”, while of three from Jordan (no.s 1584, 1588, 1612) and three from Egypt (nos. 1653, 1685, 1704), all discovered in the 1950s and 1960s, they have to say “disposition: unknown”. Altogether, the Arab countries have by far the worst record for preserving their finds: in all periods, the great majority of recorded hoards are either totally or very largely dispersed or lost; Egypt in the period 1900-1945 had the best record, for there was then about a two in five chance that if a hoard was noted it would be preserved, but since 1945 the odds against preservation seem to have got rather longer. For scholars and scholarship, of course, this loss of material is lamentable, but it does mean that tourists who are offered ancient coins in the bazaars of Cairo and Damascus should have a chance of buying something genuine; it also means that there is a large supply of material for the world trade in ancient coins, and the wide demand and extravagant prices now offered for coins will ensure that the ratio of preserved to discovered hoards will not improve. But before we condemn the Arabs, we should look with shame on the British record in India, from where only four hoards found before 1948 reached reputable collections complete — and one of those was in 1833! In Palestine and Cyprus the record was rather better, thanks largely to local patriotism, while Malta gets full marks: both recorded hoards are in the Museum at Valletta.

Allegedly efficient regimes often do no better than less stringent ones: Mussolini may have made the trains run on time, but as high a proportion of discovered hoards was lost under the Fascists as in the twenty years before them, while since 1945 nearly three-quarters of the recorded hoards have been preserved — which means that either the authorities or the *clandestini* have become much more competent. Similarly, Spain's record under Franco is much the same as before 1939. Greece has a remarkably good record of preservation, especially since 1945, and considering the great number of recorded hoards, it is likely that there are not very many which entirely escape notice; great numbers are also recorded from Turkey, but the survival rate is far lower. Among major countries, by far the best record is held by the U.S.S.R., where since the revolution seven-eighths of the recorded hoards have been almost or quite completely preserved — and since 1945 the proportion is nineteen out of twenty. So it is all the more surprising that it is recorded that parts of four hoards found in the 1950s and 1960s have gone into private collections (nos. 722, 1132, 1143, 1745) — Socialism, it seems, has not yet been completely built. It is also plain that in the preservation of hoards, as in so much else, the Soviet authorities could build on foundations which were well laid by the Czars: the Russian record between 1900 and 1918 — 60% preserved — is better than that of any other country in the same period except Greece.

But though the U.S.S.R. has such a good record, its Communist neighbours do not maintain the same standard. Rumania since 1945 has managed to preserve nearly three-quarters of what was recorded (and private collections still exist there, or did in the 1950s — nos. 422, 659), and the Yugoslavs have held on to two out of their three hoards, but Bulgaria's performance is deplorable: of the 180 hoards recorded since 1945, only 85 have been preserved more or less

complete; 48, or more than a quarter, have been dispersed, while parts of thirteen others have gone into private collections. As a scholar, I lament, but I cannot help feeling some satisfaction at the survival of free enterprise and private initiative in the face of such difficulties, and I suggest that collectors in search of new material might do worse than explore Sofia.

The smallest and most rigorously Marxist state in the Balkans, Albania, shows no such laxity: it records that twelve hoards have been found since 1945, and every one has been deposited in a public collection. Either the Albanians really are monuments of socialist integrity — in which case they seem to be doing very little digging — or some of them are managing to keep very quiet about their finds.

This is far from exhausting the interest of the *Inventory* — for example, I have said nothing at all about the information it contains about the circulation of ancient coins, and the puzzles it raises, such as the curious incident of the Athenian coins in South Russia<sup>6</sup> — but I hope it shows some of the ways in which it can be used as a source for social and economic history, both ancient and modern, and what a debt is owed to the American Numismatic Society for compiling it.

#### NOTES

1. A talk given at the Otago branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, February 27th, 1975.
2. *An Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards*, edited by M. Thompson, O. Morkholm and C.M. Kraay; published for the International Numismatic Commission by the American Numismatic Society, New York, 1973; \$US25.00.
3. Cf O. Neugebauer, *The Exact Sciences of Antiquity* (2nd ed, Harper Torchbooks, New York, 1962), 58-62, on the loss of cuneiform documents in museums.
4. Cf., for example, the comments on hoard no. 168.
5. But not all: see hoard no. 410, which was sold by Sothebys and Parke-Bernets.
6. *Inventory*, p. 129.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. The Greek Consulate General.
  2. "Battle of Crete" by John Hall Spencer.
  3. The Penguin Encyclopaedia.
  4. The Pears Encyclopaedia.
  5. Encyclopaedia Americana.
  6. "Infantry Brigadier" by Major General Sir H. Kippenberger K.B.E.
  7. "By Air To Battle" by Charles MacDonald.
  8. David Wadham, Press Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.
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Lt. Col. T. C. Wallace E.D., a former Council member of this Society, has been honoured by Her Majesty The Queen with the award in June 1975 of The Queen's Service Medal for Community Service. A letter of congratulations has been sent to him from the Society.

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A letter of resignation as Hon. Auditor of the Society was received from Mr A.C. Shales, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury. A letter of thanks has been sent to him for his past services for the Society accompanied by sincere congratulations from members on his new appointment as Auditor General for New Zealand.

## THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

### Their History, Peoples and Money

James Berry

Polynesia refers to the islands and people of the Pacific Ocean lying within the vast triangle formed by Hawaii in the north, Easter Island in the extreme east and New Zealand to the south. This huge ocean area is six times the area of Europe or Australia. To the north-west lies the Melanesian groups bounded roughly by Fiji, New Caledonia and New Guinea, while north still further spread the scattered groups of Micronesia, marked broadly by the Gilberts in the east, the Carolines to the west and the Marianas in the north. Certain racial characteristics show in the respective peoples, but the language and cultural differences are much greater.

Early trade in Polynesia was no doubt by barter, but in the guise of gift exchange. Cowrie shells were a frequent medium in some areas. In early times girdles of cowrie shells were worn by women as life-giving charms or as a fertility symbol.

After the discovery of many islands in the Pacific by European explorers, coins of America, Britain, France, Spain, and other countries were in use in some areas during the nineteenth century.

Starting with the northern area of Polynesia, from a numismatic viewpoint we have the coinage of the Hawaiian Islands. Before describing the coins some general information on this island group will be of interest.

The Hawaiian Islands were discovered by Captain James Cook during his third voyage in 1779. He named them the Sandwich Islands, and he met his death there on 14 February 1779. In later years they were visited by many whalers and missionaries. Hawaii was a kingdom for 103 years (1791–1894). The native Hawaiians today comprise probably about 20 percent of the population of over 700,000 and many other races make up the total, including Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Filipino, Puerto Rican and European.

About a third of the population are of Japanese origin. The six main islands are Hawaii (the largest), Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai and Lanai. The capital Honolulu is on Oahu Island. In 1898 the territory of Hawaii was annexed by the U.S.A. A one cent coin showing Kamehameha III 1825–54 was issued in 1847. The reverse of this coin showed the value HARA HANERI within a wreath surrounded by words AUPUNI HAWAII.

In 1883 four coins were issued one dime, quarter dollar, half-dollar and one dollar. These coins show KALAKAUAI (1874–1891), the profile head on obverse facing right has the date 1883 beneath the head surrounded by wording KALAKAUAI KING OF HAWAII. The reverse has a small crown above the arms of Hawaii with value and wording around.

The Territory of Hawaii became the 50th State of the U.S.A. in 1959 and the coinage of the U.S.A. has since applied in the Hawaiian Islands. Some 1,000 miles south of Hawaii are Washington and Fanning Island which also include Kingman Reef,



Palmyra and Christmas Island (Line Islands). Administration of these come under The Gilbert and Ellice Islands in Micronesia. Population are Gilbertese and few whites. Fanning Island with circumference of 26 miles was discovered by an American Navigator Captain Edmund Fanning in 1789 and Washington Island in 1798 and annexed by Britain 1889. Between 1850-60 a Captain English from Britain, who had settled there, produced coconut oil from the coconuts which grew in wild profusion.

To pay his native workers from the Cook Islands he had crown-size white-metal tokens struck. On the obverse of these the word 'CHECK' appears in the centre, surrounded by WASHINGTON; FANNING and ISLANDS beneath. The reverse at top has GOOD FOR on curve and large \$1.00 in lower half. The value was based on the Chilean peso which was the standard in the Pacific area at that time. This token is now very rare. Fanning Island is a narrow land area enclosing a lagoon of 45 square miles.

The currency now used on these islands is Australian coins and banknotes. In the latter part of World War II a currency shortage occurred because most of the Australian currency was souvenired by U.S. servicemen: 997 banknotes of one pound value were put into circulation and because of wartime difficulties these token notes were printed in Hawaii. The notes were worded Fanning Island Plantations Limited. Fanning Island One Pound Australian currency and were signed R. G. Garrett. Some notes were later cut in half and used for one and two shilling values. These token notes are also rare numismatic items. Christmas Island was discovered by Captain Cook December 24 1777, and his ship "Resolution" spent Christmas there.

During World War II this island was garrisoned with N.Z. and U.S.A. troops. The Phoenix Islands approximately 1,800 miles south-west of Hawaii and north of Samoa are populated mainly with Gilbertese. The islands are all British with exception of Canton and Enderbury which are under Anglo-American joint administration. The eight scattered islands have a total area of about eleven square miles. Roughly midway between these islands and Samoa are the Tokelau Islands. These were under control of Gilbert & Ellice Islands, but in 1926 N.Z. took over the administration. Population of Polynesians in this group is similar to that of Samoa. It is of interest to note that between 1850-70 many raids by Peruvian slavers carried off hundreds of Tokelauans for labour on South American plantations. In 1877 the three atolls became a British Protectorate. They are still administered by N.Z. in offices at Apia, Western Samoa. N.Z. and Western Samoan money are used.

About 300 miles south of the Tokelau Islands are the islands of Samoa. Polynesians settled here as early as 100 B.C. but their history commenced in 1250 A.D. First European contact was discovery by the Dutch Explorer Jacob Roggeveen in 1721-22. The Samoan Islands were visited by Bougainville over forty years later. La Perouse called in 1787 when twelve of a shore party were killed and many of the forty-nine who escaped were wounded. The first British ship to visit was H.M.S. Pandora in 1791, but real knowledge of the group did not begin until the pioneer missionary John Williams landed on Savaii in 1830.

In 1889 under Berlin Treaty Samoa became an independent

state, but because of disagreements among Samoans the treaty was annulled. Britain withdrew and the group was divided between Germany and U.S.A. Prior to 1860 Samoa was ruled by tribal chiefs and between 1860–69 ruled by chiefs directed by British, American and German Consuls. The capital is Apia on the north coast of Upolu. Coins of the various nations carrying on trade and whaling would have been in use in earlier days, including Spanish, British, German and U.S. and coins of South American countries. After N.Z. occupation in 1914 British currency replaced German and in 1933 New Zealand coinage gradually replaced that of Britain. Western Samoa introduced its own coinage in 1967, the tala or dollar being the monetary unit based on U.S. \$1.400 equivalent. The coins issued were one sene, two sene, five sene, ten sene, twenty sene, fifty sene, one tala. The following commemorative talas R.L.S. 1969, James Cook 1970, Pope Pius 1971, Jacob Roggeveen 1972, Commonwealth Games, Boxing, 1974, have also been issued. All the decimal coins, including dollars and proof sets have been struck at the Royal Australian Mint, Canberra.

American Samoa consists of the large island, Tutuila (52 square miles) Opu and Olosega (four square miles). A smaller island, Swains Islands, was annexed to America Samoa in 1925. Here the coinage is the same as in the U.S.A.

About 1,200 miles north-east of New Zealand are the Islands of Tonga. There are about 200 small islands in the group, many uninhabited, total area about 259 square miles. Tonga is an independent kingdom under British Protection. The islands were discovered in 1643 by Abel Tasman and rediscovered by Captain Cook during his second voyage. He named them the Friendly Islands. The capital is Nukualofa on the island of Tongatapu. The island is of coral formation and is practically flat throughout. It is situated at the southern end of the group of islands. Vavau, the main island of the northern group is volcanic with hills and cliffs, and was discovered by a Spaniard named Maurelle in 1781. The total area of this northern group is just over 55 square miles.

Midway between the north and south groups is the Haapai group. The island of Lifuka in this group was visited by Captain Cook in 1777. It was here in 1886 that the privateer "Port au Prince" was attacked by the natives. Most of the crew were massacred. This was during the time of Tonga's own civil unrest. A young member of the crew, William Mariner was spared and his book describing four years of life among the Tongans has since become a classic of literature on early Polynesian life.

Nearby is the island of Nomuka. This island with its fresh water pond is of interest because it was visited by Tasman, Cook and Bligh who called there for fresh supplies during their voyages. I myself called there in 1950 and the cook on the island schooner "Hifofua" cooked one of the fish caught in the pond there for me. I was given to understand that fish caught in the pond there did not exist anywhere else. On the west of the Haapaii group are the volcanic islands of Kao and Tofua. Kao shaped like Egmont is a large cone straight from the ocean 3,380 feet high—the highest island in the Tongan group. It is uninhabited. Tofua is about eighteen square miles in area with a crater lake of over three square miles. It was within sight of these islands that the mutiny of the "Bounty" took place and Captain Bligh and his

loyal sailors called there for water. They were attacked by the natives and Norton the quartermaster was killed.

In 1854 King George Tupou of Tonga ordered the people to leave the island because of the risk of eruptions, and it has been uninhabited since except for wild pigs which Tongans hunt on occasional visits. The principal exports are copra and bananas with smaller quantities of pineapples and fruits. Similar exports apply to many of the other islands of Polynesia.

In regard to coinage following the early forms of barter and use of cowrie shell money English and Australian coins were made legal tender by statute in 1906. In 1921 Tonga issued its own notes of 5/-, 10/-, \$1 and \$5. Gold Coins of a quarter, half, and one koula were issued in 1962. One koula = 20 Tongan \$1s; one Tonga \$1 = U.S. \$2.25. A thousand sets of platinum coins were also issued in 1962 and Tonga was the first country to issue coins in palladium in sets of three coins. The palladium and platinum coins were originally sold at a higher price than face value and therefore were medal coins. They are legal tender but do not circulate.

The 1967 decimal coins were the first Tongan coins to circulate. There are 100 senti to one pa'anga and 100 pa'anga in one hau. One pa'anga = \$1.12 U.S. The normal coins are: one, two, five, ten, twenty and fifty senti and one pa'anga. A two pa'anga coin was also issued in 1967 and 1968. This coinage was produced by the Royal Mint, London. The 1967 issue first showed Queen Salote of Tonga on the obverse and a later issue in the year had the portrait facing of King Taufa'ahau Tupoa IV with coronation 4th July 1967 wording above. The reverse has the crown arms of Tonga with the word "Tonga" beneath. Other varieties of some of the coins were issued countermarked and in gilded cupro-nickel. A catalogue gives details of these varieties, some of which are described as medal coins.

East of Tonga and approximately 2,000 miles north-east of New Zealand are the Cook Islands which are spread over a wide area. The southern Cook Islands are Mangaia, Rarotonga, Mauke, Nutiario, Manuae, Takutea, Aitutaki and Atiu. The northern islands are Suvarrow, Palmerston, Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Pukapuka and Nassau. There are fifteen main islands in the group with a total of 184 square miles. The chief island is Rarotonga the largest of the group. A commemorative dollar was issued in 1970 on the occasion of the Royal visit to the South Pacific and to honour the bicentenary of Cook's first voyage to the Pacific after whom the Cook Islands are named.

The Spanish explorer Mendana saw the first of the fifteen islands in 1595 when he sighted Pukupuka. Quiros, another Spaniard discovered Rakahanga in 1606. Captain Cook discovered Manuae in 1773, Palmerston in 1774 and Mangaia, Atui and Takutea in 1777, Penrhyn after ship "Lady Penrhyn" (Captain Sever) which passed by in 1788 and Bligh in the "Bounty" discovered Aitutaki in 1789. In 1973 the Cook Islands with self-government issued its first coins, a seven-coin set of the same values, size, weight, shape and metal content as the New Zealand coins, but with reverse designs applicable to the Cook Islands. The obverse has the same portrait bust of the Queen as New Zealand coins but with the words "Cook Islands" in place of "New Zealand".

Roughly 3,000 miles north-east of New Zealand there are the Society Islands, including Tahiti. With the Marquesas, Gambier Islands, Tubuai Island and Tuamotu Islands, these comprise French Polynesia. The capital is Papeete on the island of Tahiti. All the islands cover about 1,544 square miles and the population is approximately 100,000, and the islands are scattered over 1,500 square miles of the Pacific Ocean, all in the eastern section of Polynesia. Captain Wallis discovered Tahiti in the *Dolphus* in 1767 and de Bougainville called later and took possession of it for France. Cook was here in 1769, 1772 and 1773.

I was in Tahiti for a few days in 1971 and memorials to Wallis, Bougainville and James Cook are all close together near Matavai Bay. In earlier years, no doubt, French currency was the medium of exchange, but in 1949 coins marked "Établissements Français de l'Océanie" were issued. In 1965 coins of the same designs had new wording fifty centimes, one, two and five francs in aluminium as before, plus 10, 20 and 50 francs in nickel. The Franc C.E.P. (Colonies Françaises du Pacifique) is used by all the French Island territories in the Pacific. The values of these are fifty centimes, one, two and five francs. The obverse of these has a seated draped figure holding a torch with words "République Française" around the edge at left and "Union Française" on the right with the year date beneath. The reverse shows coconut palms with wording "Établissements Français de l'Océanie" and the value two francs. There are 100 centimes to one franc.

Finally we come to New Zealand which had British coinage from the time of first settlement until New Zealand first coins in 1933. During earlier years of settlement American, Spanish, South American and some other coins were also in use as well as tradesmen's tokens in later years. I think you are all familiar with the various issues of New Zealand coins so, though it is part of Polynesia, it is not necessary to cover it here.

### **MONEY OF MELANESIA MICRONESIA AND INDONESIA**

Melanesia encompasses the islands of the Pacific Ocean from Fiji westward to New Caledonia and north to New Guinea. Included in this area are the Loyalty Islands, Santa Cruz Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia (now Papua/New Guinea). The Moluccas, Timor, Iava, the Celebes, Borneo and Sarawak (now Brúnei) lie to the north and from Timor an area extending over 2,000 miles includes the Philippine Islands. Formosa (now Taiwan) and some islands south of Japan.

Micronesia extends some 3,000 miles east of the Philippines and includes the Marianas, the Caroline Islands, the Marshall Islands and Nauru. The people of Melanesia are generally of darker skin colour than the Polynesians and those of Micronesia show racial characteristics of Indians, Chinese and Japanese influence. There are three distinct ethnic groups with different languages and culture.

From a numismatic viewpoint there have been no coin issues of importance in Micronesia, the money in use being at different times that of the countries trading with or holding the sphere of influence over the respective islands. There are some 2,140 islands in the combined island group of the Marianas, the Carolines and the Marshalls. The larger islands are volcanic and fertile and

the total land mass area is some 687 square miles. These islands are scattered about over some three million square miles of Pacific Ocean. The total population is around 100,000. The Mariana Islands were discovered by Spaniards in 1521, the Carolines by Portuguese in 1527 and the Marshalls by navigator Saavedra in 1529. Spain held sway over these three island groups for about 200 years. Her main concern was maintaining the island of Guam as a port of call and refitting station for their galleons sailing between Central America and the Philippines. Following Spain, Germany began to take a keen interest in the area and hoisted the German flag at Yap in the Caroline Islands in August 1885, and laid claim to the surrounding islands. Spain protested and the dispute was referred to the Pope for arbitration. The islands remained Spanish but Germany was given special trading rights. German influence made rapid strides and by special treaty in February 1899, the three groups were ceded to Germany by Spain for four million dollars.

In 1914 when World War I began Japan seized these island groups from Germany, and after occupation no Europeans were allowed to remain. In the latter part of World War II the U.S. forces reconquered the main islands from the Japanese and bypassed all the smaller unimportant ones which capitulated when Japan surrendered. So over some 400 years money used in these areas would be that of the occupying powers, Spain, Germany and the United States. Extensive island trading was carried out by Australia at one stage before 1914 so British money would also be in part use at times. There would no doubt be the early barter system of trade among the islanders and the use of cowrie shells as money in some areas.

The island of Yap became an important cable station at the end of World War I. A Treaty was signed in 1921 giving the U.S.A. equal rights with Japan in cable station matters on the island. The cable station has since become obsolete and is no longer in operation. Numismatically the island of Yap is unique. Situated 750 miles north of New Guinea the islanders many years ago decided to use stone for money. They used stone which they found in Palau Island 200 miles away. They were laboriously shaped like millstones with a hole in the centre through which a pole was passed for carrying purposes. They ranged in size from one to twelve feet in diameter.

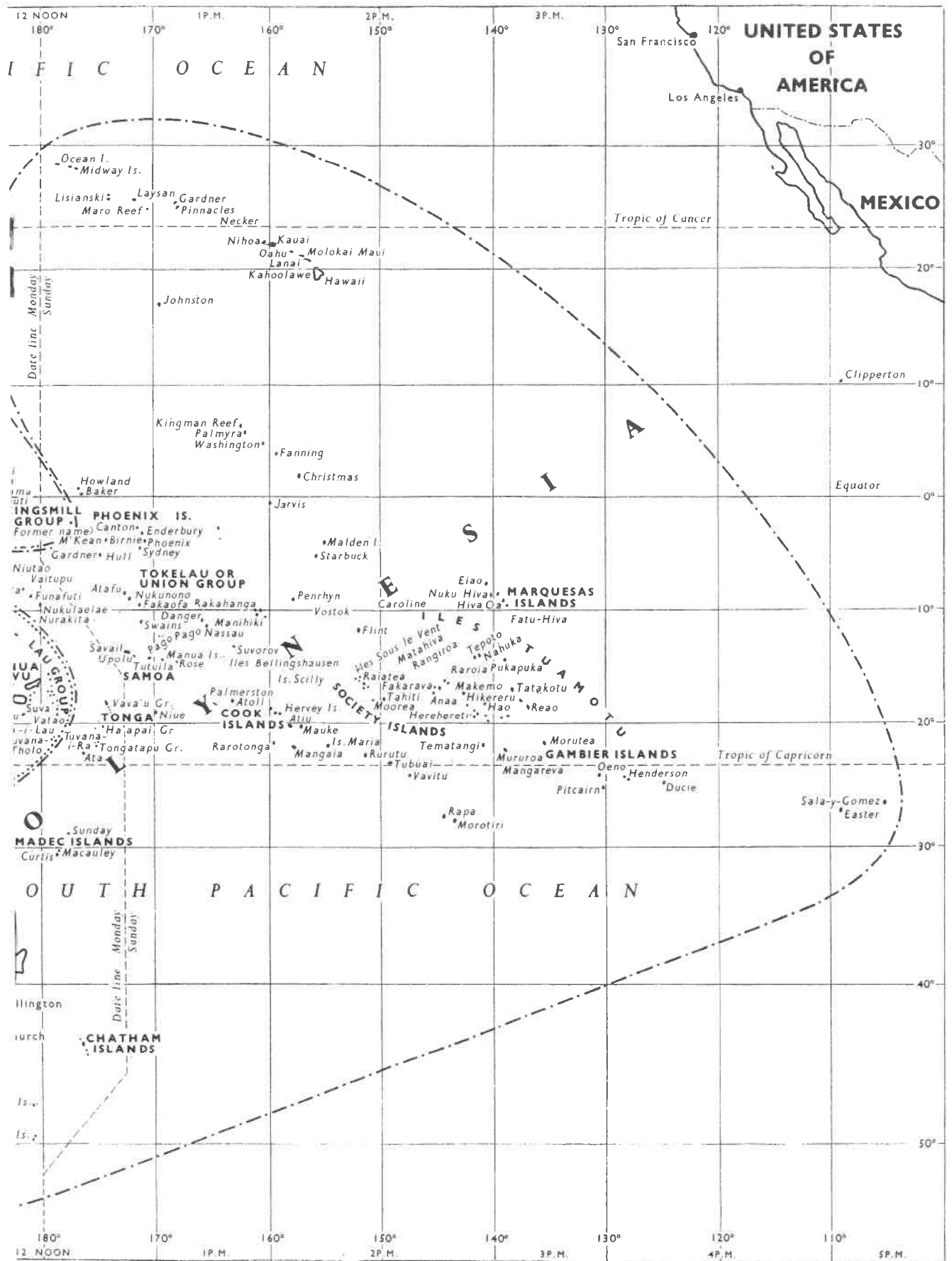
It is hard to imagine the colossal feat of transporting these large and heavy pieces of stone money over 200 miles of open ocean with large primitive canoes probably lashed together to take the weight of the larger stone money. All that work and toil just to leave them lying around the landscape and in the lagoon of the island of Yap. However, conversely the natives of Yap could well wonder at civilized man digging up gold in South Africa, transporting it to the U.S.A. and other wealthy countries, burying it in a hole in the ground and maintaining a strong and expensive guard over it to make sure it stays there! One might say: "Civilisation—Quo Vadis!" (whither goest thou!). One of our past journals had a story of the stone money of Yap and members may be interested in referring to it.

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands are the fourth group of islands of any consequence in Micronesia, though the latter group is strictly Polynesian. They are a British Crown Colony administered

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through the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific from Honiara in the British Solomon Islands. His deputy a Resident Commissioner has headquarters for the group on Tarawa Island. The total population of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands is around the 50,000 mark.

It is thought that the Gilberts were first sighted by the Spaniards in 1537. The explorer Mendana probably visited the Ellice Islands in 1568 and 1595 and de Quiros was in the area in 1606. Captain Byron called at Nukunau in 1765 and the other islands in this area were discovered by whalers, trading vessels and naval ships during the next fifty years.

Captain Gilbert and Captain Marshall of the British Navy called at the northern islands in 1788 and the respective groups of islands were named after them. A visit was made by the American Commodore Wilkes in 1840 and an American pioneer missionary, Hiram Bingham, started mission work in the group in 1856. Captain Peyster discovered Funafuti in the southern Ellice Islands in 1819 and during the next two decades this group were visited by the French Captain Duperry, Chaimschenko (Russian) and Commodore Wilkes (U.S.A.). Christmas Island was discovered by Captain Cook in 1777 and he stayed there for several days. The first trading consisted of bartering island carvings and curios for European goods. About 1860 trade in coconut oil commenced followed by a growing trade in copra. Between 1850 and 1876 many of the islands were raided by blackbirders carrying off islanders for labour in the guano workings and coffee plantations of South America. Many were also taken to Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii and Queensland. The Gilbertese fiercely resisted these raids and on occasions the visiting ships were burnt and the crews killed. The Ellice Islanders suffered severely and their numbers were greatly decimated by measles introduced by the Europeans.

In these island groups, apart from barter the money used since their discovery would again be that of the powers with a sphere of influence in the area—Spanish, English, French, German and South American. Australian trading would be carried out with British money and in more recent times with Australian money. Ocean Island and Nauru in this area have often been in the news.

The Galapagos Islands though not strictly in Polynesia, are administered by Ecuador. It seems the islands were discovered in 1535 by Fray Tomas de Balanga, third Bishop of Panama. Later the area was used by British buccaneers as a base for raids on Spanish galleons. This accounts for the islands having English as well as Spanish names. The islands are about 650 miles west of Ecuador. The money of Ecuador is probably the main medium of exchange in these islands. The early 19th century money of Ecuador was eight reales = one Peso = one Dollar or Piece of Eight. In the later times and today the coinage is ten centavos = one decimo, 100 centavos or ten decimos = one sucre, twentyfive sucre = one condor (gold). The smaller coins are copper-nickel or cupro nickel.

1,200 miles north of New Zealand are the Fiji Islands. The population of the islands is about 600,000 with more than half being Indian. European and part European are about 4 percent of the population and Chinese about 2 percent. The first Indians



arrived in Fiji in the 1880s to work as indentured labourers. In the sugar industry and on the farms of Fiji today the great majority of the workers are Indians. Nearly all taxi-drivers, bootmakers, laundrymen and tailors in Fiji are Indians. About 70 percent of the Indians are Hindus and 25 percent Muslims. Viti Levu, the largest island, has the capital Suva in the south-east and the international airport Nandi on the west coast. Vanua Levu the other large island in the group lies to the north of the main island. The total area of all islands in the group, of which about 105 are inhabited exceeds 7,000 square miles.

It is thought that Spanish navigators visited some of the islands before Abel Tasman saw some of the northern islands in 1643, but he is generally recognised as the discoverer of the group. Captain Cook saw the small islands to the south in 1774 and Captain Bligh in his long voyage in the launch of the *Bounty* passed right through the group in 1789. Captain Wilson in the mission ship *Duff* reported on the northern islands in 1797. Captain D'Urville was in the area in 1827 and again in 1838. The first reliable chart of the area was made by Commander Wilkes of the U.S. Exploring Expedition in 1840.

During the 19th century the islands had a somewhat chequered career. The main chief 'King' Cakobau owing some £9,000 to some U.S. citizens for damages, offered the islands to Britain in 1858 if they would settle that claim. The offer was considered but having an expensive Maori war in New Zealand at the time the offer was declined in 1860. Cakabau in danger of attack by rivals offered the islands to the U.S.A. which having a full-time job with their own civil war failed to reply. In 1872 Cakabau asked Germany to give protection to Fiji but Bismark declined. Finally on October 10 1874, the islands were ceded to Britain. King Cakabau sent to Queen Victoria his insignia of rule (his war-club) with the message:

"With this emblem of the past he sends his love to Her Majesty saying that he fully confides in Her and her children, who, succeeding her shall become Kings of Fiji to exercise a watchful control over the welfare of his children and people."

In 1930 Cakobau's club could not be found in the British Museum and it was located in Windsor Castle by King George V who formally presented it to the Fiji Government in 1931 for use as a mace in their Legislative Council.

Before the influence of the missionaries the Fijians were mostly ferocious and habitual cannibals. During the forty years following Cakobau's adoption of Christianity the intelligent Fijians became civilized educated, trustworthy citizens. A Royal visit was made by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in December 1953 during the tour of the ship "*Gothic*", and in February 1963 they made a further brief visit. British coinage was the main money used in Fiji after cession of Fiji to Britain. In 1934 Fiji's own coinage was first issued. The obverse of all coins depicted the crowned bust of King George V. They were three parts silver coins, the florin showing the shield of the arms of Fiji on the reverse, the shilling had a native sailing canoe, and the sixpence a turtle. A penny and half-penny in cupro-nickel with centre hole has a crown at the top of the obverse and the words "Fiji penny etc." and the date on the reverse. Fiji was one

of the few parts of the Commonwealth to issue for a short time pennies and halfpennies of Edward VIII in 1936.

In 1947 a twelve-sided brass threepenny coin similar in size and weight to the British coin of that time was issued. The obverse of this coin shows the crowned head of King George VI and the reverse a native chief's bure or house on either side of this being a coconut palm flanked by the head of a native spear. I was commissioned to produce this reverse design, the model and coin production being carried out by the Royal Mint, London. This coin was in use for over twenty years until the series was superseded by decimal coins a few years ago.

About 1,000 miles north-north-west of New Zealand are the French Islands of New Caledonia, Isle of Pines and the Loyalty group. The total area of some 7,000 square miles has a population close to 100,000, about 25 percent being of French extraction. The explorer Bougainville, sailing south from the New Hebrides saw signs of land in this area in 1768 and in 1774 Captain Cook discovered New Caledonia September 4 1774, and went ashore for several days. On September 20 1774, he discovered and named the Isle of Pines to the south. He saw a resemblance to Scotland with the large island—hence New Caledonia. France formally took possession in 1853 after the crew of a survey ship had been killed and eaten by the natives. Apparently France forestalled the British who were preparing to annex the islands at that time. New Caledonia became a French penal settlement in 1864 and during the following forty years some 40,000 prisoners were sent there. The chief products of the island are iron ore, nickel, chrome, coffee and some copra. The capital and chief port is Noumea at the southern end of the island. New Caledonia is one of the largest islands in the Pacific being 248 miles long and about 31 miles in width. Coinage, as far as I can ascertain, in use would be the same as metropolitan France, and in more recent times is the same as for French Polynesia, namely five francs, two francs, one franc and fifty centimes inscribed on the reverse "Etablissements Francaise de l'Océanie". The coins are an amalgam of aluminium and magnesium, the lower values being first issued in 1949 and the five franc piece in 1952.

About 700 miles north-north-west of New Caledonia are the British Solomon Islands. There are ten large islands and groups within a sea boundary of some 250,000 square miles. The total land area of all the islands in the group exceeds 11,500 square miles. The large islands in the group are Guadalcanal, Malaita, San Cristoval, Ysabel, Bogotu, Choiseul, New Georgia, Kolombangara, Vella Lavella, Rennell, Mangaua, Shortland and Florida (Gela). Total population about 140,000. Mendana, the Spanish explorer, discovered Ysabel (named after his wife) in February 1568 and later he discovered Guadalcanal and San Cristoval. It was almost 200 years before any Europeans again visited the Solomons. In 1767 Captain Carteret discovered the north-west coast of Malaita and also Gower Island. Bougainville, the French explorer, discovered Choiseul and also Bougainville. In 1769 the explorer D'Urville also visited Ysabel and sighted the north coast of Choiseul. Another Frenchman, La Perouse with the ships "L'Astrolabe" and "Boussole" was on a Pacific voyage of scientific discovery. After leaving Botany Bay, N.S.W., in 1788 they disappeared completely. Captain Peter Dillon in the East India Com-

pany ship "Research" found at Vanikoro items from the lost Franch ships. It appears both ships were lost in a storm, the "Astrolabe" inside the reef and "Boussole" half a mile away outside the reef. The latter wreck was not found until 1962 by Mr Reece Discombe.

In earlier years the Solomons had a stormy history of wrecks and murders of ships' crews and missionaries. In World War II the Japanese occupied the main islands which later became a fierce combat area when the Americans drove them out again. The British Protectorate was established in 1893 in the south Solomons and extended to include the north Solomons in 1900 which were acquired from Germany in exchange for British withdrawal from Western Samoa. The coinage used over the years would again follow the pattern of the nations in control at the time—Spain, France, Britain and Germany, plus smaller use of coins of other countries trading with the Solomons.

South-east of the Solomon Islands and half-way between the Solomons and New Caledonia are the New Hebrides. These islands are about eighty in number. The total area of the group is around 5,000 square miles and population about 70,000. The Banks group and the Torres group of islands are also included in the New Hebrides. The capital of this condominium of Great Britain and France is Vila on the island of Efate. The Spanish explorer Quiros sighted several of the islands in April 1606. A few days later he anchored in a large bay and he called the island Australia del Espiritu Santo. He established a settlement which was later abandoned. The next visitor, over 160 years later, was Bougainville who saw some of the islands and landed on Aona in 1768.

Captain Cook in 1774 discovered and named the majority of the islands in the group. It is remarkable how often this great British navigator's name turns up in the Pacific, always being the most thorough in his investigating and charting of the various islands he found. Captain Bligh in his open boat voyage to Batavia was the first to sight several islands in the Banks group. The French and British flags fly over Vila on adjacent poles and honour guards and administration are equally shared by the British and French. Apparently British and French money is equally used in these island groups.

Next we come to the very large island of Papua/New Guinea. In 1512 a Portuguese Antonio d'Abreu was on the northern coast. In 1526–27 a Portuguese Jorge de Meneses discovered Western New Guinea and named it papuas meaning "frizzle haired". In 1545 Ynigo Ortiz de Roda took possession of the western part for Spain and named it "New Guinea". 1605–07 Luis Vaez de Torres who was on the north and east coasts, discovered the Louisiade Islands, sailed through the Torres Strait and claimed the area for Spain. In 1616–17 Le Maire and Schouten visited the mouth of the Sepik River, discovered the Admiralty Islands and visited New Ireland.

In 1700 William Dampier discovered and named New Britain, followed by Carteret who named New Ireland and discovered several other islands in the area.

1828 The Dutch formally annexed the western half of New Guinea.

- 1873 Captain Moresby discovered and named Port Moresby and Hall Sound.
- 1884 German Protectorate proclaimed over north-west New Guinea and Bismarck Archipelago (New Britain, New Ireland, Admiralty Islands, etc.).
- 1888 British New Guinea formally annexed to the Crown on 4th September.
- 1901 This territory formerly taken over by the new Commonwealth of Australia and officially called "Papua".
- 1914 Territory of German New Guinea occupied by Australian troops.
- 1942 Whole territory occupied by Japanese forces.
- 1943-44 Mainland portion recovered from the Japanese by Australian and American forces.
- 1946 Australia became administering authority under agreement with the United Nations.
- 1949 Merger of Papua and New Guinea as one entity. This island is 1,306 miles in length and together with the smaller islands is over 312,000 square miles in area. It has had a varied history and the small areas of civilization have seen Spanish, British, French, Dutch and German coins in use and more recently Australian. Having recently achieved full independence, new coinage for Papua/New Guinea was produced by the Royal Mint, London, proof sets of the same coinage being struck by the Franklin Mint, U.S.A.

North of Western Australia is Indonesia, comprising the main islands of Sumatra, Java, Lesser Sunda Islands, Timor (west half), Borneo (part of), Celebes, Molucca Archipelago and Tanimbar Archipelago. The total area is some 720,000 square miles, and is about one fifth the size of Australia. The total estimated population today would be in the region of 120,000,000. The lower islands extend in a chain from east to west of some 2,500 miles, with Borneo, the Celebes and the Moluccas being more to the north. In 1949 the Dutch had ruled the Indies for nearly three-and-a-half centuries but this came to an end under Japanese occupation in 1942. Strange to say the Japanese occupation was still in force in 1946 and seemingly no efforts were made by American, British or the U.N. to restore the Dutch administration. Perhaps it was realised that the march to self-government could not be halted and the independent United States of Indonesia became a fact in 1949.

The first distinct coinage for the territory was in 1890 when a quarter guilder was issued followed by a tenth guilder in 1891, a one cent and two-and-a-half cent 1896 and a five cent in 1913. These low value coins were in copper or bronze with a centre hole. A gold ducat trade coin was issued in 1901. On the north coast of Borneo, which is the third largest island in the world after Greenland and New Guinea, there is North Borneo, a British Crown Colony of some 30,000 square miles. This territory is known today as Sabah and is part of Malaysia. Brunei, a British Protectorate is on the north-west coast of Borneo.

Population of the whole of the island of Borneo is in excess of five million. Brunei issued its first coin in 1887 with the date

A.H. 1304 being minted by Ralph Heaton & Sons of Birmingham, England. Coinage of British North Boreo Company circulated here, also that of Malaya, British Borneo and Straits Settlements. In 1967 Brunei issued a copper one sen coin, cupro-nickel coins of 5, 10, 20 and 50 sen. The Territory of Sarawak on the North coast of Borneo was obtained in 1842 by James Brooke from the Sultan of Brunei. He governed as Rajah for a long time. In 1888 Sarawak was recognised as an independent state under British protection. Brooke was knighted and he was succeeded by his son and grandson until after World War II. The Japanese were in occupation from 1942 to mid-1945.

Sarawak issued its own coins as early as 1863. The obverse showed the portrait of C. Brooke, Rajah, Sarawak. The value on reverses with the date were quarter cent, half cent, one cent in copper. Silver coins of similar type were issued in 1900 for five, ten, twenty and 50. These had the portrait of the second Rajah C. J. Brooke. The third Rajah C. V. Brooke appeared on the coins issued in 1920-21-27 and in 1927 one cent bronze and 1933 half cent bronze.

North of Borneo and the Celebes are the Philippine Islands situated a little north of the Equator. There are over 7,100 islands in the Philippines, some 4,000 of the smaller islets being unnamed. The total land area is over 114,000 square miles and the population is around 40 million. The capital for many years was Manila on the island of Luzon but since 1948 the new capital is Quezon City situated north-east of Manila. The islands were discovered by Magellan in 1521. Spain controlled the islands until 1898 when the Philippines passed to America after the Spanish-American War. They were governed by the U.S.A. from 1899-1935, and from 1935-41 the Commonwealth of the Philippines was created with an American High Commissioner Resident in Manila, with a proviso that in ten years time the island would be an independent republic. However in 1941-45 during World War II the islands and surrounding seas became a battleground with the Japanese in occupation from 1942-45. On 4th July 1946 the Republic of the Philippines came into existence.

The first coin was a gold one peso in 1857 with a portrait of Isabella II of Spain on the obverse followed by a two peso and four peso in 1861. Ten and twenty centime coins were issued in 1864 and a fifty centimes in 1865. These were followed in 1880 by a twenty centimos showing Alphonso XII of Spain and a ten and fifty centimos in 1881. A large silver one peso coin was issued in 1897 in the reign of Alphonse XIII. In 1903 under the U.S.A. a new one peso coin was issued showing a female figure representing Filepinas with the Mayon volcano in background. Reverse was the U.S. arms. The same coins were issued in bronze and a five cent in cupro-nickel.

In 1936 a Commonwealth one peso coin was issued with the bust of President Roosevelt and President Quezon on the obverse with arms of the commonwealth on reverse. Another one peso in 1936 showed busts of President Quezon, Governor General Murphy. In the same year a fifty centavos coin depicted facing busts of Governor Murphy and President Quezon. Then in 1937 came coins of the Republic of the Philippines, a one centavo in bronze, a five in cupro-nickel and ten, twenty in silver and a fifty

centavos in 1944. A one peso General McArthur commemorative was issued in 1947. Also a half peso.

In 1958 new one and five centavo coins were issued in brass with ten, twenty-five and fifty issued in cupro-nickel. Centennial half and one peso coins were issued in 1961 featuring the head of Dr Jose Rezal. The last island in the area of Micronesia to mention is Formosa, off the coast of China and now known as Taiwan. A large fertile island, Taiwan is 13,890 square miles in area with a population of around 12 million people. The island was taken from the Chinese by Japan in 1895 but it was returned to China after the defeat of Japan in World War II. In 1949 the National Government of General Chiang Kai-Shek was defeated on the mainland by the Peoples Republic of China and took refuge on Taiwan.

A one chiao bronze coin was issued in 1949 and also a five chiao coin. A two chiao coin in aluminium was issued in 1950 and in 1960 (50th Anniversary of the Republic) one showing a plum flower obverse and orchid on reverse. In 1961 another dollar coin depicts the head of Chiang Kai-shek on the obverse. The more recent coin issues of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia will be discussed in a future paper. There is a considerable amount of history in all the areas mentioned and plenty of room for research for those interested.

Many illustrated coin catalogues will show the designs and types of most of the coins that have been mentioned in this article.

Some of the designs and proof coins will be found illustrated in the next journal containing the "Sutherland Memorial Lecture".

My sincere thanks to our Editor who with his vast knowledge of Polynesian and Pacific Island literature has provided helpful advice and corrections. J.B.

REFERENCES: Various encyclopaedias, Pacific Islands Year Book, Pacific Bibliography by C. R. H. Taylor, M.A., dip.Jour.

Readers wishing to dig deeper into the Pacific area could not do better than to refer to the Pacific Bibliography by our Editor Mr C. R. H. Taylor.

In this book there are more than 16,000 references and every island group of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia is covered.

Almost all known literature on most of the whole Pacific Island area is referred to in this book. Over thirteen per cent of the references are on the Maori, over five per cent on Hawaii and four per cent on the islands of Fiji.

An indispensable reference volume.

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## ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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**OBITUARY****Mr. L. J. DALE, F.R.N.S.,N.Z.**

As National Secretary it is my sad duty to record with deep regret the death of Leonard James (Ern) Dale, F.R.N.S.N.Z. which occurred at Christchurch on 3rd April 1975. Ern was the founder and guiding light of the Canterbury Branch for more than 27 years. During that time he became known to many people for his sterling qualities as a person, and his warm understanding and helpfulness to coin collectors. We will miss his support and kindly advice. The above tribute was contained in a copy of the notice of the April meeting of the Canterbury Branch received from the Branch Secretary Mr. L. G. Morel.



At the April meeting in Wellington the President, Mrs. P. Ranger, spoke of Ern Dale as the founder and chairman for many years of the Canterbury Branch of the Society. Mr. Dale was elected a vice-President in 1945 through to 1962 and also from 1964 to 1966. Elected a Fellow in October 1951, Mr. Dale became President in June 1962, and was re-elected in 1963. During his two years as President he travelled from Christchurch to Wellington for almost every meeting. Ern Dale had done a lot for the Society and numismatics in New Zealand over a long period of years. Mrs. Ranger went on to say that Mr. Berry had travelled to Christchurch to represent the Society at the funeral. A period of silence was observed by those present at the Wellington meeting, standing in respect to his memory.

Mr Dale had many other interests. Only a few months ago he retired from his Papanui pharmacy after 22 years and 40 years in pharmacy. He had served on the New Zealand Pharmacy Board for several terms totalling nine years, and had been Chemists Guild Chairman. He had called founder meetings of that Guild and of the Papanui Business Association. Mr. Dale also had a coin business for a number of years and had many numismatic clients and friends in the U.S.A., Canada and elsewhere. He retired from that business a few years ago. In that connection the Society matters always came first and he never let coin business take precedence. He was also honorary keeper of coins at the Canterbury Museum and gave much time and help for many years in organising numismatic displays. Mr Dale had served on the Papanui Beautifying Association and had been a member of the Methodist Children's Home Board and an office bearer and circuit steward of the Durham Street Methodist Church.

A recent letter from his friend Wilfred Peers, of Christchurch, whose words at the April meeting of the Canterbury Branch were a moving tribute to the qualities of Ern Dale, also mentioned Ern's happy association with the North Papanui Rotary Club. Besides serving his profession with distinction his interests were many with emphasis on the community in which he lived. The community's appreciation of his worth was shown by the very large attendance at his funeral. The sympathy of members goes to Mrs Dale and his son, Bruce.

J.B.

### **Travellers' Exchange Difficulties in Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries**

The following paper was read by Mr H.R. Sampson at the November 1972 meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.

\* \* \* \*

Modern travellers using travellers' cheques and even Diners' Cards can now move about the world without the necessity of carrying gold or silver in such quantities as to attract highwaymen and others who preyed on travellers because of the money they carried.

In Europe there had been a system of letters of credit which could be negotiated between a few banking houses but the system was in general available only to the rich and points of negotiation were often far apart. In any case the poor did not travel except as servants or body-guards.

As there were no fixed rates of exchange the traveller had to bargain for the value of his money as well as the worth of his purchase. The main exception to this in the 18th century was the Spanish dollar or "Piece of Eight" which had a fairly generally accepted value. Gold coins were treated by weight and traded on this basis.

In the West Indies, to provide for small change, silver coins were cut into various parts and often in odd shapes. Pieces of eight were often counter-stamped by non-Spanish countries and the basic value was sometimes reduced as in the reign of George III ("Head of an ass on the shoulders of a fool Carlus III of Spain") but in the Philippines under Isabella II and Ferdinand VII, the value remained the same, probably because Spain then ruled there. On the other hand the two parts of the "Holey" dollar of New South Wales together were reckoned at more than the value of the original coin.

In 1796 on his first voyage Captain Cook, when off the coast of Brazil came across some fishermen from Brazil — then a Portuguese province — and bought a supply of fish. Cook was probably amused when the fishermen refused to accept Portuguese money and insisted on being paid in British shillings. Much later in the voyage in Batavia most of Cook's purchases were made in British gold.

But probably the main area where the coins of many countries met was in the Atlantic. The island of St Helena has been called "The Road-house of the Ocean" for almost all ships from Europe to the Cape, East Africa, India and the Dutch East Indies called at St Helena for water, fresh fruit and vegetables and for what is now called "recreation" for the sailors. The same thing happened on the return voyage. In addition, until out-lawed, slave traders from the Gulf of Gambia and other parts of the Gold and Ivory Coasts bound for Argentina, Brazil, West Indies and Southern U.S.A. frequently called at Jamestown, the only port on St Helena.

It can be imagined, therefore, that the island became a money changers' headache with many a sailor accepting whatever he could get for the little he had because of his magnificent thirst and other pressing appetites.

There was no local currency for a half-penny (1821) and a traders'



token issued by Soloman Dickson and Taylor. Soloman still (1972) trades on the island. There was at least one Canteen token for the St Helena Regiment — a farthing. I have not been able to trace any others but I have not yet been able to procure Parson's "Coinage of British West Africa and St Helena". I have no evidence that the "setts" later referred to were ever used. Copper proofs for a proposed silver coinage were 6d., 1/-, 2/6 but they were never minted.

The following by Mr E.L. Jackson in 1903 records the great difficulty the Council of the island (appointed by the Governors of the East India Company) had in managing its financial affairs. All tables are taken from the minutes of the Council.

In the 17th century the commercial coin was the Spanish dollar (or Piece of Eight). This was rated at six shillings but copper money and Pieces of Eight to the value of £800 were brought from England in 1673, although dollars or Pieces of Eight must have remained in general use, for we read: "Fines for non-attendance at Council were: absence ½dollar, second absence \$1, third \$1½." In 1678 a fine of \$4 was imposed for picking lemons, and of \$2 for throwing rocks into the sea; and in 1707 a fine of \$6 was paid by Mrs Clavering to escape being "ducked in the sea at the Crane for scandalising the whole island".

In 1683 figures (two setts) engraved in iron from one to ten were sent out to stamp copper money, these stamped coppers were 1d. the ounce. Obstacles arose concerning this copper and orders were issued in 1687 that not more than half of any debt should be paid in such currency, the remainder to be paid in coined money. In 1707 we find that "Crowns and Spanish Pieces of Eight were to pass at five shillings instead of six shillings, but they may be paid into the store for old debts at six shillings".

The reduction of the value from six shillings to five shillings produced a disastrous effect on the currency, for in November 1708 it was recorded that "Cash is all gone from the island: in selling £800 worth of stores only \$7 was received in ready money". The explanation given in 1716 is that dollars (being worth 20% more than five shillings in Madras) could not be kept in the island. After this the Colony was in considerable straits for a circulating medium and in 1713 it petitioned for a whole ton of Chinese money, called "Petiese" which would be of advantage here, of the value of farthings, or allowing them to be passed at six for 1d. there would be a profit of 100%. Then again the island authorities agreed that copper farthings should be sent out to pass as pence (this being customary in some parts of the West Indies). The pice of Madras were not liked by the people because they were badly shaped. They were worth three to the penny and were very heavy. In 1715 petition was again made for English ½d. and ¼d. which were sent. We know this for in 1716 small holes were drilled in "dollars and farthings to keep them on the island". Paper money was in use in 1750 — there were bank bills and cash notes, of the value of forty, twenty, and five shillings, and 2/6.

In 1717 the amount of the Government balance was £700. £480 was in these cash bills and the remainder was £100 in "bitts" or Spanish Rrials or reals valued at 7½d. in 1750. There were also

double reals and half-reals. £100 was in fanams or Phenams in 1842 valued at 3d. and £100 in copper pice. July 1740 shows a great improvement in circulating medium.

The items then in the Government balance were:

Cash notes	£300. 0. 0
Pagodas 6,413 at 9/-	2885.17. 0
(These were the standard gold coins of Madras)	
Dollars 1,140 at 5/-	285. 0. 0
Venetians 1,234 at 10/-	617. 0. 0
(Venetian sequin or chicken e.g. Chicks of India)	
Madras rupees 1,525 at 2/3	171.11. 3
Ducatoons 146 at 6/-	43.16. 0
Small money at	4.10
	£4,303. 9. 1

Moriscoes were first mentioned in 1742, also half St Thomas and gold gubbers reckoned at six shillings each. There were also gold rupees at 30/- and Dudoes at 1/2d. French copper money came into use about 1750 values at 2d. each.

In 1750 the Government balance in Treasury is given in pieces of gold bullion: Venetians, gold rupees, pagodas, dollars, ryals, French pieces and cash notes.

In 1760 gold rupees and ryals are not mentioned, and no alteration is mentioned in the value of silver, for, after this, the treasury balance is written only as "Specie" and "Cash Notes".

But St Helena was in the direct homeward track of vessels from India and as many Anglo-Indians settled here, it formed, although so far off, a part of the Indian currency area, and the gold coins of the island were pagodas and venetians. During the exile here of Napoleon, naturally French money was current. Still Indian money, especially the pagoda, was the chief circulating medium. To prevent their being sent off the island they were being taken by the Treasury in payment for goods etc at 7% above their prices. But even this did not avail, for in 1818 the Colony had to import £50,000 in dollars. In 1821 the Colony struck a copper ½d. and contemplated a silver coinage, for patterns of a half-crown of 1823 are known and of a shilling of 1833. Small coin was scarce, and all copper coins including farthings, were counted as half-pence, which latter coin is still the St Helena minimum (1903). We read in the St Helena record that no change was made in the rating up to 1829 but in 1830 the Spanish dollar was again reduced to 4/2 and the doubloon to £3.4.0. This was the actual sterling value elsewhere, and in this year the ratings were re-fixed by the Governor and Council.

This 1830 rate was effective when the Imperial Government took charge of the island. In name the currency was sterling, but when treasury money was handed over by the Company's officers in March 1836, the whole of it was in Spanish dollars. It was supposed that this was managed in order to get the extra 2d. on each dollar, as in the following proclamation: As the correct value of the dollar, 4/2, clashed with the incorrect (Imperial) rating, and as other ratings were also at variance with existing treasury regulations for military

ST. HELENA – Values fixed by Council

<b>1819</b>		<b>1823</b>		<b>1829</b>		<b>1836</b>	
Doubloons	£3.13. 6	Spanish & U.S.A. Dollars	£ 4. 6	Doubloons	£ 3. 4. 0	<b>Gold</b>	
Mohurs	1.12. 8	Maria Theresa Dollars	4. 6	Jose	1.12. 0	Doubloons	£ 3. 6. 0
Napoleons	16.10	Doubloons	3.10. 6	Bengul Mohurs Star	1.12. 0	Jose Portuguese	1.13. 3
Venetians	9. 2	Jose Portuguese	1.15. 3	Other Mohurs	1. 9. 0	Bengal Mohurs (Star)	1.13. 3
Star Pagodas	7. 6	Bengal Mohurs (Star)	1.11. 6	Moidres	1. 5. 0	Other Mohurs	1.10. 2
Porto Novas	6. 3	Bombay & Other Mohurs	1. 8. 0	Napoleons & Louis d'or	15. 0	Moidores	1. 6. 0
Ducatoons	5. 7	Moidres	1. 2. 6	10 Guilder pieces	15. 0	Napoleons & Louis d'or	15. 7
Spanish Dollars	4. 8	Louis d'or & Napoleons	16. 2	Venetians	9. 0	Venetians	9. 4
German Crowns	4. 8	Venetians	9. 0	Star Pagodas	7. 0	Star Pagodas	7. 3
French Crowns	4. 2	Star Pagodas	7. 2	Porto Nove Pagodas	5. 4	Porto Nova	5. 6
Sicca Rupees	2.11	Porto Nova Pagodas	5. 9	Ducatoons	5. 2	<b>Silver</b>	
		U.S.A. Dollars, German & French Crowns	4. 0	3 Guilder pieces	4. 6	Ducatoons	5. 4
		Bengal Sicca Rupees	2. 0	Dollars Spain & American	4. 2	3 Guilder pieces	4. 8
		Bombay & all other Rupees	1.10	Dollars U.S.A.	3.10	Dollars	4. 4
		Johannes 4/- pieces	3. 9	5 Franc piece	3.10	Half-Star Pagodas	3. 8
		Ducatoons	5. 4	Half-star Pagodas	3. 6	Colonial pieces English	2. 4
		British 3/- tokens	2. 8	Colonial pieces (English)	2. 3	Sicca Rupee Star	2. 1
		Dutch & Ceylon Guilders & Rix Dollars	1. 6	Sicca Rupees star	2. 0	Other Rupees	1.11
		Colonial pieces "Anchor"		Other Rupees	1.10	Dutch Guilders	1. 6
		Half Dollars (1822)	2. 3	Dutch Guilders	1. 6	5 Franc pieces	4. 0
		All 10d. pieces	9	2 Franc pieces	1.10	Franc	10
		Old English & other 1/-'s	9				
		Old English & other 6d's	4				

pay, the Secretary of State ordered October 1835: All receipts and payments on behalf of Government should be in British currency, or in foreign coins at regulated military rate. This led to the retrograde proclamation by the Governor, February 1836, when values were fixed as in the schedule below.

There was such a variety of coin on the island that merchants, when applying to the Commissariat for Bills on London, seldom knew what coins they had, and ducatoons, rupees, francs, etc, were all mingled. There were many short of the right weight but even that did not prevent their circulation. In 1843 a proclamation was issued by Order-in-Council that the dollar was to be 4/2d. and the doubloons 64/- and all other non-stirling coins to be de-monetised. These were exchanged for British silver by the Commissariat officer to the amount of nearly \$12,000, the money being shipped to England and sold as bullion.

Dollars at St Helena while still at 4/2d. were 3/8d. at the Cape. So they began to pour into St Helena. This caused an ordinance to be passed that the dollar should be valued at 4/2d. for only three days after the date. Consequently the dollars were all paid in. It was now decided that the doubloon was unnecessary. Trade relations were chiefly with England and the Cape and a 40/- limit was imposed on silver, with one shilling limit on bronze, and the gold, silver and bronze coins of England are now the legal tender of the Colony.

The foreign coins current in St Helena in 1844 were the golden doubloon of Spain, Mexico or South America (3-4/-) and the silver dollar of Spain, Mexico or South America (4/2d.). From the records we find that although payments to the military and civil servants were expressed in sterling, yet sterling coin did not circulate.

Rates for years 1819, 1823, 1829 and 1836 were paid by the Council.

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#### OBITUARY

##### The Hon. H. G. R. Mason

It is with regret that we also record the death of the Hon. H. G. R. Mason, whose funeral took place at St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington, on 8th April 1975. The Society was represented at the service by the Secretary, James Berry and Mr Phillip O'Shea.

Mr Mason had a long and busy life in Parliament and his main contribution was no doubt his success in steering through Parliament to a successful conclusion The Decimal Coinage Bill. He had earlier acquired his enthusiasm for Decimal Coinage from the late Mr. Allan Sutherland, the editor of Hansard and the virtual founder of this Society, who had expounded the benefits of decimal coinage for very many years.

Mr Mason's career was distinguished in many fields, but these are recorded fully elsewhere. It is fitting however, that his memory is honoured by our Society for this specific achievement.

**A COUNTERFEIT ROMAN COIN****By Junior Member Matthew Strack**

This is a coin made by the people of Germany or Northern France about 50 to 100 A.D. It was a rough copy of a genuine Roman coin, and has a fairly good likeness of the Emperor Augustus on it, but the forger probably didn't understand Latin and just put a jumble of letters instead of the usual P.V. Aug (aes. Imp. etc).

On the reverse the forger has tried to incorporate many items of interest that might make the coin more acceptable to local peasants (who couldn't read) and perhaps the local Roman legions.

He has included a goat's head (whence our word capricorn) on the body of a fish, the emblem of the 22nd Legion, also a head with legs and a thunderbolt — often put on Greek coins — and again a jumble of letters to look real.

These coins were produced in quantity to enable the local people to trade with the legions and among themselves.

**Details:**

Size: Diameter: 23-24 mm; thickness: 3.5 mm.

Metal: Bronze.

**MEMBERS' SPECIALITIES AND WANTS**

The following schedule has been compiled for the benefit of Members of our Society. All members have the right to have their names included and a small charge is made for each line for each issue. Use registered post or insure parcels when sending specimens by post.

**ALLEN, Professor H. Don, F.C.C.T., F.R.N.S., Nova Scotia Teachers' College, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.**

Paper money. Modern lottery tickets as examples of security printing.

**ATKINSON, D. O. F.R.N.S.N.Z., 23 Claude Road, Manurewa, Auckland, N.Z.**

Speciality — Medals and Badges, especially Australian and Colonial.

**BELL, R. G., F.R.N.S.N.Z., 50 Murray Place, Christchurch.**

Wanted to buy or exchange: New Zealand and Australian tokens, commemorative medals, medalets, coins. Correspondence welcomed.

**BERRY, JAMES, O.B.E., F.R.N.S.N.Z., G.P.O. Box 23, Wellington.**

Commemorative Medals of all types with particular emphasis on artistic angle, also Illustrated Books of same.

**BETTON, JAMES L. Jr., P.O. Box 533, Santa Monica, California, U.S.A. Zip 90406.**

Speciality: Colonial and Commonwealth coinage.

**DENHAM, D. J. Berwick, 69 Seabrook Road, Hythe, Kent, England.**

Fire Brigade medals, badges, buttons, helmets, old photos, etc. Will buy or exchange New Zealand coins and tokens.

- FERGUSON, J. DOUGLAS, Rock Island, Quebec, Canada.**  
I am interested in all types of transportation tokens in metal, celluloid, or plastic, from all parts of the world, and will buy or exchange uncirculated Canadian coins of many years for them.
- FOWLER, F. J., 2 Essex Street, Tawa, Wellington.**  
Speciality — Coins of Pacific countries.
- FREED, A. J., 20 Cortina Avenue, Johnsonville, Wellington.**  
Speciality — Coins generally.
- GILTRAP, J. S., 191 Te Awe Awe Street, Palmerston North.**  
Supplies of modern proof sets and other commemorative issues available. N.Z., Pacific Islands, U.S.A., Canada, Jamaica, Bahamas &c.
- HORWOOD, W. E., F.R.N.S.N.Z., 6 Highbury Road, Wellington.**  
Speciality — English and Roman Coins.
- JEFFERY, F. J. & Son Ltd, Melksham, Wilts, England. Est. 1932**  
Collects Royal Maundy, top-grade English, enamelled coins. Supplier of coins of the world to any part of the world. Send for free list.
- W. H. LAMPARD, B.Com., A.C.A., P.O. Box 1547, Wellington.**  
Wants — English and British world coins and notes. N.Z. coins, N.Z. Tradesmen's Tokens, N.Z. Church Tokens. N.Z. banknotes and world crowns. Will buy or exchange.
- LOWRIE, GRAEME W., 108 Francis Avenue, Christchurch 1.**  
Speciality — New Zealand coinage, tokens, commemorative and war medals, and notes. Buy, trade or exchange. Please write.
- McNAUGHT, C. M., P.O. Box 166, Wellington.**  
Stamps and Coins including U.S.A. and Canadian Dollars. N.Z. and Australian commemorative coins and early English silver coins, especially crowns.
- METCALF, MICHAEL, 4767 Drayton Green, Baltimore, Maryland, 21227 U.S.A.**  
Wanted: First and Second Annual Reports of the Royal Australian Mint.
- MITCHELL, W. A., P.O. Box 282, North Tamborine, 4272, Queensland, Australia.**  
Wants — Coin weights and scales.
- NICHOLSON, H. G., c/- Base Radio, R.N.Z.A.F. Base, Whenuapai, Auckland.**  
Speciality — Military Decorations and Medals, especially British.
- NORAGER, L. D., 4 Weymouth Road, Manurewa, Auckland.**  
Wanted: U.S.A. and Canadian cents, English farthings, pennies and halfpennies.
- POLASCHEK, A. J., H.Q. ANZUK SPT. G.P., F.P.O., c/- G.P.O Auckland.**  
Speciality — Medals, British and foreign.
- P. ROBINSON, P.O. Box 5081, Auckland.**  
Wanted N.Z. Tradesmen's Tokens, Church Tokens, and all or any material listed or not listed in the N.Z. Numismatic History or Allan Sutherland. Have exchange material or will buy.
- SKINNER, RON, 10 Roberta Drive, Christchurch.**  
Wants, Crown Size Coins. Please write.
- TANDY, J. G., 83 Beauchamp Street, Karori, Wellington.**  
Speciality — British coins.
- VAN HALE, MARTIN J., P.O. Box 38, Palmerston North, N.Z.**  
Wants — Coins of the Netherlands and her Colonies, of all types and dates. Will buy or trade.
- VIETS, C. S., 36W Chalmers Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, 44507.**  
Want Sydney mint sovereigns, 1860 and 1862. Interested in pre-1940 issues of Australian and New Zealand banknotes in good condition.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND,  
INCORPORATED

## ANNUAL REPORT 1973

For the past year it has been my fortune and pleasure to serve as your president. During the period I have endeavoured to serve the Society in a manner which I consider in its best interests and thereby in the interests of all members both overseas and within New Zealand.

Though the year has been successful in several aspects, I am aware of the thoughts of several of my predecessors in regard to the actual administration of the Society which is still very much in the hands of a select few who give freely and most generously of their time and expertise for which I for one am most grateful. My one disappointment has been the increasing awareness of the lack of genuine numismatic and associated research in New Zealand and on New Zealand material. In this area though there are still a faithful few, thank goodness.

Considering our total membership I feel that there are many inactive members and though the lecture-type meeting is slowly on the way out, I would like to see a more encouraging interest from members in the well-being of their Society. Perhaps an inquisitive rather than an acquisitive attitude to our numismatic interests is the answer!

In September, 1972, our Patron for the previous five years, His Excellency Sir Arthur Porritt (now Rt. Hon. Lord Porritt) left New Zealand and we are pleased to record that his successor, Sir Denis Blundell, has accepted the office for the duration of his term as Governor-General of New Zealand. In the New Year Honours list, 1973, our honorary member, Rt. Hon. J.R. Marshall, M.P., was appointed a Companion of Honour (C.H.). The appointment of our auditor as an Assistant Secretary to the Treasury has also been noted with pleasure. To both these gentlemen, our congratulations.

Notwithstanding the youthfulness of our vice-president, Mr P.P. O'Shea, M.L.J., he has continued to give much time to the Society and its welfare without neglecting his own numismatic interests. It was therefore with some considerable pleasure that the Society conferred a Fellowship upon him for "his most distinguished services to the Society and the science of numismatics". We have also noted with pleasure his appointment to the Council of the Friends of the Dominion Museum and to membership of the Companionship of Merit of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem.

In November, 1972, it was our pleasure to grant Life Membership to Mr and Mrs E.J. Arlow in recognition of their long and dedicated service to the Society. However, in April of this year it was our sad duty to record the death of Mr Arlow, at the age of 88. As a businessman, a great collector and a valued friend, Ned Arlow will be sadly missed by many of us. Similarly, the death of Mrs D. Balmer, wife of our valued member Mr George Balmer, was sadly received. Over the years she had cheerfully assisted at many of our social functions.

It is with deep regret that we have also recorded the deaths of Messrs G. Bauer (Canada); J.L. Griffin; S.E. Jackson; P.I. McLean; A. Wathey.

#### *Meetings*

The National Museum (until March 31, 1973, the Dominion Museum) has still served as the venue for our monthly meetings and I must place on record my appreciation to the Museum management and to the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand for their hospitality during the year.

Attendance at meetings has been reasonable considering the attractiveness of some T.V. programmes which fall on our meeting evenings. Papers and informal talks have been given by J. Berry, N.R.A. Netherclift, P.P. O'Shea, A.E. Prowse, A.C. Shailes, the chairman of the Otago Branch, Mr B.P. Connor, and by two junior members James V. Griffiths and Michael Simpson. These two young members have only been associated with the Society for a year but I am sure that those who have heard their papers will join with me in offering them our special thanks and commendation for their excellent papers.

In October an informal meeting was held at the United Services Officers' Club, Wellington, where members and friends were given the opportunity of viewing the club's noted collection of decorations and medals. Through the courtesy of B.P. (New Zealand) Limited, our Christmas social was held in the B.P. theatre and lounge. We thank Mrs P. Ranger for her organisation of this function which was greatly enjoyed and well attended.

#### *Publications*

As at 31 May, 1973, our total membership stood at 547 (478 members, 69 exchange list). In addition 38 members are in reserve. There is evidence of a decline in membership and this I feel reflects the similar decline in numismatics and is not related to the increased subscription rates that the council found necessary to introduce to help off-set a number of rising costs.

Our fellowship roll totals 18 ordinary and three honorary fellows.

#### *Membership*

With the year under review only one journal (No. 50, dated May, 1972) has been issued. The council has, however, approved the issue of a memorial journal to the late Captain G.T. Stagg, and this is nearing completion under the editorship of our Vice-President and former editor, Mr P.P. O'Shea.

The publication of the journal is one of the most important functions of the Society and the prestige it has achieved over the years must not be allowed to die.

#### *Branches*

Communications and reports from our Branches in Canterbury and Otago are most encouraging and reveal that they are maintaining the encouragement of the objects of the Society in their districts. Regrettably, it would appear that the Taihape Branch is now formally in recess. The lack of set rules for our Branches does create a number of problems and at an opportune time during the coming year I know that the Council will give some consideration to a draft set of rules for use by branches. This I am sure will be welcome.



*Administration*

The decline in our specialised interest has been noted in the amount of work requiring attention by the executive. I must, however, record my appreciation to other members of the executive for their work and assistance during the year, especially the Secretary and Treasurer in whose hands the daily routine has been ably attended to.

*Conclusion*

For several reasons, health not excluded, I cannot offer myself for re-election but thank all members for their confidence and support during the year. I must mention in particular those who have attended meetings, not only in Wellington but also in Christchurch and Dunedin, which I consider as one of the best expressions of support for the Society. Similar sentiments must also be expressed for the members of the Council and committees of the Branches of the Society. All have my commendation.

A. J. Freed,  
PRESIDENT.

**ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 1973**

1972	INCOME	1973
662	Subscriptions .. .. .	925
75	Composite Subscription Account .. .. .	345
222	Advertising .. .. .	2
54	Journals and badges .. .. .	28
	Interest: Government Stock .. .. .	51.50
	Investment Account .. .. .	45.00
	Bank of New Zealand .. .. .	34.15
	Composite Subscription Acc. .. .. .	33.62
194	Medal Trust Account .. .. .	14.32
29	Conversion surplus .. .. .	—
—	Refund Auckland Branch .. .. .	58
2386	Excess of Expenditure over Income .. .. .	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3622		\$1537
	<hr/>	<hr/>
1972	EXPENDITURE	1973
1100	Journals .. .. .	640
47	Tax .. .. .	39
150	Honoraria .. .. .	—
100	Secretarial Service .. .. .	110
54	Postages .. .. .	43
31	Sundry .. .. .	21
500	Grant to Dominion Museum .. .. .	—
1640	Loss on Medal Account .. .. .	—
—	Branch subsidies (1971, 72, & 73) .. .. .	360
—	Conversion Deficit .. .. .	44
—	Grant convention .. .. .	50
—	Excess of income over expenditure .. .. .	230
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3622		\$1537
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)****Balance Sheet as at 31st May 1973**

1972	LIABILITIES	1973
4870	Accumulated Funds as at 1.6.72 .....	4870
	Plus excess of income over expenditure	230
		5100
<hr/>		
4870		&5100
<hr/>		
1972	ASSETS	1973
—	Petty Cash float .....	20
1106	Bank of New Zealand .....	1142
1000	B.N.Z. Savings Bank Investment Account .....	1000
1045	Composite Subscription Account .....	1264
409	Medal Trust Account .....	423
1000	N.Z. Govt. Stock due 15 September 1975 .....	1000
310	Medals on hand .....	251
<hr/>		
4870		\$5100
<hr/>		

**MEDALS ACCOUNT as at 31 May 1973**

INCOME		
<b>Medals on Hand 1 June 1972</b>		
D.C. Bronze Medals (17 @ \$6.50)	110	
Cook Silver Medals (9 @ \$20)	180	
Cook Bronze Medals (2 @ \$10)	20	
	—	310
		<hr/>
		\$310
		<hr/>
EXPENDITURE		
<b>Medal Sales</b>		59
<b>Medals on hand 31 May 1973:</b>		
D.C. Bronze Medals (11 @ \$6.50)	71	
Cook Silver Medals (8 @ \$20)	160	
Cook Bronze Medals (2 @ \$10)	20	
	—	251
		<hr/>
		\$310
		<hr/>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:**

I have examined the books and accounts of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, (Inc.) and I am satisfied that the above Income and Expenditure Account, Medals Account and Balance Sheet correctly sets out the financial affairs of the Society.

**A. C. Shailes (A.C.A.)**

PRESIDENT:.....

TREASURER:.....

# SEABY'S

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