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The New Zealand NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

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

VOL. 5

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
JULY-OCTOBER, 1949.

A DISSERTATION ON NUMISMATICS

By EUGENE MANISCHEWITZ.

ALTHOUGH numismatics is more popular as a hobby, and is generally referred to as the "King of Hobbies," it is the most fascinating and interesting of all studies.

Nearly every subject you can think of is represented in this wonderful subject. Just to give you an idea how vast and variegated numismatics is, one can devote a lifetime studying a certain issue of die variety type.

Coins have been the best preserved recordings of our world history. In many instances coins were the only historical evidence of a destroyed kingdom, a buried city, an unmentioned ruler. Archaeologists have been able to reconstruct a ruined temple by studying a model represented on a coin.

One can record the actual progress of primitive barter to our present-day economy through this remarkable study.

The economic trend of a nation may be traced and sometimes predicted by the currency it issues, "Know a nation by the money it makes."

Besides coins which represent the principal feature in numismatics, we have tokens, medals, jetons, paper money, scrip, and then an inexhaustible supply of primitive objects of exchange—all of which make up the most interesting and fascinating of all sciences.

GOLD COINS TO BE REGISTERED.

UNDER the Gold Acquisition Notice, 1948, effective on 20th August, 1948, any person in New Zealand who owns a gold coin, foreign or otherwise, is required to register and offer same for sale on forms supplied to Branches of the Society by the Reserve Bank. If the completed form is encased with a signed certificate to the effect that the coins are of numismatic value, the Bank will not accept the offers mean-

time, but the retention of the coins is subject to certain conditions. The coins must not be exchanged or sold without prior approval of the Reserve Bank.

New Zealand members of the Society who possess gold coins should write to their nearest Branch Secretary, or to the Hon. Secretary, Box 23, Wellington, for the forms, and for any further information desired.

Discussions with Reserve Bank authorities suggest that so long as the formalities are observed, the gold coins will not be called in. Efforts to have the regulations cancelled, insofar as they relate to numismatic specimens, have been unsuccessful.

We are indebted to Messrs. Spink & Sons Ltd. for a review of the practice in the United Kingdom, as follows:—

The regulations which are now being enforced in New Zealand with regard to gold coins appear to be very much like our own. At the beginning of the late War holders of any modern gold coins—that is coins back to and including 1800, later altered to 1816 (from which date the English Sovereign and its multiples are still technically current) were asked to offer them to the Treasury and those which were accepted by the Treasury were paid for at the current sovereign rate of £2 0s 3d per sovereign. There were, of course, many collectors over here who were affected by this regulation, but we do not know of any case where the Treasury has enforced the sale to them of any coins stated to be collectors' specimens.

The way the regulation appears to have been applied in this country is that persons holding large numbers of sovereigns or their multiples or a large number of modern gold coins of any country and of similar dates had eventually to turn them over to the Treasury. That is to say, it was no use a person holding 500 sovereigns dated between 1900 and 1914 declaring that they were a genuine coin collection and of numismatic and historical value. The genuine collector was not, as far as we know, forced to comply with this regulation.

As far as the sale of numismatic specimens was concerned, we operated—and still operate—under a special licence from the Treasury. This licence, in essence, stated that where a modern gold coin was considered to be of more value as a numismatic specimen than for gold it could be offered for sale as a collector's piece provided the purchaser was a person known to us as a genuine collector before the publication of the regulation concerned. We have not yet been called upon to do so, but we had to be prepared to substantiate at any time, that any modern gold coins sold by us were, in fact, collectors' specimens and to all intents and purposes this decision would be given upon the condition of any particular coin. That is to say, a sovereign of, say, 1914, could be considered a collector's specimen if it bore no signs of ever having circulated. Obviously, it would be impossible for us to argue that a worn sovereign was a suitable piece for a collector. The regulation, as will have been made

clear from the foregoing, in no way affected the sale or collection of ancient gold coins, that is, gold coined before 1800-1816.

Such regulations do, of course, put the dealer and collector entirely in the hands of the Government Department concerned with the matter, but we must say that in this country at any rate as far as our knowledge goes, they seem to have dealt most fairly with both dealers and collectors and we hope the same may apply in New Zealand also.

CONTENT OF GOLD COINS.

A correspondent recently asked: "Is it a fact that gold coins of all countries are 22 carat?" We submitted this question to our good friend, Mr. O. G. Reynolds, Deputy Master, Royal Mint, Melbourne, who has supplied the following information:—

This may be answered by quoting the "gold coinages" of U.S.A. and the Latin Union with their fineness 900. However, I can add a little to this but am unable to discuss the matter comprehensively as you will readily understand.

Some information is available in the Royal Mint reports and the U.S. Mint reports, the 1898 U.S. Report being useful. Mr. Schäfer of the Melbourne Public Library loaned me a book *Illustrated Handbook on Money, Currency and Precious Metals*, by W. Redman, published in 1900, in which the gold coins of the principal countries of the world are tabulated, showing name, fineness and legal weight. The following list is extracted therefrom:—

Argentina	900	Egypt	875
Austria	900	Finland	900
Hungary	986.1	Germany	900
Belgium	900	Great Britain	916.6
France	900	Haiti	900
Switzerland	900	Japan	900
Italy	900	Mexico	875
Greece	900	Netherlands	900
Bolivia	900	Persia	900
Brazil	916.6	Peru	900
India	916.6		916.6
Bulgaria	900	Portugal	916.6
Central America—		(1912)	900
pre 1870	875	Roumania	900
after 1870	900	Russia	900
Costa Rica	900		916.6
Chile	916.6	Scandinavia	900
(1925)	900	Servia	900
Cuba	875	Spain	900
	900	Turkey	916.6
Colombia	900	United States	900

The variations in the U.S. standards were as follows:—

1792—916.6; 1834—899.225; 1837—900.

ENGLISH GOLD STANDARD.

From time of Edward III the "old standard" of 23 carats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grs. of fine gold to $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of alloy was the only kind used until the reign of Henry VIII (1526) when "crown" gold (22 carat) was introduced. These were used, with minor variations, until the reign of James I since when all gold coins have been 22 carat.

The 1907 Royal Mint Annual Report, page 49, shows a limited table which includes fineness of gold coins. France, Germany, Russia, United States, Mexico, Japan, Austro-Hungary, Scandinavia, Holland, all used the 900 fineness.

Great Britain and Turkey used the 916.6 (22 carat) fineness.

On reference to a book published in 1863, Martin & Trübner, *Current Coins of All Countries*, I note the following finenesses:

Austria—				
1787	.....	.....	.....	916.6
1847	.....	.....	.....	900
1855	.....	.....	.....	986.1
Latin Union (France, etc.)	.....	.....	.....	900
Brazil	.....	.....	.....	916.6
German States (many variable)	.....	.....	.....	895-986
Holland	.....	.....	.....	983
				900
Mexico	.....	.....	.....	875
Portugal	.....	.....	.....	916.6
Peru	.....	.....	.....	870
Spain	.....	.....	.....	875
				900

CENTENARY OF FLORIN

By MR. E. HORWOOD.

(Read before Meeting at Wellington.)

ON August 16th, 1949, the modern florin reached its 100th year of issue. As one-tenth £ it was introduced in 1849 after much discussion on decimalisation of coinage following the example of French mathematicians and scientists who worked out decimal systems for coins, weights and measures, which were adopted between the years 1799-1803.

The first serious attempt was begun in England in 1824 upon the system of Sir John Wrottesley, and finally in 1847 the Russell Administration decided to introduce the florin as a first step in decimalisation, the £ to remain basic unit of currency.

Many pattern pieces were produced in the following ten years, Decades, Centimes, Dimes, Mils, Decimal pence and halfpence, and the atmosphere was created that decimal

coinage was ready to be introduced, but no further official step forward has eventuated up till the present time.

The title "florin" was not a new one, and was derived originally from gold and silver coins of that name issued in the Republic of Florence in 1252, and later adopted in England to designate a gold coin issued by Edward III, in 1343. This marks the beginning of permanent gold currency there, though the coin was only in circulation for seven months from January to August, and was withdrawn owing to its highly rated value in relation to silver currency, and the name remained in abeyance until 1849.

The design of the first silver florin was "Gothic" in style, and reflected the art of that time. It was a coin greatly overcrowded with detail, and was a small edition of the "Gothic" crown piece struck two years previously on which a similar design appears to better effect, having a larger field.

After much discussion the florin was finally issued without ceremony and, apart from one line in the financial column of *The Times*, without publicity, and like the first one of its name was not well received by the public this time, because of the absence of letters D.G., standing for Dei Gratia in Queen's titles, and thereafter the crown was known as the "Godless Florin."

The next issue of the coin in 1851 reinstated the missing letters, and also the design was improved by being simplified, and the coin was enlarged. This type has several variations, BRITANNIARUM is firstly abbreviated to BRIT, and in 1867 with two "T's," while from 1877 the initials W W for William Wyon are missing from below the Queen's bust, and a large range of die-numbers are used. The next change of design occurred at the Golden Jubilee in 1887, with the use of the "Jubilee" head in common with the remainder of the gold and silver coins of that issue, while the reverse shows sceptres between shields and a change from "Gothic" style of lettering and "one tenth of a pound" is omitted. The final type in Victoria's reign, the "Old Head" issue, was struck from 1893, and this shows a different arrangement of shields on reverse, three shields instead of four forming an inverted triangle and jointly instead of separately crowned, the wording as ONE FLORIN: TWO SHILLINGS. Queen's titles now include those of India, IND IMP. Edward VII florins, first issued in 1902, show a complete change of reverse with a standing figure of Britannia, three-quarters front view; but George V in 1911 reverted to a somewhat similar type of reverse to

the Jubilee issue, a type substantially the same as that used for 250 years on gold and silver pieces. While a general change in coin designs in 1927 produced only a further variation of this theme, with sceptres crowned instead of shields, it was not until George VI came to the throne in 1937 that a radical change in design was produced depicting the national floral emblem of England, crowned, flanked by those of Scotland and Ireland, and finally in 1947 a change in lettering occurred with the deletion of the King's Indian titles consequent upon Dominion status being reached by India.

The year 1918 saw the reduction of silver content in coins from 92% to 50%, and 1947 the adoption of cupro-nickel coinage with a complete absence of silver.

English florins circulated widely throughout the world, particularly in British possessions, and the denomination was incorporated by several Dominions and colonies upon the adoption of their own individual coinage. Thus we see this popular coin in a variety of designs, some more pleasing than others. Whatever financial changes occur in the future this denomination, because of its decimal associations, will never be dropped.

Foremost among the countries incorporating the florin in their coinages are Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Fiji, and Australia has twice used the florin to commemorate special events, firstly with the Canberra florin, 1927, to signify the opening of the Canberra House of Parliament by our present King, when Duke of York; and secondly for the Melbourne Centenary in 1935. The first coin bears, on the reverse, a view of the Parliamentary Building in an oval, and underneath are crossed maces, and the date at their intersection is inscribed on a raised oval, while the second coin shows a youth on horseback, facing left, bearing aloft a torch of progress. (See plate.)

THE CUSTOM OF THE ROYAL MAUNDY AND SOME
NOTES ON MAUNDY MONEY.

Presented to The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand
(Auckland Branch)

By MR. R. SELLARS.

THE distribution of the Royal Maundy, an annual ceremony of the Church of England, eventuates on Maundy Thursday—usually in Westminster Abbey. Time has wrought divers changes in the application of this ancient rite and much of its original quaintness has disappeared. Nevertheless, even in its present form, it is of more than passing interest and a brief resume of the custom should be worthy of our attention.

Much controversy has taken place regarding the meaning of the word "Maundy." The consensus of opinion favouring its derivation from the old word "commaund"—"command," as we know it today—and it would seem to have reference to the commands delivered by Christ to His Disciples on the eve of His Crucifixion. The laving of the feet of the poor by their august Sovereign on Maundy Thursday—a practice long since in desuetude—would seem to lend support to this claim.

As far as can be ascertained the Maundy Ceremony was observed in England as early as the seventh century and the practice of washing the feet of and distributing alms to the poor by the Sovereign was carried out until near the close of the seventeenth century. It has been positively stated that the ruling Monarch even went so far in his humility as to kiss the feet of these selected subjects. If this was indeed so, one need no doubt that this act of Royal abasement was preceded by the washing of the feet.

The observance of the practice in the English Court, as attested by Delaune in 1690, was thus: On Maundy Thursday, the King or his Lord High Almoner, assisted by the Sub-Almoner, was wont to wash the feet of as many poor men as His Majesty had reigned years, and then to wipe them with a towel (according to the pattern of our Saviour). After this, he gave every one of them sundry presents to wit:—

2½ yards of woollen cloth with which to make a suit of clothes; linen cloth for the making of 2 shirts; 1 pair shoes; 1 pair stockings; 3 dishes of fish in

wooden platters, one of them of salt salmon, another of green fish or cod and the third of pickle-herrings—red herrings or red sprats; 1 gallon of beer; 1 quart bottle of wine; 4 sixpenny loaves of bread; money, as follows: (in a red, leather purse) as many single pence as the King was years old; (in another such purse) as many shillings as the King had reigned years.

The Queen did the same to divers poor people—women probably. And there we have it!

In 1724, the ritual underwent a marked change, the women receiving a monetary allowance in place of clothing. This departure from hallowed custom was brought about by the over-eagerness of the fair sex who, in their zeal to “try on” their garments quite forgot the dignity of the occasion.

Other changes have taken place since then. In 1837, William IV sanctioned a cash payment of thirty shillings in lieu of the provisions which had hitherto been given, while in 1882 the men, as well as the women, received a monetary allowance in place of clothing.

Nowadays the dispensing of the Royal Maundy is relatively simple and straightforward. Taking 1945 as a convenient year, we find that each of fifty men received £4 19s 2d, itemised as follows:—

In a red leather purse, with white thongs.

For the redemption of the Sovereign's gown, worn on the day of distribution	£1	0	0
Allowance, in lieu of provisions	£1	10	0

In a white leather purse, with red thongs.

The number of pence, according to the age of the reigning Sovereign in silver coins, specially struck for the occasion by the Royal Mint, and consisting of five penny, five twopenny, five three-penny and five fourpenny pieces, amounting in that year to	4	2
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In a white leather purse.

Allowance, in lieu of clothing	£2	5	0
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			£4	19	2
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Women receive a clothing allowance of only £1 15s 0d, which is given to them in a green purse. In 1945, therefore, each woman received £4 9s 2d.

So much for the actual ceremony! Now let us turn our attention to the Maundy Money, those exquisite little

silver pieces which are so deservedly popular with most numismatists.

They were first minted during the reign of Charles II, the earliest issues being undated. The first complete dated set recorded is 1670.

Succeeding monarchs have all issued Maundy Money, though there have been years when only partial sets were minted.

It has been asserted by some authorities that up to the reign of George II, our Maundy Money (so called) was freely circulated as coinage of the Realm and was not struck specifically for the ceremony of the Royal Maundy. Judging by the condition in which one usually finds these coins prior to this period, the claim would appear to be well-founded. Later issues on the other hand, are usually found either in Mint condition or good E.F.

In conclusion it may be noted that "varieties" in the numerous issues of Maundy Money are few and far between, though occasionally they do occur. (Condensed.)

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

By H. MATTINGLY.

(Delivered to Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, Wellington, on 26th April, 1949.)

BY derivation the word "museum" means a sanctuary of the Muses. The Muses were the goddesses of all that was wise and lovely, and it is a sad thing that a name, derived from them, should have become associated in the minds of many people with cobwebs and dust. There is some reason for this. We have narrowed the word "museum" to describe collections kept not primarily, if at all, for use or even beauty, but for historical interest. But, even in the narrower sense, a museum has no right to be dull. It ministers to one of the most profound and valuable of human instincts, the instinct of curiosity, of wanting to know about things. Allied to it, perhaps as a sort of playing at the serious thing, is the instinct to collect, which makes us get together masses of postage stamps, railway tickets, etc.

In the past, museums have suffered from two main defects. They have been too much concerned with the past. We think of the cynic who said that cemeteries were for those who were dead and buried, and museums for those

that were just dead. That defect is not very noticeable nowadays. The interest in the past is nearly linked, as it ought to be, to the living interests of the present. The other difficulty is a practical one. Every museum curator finds himself faced with lack of room. Friends are constantly loading on to him masses of objects, which may cost more to house properly than they are really worth. The poor curator is forced to bring them somewhere under cover, and often finds that his room for exhibition is taken up with storage. Anyone who wishes to help a museum might very well take a careful account of this fundamental difficulty of the curator's life.

Museums, in a sense, are a modern habit. Antiquity had some examples, but they were not very common or very widespread. The most famous of all is the Museum of Alexandria, founded by the Greek kings, the Ptolemies. Attached to it was the equally famous library, which suffered from several fires, and was finally destroyed by the Arabs. But that most famous of all ancient museums was hardly a museum in our sense, it was rather a kind of University of research. In modern times, museums are of very many kinds and sizes. You can have museums of Ethnography, of Natural History, of Science, or particular towns or provinces, even of particular periods. The functions of the different kinds of museum vary. The great national museum has to attempt something like completeness in its main branches. The provincial or local museum has special obligations to its own people, and will usually concentrate its attention on limited ranges of objects of local interest. Co-ordination of the different kinds of museum is going ahead fast, and, in particular, attempts are being made to harmonize the conflicting aims and ambitions of them all. In going round your museums in New Zealand, I have been very favourably impressed by the intelligent and interesting showmanship, and also by the skill, with which the aims of each museum have been defined and restricted.

The British Museum is the national museum of the British Isles—perhaps, we may say of British people everywhere. It excludes the arts and sciences as such, though of course it touches them at various points. It is mainly concerned with the historical interest of the many classes of objects which it includes—printed books, manuscripts, pottery, statuary, coins, inscriptions. It would be invidious to claim for it an absolute superiority over all other modern museums. We have only to think of such magnificent

institutions as the Bibliotheque National and the Louvre of Paris or the Metropolitan Museum of New York. But we can fairly say that, on a general view, it has hardly a superior anywhere.

The British Museum was born in 1754 of a strange alliance—the generosity of a great collector and a public lottery. Sir Hans Sloane left his varied collections to the nation for the sum of £20,000, a very low valuation. Much more money had to be found to buy other private collections and to house them. In all, £300,000 was raised, a good part by a public lottery. Montague House in Bloomsbury, on the present site of the museum, was acquired to house the collections, when the public could, for the first time, enjoy a national museum of its own. In 1823 the old house was pulled down and replaced by the new building, designed by Sir Robert Smirke. The general plan is that of a Greek temple, with a central block on columns with a pediment, the triangular space under the roof, and colonnades at the sides. It has a large court in front and somehow fits in very well into its surroundings. The pediment tells a long tale, the story of the growth of civilization but I doubt if any of you would find it easy to interpret the many figures, by which that idea is rendered. A new wing, known as the King Edward Galleries, was added in 1912. Shortly before the last great war, a new gallery for the exhibition of the Elgin Marbles was given us by a munificent benefactor.

The Museum is governed by a Board of Trustees; three principal Trustees, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons, Trustees representing the principal gifts to the Museum, and a number of elected Trustees. The post of Trustee is one of great honour, and many men of great distinction have been glad to serve. It is said that Queen Victoria was very anxious that the Prince Consort, Albert, should be a Trustee, but encountered opposition and therefore founded the Victoria and Albert Museum, so that the Prince Consort might at least have a museum of his own. But, although the Trustees decide on all matters of policy, they have to go to the Treasury for all financial requirements. The Museum has quite inconsiderable endowments of its own, and, if any man of public spirit and generosity should wish to perform a really great service, he could hardly do better than endow one or more departments with money to spend year by year. Such money would be spent on the advice of experts and would bring in as good returns as any investment that can be imagined. For the Museum has the sense to use its great

asset, the power to wait. It will not buy in inflated markets. It can always find plenty of fields, where articles of great value are still to be had at reasonable cost.

The chief of the Museum is the Director and the Principal Librarian. He conducts all business with the Trustees and is, in a sense, a benevolent dictator. Under him, he has the Keepers, Deputy Keepers and Assistants of the various departments, the skilled staff, a host of technical experts, clerks, attendants, commissionaires, labourers and the rest. My own chief, the Keeper of Coins and Medals, once told me that some of his compatriot Scots were a little shy of sending their coins up to one who described himself so naively as "Keeper of Coins." In general, it may be said, that our present arrangements work very well. Many of us think, however, that the Museum might achieve an even higher standard of efficiency than it does, if there were more opportunity for the whole staff to let their views be known. Theoretically, everything can be done through the Director. But the Director is a very busy man, and must be inclined to regard proposals as tiresome intrusions on a programme full. Many of us feel that no harm and much good might result from a touch of democracy in our government.

But how is the Museum organised as far as its collections go. The main principle is arrangement by subject. Thus, there are separate Departments of Printed Books, Manuscripts and Coins and Medals. But the classification by period comes in to complicate the picture. The Assyrian and Egyptian Department takes in all aspects of culture of the lands of Mesopotamia and the Nile. The Greek and Roman Department surveys the life of ancient Greece and Rome as a whole. Oriental Books and Manuscripts have their own department, and there is now an Oriental Department for the study of the Far East. The British and Mediaeval Department is a sort of waste-paper basket, taking up all sorts of things that fall under no other. It includes the Stone Age, Roman Britain, Byzantine history and art, and the vast range of British, mediaeval and modern down to the present day. It includes some of our most prized treasures. The Department of Ethnology is a world in itself, really too large to append to a general museum. It suffers more than any other Department from lack of space, and it is not likely that any radical cure can be found, until it is housed in premises of its own. Our Director used to be titular head of the Natural History Branch in South

Kensington, too, but our sister Museum attained its full independence in the last generation.

How does the Museum grow? Partly by purchase. The funds placed at our disposal are relatively small, but they are wisely used and there is a steady stream of acquisitions. When special opportunity occurs, there may be a special grant from Treasury, as there was for the Codex Sinaiticus, bought in the 'thirties for one hundred thousand pounds from the Russian Government, of which half was raised by private subscription. Then there are gifts and bequests. These only come in important mass from time to time, but the total increment from this source is enormous. Then, again, there are fresh finds, especially in the form of Treasure Trove, articles of gold and silver, entrusted to mother earth by owners of long ago and claimed by the Crown as inheritor of unclaimed properties. The present law encourages the declaration of such treasure, by allowing the finder to have the full value of his finds, only reserving to the National Collection the right to purchase what it needs at a fair market price. Just before I came to the Museum, there came to us two fine hoards of Roman gold coins from Corbridge, just south of the Roman Wall. Just before the Great War of 1939 there was an amazing discovery of a "Ship Burial" at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. It was not Treasure Trove, but the owner, in fine public spirit, made over the whole to the nation. It consisted of armour, silver plate, articles of adornment and coins in a purse—the property of an early king of East Anglia, or, perhaps rather, of a Viking ally who had served with him and, dying abroad, was interred according to his native rite. Only a few years ago there was another wonderful discovery at Mildenhall, this time of Roman silver plate of the fourth century. The Museum has published booklets, describing both of these last two finds, and I would recommend any of you who are interested to get these little volumes for yourselves.

Finally, what does the staff of the British Museum do? How does it employ its time? Firstly, it is responsible for the safe keeping, arrangement and increase of the collections. Secondly, it has to exhibit its treasures for the public to see. On this line of exhibition we have been doing a lot of thinking in the years of enforced inactivity during the war. We want more space, so that due room can be assigned to the exhibitions. We see the need to vary the objects shown, to make more concessions to the varying interests of the hour, to improve on our technical devices for bringing out the

interest of what we have to show. But all this means more space and more time of the staff, and, if the public wants better exhibitions it must not grudge the money needed to make them possible. But the work of the Museum is not exhausted by these duties. Many Departments have published large parts of their collections, making them available for study anywhere. The Coins and Medals Department has published most of its Greek coins, a good portion of its Roman, some of its British and some of its medals. Such expert cataloguing requires long training and much labour: it is one of the most important parts of the Museum's work. Then, too, the general public must be helped in its inquiries by post or personal visit. Some people talk of objects as being "lost" when they get into the Museum. This is not, and should not be the case. The Museum belongs to the public, and stands at its disposal, just so far as it is ready to make use of it. Finally, the Museum has come to be a University of research in all its activities; it covers many subjects that do not form part of the usual curriculum of Universities. This is a secondary development, but very important. There is much still to be done in improving the liaison between the Universities and the Museum. The research work of the Museum needs to be much more closely linked than it is at present to the teaching work of the Universities. The British Museum enjoys a very high reputation with foreign scholars. It is, in fact, a great national cultural asset; and this aspect of it might be better realised, when people ask whether the British Museum is really worth all that is spent on it.

Quality matters more than quantity in a great Museum, but there is a natural interest in computations of sheer magnitude. The number of individual objects in the Museum must run into millions. What is the total value of the collections? Quite impossible to say, for one can hardly imagine a market capable of assimilating them. The figure must run into tens of millions of pounds. We remember the hundred thousand pounds paid for the Codex Sinaiticus. What the market value of the Elgin Marbles or the Rosetta Stone is, can only be vaguely guessed.

What of the future? There is no need to imagine any fundamental changes in the aims or policy of the Museum. It has so long been working along lines that have given good results. But, even in an institution as conservative as the British Museum, one lives and learns, and there are avenues to be explored that are as yet strange. It is in exhibition that I myself should look for the most important advances.

I can imagine a time, when the Museum will exercise an invincible attraction on every man, who is interested in any form, when he will be able, in quite a short time, to form an idea of the wealth of the National Collections and to enlarge his ideas of the cultural inheritance of the past. I can imagine a time, when the old reproach of dullness will never be heard, or, if heard will be greeted with derisive merriment.

I joined the Museum in 1910. For my first two years I was on the staff of the Library and gained an experience, which I have found invaluable, of exact classification. In 1912 an unexpected vacancy occurred in the Coin Department. Someone was wanted to do Roman coins, and as I was already deeply interested in Roman history an exchange was arranged for me. Thus I found what I feel to have been my right vocation. My History Tutor at Caius had years before told me this very job would suit me, but I had had other ideas then, and had not paid much attention to his advice. Now, by a series of chances, I found myself just where he had placed me in his hopes. Our Museum careers were interrupted by the First World War. We did not get properly back into harness until 1919 or 1920. After that came long years of delightful and fruitful labour. I was able to complete four volumes of the *Catalogue of Roman Imperial Coins*—the largest of which runs to a thousand pages and over a hundred plates. Then came the second woeful interruption. This time recovery was even slower and more painful than before. But, even so, it was possible for me to leave one more Catalogue almost completed, when I left the Museum and England in September of last year.

I wish I could give you a vivid idea of the Department as we knew it in those good years between the two wars. It had a wonderful staff, under a really great scholar, Sir George Hill, recently deceased. We had our differences of opinion, but I rejoice to pay homage to his great gifts, to his power of inspiring others, to the force of his personality and example. We were, all five of us, experts in our own Branches, and it was an immense privilege and delight to be able to talk over one's problems with distinguished scholars, engaged in different parts of the same field. The old Department was not large. There were two studies at the back for the Keeper and his Deputy. There was a large front room, where most of us worked, where the books and coins were kept, and where the general public came into us with its queries. It was bewildering at times to have one's researches on Roman coins interspersed with inquiries about pennies

of the Edwards, of Indian mohurs, or modern medals, or to take an unwilling part in controversies on subjects quite alien to one's own special interests. But we were a very happy family and we all acquired a very good knowledge of most branches of the work of the Department. And then, there were the visitors—the ordinary man as he came in and out, and the distinguished scholars who were often with us and spent long hours at our trays. I think of Sir Arthur Evans, the wizard discoverer of the Palace of Minos in Crete; he was a great numismatist, too, and wrote several papers that are still read and treasured by all students. I think of Sir Charles Oman, a great historian, who could discourse eloquently and with sound knowledge on almost any historical subject of any period. I think of Percy Webb, a lawyer, who found a lot of time to spare for his Roman coins; or of an historian of the Mongols, who enjoyed a rather undeserved reputation as England's prize bore. *Punch* once made him give his views on the project of the Channel Tunnel. "The prospect of boring the Channel appeals to me immensely." Well, if he was a bore, we could do with more bores like him. And there is one more I may mention as representative of many who have taken the Museum as their second home. I think of L. A. Lawrence of London, an aural surgeon and a distinguished English numismatist in his spare time. When he retired he came to us as a voluntary assistant and served us invaluable for many years. With the general public our relations were of the friendliest. We made a point of giving of our best to all who asked and we were rewarded with the most generous appreciation. There were occasional exceptions. Many people are bitterly disappointed when they find that their treasures carry no financial value. I remember one woman who thrust at us her ancient coins, an Alexander the Great, a Constantine the Great and, still found that they were not "of any special value." Finally, she swept up her coins and turned at the door with the parting shot, "I suppose if I brought something out of Noah's Ark it wouldn't have any value." Or another man who bothered us with his quest about the value of a common coin of Byzantine, until, to get rid of him, we looked up what a similar coin had fetched in a recent auction sale. It was only a little more than the value of the gold. "Oh, my God," was his final comment. We wondered what he had paid for it.

I will tell you the famous old story of the Department. A famous collector came in one day to see an unique Anglo-



PLATE 5.
A CENTURY OF FLORINS.



PLATE 6.

FIRST UNION BANK NOTE FOR NEW ZEALAND.

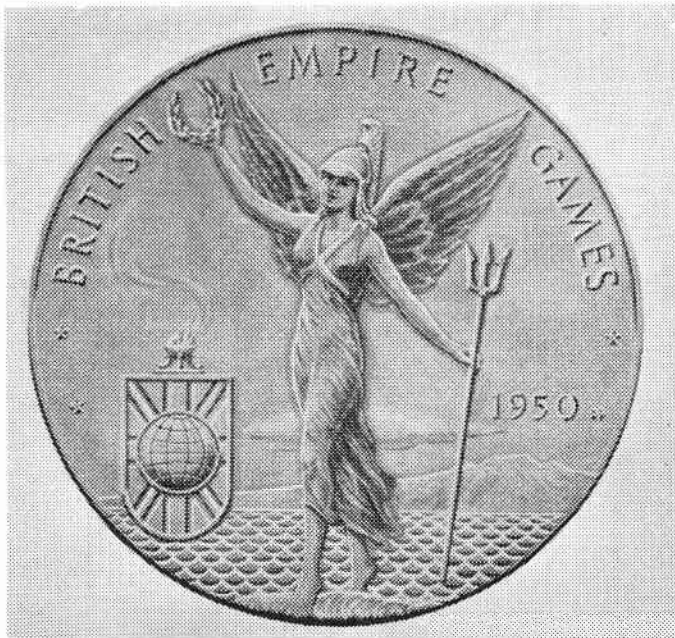


PLATE 7.

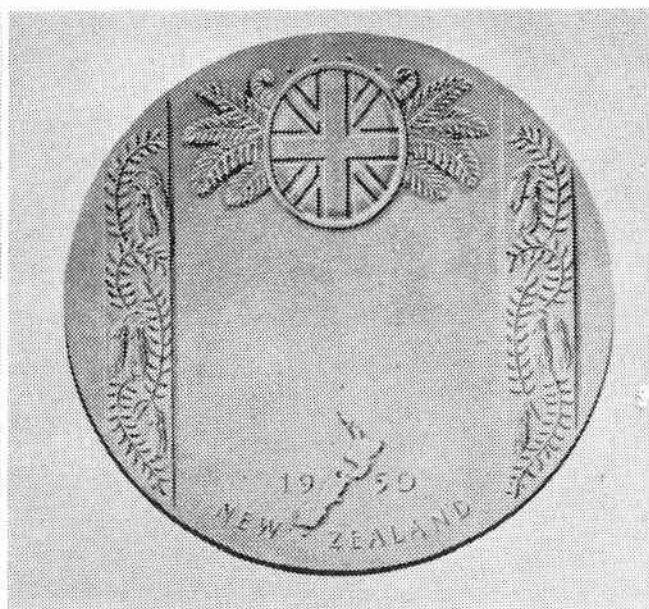
NEW ZEALAND CROWN PIECE, 1949. (Enlarged.)



MEDAL STRUCK IN HONOUR OF MR. HAROLD MATTINGLY.



EMPIRE GAMES WINNERS' MEDAL.



EMPIRE GAMES TOKEN AWARD.

Saxon gold coin in the collection. He satisfied his curiosity and made as if to go, but there was a hitch. The coin had got mislaid and refused to be found. The collector prepared to go, but was informed by the Keeper that, just as a matter of form, he must allow himself to be searched. He resolutely refused. After a very awkward interval the coin turned up in the pages of a book. The collector then produced from his pocket a second specimen of the same coin, unknown before, which had just been offered to him for purchase.

People sometimes ask me whether I have ever found any rare or exciting coins during my Museum career. Such things are very exceptional, but I was the first to see a gold crown of the Rose of Henry VIII, known in some three specimens, which suddenly reappeared from long hiding. On another occasion a little boy brought in a few coins that his grandfather had left him. I looked at several common Romans and then noticed the unmistakable bull-like features of our British Emperor, Carausius. The coin was of the size of a penny, and it was only on second thoughts that I remembered that all known of Carausius were in base silver, not copper, and of much smaller size. But there was no mistaking it—there was the piece and it was unquestionably genuine. It was just the one specimen of a lost denomination that had chanced to survive in this strange way. True to our usual policy, we made no attempt to buy the coin as being curious, but of no great value. We took the boy and his mother into our confidence and, in due time, the coin will probably find its right place in the National Collection. It is deposited with us for the time, while the boy grows up and can make up his own mind, but we shall have to buy it at a fair valuation. It is a temptation, at times, to try to acquire at low prices, but we think—and I have no doubt that we are right—that a reputation for fair dealing is more important than any immediate gain.

I would like to speak about the vicissitudes of the Museum during the last great war. In 1939 it was expected that London would from the first be subjected to heavy bombardment from the air, and the only safety seemed to lie in evacuation of all objects of special interest or value. Just a week before war was declared we were summoned back to town to pack up. Preparations had been made in advance, and, by the time that the bombs had begun to fall on Warsaw, a large part of the Museum was already in relative safety. We had our own Coin Department cleared three days after we started to pack. Then we went on to

help in other Departments that were not so forward. I well remember that I was engaged in crowding Eskimo costumes into boxes, when the first news of fighting arrived. Here is one little story, strange but true. A few weeks before war broke out, the head of our Library had a letter from his colleague in Berlin, asking him what it was proposed to do about evacuation, whether we had, perhaps, a little booklet on the subject which we might be willing to lend. It struck us at the time as enormous cheek; on reflection, I am not sure that it was not an honest inquiry from one museum man to another, who really cared more for the safety of treasures than for political considerations.

When our treasures left London, where did they go? At first to large country houses, placed at the disposal of the Trustees by public-spirited farseeing owners. There was always the possibility that such houses might be commandeered for refugees, and it is quite possible that we of the Museum were the more desirable visitors. After a time, when there were air-fields near almost every southern village and when bombing had become more general and indiscriminate, it was felt that protection was not enough. These houses were often bad fire risks and, if bombs had fallen on them, there might have been disastrous loss. It was therefore decided to find a more radical remedy. An old disused cave was found, and an elaborate plant was instituted for heating and drying the air. There, in this new cave of Aladdin, most of the smaller treasures of the British and Victoria & Albert Museums found a safe refuge during the closing years of the war. The value of the contents must have been enormous. One rug alone was valued at a quarter of a million pounds. There, underground, I spent many happy hours, writing my last Roman catalogue; and there on the walls are inscriptions in ancient Cuneiform and Latin and Greek, composed by my colleague, Mr. Gadd, and myself—destined, perhaps, to puzzle some excavator in the future, when the history of the great war has been forgotten.

The Museum itself suffered comparatively little, if one thinks of such destruction as fell around St. Paul's. Early in the war two bombs fell through one hole in the roof and neither exploded, but, during the last great "blitz" on London, the Museum was badly hit in two places. Some hundred thousands of books perished in the Library: it is an ironical reflection that more is lost by water than by fire on such occasions. The other loss fell on my own Department, the Coins. Fire bombs lodged under the roof and, after a time came through, bearing masses of molten metal with

them. The supply of water gave out during the night, and the flames raged uncontrolled. The whole of the interior of the Department was gutted and all the furniture, such of the Library as had not been removed and all our personal papers perished in one conflagration. Most of us were absent at the time, but the Keeper, who was on the spot, was almost distraught at the loss and the rest of us have only gradually come to feel the full force of the blow. Since then the Coins have had to live in alien surroundings, first in what I call "Egyptian Captivity" with Sidney Smith, then the "Greek and Roman Captivity" with Ashmole. A new home in one of the houses round the Museum is allotted to us, but many years of work have been more or less completely wasted. There can be no doubt—the aims of a museum do not fit well into the requirements of modern war. They are not really compatible with one another and it looks as if one or the other will have to go. I hope you share my preference for the survival of the Museum interests. (Condensed.)

COUNTERFEITING OF CURRENCY

By MR. M. G. WESTON,
Wellington.

EVER since coinage replaced the system of barter some 3,000 years ago, imitation money has been made and passed into circulation by unscrupulous persons possessing the familiar desire to get rich quickly and easily.

The counterfeiter is, perhaps, the only enemy of the coin collector, for, if he has been careful in his work, his creations may easily find their way into the collection of the most experienced numismatist.

The detection of a forged coin however, is not very difficult if a genuine piece is available for comparison. Perhaps the easiest and best way is to compare the reeded edges of the suspected counterfeit with those of the genuine coin. This series of ridges was originally included on the coin to prevent people from cutting or filing away pieces which they would sell for their metallic value. Later, however, this formed considerable protection against counterfeiting, since the corrugations on most bogus coins are only partially executed, unevenly spaced, or entirely missing in places.

Due to the fact that counterfeit coins are made of a cheaper metal than that usually used, another manner in which to differentiate between the true and the false is to drop the suspected piece onto a hard surface to test its ring. If the numismatist does not care to take the risk of damaging a possible rarity, this ring can be tested by lying the piece on the tip of the forefinger, and striking with a pencil. Another method is to try cutting it with a knife. If a coin sounds dull or is easily cut, it is undoubtedly a counterfeit. Coins can be tested by a chemical solution which can easily be made up and kept in a glass-stoppered bottle. Simply place a drop of the solution on a coin, and watch the action. If nothing happens it may either mean that the coin is genuine or that it is merely plated, so it is advisable to scrape the edge slightly and repeat the process on the new surface. If a drop of the solution is applied to a counterfeit coin it will turn black, but will have no effect on a coin, either genuine or spurious, which has a high silver content. The testing solution for silver is: four parts of silver nitrate, five parts of nitric acid and eighty parts of water. The gold solution is: one part of hydrochloric acid, forty-eight parts of nitric acid, and twelve parts of water.

A more primitive method, often used for testing, is with a "touchstone" which is said to be a species of black basalt. When a piece of gold is drawn across its surface it leaves a golden streak which will not be affected by nitric acid, but brass or any other base metal undergoing this test will rapidly be dissolved by the acid. After a little experience, one can quite accurately tell the amount of gold present in an alloy by means of the touchstone.

Counterfeit banknotes are almost unknown in this country, but in others, such as America, where there is an abundance of money, and the bills are of high denominations such as 500 dollars, 1,000, 5,000, and even 10,000 dollars, forgery is practised in a very big way. The Federal Agency charged with the suppression of counterfeiting in U.S.A. is the U.S. Secret Service, a division of the Treasury Department which was established in 1865. This agency has, in more recent years, set up an extensive campaign against the counterfeiter.

Between the years 1933-36 victims of passers of counterfeit notes in the U.S. lost an average of 771,000 dollars a year, but due to the intensive efforts of the Secret Service the losses had been reduced to 48,000 dollars by the end of June, 1942, an impressive drop of 93 per cent compared with the 1933-36 average.

The task of forging a bank note is by no means an easy one, as the designing and engraving of a genuine bill is the work of not one, but many engravers, all masters of their particular type of art. For instance, the portrait is done by one man, the lettering by another, the denominational numerals by a third, and so on. Therefore, it is far beyond the ability of an individual forger to reproduce accurately.

Counterfeiting of dollars is being practised in Europe in a large way at the present time, and recently special military police arrested a number of forgers in a small cottage in a forest in the south of France. These men had been under observation for several months, and many of their counterfeits had been sold to refugees who were on their way to America and who had turned all their money and belongings into dollars, only to arrive at their destination and find their bills worthless.

Recently a number of plates were reported missing from Germany. These plates had been made under the instructions of Hitler in case of the overthrow of America, and if they have found their way into unscrupulous hands, Europe may well fear that she may be flooded with bogus dollars, high-class because they were made by top-ranking German engravers.

The banks in New Zealand have fortunately been little troubled with attempts to tinker with their currency, either notes or coins. In most of the cases that have occurred of reproduction of notes the work has been clumsy and not calculated long to deceive the expert or even the layman. The fact that the New Zealand currency is not international probably explains why there has been little temptation to forge notes on any large scale. Moreover, the span of life of the Dominion—a little over a century—and the size of the population have been so limited that naturally few instances of criminal effort have been thrown up.

The largest-scale note swindle recorded in New Zealand, and the most successful from the point of view of the authors, was perpetrated in Auckland in April, 1914. Over a hundred notes purporting to be of the £10 Bank of New Zealand denomination were put into circulation at the Easter holiday weekend, when three days must elapse before the banks reopened, and the fraud could be detected. The *modus operandi* was simple. The notes were said to have been distributed by a young, dark foreigner who confined his attentions almost entirely to one large shopping area. At least twenty-two shopkeepers in one busy street were victimised, and also some twenty-five hotels. Articles of

comparatively small value were purchased at the shops, and flasks of brandy at the hotels, in each case spurious £10 notes being tendered and changed. Other notes were circulated through the totalisator at Ellerslie. Some 120 notes were traced altogether. They were very cleverly executed, and were described as masterpieces of forgery which would have passed as genuine even with an expert unless he was on the alert. All the notes bore the date October 1, 1913, and bore the number 169,948. They were evidently the work of a skilled photographer and lithographer. When carefully compared with genuine notes, however, the forgery was easily seen, and it was quickly exposed by the banks. The shading of the filigree border was brown instead of black, and details of the printing were blurred instead of being sharp and black. One part of the picture device—a mountain—was completely missing. The printing on the back, which should have been a mass of 10's in the smallest type, was simply a blur. The watermark was also missing from the paper, which nevertheless approached very nearly to the quality of the genuine article. The reproduction in general was described as the finest that had even come under the notice of the banks in Auckland.

There have been few instances of culprits being brought to account for tampering with currency. One of the most recent criminal prosecutions occurred in September, 1937, when a former member of the London and New Zealand Police Forces was sentenced to four years' hard labour on two charges of forging £5 notes in imitation of the Reserve Bank issue. The prisoner was assisted by his son, who was sentenced to two years' Borstal detention for uttering. The father had been convicted of forgery and uttering some three or four years previously, but apparently thought he could do a better job. It was described in court as a very poor one. Zinc sheets were obtained from two or three sources, and the front and back of the notes were produced from line blocks. A lot of hand work, including the tints, was put in afterwards. The finer detail was lost in the reproduction. A reverse plate was used for the watermark. The colour work was done by hand after printing. The forged notes were tendered in payment for goods at various shops in Auckland and Wellington just before Christmas, 1936, when the banks would be closed for the holidays, and the chance of immediate detection less likely. Nevertheless, the offence was soon discovered and the police made a quick job in tracking down the forgers.

In 1930 forged £1 notes of one of the trading banks were circulated in Auckland, and several were soon brought to notice. All were dated January 1, 1929, Wellington issue and purported to have been signed by the same bank officer, but the counter-signature was indecipherable. The records of the Wellington branch of the bank, however, disclosed that the note bearing the number of one of the forgeries was dated July 2, 1928, and was differently signed and countersigned. The forged notes were said to be photographic reproductions, slightly smaller than the original notes, and the design fainter. The green portion in the middle of the bogus productions was also fainter than in the originals. The forgery was pronounced as a clever one. The printing had been done on watermarked paper, and by comparison it was shown that "Bankers Extra Strong" paper was used. The watermark, however, did not appear on all the forged notes. The notes appeared to have been photographed from genuine ones. Stereo blocks were apparently engraved from the photographs, and the forged notes printed from them. The green centre, the signatures, and the numbering appeared to have been done by a separate printing operation. The numbering, however, could have been accomplished by the use of an ordinary printer's numbering machine, and was hardly the work of an automatic hand machine. The inks used in printing were ordinary printer's inks, and different from those used on genuine notes.

Shortly before the recent war £1 and 10/- notes of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand were altered by hand to appear as £10 and got into circulation in Sydney. The Australians were not at first suspicious, but it is said that the bogus notes would have been immediately exposed if they had been handled in New Zealand.

Instances of note-splitting occur now and again. There was one only a month ago in Dunedin. The mutilated notes are usually passed in a bundle or roll of genuine notes in the hope that they will not be detected, but the chances of their being overlooked by teller or casual handler are rather small.

The greatest safeguard against note forgery in recent years throughout the world has been the use of the window watermark, which is now used by central banks almost generally. This usually takes the form of a man's head, which is most difficult to copy and is produced by a thickening or thinning of the paper. The device is easily seen when held up to the light. The Bank of England adopted this

precaution in 1928, and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand has used it since 1940—the familiar head of the Maori chief.

Attempts to reproduce the coin currency of New Zealand have not been numerous. Counterfeit half-crowns and florins were found to be in circulation in New Zealand in 1929. They were very good imitations. The half-crowns were dated 1919 and the florins 1926. The milling on the edge was not good, and the lettering not as clear as on genuine coins. The half-crowns were a good deal lighter in weight than usual.

In 1932 a number of counterfeit Australian shilling and two shilling pieces were in circulation in the Dominion. The spurious coins were again a good imitation, and the "ring" was also very difficult to distinguish from that of a genuine coin. The lettering was somewhat blurred, and the coins were about 25% underweight.

The advances of science have made forgery and counterfeiting of notes and coins increasingly difficult and risky for the wrongdoer who must be a finished craftsman in several departments if he hopes to carry off his deceit and gain the monetary object of his crime. He is also faced with the penalties which exposure of his work entail. In this respect, criminal law prescribes sufficient deterrents, for in all countries the crime of counterfeiting and forgery is severely punishable. Our New Zealand law is, of course, based on English practice and under the old Statutes of England counterfeiting has been made a form of treason.

Under the British Coinage Offences Act of 1861 the following offences have been made high crimes, punishable by penal servitude for life: Counterfeiting or making coins to resemble or pass for a current coin of the realm; colouring, casing or washing over any coin or metal with intent to make them pass for gold or silver coins; buying, selling, receiving, or passing counterfeit coins; knowingly importing counterfeit coins; making, mending, buying, selling, possessing, or conveying out of the Royal Mint any coining instruments.

The clipping, or lightening in any other manner of current gold or silver coin is a crime punishable with not more than 14 years' imprisonment.

The following offences are punishable with not more than seven years' imprisonment: Unlawful possession of clippings, etc., taken from gold or silver coin; counterfeiting current copper coin; possessing three or more counterfeit gold or silver current coins with intent to utter them.

Various minor offences are punishable with imprisonment or penal servitude for varying periods, all under seven years, such as the exportation of current counterfeit coin, the counterfeiting of foreign coinage, and the knowingly uttering counterfeit current copper coinage.

Offences in the United States are punishable with hard labour for a period of not more than ten years.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness, for information contained in this paper to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Everyman's Encyclopaedia* and *Coins*, by Gilbert Heyde, and, for local colour, to officers of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, and the Bank of New Zealand, and the files of the *Evening Post*.

DECIMAL COINAGE—CHANGE OVER PROBLEMS

By JAMES BERRY.

ANYONE giving thought to the subject of decimal coinage soon realises the advantages in comparison with our present cumbersome pounds, shillings and pence system. The only arguments I have heard against its adoption are:—

- (1) The work and expense which would arise in changing all the office calculating machines, cash registers and so on.
- (2) The sentimental attachment to the pounds, shillings and pence system.

I will now endeavour to confound both these arguments. With reference to argument (1), I discussed this matter with a friend who has spent most of his working life, twenty-nine years to be exact, servicing office machines, and for some time past he has controlled a large servicing and repair shop for all types of office machines. He is convinced that more than ninety per cent of repairs and maintenance of such machines would be avoided by a change to decimal system. This might seem hard to understand, and I will endeavour to explain the reasons which have been so clearly demonstrated to me by my friend Mr. R. G. Hull. Dealing with adding machines, the pounds are in straight addition in tens, hundreds, or thousands, etc., as on a decimal machine. The shillings are also in tens up to twenty, and the pence are in units up to twelve. Quadrants and cog-wheels containing ten teeth of uniform size throughout are in use for all columns of figures except the tens of shillings column and the pence column, the latter having a same-sized quadrant and cog, but containing twelve teeth instead of ten. These fine teeth are usually the cause of the machine getting out of order, being more apt to catch or slip than the wheels

with ten teeth. The fault showing in the machine may be adding of an extra £1, £10 or £100, the fault being an extra digit being added in any one of the columns. This is a common fault with machines requiring adjustment, and the trouble is caused by the finer teeth on the pence cog-wheel catching or riding on shoulder of cog for an instant, and during that fraction of a second any of the other cogs are free to revolve, which, with the momentum or vibration of the machine, often happens. When repairing or readjusting the machines it is a comparatively easy matter for the mechanic to see that the ten-teeth cogs are in proper alignment, but the twelve-tooth cog is never in proper alignment with any of the others and therefore requires more time and work for adjustment. Another source of trouble is the tens of shillings column, the cog being worn in the one position all the time, and in the case of the key-driven machines, a stronger spring being necessary for this cog continually revolving the full half-circle with no intermediate stops for other digits.

With the decimal-system machines all are ten teeth quadrants and cog wheels with more or less even tension and wear on all springs and teeth of cogs. The machines are far less likely to get out of order under such conditions, and when they do it is a far easier system of adjustment and repair when all cogs and parts for each column of figures are exactly the same and interchangeable. Also in putting new machines together and reassembling them after repairs the realigning of quadrants and cog-wheels all the same size is simplicity itself in comparison with sterling machines.

Business executives need not worry about the expense which would be involved in having their machines changed to a decimal system. Mr. Hull informed me that the necessary parts to change an £80 adding machine would probably cost less than £2, and a mechanic could make the necessary changes in a day. More expensive bookkeeping machines costing perhaps as much as £1,200 would naturally cost more to change, but not in proportion, and Mr. Hull suggested five per cent of original cost of the various bookkeeping, calculating machines irrespective of whether hand, electric, or key operated would cover the cost of changing them to decimal system. This would soon be recovered in more efficient operation of machines and less repair bills, and thereafter substantial savings would be made. Also, Mr. Hull estimated that the cost of new machines on a decimal system would probably be thirty per cent less than the cost of new machines as now used. Benefit would be obtained of

lower cost of full mass production of decimal machines as used in most countries of the world, whereas special jigs and extra parts have to be made for our more costly sterling machines. Also, agents for the machines have to carry about twice as many spare parts as would be necessary with only decimal machines, which have uniform and interchangeable parts for all columns of figures. The few repairs required would be done more expeditiously, and with less expense, and in cases of urgency complete banks of uniform parts could be replaced in a machine in much the same way as repairs to a Ford car can be quickly carried out by replacing the complete engine—another advantage of mass production. Apart from accounting machines, similar advantages would be gained with cash registers, franking machines, taximeters, etc.

As regards the retention of the sterling system on grounds of sentiment, this argument may have had some force some years ago when the British sovereign was an accepted standard of value in almost any part of the world, but the position is very different today. No efficient firm today would dream of using typewriters that were forty years old when better modern machines are available, or of delivering goods with a horse and cart, and yet regarding the latter it can be said that there is far more sentiment attached to a horse than the engine of a motor van. Motor transport saves time and work over the horse transport days, and a decimal system of coinage saves time and work compared with our sterling system, and to carry on an inefficient system just because it was good enough for our parents and ancestors is a futile argument. Proof of the efficiency of decimal coinage is shown by the fact that of all ninety countries throughout the world which have adopted a decimal system of coinage at some time or other during the past 160 years, not one has wished to change back to a fractional system, and they now outnumber the non-decimal countries by six to one.

For the sake of national efficiency New Zealand should make arrangements to dispense with the handicaps of our fractional system and reap the benefits of a system of decimal coinage.

NEW ZEALAND CROWN PIECE.

The New Zealand crown piece, 1949, illustrated in this issue, has been eagerly awaited by members. It will be released to the public on 17th November, 1949.

The reverse design is a fern-leaf within four stars,

representing the Southern Cross. The fern-leaf is a national emblem of New Zealand which always appears on the jerseys of New Zealand's All Black footballers.

For the benefit of overseas members it should be explained that our All Black footballers are all white, but they usually wear black jerseys and shorts, hence the name. All athletes who go from New Zealand wear a fern-leaf design on their clothes as a distinctive emblem of New Zealand. The graceful fronds of the fern and tree-fern are distinctive features of New Zealand's countryside. The Southern Cross is included in the New Zealand flag. The design is by James Berry, Wellington.

The obverse of the crown piece shows the uncrowned head of King George the Sixth. The coin is a welcome addition to the New Zealand series which includes only one other crown piece, dated 1935.

A SHORT TALK ON MEDALS

By D. ATKINSON,

Auckland.

MEDALS with official ribbons attached can be classified into five groups: Decoration, Campaign, Civil, Long Service and Life Saving.

Group I consists of decorations which are given for bravery in action or for meritorious or conspicuous service, both military and civil life.

Group II consists of campaign medals, given for service in war. Many people would say that there cannot be many of these because most think that there were only three wars of recent times, the Boer War, and the two World Wars. But there are many others, as British troops have usually been in action somewhere, especially in India, Africa and the Middle East.

If the campaign is an important one a special medal is struck and issued, but when troops are engaged in skirmishes or small fights over a period of time, a medal called a General Service Medal is issued. For instance in India there were numerous fights not warranted by a special medal, so that in 1854 an Indian General Service Medal was issued, and it remained on issue until 1895. During that period there were twenty-three fights worthy of recognition, and any man who fought in one or more of these was given the medal. Above the medal was attached a bar, or bars, with the name of the battle in which he took part. No man received all the twenty-three bars, but some got

perhaps six or seven which made the medal rather cumbersome. In 1895 another General Service medal was struck and issued until the death of Queen Victoria, and since then General Service medals have been issued for each King up to the present day.

For many years a special medal was issued, with bars also for the battles fought.

In World Wars I and II there were too many battles to be recognised by special bars, so that medals were given on a different basis. In World War I, periods of service were recognised by different medals and in World War II medals were issued for different theatres of war.

Group III medals are those struck for special events, such as the George V Jubilee, George VI Coronation medals, and these were given to notable persons and to people closely connected with the particular event.

Group IV are for long service medals and decorations. These are rewards for long service in the forces, and are given for either 12, 16 or 20 years of service. Non-commissioned officers and men get a medal, and officers get a more showy one called a decoration. There are many varieties of these decorations and medals because the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as many other branches of the services, all have their own types, and most of the Colonies have their own as well.

Group V consists of life saving medals for bravery in saving life and are issued by Governments, Humane Societies, Lloyds, etc. These medals are always worn on the left breast, whereas all others are worn on the right breast.

The issue of medals for a particular campaign originated in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Though the standing Army of Great Britain existed for centuries, it was to the Navy that the first medals were issued. The rout of the Spanish Armada gave the incentive to commemorate the occasion by the bestowal of gold and silver medals to certain leading officers as a personal decoration of the Queen. It was 50 years later that Charles I established the principle of the issue of medals to the Army. As stated previously, medals were issued to certain individuals—but after the battle of Waterloo in 1815, a general issue of the same design and metal was made to every drummer-boy, soldier, and officer. It can safely be assumed that the first Naval medal to be issued as an universal award was the Naval General Service Medal, and the first Army medal was issued for Waterloo.

The Honourable East India Coy, however, issued medals for all campaigns in India.

Gold medals were issued to officers of field rank, silver to captains and below, bronze to N.C.O's and men, and tin to the native troops. This method was, however, abolished when India became a Crown Colony.

The colours of each medal ribbon have a direct bearing on the medal that hangs from it. For example, the Queen's Sudan Medal ribbon has one broad band of yellow and black on either side, with a narrow line of red in the middle. The yellow indicates the sands of the desert, the black, the darkness of Africa, and the red, the blood that was spilt in loss of life. In contrast, the Khedive of Egypt issued a medal to all British troops for the same campaign. The ribbon of the medal is yellow with a band of blue in the middle—indicating the river Nile flowing through the desert sands.

It will be seen, therefore, that colours of a ribbon are not merely chosen, but are selected after deliberate consideration in relation to the issue of a medal for a particular campaign.

Historical events in the reign of Queen Victoria which brought about the expansion of the British Empire from Pole to Pole caused the issue of more medals in her reign than any other ruling monarch. It must, however, be taken into consideration that Queen Victoria reigned for sixty years compared with a lesser number of years for Edward VII and George V and VI, who followed.

NEW ZEALAND COINS, 1947 AND 1948.

Members are advised to secure full sets of the 1947 New Zealand coins, half-crown to half-penny, while these are still obtainable in circulation in first-class condition. This may be the last year for some time when all the denominations will be struck.

The 1948 issue shows for the first time the new style and title of King George the Sixth, and no pence or half-pence were issued in this year.

The 1933-1946 half-silver coins are rapidly being withdrawn from circulation. Coins in uncirculated condition are obtainable from our advertisers.

BANK NOTES OF FIRST NEW ZEALAND BANK.

The Union Bank of Australia Ltd. established the first bank in New Zealand, at Britannia (Petone), in March, 1840. Later in the same year The New Zealand Banking Company opened at Kororaraka, Bay of Islands, then the largest trading centre in the Colony, and that bank continued operations until Kororaraka was sacked by Hone Heke, in 1845.

A few specimens of the first issue of the bank-notes of the Union Bank are extant. One specimen, issued at Nelson, 30th May, 1842, was exhibited at a meeting of the Auckland Branch of the Society.

The Britannia branch of the bank did not last long. Following a flood there, the Manager, Mr. John Smith, abandoned his tin-shed and floated his safe across the harbour to the present site of Wellington, where the bank has continued in business ever since.

The design of the first Union Bank notes includes the young Queen Victoria seated on her throne, with NEW ZEALAND above, and in the centre is a vessel in full sail, with a pensive Britannia on the left and a startled kangaroo on the right. The notes were payable on demand "by bills at 30 days st. on Sydney, Hobart Town, Launceston, or London." A specimen is illustrated in this issue.

THIRTY FAMOUS COINS.

A combined meeting was organized by the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand and the Christchurch Branch of the N.Z. Classical Association at the Canterbury University College on the 17th March, when Mr. Harold Mattingly delivered an illustrated lecture on thirty famous coins.

Coins were catholic and universal, and to the numismatist history was part of coins. In the early Roman Empire the placing of a head of a man on a coin almost amounted to making a god of him. Portraits of Julius Caesar were all recognisably those of one man, while sculptured likenesses varied so much that obviously they were not all true likenesses. Mr. Mattingly showed slides of one of the first Greek electrum coins, Ephesus c. 650, stag and the sign of Phanes, a Syracusan decadrachm, a decadrachm of Alexander the Great, showing his fight with King Porus on his elephant, a denarius of Emperor Tiberius, probably the tribute money of the Jews. Other coins he screened recorded the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the

visit to Britain of Emperor Hadrian, and the recapture by Emperor Constantius of London from usurpers. The use of Christian symbols on coins were described including the cross, and the head of Jesus on a coin of the Byzantine Empire. Coins of Alfred the Great and other Saxon Kings were shown, also those of Harold, who was defeated at Hastings by the Normans. Other coins described were an angel of Henry VI, used as a touch-piece for the King's evil, the original gold florin of Florence, the ducat on which appeared the figure of Jesus, the Spanish piece-of-eight which enjoyed almost world wide acceptance, and finally the Maria Theresa thaler which from 1780 had been re-issued with the old design for use by native peoples in North East Africa



Decadrachm of Syracuse.

NEW ZEALAND CURRENCY TOKENS.

NEW AND DOUBTFUL VARIETIES.

Several New Zealand currency tokens have long been listed as doubtful varieties. In addition some new varieties have been reported, but not verified. These are shown hereunder. (Sutherland numbers, and Andrews numbers in parenthesis.)

BEATH—106a. (34); (37); (39).

CARO—109a. (63).

COOMBES—113b. (78); 113c (79).

FORSAITH—(132).

GAISFORD AND EDMONDS—117a. New variety suggested, three sheaves on left hand of Justice, and ship on horizon.

HALL, HENRY J.—122 (159); 122a (160); 122c (162); 122e.

HALL, H. J.—122i (168); 122j (169); 122L (173); 122m (174); 122o (176); 122q (178); 122r (179); 122s (180); 122t (181).

- HOBDAV & JOBBERNS—123a (250); 123b (251); 123c (252).
HOLLAND & BUTLER—(264).
LICENSED VICTUALLER'S ASSOCIATION—129b (328);
129c (328a). The latter reported as a new variety. Obv.
a new die with smaller lettering, laurel points bet. IC,
and curl is over the 4. Rev. as 129b.
MORRIN—136c. A new variety suggested. Obv. as 136a (388)
and rev. as 136b (389).
REECE—141d (451); 141e (452).
SMITH, S. HAGUE—142f (476); 142h (478).

Any members possessing the new or doubtful varieties listed, or other new varieties, are invited to send photographs or clear rubbings to the Hon. Editor, with detailed descriptions of variations, so that this information can be published, with acknowledgments. In this way the doubtful varieties can be eliminated from the listings, and the new varieties, if verified can be added. Commencing with the issue of September 28th, *The Weekly News*, Auckland, is publishing a series of articles by Mr. A. Sutherland covering Auckland trade tokens and their issuers; this will be followed by articles on New Zealand bank notes.

An important find of the rare New Zealand penny, 1879, is reported from Christchurch. This was found by Mr. L. J. Dale in a small box of coins and tokens belonging to Mr. Colin Milligan. A unique feature is that the coin appears to have been in circulation before being stowed away by the grandfather of Mr. Milligan. Approximately twenty specimens are extant, all of which are apparently in uncirculated condition. The specimen discovered in Christchurch has been placed in the Canterbury Museum.

THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The British Numismatic Society, 21 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, was founded in 1903. At the meetings papers are read on fresh numismatic discoveries and the results of recent research, and rare coins and medals are exhibited.

The Society's activities are confined to British numismatics, but this subject is interpreted in its widest sense, and the field includes the coinage of Great Britain and its dependencies from earliest times down to the present day, the coinage of the northern continent of America, token coinage, and medals and badges of all descriptions.

The annual subscription is to be raised to two guineas on January 1st, 1950; entrance fee one guinea. For junior members less than 21 years of age, the subscription is 10/6. Persons or corporate bodies desiring to become members should communicate with the Secretary, E. J. Winstanley, Esq., 32 Belsize Grove, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

Contributions, either in the form of articles or of shorter communications, are invited and should be sent to the Editors, Wilton House, Hungerford, Berks. The Society's Journal is issued annually, and members will be provided at suitable intervals with binding-cases.

MEDALS FOR EMPIRE GAMES

MEDALS for athletes competing in the British Empire Games at Auckland next year are now being made.

There are two different medals. One, for winners, is in silver gilt for first place-getters, in silver for second place-getters, and in bronze for third place-getters. More than 140 of each are to be made.

The other medal is a token award for all competitors at the Games. About 700 will be made.

The winners' award is a 2½in. diameter medal. The obverse of this design represents a winged figure of Britannia arriving from across the sea and holding aloft the wreath of victory for the individual winners of the events in the British Empire Games. On the left is a panel of the Union Jack on the centre of which is superimposed a world representing the fact that competitors will be coming from all parts of the world for the Empire Games. This is surmounted by a lamp keeping alight the spirit of sportsmanship of the Games. The four stars (two on the left and two on the right) represent the fourth Empire Games to be held. In the background on right is a representation of Rangitoto, the water in the foreground being the harbour entrance denoting that the fourth Empire Games are being held at Auckland.

The reverse design shows at the top a British heraldic lion holding the torch for achievement, above which are four dots for the fourth Empire Games. The centre of the design is left clear for the engraving of the name of the successful competitor. The side borders are sprays of kowhai which can be taken as New Zealand's national flower. At the base is a small map of New Zealand representing the fact that the fourth Empire Games are being held in New Zealand in 1950. This is surrounded by the wreath of victory.

The token award for all competitors at the Games is a 2in. diameter bronze medal.

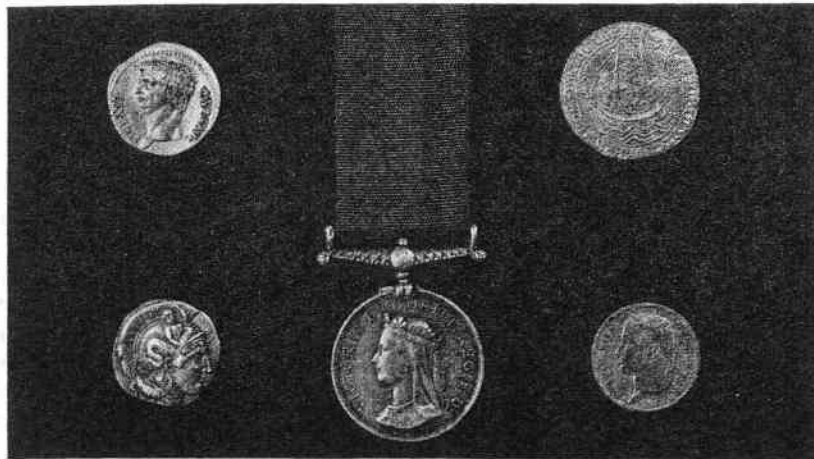
The obverse represents a portrait of Britannia with Rangitoto and the rays of the sun showing in the background, indicating that the Games are being held at Auckland.

On the reverse is the Union Jack in oval at top flanked by New Zealand fern. The four dots represent the fourth Empire Games. Strips of kowhai (New Zealand's national flower) are shown at the sides. The centre is left clear for engraving of name, and a small map of New Zealand is shown at the base.

The designs for both medals were executed to the order of Mayer & Kean, Limited, Wellington, by Mr. James Berry, Wellington.



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THE ENGLISH SILVER COINAGE—1649-1949.

Many numismatic books are published, but it is not often that one appears which can be seen at a glance to be of outstanding usefulness and filling a long-felt want. Mr. H. A. Seaby, F.R.N.S., and Messrs. B. A. Seaby Ltd. have to be thanked and congratulated for publishing this interesting and comprehensive book. To most beginners, as also to many more advanced collectors, the milled coinage of the past three centuries has most interest, as the great majority of the specimens they can obtain were struck during this period. In spite of this fact the majority of the standard text books give little space to this period; Brooke only allots fourteen pages, and although Oman treats this period more fully, details of types are not given in most cases. Hawkins deals fully with the various types of busts and reverses of the different reigns, but this period is not illustrated at all, and unless one has a known specimen to go by, it is often hard to tell if it is a third or fourth bust, or middle or late type of shield. This book now supplies large diagrams of the busts, where required, which are most useful, and they show differences in them as no description can do. The full lists of all coins struck of each value in the several reigns are invaluable also, and are arranged for handy reference. Degrees of rarity are given, so that a collector can form an approximate idea of the value of his collection, and see at a glance how many rare items, if any, he has. Proofs and patterns are included, so that the lists are complete in all respects. It would seem that if once obtained, this book would immediately become indispensable for all active collectors in this field. In addition to the large diagrams the book is well illustrated. 140pp. Stiff paper cover. 10/- net.

STANDARD CATALOGUE OF THE COINS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND. 1949 EDITION.

Most active collectors of British coins and students of the coinage now look upon Messrs. B. A. Seaby Ltd.'s useful catalogues as a necessity for handy reference, and they look forward to a fresh edition appearing every two years.

The 1949 edition maintains the standard set, and embodies fresh details and illustrations of the ancient British coinage, and that of Henry V. Upwards of 350 coin illustrations, taken mostly from Ruding's plates, are most useful, as are the diagrams and lists of mint marks. The values of average specimens of the different classes of coins are most useful too, and collectors note with some regret that values are still being marked up in most cases. With the aid of the illustrations and descriptions given, any coin should be capable of quick identification, and some idea of its buying-value ascertained. There is also a useful illustrated Anglo-Gallic section. 88pp. Stiff paper cover. 5/- net.

Our copies from B. A. Seaby Ltd., 65 Great Portland Street, London, W.1, are now in Turnbull Library, available for reference by members. W.D.F.

NOTES OF MEETINGS.

AUCKLAND

The fifth meeting of the Auckland Branch was held on 6th July, Mr. T. W. Attwood in the Chair. Mr. H. E. Ramsay and Mr. C. H. West were admitted as members of the Branch. The meeting discussed proposals for increasing the membership of the Branch, and Mr. A. Robinson donated £1 towards expenses in this connection. Mr. Robson donated a rubber stamp for the Branch and Mr. Attwood donated printed letter-heads, and these three members were accorded a hearty vote of thanks. After the meeting an auction of duplicates was conducted.

The sixth meeting was held on 3rd August, Mr. T. W. Attwood in the Chair. Mr. J. C. Entrican was congratulated on being elected a Fellow of the Society. Mr. T. W. Attwood was elected Branch Representative on the Council of the Society. It was reported that Messrs. Attwood, Sellars and Robson attended a meeting of the Auckland Travel Club when a talk, "Custom of the Royal Maundy," was delivered to 500 members present.

Decided to enquire whether back numbers of Journal could be procured at a special rate for new members. (Council has decided that back numbers, except for Vol. IV, No. 1, may be obtained at 2s each from Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. Hornblow, 7 Harrold St., Kelburn Extension, Wellington—Ed.)

The meeting suggested the consideration of a badge for members of the Society.

The 1949 crown pieces were discussed, and members were advised to order their specimens from Mr. Ferguson as soon as possible, and also to secure dated sets of New Zealand half-silver coins which were rapidly being withdrawn for substitution with cupro-nickel.

Mr. T. P. Southern referred to the Australian magazine, *Stamps and Coins*, and read an article therefrom on "Thoughts on the Twopence." Mr. L. D. Norager, Mr. J. P. Roberts and Mr. M. A. C. Lynd were admitted as members of the Branch.

The seventh meeting was held on 7th September, Mr. T. W. Attwood in the Chair. A hearty welcome was extended to two new members, Dr. Gluckman and Mr. Reeves.

It was reported that an Executive meeting had been held for the purpose of formulating a programme for future meetings. It is proposed to have a December meeting, in addition to the March-November series.

The topic for the evening was a talk by Mr. A. Robinson on gold coins of the world, with reference to fluctuations of the gold content of the coins of various nations, and a list of legal weights was also given.

A highlight of the evening was an exhibit of a decadrachm of Syracuse, period 406-400 B.C., described as "the most beautiful coin in the world." Members appreciated the opportunity of seeing this coin which portrays, on the obverse, the head of Arethusa to left with four dolphins around, and on the reverse quadriga to left, with Nike with wreath flying to crown the driver; panoply of arms in exergue.

WELLINGTON.

The 126th (18th Annual) Meeting of the Society was held in Wellington on 27th June, 1949. Mr. Allan Sutherland presided.

Decimal Coinage.—Mr. Goodchild, Rotorua, wrote supporting this proposal, and submitting a letter from the Minister of Finance stating that a good opportunity had been lost in 1933, but that he would keep the proposal in view.

Empire Games Medals.—Successful designs by Mr. James Berry were exhibited, and Mr. Berry was congratulated on his success.

Crown Piece.—The President reported that the Reserve Bank would reserve for the Society one bag containing 400 pieces, and Mr. Ferguson agreed to arrange distribution in response to orders from members, and the basis was fixed at 6s N.Z., including registration postage, etc. Only one specimen will be reserved for each member.

Gold Coins.—Mr. Sutherland referred to recent legislations requiring sellers of gold, including gold coins, to offer these first to Reserve Bank, and he undertook to have discussions with the Reserve Bank to clarify and safeguard the position of members.

Subscriptions.—The Christchurch Branch asked that 2s from the increased subscription of 10s be reserved in respect of each member on the Branch Roll, and this was referred to the Council.

Decided to recommend to incoming Council that favourable consideration be given to creating a junior membership to 18 years, at half the annual rate.

Policy Matters.—Professor Murray moved that the Society adopt as a standard practice the referring of all important matters to Branches for approval or otherwise, before being finally decided by the Council, unless unforeseen circumstances made that impossible. Agreed to.

Fellowship.—The election of Mr. J. C. Entrican, Auckland, as a Fellow of the Society was confirmed. Other nominations were referred to the Council.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were read, discussed by President, Hon. Treasurer and others, and adopted unanimously.

Election of Officers.—In moving that Mr. W. D. Ferguson be elected President, Mr. Sutherland said that no one had rendered more unobtrusive or valuable services to the Society than Mr. Ferguson, who had the welfare of the Society at heart. Mr. A. Quinnell seconded the motion which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Ferguson suitably responded, stating that he was conscious of the honour conferred on him, and that he would do his best to justify that confidence. Other officers were elected as published elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Ferguson suggested that Branches be informed that they each had a Vice-President representing them *ex officio* on the Council and therefore they could appoint one other representative each to the Council.

Votes of thanks were accorded to retiring officers, a Council Meeting was called for 4th July, and the meeting concluded with supper.

The 127th Meeting held in Wellington on 25th July, 1949. Mr. W. D. Ferguson presided.

A letter from Christchurch Branch stated that Mr. Caffin was specially interested in badges, military medals and occupation money

of the 1939-45 war, and asked that this be brought before members who might be able to help him.

Welcome.—The President, on behalf of members, welcomed Mr. de Rouffignac who has recovered from a long illness.

Local Subscription.—It was suggested that local membership of Branches for purposes of subsidy should be limited to residence within 25 miles of a G.P.O. The matter was referred to the next Council meeting.

Journals.—Mr. Martin reported on the investigation carried out by Mr. Hornblow and himself, and stated that they were of the opinion that it was inadvisable to increase the price of the Journal.

It was decided that 20 copies of Vol. 5, No. 2, containing the lecture on "The Conversion of Constantine" delivered at Victoria University College by Mr. Mattingly, be handed to Professor Murray for distribution to members of the Classical Association.

Mr. Hornblow donated a bound copy of Volume 3 for inclusion in the Library. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

Exhibits.—It was suggested that more attention be given to exhibits at the meetings, and that members be encouraged to bring exhibits each night. This was endorsed by members present.

Talk.—Mr. Quinnell gave an interesting talk on the origin of coinage.

The 128th Meeting held in Wellington on 29th August, 1949. Mr. W. D. Ferguson occupied the Chair.

Welcome.—The President welcomed Mr. Dale, Christchurch, to the meeting. In replying, Mr. Dale gave an interesting resumé of his recent visit to Australia, and also of the activities of the Christchurch Branch.

Donations.—A bound volume, *Notes on English Coins, 1066-1648*, was received from B. A. Seaby Ltd., London, and Mr. P. Watts-Rule, Timaru, presented a handsome medallion designed by him for Timaru Boys' High School. A hearty vote of thanks to both donors was carried with acclamation.

Thanks.—Mr. and Mrs. Berry were thanked for their gift of a table for the use of the Society.

Talk.—Mr. Freeman read a most interesting printed and illustrated paper on "The First Coins of Israel," by Leo Kaufmann of the Numismatic Society of Israel, Te-Aviv. A vote of thanks was accorded and Mr. Horwood then gave an address, accompanied by exhibits, on "The 100th Year of the Florin." Vote of thanks carried with acclamation.

The 129th Meeting was held on 26th September, 1949. Mr. W. D. Ferguson presided.

Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, Auckland, a foundation member and a Past President was heartily welcomed.

Decimal Coinage.—Messrs. A. Sutherland and J. Berry were authorised to interview the Minister of Industries and Commerce to advocate the formulation, by the New Zealand Standards Institute, of a decimal coinage standard in association with other non-decimal-coinage countries of the Commonwealth.

Counterfeit Currency.—Mr. Murray Weston read a paper on counterfeiting (published in this issue) and was accorded a vote of thanks by acclamation. Mr. Berry exhibited Japanese invasion or counterfeit money; a counterfeit New Zealand half-crown was also shown.

Radio Talks.—Mr. James Berry donated to Library scripts of his recent radio talks on numismatics.

CANTERBURY BRANCH

The 11th Meeting was held in Christchurch on 25th August, 1949.
Mr. L. J. Dale occupied the Chair.

A progress report was given in connection with the proposed Canterbury Centennial Medal.

It was proposed that the Canterbury token material be printed, illustrated, and issued in booklet form. The Editorial Committee was asked to report on this.

Mr. C. M. Robb was elected to represent the Canterbury Branch on the Council of the Society.

The Annual Meeting was fixed for 24th November, when a guest speaker will probably be arranged.

Mr. J. Caffin donated two books to library, and was accorded a vote of thanks therefore.

"Maundy Celebrations of England" was the subject of a paper by Miss S. A. Lange. Mr. L. J. Dale exhibited a complete set of George VI Maundy money, with special bags, as presented in 1948, and Mr. J. Sutherland displayed sets of Maundy money issued since Charles II, to date. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Lange.

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A Catalogue of Roman Coins by Gilbert Askew, F.S.A. 3,340 coins described. 128 pages, 295 illustrations. 5/6, postage paid.

Another edition by the same author which will include Roman Gold will be available in about six months. 10/6, postage paid.

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