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Vol. 6



No. 4
May 1952
Sept. 1952

The New Zealand NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Proceedings of
THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

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Issued gratis to Members.

Printed for the Society by Avery Press Limited, New Plymouth, N.Z.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

OBJECTS

The objects of the Society are: To encourage the study of the science of numismatics and kindred historical subjects by the holding of meetings for the reading of papers and the exhibition of specimens; by the issuing of reports or publications relating to such meetings; by assisting members and students in the study and acquirements of numismatic specimens—coins, medals, tokens, seals, paper money, native currencies and kindred objects; by cultivating fraternal relations among numismatists in New Zealand and abroad; by fostering the interest of youth in these subjects; by encouraging research into the currencies and related history of New Zealand and the Islands of the Pacific, particularly Polynesia; by striking commemorative and other medals from time to time; by co-operating with the Government of New Zealand in the selection of suitable designs for coins and medals; by disseminating numismatic and kindred knowledge; by developing public interest in the fascinating and educational pursuit of numismatics, and generally by representing numismatic and kindred interests as a Dominion organisation.

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Enquiries as to membership in the Society should be addressed to the nearest Hon. Secretary as follows:—

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NOMINATIONS

Nominations for all officers of the Society will be received by the Hon. Secretary, Box 23, Wellington, up to and including the date of the Annual Meeting, 30th June, 1952.

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THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL
of the
ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
G.P.O. Box 23, Wellington.

VOL. 6

MAY-SEPTEMBER, 1952

No. 4

OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

At the Annual Meeting in June Professor H. A. Murray was appointed President of the Society. In 1946 he came from Durham to succeed the late Sir John Rankine Brown as Classics Professor at the Victoria University College. He was born at Aberdeen and was educated at a State primary school, Aberdeen Grammar School, Aberdeen University, Cambridge University, Munich University. He is married with two children.

Professor Murray is a Vice-President of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Classical Association. He has been a valued member of the Council of our Society for some years. At meetings of the Society he freely shares his wealth of classical knowledge in discussing papers. The Society is honoured in securing his consent to act as President, and members look forward to an interesting period under his guidance.

REPORT OF ROYAL MINT, LONDON.

The 1949 Report of Mr. L. L. H. Thompson, Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint, London, shows that in 1949 10,082,400 coins were struck for New Zealand of a currency value of £712,080. This included cupro-nickel half-crowns valued at £350,000 (2,800,000 pieces) and florins £350,000 (3,500,000 pieces). The value of the bronze pennies struck in this year was £8,400 (2,016,000) and of the half-pennies £3,680 (1,766,400).

There were 156,500 New Zealand War Service medals struck. The New Zealand Service Medal reverse inscribed FOR SERVICE TO NEW ZEALAND 1939-1945 with a fern frond below, was cut by hand as a matrix from a sketch sent from New Zealand. The obverse of the Defence Medal bearing His Majesty's civil effigy was used for this medal.

Half-crowns numbering 180, and florins numbering 177 were assayed. The standard composition is 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel, and the general mean was found to be 75.05 copper and 24.90 per cent nickel.

The estimated composition by denominations of each £100 in circulation in the United Kingdom at the end of 1949 was:—

| | £ |
|-------------|-------|
| 5s | .17 |
| 2s 6d | 36.44 |
| 2s | 31.86 |
| 1s | 18.87 |
| 6d | 11.81 |
| 3d | .85 |

RED FEATHER TREASURE.

Red feathers were a one-time treasure of the Maori used in gift-exchange and barter transactions. A recent find of Maori relics at Sutton, near Middlemarch, included scarlet feathers of the *kaka*. A Press Association message reports that a member of the Kidd family, who a month before found two wooden bowls used for holding fat for preserving birds, noticed several water-worn stones near the scene of the previous find. Underneath were carefully-folded skins of two Maori dogs, now extinct. In the folds of the skins was found part of a human skull in the form of a bowl. In it lay sprigs of *koromiko*, or veronica, now used for medicinal purposes. Each sprig was carefully tied with a little braid of human hair. On the floor, below the dogskin bundle, lay the remains of a beautifully-plaited kit containing the scarlet feathers of the *kaka*, the native parrot. These were also carefully cut, and were tied by human hair. There were also fragments of *tapa* cloth, locally made from the inner bark of a tree. Dr. H. D. Skinner, Director of the Otago Museum states, "This is the first of its kind in the Dominion, and recalls the medicine bundles of the American Indians."

In a paper read before the Society some years ago Mr. Johannes Andersen referred to one meaning of a New Guinea word "*whenuakura*" as "red feather treasure." Red feathers were used as currency in certain Pacific Islands.

Some writers claim that the Maori came to New Zealand via New Guinea, and that their original home was Malaya where the natives resemble the Maori in many respects.

Whenuakura is the name of a stream south of Patea; the Aotea landed here, and the name was brought from the Pacific by Turi, captain of the Aotea.

Whenuakura is also the name of a railway station and district 37 miles north-west from Wanganui, on the Whenuakura Stream, and a New Zealand directory states that the name of this railway station means "red earth." This is wrong. This Whenuakura means "the land of red feathers," a land near New Guinea, if not part of New Guinea itself.

The association of the name Whenuakura between New Guinea and New Zealand would be an interesting subject for further research.

SOWER TYPE COINS OF FRANCE.

By C. J. V. WEAVER, Sydney (now deceased).

In the year 1898 a beautiful coin design, an inspiration born in the brain of the artist Oscar Roty, came into being on certain silver coins of France. Roty, in whose soul the fire of artistic beauty always burned, when walking through the French country fields and lanes, saw before him a ploughed field illumined by the rising sun. He saw, too, walking across the field with the grace and ease of youth, a girl sowing grain. Her draperies were blowing in the breeze. Her left hand held a basket, and her right arm moved with rhythmic grace as she cast the grain into the furrowed earth.

A new design was required for French coins and stamps and Roty had been commissioned to produce it. The beautiful picture of this scene was immediately visioned by Roty upon the coins of France. He obtained a meeting with the girl, a graceful and well proportioned woman, and after some persuasion she consented to pose as model for the new design. The design appeared upon the silver coin of the denomination of two francs, one franc and fifty centimes. The sower type also appeared on several denominations of French stamps of the period.

A very sad commentary ends the story of the beautiful sower type. Prior to the World War II the French Government received from an old and prematurely-aged woman in an advanced stage of neglect and starvation, an appeal for a small pension. She based her claim for a pittance to keep her alive on the fact that she was the model for the "sower" type on the French coins. The Government held up her appeal until they could investigate her case and certify her claim. It was found to be true, and a pension was granted to her after a couple of months of waiting. The officers who called upon her to inform her that her pension had been granted found that she, the once beautiful *La Semeuse*, had died of starvation in the interval. Her death occurred at Le Creusot about 1930.

GREENSTONE.

The greenstone *mere*, or club, and greenstone personal adornments such as the *tiki* and ear-pendants were highly prized by the early Maori. Unworked greenstone was difficult to obtain and hard to fashion into traditional Maori forms. Mr. T. E. Doone, in *The Maori Past and Present*, 1927, Seeley Service Co. Ltd., states that:—

"The New Zealand jade, in situ, occurs in eruptive rocks of a highly metamorphic character; it is obtained on the western coast of the South Island, principally at Parorari Creek, Kotorepi Bay, the "Nine Mile," Teremakou River, Greenstone River, Arahura River, and at Rimu. It is found in pieces of all sizes from pebbles up to rocks many tons in weight. Jade or bowenite is obtained at Anita Bay, Milford Sound."

NEW IMPERIAL COIN DESIGNS.

In discussing new designs for Imperial coins, and the work of the Committee under the Duke of Edinburgh, the *London Times* of 19th June, 1952, states, *inter alia*:—

“Sympathy will go out to the Committee, for it has embarked on a most complex task. The gulf between the design of an artist on paper, and what appears after formidable technical processes, on a penny or a half-crown, is almost as wide as that between an author and his work as it gets through on to a cinema screen.

“The coins on which the new designs fore and aft, are shown may themselves be varied. Enemies of the florin are again in the field and, no less militant, champions of the handy-sized five-shilling piece (to improve on the old cartwheel) and of a smaller penny. Even those perennially optimistic diehards, the advocates of the decimal system, have not given up all hope of weaning the British away from their loyalty to an arithmetic that brings frowns to the brows of foreign visitors.”

DECIMAL COINAGE BILL.

In the House of Representatives a second reading was given to the Hon. Mr. Mason's third Decimal Coinage Bill. When the Bill was in Committee of the Whole House Government members negatived clause 1, which sealed the fate of the Bill. The impression gained during the debate was that members on both sides of the House were in favour of decimal coinage, in principle, but were not sufficiently informed as to the benefits to be derived, or were not satisfied that now was the best time to introduce the change. The attitude of the Government was one of friendliness towards the sponsor of the Bill who will, no doubt, continue to introduce the measure each session while he is in Parliament. Historians will honour him for his persistency.

When a similar Bill was before the House last year the Associate Minister of Finance, the Hon. Mr. Bowden, tentatively advanced a proposal for the introduction of decimal coins to circulate with existing fractional coins to pave the way for a “painless” change-over to decimal coinage later on. It was considered that the convenience of working in tens would ultimately drive out fractional coins. He thought that a long-term plan would educate people to the advantages of decimal coinage, and would facilitate the change-over.

The unit of value suggested by the Hon. Mr. Bowden was 8s 4d, or 100 pence. For convenience we will call this a “Kiwi.” The coinage structure worked out on this basis could be:—

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|-----------|
| Kiwi (new) | 8s 4d | = | 100 pence |
| Half-kiwi (new) | 4s 2d | = | 50 pence |
| New coin | 3s 4d | = | 40 pence |
| Existing coin | 2s 6d | = | 30 pence |
| Quarter-kiwi | 2s 1d | = | 25 pence |
| New coin | 10d | = | 10 pence |
| New coin | 5d | = | 5 pence |
| Existing coin | 1d | = | 1 penny |

Two 8s 4d coins and one 3s 4d coin would equal £1.

Six 3s 4d coins would equal £1.

Three 10d pieces would equal 2s 6d and the lower denomination would fit into the pattern smoothly.

The unit of value suggested by the Hon. Mr. Mason was a double crown with the following structure:—

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|---|-------------------|
| Double crown | 10s | = | 100 decimal pence |
| Shilling | 1s | = | 10 decimal pence |
| Penny | 1d | = | 1 decimal penny |

Additional denominations needed would be:—

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|------------------|
| Crown | 5s | = | 50 decimal pence |
| Half-crown (existing) | 2s 6d | = | 30 decimal pence |
| Half-shilling | 5d | = | 5 decimal pence |

The British Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering a ten-penny shilling to decimalise the English pound, and the South African Government is considering the crown piece as the basis of a new decimal coinage there.

At times the New Zealand Coinage Committee of 1933 has been criticised for not introducing decimal coinage with the first distinctive coins for New Zealand. The strongest advocates of decimal coinage on that Committee agreed with the unanimous recommendation that 1933 was not an opportune time for the change, in view of the then economic depression and the smuggling of British coins following a variation in the exchange rate.

There is a strong body of opinion in favour of decimal coinage. Some people advocate a complete change now, when the pattern of the international currency carpet is out of focus, and domestic values are unstable, but such a change would have to be made gradually. The suggestion by the Hon. Mr. Bowden, therefore, is of interest in helping to educate the public mind. Decimal coins could be struck in a gold-coloured alloy to distinguish them from the fractional coins now in circulation. The gold coloured alloy, similar to that used in France, would be more attractive and perhaps less costly than bronze.

Some existing coins are too large and too heavy. Many people would like to see the florin and the half-penny abolished—or that they be no longer minted—the three-pence increased in size and the new penny reduced to the size of the present half-penny. Experience in England has shown that pay-clerks prefer fewer coins in pay-outs, with the result that the half-crowns are overworked, and the shillings remain in the vaults of the banks. There is room for the reform in the coinage structure and in the sizes of coins, and the suggestion by the Hon. Mr. Bowden, which has considerable merit, should be considered further.

CANNIBAL OVEN.

Overseas members, particularly in the United States of America, often ask in correspondence for information as to the Maori. Some still think that the Maori practises cannibalism. The following Press report gives details of a recent discovery

near Palmerston North, the presumed site of battles between the Rangitane and Ngatiapa tribes in 1820:—

“The workman’s shovel which drove its way into the heart of a cannibal oven at Awapuni last week exposed a page of history of fascinating interest for students of the Maori. The discovery was coupled with the unearthing of the cranium of a Maori skull, almost certainly the remains of a warrior eaten at some grim banquet in the distant past . . . The banqueting was not for the sake of the flesh, but to lower the dignity of the slain Ngatiapa, so that in future years a Rangitane meeting a Ngatiapa tribesman could boast that he had eaten one of the Ngatiapa’s brethren.”

The report adds that the warriors were so expert with their *patus*, or axes, that one flick of the wrist would slice the top off an opponent’s skull. The probability was that 200 to 300 people feasted at the ovens.

In recent Parliamentary elections, Mr. J. Marumaru, now chief of the Ngatiapa, contested a Maori seat, and one of his campaign managers was Mr. Te Awe Awe, paramount chieftain of the one time enemy, the Rangitane tribe, who said: “We often laugh at the foolishness of our ancestors.”—*Dominion*, 12/7/52.

THE BEGINNINGS OF CURRENCY.

By P. WATTS RULE,

F.N.Z.I.A., F.R.N.S., N.Z., Timaru.

We will commence this short talk with the oft-asked question, “What is money?”

A good answer was made to the American collector Farran Zerbe many years ago by a newsboy—“Money is what the other fellow will take for what he wants to sell.” But this is not strictly true, as the transaction may be merely barter, which is the exchange of one article for another, as, for example, someone wants a load of firewood and he exchanges potatoes, of which he has plenty. In this sort of transaction neither firewood nor potatoes become money. The exchange of these possessions is barter, but if payment is made through a medium of exchange, such as shells, coconuts, or any other article, then such mediums of exchange become currency. Then when we become a little more civilized and proceed to make purely conventional articles, usable only as a medium of exchange, we have set up a system of money. There cannot, however, be any arbitrary division between these definitions—shells are merely on one island, but are used in trade exchange with another island where they form the currency.

Mrs. A. Hingston Quiggin, in her *Survey of Primitive Money*, lays it down that whatever is used as money must have certain fundamental characteristics, which have been fixed since the time of Aristotle.

Portability, durability, divisibility, and distinction. It is not necessary, or possible, for all the articles used as primitive money to possess all these characteristics, as will be seen later on.

About the only restriction placed upon a commodity to be used as money is that it must be difficult to obtain. Thus, we find, that most civilized countries adopt the gold standard and measure the value of their currency by the amount of gold in the country. But when the Spaniards first went to South America they found the Aztecs with dishes and roofs of beaten gold. Gold was not precious to them because it was plentiful, but a man with a number of the feathers of the rare quetzal bird was regarded as wealthy among the Aztecs. Similarly whale teeth were once standard currency in Fiji, and those of dogs and boars in New Guinea. Elephant tails were used as money in Central Africa until the white man came with his firearms and the tails became plentiful and their value dropped. Among certain tribes of North American Indians red-capped woodpecker scalps were once a medium of exchange, one scalp being worth about two shillings. At one time cowrie shells were used as money all over the Orient, and they are still used in parts of Abyssinia. This country is also peculiar for its salt money. Blocks of salt are used as money in certain parts and are valued according to weight. To us, a coinage of salt is hard to believe, but just try to do without salt for a few days and you will pay any price to obtain some. The natives in many parts of the world who *had* salt, found it a readily accepted medium of exchange with people who had none.

South Sea Islanders had pearl shell available in unlimited quantities, and it was only a matter of time and labour to break the shell into small pieces, rub them on hard stone to make them round, patiently drill each small bead and then string them on fibre which they made from many kinds of vine. But in a few places only could they find certain shells of a deep red colour, and for these they had to trade other goods. It has been seen that the value of this shell bead money from the Solomon Islands is in the labour of cutting out and drilling the shell-beads. By the time a string of shell-beads a yard long is made, the labour involved gives this piece of money its value.

Notice that anyone can make this primitive money; the manufacture of money is not the concern of a central mint. But because the tokens are either hard to get, like whale teeth, or quetzal feathers, or hard to make, like shell-beads, there is no danger that the money will become too plentiful and lose its value.

Sometimes primitive money is very inconvenient. One of the strangest forms of money still existent in Yap, one of the Caroline Islands, is a stone currency. It consists of solid stone wheels often weighing several hundreds of pounds, varying in diameter up to 12 feet, with holes through the centre for carrying purposes. The stone—a certain kind of limestone—is not found on Yap itself, but is quarried on another island 400 miles away. These large cartwheel-like “coins” frequently are placed in front of the native homes and the simple faith of the Micronesian accepts this bare evidence as of wealth. So extraordinarily honest are these people that after the conclusion of a trade transaction the vendor does not bother to collect his payment in “*fei*,” or stone

wheels. The "coin" is still left outside the premises of the old owner, although it is the property of the other party.

The history of coinage in China reveals a series of interesting money forms. It is recorded that silk, paper, bamboo and shells (the shells included cowrie and tortoise) were accepted as money in very ancient times. A period followed in which agricultural implements were used, such as hoes, spades, billhooks and knives. About the 12th century B.C. an improvement was effected by substituting bronze models of these instruments. These primitive coins were of two kinds—"pu" or clothes money resembling trousers and shirts, and "tao" money in the shape of a knife. In process of time the blade of the "tao" money was shortened and a hole pierced through the handle for threading purposes. Finally, about 200 B.C. the blade disappeared altogether, leaving the circular shaped handle with a hole in the middle. From such an origin has developed the money which is still in use.

In New Zealand, less than 100 years ago, flax, potatoes, timber and dried Maori heads were bartered for bright nails, coloured cloth, tomahawks and muskets. Even the Pakehas of Akaroa were said to have used scantlings in exchange for produce.

The South Sea Islanders of Santa Cruz still use certain red feathers of a small rare jungle bird for purchasing their wives. They trap the birds by means of stick baits, and the feathers are plucked and attached to the outside of special coils.

Courtship in Torres Straits in earlier days consisted mainly in presents to the bride's relations. There was no fixed price, but a canoe, a dugong harpoon, a shell armband, with perhaps necklaces of olive shells or dog's teeth, were considered the equivalent of a wife. Fifty years ago, when European importations were still rare, a knife and a glass bottle might be sufficient. Nowadays payments are almost all in trade goods, and the occasion of much haggling. More is naturally expected from a chief than a commoner. Maino, chief of Tutu, recorded his payment consisting of a sandalwood chest containing seven pieces of calico, a dozen shirts, a dozen singlets, a dozen pairs of trousers, a dozen handkerchiefs, two dozen axes, a fish spear, fish lines and hooks, besides a pound of tobacco, and two pearl shells, ending the list with "by golly he too dear."

The celebrated wampum money of the early American colonists was the idea of the aboriginal Indians. It consisted of the small inner parts of certain shells, highly polished, pierced and strung like beads. There were two kinds, black and white, the black having twice the value of the white. The settlers eventually manufactured this money themselves for trading with the natives. Its use became so firmly established that in time in Connecticut and Massachusetts wampum received a legal monetary status among colonists. In 1641, wampum was made legal tender for debts up to £10. Later, however, it fell into disrepute, mainly owing to its being widely counterfeited, the white beads being dyed black for the higher values obtainable.

Most primitive or native objects used as money were restricted to their respective geographic provinces. The most remarkable exception is the cowrie, which, starting on its travels before gold and silver coinage was in general use, extended its range farther than any form of money before or since, spreading from China and India eastward to the Pacific Islands; travelling across and encircling Africa to the West Coast; and penetrating into the New World. In some of these lands gold, silver or bronze coins existed and circulated locally, but cowries formed the common currency throughout this vast expanse of the trading world. The little cowrie represents the most widely spread money of world commerce, used by the trading nations of the Old World from the South Seas to the Western Coast of Africa and across to America. The original occupant of this solid, shiny, slightly asymmetrical shell with its narrow ventral opening was a gasteropod mollusc living in shallow water and preferring that water to be warm, hence its distribution in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The quantities of this shell used in the trading markets of the world are simply fantastic. Pyrard de Laval, who was wrecked on the Maldive Islands and spent two years there at the beginning of the 17th century states that he had seen 30 or 40 whole ships loaded with them without other cargo. He tells how Portugese ships brought rice from Cochin solely to exchange for cowries for the Bengal market, the shells being put up in parcels or baskets of coconut palm leaves each containing 12,000 shells.

In the middle of the last century, the Hamburg merchants who had been carrying Indian cowries from the Maldives unloaded hundreds and thousands of tons on the West Coast of Africa until the price fell so low that they ceased to be of any use in trade.

Almost every kind of object and material has been used as primitive money, among them being tobacco, fish hooks, nails, grass mats, bricks of tea, bars of salt, feathers and stones; ring and bracelet money made of iron, ivory, bronze, gold and silver; wheat, corn, amber and weapons; whale's teeth, walrus tusks, dog's teeth and human teeth; elephant's tails and woodpecker's scalps; glass beads, shells, and bags of gold dust. It is a fascinating story, and to conclude, before looking over the exhibits, mention should be made of the temporary but widespread use of American cigarettes as currency in the devastated parts of Germany and the Continent after the last War. This was a modern variation of the early days, when in Virginia tobacco *was* money, and one of the first laws passed by the General Assembly of the Colony was an Act (1618) fixing its price. It was declared a currency, and the treasurer of the Colony was directed to accept it at a valuation of 3/- per pound for the best quality. It is recorded that the hundred and fifty "young and uncorrupt girls" imported into Virginia in 1620 and 1621 as wives for the colonists were rated originally at 100 lbs. of tobacco (£15) but subsequently at the increased rate of 150 lbs. (£22/10/0).

I think that this will be sufficient introduction to the exhibition, and, I hope, discussion, of the strange and primitive forms of money now before you.

* * * *

PRIMITIVE AND UNUSUAL MONEY.

Among the many examples of primitive money exhibited were knife-shaped money, hat money, boat-shaped money, wooden notes and wooden nickels, porcelain, leather, glass, paper money, wire-money, bronze bracelet-money, silver with blue enamel. Cased postage stamps from Germany, Denmark, France and Austria, gold nuggets and gold dust, red feathers. Many examples of shell-money, including cowries, olives, conus, dentalia or tusk shells, barley shells, trade beads made from shell, wampum, glass beads, red, white and ochre coloured trade beads. Greenstone, obsidian, flints, copper ingots, silver bullet money, and fish-hook or wire money. Also exhibited was a chieftain's apron or mat from the Solomon Islands, made up of over 20,000 small shell discs and ornamented with feathers.

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 Indian notes. Some Tolowa specimens and many magazine and newspaper articles.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

Sir—

May I take a modest hand in the merry game of inventing coinages. I do not think that the British public will strongly resist a change; people who will stand being routed out of bed an hour earlier by Act of Parliament will, in my opinion, stand for anything. Are we, moreover, inferior to the Turks, who cheerfully accepted the romanisation of their spelling?

Nevertheless the long-overdue change should obviously be made gradually, somewhat as follows:—

- 1—Leave the value of the poor old £ alone. It needs a rest and as it stands it is a salutary reminder of what centuries of monkeying about with money can do to the value of a pound-weight of silver.
- 2—Keep the coinage as it is for a time but issue all new coins with the value in milles stamped on them: the half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence, threepenny-piece, penny, half-penny and farthing being marked 125, 100, 50, 25, 12½, 4, 2 and 1 respectively. Give people a few years to get used to these numberings.
- 3—At a predetermined date bring into operation legislation imposing the new decimal method of stating prices. Supply conversion tables to the public in the same way as census papers

are now distributed. We took the complicated P.A.Y.E. system without turning a hair.

4—Any serious difficulties would arise in connection with the copper coins, which would be undervalued in purchasing power, the penny, halfpenny and farthing, theoretically worth 4 1-16th, 2 1-12th, 1 1-24th milles respectively being stamped 4, 2, 1 milles. Side by side with these should be issued entirely new coins for 10, 5, 2 and 1 mille and the coins for 4 and 12½ milles gradually withdrawn from circulation. This process would require careful handling but there are ways and means of dealing with it.—P.F.J., Glastonbury (*The Financial Times*).

(Reprinted in *Spink's Numismatic Circular*, July, 1952.)

FIVE MINUTES WITH SHAKESPEARE.

By W. E. CURRAN, Melbourne.

(Extract from report of Numismatic Association of Victoria, pp. 130-32)

(Continued from previous issue)

And so we find "Drachm" in Julius Caesar and Coriolanus; "Talents" in Timon of Athens; "Sheckels" in Measure for Measure, and "Chequins" or "sequins" in Pericles. Now the "chequin" was a Venetian coin of gold, value about 9/-, originally known as the "Ducat."

In Shakespeare's time, the Ducat was circulating in Italy, Spain, Austria and the Netherlands, and he places it in most of his plays which have a foreign setting, such as "Hamlet," "Twelfth Night," "Romeo and Juliet," "Much Ado about Nothing," "Comedy of Errors," and others.

In his "Merchant of Venice," we find the Jew Shylock lending Antonio 3,000 ducats for three months. And when Jessica steals her father's money and jewels Shylock distraught with grief at such scurvy treatment, bemoans "Oh, my daughter, Oh my ducats. Oh my daughter, fled with a Christian. Oh my Christian ducats. Justice, the law, my ducats and my daughter. A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats, of double ducats, stolen from me by my daughter."

And again, Hamlet hearing a noise behind the tapestries cries, "How now, a rat" and drawing his sword, thrusts, "Dead for a ducat" and out falls old Polonius, skewered through the midriff.

Time will not permit me to dwell on all the monetary meanderings of Shakespeare, but let us take a glance at the "Merry Wives of Windsor," at that impecunious jovial old fellow, Falstaff, whose knowledge of coins was only excelled by his need for them, and his methods of acquiring same, be it honestly or otherwise, were as many as the terms of his vocabulary. Falstaff suffered severely of what he called the consumption of the purse: borrowing only lingers, and lingers it out, but the disease is incurable."

And then, his conscience perhaps pricking him, he says, "I do not like that paying back, it is a double labor."

THE PIECE OF EIGHT, AND OTHER TRADING COINS.

(Read before Auckland Branch.)

By MR. R. SELLARS.

Before embarking on this theme, it would perhaps be advisable to explain what is meant by the term "Trading Coins." As a medium of exchange all money serves to facilitate the process of buying and selling goods or services, but the operational scope of most of it is limited to the country of origin. In the case of a nation, however, whose international standing entitles it to the respect and confidence of other countries, its coinage may be accepted without question in markets beyond its regular confines, and such is the type of money indicated by this designation.

Among the many diverse types of coinage used throughout the world during modern times, certain pieces have played a notable role in the general pursuance of trade, or have in some way made a strong appeal to the imagination. The British sovereign, for instance: In those halcyon days when the gold standard obtained, and Britain's prestige stood high among the nations, this coin was acceptable at full value just about anywhere. Did it not symbolize the worth and dependability of the world's foremost nation—solid, respectable Britain?

Another coin—a silver one this time—has, in its own way and within certain territorial limits, made a very popular appeal. This is the extremely common but handsome Levantine taler. Struck first in the year 1780, when Maria Theresia was Queen of Austria, this taler was issued for circulation throughout the Near—and Middle East and at once became immensely popular among the native races. In Abyssinia it has been accepted as the standard unit of currency ever since its initial appearance, the natives looking askance at any other form of money. This is somewhat surprising in view of the fact that a national Abyssinian coinage has been issued on several occasions during the past fifty or sixty years. It may be mentioned, in passing, that other countries besides Austria—Russia, Italy, France, Belgium and even England—have issued enormous quantities of this Levantine taler and always with the same date, 1780. Experts profess to be able to discern minute variations between these coins, struck by different dies, but to most collectors such are indistinguishable.

Among these coins of special note the Spanish 8—reales, or "piece of eight" should perhaps take pride of place. Besides its ready acceptance in many countries as a most convenient medium of exchange, this coin has attained a certain degree of glamour through its early association with piracy. The very word "piracy" conjures up in our minds visions of gaily-bedizened sea-rovers, enthusiastically despatching their hapless victims preparatory to looting their ships and gloating over numerous fat chests of pieces of eight. It is well to remember that we still have pirates in our midst, but we now politely refer to them as Ministers of Finance or Chancellors of the Exchequer!

The piece of eight of the old buccaneering days—known as Pirate Money or Cob Money—was very different from the handsome crown-sized coinage of later times, and those who have never seen it must be careful not to form any erroneous mental impression regarding beauty of design and faultless execution. The fact is that Pirate—or Cob Money was crudely perpetrated, but its ugliness and its associations combine to clothe it with a distinct personality among coins. There were also denominations other than the piece of eight,

namely, the 4 reales, 2 reales, 1 real and $\frac{1}{2}$ real, but we need not concern ourselves here with these subsidiary pieces. The process of manufacture was something like this: Firstly, the required blanks were cut or chiselled from long bars or ingots, which were seldom, if ever, round and rarely of regular shape or thickness. Many of the resultant blanks were roughly square or polygonal in outline, and no serious attempt appears to have been made to produce a nicely-rounded coin. The design features the Royal Arms of Spain but, due to careless application on a surface which tended to be uneven, is rarely to be found complete. As a result of the spreading of the planchet due to hammering, the parts near the edge of the coin are usually thinner than at the centre, consequently, as a rule little of the design shows near the edge. Also, because these planchets are less than crown-sized—they are certainly no broader than a current half-crown but are considerably thicker—while the dies were of full crown-size, it was not possible to stamp any part of the legend on the coin unless it happened to be struck off centre. In that case a portion of the legend might appear, but it will be realised that the resultant coin could scarcely be prized for its beauty. To make matters worse, a wretched but common practice obtained of piercing this pirate—or cob money and carrying it about on lengths of string and wire, and so it is that most of these coins are found thus pierced, this being considered the normal condition for these pieces.

The rough and uneven edges of this crude currency have given rise to the general belief that the coins have been subjected to systematic clipping. This, however, is a misconception, as careful examination has revealed that the primitive methods employed in chiselling the blanks from the original ingots were in most cases, responsible for this condition.

Cob-money was frequently counter-stamped, thus providing an additional interest to an unlovely but definitely romantic type of coinage. It flourished uninterruptedly for a couple of hundred years from the middle of the 16th century, is therefore not uncommon, and should be represented in any comprehensive general collection.

The later issues of the Spanish piece of eight lack nothing in artistry of design and workmanship. They make a very pleasing array and have played a most important part in the field of commerce, being, in fact, among the most ubiquitous of coins. Generally speaking, the obverse of this later piece of eight, or "duro," as the Spaniards call it, features the head or bust of the reigning monarch and, usually, the date, while the reverse depicts, in one guise or another, the Arms of Spain. As a rule, the denomination is also indicated on the reverse. On the whole this coin, with its home and colonial mintmarks, is easily procurable but some of the counter-marked issues are quite rare, and all are very desirable in well-preserved condition.

During the silver famine in England, at the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, contemporary Spanish pieces of eight were pressed into service to atone for the British Government's failure to provide an adequate coinage of its own. In the first instance in 1797, a small impression of the head of George III was stamped, by an oval-shaped punch, into the neck of Charles IV, and the coin was then freely circulated at a value of four shillings and ninepence. It was thus a coin of necessity. As neither monarch was held in high public esteem and as the coin, though crown-sized, was valued at less than a crown-piece, some mordacious wit expressed the general sentiment by the terse utterance: "Two heads, not worth a crown." Another critic, even more unkind, bluntly

referred to "The head of a fool, on the neck of an ass." However, despite such ungenerous criticism this make-shift arrangement did much to overcome an embarrassing situation and in 1799 further supplies of these pieces of eight were requisitioned for the same purpose, the counter-mark in this instance being octagonal in shape and somewhat larger than the oval type. The British bank dollar and the Irish token six-shilling piece of 1804 are also pieces of eight, which have had new designs stamped on them after erasing the old, but close examination sometimes reveals traces of the old design.

In the nineteenth century, the Spanish currency underwent some changes. The crown-sized piece of eight was replaced by a new silver unit of 20 reales, this coin being no larger than our Victorian Jubilee double-florin. Another change also eventuated, a crown-sized coin of 5 pesetas being adopted as the silver unit. For a time all three pieces appear to have circulated simultaneously and it became convenient to refer to them loosely as Spanish dollars, though this term was not altogether new.

The ubiquitous Spanish dollar was at that time being extensively used by all countries trading in the Far East, being by far the most generally acceptable medium of exchange. It is not surprising, therefore, that it gradually acquired an aura of respectability and integrity which enhanced the reputation of Spain, to the detriment of her competitors. Such a disturbing situation could not be allowed to continue, unchecked. Something had to be done about it and something was done. Within the course of a few years some interesting silver coins, commonly termed trade dollars, made their appearance on the Eastern markets. Britain was first in the field with the pleasing Hong-Kong dollar (1866-68). This was followed, nearly thirty years later, by the British dollar, which specified no particular country of the British Empire but was, in essence, a coin minted for trading purposes in the Far East. Between these two issues we had the famous U.S.A. (1873-1883) and Japanese (1875-8) trade dollars, while Indo-China was represented by the beautiful piastre de commerce, which first appeared in 1885.

Within the short period of New Zealand's history the Spanish dollar has played a useful part as it circulated freely among the whalers and other traders of the 19th century, when monetary units of exchange were far from plentiful.

Contemporaneously, our neighbours across the Tasman also found that free use of this coin helped the wheels of trade and industry to run more smoothly. In New South Wales the dollar was converted into two separate coins. In the first place a circular piece was cut from the centre and was re-stamped for issue at a denomination of one shilling and threepence. In the centre of the obverse appears a crown, with the date (1813) below, and NEW SOUTH WALES around. The reverse features the value only, thus: FIFTEEN PENCE. What remained of the original coin was circulated at a value of five shillings and, because of the appreciable hole in the centre, was colloquially known as the "holey" dollar. The portion of the original design appearing on this piece was not altered in any way, but on the obverse, around the central hole, the title (New South Wales) and the date (1813) are superimposed while on the reverse, in the same relative position as the title, appears the new value (Five Shillings).

And so, having traversed the field of this coin's activities we reach the inescapable conclusion that in both the world of commerce and the realm of romance the piece of eight has made its mark as one of the most useful, interesting and glamorous coins of modern times.

NOTES ON THE COPPER COINAGE OF GEORGE III.

(Read to the Auckland Branch)

By D. C. PRICE, B.A.

III.

In this third discussion on the coinage of the reign of George III I propose to deal briefly with the issues of regal copper coins during that long reign. As has been seen from previous papers, this reign was interesting numismatically, if only for the large degree to which the activities of counterfeiterers were successful. This was also the case with the copper coinage and at one period the bulk of the coins circulating were forged. A large number of pattern coins were struck during the reign (particularly of the smaller denominations), but I will neglect these, and restrict my subject matter to the actual coins issued on behalf of the Government.

FIRST ISSUE, 1770. The accession of George III in 1760 produced no immediate change in the copper coinage, and for ten years, the only coins struck were "restrikes" using old dies from the previous reign of George II, all of which were dated 1754. Not until 1770 was the first halfpenny of the reigning monarch struck, and the farthing followed in the following year. These coins are of a uniform type:—Obv. GEORGIUS. III. REX. King's bust to right, laureate. Rev. BRITANNIA. Figure as usual in armour. Date in exergue.

The halfpennies are dated 1770-1775 inclusive. There is a halfpenny dated 1772 with the King's name spelt GEORGIUS, but this was suppressed, and a coin with the name correctly spelt was substituted. The coin is now very rare, and similar coins dated 1773, which are reasonably common, although obviously struck, are forgeries copied from this issue of 1772. Proofs of the halfpennies were struck in 1770.

The farthings are of the same design, and were only issued in 1771, 1773, 1774, 1775, with proofs issued in 1771. The heads on this issue of coins were designed by Tanner, while the reverses were copied from the old dies of George II, with the date only altered. After 1775, no further copper coins were issued until 1797.

There are many minor varieties of these coins, the range of variation being in the spacing of the inscription on both sides of the coins. Well-marked double cutting is common, and there is a variation in the spear line on the reverse. Genuine specimens of these coins are not as abundant as might be supposed, by far the majority of pieces met with being contemporary forgeries. 1775, for instance, is the commonest date, and yet genuine 1775 halfpennies are rare, and the farthings are extremely rare. The proportion of forgeries to genuine pieces circulating at the time was 2:1. Some interesting varieties to be found in forgeries are GEORGIS (1771), bust to left, inscription reading backwards (1771), GEORGIUS (1773), GEROGIUS (1775), George II dated 1775, and George III dated 1771. Halfpennies dated 1766, 1776, 1777, 1781, 1784, 1787, 1794 are all forgeries also, as no genuine specimens were minted in these years.

SECOND ISSUE, 1797. At this point the currency undergoes a change comparable to the transition from hammered to the milled silver issues. Variation in size disappears, the coins are better struck, errors are fewer, the spacing of the inscriptions is more regular and rarely subject to obvious variations. The classification of the coins is based on variations of a ship appearing on the reverse. It appears as if distinctive types of ships were used as a means of identifying the coins struck from each specific die.

A large coinage, designed by K uchler, took place in 1797. The coins were minted at the Soho mint of Matthew Boulton, and were the first regal coins to be minted by steam presses. They are remarkable for their size and workmanship, and are so accurately struck that forgery became unpractical. The coins minted were known as the "Cartwheel" twopence and penny because of their large size. The type again is uniform.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D:G. REX. The inscription on these coins is not raised as is usual, but is stamped incuse on a broad band. The King is also presented with a draped instead of a cuirassed bust. Under the shoulder is a small K, followed by three triangularly spaced pellets.

Rev.—BRITANNIA. on broad band as before. Britannia seated on rock holding a trident and olive branch, waves beneath, a distant three-masted ship to right. SOHO beneath shield, 1797 on band below.

This new figure of Britannia symbolises Britain's maritime power by carrying a trident instead of the customary spear, waves wash the rock on which she sits, and a ship can be seen in the distance.

A variety of the twopence exists which has no dot after REX on the obverse, but apart from this there is very little variety in the issue except for the delineation of the ship (about 18 differently rigged ships being noted). The three pellets that are found on these coins are the privy mark of the engraver, K uchler. These coins are very common, except for the variety mentioned, and good specimens are readily procurable.

THIRD ISSUE, 1799. The Cartwheel issue was unpopular because of its inconvenient size, and a new issue was minted in 1799 consisting of halfpennies and farthings with a slightly different design. The coins are unusual in that they have a curved exergue, the reason being that the reverse design was to be used for a halfpenny and farthing of the 1797 Cartwheel issue and so would need to follow the broad band, but these denominations were never issued. The date on the farthing, instead of being on the reverse, appears under the king's head, while the inscription 1. FARTHING takes its place on the reverse between two rosettes. This is the first time that the name of the denomination appears on English regal coins. Varieties occur, again mainly in the ship—the number of portholes, the masts, the sails, the rigging. Both denominations are very common.

FOURTH ISSUE, 1806-7. In 1806 a very extensive issue of copper coins took place, consisting of pennies, halfpennies, and farthings. This was sufficiently large to cause the gradual disappearance of the numerous tradesmen's tokens with which the kingdom swarmed, and which had become necessary in general use previously, owing to the scarcity of regal coins. The designs for the three denominations are uniform, with very few varieties.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D:G. REX. Bust right, K under shoulder, date under bust.

Rev.—BRITANNIA. Usual figure, with SOHO. K between butt of trident and shield.

Some varieties which may be found include the absence of berries on the spray on the reverse, 7 pearls on the shoulder ornament, and occasional letter peculiarities, but these are not of much significance.

COLONIAL ISSUES. Some mention must be made of the coins issued by George III for use in the colonies for the sake of completeness, but this will be a very sketchy summary.

IRELAND. First issue—halfpenny, first issued in 1766.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. REX. Head to right, long or short hair (two types).

Rev.—HIBERNIA. over crowned harp, date below.

Second Issue—Penny, halfpenny, farthing.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D:G. REX. Draped, laureate bust to right.

Rev.—As before. Penny and halfpenny issued in 1805, farthing in 1806.

As with the English series, this coinage was extensively forged, and these forgeries are the most commonly found today.

ISLE OF MAN. First issue. Penny and halfpenny, 1786.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA. around head to right, date 1786 below.

Rev.—STABIT QVOCVNQVE IECERIS. inscription around "Triskelis" of three legs.

Second Issue—"Cartwheel" penny and halfpenny. 1798, 1813.

Inscription and design as for the first issue.

VIRGINIA. Halfpenny, issued for George III in 1773.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III REX around head to right.

Rev.—Crowned coat of arms. VIRGINIA 1773 around.

BARBADOES. Penny and halfpenny. 1788, and 1792.

Obv.—Bust of negro, crowned with three ostrich feathers. I SERVE below.

Rev.—BARBADOES PENNY. King seated in marine car, date in exergue.

BERMUDA. Penny issued in 1793.

Obv.—GEORGIUS. III. D.G. REX, laureated bust to right.

Rev.—Ship in sail to left, BERMUDA above, 1793 in exergue.

BRITISH GUIANA. Stiver and halfstiver (under the name Demarara and Essequibo).

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D:G. REX. Laureate bust to right.

Rev.—ONE STIVER within crowned wreath. COLONIES OF ESSEQUEBO & DEMARARY TOKEN 1813 around.

CEYLON. Double stiver, stiver, and halfstiver. 1815.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D.G. BRITANNIARUM REX around laureate bust.

Rev.—An elephant to left, CEYLON TWO STIVERS above, date below.

INDIA. The East India Company issued a great variety of copper coins of small denominations during the years 1791-1816. (See *Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pages 81-9.)

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MEMBERS' EXCHANGE.

Members who wish to correspond with other members, or who wish to exchange, sell, or buy specimens may send to the Editor their names, addresses, and very brief particulars, and these will be published without charge subject to space being available.

NUMISMATICS FOR BEGINNERS.

By ARCHDEACON G. H. GAVIN, F.R.N.S., N.Z.

(Read at Wellington)

We are told in the Old Testament that Saul "hath slain his thousands and David his ten thousands." That seems to be the relationship in popularity between numismatics and philately. But why, I have never been able to understand. To become excited over the number of perforations or a mis-spelt name like the famous "Wakitipu," or even a water-mark is very difficult for me. But I am easily thrilled by the possession of a coin struck in the London mint during the Roman occupation of Great Britain.

Stamps are newcomers compared with coins. The world's first stamps—the Penny Black and Twopence Blue of Queen Victoria—were issued in Great Britain on 1 May, 1840, and people began to collect stamps about 1855. Perhaps our best known collector of stamps was King George V, whose collection of British Empire issues was contained in 300 volumes.

Coins on the other hand, go far back in history, in the Western World approximately to the year 700 B.C. The Lydians under Gyges, founder of the Mermnad dynasty, and the people of Aegina, under Pheidon King of Argos, are both credited with the invention of coinage. It is difficult to decide between them. The Lydians coined in electrum, an alloy of gold and silver found in nature. The King of Argos struck coins in silver—both at or about the same time. I had in my collection, now in the coin room of the Otago Museum, a facsimile of what is reputed to be the most ancient coin of the Western World—the electrum stater of Lydia. The obverse presents a striated surface, and the reverse an oblong sinking between two square sinkings.

For some time after this invention of coinage its practice was largely restricted to European and Asiatic Greece. The Romans only began to make coins about 400 B.C.

When I first began to collect coins there was no Numismatic Society in New Zealand, but since its foundation the number of those interested in numismatics has increased very greatly. That is very much to be welcomed. We, most of us, need an interest in addition to that of our daily work, and numismatics for the keen beginner is full of interest. The young collector need not be put off because of expense. The public have an exaggerated idea of the value of old coins. Quite a nice collection can be formed through the years without paying an extravagant price for any coin. For instance, looking down the page of a catalogue of Roman coins published in 1948, I find coins of the Emperor Nero priced 5/6, 4/6, 5/-, 6/6, 10/6, 12/6, 3/6.

The beginner must first learn the technical terms used in numismatics. He must learn how to read and describe a coin, and to understand the abbreviations in a coin catalogue. I had the very great advantage of personal instruction by the late Mr. Lund, F.R.N.S., of Waitara, a fellow Dane who arrived by the same ship as the late Mr. Justice Alpers. But any intelligent

young person will soon pick up the technical language and abbreviations from the right books.

The obverse of a coin is the side on which the head or principal design is struck. The reverse is the other side.

The flan is the disc of metal before stamping. Originally the word meant a round cake.

The field is the surface or area of a coin.

The type is the design, and the legend is the inscription, often abbreviated.

The exergue is a small space below the design which is separated from the upper part of the field by a straight line. On a modern coin it usually contains the date, and on a Roman coin the mint.

AV = Aurum, gold.

AR = Argentum, silver.

AE = Aes, copper or bronze.

BIL = Billon, a mixture of copper and silver.

Numismatics, like philately, is too large to cover completely. Unless we are content to collect just "junk" we must limit our collection to some special field. So our next consideration is what field shall we make our own specialty. The number of such specializations is immense, and not all are suitable for a beginner.

A happy choice would be the coinage of England, or the coinage of the Roman Empire, which was my own specialty. Both are full of historic interest.

The history of England is probably known to the beginner already, but if not he should read a brief outline of it. And he will require a text book on the coinage of England. *The Story of the British Coinage* by Gertrude Burford Rawlings published in 1898 by George Newnes Ltd. is excellent for the purpose, but probably difficult to obtain. She gives a list, easy of reference, of all the denominations issued in each reign from 1066 to Victoria. The book has much valuable information in addition, and is quite within the compass of a beginner.

There is a series of articles on the English coins running through *Spinks' Numismatic Circular* for 1951. *Spinks' Circular*, July, 1951, page 328, contains a most useful alphabetical chart of the English mint marks.

A standard work probably to be found in any of the large public libraries in New Zealand is *The Coinage of England* by Sir Charles Oman.

Now let me say a word about the historic interest of the series of English coins. You could easily obtain a coin of Henry VIII, of Philip and Mary, of Elizabeth I. You could also have in your collection a coin struck out of silver, obtained by the South Sea Company with the letters S.S.C. on the coin. This, of course, was the famous company of the "South Sea Bubble." And there is a coin marked "Lima" made from silver obtained by Anson on his voyage round the world. These are all inexpensive.

Perhaps you would be interested in the "Maundy" money. This money consists of groats, three-pences, half groats, and

pennies in silver, and has been issued by every sovereign from Charles II. The Coinage Act of 1870 made it legal tender. The word Maundy is derived from *mandatum*—"Mandatum novum do vobis"—"a new commandment I give unto you." They are the first words of the first antiphon at the ceremony of washing the feet on Thursday in Holy Week. On that day the Sovereign in person, or in the absence of the Sovereign the Lord Almoner, distributes the Maundy money, specially minted for the purpose, to chosen recipients from among the poor of Westminster at a picturesque ceremony in Westminster Abbey. From time to time photographs of the ceremony appear in the illustrated papers. The bouquets of flowers carried by the Sovereign and clergy are lineal descendants of the bunches of medicinal herbs carried as a safeguard against contracting disease.

The products of the ecclesiastical mints are interesting. Before and after the Norman Conquest various Church dignitaries possessed the right to coin money. After the Conquest the chief mints were Canterbury, York and Durham. Those issued by Thomas Cranmer 1533 to 1556, carry his initials, T.C. Cardinal Wolsey as Archbishop of York issued coins. There is a half groat bearing his initials T.W. and a cardinal's hat. After Henry VIII the ecclesiastical mints ceased.

We turn now to the coins of the Roman Empire. From an historical standpoint they will give many very happy hours to the young collector. When collecting this series I had the advantage of a pen friendship with the late Mr. Percy Webb, a London lawyer, whose brother at one time was living in Inglewood, Taranaki. Mr. Percy Webb eventually became the President of the Royal Numismatic Society in England and was a first-rate authority on the coinage of the Roman Empire, and a contributor to Sydenham and Mattingly's monumental work. He very kindly sent me pamphlets by him on special aspects of the series, and a specimen of the tribute penny of the New Testament. This latter gift I valued highly because it had his backing as genuine. He told me he chose it out of nine specimens. It is, of course, the coin placed in our Saviour's hand in response to his request. "Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it." They answered and said "Caesar's." And he said unto them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's." St. Luke XX, 24, 25. It is the little denarius of Tiberius Caesar, a silver coin about the size of a sixpence.

The best book for the beginner in this series is, I think, *A Catalogue of Roman Coins*, compiled by Gilbert Askew, F.S.A., F.R.N.S., and published in 1948 by B. A. Seaby Ltd., London, at 5/-.

The standard works are: Cohen, *Medailles Imperiales Romaines*, now in process of being superseded by Mattingly and Sydenham *Roman Imperial Coinage*, but they are probably beyond the pocket of the young beginner.

Seaby's Catalogue mentioned above is more than a mere price catalogue. It contains notes on the denominations of the Roman coinage and on the reverse types: deities and personifications. In addition a brief note on each Emperor from Augustus to Romulus Augustulus 475-476 A.D.

I received a great deal of help from the first two or three volumes of *Spink's Circular*, published long ago and now unprocurable. It contains admirable articles by F. Gnecci translated by the Rev. A. W. Hands. They were republished in book form by Spink & Son, London, in 1903, and are obtainable second-hand at about 25/-.

Now may I mention just one or two coins of interest that were in my own collection, which was chiefly third brass:

A small coin of Julius Caesar with the legend abbreviated "Perpetual Dictator," thus dating the coin to the year of his assassination.

A coin struck by Pompey to pay the 16th legion.

A dupondius commemorating the recovery of the Roman standards by Germanicus, previously lost by Varus in the *Saltus Teutoburgensis*. Looking at the coin the cry of the aged Emperor comes echoing down the centuries—"Varus, Varus, give me back my legions."

A coin of the Emperor Nero, with a nice patina, depicting the temple of Janus with the doors closed. They were only closed when Rome was at peace on all her frontiers, and that was not very often, but it did occur for a short period under Nero.

A sestertius of Vespasian in most beautiful condition, the most valuable coin I had costing over £7. The reverse showed a palm tree symbolic of Judaea and on one side of it the emperor standing with hasta and parazonium and on the other a Jewess weeping. The legend read *JUDAEA CAPTA*.

Coins of the Procurators of Judaea—Pontius Pilate, Felix, Festus.

A coin commemorating the one thousandth anniversary of Rome. These depict various wild animals brought from distant parts of the Empire for the games in the Colosseum, at Rome—"to make a Roman holiday."

Here is a coin towards the end of the third century still showing the silver wash covering the base metal—the degeneration of the coinage seems to foreshadow the coming fall of the Empire.

The earlier busts seem to be portraits, Nero and Trajan are so consistent and easy to recognize, but the later are mere conventional busts.

Where may Roman coins be procured? There are coin dealers in New Zealand advertising in this Journal and there are the two English firms—Spink & Son, 5, 6 & 7 King Street, St. James', London, S.W.E, and B. A. Seaby, 65 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. These dealers will also supply English coins.

SUGGESTED CROWN PIECE.

A suggestion has been made by Mr. M. A. Jamieson, of St. Heliers, that a crown piece be issued in New Zealand in the coronation year. This was considered at a recent meeting of the Society which decided to take no action, but to explore the possibility of issuing a crown piece to mark the centennial of parliamentary Government in 1954. This would allow for more time to call for competitive designs, and perhaps to consider a new series of designs for all denominations, should this proposal be acceptable to the authorities. Meantime a proposal has gone forward that with the change in the Royal portrait on New Zealand coins, specimen sets be made available to collectors.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

The Council of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) has the honour to present its 21st Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st May, 1952.

The passing of our beloved Sovereign, King George VI, in February last was felt by all members of the Society with the deepest regret and a message of sympathy for members of the Royal Family was sent to Her Majesty the Queen, whose gracious acknowledgment was subsequently received. It was His late Majesty, who advised through his Private Secretary, Sir Allan Lascelles, in October, 1947, that he was pleased to approve the addition of the prefix "Royal" to the title of the New Zealand Numismatic Society.

The loss, also, to the Society, in the passing of Sir Joseph Heenan (a Vice-President) and Mr. W. F. Meek, two of our early members, was felt very keenly. Their continued interest and helpful advice over the years will be missed. Mr. Meek's outstanding work, *Currency Tokens of New Zealand*, which went to press after his decease, will prove a valuable asset to numismatists specialising in that field.

During the year regular monthly meetings have been held (except in December and January—the recess period) at which interesting papers were read and talks given. Some excellent specimens appropriate to each occasion were exhibited. At the November meeting the Society was pleased to welcome several members of the Classical Society and the Society of Friends of the Turnbull Library, when Mr. C. R. H. Taylor gave his interesting talk entitled "Bindings and Other Associations in the Turnbull Library." Another interesting field covered during the year was that of Parthian Numismatics. This was given in three sections from the findings of Professor Simonetta (Florence), translated and read by Professor H. A. Murray.

It is pleasing to note the increasing interest being taken in our Society as evidenced by the many requests for copies of the Journal and the enrolment of new members at each meeting. The membership Roll now shows the position as follows: Life Members 50; Annual Subscription Members 210; Free Mailing List 3; Schools and Colleges 15; Exchanges New Zealand 12; Exchanges Overseas 23; a total of 313.

Gifts in the form of two bound copies of *Milled Silver Coinage of England* (Spink & Son Ltd.), a copy of *Currency Tokens of New Zealand* (Mrs. W. F. Meek), a prize medal of the 1873 Exhibition of Hokitika (Justice Northcroft), and two medals issued on the occasion of the Revolution in Crete, 1898 (Governor of Agricultural Bank of Greece, through the Department of External Affairs) were received during the year. The books have been placed in the Society's Library, and the medals in its collection which will eventually be housed in the handsome mahogany cabinet made for the Society by Mr. E. Horwood. The funds of the Society were also augmented by a generous donation from Mr. S. R. McCallum (a Vice-President). To those responsible for these gifts the Council extends its grateful thanks, and also to Mesdames Berry and Hornblow for the enjoyable suppers provided at the conclusion of each meeting.

Overseas reports and periodicals are being received regularly, these proving very interesting and useful additions to the Society's Library.

Although the Society suffered a severe set-back last year with the cancellation of the Government Subsidy, its subsequent restoration, through the good offices of Hon. W. A. Bodkin, Hon. J. R. Marshall and Mr. A. G. Harper (Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs), will enable us to publish the Journal at more regular intervals.

The Christchurch and Auckland Branches are now well established and the holding of their regular meetings in those two centres is of incalculable value to the Society, and has been the means of adding considerably to the membership.

The resignation of our Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. Weston, on account of his leaving for Canada, was regretfully accepted in February last, and we wish him every success in his new sphere. To Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Ferguson, also, who are at present on holiday in England, we extend our good wishes for a very pleasant sojourn there, and will look forward to hearing of their experiences on their return. Our thanks are due to Messrs. Tether and Freeman who are so capably carrying on the Secretarial duties in the meantime.

In conclusion, may we acknowledge our indebtedness and appreciation to Mr. C. R. H. Taylor (Librarian) for the continued use of the Turnbull Library over the years, and Mr. Brown (Custodian) for his assistance in preparing the room for our meetings and arranging the supper table for us.

For and on behalf of the Council of the
Royal Numismatic Society of New
Zealand (Inc.),

M. H. HORNBLOW,

President.

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)
COMPOSITE SUBSCRIPTION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1952.

| | £ s d | | £ s d |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| To Balance, 31/5/51 | 221 0 3 | By Balance, 31/5/52 | 243 8 5 |
| „ Subscriptions | 16 16 0 | | |
| „ Interest to 31/3/52 | 5 12 2 | | |
| | £243 8 5 | | £243 8 5 |
| To Balance, 31/5/52 | £243 8 5 | | |

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1952.

| | £ s d | | £ s d | | £ s d |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|--------|----------|-------|
| To Balance, 31/5/51 | 64 1 6 | By Journal Expenses— | | | |
| „ Subscriptions | 86 7 6 | Printing | 57 0 0 | | |
| „ Government Grant | 100 0 0 | Blocks, etc. | 14 6 0 | | |
| „ Donations | 3 13 0 | Mailing, etc. | 2 5 0 | | |
| „ Advertising (Journal) | 9 10 0 | Postage | 1 18 8 | | |
| „ Sale of Journals | 3 10 0 | | | | |
| | £267 2 0 | „ Branch Subsidies | | 75 9 8 | |
| To Balance, 31/5/52 | £168 6 4 | „ Bank Fees and Exchange | | 2 2 0 | |
| | | „ Stamps | | 7 5 4 | |
| | | „ Stationery | | 5 3 2 | |
| | | „ Donation | | 2 2 0 | |
| | | „ Membership Rolls | | 5 0 0 | |
| | | „ General Expenses | | 10 0 | |
| | | „ Spink & Son Ltd. (Subscription) | | 10 3 | |
| | | „ Balance, 31/5/52 | | 168 6 4 | |
| | | | | £267 2 0 | |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MAY, 1952.

| LIABILITIES | £ s d | ASSETS | £ s d |
|--|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Accumulated Funds— | | Post Office Savings Bank | 243 8 5 |
| Balance, 31/5/51 | 285 1 9 | Bank of New Zealand | 164 13 6 |
| Composite Subscription Account | 22 8 2 | Petty Cash | 3 12 10 |
| Excess Receipts over Expenditure | 104 4 10 | | |
| | £411 14 9 | | £411 14 9 |

W. CHETWYND, Hon. Auditor.

P. D. TETHER, Hon. Secretary.

NOTE—No provision has been made in the accounts for the cost of Journal No. 3, Vol. 6, which is estimated at £60.

NOTES OF MEETINGS.

WELLINGTON.

Minutes of the 153rd General Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on 28th April, 1952. Mr. Hornblow in the Chair.

New Members Elected:—

Mr. P. Beard, 311 Main Road, Glenorchy, Hobart.
 Mr. A. Mickle, P.O. Box 2014, Auckland.
 Mr. G. Geary, 87 Point Chevalier Road, Auckland.
 Mr. B. Forster, 42A Kensington Ave., Mt. Eden, Auckland.
 Mr. C. G. Hunt, 22 Pembroke Street, Hamilton.
 Mr. J. P. Teng, 3rd Officer, M.V. "Ami," c/o Newton King, New Plymouth.

Resignations:—

Takapuna Grammar School, Auckland.
 Dr. B. L. Wilson, Christchurch.
 Mr. D. MacMillan, Christchurch.
 Miss F. MacMillan, Christchurch.
 Mr. C. B. Hillman, Punchbowl, N.S.W.

Publications Received:—

Numismatic Literature No. 18 (American Numismatic Soc.).
Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. 13, Part 1.
South Australian Numismatic Journal, Vol. 3, No. 1.
Journal of the Numismatic Assn. of Victoria, Vol. 6, No. 10.
 Spink & Sons Ltd., *Numismatic Circulars*, Dec., 1951, Feb. and March, 1952.
Muenzen und Medaillen A.G., Lists 108 and 109.
Italia Numismatica, Nov.-Dec., 1951.
Australian Numismatic Society Reports (3); also Membership Roll and Library List.

Correspondence:—

A request was received from the Dept. of Archaeology, Madras, for any Journals containing articles on Indian coinage. It was decided to place the Numismatic Society of India on the Overseas Exchange List.

A request was received from the Private Secretary to the King of Egypt requesting a set of Journals already issued, and also all future Journals.

The Dept. of External Affairs forwarded for the Society's collection two medals issued on the occasion of the Revolution in Crete, 1898, received from the Governor of the Agricultural Bank of Greece.

A proposal was received from the Auckland Branch regarding the possibility of acquiring mint sets of New Zealand coinage on the occasion of the forthcoming Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, and it was decided to approach the Reserve Bank on the matter.

In appreciation of his services to the Society it was decided to make a donation of £2/2/- to Mr. M. Weston who is shortly leaving the country for Canada.

Mr. Sherwood exhibited an "Order to View the Royal Mint."

Paper.—Mr. Horwood gave a further interesting talk on "Roman Colchester" and exhibited several coins of that period.

The Meeting then terminated with supper.

Minutes of the 154th General Meeting, 26th May, 1952. Mr. Hornblow in the Chair.

New Members Elected:—

Mr. M. Kirby, c/o Mahora Stud Farm, Pakowhai Rd., Hastings.
Mr. S. Graham, Franz Josef Glacier, South Westland.
Mr. B. W. Middleton, 45 Rossall Street, Christchurch.
71069 L.A.C. Austin, G. A., E.R.S., R.N.Z.A.F., Woodbourne.

Publication Received:—*Journal of the Numismatic Association of Victoria.* Vol. 6, No. 11.

Correspondence:—

A letter of thanks was received from Mr. M. Weston together with a subscription for Life Membership.

The Numismatic Society of Israel forwarded the programme for the Second Numismatic Convention of Israel and it was decided to request a report on the proceedings.

Paper:—An interesting paper by the late Mr. C. J. V. Weaver on "The Sower Type on the Coins of France" was read. Several coins of this type were exhibited by Mr. Hornblow.

The Meeting then terminated with supper.

Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting, 30th June, 1952. Mr. Hornblow in the Chair.

New Members Elected:—

Capt. G. T. Stagg, Central Military District, Wellington.
Miss G. Dennis, 110 Rattray Street, Christchurch.

Resignations Accepted:—Mr. B. S. Berry, Mr. L. W. Bannister.

Publications Received:—

Currency Tokens of New Zealand, by the late Mr. W. F. Meek (kindly donated to the Society by Mrs. Meek).
Bound volumes of *Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletins* for 1950 and 1951 (kindly donated by B. A. Seaby Ltd.).
80th Annual Report of the Royal Mint.
Journal of the Numismatic Association of Victoria.
Reports (4) of the Australian Numismatic Society.
Numismatic Circulars (4) from Spink & Son Ltd.
Monete & Medaglie.

Annual Report and Accounts:—The Secretary read the Annual Report and tabled the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 31st May, 1952. A motion that these be adopted, moved by Mr. Chetwynd and seconded by Mr. Horwood, was carried unanimously.

Election of Officers:—The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

Patron: His Excellency the Governor-General Elect.

President: Prof. H. A. Murray.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. M. H. Hornblow, L. J. Dale, T. W. Attwood and S. R. McCallum.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. D. Tether.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C. J. Freeman.

Hon. Editor: Mr. A. Sutherland.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. W. Chetwynd.

Council: Messrs. P. Watts Rule, W. D. Ferguson, H. Martin, E. Horwood and J. Berry.

The Secretary was instructed to request nominations for the Council from the Auckland and Christchurch Branches.

Correspondence:—

A letter was received from Marsden College as to the possibility of members giving talks at the College. It was decided to approach Miss Dettmann and Mr. Berry in this matter.

A request from Mr. H. Robinson for contacts with members who are interested in N.Z. Tokens was tabled. It was decided to see what could be done in advertising such requests in the Journal.

A letter from the Publisher of the International Directory of Art was handed to the Editor for attention.

Minutes of the 155th General Meeting, 28th July, 1952. Mr. M. R. Hornblow in the Chair.

Publications Received:—

South Australian Numismatic Journal. Vol. 3, No. 2.

Numismatic Literature No. 19.

Spink & Son *Numismatic Circulars* for May and June, 1952.

Constitution of the International Numismatic Commission.

Accounts:—Accounts for £1 17s 6d and £63 2s 5d for Journal expenses were passed for payment.

New Members:—H.M. King Farouk was duly elected as a Life Member of the Society.

General:—

The proposal by Mr. Robson, Auckland, that the Society present to the General Assembly Library, Wellington, a framed collection of 20 to 30 coins used in New Zealand and bearing dates of major events in the legislative history of the Dominion up to the centennial of parliamentary government in 1954, was further considered.

It was decided to invite Dr. G. H. Scholefield to approve of a suitable list prior to publication in the Journal so that members could offer suitable specimens to illustrate the display.

Following a discussion on new coinage it was decided that in view of the time factor it was impractical to bring out a commemorative crown piece for the forthcoming coronation and that the Society should endeavour to have a full set of coins, including a crown piece, with new designs issued for 1954.

Exhibits:—A 50 centavos Japanese Invasion Note was exhibited.

Paper:—Mr. Freeman read an interesting paper by the late Mr. C. J. V. Weaver on "Beautiful Modern Coins." This was the first part of the treatise.

The Meeting then terminated with supper.

Minutes of the 156th General Meeting, 25th August, 1952. Prof. Murray in the Chair.

Publications Received:—

Numismatic Association of Victoria Journals, for July and August.

Spink & Son Ltd., *Numismatic Circular*, for July.

Resignation:—The resignation of Mr. S. R. Yarwood of England was accepted with regret.

Correspondence:—Letters were tabled from Mr. R. B. Harris (re membership), Mr. Southern (re Journals) and Mr. H. Robinson (re members special interests). A circular letter regarding the International Numismatic Congress to be held in Paris in July, 1953, was received and it was decided to send greetings from the Society to the President of the Congress.

General:—There was a discussion on the exhibiting of coins at the Dominion Museum and it was decided to make a selection from the catalogue for final approval by the Committee.

Papers:—Mr. Freeman read a paper entitled "Numismatics for Beginners" by Archdeacon Gavin and a further part of the late Mr. C. J. Weaver's paper on "Beautiful Modern Coins," both of which were received with interest.

The Meeting terminated with supper.

CANTERBURY.

The 27th Meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand held at the Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, on 5th June, 1952, at 7.30 p.m. Miss M. K. Steven in the Chair.

Business:—

(1) A letter to be written to Messrs. Whitcombe & Tombs re the outstanding amount for the purchase of books *They Made Their Own Money*.

(2) A letter also to the Minister of Defence re obtaining a set of the last War medals for the Museum collection, and the Dept. of Internal Affairs re completing war decorations and O.B.E. Medals, etc.

(3) The next meeting date to be in September when it could be arranged to fit in with Mr. P. Watts Rule of Timaru who is to be the speaker. Mr. Allan Sutherland to be the speaker for the November meeting.

Members wished letters of appreciation be sent to Mr. Watts Rule for a tray of animal coins sent to illustrate the topic of the evening; Mr. L. G. Morel for sending his paper on "The Lion," and to Mr. E. A. Dennis for sending representative coins for display.

Donations:—Two books were donated to the Society Library. *The Story Book of Money*, H. W. Whanslow, by Mr. J. Sutherland, and *Currency Tokens of New Zealand* by Mrs. Meek.

Papers:—A most interesting and entertaining evening followed when seven members spoke on coins depicting animals or flowers, or fruit. These talks were copiously illustrated with topical coins and the subject made a very gratifying evening.

"**Hog Money**" (Mr. James Sutherland). In 1615 a Spanish vessel commanded by Juan Bermudas, carrying a large cargo of pigs was wrecked on an island while bound for Cuba. Some ninety-four years later James I of England appointed Sir George Sommers Governor of Virginia. While on his voyage, terrific storms scattered the fleet of nine vessels, many lives being lost, but he himself landed on the island and renamed it "Sommers Island."

During the eight months he spent there rebuilding his small fleet to proceed on to Virginia, he was amazed at the amount of hogs on the land. Later on when favourable reports of Bermuda's fertile soil and congenial climate reached England, Governor Tucker was sent. It was proposed that skilled labour be offered a reasonable rate of twelve pence a day. But of course there was no currency for the islands and labourers were not always ready to accept the fruits of their labour as payment. So between 1616-1619 the first coinage, namely "Hog" money was struck for the English colonies on the Western Continent. A copper shilling and brassy composition slightly

silvered sixpence, threepence and twopence were brought into circulation. The coins are similar in design with a hog on the obverse within a beaded circle SOMMER • ISLANDS, and an antique ship with sails set and flags flying on the reverse. These coins are seldom seen, and considered now quite rare.

"The Horse" (Mr. N. Thomas). This animal has been very popular on coinage, and some very early examples are found on ancient Roman coins where the winged horse Pegasus is often seen, also on English coins where St. George is slaying the dragon.

Modern coins showing horses are the halfcrown of Ireland, the Melbourne centennial florin, Festival of Britain crown, American commemorative half dollar, also coins of Albania, Italy and India.

Whether the horse is depicted rearing, in a chariot, sporting or docile, it portrays a fine picture of the once important part it played in our everyday life, before being supplanted to a large extent by machinery.

"Rex Triumphant" (Mr. L. G. Morel). The lion is a symbol of power, might and majesty. What other animal could be called King of the Beasts, and take its place on a coin more advantageously? It seems particularly fitting that the British Empire has adopted the lion as one of its symbols, and many coins of England and the widespread Dominions feature the King of Beasts. Let other nations vaunt their eagles, fish, or jungle creatures as they wish, but long may England show this proud and defiant beast in various attitudes; whether he be depicted rampant, couchant or in any of the other well known heraldic forms!

India, after many years of struggle, finally obtained independence and has always favoured lion designs—the new coinage once again adheres to this custom. African colonies also depict the lion, and it is a noteworthy feature of some of the designs that it is shown against typical scenery which greatly enhances the majesty of the beast.

Among other countries represented are Belgium, Norway, Persia and Ethiopia, the latter two showing the history-encrusted "Lion of Judah," bearing a sword and standing in front of the rising sun. However depicted, the lion will march through history, perhaps even after his species is extinct.

"Elephants on Coins" (L. J. Dale). Examples of fauna on coins are many and varied from tiny insects up to towering elephants. The few notes deal with the largest creature portrayed—the elephant.

This creature has attracted interest for thousands of years because of its size, strength, utility and special peculiarities. We find descriptions and representations of it in books and on coins, stamps, gems, statuary and paintings; also on heraldic designs, architecture and in connection with heathen mythology or religion.

Many ancient writers notice the animal, among them Pliny, Herodotus and Strabo. The Apocrypha, in the sixth chapter of Maccabees, gives instances of its use in war. Alexander the Great's head was shown with a covering of elephant's skin referring to conquests in Africa or Northern India.

Coins of Syracuse also show the elephant-skin head-covering. Some Seleucid coins have an interesting design with Athena in a car drawn by four horned elephants. Coins of Antiochus, also show the animal. Issues of Parthia, Bactria, and ancient India, as well as those issued by many smaller kingdoms and cities, all carry elephant designs as do a number of Roman issues including some by Julius Caesar,

Augustus, Titus, Nerva and Faustina. Some of the Roman Consecration series also show the quadriga of elephants drawing the sacred car. So much for a few examples of ancient coins, of which there are numerous fascinating pieces, each with its background. A study of these alone is a most illuminating sidelight on the history of the times.

The first modern examples I wish to mention are found on some English silver and gold coins for a number of years from 1675 where a mint mark of a diminutive elephant, or elephant and castle, denoted coins struck by the African Company from their own supplies of metal. America issued elephants in design on tokens in 1694 for Carolina and New England. England is next noticed with the much publicised Lady Godiva incident on a token of Coventry, the reverse showing the city's arms—the elephant and castle.

Many coins of Ceylon also show our animal, and of special interest are the thick lump ones of the early 19th century. Among more ancient issues we note those of German East Africa, Belgian Congo, and Siam. To close these notes which are perforce brief and fragmentary, there is an incident in Indian coinage annals which is worthy of recording.

The first rupee issue of India for George V in 1911 showed the King wearing his ceremonial chain prominent on which appears an effigy of an elephant. This met with great disfavour, as it had an appearance more like a pig, and consequently Mohammedans refused to handle it. Whether this was so or not, official circles received orders to withdraw the coins at once, and the new issue the following year certainly showed a more conventional elephant to everyone's satisfaction!

"The Irish Coinage" (Miss S. A. Lange). This set of nine coins depicting animal life is among the favourite sets collected by numismatists. These models of artistic craftsmanship have won the affection of both young and old in the field of coin design. Since the prosperity of the Irish Free State depends largely on the agricultural resources of the country, it is only fitting that these farmyard animals should be represented on the coins which they help to keep in circulation.

The Free State Coinage Act became law on the 30th April, 1926, when the Minister of Finance, who headed a Coinage Committee, declared that the harp should be shown on one side of the majority, if not all the coins, that any inscriptions should be in Irish, and that no effigies of modern persons should be used. This last decision doubtless saved a great deal of trouble. As to the heroes of antiquity, the Design Committee was faced immediately by an insuperable obstacle, the impossibility of discovering any such effigies with any historical warrant. Criticism arose over the lack of representation of religious symbols upon the coins, but after consideration he thought the effigies of Saints would give rise to an unavoidable and most reprehensible irreverence. He saw in his mind's eye, a peasant at the fair being paid with the image of Saint Patrick and being impelled by the habit of centuries to spit upon it for luck before he rammed it into his pocket. He saw two loafers at the bar of a public house tossing as to which of them would pay for drinks, according as to whether the image of St. Bridget came uppermost or not. Then, had they produced a set of coins bearing religious symbols beautifully executed, these would have induced great numbers of people to bore holes in them for use as medals, etc., and so by defacing the coinage render themselves liable to legal penalties of the gravest kind. Faced by these difficulties they sought the assistance of the public and decided that as the wealth of Ireland was mainly derived from the soil, nothing

was more suitable nor appropriate for depiction on the coins than a product of the soil. Some of the loveliest coins of antiquity, which artists had admired for a thousand years, were adorned with the Bull of Thurium, the horse of Carthage and of Larissa, and the hare of Messana.

So we find upon the silver halfcrown, the biggest and most valuable of the series, the horse which was famous throughout the world—the Irish Hunter—represented riderless in order that the artist should have the whole field in which to give the animal adequate treatment. As the florin closely approximated the size of the halfcrown, and was sometimes confused with it, they made the two coins as different in design as possible, by putting a salmon upon the florin. The salmon too, apart from its extraordinary beauty had an important place in the Irish legend. They had all heard of the Salmon of Wisdom and the Nuts of Knowledge. So they thought the salmon might fitly be depicted with a spray of hazel. The bull was selected for the shilling to face in the opposite direction to the horse.

The sixpence and threepenny bit were commonly associated, and were both struck in nickel, so they endeavoured to emphasize their association by putting a hound on the sixpence and a hare on the threepence. To the penny they gave a hen and chicks. This they considered would be the coin most frequently used by the woman of the house and the children, and it seemed part of their duty to cater for their pleasure. Moreover, the size of the coins called for representation of one of their most important national industries. There are said to be five chicks mothered by the hen satirically representing the five provinces which have remained loyal to England and refused to enter the Irish State. For the halfpenny they let the artist select either a boar, a sow or ram. In the end, they unanimously recommended to the Minister to decide in favour of the pig, despite the unfair ridicule with which that noble and useful animal was often associated. Here again the sow is depicted with five piglets and the same reference as for the hen and chicks applies.

Only the farthing remained. The minute size of the coin and its small value made the selection of a design exceedingly difficult. He suggested it should bear a woodcock, a bird beloved by all true sportsmen—shy, scarce and elusive, like the farthing itself and yet to be found in Ireland in larger numbers than elsewhere. An exquisite woodcock was designed by Mr. Metcalfe and in the opinion of many good judges it was the finest coin in the series.

They determined with little difficulty that the obverse of each coin must bear the Irish harp and the words "Saorstát Eireann." As the Minister had ruled that the inscription on the coins should be in Irish only, they decided for the sake of those who were too idle or stupid, or (like himself) too old and occupied to learn Irish, that the denominations of each coin should be indicated by a numeral as well as the word.

The Minister approved of all these recommendations but suggested that plants might be included upon the coins as well as the animals. The reply was that they had already considered the utilisation of possible plants such as potato, barley, flax, and beet, but had ruled against them on the grounds first, that they would break the series of bird and beast, and secondly the only subject which had ever to their knowledge been successfully used in the past was the wheat-ear and sheaf; which owing to their adoption by a number of modern European countries, should not be recommended by them. The Minister agreed with all these contentions.

In 1937 Ireland, other than Ulster, a sovereign independent state officially changed its name on the coinage from "Saorstát Eireann" to "Eire." The coins have remained unchanged in design and metal.

Miss M. K. Steven spoke at length on the olive as seen on the Athenian Tetradrachm on which the helmeted head is decorated with three olive leaves. She dealt with the importance of the olive trees and their fruit, and the bearing they had on the development of democracy, apart from the use of the olive oil for cooking, lighting, heating and rubbing into the skin. In the early days of the Greek civilization there was very little coined money used, and many of the peasants due to their ignorance of the value of money, sold their land far too cheaply.

A general vote of thanks was expressed for the co-operation of members for such an entertaining meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 9.40 p.m.

AUCKLAND BRANCH ACTIVITIES.

Contributed by Mr. D. C. Price, B.A.

General meetings of the Branch have been held on 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, and 7th August. The Branch Chairman presided over each meeting, and there has been a good attendance of members at each meeting.

General Business:—Resolutions passed at the meeting include the increasing of the Branch levy to 5/- per year, the exemption from paying the yearly levy for Mr. A. Mickle as a mark of gratitude for the use of his studio for Branch meetings, a recommendation to the Council of the Society that the Society Rules be so amended as to enable the Council to become representative of three Branches, a vote of thanks to Mr. T. P. Southern for the presentation to the Branch of a handsome engraved plaque to be used on the Chairman's table, the tabling of a bound copy of the minutes of the Branch from its inception to date, prepared by the Secretary, and a decision to hold the Annual Dinner towards the close of the year at a member's home (through the kind offer of Mr. and Mrs. A. Robinson).

Annual Meeting:—The meeting held on 4th June was the 4th Annual Meeting of the Branch. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of His Late Majesty, King George VI. The Report and Balance Sheet showed the Branch to be in a very good position. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year (1952-53):—

Chairman: Mr. J. P. Roberts.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Robinson.

Executive: Mr. N. Solomon, Mr. E. J. Morris.

Auditor: Mr. T. P. Southern.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. D. C. Price.

The Balance Sheet adopted for the financial year 1951-52 was as follows:—

| Income | | | Expenditure | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | £ | s | d | | £ | s | d |
| Cash in hand, 31/5/51 | 10 | 3 | 7 | Stationery | 10 | 6 | |
| Subscriptions | 1 | 12 | 6 | Postages | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| Interest | | 5 | 3 | Printing Reports .. | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| Sale of crowns | 12 | 9 | 0 | Incidental (Coins) .. | 10 | 0 | |
| | | | | Balance | 19 | 18 | 4 |
| | <u>£24</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> | | <u>£24</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> |

We still possess assets in the form of unsold 1949 Crowns to the value of £3/10/0, and with this sum, we have a creditable balance in hand.

Papers:—Mr. T. P. Southern read a paper "The Old and the New," dealing with the types of coins existing "then" as compared with "now." The paper was received with acclamation.

Mr. R. Sellars' paper entitled "The Piece of Eight and Other Trading Coins" was duplicated and copies distributed to members at the meeting. This was an excellent paper, tracing the piece-of-eight through some of its many uses, and the talk was illustrated by a tray of extremely fine coins.

Mr. D. C. Price read a final paper on the coinage of George III entitled "The Copper Coinage of George III." This was the third paper dealing with the coinage of this particular reign, and was also illustrated by specimens of the coins discussed.

Mr. J. P. Roberts gave a talk on some of his travels, and illustrated this with a large number of coloured slides. These included many taken around Auckland, and were very interesting indeed. Several visitors were present at this particular meeting, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Auckland Branch still holds regular monthly meetings, and the good attendances have been an indication of their success. The papers read to each meeting have been a contributing factor to the interest shown in Branch activities.

**OFFICERS OF
THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
(INC.)**

Patron:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL ELECT
(subject to his consent)

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