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The New Zealand NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

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

CONTENTS

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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Composite Life Subscription: £8/8/- N.Z.
Annual Subscription: 10/- N.Z.
Junior Members under 18 years, 5/- N.Z.

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

Box 23, Wellington, N.Z.
19 Alpha Avenue, Bryndwr, Christchurch.
104 New Windsor Road, Avondale, Auckland, S.W. 3.

Back numbers of this Journal, except No. 1, Vol. 4, may be obtained at 3s 6d each from Mr. M. Hornblow, 7 Harrold St., Kelburn Extension, Wellington, N.Z.

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

VOL. 6 SEPTEMBER-AUGUST, 1951. No. 2

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

The Council of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) has the honour to present its 20th Annual Report and Balance Sheet covering the year ended 31st May, 1951.

Though the past year, during which the usual monthly meetings have been held, has been in many respects a very difficult one, the Society through the loyal co-operation of the Council and ardent members, has continued to maintain the high standard set in previous years. The papers read and talks given by the various members have covered most phases of numismatics. This is evidenced by correspondence from overseas numismatists showing increased interest in articles in the Journal, and requesting membership of our Society. It is pleasing to note too, that some of the articles in our Journal are still being reproduced or quoted in overseas magazines.

During the year the Society suffered a great blow when the Government, as an economy measure, decided to cease granting our subsidy, along with those of many other organisations. With increased printing costs, this has seriously affected our finances, but with the representations made to the Government, we are hoping that reconsideration will be given to the restoration of the subsidy and thus enable us to continue with publication of the Journal in its present form. As the increased subscriptions by no means cover the cost of printing, we had no alternative but to make this further approach to the Government.

It is with regret that the Council records the passing of several of our older members who over the years, have

shown such keen interest in the affairs of the Society. These include Messrs. C. J. Weaver, Australia; J. C. Entrican, Auckland; H. G. Williams, Dunedin, and A. Quinnell, Wellington; the latter a most regular attender at meetings and always offering constructive comment and advice. He was responsible, also, for the gift of a Numismatic Dictionary for our Library.

Other gifts to the Society during the year were catalogues and numismatic publications from Sir John Hanham, a mint set of George V silver coins in original case from Mr. G. C. Sherwood, and a 20th century 1st edition of *Coins of the World,* from Mr. D. F. Shennan. For all these generous gestures we convey our sincere thanks. We also thank Mr. and Mrs. James Berry for the enjoyable suppers provided by them at the conclusion of each meeting.

We are pleased to note from reports and correspondence from Canterbury and Auckland branches, that they are maintaining enthusiasm among their members and the high standard set by the parent body in Wellington. Great credit is due to those responsible in the Canterbury Branch for their excellent publication *They Made Their Own Money,* made available during this their Province's Centennial year.

Reports and periodicals from Societies outside New Zealand are being received regularly and read with interest —particularly news from the Numismatic Society of South Australia in connection with its Silver Jubilee. A message of congratulations and goodwill was sent for this occasion.

Honour was conferred on the Society recently through receipt of advice from Paris, that at the 9th Congress held last September, and confirmed at the Annual Reunion in April-May of this year, the President of our Society was constituted a member, ex officio, of the International Council of Historical Sciences Numismatic Commission. This advice further stated that it would welcome the Society's exercise of its right to offer comment and suggestions.

To all who have given so generously of their time and energy, we extend our thanks, and with a continuance of this spirit we can all look forward to another happy and successful year for our Society.

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

M. HORNBLOW,
President.

DELAY IN PUBLICATION.

We regret that some time has elapsed since the previous issue of the Journal. This has been due to the cancellation of the subsidy. We are pleased to advise, however, that through the good offices of the Hon. Mr. Marshall, the Hon. Mr. Bodkin, and Mr. A. Harper, Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, the subsidy has now been restored, and the Society will be able to resume its publication on the former basis. The Society has conveyed its thanks to these gentlemen, and also to Mr. M. Hornblow, President, and Mr. C. J. Freeman, a member of the Council of the Society, who ably presented the case for a continuation of the subsidy.

For the information of members we append a list of the printed Journals issued to date, including the current issue:—

Vol. 4 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4. 1947-48—Pages 1 to 156.
Vol. 5 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4. 1948-49—Pages 1 to 136.
Vol. 6 Nos. 1, 2. 1950-51

It is to be noted that Vols. 1 to 3, covering the years 1931 to 1947, were issued in cyclostyled form.

Seal of Maori King.

See overleaf

SEAL OF MAORI KING.

By ALLAN SUTHERLAND.

An old Maori chief, Te Wherowhero Potatau, who was born prior to 1800, was installed as King of the Maoris at a meeting at Ngaruawahia in April, 1858. The object of the King Movement was to combine the Maori tribes in one common allegiance for the purpose of protecting their interests, mainly in connection with land, and it was thought that this object could be achieved without disloyalty to the Government. The movement was supported mainly by the Waikato tribe.

Te Wherowhero Potatau, as King, consented to live at Ngaruawahia so that he could curb tribal fighting. According to Dr. G. H. Scholefield, in his *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography,* the first Maori King was a warrior of great prowess, and an eloquent orator. He was six feet in height, and had a square massive head, covered with iron-grey curly hair. He did not reign long. In 1860 he died, and was succeeded by his son, Tawhiao Matutaera Potatau Te Wherowhero, or Potatau II, who was born in 1825. Potatau II took his kingly duties seriously, even to adopting a seal with which to embellish Maori state documents. It is probable that this seal was made in England in 1884 when he visited England.

The design of the seal is well balanced. The quarterings are separated by a Latin cross, and depict crossed flags with a head of a taiaha between, a forearm and hand holding a branch, spouting whale, and a tree. The shield is surmounted by a canoe with seven men paddling, and above is a radiant sun superimposed by what appears to be the rare white heron. There are clubs and parts of fern-fronds at the side, and the name of the King is shown on the ribbon below.

When Tawhiao, or Potatau II, died in 1894 the King Movement lost much of its strength, but it has continued in modified form. Maori Kings are still installed at Ngaruawahia where Te Wherowhero Koroki, the present and fifth Maori King resides.

The seal illustrated has been supplied to me by courtesy of the British Museum, and so far as I am aware this is the first time it has been published in New Zealand.

NEW NUMISMATISTS?

(Read before Auckland Branch of R.N.S.N.Z., April, 1951.)

By MR. D. C. PRICE.

Many times have I, during the course of my lessons with Standard 3 and 4 at the Titirangi Primary School, taken coins from my collection to illustrate these lessons; to give a feeling of reality to the matter being dealt with; to show the children that people of past ages used many things which are also considered indispensable today. Many times, also, have the children been shown coins having no connection with school lessons, but which have an inherent interest of their own by virtue of strange shapes, odd sizes, or which are made from unusual materials. And always I have been faced with the same sets of questions: Where did you get it? How did you get it? Are there any more? Could I get one? What do you have to do to collect coins? How much does it cost? and so on. The last occasion on which I showed coins to the kiddies culminated in the formation of a small Coin Club.

After the inevitable questions had been asked, one youngster remarked that he had been saving odd coins found in change, and had a number at home. Several other children also possessed coins, and it was suggested to the children that they might like to bring their coins to school to show their friends. Nine children arrived at school the next day with boot-polish tins, paper bags, tobacco tins, each containing a few indescribable bits of metal. Time was given to the children during the day to talk to each other about their coins, to show and to exchange any spares. The matter was then forgotten, and great was my surprise a few days later when one girl told me that they had formed a Coin Club, and I was "invited" to their meeting at lunch time. Enthusiasm was there, but knowledge and coins were both lacking, so fifty or so coins which I had accumulated, and which were of no use to a collector, were taken to school and given to the group leader for disposal. These coins were shared among the kiddies already in the Club, and also any prospective members, with the result that the roll rapidly increased. (There are at present about 34 children concerned.)

Meetings are still held weekly, and a portion of the notice board is made available for pictures, stories and articles on coins which the children provide. (One or two of these stories are surprisingly good.) The children have a few reference books which give them a great deal of pleasure.

On acquainting Auckland members of R.N.S.N.Z. of the Club, several members donated duplicate coins for disposal among the children. These were shared out, and some of the collections are beginning to look quite impressive. Each coin is kept in a separate envelope, on the outside of which is stamped, with a rubber stamp, the following data: Date, coin, country, ruler, metal, condition and value. Grades of condition are three—very good, good, poor. The filling in of this information alone provides useful exercises in both history and geography, and, with the use of an atlas, the children hear of many more countries than is possible, or usual, in the ordinary course of class work. The foundation is being laid, also, for a correct approach to the study of coins should any of the children carry on their interest to a more advanced stage.

Pennies were brought until there were sufficient for a subscription to the R.N.S.N.Z., and the Club is now a member. The enthusiasm of the youngsters together with the fact that their Club was organised and is run by themselves, leads me to believe that such Clubs may profitably be started in other schools. All that is needed for a beginning are a few, old duplicate coins, of no use or value in themselves to most collectors, but of great interest to the children. Children have very little money to spend on such things as coins, and the gift of such coins will always be gratefully accepted. Should only a small proportion of these children carry on their interest into later life, yet a few more collectors will have been started along the road to a considerable enjoyment of an interesting hobby.

JEWISH COINS AND MONEY OF THE BIBLE
(Part 2)

(Read before the Royal Numismatic Society of N.Z. (Inc.) Auckland Branch.)

By MR. T. W. ATTWOOD.

Money Struck During the First Revolt of the Jews.

It would have seemed a matter of much surprise if, during this revolt, the Jews had not seized the opportunity of issuing a national coinage. Recent discoveries at Jerusalem have brought to light some very important silver and copper pieces of Eleazar the priest, and there is not much doubt that coins were also issued by the Sanhedrin, on supreme authority, and its chiefs. These pieces again revive in old Hebrew writing the memory of the Maccabees. They generally bear the name of the leader—either Eleazar or Simon Nasi—"Prince"—and the legends "First (second, or third), year of the Redemption of Israel," or else "The Deliverance of Jerusalem." Some large silver shekels which were doubtless struck by order of the Sanhedrin have on one side the word "Jerusalem" round a temple with four columns, and on the other the legend, "First year of the Redemption of Israel," round the bunch of willow and myrtle, close to which is the citron. The temple is a suitable emblem of the period, as the last Palladium around which the Jews rallied. The fruits on the reverse remind us of the Feast of Tabernacles, and this festival happened to take place at the beginning of the war. Many other coins, both of silver and copper, issued during the first revolt of the Jews are extant, having for types palm-branches, clusters of grapes, etc. Some copper coins, one of which is remarkable for its large size, have for their inscription the legend "Simon Nasi Israel"—(Simon, Prince of Israel), and have been by some attributed, though with no certainty, to Simon, son of Gamaliel, the head of the Sanhedrin. The name "Simon," however, may only have been placed on the coins to recall that of Simon the Maccabee, who first rescued and liberated the nation from the yoke of the Seleucidae. A small copper coin struck during the third year of the revolt, has on one side the legend, Shenath Shelosh, year 3, answering to A.D. 68-69, the year counting from May to May. The type is a vase with two handles, and fluted—it is probably a representation of one of those in the Temple, as we know from history that the gold and silver vessels presented to the Temple by Ptolemy Philadelphus were ornamented in this manner. On the other side there is the legend, "The

Deliverance of Zion," which is remarkable, as the word "Zion" does not occur upon the greater part of the coinage of this revolt, and reminds us of the copper pieces of Simon Maccabeus, on which may be read the legend "The Redemption of Zion." The word "Redemption" is peculiar to the period of Simon the Maccabee: the word "Deliverance" to that of the revolts. After a careful study of the coins issued during the first revolt, the conclusion has been reached that *no* coins were struck by the Jews during the *fourth* year; and the following table, drawn up with the aid of Clinton's *Fasti Romani* will show how it is proposed to arrange them:—

Year 1—Month of May A.D. 66. 2nd month of Jewish year, Jewish war begins.
May A.D. 67. Vespasian conducts Jewish war.
Feb. „ 68. Vespasian enters Gadara.

Year 2—May A.D. 68. Vespasian enters Jericho.
Jan. „ 69. Jewish war suspended and Jerusalem left to factions.
April A.D. 69. Simon enters Jerusalem in the 3rd year of war, and 1st month of Jewish year.

Year 3—May 69 to Jan. 70. Factions.

Year 4—August 70. Temple burnt.
Sept. 70. Last wall taken.

The theory of the coinage will therefore be as follows:—

First Year—From May 66 to May 67. The coins of Eleazar, the shekel with "Jerusalem," the copper coins with the five-stringed lyre, and the coins of Simon Nasi, or Prince were issued.

Second Year—From May 67 to May 68. In consequence of the abundance of the previous coinage, and the factions already existing in Jerusalem, only the small copper coins of the year "Two" were struck, and these in fair abundance.

Third Year—From May 68 to May 69. The small copper coins of the year "Three," which are much rarer than those of the year "Two," were struck, which proves that the factions had increased to such an extent from the commencement of January 69 that no more coins were issued after that date.

Fourth Year—From May 69 to May 70. No coins were issued, owing to the factions and the siege of Jerusalem by Titus. It eventually fell four months after.

Soon after the termination of the war Titus returned to Rome, taking with him the spoils from the Temple at Jerusalem—the candlesticks with seven branches, the golden table, the trumpets and the ark, all of which were employed to adorn his triumph. An arch was also erected, upon which these illustrious trophies were sculptured. Copper coins commemorating the event were struck in Judea, and coins of gold, silver, and copper were issued at Rome, bearing the names and effigies of Vespasian and Titus, and recording the conquest of this unhappy country. One type shows on the reverse a palm-tree, on one side of which the emperor is standing, and on the other a female figure, seated, representing Judea, and aptly illustrating the words of Isaiah 3:26, "And she being desolate shall sit upon the ground." The legend is simply IVDAEA CAPTA, "Judea captured."

Coins Struck During the Second Revolt of the Jews.

In the same manner as the Jewish leaders commemorated their trials and struggles by coins in the first revolt, so do we find their descendants leaving memorials in the second. The history of the taking of Jerusalem by Titus, must have been well known by many of the contemporaries of Bar Kochba; and it is not surprising to find that he overstruck the coins of the pagan emperor, whose image must have been hateful to the Jews, with the words of the early patriotic contests and the name of its leader, adopting for his own that of Simon, the name of the first Maccabee who issued a Jewish national coinage. Various pieces are in existence of the second revolt in both silver and copper, and have for the first year the legend, "The Deliverance of Jerusalem," and for the second "The Deliverance of Israel." Besides the type of the palm and date tree, there are upon the coins of the first and second revolts the vine, with its clusters as well as its leaf. The vine-tree flourished everywhere in Palestine, and the excellent quality of the wines which it afforded is celebrated in many passages of Scripture. (Ezek. XXVII—18; Hosea XIV—7, etc.) The history of Jewish coins concludes with those of Simon Bar Kochba. That the Jews might have no more idea of establishing a kingdom with Jerusalem for its capital, Hadrian, in A.D. 136, completed the building of his new city, giving it the title of Jupiter Capitolinus, the supreme deity of the pagan world, and the guardian of the city; and on the site formerly occupied by the Temple of God, a temple to the honour of Jupiter of the Capitol was erected. All access to the city was forbidden to the Jews under pain of death. Could the desolation of the Holy City be more complete?

The money mentioned in the New Testament is that of two nations, the Greeks and the Romans. The silver that was current was chiefly that of the principal cities of Phoenicia and Syria.

Greek Money: The Greek coins mentioned in the New Testament are the "pound," the "talent," the "drachm," the "stater," and the "lepton." The first two are money of account, and not strictly coins; the former being mentioned in the parable of the "Ten Pounds" (Luke XIX: 12-27), the latter in that of the "Talents" (Matt. XXV: 14-30). The "drachm" or "piece of silver," is only mentioned once, and by St. Luke (XV: 8). Though the name of a Greek coin "drachm" is here employed by St. Luke, there is not much doubt that these "pieces of silver" were Roman pennies (denarii), as the weight of the drachm and the denarius were at this time identical, and the latter had almost, if not altogether, superseded the former. The "stater" is only once mentioned and by St. Matthew (XVII: 24-27). On our Lord's arrival at Capernaum, they that received the tribute came to Peter, and said "Doth not your Master pay tribute?" The tribute (two drachms), refers to the sum paid annually by the Jews of twenty years old and upwards to the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to pay this tax, Peter was commanded by our Lord to cast a hook into the sea, and take the first fish that came up, inside the mouth of which was discovered a stater, which was to be paid for our Lord and Peter. The lepton, or mite, took its name from a very small Greek copper coin. It seems in Palestine to have been the smallest piece of money, being half of the farthing. The mite mentioned in St. Mark XII: 42 and St. Luke XXI: 2, was not really a Greek coin, for the Jews were only permitted to bring Jewish coins into the Holy Place, because foreign coins had some representation of a man or animal; and Jewish coins of this small size were of rare occurrence at the time of the evangelists, but were common enough under some of the Maccabean princes, notably Alexander Janneus (B.C. 69).

Roman Money: The Roman coins mentioned in the New Testament are the "farthing" and the "penny." The latter is mentioned in many passages. This was the Roman silver coin called denarius. The term denarius is still preserved in our notation £ s. d. These pennies in early times under the Roman Republic had represented upon them the heads of their gods; either Apollo or Mars, or Hercules, or Jupiter, and others; but under the imperial rule they bore

the titles and effigies of the reigning Caesar. In St. Matthew's account of the betrayal of our Lord for "thirty pieces of silver" it has usually been considered that the Roman denarii were intended by the evangelist; but, to say nothing of the small sum that this would be, other portions of the Bible afford a better suggestion. The parallel passage in Zechariah (XI: 12, 13) may throw some light upon the subject, for certainly here the "thirty pieces of silver" translated by the Septuagint "thirty silvers," stand in the place of the "shekels," whilst it is observable that "thirty shekels of silver" was the price of blood to be paid in the case of a servant accidentally killed (Exod. XXI: 32). If then we read "thirty shekels of silver" in this passage of the New Testament, we shall be able to conclude that the tetradrachms or staters of the Greek cities of Phoenicia and Syria, which were common at the time of our Lord, formed the "pieces of silver" for which our Lord was betrayed. We have already seen that the stater or "piece of money" found in the fish was a coin of the same class. The "fifty-thousand pieces of silver," the price of the conjuring books that were burnt (Acts XIX: 19) were certainly Roman silver coins, denarii, and have so been rightly understood. No gold coin is mentioned in the New Testament.

In concluding these two papers on "Jewish Coins and Money of the Bible" it may be as well to recapitulate the principal facts to be gathered therefrom. These are, first that the Hebrews used the coinage of Persia during the captivity; second, that on their return to Palestine they employed the coinage of the Greeks; third, that Simon Maccabeus was the first to issue a national coinage, and that this system was continued under the Asmonean Dynasty; fourth, that under Herod and his descendants the Hebrew coinage lost both in its language and in its types all its national character; and fifth, that from A.D. 6 when Judea became a Roman province (with the sole exception of the coins of the revolts, when a national coinage imitated from that of Simon Maccabeus was issued) the coinage employed by the Jews consisted either of the coins of Greek cities, or those of the Roman emperors.

WILLIAM I AND HIS COINAGE.

By M. LYNCH,
Auckland.

William the Great, as he was styled by men of his day and known to us today as William the Conqueror, was born in Normandy in the year 1027. He was the illegitimate son of Duke Robert le Diable and Arlotta, a town-tanner's daughter. He assumed the title of Duke of Normandy at the early age of eight years and grew up in one of the most turbulent baronages in Christendom. It was only the genius of William which lifted him from a mere northman to that of a great general and statesman. It has been said that William was of gigantic form, enormous strength, savage countenance and ruthless in his revenge. It was only after many victorious marches against his rivals that he finally became a prince of France without peer, but not before the death of Geoffry Martel, whose influence had succeeded in converting France from friend to foe.

William now turned his attentions to a greater ambition —the Throne of England—which he claimed as legally appointed successor of Edward the Confessor, but this claim was resisted by Harold, resulting in the Battle of Hastings. On the 28th September, 1066, William anchored off Pevensey, ravaging the coast to bring his rival to an engagement in which he succeeded on the 14th October, 1066, and it was only after a desperate battle, resulting in the death of Harold, that William won the day. He was crowned King in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Eve, 1066, and at the age of sixty, after a just, but very stern rule of 21 years, passed away at Rouen in 1087.

William, on his accession, brought about no change in the monetary system of England; on the contrary, he continued the coinage of the silver penny of exactly the same character as under the later Anglo-Saxon kings. Not only were some of the types adopted, but the weight and fineness of the metal retained. The mints were increased, and the coinage continued to be struck by English moneyers who were retained throughout his reign. In all, something like 69 mints were operated by about 400 moneyers. The average weight of his silver penny was 22½ grs.; and the standard 11 ozs. 2 dwts. fine, and 18 dwts. alloy.

Types attributed to William the Conqueror are:—

First: The Cross Fleury or Harold type. This type was only a continuance of Harold's sole issue, and ceased at the end of the 3rd Exchequer year after its first issue by Harold.

Second: Known as the Bonnet type.

Third: The Canopy type, so called because the Canopy represents the royal throne.

Fourth: "The Two Sceptres" type. This type may represent the regal authority and the ecclesiastical authority claimed by William. One sceptre with cross at top represents civil authority and the other sceptre with three pellets at top on the King's left is emblematic of the Holy Trinity.

Fifth: "Two Star" type.

Sixth: "Sword and Quadrilateral Ornament" type.

Seventh: "Profile Sceptres" type.

Eighth: "Pax" type.

The "Pax" type penny was believed to be unknown prior to the great find of about 6,500 William pennies at Beaworth, Hampshire in 1833.

Perhaps the least frequent varieties met with today are the Canopy, Sceptre and Sword types. It is believed that William changed his coin types every three years, in which case the date of issue for the "Cross-fleury" type might be ascribed to 1066-69. The "Bonnet" type, 1069-72. "Sceptres" 1073-76. "Stars" type 1076-80. "Sword" 1080-83. "Trefoils" 1083-85 and the "Pax" type 1086-87.

Pennies are known cut in half and in quarters and used as half-pence and farthings.

Mules of some of the mentioned types are known.

ROLL OF FELLOWS AND HON. FELLOWS
to 30/6/1951.

Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, Auck.
Rev. D. C. Bates, Wellington.
Viscount Bledisloe, Lydney, Eng.
Mr. J. Craigmyle, Wanganui.
Sir James Elliott, Wellington.
*Mr. J. C. Entrican, Auckland.
Mr. W. D. Ferguson, Wellington.
Archdeacon Gavin, N.P.
*Mr. E. Gilbertson, Wellington.
Sir John Hanham, Wimborne, Eng.
Sir Joseph Heenan, Wellington.
Mr. Harold Mattingly, London.
Prof. H. A. Murray, Wellington.
Mr. Allan Sutherland, Auckland.
Mr. C. R. H. Taylor, Wellington.
Mr. Percy Watts Rule, Timaru.
*Mr. H. G. Williams, Dunedin.

*Deceased.

Hon Life Member:

Mr. James Hunt Deacon, F.R.N.S., Adelaide.

CANTERBURY PIONEERS.

They Made Their Own Money is the title of an excellently written and illustrated work of 94 pages issued by the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, in the centennial year of the Province. The book is the culmination of much research by a team of members of the Branch, aided by others, and inspired by the Associate Editors, Mr. L. J. Dale, F.R.N.S., and Miss E. R. Thomas.

The book gives fascinating glimpses of the early settlement of the Canterbury Province, and of the lives and times of fifteen Canterbury traders who, in the 'sixties and 'seventies, did much to establish the City of the Plains, and Timaru, and who made numismatic history by issuing their own money.

The Canterbury Branch has taken these mute pieces of metallic money—tokens—as a starting point for research into the activities of the issuers, and has unearthed much hitherto unpublished material which gives attractive cameos of the history of Christchurch and Timaru.

The value of using local money as the central theme for a history of early trading pioneers has never been more capably illustrated in New Zealand than by the Canterbury Branch, which is to be congratulated for its industry in undertaking patient research and making available for all time much that was fast-receding history.

As one turns the pages of this volume, with its illustrations of the wooden " Colonial " premises on mud roads, from which the tokens were issued—pictures showing horses tied to hitching posts outside, horse trams, gas lamps—and when one compares these with the modern structures that have taken their places, one gets glimpses of the evolution and development of the great City of the Plains in the short space of 100 years. Probably nowhere in New Zealand have so many token-issuers survived, either under their own names, or as integral parts of newer and larger business establishments, a tribute to the stability of the great English founders who built even greater than they knew.

Printed by Caxton Press on art paper, and well illustrated, the issue is limited to 500 numbered copies. The cost is 12s 6d, plus 8d postage, and is available from the Canterbury Branch of the Society, or from the Christchurch Coin Company whose advertisement appears on the back cover of this Journal.

The publication was made possible by financial assistance given by the following present-day representatives of the Canterbury token-issuing firms: Messrs. Ashby, Bergh & Co. Ltd., J. Ballantyne & Co. Ltd., Beath & Co. Ltd., Chas. Begg & Co. Ltd., E. Reece Ltd., Mason Struthers Ltd., D. C. Turnbull & Co., Timaru; also The Association of Friends of Canterbury Museum.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

The United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer is seriously considering a recommendation that a tenpenny shilling be adopted to decimalise the currency there.

In the New Zealand House of Representatives the Hon. H. G. R. Mason has again introduced a Bill to decimalise the coinage of New Zealand.

In a recent issue of *The New Zealand Banker* a suggestion was made that a Commonwealth Commission be set up to recommend the best system of decimal coinage to be adopted in the non-decimal coinage countries of the Commonwealth. It was stated that already the United Kingdom, the Union of South Africa, and the Australian Governments had received positive recommendations for decimal coinage in those countries, and that New Zealand could well get into line by affirming the principle, and leaving the denominations and the date of introduction to be fixed later by an Order in Council.

PUBLICITY AND MEMBERSHIP.

The need for giving more publicity to the work of the Society, and the building up of membership are two subjects receiving the attention of Executive Committees in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. Some lengthy papers have been held over on account of space limitations. If authors of lengthy papers could make digests of 1,500 to 2,000 words this would materially assist in giving each contributor a share of the space available. It is realised, of course, that this is not always possible. The reprinting of valuable papers issued some years ago in cyclostyled form has not been lost sight of. Selected papers from these earlier reports could be read at meetings for the benefit of new members.

The Society welcomes suggestions for improving the standard of the Journal which, in itself, is a valuable means of increasing membership.

SOME GREEK COINS FROM THE FELS COLLECTION IN THE OTAGO MUSEUM.

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(Read before the Royal Numismatic Society of N.Z., Wellington.)

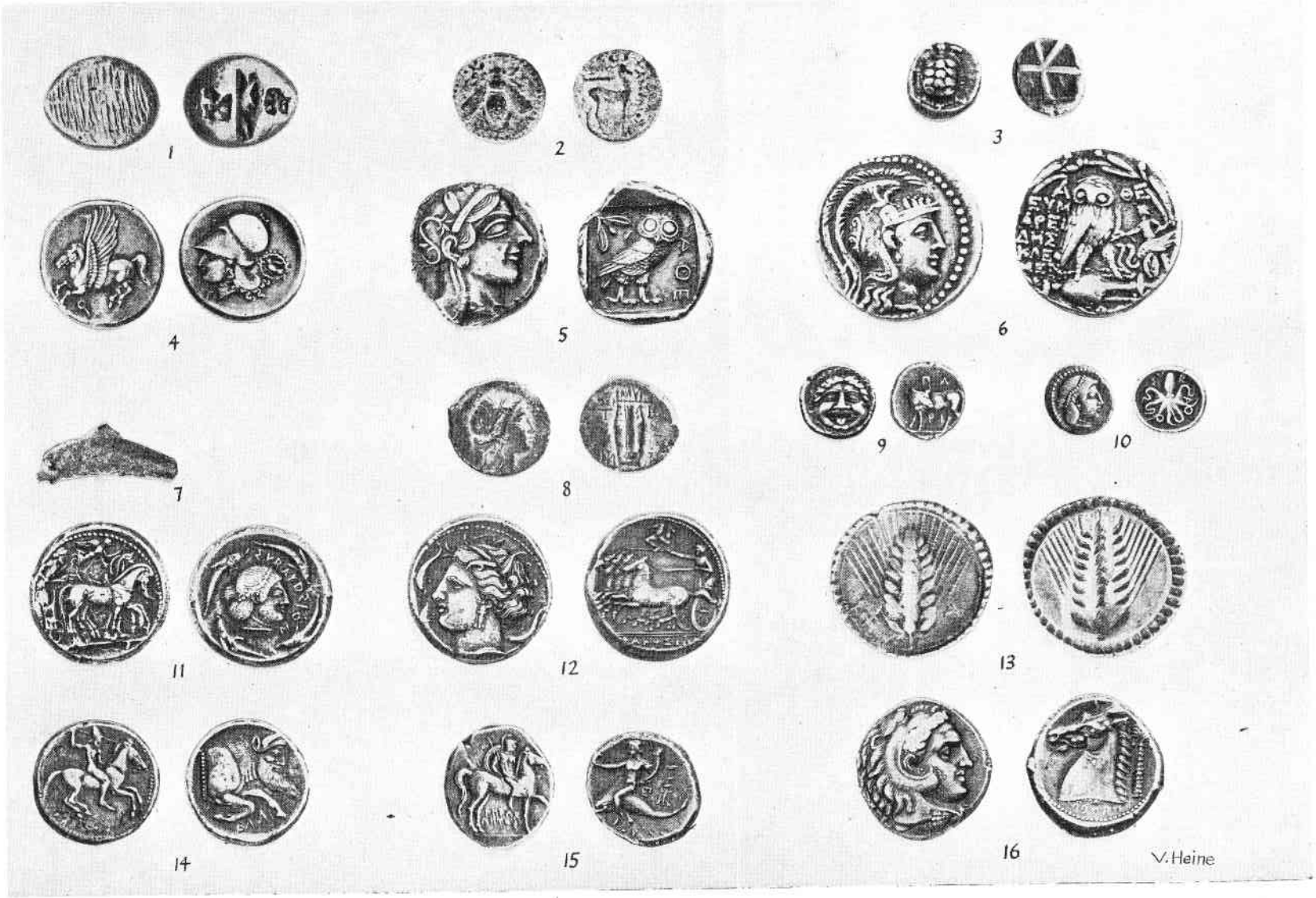
It is often said that "Greek history is Athenian history"; and again, "The history of Greek art is the history of sculpture"; but both statements are disproved by the study of Greek coins. Admittedly the written history of ancient Greece comes to us mainly from writers who were Athenian or who had Athenian sympathies, and so it is easier for us to visualise Athens and her fortunes than any other ancient Greek community: but that unwritten history which we call archaeology, the background of historical events, and in particular Greek coins which are a department of it, show the existence of a vigorous (sometimes almost over-vigorous) civic life all over the Greek world, even in small and out-of-the-way places, of which the very names are unfamiliar to the average student of ancient history.

Again, the regular attitude of books on Greek art, until recently, has been that sculpture is the main branch, and all others subordinate to it. But a notable exception to this trend is Professor Seltman's *Approach to Greek Art*, in which he stresses the importance of the art of the "caelator" or engraver. In any case, coins furnish material of a strikingly high artistic standard: to take a random example, some of the heads of deities found in the exhibition tray from which the coins I am describing are taken, are as fine as anything I have seen in Greek sculpture; and this material is more accessible than almost any other branch of Greek art—an important consideration for New Zealanders.

The tray I mentioned, which is now on exhibition in the Otago Museum, contains between 70 and 80 coins, chosen for their beauty, or their historical or technical interest. They come from the coin collection of the late Mr. Willi Fels, referred to by Dr. Skinner in his memoir of Mr. Fels: "The coin collection had always been his principal joy, and . . . the Greek coins were those he most loved." His gift of them was only one of his many benefactions to the Museum.

It happens that a large proportion of these coins we are exhibiting at the Museum are of silver, one (a replica) of electrum, about 13 of bronze. In the Fels Collection as a whole the great majority of the Greek coins are of bronze: many of them, however, even in the lower denominations, show a perfection of design which one would very much like to see imitated in modern issues: in fact the phrase "effortless perfection," which has been used to describe some of the masterpieces of Greek literature, would be as appropriate here. And yet these coins are the work, in most cases, of anonymous engravers, and of workmen using the crudest equipment. "A Greek mint would be nothing better than a small hut . . . containing in one corner a little clay-built furnace, fed with charcoal. The tools required were of the simplest." (Seltman, *Greek Coins*, p. 20.)

In the anvil was sunk the lower or anvil-die, on which was placed the blank (at first a simple blob of metal, later in the form of a flanged bullet, or a circular disc). Over the blank was put a large punch (the *character*) on the end of which was engraved the upper or punch-die. When this punch was struck with a hammer the hot metal blank, squeezed between anvil and punch, received a design on either side and became a coin. "The anvil-die produced the *obverse*,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the punch-die the *reverse* of the coin, and it is of the utmost importance to realise clearly that more punch-dies were required than anvil-dies." The latter did not easily wear out or break, being protected by the anvils: the punch-die constantly did so. Therefore it is possible, by noting the combinations of types furnished by punch-dies and anvil-dies, to set up an exact chronological sequence of coins from any one mint.

As Professor Murray's articles in the *Numismatic Journal* (Nos. 1 and 2, 1947) provided full details, I need only refer briefly to the historical development of Greek coinage. (See Macdonald, *Evolution of Coinage*, pp. 6-8.) There were earlier " instruments of currency " in Egypt, Babylon and Assyria, but for the earliest coins we have to go to Asia Minor: whether Greek or Lydian should have the credit for the invention is still undecided. Coin (1) on the photographic plate (the only replica I have included) is a good example of the earliest coins, an Asiatic bean-shaped " dump," dated about 700 B.C., the material electrum.

When the invention reached the Greek mainland we do not know, but it must have been by the middle of the 7th century B.C., when the island of Aegina was striking silver coins. (I regret to say that the Fels Collection has no example of the early Aeginetan types.) Aegina's example was followed by the islands of the Aegean, also by Euboea, Athens and Corinth. Various Greek colonies (e.g., Cyrene in North Africa) early struck coins, and the great commercial cities of the west, in Sicily and South Italy, could never have developed their trade without such means. " By the opening of the 5th century B.C. minting had become a common custom throughout the whole of the civilised world . . . During the 5th and 4th centuries the mints can be reckoned by hundreds, each voicing a claim to independence on the part of a self-governing community, great or small." (Macdonald.) It only remains to mention the existence, in early and classical Greece, of two monetary standards, the one used mainly by the Dorian, the other by the Ionian cities: the former was adopted at first by Athens from her near Dorian neighbour, the island of Aegina, but it is recorded as one of the reforms of Solon, the great Athenian statesman, that in 594 B.C. he changed the coinage of Athens from the Aeginetan to the Euboic standard, thus linking up her commerce with that of the prosperous Ionian trading cities: it was a fortunate change from all aspects, economic, political and sentimental.

The following are the 16 coins figured on the plate.

(1) has been already mentioned. " This is not strictly a coin, though it circulated as money." The " dump " is marked on one side with two small squares, separated by a long indentation, the kind of mark that could be made by the end of a broken nail—as it probably was. The other side is merely striated, i.e., no anvil-die is yet used to produce an *obverse*. The material is electrum, a natural alloy of gold and silver, and the date about 700 B.C.

(2) Ephesus. This is not one of the *early* Ionian coins, being about 280-258 B.C., but it has been included here to show the kind of device that became and remained associated with a city-name, its " badge." The obverse has the first two letters of the city name, and a bee, the reverse a stag and above a quiver. Both devices are connected with the worship of Artemis, the city's patron goddess, more familiar to us as " Diana of the Ephesians."

(3) Aegina. This coin is interesting for its historical associations. As I said above, Aegina was the first state in Greece proper to strike coins, the type used being the sea-turtle (*Chelone caouana*), an appropriate badge for a sea-faring race, whatever the reason for its adoption. It was shown from above, with a central row of dots like buttons down the back. These "turtles" became the common currency of southern Greece, so that a proverb arose, "Courage and wisdom are overcome by Turtles." But with the predominance of Athens in the 5th century B.C., there resulted the eclipse of Aegina, until in 456 B.C. the latter ceased to issue coins.

In 404 B.C., however, Athens fell before the superior power of the Peloponnesians, and their commander-in-chief, the Spartan Lysander, saw fit to rehabilitate Aegina. She had always been the "eye-sore of the Peiraeus," and now she was set as a watch-dog on the threshold of Athens. The old Aeginetan coinage was revived, but, to symbolise the new state of affairs, a *land* tortoise (*testudo Graeca*), with the shell divided into 13 plates, now replaces the former sea-reptile. This is the type on the obverse of this coin: the reverse shows, as in the earlier issues, an incuse square divided into five compartments.

(4) Corinth. The Fels Collection has several coins with this combination of types. The obverse has the winged horse, Pegasus, and beneath the archaic letter Koppa, which existed in early Greek alphabets but was later displaced by Kappa (i.e., K, the initial for Corinth). The myth of Pegasus was a well-known one. The winged horse, while drinking at the fountain Peirene on the Acrocorinth (the hill above Corinth) was caught with a golden bridle by the hero Bellerophon. One may recall too, the famous Platonic myth in the *Phaedrus* of the two winged horses, driven by a charioteer, which represent the soul. Equally famous were the actual race-horses of the "Koppa-brand": in Aristophane's *Clouds* the old father laments that his profligate son has wasted all his patrimony on them.

On the reverse is a fine head of Athena, wearing a Corinthian helmet without a crest, but with a leather cap appearing beneath it: to the right is a dove within an olive-wreath, in this case not a personal magistrate's mark (according to Seltman), but some kind of control-mark for record purposes. This is a silver stater of the second half of the 4th century B.C.

(5) I have included two Athenian coins, both silver tetradrachms, with two features in common, the head of Athena on the obverse, her owl on the reverse. No. (5) is the traditional type in the archaic style, which was continued in coins until long after it had ceased to be fashionable in any other form of art. This was probably due to sentiment combined with sound commercial sense: the "owls" of Athens were recognised and respected everywhere. Notice on the obverse the archaic eye and the close-fitting Athenian helmet: on the reverse the famous owl, peering from the incuse square which forms a perfect "Owl's House." Behind is an olive spray with two leaves and a berry—the olive was the special gift of Athena to Athens—and a *waning moon*. The last item dates the coin as after 478 B.C., if we adopt Seltman's attractive theory that it refers to the battle of Marathon fought in 490, for it would be a delicate reference to Sparta's reluctance to come to the aid of Athens. Sparta excused herself by saying that she must first celebrate the festival of the full moon: but the Spartans, having done so, arrived in time to view the

bodies on the field of Marathon: the battle therefore goes down to history as the achievement of Athens, and its symbol is the waning moon.

Earlier authorities describe this as a crescent moon, but the argument in support of Seltman's theory seems incontestable. During the period 490-480 Athens was preparing to meet further Persian threats, but the last battle against the Persians in Greece was fought in 479: in 478 the Athenians began coining money again.

(6) Here is an instructive example of how *not* to design coins. This tetradrachm dates after 229 B.C., when Athens, no longer an imperial power, in fact to some extent a vassal of Macedonia, had become a centre of learning, a University town, as we should say. Shortly before this date she had had a sudden access of wealth, probably from some newly-opened veins in the silver-mines at Laurium. It was therefore thought right to restore the gold plates which formed the robes of the great gold and ivory statue of Athena in the Parthenon (ivory for the face and limbs, built round a wooden core). These gold plates had been melted down by a tyrant of Athens, Lachares, at the beginning of the century. To commemorate this restoration the Athenians in 229 B.C., after many centuries, at last changed the old traditional obverse type on their coins. So here we have the Athena Parthenos, in triple-crested helmet: on the reverse is still her owl (much less attractive than formerly) and a jumble of symbols, names, and control-marks, the whole surrounded by a clumsy wreath of olive. This is something quite different from the primitive *horror vacui*—it is sheer bad taste.

(7) is a curiosity, rather amusing but of doubtful utility. Many Greek cities put a dolphin or dolphins on their coins: Olbia, on the shores of the Black Sea, had the idea of actually casting a coin in the shape of a dolphin. It is a bronze piece, dating before the 4th century B.C.: the raised letters on the reverse* are probably the initial letters of a personal name.

(8) A bronze coin of about 250-200 B.C. from Mytilene in Lesbos, " where burning Sappho loved and sung." It has been included for the sake of the very fine classical head of Apollo on the obverse. I hope the patina on the original will not obscure the profile in the photograph. On the reverse is Apollo's lyre (or Sappho's?) and the first four letters of the city name, along with two magistrates' monograms.

(9) is from Parium in Mysia (Asia Minor), and is a silver Persic hemi-drachm of about 400 B.C. The Gorgon's head on the obverse, entwined with serpents, is a familiar type in archaic art, and suggests an interesting possibility of designs based on some of our Maori grotesques. Certainly it cannot incur the reproach of " pretty-pretty," and the rounded forms fit in well with the circular field. The reverse has a bull standing looking back, a good animal design (in which the Greeks also excelled), although it has not the archaic flavour of the obverse.

(10), (11) and (12) are three coins from one of the best sources, Syracuse in Sicily. (10) is a small silver coin, a *litra* (*cf.* Latin *libra,* from which is derived the L of our L.S.D.) On the obverse is a very fine archaic head of the nymph Arethusa, whose name was given to the fresh-water spring at Syracuse. She became the patron goddess of the city (in full, Artemis Arethusa) as Athena was of

* Accidentally omitted from the photographic plate.

Athens. Those who do not like the extreme archaic type (e.g., No. 5) may acquire the taste by studying this very beautiful semi-archaic example. It dates from the rule of Gelon I, 485-478 B.C.

The reverse has a *sepia* or cuttlefish, on a concave field. Seltman explains this type as being used to distinguish the *litra* from the *obol* of the Athenian standard, which was very similar in weight and appearance: the Syracusans coined both.

(11) Syracuse: of the same period as (10): a silver tetradrachm, i.e., four-drachma piece, shown by the chariot with *four* horses; a two-drachma piece has *two* horses. The obverse has a slowly moving chariot, the charioteer wearing a long *chiton* (the traditional dress) and holding goad and reins: above is a Nike or goddess of victory, flying and crowning the horses: the border is of dots.

On the reverse is the full name of the people in the genitive (of the Syracusans). Again we find the Arethusa head, a lovely type, though austere. Around her on the concave field are four dolphins, showing that the fresh-water spring, which was on the island of Ortygia, was surrounded by salt water.

(12) The last of the three Syracusan coins, and like (11) a tetradrachm, but almost a century later (387-357 B.C., the rule of Dionysius). Here the *obverse* has the head of Arethusa, the hair elaborately done, rolled and wreathed with barley:* still the dolphins (now three), and the border of dots: definitely 4th century in feeling, but still very beautiful.

The reverse this time has the quadriga, but it is moving quickly with prancing horses: the charioteer holds goad and reins: there is a border of dots. Note the *triskeles* (three-legs) above: Dionysius evidently adopted it, Seltman says, as symbolical of Sicily, which was often called Trinkakria, or the three-angled land. He was thus laying claim to the whole island, not Syracuse alone. It would be interesting to trace the history of this symbol (known of course earlier than this date, e.g., at Athens in the 6th century B.C.) until it appears on the Manx Arms, as described in Miss Thomas's article in the *Numismatic Journal,* Vol. 6, No. 1.

(13) Our next coin is from Metapontum in South Italy, and can be dated about 550-480 B.C. It has a curiously thin spread fabric, which needs to be handled to be appreciated. Though only a *stater* in value, it is 27 mm. in breadth. On the obverse is an ear of barley, beautifully placed in the circle, just sufficiently off the vertical to avoid stiffness, the long awns making a pleasing pattern, the inscription at the side (consisting of the first three letters of the city name) helping to fill the given space satisfactorily. The whole is enclosed by the most elaborate border we have had yet, of dots on a raised band, of which the edges are defined by lines. I saw the design of this coin figured recently in a modern book on embroidery: I recommend it to any of the audience who may be interested in embroidery design.

But it is the reverse which is even more out of the ordinary. It has the same device, but in *intaglio*: this is not, however, produced by hammering through from the back, as in *repoussé* work, but is struck from a different die: in some similar coins details appear on one side which are not on the other. Seltman (*Greek Coins,* pp. 76-9)

* The exact nature of the cereal plant shown here and in (12) has been questioned, and the suggestion made that it is what is known in Scotland as " bere " or " bear."

explains this coinage of the Italiot Greeks (about ten cities in all produced it) as illustrating the Pythagorean doctrine of the " duality of opposites." Other examples are " the odd and the even," " the male and the female," " the straight and the curved," " the good and the evil," as on this coin we have " the front and the back." Personally I find a little meditation on these lines as good as counting sheep jumping over a gate!

(14) is a silver didrachm from another Sicilian city, Gela, dating before 466 B.C., with two fine types. The obverse shows a naked bearded horseman, wearing a tall conical helmet, holding a raised spear, and riding on a prancing horse. The reverse (with the inscription Gelas) has the forepart of the river-god of that name, a man-headed bull, swimming, within a circular incuse. This symbol was common in Greek mythology: presumably the river on which Gela was situated was like most Greek rivers, short and rapid, drying up in summer, flooding in winter. As Oman says: " The figure of the man-bull combines the brute strength of the animal with the almost human ingenuity for mischief which a stream in flood displays."

(15) Of the next coin, from Tarentum at the heel of Italy (modern Taranto, Greek Taras), Head says: " The ' rider on horseback ' type probably came into use at Tarentum about 450 B.C." This refers to the obverse of this silver didrachm, one of the famous " Horsemen of Tarentum " series, " destined to become the most abundant coinage of Italy until the day when the silver of Rome was to replace the silver of Calabria." (Seltman.) The naked horseman here shown has the reins in his left hand, a palm-branch in his right.

On the reverse is shown Taras, the mythical founder of the city, riding on a dolphin, for he was thus saved by his father Poseidon, the god of the sea: note the beautiful placing of the inscription, which is an integral part of the design.

(16) For our last example I have chosen a coin of Carthage, since I thought members would like to see a coin of which the obverse type is similar to that of the coin which adorns the cover of the *Numismatic Journal.* I will briefly quote Head, *Historia Numorum,* on Carthage: " This wealthy commercial state, with a population of 700,000, made no use of coined money until 410 B.C. (invasion of Sicily). Both the use of coined money, and the art of coining, were borrowed by Carthage from the Greeks: some of the types are Carthaginian, as (in our example) the palm tree (a *canting* type, punning on the word for a palm tree, phoinix, and Phoenician), and the horse's head, which comes from the foundation legend mentioned by Virgil (Aeneid I, 422). Coins were probably struck in Sicily, not Africa, and Greek artists employed to engrave the coin-dies."

Obverse: Head of Herakles in lion-skin. The resemblance of the head of Herakles to that on the earliest tetradrachms of Alexander the Great, 336-323 B.C., is a valuable indication of date.

Reverse: Horse's head and palm-tree.

Before appending a short list of the authorities quoted I should like to record my thanks to Professor Manton of the Classics Department, University of Otago, for much help in preparing the paper and the illustrations, and to Mr. V. Heine, the photographer, an Honours student in the Physics Department, University of Otago, for his excellent work.

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DATES AND ERAS

By M. G. WESTON.

Ever since the beginning of man, time has been measured astronomically, that is, according to the revolutions of the sun and moon. The natural divisions of time, of course, are the day and night; the larger division being the lunar months.

Primitive races generally used a system based on these phenomena only, but more civilised people have tended to reckon their time from a great epoch, each choosing an important event in its national history from which to date all other events, both prior and subsequent to it.

Thus, the epoch universally adopted in modern times by nations which have followed the customs and traditions of Western European culture is the birth of Christ, the years before it being marked B.C. (before Christ) and those after it A.D. (*Anno* [Incarnationis] *Domini*—in the year [of the era of the incarnation] of our Lord). This method was first used about the year 533 A.D. by Dionysius Exigius.

The Greeks took as their epoch the victory of Coroebus in the first Olympic Games held at Elis in 776 B.C. The Greek historian Timaeus, who lived in the reign of Ptolemaeus Philadelphus (283-245 B.C.) used a system of reckoning by Olympiads, an Olympiad being a period of four years or the interval between two consecutive Olympic Games. This method soon became widely used by many other Greek historians.

The Nebonassar era of the Babylonian kingdom took its name from its first king, who ascended the throne on February 26th, 747 B.C. This era was also adopted by Hypparchus and Ptolemy.

The Romans used as the beginning of their era the foundation of Rome, which is generally accepted from the computation of Terentius Varro as 753 B.C. Verrius Flaccus, however, placed it a year earlier, while Cato gave it as 751 B.C., Polybius as 750 B.C., and Fabius Pictor as 747 B.C. The years were denoted by the letters A.U.C. (Anno Vrbis Conditae), meaning "in the year of the founding of the city." Another method of reckoning used by the Roman historians was by the annual consulships. Sometimes both the year of the city and the names of the consuls are used.

Other eras worthy of mention are the era of Alexander, counted from the date of his death on September 1, 323 B.C.; the era of the Seleucidae, also known as the Macedonian era, beginning on September 1, 312 B.C., and commemorating the capture of Babylon by Seleucus Nicator; and the era of Spain, dating from the conquest of Spain by the Romans in 38 B.C.

The Greek and Roman methods of reckoning continued long after the birth of Christ.

From 312 A.D., however, the Roman Empire used a system known as Indictions, which were cycles or periods of 15 years, all beginning from the year 312 A.D. There were three kinds of Indictions, the Indiction of Constantinople, beginning September 1, 312 A.D.; the Imperial Indiction, beginning September 24, 312 A.D.; and the Pontifical or Roman Indiction, beginning December 25, 312 A.D. Originally the word "indiction" meant "the imposition of a tax," but it is now used by historians and ecclesiastics to mark time.

As previously mentioned, the method of reckoning from the birth of Christ was first invented about 533 A.D., but the most convenient point from which to reckon and to date the events of history would be from the creation of man. Unfortunately, there are many opinions as to the date of the creation, and no two agree.

According to the Septuagint version of the Bible, it took place 6,000 years before the birth of Christ and 2,250 years before the flood. The Hebrew version reckons 4,000 years from the creation to the birth of Christ and 1,656 from the date of the flood, while the Sumaritan version allows for an interval of only 1,307 years between the creation and the flood.

According to the modern interpretation, by scientists and theologians alike, of the first few chapters of Genesis, the creation of the world cannot be fixed with any definiteness whatever, but it must have taken place at a far earlier period than any suggested here. One of the main eras that date after the birth of Christ is one which is still used by the Copts and Abyssinians, called the Diocletian or Era of Martyrs, which was formed in 284 A.D. Others are the Muhammadan era or era of the Hegira (which are lunar years of 354 days) dating from the flight of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina on July 16, 622 A.D.; and the Persian or Gelat-ed-Din era, which is still followed by the Parsees of India, dating from the accession to the throne of Yezdegird in 632 A.D.

In 1920, Amir Amanullah of Afghanistan changed this Hegira system in his country to a solar one, but on his expulsion in 1929 the lunar system was re-adopted. In North and West India the Samvat Era of Vikamaditya is used. The system originated in 57 B.C. The Saka Era of Salivanhn, which is prevalent in Southern India, began in the year 78 B.C., while in the hill districts the Saptarshi Era dates from 307 B.C. which is said to be the year in which the Saptarshi, or saints, appeared in the heavens as stars in the formation of the Great Bear. The Nepalese Samvat Era dates from 880 A.D. In Siam, the Buddhist Era, reckoned as from the death of Buddha in 543 B.C. is rapidly losing popularity in favour of a more modern system which dates from the founding of Bankok in 1782.

In Italy, a Fascist Era was formed to commemorate the March on Rome on October 28, 1922.

The ancient Greeks divided their month of 30 days into 3 equal parts, a method which was later adopted by revolutionary France, which, in 1793, decreed that the Christian Era should no longer be observed but that a new era dating from the commencement of the Republic should be established. Accordingly, the date September 22, 1792, was fixed as the first day of the new Era of Freedom, as it was called. Each year was to consist of 12 months of 30 days each, and there were to be 5 complementary days to be celebrated as holidays, being dedicated to Virtue, Genius, Labour, Opinion and Rewards. Every fourth year was to have another complementary day which was to be called Revolution Day. A period of 4 years was to be called a Franciade, and the months were to be divided into 3 parts of 10 days

each. This system was in use for only a few years, and was discontinued by Napoleon in 1806 and the Gregorian Calendar was re-adopted.

The Hebrew year consists of 12 months for an ordinary year, and 13 months if the year is embolismic. This embolismic year contains 384 days, compared with the normal year of 354 days, and is brought about by the intercalation of a month called Veadar. This month occurs 7 times in a cycle of 19 years, and readjusts the Jewish Lunisolar year with the solar year.

The chronological system which is used by the majority of the world today has been built up from the ideas of the Romans in whose calendar the days of the month were calculated backwards from 3 fixed periods. The Kalends, which were always the first day of the month, the Nones, which were on the fifth or seventh, and the Ides, which were on the 13th or the 15th. Therefore the method of calculation was: the days between the Nones and the Ides, the days before the Ides; and the days between the Ides and the end of the month, the days before the Kalends.

It is conjectured that originally this Roman Calendar consisted of only 10 months, the first month being March and the last, December. Later, however, Numa inserted the two additional months; January, at the beginning of the year, and February at the end. Ultimately this order was changed, bringing the two months together at the beginning of the year. The months consisted of 29 and 30 days alternately which made a year of 354 days; but because of superstitious belief in the luck of odd numbers, this was increased to 355. Later, an additional month was intercalated in February every two years. This month, which consisted of 22 and 23 days alternately, made the year one day too long, and additional means had to be adopted to rectify the mistake. The length of this intercalated month does not appear to have been regulated by any fixed principle, and the Pontiffs, in whose hands the regulation of the calendar rested, would use it to spite their enemies by curtailing it, or lengthening it in order to benefit their friends. When Caesar became Dictator of Rome, he found the calendar in a state of chaos, so he immediately took steps to reform the system. Caesar found that by the year 46 B.C. there was a difference of 3 months between the Roman year and the astronomical year, and so, with the aid of Sosigenes, an astronomer from Alexandria, the average length of the year was fixed at 365¼ days—a normal year having 365 days while every fourth year, or leap year, had 366. The year was to be regulated by the sun, the intercalary month was abolished, and in order that the days of the year should be properly restored, 67 days were inserted in the current year, which consisted of 445 days. This system, which has become known as the Julian Calendar, was first put into operation in 46 B.C. The number of days in the month were 30 and 31 alternately, with the exception of February which was to have 29 days in an ordinary year and 30 days in a leap year. This order was later upset by Augustus, who, naming the eighth month of the year after himself, and wanting the same number of days in his month as the great Julius, took one from February, thus making that month 28 days in a normal year, and 29 in a leap year. This change caused three months of 31 days to fall consecutively and so the number of days in the last four months of the year was changed as follows: September 30, October 31, November 30 and December 31.

The Pontiffs, however, who still had charge of the calendar, made the mistake of allowing the leap years to fall every three years, instead of every four. This mistake was rectified by Augustus who ordered the intercalating of the additional day to be dropped until the error had been corrected. The Julian Calendar, although a vast improvement on the older system, yet made the year 11 minutes 40 seconds too long, and consequently, by the sixteenth century the calendar was some 10 days wrong, and so Pope Gregory XIII rectified the mistake by calling October 5, 1582, October 15, and in order that the fault should not re-occur, ordered that the centurial years should not be recognised as leap years unless they were divisible by 400, thus 1600 was a leap year, 1700, 1800, and 1900 were common years, and 2000 will be a leap year. This rectification became known as the Gregorian Calendar, and was immediately adopted by most of the European countries including Italy, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal. England, like Russia and Sweden, refused to recognise the change; it was not until 170 years later, in 1751, that Lord Chesterfield, together with Lord Macclesfield the mathematician, and Bradley the astronomer, drew up a scheme and passed it through the House. By this time the English calendar was eleven days out, and so it was arranged that the day following September 2, 1752, was to be called September 14. This reformation met with much ignorant opposition on the part of the public, and the popular opposition cry of the time became "Give us back our eleven days."

The Greek church and the states belonging to it, still use the old system, and are now about thirteen days behind the rest of the world in their chronology.

During the existence of the League of Nations, over 500 suggestions were handled in an attempt to evolve an international dating system, and it was recently announced that the United Nations are planning to carry on with the task. But due to the fact that any chronological system in use in any country in the world today is based on the religion, the mythology or the tradition of that country, or on the martyrdom of any member of its community since recorded time, it is obvious that it would take many years before any scheme decided upon by United Nations, no matter how ingenious, would be adopted by all countries.

NEW ZEALAND CROWN PIECE 1935

A recent price list from Europe offers a New Zealand crown piece, 1935, for £38. It is stated that the coin was sold at auction in the United States of America for 100 dollars.

BOOK REVIEW

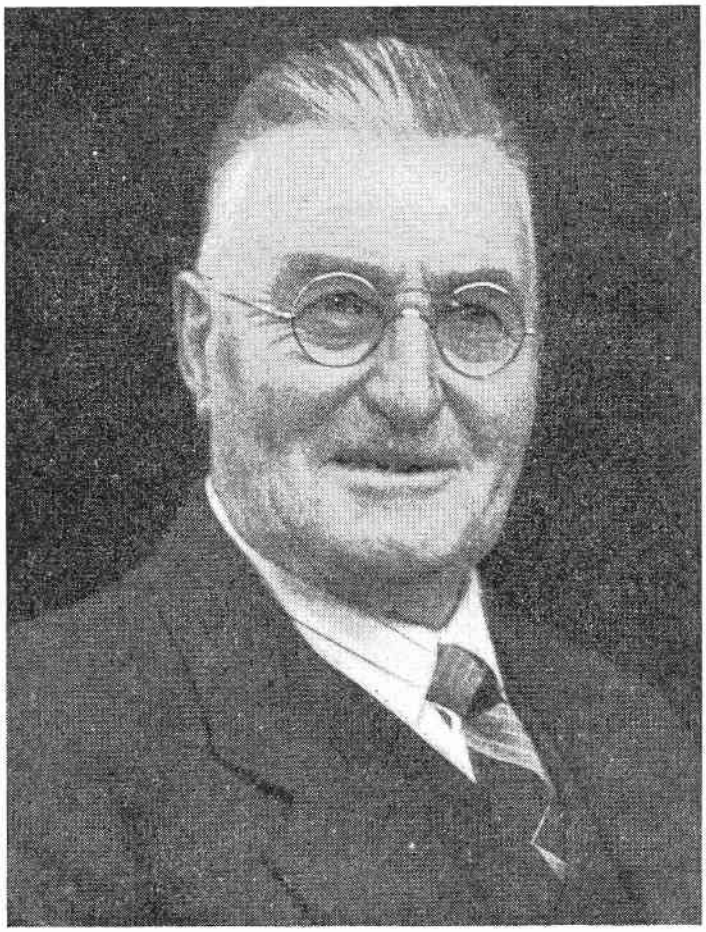
Bibliography of Indian Coins (Non-Muhammadan Series), compiled by C. R. Singhal, Assistant Secretary, and edited by Dr. A. S. Altekar, Chairman of The Numismatic Society of India. Published by The Numismatic Society of India, Bombay. 1950. 12 rupees.

In this new bibliography Mr. Singhal gives a careful summary of the main points dealt with in the various works listed, and in some cases summaries are given by Dr. Altekar. In addition to recording the publications on Indian coins, the bibliography covers sections on

coins of Tibet, Nepal, Burma, Arakan, Malay Peninsula, and Ceylon, as the early coinage in these territories was influenced by Indian numismatic tradition.

The work is alphabetically arranged in each of the twenty sections which are in chronological and dynastic sequence. The 163 pages gives keys to an impressive array of material available to students and research workers in this field. Mr. Singhal and Dr. Altekar are to be congratulated in completing what must have been a lengthy task; the result is a monument to their industry and scholarship.

The Government of the State of Uttara Pradesha made a substantial grant towards the cost of the publication. Part II dealing with Muhammadan and later coins will be published later. Our copy of Part I has been placed in the Society's library.—A.S.



MR. H. G. WILLIAMS

The passing of Henry George Williams, in Dunedin in May last, at the age of 84, has taken from us an outstanding personality, and one of the Society's staunchest friends. The *Evening Star,* Dunedin, states:—

" Angling and coins, paper currencies, tokens, and medals were the main interests of Henry George Williams who died at his home on Sunday. Mr. Williams was an authority on both subjects. He joined the staff of the Otago Brush Company shortly after its foundation and was manager and director before retiring about 18 months ago.

" For many years he conducted the New Zealand Coin Exchange and was brought into contact with many of the leading collectors in the world. A vice-president and regular contributor to its magazine, he published recently an article on Otago currency, written in conjunction with Mr. Allan Sutherland. He possessed a large collection of coins and medals.

" Mr. Williams gave to angling the same enthusiasm that he devoted to coins and he has been a member of the Otago Acclimatisation Society for nearly 30 years. He was a member of the council of the society and was accorded the honour of life membership in recognition of his outstanding work. He devoted a considerable time to the depredations of the inland black shag on trout-stocked streams and his book on the subject, *The Shag Menace*, was widely read by those interested in angling.

" A foundation member of the Otago Anglers' Association, Mr. Williams was its president in the Jubilee year of 1941-42 and by his untiring work helped to place it in its present position. Two memorials to his enthusiasm are the Harry Williams Lodge, on the Pomahaka River, for the use of anglers, and the Harry Williams Shield, which he gave for competition between teams representing the angling clubs of Otago, with the object of fostering good relations between anglers in the province.

" Bowling also interested Mr. Williams and for many years he was a member of the Dunedin Bowling Club, and was president for three years. During the First World War he was instrumental in forming a choir of Dunedin bowlers, which raised a considerable sum of money for the wellbeing of disabled soldiers. In his younger days Mr. Williams was also an exceptionally good boxer and on one occasion he fought against the famous Bill Murphy, of Auckland, the only New Zealander to win a world's boxing title."

OBITUARIES.

Mr. A. Quinnell

Members were deeply shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. A. Quinnell, an ex-member of the Council, while on holiday in England with his wife and daughter. Mr. Quinnell was one of our earliest members. A regular attender at meetings in Wellington, he always took a keen interest in the affairs of the Society. His genial disposition was esteemed by all. His constructive comment and ready advice were always welcome. He possessed too, a keen sense of humour, and on occasions he relieved the tension at meetings when difficult problems were under discussion. Typical of his good nature was his offer to assist members personally in numismatic matters while he was in England. The presentation to the Society's Library of a Numismatic Dictionary, purchased in England, was one of his last contacts with the Society. We extend to his widow and daughter our sincere sympathy.

—M.H.

Cyril J. Weaver

We have lost a stalwart from the numismatic ranks with the death of member Cyril Weaver in Sydney in March last. He had been an ardent numismatist for most of his life, and was secretary for over 25 years of the original Australian Numismatic Society at Sydney, and had membership with a number of other societies. He began his lifetime interest in coin collecting when a schoolboy at Braidwood, New South Wales, and his gracious and scholarly nature made him many friends throughout the world.

The writer had corresponded with him for some years, and a warm friendship developed, to be happily cemented by a personal meeting in 1949, to the joy of both.

Cyril Weaver has given unstintingly of his considerable knowledge, and has answered many queries in various publications, as well as writing several fine papers, one of which " The Coinage of Edward VIII," was published in Vol. 4 of our Journal.

A teacher of music, a student of human nature and a gracious gentleman, we mourn his passing and regret the loss to the world of numismatics, and to the many who called him friend.

—L.J.D.

Mr. J. C. Entrican

We regret to record the passing of Mr. J. C. Entrican, of Auckland, who died on 31st March. Mr. Entrican was a foundation member of the Society, and a foundation member of the Auckland Branch. He was a director of A. J. Entrican, Sims and Co., Ltd., and a founder and for 20 years a director of the Northern Co-operative Terminating Building Society. He was 86 years of age.

Mr. Entrican, who was prominent in public affairs, was born in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. He served his apprenticeship to the grocery trade in Liverpool and later went into business with his brother, who founded A. J. Entrican, Sims and Co., Ltd.

Mr. Entrican served on the Devonport Borough Council, the Rangitoto Domain Board and the Mount Albert Borough Council. He was also a member of the council of the Auckland Institute and Museum.

He was a keen numismatist and donated his collection of coins and medals to the Old Colonists' Museum in 1946. He was elected a fellow of the Society in 1949.

A Justice of the Peace, he was an associate of the Childrens' Court for 20 years. Mr. Entrican is survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. J. Baird of Christchurch.

NOTES OF MEETINGS

WELLINGTON

Meetings were held monthly, at which Mr. M. Hornblow presided.

On 28th August, Mr. James Berry gave a further report on the proposed Tasman Medal. Mr. M. Weston was appointed convenor to arrange a coin display at the Y.M.C.A. hobbies exhibition at D.I.C.

On 25th September, Mr. W. D. Ferguson was welcomed back from Australia. Mr. Duncan F. Shennan was thanked for the donation of *Coins of the World, 20th Century* for the Society's library. Mr. M. Weston gave an interesting paper on "Dates and Eras" (published elsewhere in this issue). Members stood as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. H. F. West of Nelson.

On 30th October, Mr. A. Quinnell was thanked for the donation of *The Numismatic Dictionary*. Messrs. Walpole, Hornblow, Ferguson, Horwood, Freeman, and Weston were appointed a committee to assist Dr. Falla in arranging the numismatic exhibit in the Dominion Museum. A paper on William I and His Coinage, by Mr. Lynch, was read by Mr. Freeman.

On 27th November members were deeply moved to learn of the passing, in England, of Mr. A. Quinnell. Members stood as a mark of respect to his memory. Mr. G. C. Sherwood was thanked for the gift of a set of George V coronation coins in case. Mr. E. Horwood read a paper on the Centenary of Colchester. Mr. W. D. Ferguson referred to a recent report of the eruption of Mt. Etna, and exhibited a coin struck about 108 B.C. which marked the then eruption of Mt. Etna. Advice was received that the Government had cancelled the annual subsidy, and Mr. Freeman reported that he had seen the Hon. Mr. Marshall on the matter of reinstating the subsidy. A paper on Early British Coinage by Mr. J. Robertson, Invercargill, was read by Mr. Freeman. The President wished all members a happy summer recess, and best wishes for the festive season.

On the 26th February several publications were tabled, including the *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*, and the 79th Annual Report of the Royal Mint, London. Mr. Freeman reported favourably on discussions with the Hon. Mr. Marshall as to the subsidy. A stand

is to be made for a ten-tray mahogany cabinet made by Mr. E. Horwood, in which to house the Society's collection. It was decided that the Society should keep a progressive record of all New Zealand coin denominations since 1933. Mr. Freeman, on behalf of Mr. J. Robertson, read a paper on early British coinage.

On 2nd April, 1951, consideration was given to an Auckland request that specimen sets of current New Zealand coins be issued to mark the proposed royal visit. This was not considered practicable. The Canterbury Branch raised the question of infrequent issues of the Journal. (See report on subsidy, elsewhere in this issue). A paper by Miss M. I. Turnbull on Greek Coins in the Willi Fels Collection, Dunedin, was read.

On 30th April a vote of thanks was accorded to Sir John Hanham for further gifts of numismatic literature to the Society. Mr. James Berry gave a talk on Commemorative Medals, many of which he exhibited. Members stood as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. J. C. Entrican, whose death was reported from Auckland.

On 28th May members were grieved to hear of the death of Mr. H. G. Williams, Dunedin, and Mr. C. J. Weaver, Sydney, and members stood as a mark of respect to their memory. The Auckland Branch asked the Council to appoint a Wellington member to act as a deputy to the Auckland member on the Council, so that that Branch could be given summaries of business done. Decided that both Branches could, themselves, appoint such a member to bring them into closer touch with the Council.

On 25th June the Annual Meeting was held, at which the work of the Society was reviewed, the Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted, and a further request made to the Government to have the subsidy restored. Miss W. Berry, retiring secretary, was thanked for her good work for the Society, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Berry were specially thanked for their generous action in providing suppers at the conclusion of each meeting. This supper gives a " free and easy " ending to each meeting, and is always enjoyed by members.

AUCKLAND

Regular meetings of the Auckland Branch have been held on 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December, 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May (23rd meeting) and 6th June. The Chairman, Mr. Attwood, presided over each meeting.

There have been some new members admitted to the Branch, a gratifying indication that the Branch is " alive." However, there is room for a greater increase in membership, a factor which we should keep before us at all times.

Obituary.—Our Branch regretfully reports the death of one of our oldest members, Mr. J. C. Entrican, who passed away shortly after our activities had been recommenced.

General Business.—A sub-committee has been formed to enquire into the possibility of making a presentation set of coins to the New Zealand Parliament, the set being collected with a view to illustrating important dates in the history of legislation in this country. The sub-committee is still working on the question and more will be heard of it in the future.

With a " long-term " view to the future membership of the Society. a flourishing Coin Club has been started at one of the primary schools in Auckland. Members of the Branch are enthusiastically supporting

this Club, both in principle and in practice. Many coins for the children have been donated by members, who have thus made available specimens which the children may otherwise never have seen.

Resolutions passed at meetings include the issuing of specimen sets of the current New Zealand coins, to mark the occasion of the Royal Visit, the establishing in Wellington of a resident deputy for the Auckland member on the Council, and the forwarding of a vote of thanks to Sir John Hanham for his interest in the Society.

Annual Dinner.—The Annual Dinner was once again held in the Waverley Hotel, and there was a good attendance of members, their wives, and friends. After members had been replenished, the question of papers for subsequent meetings was broached, it being assumed that the resistance of members would be at a low ebb. This gambit was so successful that the programme for the next few meetings was no longer doubtful.

Papers.—" Campaign Medals " by Mr. D. O. Atkinson. An interesting paper, well illustrated by specimens of the medals being dealt with, and comprising a fairly full account of campaign medals to date.

" Strange Money " by Mr. Ron Reeves. This paper by one of our younger members was read in two parts and was indeed a credit to him. He dealt with unusual mediums of exchange used in lieu of money.

" How Coins are Made " by Mr. T. P. Southern. A short resumé of some of the steps necessary in the minting of modern coins.

" Numismatic Asides " by Mr. N. Solomon. A paper dealing with many aspects of finance, currency and banking, as encountered by a business man.

" New Numismatists?" by Mr. Des. Price. An account of the formation of a junior Coin Club at the Titirangi Primary School.

" Silver Bank Tokens of George III " by Mr. Des. Price. A short account of the tokens issued by the Banks during this reign, and illustrated with specimens of the tokens.

" The Calcutta Killings " by Mr. J. P. Roberts. A further talk on some of the problems facing the administrators in India. While not strictly of a numismatic nature, the talk was of very great interest to the members.

" Silver Coin Issues of France " by Mr. R. Sellars. This paper was cyclostyled, copies being given to members, and was illustrated with a very fine tray of the coins mentioned. Not much is heard of the coinage of France, and this paper of Mr. Sellars' was all the more appreciated.

Eight papers in seven meetings shows that Auckland members are active and it is hoped that the future will see the membership and prestige of the Branch continuing to expand.

At the third Annual Meeting of the Branch the Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted. There was a credit balance of £10 after the year's activities. Mr. A. Robinson suggested that copies of suitable books on coins be sent to libraries of secondary schools where pupils are interested in coin collecting, and Mr. D. C. Price undertook to contact main Auckland secondary schools. Members were also asked to give consideration to methods of making the Society's work more widely known, to increasing membership, and to encouraging more of the existing members to attend meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING, AUCKLAND BRANCH.

In presenting the Third Annual Report of the Auckland Branch, Mr. T. Attwood, retiring Chairman, reviewed the work of the year, and thanked contributors of papers for the research they had undertaken in order to make meetings a success. He stated that the annual dinner had again been well attended. He expressed appreciation for the support accorded him by all members of the branch, and added: "Any service which I have rendered has only been possible because of your loyal co-operation. I have been happy to serve as your Chairman, actually since the formation of the Branch in February, 1949, and in not offering myself for re-election I feel that there are other members entitled to the interest and pleasure this office affords."

Several members expressed appreciation of the good work done by Mr. Attwood in establishing the Branch on a sound foundation. Thanks were also given to Mr. D. C. Price, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, for his untiring work. Mr. J. B. Roberts was elected Chairman, Mr. R. Sellars was elected Vice-Chairman, and Mr. D. C. Price was re-elected Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

CANTERBURY

Meetings were held on 21st September, at which Mr. L. J. Dale, F.R.N.S., presided, and on 16th November, 22nd February, 1951, and 26th April, at which Mr. J. Sutherland presided.

On 21st September five short talks were given as follows: Miss M. K. Stevens on "A Coin of Corinth," depicting the winged horse of Pegasus; Miss S. A. Lange on "How Coins are Made"; Mr. J. Sutherland on "The History of the 12-sided 3d Piece, 1937"; Mr. L. J. Dale on "The Life of the British Dollar on the China Coast," and Mr. H. T. Allen on "Coins of Channel Islands."

On 16th November the Annual Report and Balance Sheet were presented by the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, as follows:—

"The year 1950 has shown a strengthening of our Branch and particularly its contact with the Canterbury Museum, where our meetings have been held. The six meetings have all proved worth while and the average attendance has been 11.3, showing a slight increase on last year. The total of Canterbury members is now 38.

"Professor Syme, noted English visitor, spoke in Christchurch on "Coin Legend and History" at a well attended public meeting. James Berry of Wellington gave an instructive address and local members, Miss Stevens, Miss Lange and Miss Thomas; Messrs. Salter, Allen, Dale, Sutherland and Caffin prepared papers. It is pleasing to note that members are taking such an active interest in the Branch's activities.

"The Chairman of the Branch, Mr. Dale, was the recipient of a Heath Literary award from the American Numismatic Association, for his published papers in their magazine. It was pleasing that a Canterbury member should receive the first of these awards to come to New Zealand.

"A display was made at the Industries' Fair by several members, and also at the New Zealand Stamp and Cover Club Exhibition. Mr. Duff, Director of the Museum, has made available a fine large showcase for which a display is at present being prepared by the exhibition committee. It is hoped we will have continuing displays in this case.

"During the year several additions were made to the library.

"The Token Book Committee reports that although only two meetings have been held a considerable amount of work has been done in finalising the publication. Nearly all the business firms concerned have given financial assistance as also has the Friends of the Canterbury Museum. A considerable proportion towards the cost of approximately £200 for 800 copies of a well produced book is now under hand, and the committee has let the contract to the Caxton Press of Christchurch. Publication is expected early in 1951.

"Canterbury Centennial medals have been issued and should form a durable souvenir.

"The officers thank the members for their co-operation and interest in 1950, which has been a memorable year.

"It is hoped that our future policy will aim at providing a really good numismatic library in conjunction with the Canterbury Museum, and also the collection of display material with well annotated interest-catching value."

The Annual Report and financial statement were adopted. The latter showed a credit balance of £3 17s 1d, apart from £125 held in a separate trust account as part cost of the publication of the book *They Made Their Own Money.*

Mr. P. Watts Rule, Timaru, gave an entertaining address on "Odd and Curious Money." Mr. Rule's address was most comprehensive and very interesting, due to the large number of excellent exhibits. Among the odd currencies mentioned were shell money, red feathers, postage stamps (in book form and encased), canoe money of Siam, hat money from Satu, bracelet, wire and fish-hook. Plate money, wooden nickels, necklaces, leather, bullet, porcelain, gold nuggets, glass, flints, greenstone, and a Chinese sword comprising 158 cash (of monetary value ten pence, forming an unusual present for a one-year-old of China).

On 22nd February, 1951, Mr. L. J. Dale reported on the Centennial Numismatic display at the Canterbury Museum, which had attracted much attention. Thanks were accorded to those responsible, and particularly to Messrs. Ebbett and Herber for illustrations and sketches.

Mr. J. Sutherland read extracts from *Coin Collecting for the Amateur* and showed that it was not necessary to collect valuable coins to sustain interest; there were, for instance, seven different types of the humble penny in circulation in New Zealand, and interesting collections could be made with coins of small value. A suggestion was made that duplicated notes could be issued by the Society to assist lecturers to junior groups.

On 21st April Mr. L. J. Dale tabled the first copy of *They Made Their Own Money* which attracted much favourable comment. The Token Committee was thanked for their good work in the preparation of the book.

Dr. R. S. Duff, Director, Canterbury Museum, was congratulated on the Doctorate recently conferred on him.

Mr. P. Watts Rule, of Timaru, submitted an illustrated report on a display of medals, including athletic medals won by the late Dr. Jack Lovelock.

The meeting adjourned to the Canterbury College where Miss. M. K. Stevens gave an interesting illustrated address on "Greek Coin Types."

Guests included visitors from the Canterbury University College, The Classical Association, and members of the Canterbury Museum staff.

A bronze Canterbury Centennial medal was presented to Miss E. R. Thomas for her fine work in assisting the Canterbury Branch, and best wishes were extended to Miss S. A. Lange during her projected trip to Australia.

NEW MEMBERS

New members have been elected as follows:—

Mr. William Holmes, 22 Hillview Road, Elderslie, Johnstone, Scotland.
Mr. James Clark Arthur (junior member), 18 Aotea St., Anderson's Bay, Dunedin.
Mr. J. A. Newsham, 75 Cambridge Terrace, Wellington.
Mr. J. Verner Scaife, Jnr., 79 Woodland Rd., Pittsburgh, 6 P.A.
Professor B. Simonetta, Universita Delgi Studi Di Firenze, Clinicia Otorinolaringologica, Firenze, Careggi, Italy.
Miss Joan Butt, Coin Club Captain, Titirangi School, Auckland.
Mr. E. S. Townson, c/o Self Help Co-op. Ltd., Taumarunui.
Mr. D. Elliot-Smith, 50 Moruben Road, Mosman, Sydney, N.S.W.
Mr. E. A. Dennis, Hororata, R.D.
Dael Lockhart West, 112 Halifax Street, Nelson.
P. J. Lamont, Post Office, Taneatua.
Mr. C. Wake, 47 Kilmarnock Street, Riccarton, Christchurch.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MAY, 1951.

LIABILITIES	£ s d	ASSETS	£ s d
Accumulated Fund—		P.O.S.B.	221 0 3
Balance as at 31/5/1950	318 10 10	Bank of New Zealand	59 5 11
Plus Interest P.O.S.B.	5 7 6	Petty Cash	4 15 7
	323 18 4		
Less Excess Payments over Receipts	38 16 7		
	£285 1 9		£285 1 9

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1951.

RECEIPTS	£ s d	PAYMENTS	£ s d	£ s d
To Opening Balance as at 31/5/1950	102 18 1	By Journal Expenses—		
,, Petty Cash on hand as at 31/5/1950	3 1 6	Printing	82 2 6	
,, Subscriptions	89 6 5	Photographs, etc.	12 9 8	
,, Donations	15 0	Addressing and Mailing	2 15 0	
,, Advertising	9 0 0	Postage	3 16 5	
,, Sale of Journals	2 4 0			101 3 7
		,, Secretary's Honorarium		26 0 0
		,, Branch Subsidies		1 6 0
		,, Postal Expenses		15 0
		,, Stamps and Stationery		8 5 11
		,, Coin Cabinet		5 0 0
		,, Bank Fee		10 0
		,, Exchange		3 0
	£207 5 0	,, Balance, 31/5/1951		64 1 6
				£207 5 0
To Balance, 31/5/1951	£64 1 6			

COMPOSITE SUBSCRIPTION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1951.

	£ s d		£ s d
To Balance—31st May, 1950	215 12 9	By Balance—31st May, 1951	221 0 3
,, Interest—31st March, 1951	5 7 6		
	£221 0 3		£221 0 3
To Balance—31st May, 1951	£221 0 3		

W. CHETWYND, Hon. Auditor.
Wellington, N.Z., 1951.

P. D. TETHER, Hon. Treasurer.

COST OF JOURNALS

	£ s d		£ s d
Vol. 4—No. 1	88 14 0	Vol. 5—No. 1	50 12 6
No. 2	47 19 11	No. 2	41 4 4
No. 3	61 13 5	No. 3	61 10 11
No. 4	47 13 8	No. 4	46 9 9
		Vol. 6—No. 1	56 14 0
			£502 12 6

This comprises printing, photographs, blocks, etc., also approximately £3 5s 0d per volume for mailing and wrapping (say approximately £30 in all). Government Grants received total £400.

Composite Subscription Members	48
Annual Subscription Members	217
Schools and Colleges	24
Exchanges (New Zealand)	13
Exchanges (Overseas)	18
Total Circulation of Journal (December, 1950)	320

Members: New Zealand, Australia, British Isles, Canada, U.S.A., Fiji, Mexico, South Africa, Italy, Japan.

Overseas Exchanges: Australia, England, U.S.A., Canada, Switzerland.

	RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
Date	Subscriptions	Donations	Interest	Sundry	Stamps and Stationery	Secretary's Honorarium	Sundry	Petty Cash
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d				
1946-47	37 12 0	9 19 0	3 13 5	4 1 0	29 5 9	— — —	8 12 9	— — —
1947-48	75 10 1	10 0	6 10 2	21 15 0	22 16 9	— — —	3 4 3	— — —
1948-49	64 7 3	2 2 0	5 10 1	12 5 8	12 10 0	26 0 0	9 7 11	10 0 0
1949-50	77 16 3	6 9 0	5 5 0	23 19 0	3 7 5	22 10 0	6 12 3	10 0 0
	£255 5 7	£19 0 0	£20 18 8	£62 0 8	£67 19 11	£48 10 0	£27 17 2	£20 0 0
	= £358 4s 11d				= £164 7s 1d			
	Subscriptions include Composite Subscriptions				Excludes all Journal Expenses.			
	£22 1s 0d	£33 0s 9d	£11 11s 0d	Nil				

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(INC.)

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Wellington Meetings: Last Monday in month at 7.30 p.m.

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Christchurch

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Token Publishing Committee: Miss S. A. LANGE, Messrs. L. J. DALE, C. M. ROBB and J. SUTHERLAND.

Exhibition Committee: Mr. C. HITCHINGS (Convenor), Messrs. L. J. DALE, S. EBBETT, J. SUTHERLAND and F. STRAW.

AUCKLAND BRANCH

Meets first Wednesday in month at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. J. P. ROBERTS

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Mr. DES. C. PRICE, 104 New Windsor Road, Avondale, S.W.3.

CROWN PIECES DOWN THE AGES

Auckland Collection Outstanding

An Auckland residence contains what is probably the rarest private collection of crown-size coins in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also one of the most valuable, its owner estimating its worth at several thousand pounds. For obvious reason he wants to remain anonymous. Among a number of coins which he has just received is the Festival of Britain crown piece issued exactly 400 years after the minting of the first English silver crown piece.

The reverse side of the shining new coin is inscribed with Pistrucci's famous design of St. George and the dragon and below it is the date 1951. It completes a valuable set of English crown pieces, including the worn and much heavier silver crown of 1551. This relic has the English coat of arms on one side and King Edward VI on horseback on the other.

An almost unbroken historical record can be traced in these English crown pieces. There are Charles I crowns with their edges mutilated by searchers after silver which was scarce in England at the time. A later example issued by Cromwell carries a warning written in Latin that persons found " clipping " the coin will be put to death.

A rare Charles II coin was struck in 1666, the year of the Great Fire of London. Probably its rarity is due to the fact that it was minted before the fire occurred and many of that issue were destroyed. Another rare English coin was designed for William IV in 1831 and never issued. In George III's reign there was a shortage of currency and the coins of other countries, particularly Spain and the South American States, were used. These are shown in the collection countermarked with the King's head, which is identical with the mint mark on silver of that period.

Crown pieces from other British countries include the first one struck in New Zealand. It is the Waitangi crown which was minted in 1935 when Lord Bledisloe gave Waitangi to the nation. On the reverse side Governor Hobson and a Maori are shown shaking hands. Only about 1,100 of these crowns were made and there are six of them in the collection.

—*New Zealand Herald,* 1951.