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

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 1948.

THE EXCHANGE RATE.

The twenty-five per cent appreciation in value of the New Zealand pound to par with sterling, so swiftly made on 19th August last, has had some amusing repercussions, mainly in the refusal to accept Australian coins which were depreciated overnight by one-quarter their former value.

In Auckland a line of tramcars was held up at a rush period because a conductor refused to accept an Australian penny, and the passenger refused to find another coin or to give his name or to get off the tramcar. The traffic block was broken only after another passenger produced a New Zealand penny.

The banks in New Zealand will buy Australian notes and silver coins at the rate of £A.126 14s 3d equals £N.Z.100, and Australian silver coins as follows: A.2s for 1s 7d; A.1s for 9d; A.6d for 5d, and A.3d for 3d.

As a result of our close geographical association with Australia, and the predominance of Australian banks trading in New Zealand, Australian coins have hitherto been freely accepted at face value in New Zealand. These coins are not legal tender here. There was a time when we were glad to accept Australian coins, and when approximately thirty per cent of the silver coins in the country were of Australian origin.

Seventeen years have elapsed since the New Zealand currency was first depreciated. In 1930 Australia depreciated its pound against sterling, and this resulted in a greater influx of Australian coins into New Zealand, where they were accepted at face value with the Imperial coins current. Smuggling out of Imperial coins, and in of Australian coins then commenced, and in 1931, when New Zealand depreciated its pound to £110 to £100 sterling, the smuggling activities were stimulated.

In 1933 the New Zealand pound was further depreciated to £125 to £100 sterling, and this made the two-way smuggling of coins more profitable still. The Government prohibited the import and export of silver coins, but the

illegal traffic prospered to such an extent that the banks experienced difficulty in supplying the coinage requirements of traders. The Government was then forced to issue a distinctive New Zealand coinage, and meantime to import florins from Australia to tide over the period until the new coins arrived.

This was also the period when gold-buying shops were opened to reap a rich harvest buying gold coins and gold for export. In 1934 the export of coined gold was prohibited, and the Government took over all gold coins, approximately £6 million, held by trading banks.

In 1935 Imperial silver coins were demonetised in New Zealand, but were always gladly accepted after that year. In 1938 the Reserve Bank suspended its obligation to pay sterling for Reserve Bank notes.

The silver content of Australian coins remained at .925 until 1946 when cupro-nickel was used. In the early twenties the Imperial Government changed to a fifty per cent silver content to prevent coins being melted down for silver; New Zealand coins also contained only fifty per cent silver until 1947 when cupro-nickel coins were introduced. The banks are now in the process of withdrawing all part-silver coins from circulation.

TREASURE TROVE.

(Paper read before the Christchurch Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.)

By MISS E. R. THOMAS.

THE dictionary definition of the term "Treasure Trove" ("trove" meaning "a thing found") is:

Money, plate, bullion, coin, gold, or silver, found hidden in the earth or other private place, the owner being unknown. In England treasure-trove belongs to the Crown, and concealment by the finder is an indictable offence.

In the United States property found, the owner being unknown, usually belongs to the finder.

Strictly speaking, therefore, the term "treasure-trove" signifies money, jewels or other valuables buried in the earth, the owner being unknown. To some extent I shall take liberties with this meaning. This will be no erudite thesis on a subject which is extremely fascinating, but a brief record of some of the stories I have found relating to treasure.

In the introduction to Robert Louis Stevenson's inimitable story *Treasure Island* he has a poem, part of which reads:

If schooners, islands, and maroons
And buccaneers and buried gold,
And all the old romance, retold
Exactly in the ancient way,
Can please, as me they pleased of old,
.....
—So be it.

Prior to the establishment of the Bank of England in 1674, the goldsmiths were mainly the holding companies for securities. The majority of the people held their own wealth, and hiding-places for the safety of their treasures were a great problem. Many a man must have died without disclosing the whereabouts of his valuables, and so the years have seen the discovery and recovery of small and great hoards in very curious places.

In recent years many books have been written about the English country-side, and so rich is the store of history of our homeland that almost invariably these books contain stories of the finding of buried treasures. The chief interest in these is the way in which the life or ancient times can be portrayed from the nature of the articles discovered. Coinage plays no small part in this reproduction. For instance at Hengistbury in Hampshire, it has been found that before the arrival of the Roman legions in Britain there was a British mint at the base of a hill here. The hearth used for minting the coins, the dies, and some of the coins have been unearthed, showing that there was then a degree of civilisation quite unexpected.

From *Wanderings in Anglo-Saxon Britain*, by Arthur Weigall, I extract the following:

Many hoards of Anglo-Saxon coins have been found in various parts of the country. In the British Museum you may see a beautiful silver chalice, found with other gold and silver objects and over one hundred silver coins at St. Austell in Cornwall; a bronze bucket from Hexham, Northumberland, which contained 8,000 coins; a splendidly decorated silver-gilt cup from Halton Moor, Lancashire, which contained 860 silver coins and some pieces of stamped gold.

For my London readers I may specially mention that a hoard of 7,000 coins of late Anglo-Saxon date was found in the City; another hoard of 400 coins was unearthed near St. Mary-at-Hill; and yet another of 241 coins was discovered near Fleet Street.

A large collection of Anglo-Saxon coins is to be seen in the British Museum, and there are collections also in many of the local museums throughout the country. The earliest known coins of this epoch are small pieces of gold or silver known as

sceattas, the word sceat meaning "treasure"; they date from about 600 A.D., and the designs upon them are copied from those on the latest coins of the Roman age in Britain. Many hoards of Anglo-Saxon coins of the period of the Danish invasion have been found in Scandinavia, these representing the money paid to the raiders to buy them off, a practice often resorted to at the time when England was distracted and unable to meet the Danes in battle with any hope of success.

Arthur Mee writes that near Fyfield in Hampshire a Roman villa was dug up and among the finds were a tessellated pavement, gateposts of green sandstone, and coins belonging to the time of Carausius, the rebel who made himself a sort of Emperor of Britain (287-293 A.D.). The few coins of his regime catalogued range in price from 17/6 to £200.

Of the treasures found in the ancient city of Silchester were coins dating from Mark Antony, the celebrated Roman triumvir and general, 83-30 B.C.; he was a prominent adherent of Caesar, but engaged in intrigues after Caesar's death and was opposed by Brutus and Cassius. His association with the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra made him a prominent figure of historic romance. He committed suicide after his defeat by Octavian.

After Caesar's second visit to Britain, Commius accompanied him back to Gaul, while his three sons reigned in Britain, issuing gold coins which state that they are his sons.

Athelstan, 895-940 A.D., the grandson of Alfred the Great, was crowned King of England in 925, and was the first ruler of all England. He had a mint at Southampton.

The village of Beaumont in England has seen the discovery of remarkable treasure trove; in 1837 many medieval coins were found at Sandsfield near by, and in 1884 a box containing 6,000 coins of the 14th century came to light.

At Beetham Church somebody had a golden surprise long ago, for hidden under a pillar in the nave was a hoard of money, a store of over a hundred coins of the time of Edward the Confessor and the Conqueror. Edward the Confessor, 1004-1066, was the Anglo-Saxon king who immediately preceded—save for the brief reign of Harold of less than a year—the Norman Conquest. He founded Westminster Abbey, where previously a smaller church, then dilapidated, had a precarious existence. Edward was a religious-minded mystic, and was canonised in 1161, and given the shrine in the Abbey of his origination, which yet remains fairly intact despite the ravages of time and disturbing hands. William I, 1027-1087, better known as

“William the Conqueror,” was Duke of Normanby when he claimed the throne of England as legally appointed successor to the Confessor. The claim was resisted by Harold II, but the battle of Hastings, in which Harold was slain and his army routed, gave the victory to William, who in due course was crowned in Westminster Abbey. The story of his life and reign is the story of the crushing of Saxon power, the parcelling out of the country among his Norman followers, a firm rule that made England a respected, and great power among the nations. These Beetham coins were, therefore, of the 9th century. They may have been left when Beetham Church was built, hidden for awhile by someone who meant to come back in a day or two, but did not come back, so that his hoard lay undisturbed for many centuries.

Following a list of Roman treasures found in London, a writer says:

In 1825 a graceful little silver figure of the child Harpocrates, the God of Silence, looped with a gold chain, was found in the Thames, and is now in the British Museum. In 1839 a pair of gold armlets was dug up in Queen Street, Cheapside. In a kiln in St. Paul's Churchyard, in 1677, there were found lamps, bottles, urns and dishes. Among other relics of Roman London drifted down by time we may instance articles of red glazed pottery, tiles, glass cups, window glass, bath scrapers, gold hair-pins, enamelled clasps, sandals, writing tablets, bronze spoons, forks, distaffs, bells, dice, and mill stones. As for coins, which the Romans seem to have hid in every conceivable nook, Mr. Roach Smith says that within twenty years upwards of 2,000 were, to his own knowledge, found in London, chiefly in the bed of the Thames. Only one Greek coin, as far as we know, has ever been met with in London excavations.

Although the foregoing was written about one hundred years ago, the Thames has apparently not yet given up all its treasure-trove; for you will all no doubt remember the following report from London which appeared in our local press in October, 1947.

Treasures worth thousands of pounds—among them medieval rings, bracelets, and money, Roman beads and pottery and a Stone Age necklace—have been picked out of the Thames mud by Mr. Robin Green, a London antiquarian.

“Recently I joined him and his band of helpers in a search of the mud left by the tide near Blackfriars,” writes Chapman Pincher. “In five minutes we found a silver bracelet, a Bow porcelain figure, a halfpenny dated 1669, and glass beads made in Aleppo 2,000 years ago. When Mr. Green read in Pepy's diary that boats loaded with household goods in the Great Fire in 1666 had overturned near Southwark Bridge he searched the spot. He found bone and pewter spoons, ivory-handled knives, pots, jewellery, and toys. Later he found a medieval wedding ring which could only have fitted the hand of a child wife, and

a ring set with many pearls. A gold button from the mud is stamped with the mystic sign of Solomon and the Tudor rose. It probably belonged to a member of the notorious Hell-fire Club, which used to practice witchcraft.

"In another stretch of City mud Mr. Green found five 17th century jews' harps and a clay pipe with the royal sign of Charles II on it. These puzzled him until he learned that in 1677 a ship with a cargo of jews' harps and clay pipes left that spot to trade with the Indians in Virginia.

"Mr. Green got his first clue to the Thames treasures quite accidentally. While firefighting on the river in 1941 he slipped in the mud and found he was clutching a James I clay pipe.

"In the same place he showed me hundreds of pipes left by the tide dating from Elizabethan days to the time of Queen Anne."

Of the Tower of London, a writer comments :

Several interesting discoveries of Roman antiquities within the Tower precincts encourage us to the belief in the old tradition that the Romans built a fortress here. In 1777, workmen digging the foundations of a new office for the Board of Ordnance, after breaking through foundations of ancient buildings, found below the level of the present river-bed a double wedge of silver, four inches long, and in the broadest part nearly three inches broad. In the centre was the inscription "Ex officinâ Honorii." This ingot is supposed to have been cast in the reign of the Emperor Honorius, A.D. 393, the Roman Emperor who, harassed by the Goths, in A.D. 410 surrendered Britain to its own people, and finally withdrew the Roman troops. The unhappy Britons, then overwhelmed by the Picts and Scots, applied for assistance to the Saxons, who soon conquered the people they had come to assist. With this silver ingot were found three gold coins, AUREI, one of Honorius, and two of his brother Arcadius. The coins of Arcadius were probably struck at Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern empire. On these coins (reverse) there is a soldier treading a captive under foot. In his left hand the soldier holds the labarum; in the right, a small figure of Victory.

A London report of October, 1947, tells of yet another modern discovery of ancient wealth :

George Willetts, a 14-year-old boy of Wedgwood Road, Clifton, Lancashire, England, sat swinging his legs on the edge of a sandpit near his home. His eyes fell on some purplish discs in the sand beneath him. They were coins. He found forty-six and a later search revealed twenty-five more. He and a friend consulted books at Salford Museum and decided they were Richard I pennies. Outside the museum a woman offered 25s for one of the coins and later raised this to £2. An inquest jury heard George's story, and learned from Mr. Harold Raby, Honorary Curator of Coins at Manchester University Museum, that George's guess wasn't far out. The coins were minted in the time of Henry II or Henry III, which makes them at least seven hundred years old. Of the thirty-four examined, nineteen were made in London, three at Canterbury, one at Winchester,

and another at Wilton. The jury decided they were treasure trove and should go to the Treasury. But the Coroner consoled George on saying that although there was no legal right in the matter, finders were usually compensated by the Home Office.

It is a long way from England to the United State of America, but my next reference comes from there—a newspaper report of October, 1944.

Coins from pirate treasure in the sands of Cape Cod were brought to Winthrop (Massachusetts) by Edward Snow, the historian. The ancient, pitted silver coins bear Spanish, Portuguese and South American seals. Mr. Snow says that three centuries ago a storm-lashed pirate sloop foundered near the cape. Natives reported that all hands went down. He went to inspect the wreckage of an ancient ship, a section of which is still visible in eighteen feet of water. In the home of a local resident Mr. Snow saw piles of silver coins the man had recovered. "I estimated that I saw between £2,000 and £2,500 worth," he said. "There's a lot more left in the sand, if someone has the patience to dig it out. I recovered quite a few just by diving near the wreck."

There is undoubtedly much treasure hidden in the sands around our own island home, awaiting the fortunate discoverer. Allan Sutherland states that coins have been found in harbour dredge-spoil, and the grouping of the dates suggests that the coins were lost over the sides of sailing vessels riding at anchor, or lost by immigrants rowing ashore. Mr. Sutherland continues:

At various beaches, coins of many kinds have been recovered. At Russell, Bay of Islands, early foreign and British coins are frequently uncovered on the shingly beach, particularly after storms. This pretty crescent beach was, in a sense, the cradle ground of New Zealand trade, and here, naturally, sailors of all nationalities would trade, have their carousals, and sleep off the effects of rum which, incidentally, was another type of "liquid" currency used in those days, and it is reasonable to assume that coins would fall from their hands or pockets, and become covered. Here the coins have lain, and a century afterwards the waves are still uncovering them, providing unexpected and enduring links with the romantic past.

There may still be some money and other valuables belonging to my family along the sands of the West Coast. In 1868 or 1869 a great-uncle, with his wife and family left Westport en route to Melbourne in a sailing ship of about 200 tons. In going down the Buller River, the tide must have been low, as she struck the bar at the river mouth, damaging the hull, the vessel going into deep water in a sinking condition. The Captain ordered all the men, crew and passengers to work the pumps in shifts night and day, to keep the ship afloat. The cargo and some of the

passengers' heavy luggage had to be thrown overboard to lighten the ship and after a buffeting in tremendous seas the ship arrived in Nelson in a sinking condition. My mother's aunt told her that they lost everything excepting fifty sovereigns which she had sewn into her clothing for safety while travelling. One of her sons, now nearly ninety years of age, treasures an interesting souvenir of that trip. A watch was in their jettisoned luggage, some of which was recovered, having been washed up on one of the beaches some weeks after; and he still has the silver case as a memento.

One of the most interesting in my treasure-trove of stories is that relating to the figure of Britannia on the English penny, with which we are still familiar although we have had our own bronze coinage since 1940. Samuel Pepys writes under date 25th February, 1667:

So up by coach abroad . . . And at my goldsmith's did observe the King's new medal, where, in little, there is Mrs. Steward's face as well done as ever I saw anything in my whole life, I think; and a pretty thing it is, that he should choose her face to represent Britannia by.

The Editor's note states: "This was a large silver medal with the King's head on one side and on the other Frances Stuart, afterwards Duchess of Richmond, as Britannia." Charles II, born in 1630 reigned from 1649 until 1685; in Glasgow Cathedral there is a memorial to the Stewarts of Minto and it is told that King Charles II fell in love with one of the daughters of the house. But although she refused to marry him, he set her likeness, as Britannia, on the copper coinage of the realm.

Writing of Hampton Court, Arthur Mee says:

Three series of paintings have perhaps drawn more visitors to the palace than any individual works. Everybody knows one of the women in the Windsor Beauties by Sir Peter Lely, for she was the model for the Britannia who, with trident and Greek helmet, has made our penny one of the most interesting coins in the world. This stately figure of Britannia represents the Duchess of Richmond, familiarly known as La Belle Stuart, the handsome woman who charmed the Court of Charles the Second, one of the rare women of that Court, for she was never known to speak ill of anyone. Her portrait here is the most beautiful of the company which Lely painted for his royal patron.

There seems to be some difference of opinion regarding this lady, for another writer states:

The copper coinage was also now first originated, and the Mint poured forth floods of half-pence and farthings, disgraced

by the figure of Britannia modelled from one of Charles's mistresses, afterwards Duchess of Richmond.

There are three different designs of Britannia on the backs of bronze pennies. The first one, made in 1860, had a lighthouse and a ship on them. In 1895 the lighthouse and ship came off, and Britannia was left with nothing to look at but open sea. There were questions in the House about this. People said: "If you could have a lighthouse and a ship for your penny before, why not now?" After thinking this over for forty-two years the Mint hit on a compromise. They put the lighthouse back on the penny and a ship on the half-penny. The half-penny ship is supposed to be Drake's *Golden Hind*.

At one time pennies were copper, but they were changed to bronze in 1860 because that metal was found to make better coins. They were neater and did not wear out so quickly.

A visitor to Pompeii in February, 1833, writes of an interesting discovery amongst the ruins. Pompeii, formerly a town at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius on the Bay of Naples, was overwhelmed by volcanic ashes during the historic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79. For centuries it was lost sight of, but in 1592 some remains were discovered when an aqueduct was being constructed. Excavations were begun in 1748 and have continued through the years. In 1833 a great number of buildings had been uncovered, although much has been done from 1860 onwards; as late as 1915 discoveries were made. The writer I have referred to describes in a letter a visit to the temple of Isis, and amongst other things notes seeing the skeleton of one of the priests found prostrate near the temple, and in his hand 360 coins of silver, 42 of bronze, and 8 of gold, wrapped strongly in a cloth. He had probably stopped before his flight to load himself with the treasures of the temple, and was overtaken by the shower of cinders, and suffocated.

In H. V. Morton's *Middle East* he has a very interesting chapter on a trip across the Western Desert to Siwa. Included in this is the record of a visit to the ruins of the temple of Jupiter Ammon. He recalls the fact that in 321 B.C. the most interesting and important of all Ammon's visitors approached the oasis, the young Alexander the Great, who had just conquered Egypt. Mr. Morton writes:

In the year 321 B.C., the most interesting and important of all Ammon's visitors approached the oasis, the young Alexander the Great, who had just conquered Egypt. He could hardly conceal his impatience to come face to face with the god, and so,

no sooner had the ground-plan of Alexandria been approved by him and marked out by the architects, than he set off for Parætonium, and then struck inland to Siwa. So great was his anxiety to see the god, and so undeniable the wishes of the young master of the world, that the priests exempted him from the period of probation usual before a man was permitted to present himself to a god. Straight as he came from the desert with the ten days' dust of his journey upon him, he was led into the sanctuary while the members of his entourage bathed and changed their clothes. And in the darkness of the sanctuary one of the most interesting of history's unknown conversations took place: the conversations between Alexander and Jupiter Ammon. All we know about it is that the ram-headed god proclaimed Alexander to be his son, and the recognition, preposterous as it may seem to the modern mind, had an immense influence upon Alexander's life and upon the future course of kingship. As every coin collector knows, the beautiful silver tetradrachms of Alexander after that date show his handsome head crowned with a couple of ram's horns that curve downwards over his ears, evidently a crown that he devised for himself to be worn on state occasions in memory of his divine parent.

H. V. Morton, in his book *In Scotland Again*, has a most entertaining story—and not about the Scotch bawbee! He writes:

I wish someone would find the treasure chest of the Tobermory galleon and go away bulging with gold. Then at least we might know the truth about this mystery.

If they even found gold in small quantities—say £5 worth—then it would be encouraging. But no; nearly every year the same eager treasure hunters arrive in Tobermory with their innocent, hopeful faces and their divers and dredgers. And Tobermory, which has seen this display of hope since 1640, when, in fact, Tobermory was nothing but a few scattered huts, smiles in its beard. The Spanish galleon is Tobermory's typically long Scottish joke! . . .

. . . What happened seems to be this. The galleon was driven into Tobermory by the storm, but was still capable of making her way back to Spain. She had men and munitions, but required water and food. When the clansmen came down to the ship The MacLean promised to revictual the galleon if the captain would lend him a hundred soldiers to ravage the islands of Rum and Muck. When this little war was over The MacLean and his mercenaries returned to the galleon, but he refused to permit the Spaniards to go aboard until he had received payment for food in pieces of eight. This the captain agreed to give.

The Highland chief sent one of his clan, Donald Glas, to collect the money. He was held captive. The ship was prepared for sea. Just before she made off for Spain the imprisoned Highlander found his way to the powder magazine and blew her sky high. That story is, I suppose, as good as any.

"They have bad luck year after year," said a Tobermory man to me. "They bring up old wood and sometimes a bit of rusty metal. It hurts you to see them working so hard and

all for nothing." He lowered his voice: "Do you know," he said, "I've been minded more than once to go out at night in a boat and drop a few things for them to fish up, just to cheer them up?"

"I've got a Spanish dagger," I told him.

"Have you so?" he said, brightening.

But it would be no good. They want gold in enormous quantities and—they deserve it.

One more story from London: In the *Public Advertiser* of February 17th, 1756, there is an account of one Mary Jenkins, a dealer in old clothes in Rag Fair, selling a pair of breeches to a poor woman for sevenpence and a pint of beer. While the two were drinking together at a public-house, the lucky purchaser found, on unripping the clothes, eleven guineas of gold quilted in the waist-band (eleven Queen Anne guineas), and a £30 bank-note, dated 1729, of which note the purchaser did not learn the value till she had sold it for a gallon of twopenny purl.

Not only in older lands have treasures been discovered, but even in our own country not a year passes but our daily papers record some fresh find. There is not the intrinsic value perhaps, but the romantic interest is no less for that.

I have no time left to tell stories of recovery, but will hurriedly mention a few of the recent finds.

Several coins dating from 1817 to 1887 were found in Christchurch during excavations for foundations for the new Dudley Creek bridge. One Sydenham garden produced a Russian silver coin of 1861 and a United States gold dollar of 1851. From Westport comes the report of finding a half-sovereign of 1857 in a garden. A Woodville resident digging in his garden discovered forty-three Australian half-sovereigns. Dunedin's story is of boys finding jam tins and bottles in an unoccupied house filled with money. The total collection weighed 30 lbs. and amounted to £78. These were not buried treasure, but had been left in a washhouse. A city garden has rendered up one of the early tokens, that of the Alliance Tea Company.

One really valuable hoard was discovered recently in a rubbish dump in Sydney; eight tobacco tins containing about £450 in notes. The tins were badly corroded and the notes in a bad state of decomposition. Notes are still not as desirable as metal if one wishes to hoard!

I shall close with a genuine "fish-story." A teller at the Savings Bank Head office, Adelaide, got a shock when a man walked in and said he wanted to sell a sovereign. He had found it inside a butterfish he had caught in the Coornong. The sovereign was about as old as South

Australia, for it was dated 1837, the year Queen Victoria came to the Throne. South Australia was proclaimed in 1836. However, it bore the portrait of the Queen's uncle, King William IV. The sovereign looked as if it had just been minted, and the bank teller paid out £2 9s 1d for it. This undoubtedly met the dictionary definition of "treasure-trove." "Money . . . found hidden in the earth *or other private place*, the owner being unknown." (See plate 13 illustrating several of the coins referred to.)

Mr. Berry mentioned the long buried treasure of a 33-piece set of superb Roman silver which was ploughed up near Mildenhall, Suffolk, in January, 1942, and now forms a special display in the British Museum. An article on this famous discovery included the following interesting extract on the laws of England in regard to the finding of treasures:

If a man digs up out of the ground—even out of his own garden—a piece of metal which is either gold or silver, and if the original owner or his relations cannot be traced, then the find must be reported at once, to the Government, who declare it to be Treasure Trove. It then becomes the property of the Crown. The law states also that it is an offense to conceal such a find, but that if the matter is reported immediately, the finder is entitled to receive compensation of 100 per cent of the value of the article. This law applies only to gold or silver. A man may dig up as much valuable old pewter, bronze or iron as he can, and retain it or sell it without offense, but gold or silver becomes Treasure Trove.

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Dictionaries; Encyclopædias; *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson; *The King's England—Hampshire*, Arthur Mee; *Wanderings in Anglo-Saxon Britain*, Arthur Weigall; *Old and New London*, 2 vols., Walter Thornbury; *Numismatic History of New Zealand*, Allan Sutherland; "The Outlook," article by W. Bower Black; *The Christchurch Press*, *The Star-Sun*; Diary, Samuel Pepys; *Pencillings by the Way*, N. P. Willis; *In Scotland Again*, H. V. Morton; *Middle East*, H. V. Morton.

FELLOWS AND HONORARY FELLOWS.

The first Fellows and Honorary Fellows of the Society have been elected. These distinctions can only be conferred on three per cent of the members in each group in any year, and are given to those who are eminent in numismatic science or who have rendered signal service to the Society.

The stature of a Society is measured not only by its achievements and progress, but also by the friendships which bind its members together, and motivate their activities.

The Fellows and Honorary Fellows, whose names appear elsewhere, have made their mark in other spheres of endeavour, and we are honouring the Society by honouring them.

MINT AND PRIVY MARKS OF ENGLISH COINAGE.

By MR. ERIC HORWOOD,
Wellington.

(Paper read before Society.)

AS every collector knows, many coins, and particularly those of medieval times, are only capable of classification by means of various signs and symbols on them, called mint marks or privy marks, and it is with this in mind that I intend dealing with the English series.

From early Anglo-Saxon times, when England became united under one ruler, it was the practice of individual moneyers to put their names, and also the name of the mint place (abbreviated or in full) upon their issues as a means of identification. While this system was well enough in its way at a time when output was small and variation did not greatly matter, allowing scope for individual craftsmanship, these were hindrances to greater output, while variations tended to cause confusion by the public as coins circulated more widely and freely, and in 1279 currency reforms were introduced whereby the coinage was standardised, foreign coins were no longer recognised as legal currency, and mints came under control of one master.

With the appointment of William de Turnemire as first mint master, moneyers names ceased to appear on coins. At about this time, mention is made for provision of pyx trials, whereby the master must place specimens of every journey-weight of coins in a pyx, to be sealed every three months and sent for trial, and a privy mark to be placed on coins. It is these marks, and known change every third month, which greatly helps coins from this time being classified and approximately dated. The commencement date of the pyx trials is not known, but a similar trial is mentioned by chronicler John of Oxenedes in 1250.

The high cost of dies, at 7s a dozen, or dozen sets, quoted in 1373, dictated strict economy in their use and forced the mint marks to be simple and easily capable of change, without making new dies necessary. It must be borne in mind that the cost represents a present-day equivalent of approximately £30. Many variations were possible, such as placing of annulet or saltire within group of pellets in a different quarter of the coin for each three-monthly period of the year, broken or inverted letters, irregularities in size or position of letters and other minor features.

Needless to say, by these practices the appearance of coins suffered, as old privy-marks were seldom, if ever, removed when new ones were added, but at the same time, as a means of classifying coins in their correct sequence, these "mules" are invaluable, as there is very little else to distinguish different issues; for instance one king would use his predecessor's portrait and titles for several years before even bothering to have the name changed, and in the case of the first three Edwards in particular, great confusion exists as to which one to assign the various coins.

The next step forward in an attempt to improve the appearance of coins was by adoption of an agreed symbol or initial mark, and this commenced with the gold coinage of Richard II when a lion and then an escollop appeared on the rudder of the ship in reverse. The only other example of this arrangement to that date was on silver coins of the privileged ecclesiastic mints, of a crozier for Bishop Hatfield of Durham, and quartrefoil for Archbishop Thoresby of York, to distinguish from royal issues.

From this time it is worth noting some of the initial marks used, their sequence and when new symbols were added.

Henry IV light coinage symbols were trefoil, annulet and pellet, all simple marks, while those of Henry VI (1422-61) were annulet, rosette-mascle, pinecone-mascle, leaf-mascle, leaf-trefoil, trefoil, trefoil-pellet, leaf-pellet, cross-pellet and lis-pellet in conjunction; variation in position of stops, miss-spelling and changing position of letters as with e on back and reversed s are some of the 150 privy marks used during this reign.

Edward IV used emblems such as fleur-de-lis, rose, sun, annulet and crosses in various forms. In 1465 the Archbishop of Canterbury for the first time used his own emblems of pall and Bourchier knot on ecclesiastic issues of that town.

Richard III used his personal emblem of a boar's head, which appeared on his coat of arms.

Henry VII in his changes of coinage developed the use of initial mark as against irregularities in design, to differentiate issues. He also began the use of an actual portrait of the reigning monarch on his coins, as opposed to stereotyped effigies which had hitherto appeared and this, together with cleaning up of design by removing irregularities, was a great improvement. Symbols used by Henry VII were a pansy on $\frac{1}{2}$ groat of London of 1500, and lis-issant-from rose, anchor and greyhound's head on other

silver denominations up to 1504. The earliest gold coins of this reign bear the mark of cross-fitchée and later dragon, also crosslet and pheon combined with lis and escollop in 1495.

With the adoption of the profile portrait by Alexander of Brugsal (circa 1504-7) the mint mark on $\frac{1}{2}$ groat changed to lis and pheon, with martlet and rose for Canterbury, and York had keys in addition below shield.

About 1490-95 Archbishop of Canterbury had the privilege of coining withdrawn, and instead held a share in profits accruing, so his symbol ceased and tun mint mark was used to distinguish Canterbury issues. Final closure of ecclesiastical mints occurred in the next reign following Cardinal Wolsey's coinage in the time of Thomas Cromwell, and the dissolution of monasteries. Wolsey's action in issuing groats bearing his initials and cardinal's hat usurped the royal prerogative, and was one of the charges against him at the time of his sudden death.

Finance became complicated during Henry VIII's reign owing to debasement of coinage in an effort to raise money for his extravagances. The initial mark was the only guide for sequence of coin issues and different finenesses. Order of sequence as shown by mules being rose, lis, arrow, sunburst, lis and pheon.

Edward VI instituted changes to restore coinage to former fineness, and again confusion was caused with so many different finenesses in the same type of coin currency in circulation as improvement was progressively made. Edward also extended pyx trials from three to twelve months.

One practice was that of using initials of the mint master as distinguishing symbols for provincial mints of Bristol and Canterbury. The arrow and swan mint marks of this reign attributed to Sir Martin Bowes, under treasurer at Tower mint, as they also appear in his coat of arms, and bow mint mark to John Bowes, master of Durham house mint, Strand, which was former London residence of the Bishops of Durham. Another innovation of Edward's reign was dating of coins and appears to have commenced on half sovereigns of 1549, followed by mark of value on shilling of 1551. Mary added one more to the growing list of mint marks by the use of a pomegranate on her silver issues.

Elizabeth, shortly after her accession, called in remaining base testoons, and at collecting points they were over-stamped and reissued at values of $4\frac{1}{2}$ d and $2\frac{1}{4}$ d; the former

values marked with a portcullis before Edward's face, and the latter with a greyhound behind his head; finally all base coins were demonetised in 1561. In the same year, new coins of 6d, 3d, 1½d and ¾d values were issued and distinguished from other small coins by a rose behind the Queen's head, but even so, such a small difference in size of these small coins makes them difficult to identify, and they were never popular.

In 1572 pyx trials were restored to their former three-monthly period. New mint marks were lion, coronet, castle, ermine, acorn, eglantine, sword, bell, "A," crescent, hand, woolpack and also figures 0, 1 and 2 which represented abbreviated form of dates 1600, 1601, and 1602.

James I inevitably introduced Scottish emblem of thistle, and other symbols used were grapes 1607, Tower 1612-13, cinquefoil and book 1616-17, while third coinage denoted by spur rowel. In James' reign a practice was adopted of marking coins with symbols to denote the source of bullion from which they were struck, the first issue being the coins of 1621, when silver from the newly-opened Welsh mines was coined and marked with plumes over shield on reverse. Gradual changes made the use of mint marks unnecessary when first coins were dated, and later when value was stated. Two other factors were needed before the mint marks could be eliminated, and these were use of machinery with its exact repetition of design, and speed and freedom of transportation without dangers attendant to movement of bullion in quantity from a central mint to distribution points. Nicolas Briot, with his beautifully executed coins, introduced the machine factor successfully, after the abortive attempt by his fellow-countryman Mestrel in Elizabeth's reign, but only after he had overcome great opposition; his coins bear his initials B in addition to a rose, and later an anchor mint mark.

Differences in the coinage of Charles I when many mints were operated during Civil War was denoted not only by the name of minting place, but also by changed type of plumes in field of coins. New mint marks shown on tower coins being Blackamoor's head, heart, feathers, harp, triangle, triangle within circle, star, (P), (R) and eye, while lion was the mint mark of York.

Parliamentary and Cromwellian coins show only variations of previous mint marks eye and sun, and next period of interest was that of Charles II whose issues show more frequent examples of origin of metal stamped on coins, as with elephant and later in 1681 elephant and castle, denoting

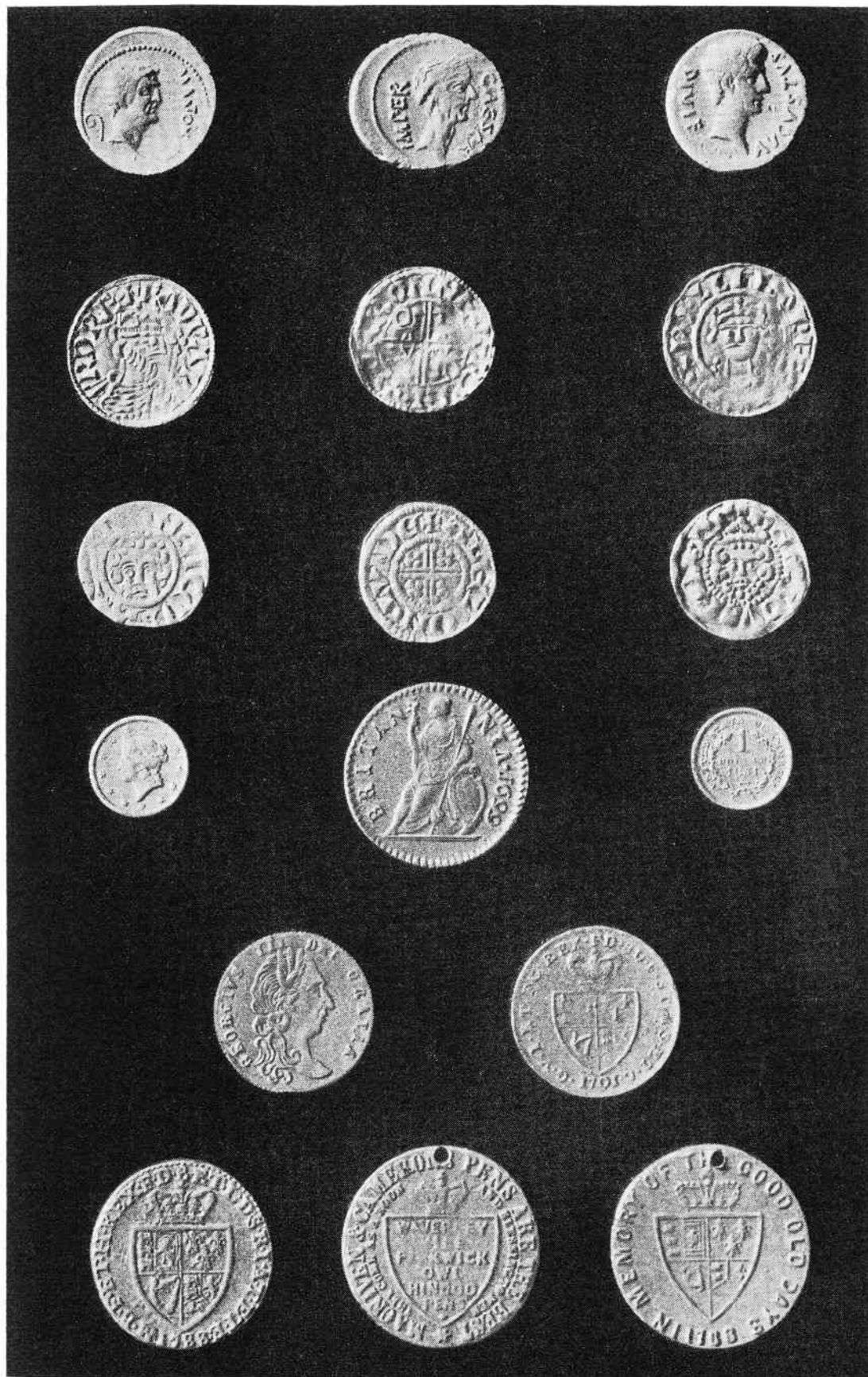


PLATE 13.

COINS DESCRIBED IN THIS ISSUE.

- 1st Row:* Mark Antony, Julius Caesar, Augustus.
2nd Row: Edward the Confessor; ob. and rev., William I.
3rd Row: Henry II and Henry III.
4th Row: Gold Dollars and first type of farthing.
5th and 6th Rows: Imitation Spade Guineas.

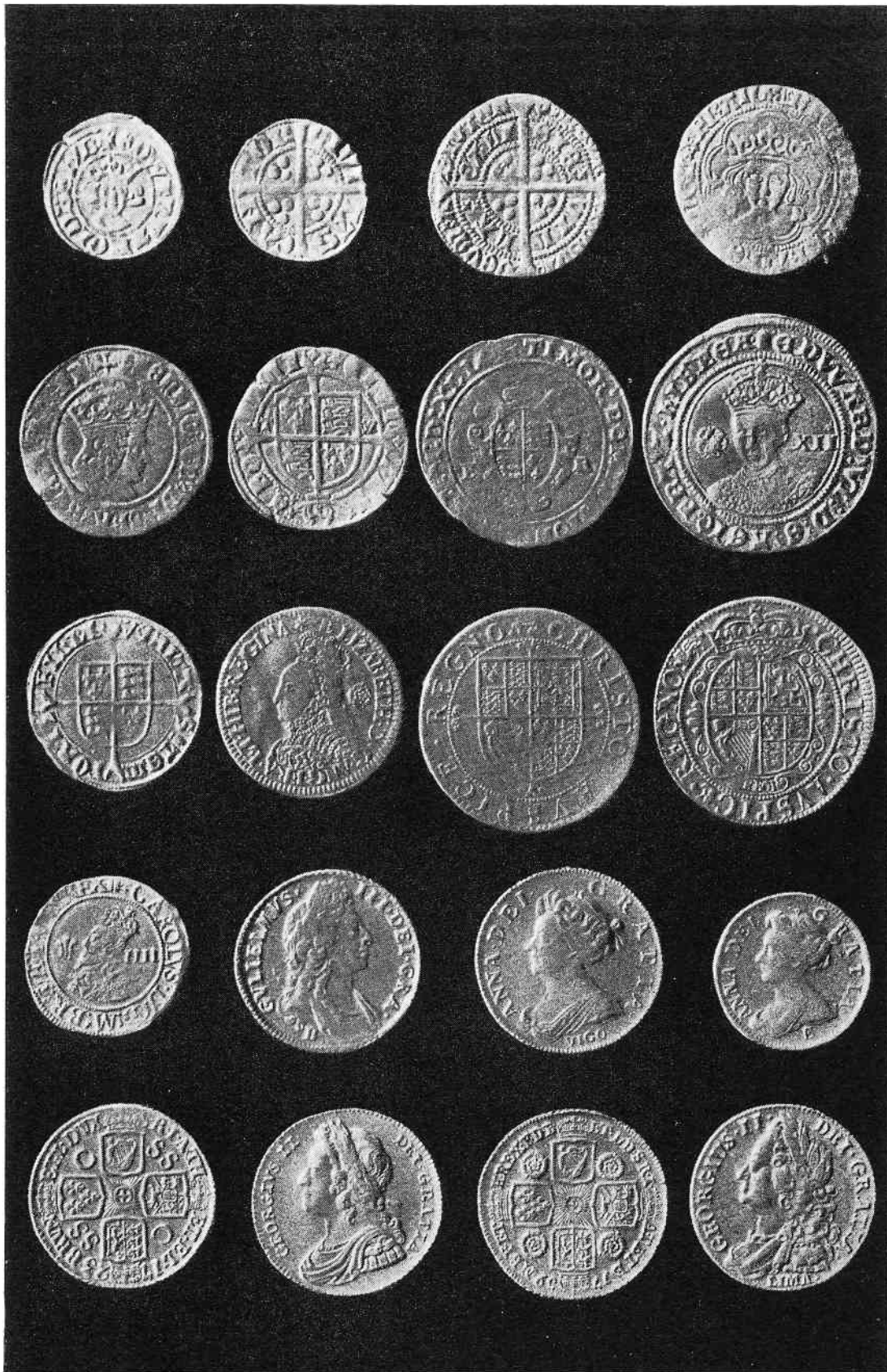



































PLATE 14.

SILVER COINS ILLUSTRATING MINT MARKS.

- 1st Row:* Edward I Pennies: Henry VI Groat: Richard III. Boar Head.
2nd Row: Henry VII portrait: Wolsey Groat: First date 1549: First mark value.
3rd Row: Mary Groat: Mestrell 6d: Briot 1s: York 1s.
4th Row: Groat with plume: Bristol 1s: VIGO: Edinburgh.
5th Row: George I and George II Shillings.

○ Pellet		Castle
⊙ Annulet		Sun & cloud
✚ Plain cross		Pomegranate
✚ Cross pattee		Portcullis
 Cross moline or recercle		Leopard's head
 Coronet		Cross crosslet
✕ Small cross in saltire		Pheon
 Cross fleury		Martlet
 Rosette		Sun and Rose
 Fleur de lys		Cinqfoil
 Quartrefoil		Sun
 Rose		Lys on rose
 Mascle		Escallop
 Sun		Pine cone
 Thistle		Tun
 Grapes		Greyhound's head
 Rose		Boar's head
 Negro's head		Trefoil
 Cross calvary		Open quartre foil
★ Mullet or star		

MINT MARKS

PLATE 15.

From *English Coin Collecting* by John Shirley-Fox, F.R.N.S.



PLATE 16.

FIJI DOLLAR NOTE ISSUED BEFORE BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY.

Can any reader give the history of this issue?

gold and silver supplied by the Africa Company from Guinea, roses for silver from west of England, and roses and plumes, where English and Welsh silver was mixed. Further in this series was the silver coinage of 1702-3 marked "Vigo" under Ann's bust for silver captured in Vigo Bay from Spanish in October, 1702, at the combined sea and land action led respectively by Admiral Rooke and the Duke of Ormonde. Coins of 1723 show initials S.S.C. for bullion supplied by the notorious South Sea Company, and W.C.C. on shillings of 1723-26 denoting Welsh Copper Company, while gold of the period 1729-39 bears East India Company's initials. Last of the series was on silver of 1745 marked Lima under King's bust when £500,000 in bullion was captured by Admiral Anson near that place in the previous year.

After the accession of Charles II and the permanent introduction of machine-made money in place of the old hand-striking methods, the use of mint marks underwent a change as its use for distinguishing normal issues had ceased, and it was only retained to mark source of metal used in notable cases. The final phase of mint marks and one which still exists today is shown in the great recoinage of 1695 when additional mints were opened for two years to deal with greatly increased output necessary; these were situated at Bristol, Chester, Exeter, Norwich and York and are denoted on coins by initial letter of town where struck. Later, at the union with Scotland in 1708, only distinctive feature of coins struck north of the border was E for those of Edinburgh.

At other times since then it has been usual to show coins not struck at the Royal Mint simply by initials, or, as in the case of first copper pennies struck under license by Messrs. Boulton & Watt, at their S.O.H.O. factory near Birmingham, by the full name of mint.

In 1875, 1912 and 1918 initials H. & K.N. appear on bronze issues struck by Messrs. Heaton & Sons and King's Norton Copper Company, and this practice was finally extended to British mints situated overseas and is the only distinguishing mark of their work. (See plate 14.)

THE HUDSON BAY TRADING COMPANY.

By MR. H. T. ALLEN.

(Paper read before Canterbury Branch of Society.)

IN 1670 King Charles II granted a charter to some British gentlemen to form a Company, to be known as the Hudson Bay Company, and gave them the sole right to trade in all the seas, straits and land round Hudson Bay. At first they had a monopoly but with increase of population, others began trading on their preserves, their main rivals being the North West Trading Company, which brought its trading goods from the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes district northward. After a bitter struggle these companies amalgamated.

London, the central market for the furs, was also largely the source of supply for trading goods, and Bristol and Manchester supplied their quota. Often seven years elapsed before the Company completed a transaction, as it would take up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ years to get the furs from Fort Yukon or Hudson Bay, and a similar time for disposal and remittance to complete the deal. Trappers, of course, would receive payment usually in trade-goods at the time they handed over the pelts. The ships were wide-beam 140 ton sailing vessels, and on several occasions boats only half the tonnage made the hazardous journey. The bay was frozen for three or four months at a time and generally communication was very difficult. There also was a great difference in the price paid to the trapper and that in the London market, as the Company "had to live."

The beaver skin, the standard, valued at two shillings, represented two marten skins and these again divided by skins of lesser value. Twenty beaver skins bought a smooth-bore gun valued at £2. The Hudson Bay Company at one time issued brass tokens the value of 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ th beaver skin, but as these were not popular with the Indians their use was discontinued.

Gold dust and nuggets were often used as currency, and there is an instance recorded when a debt was paid with two small washleather bags of gold (these bags were identifiable by a trade brand), and they were found still intact many years afterwards, having evidently changed hands many times until the bags began to wear out.

The Company also introduced the trade blanket and several kinds of trade beads which are still in use. During

the fourteenth and sixteenth century, that is before the days of the Company, the Alaskan and North-west Indians also used abalone shells and pieces of bone and ivory. Fine examples of these articles are to be found in the Knox Collection, Buffalo Museum, U.S.A. A fair sized pearl button was exchanged for a marten skin in Alaska, where five or six steel fish-hooks were also used as a medium of exchange. In 1840 the Indians were in possession of slabs of native copper which they had melted or cast into fan shapes approximately 100 pounds in weight. They still exchange smaller slabs of copper that weigh about 12 pounds. Long after the white traders had introduced coinage, the skin and blanket remained the popular "currency."

Some of the Company's income came from the sale of land to the Government of Canada. In 1869 Ruperts Land was sold to Canada and became the province of Manitoba.

The Eskimos and Indians of Alaska traded with Russian sealers in Behring Sea and some of these pelts found their way to the Company's trading depots. The Hudson Bay Trading Company truly was a great Company.

The writer illustrated this story with a Great Horn spoon made from buffalo horn, and a smaller carved wooden spoon with a beaver tail handle design, from his own collection. A model of a 140 ton sailing vessel similar to that used by the Company was kindly loaned by the Canterbury Museum.

THE " SPADE " GUINEA AND HALF GUINEA, AND THEIR IMITATIONS.

By J. HUNT DEACON, F.R.N.S.

THE guinea was introduced into the English coinage under Charles II. It continued to be issued, with its multiples and divisions, under the succeeding monarchs. Under George III, three distinct types were issued: (1) The Garnished Shield type; (2) The Spade type; (3) The Garter type. The Spade type was the work of Lewis Pingo (1743-1830) who was Assistant and later Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint. The "Spade" guineas were issued in the years 1787-1795 and 1797-1799—the half-guineas in the years 1787-1791, 1793-1798 and 1800. The guinea weighed 129 and 39/89th grains of 22 carat gold.

The description is as follows: Legend GEORGIVS III DEI GRATIA (= George III, By the Grace of God), bust of George III, laureated, to right. On the reverse side: Legend M.B.F.ET.H.REX.F.D.B.ET.L.D.S.R.I.A.T.ET.E. (King of Great Britain, France and Ireland; Defender of the Faith; Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg; Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire.) The date divides the beginning and the end of the legend. The shield, which is crowned, is spade-shaped, hence the term "Spade" guinea. It is quartered and bears the following: (1) England and Scotland impaled; (2) France; (3) Ireland; (4) The Electorate, which is Brunswick impaled with Luneburg, with Saxony (ancient) in base, in escutcheon the Electoral Cap. The edge of the coin is milled.

IMITATIONS.

These guineas and halves were extensively imitated, chiefly in brass although specimens in copper are known. On account of the penalties imposed under the Coinage Acts, some difference, apart from the metal, was made. In some cases the portrait of the King was not exactly copied, and on others the name of the copier is shown. Some of these imitations were correctly dated, but some bear dates of preceding reigns. Various readings are known, of which the following is a selection.

IN MEMORY OF THE GOOD OLD TIMES.
 T.H.E O.L.D.E.N. T.I.M.E.S
 H.O.N.I. S.O.I.T. Q.U.I. M.A.L. Y P.E.N.S.E
 C.J.H. REX DOLX. LOZELLS. B.I.R.M.
 C.H.A.R.L.E.S. P.E.V.E.R.E.L.L.E. M.A.K.E.R. B.I.R.M.
 C.W.REX.F.D.M.C.M.D.S.T.M.S.P.ET.C.
 C.W.B.ET.CO.DG. I. REX. F.D.BIRM.
 G.Y.I.ET.D.G.REX.SUF.ST.D.S.T.M.S.ET.C.

Why these imitations were issued is doubtful. Those marked with the maker's name were more or less advertisements, the others are regarded as having been intended for card counters.

It is generally conceded that many of these imitations were made in Nuremburg, Germany, after the English law made it an offence to make or issue a colourable imitation of a coin. We can remember these imitations being sold in Wellington at a few pence per gross, for use as card counters.—Ed.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Council of the Royal Numismatic Society has the honour to submit its Seventeenth Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st May, 1948.

The year has been a notable one, in that the Society commenced *The New Zealand Numismatic Journal* as its official organ, and three numbers have been issued. The printing and illustrating of reports has resulted in an influx of members, and the roll now stands at 281, including 46 composite life subscription members, 33 High Schools and Colleges, and 29 exchange members.

A progressive Canterbury Branch of the Society was formed during the year, and proposals are to be made for the formation of Auckland and Wanganui Branches.

Medals were issued by the Otago Centennial Committee to commemorate the centennial of that province, and the Society was able to advise that Committee on the production of the medals. The Society was also consulted regarding the production of a polygonal threepence for Fiji, which has now been issued bearing a design by Mr. J. Berry. The Society has proposed that a commemorative crown piece be issued for the Royal visit next year, and has been in consultation with the Government in connection therewith. Preliminary work in connection with the Society's Tasman medal is in hand. The medal account stands at £96 13s 11d.

If the new rules are adopted at the annual meeting the Society will immediately become incorporated.

Members are looking forward to the visit in November of the President of the Royal Numismatic Society, London.

The Council considers that the printing and illustrating of reports will stimulate interest in numismatics and expand membership. It offers its thanks to members who have contributed papers during the year, and who have donated specimens and books for the Society's collection. Finally the Council expresses its thanks to the officers of the Society for the work they have done during the year.

On behalf of the Council of the
Royal Numismatic Society of New
Zealand.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,
President.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1948.

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Balance at P.O.S.B., 31/5/47	95	2	5	By Printing and Stationery	155	1	11
„ Subscriptions	42	9	4	„ Postages and Exchange	4	3	5
„ Donations		10	0	„ Sundry Expenses re Meetings		10	0
„ Government Grant	100	0	0	„ Freight		6	9
„ Interest from P.O.S.B.	2	8	8	„ Registration Fee		5	0
„ Sale of Journals	12	15	0	„ Books for Library		2	2
„ Advertising in Journals	9	0	0	„ Balance	99	15	10
	<u>£262</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>£262</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

COMPOSITE SUBSCRIPTION TRUST ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1948.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Balance at P.O.S.B., 31/5/47	156	14	11	By Balance	193	17	2
„ Subscriptions	33	0	9				
„ Interest from P.O.S.B.	4	1	6				
	<u>£193</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>£193</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MAY, 1948.

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
Accumulated Fund—				P.O.S.B. Accounts—			
Balance as at 31/5/47			251 17 4	Trust	193	17	2
Excess of Receipts over Payments—				Ordinary	99	15	10
Ordinary Account	4	13	5				
Trust Account	37	2	3				
			<u>41 15 8</u>				
			<u>£293 13 0</u>				<u>£293 13 0</u>

W. CHETWYND, Hon. Auditor.
Wellington, New Zealand, 1st June, 1948.

H. B. MARTIN, Hon. Treasurer.

NOTES OF MEETINGS.

WELLINGTON.

The 116th (17th Annual) Meeting of the Society was held in Wellington on 5th July, 1948. Mr. Allan Sutherland presided.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Professor H. A. Murray, Mr. J. Berry and Mr. J. K. de Rouffignac. Mr. Sutherland reported that Mr. Berry was indisposed, and would not be able to continue in the position of Hon. Secretary. Tributes were paid to the work he and Mrs. Berry had performed, and a motion was passed expressing the hope that Mr. Berry would soon be restored to health.

The President reported that Mr. J. K. de Rouffignac had been the victim of a hit-and-run motorist, one of his legs having had to be amputated. A motion was passed expressing sympathy with him, and hoping that he would soon be able to leave hospital.

New Rules: Incorporation.—Moved by Mr. A. Quinnell, and seconded by Mr. W. D. Ferguson, that the proposed rules as published in *The New Zealand Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 3, be adopted, and that the incorporation of the Society be proceeded with. Agreed to.

Annual Report and Balance Sheet.—The Annual Report was read by the President, who reviewed the work of the year. He said that the Society had had a very successful year, and that the printing of the Journal had resulted in an increase in membership. He paid a tribute to the work of the officers who had had an onerous task in coping with the increased work. The Royal visit during 1949 would, he hoped, result in commemorative medals, and a crown piece, and the Society's Tasman Medal should be issued before December, 1948.

Mr. Hassell Martin, Hon. Treasurer, read the balance sheet and reviewed the finances of the Society.

Mr. W. D. Ferguson paid a tribute to the retiring officers. The work of the Society had increased, and if necessary consideration should be given to paying an honorarium to the Hon. Secretary, even if that involved an increase in membership fees. The charge of 5s had been fixed in 1931 when the value of money was different from that of today. On the motion of Mr. W. D. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. A. Quinnell, the Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted unanimously.

Officers for Ensuing Year.—(Published elsewhere in this issue.)

Signatories to Cheques and Bank Accounts.—On the motion of Mr. C. J. Freeman, seconded by Mrs. J. T. Inkersell, it was decided that the Hon. Treasurer be authorised to close the working account in the Post Office Savings Bank and transfer funds to an account to be opened in the name of the Society in the Bank of New Zealand, the signatories to be any three members of the Council, one of the signatories to be the Hon. Treasurer or other officer appointed in terms of Rule 43.

Retiring Officers.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to retiring officers.

Proposed Commemorative Crown Piece.—The President reported on discussions with Mr. J. W. Heenan, Under-Secretary, Internal Affairs Department, particularly regarding a proposed commemorative medal, and on discussion with the Hon. W. Nash, Minister of Finance,

regarding the proposed crown piece for 1949 to commemorate the Royal visit. Mr. Sutherland said that Mr. James Berry and Mr. P. Watts Rule, of Timaru, had been associated with him as an advisory committee to Mr. Heenan. The issue of the crown piece was almost certain, and the issue of medals was still undecided.

New Members.—Six new members were elected. (Names appear in Roll of Members published elsewhere in this issue.)

Post Office Box.—Mrs. J. T. Inkersell kindly offered to pay the Society's share of the cost of Post Office box, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to her for her generosity.

Correspondence.—Correspondence was tabled, including a letter from the Numismatic Society of South Africa and from others asking for specimens of any commemorative coins or medals issued in New Zealand in connection with the Royal visit; also a letter from Mr. S. R. McCallum, Wanganui, stating that when a few more Wanganui members were elected he hoped that a Branch could be formed there. Mr. L. J. Dale suggested that a photograph of the Council at the time of incorporation might be taken for record purposes.

Index to Vol. III, Cyclostyled Reports.—This has been prepared and will be cyclostyled as soon as members interested notify the Secretary that they wish to receive copies, such notification to be received ten days after publication of this Journal.

Canterbury Branch.—Minutes of meetings were tabled showing that this Branch was becoming well established, and that valuable papers were being read there.

Donations: Indian Chief Medals.—A copy of this handsome work was presented to the Society's Library by the author, Mr. A. Jamieson, of Takapuna, who was accorded a hearty vote of thanks therefor.

The 117th Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, Inc., was held in the Turnbull Library on Monday, 26th July. Mr. A. Sutherland presided.

Minutes.—Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed.

Correspondence.—The Chairman read a letter from the Rt. Hon. W. Nash indicating that progress had been made with regard to the proposed issue of a commemorative crown piece and medals for school children to commemorate the Royal visit in 1949. A letter was received from Mr. L. J. Dale, President, Christchurch Branch, submitting a copy of a letter to the Mayor of Christchurch suggesting that a Canterbury Centennial Medal be issued in 1949. Moved by Mr. W. D. Ferguson and seconded by Mr. W. Chetwynd that the Hon. Secretary write to the Mayor of Christchurch supporting the proposals that medals be issued for the Canterbury Centennial year, and offering assistance in connection therewith.

Accounts.—Account for printing, £48 12s 6d, was passed for payment on motion of Mr. A. Quinnell and seconded by Mr. W. D. Ferguson.

Council Meeting.—The President presented a report of a Council Meeting held on 12th July, submitting names of suggested Honorary Fellows, and Fellows, as follows:—

Honorary Fellows: Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S., N.Z., Auckland; Rev. D. C. Bates, Wellington; J. Craigmyle, Wanganui; E. Gilbertson, Wellington; C. R. H. Taylor, Wellington.

Fellows: Sir James Elliott, M.D., F.R.A.C.S., Wellington; Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, F.R.N.S., New Plymouth; Sir John Hanham, Bt., Dorset, England; J. W. Heenan, C.B.E., LL.B., Wellington; P. Watts Rule, F.N.Z.I.A., Timaru; A. Sutherland, F.R.N.S., Auckland; H G. Williams, Dunedin.

These recommendations were approved subject to confirmation at next meeting.

Hon. Secretary.—Miss E. Emerson was appointed Hon. Secretary at an honorarium of £26 a year.

Common Seal.—The Treasurer was authorised to secure a Common Seal.

Certificate of Incorporation.—The Certificate of Incorporation of the Society was tabled.

Printing of Letterheads.—Printing of letterheads bearing the new title of the Society was left to the President and the Secretary to arrange, in consultation with the Christchurch Branch.

Tasman Medal: Mr. Berry said that discussions were taking place between London and New Zealand regarding the design, and that he had been asked to make a plaster model. About 1,000 medals (2 ins. in diameter) would be needed, costing in the vicinity of 7/- landed. It was proposed to bring 500 medals to New Zealand and hold 500 for sale in England.

Impending Visit of Mr. and Mrs. Mattingly.—Mention was made of the proposed visit to New Zealand of Mr. Mattingly, F.R.N.S., President, Royal Numismatic Society, and Mrs. Mattingly, and members suggested that they be entertained by the Society on arrival.

"Treasure Trove."—A paper entitled "Treasure Trove," written by Miss E. R. Thomas, F.I.I.A., F.C.S., of Christchurch Branch, was read by Mr. C. J. Freeman. Mr. Freeman said that the reference to the ship on the design of the British penny recalled an incident in England when his father was present with William Wyon at the studio of Webster the painter. William Wyon stated that there was nothing representing commerce on British coins, and that he would give all the money in his pockets to any one who could prove otherwise, whereupon Mr. Freeman's father produced the penny showing the ship and collected the money. A motion by Mr. Quinnell and seconded by Mr. J. Berry, that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Miss Thomas for her very interesting paper was carried by acclamation. A hearty vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. C. J. Freeman for the pleasing manner in which he had read the paper.

Exhibits.—Mr. W. D. Ferguson exhibited two Roman coins of Trajan and Hadrian which he was donating to the British Museum as these specimens were not in the National Collection.

A new polygonal Fiji threepenny piece with a Fijian chief's house or bure on reverse and the King's head crowned on the obverse was exhibited by Mr. J. Berry, the designer of the reverse; also a quarter-rupee of India, dated 1947, was exhibited by Mr. M. Hornblow.

The 118th meeting of the Society was held in Wellington on 30th August, 1948. Mr. A. Sutherland presided.

Reports of Australian numismatic societies were tabled.

Tasman Medal.—Mr. Berry stated that the altered rate of exchange would bring down the cost of the medal to about 5s 6d landed, and that the dies were now being prepared.

Fellows and Honorary Fellows.—The nominations by the previous general meeting were confirmed.

Council Meeting.—The meeting then adjourned to enable the Council to meet, at which approval was given, in accordance with the Rules, to the affixing of the Seal of the Society to fellowship certificates, after which the general meeting was resumed and the recommendation adopted.

Obituary.—References were made to the passing of Mr. E. Gilbertson, Wellington, and members stood as a mark of respect to his memory.

New Zealand Coins.—Decided to ask the Deputy-Master of the Royal Mint, London, to confirm the dates and values of New Zealand coins issued in each year, and to advise whether there were any variation in the dies of the standard designs used since 1933.

Overseas Subscriptions.—In view of the alteration in exchange rate, it was decided to consider slightly increasing overseas subscriptions at least to cover the cost of supplying the *Journal*.

Gold Coins.—Decided to ask the Treasury for an assurance that the calling in of gold coins did not include numismatic specimens in collections of members of the Society.

An interesting discussion took place regarding the use of gold coins in New Zealand, following which an article in *Seaby's Bulletin* was read, describing the discovery of Italian, Spanish, French, English and Irish coins outside a rabbit burrow at Portarlington, Ireland. The find included the rare golden Irish pistoles, only nine of which are now recorded.

Exhibits included an octagonal silver specimen about 1 inch diameter depicting a female head and inscriptions in French stating that it was a tally issued as a voucher for attendance at meetings of solicitors of the Orleans Province.

CANTERBURY BRANCH.

Minutes of Third Meeting of the Canterbury Branch held at the Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch, on Thursday, 22nd April, 1948, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—Mr. L. J. Dale in the Chair, Misses E. R. Thomas and S. A. Lange; Dr. W. R. B. Oliver, Messrs. C. M. Robb, L. H. Denny, C. Hitchings, H. T. Allen, E. Campbell, R. G. Bell, N. Thomas, A. Barker, L. Osborne and W. Salter.

Apologies.—Mrs. Mottram, Mr. Dacre and Mr. Harvey. It was moved by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Osborne that a letter of greetings be forwarded to Mr. Harvey who was absent due to ill health.

New Members.—The Chairman stated that since last meeting the following new members had enrolled with the R.N.S.(N.Z.), and pleasure was expressed at their joining. Messrs. C. Hitchings, P. Kendall, F. R. Dacre, C. M. Robb.

Business:

(1) **Draft of Rules.**—Draft of Rules of the Society was forwarded by the President, Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S. This was tabled but not gone through as the printed copy was expected for next meeting.

(2) **Token Research.**—A list of token issuers was tabled and members volunteered for research as follows: Alliance Tea Company—

Mr. L. Osborne; G. L. Beath & Co.—Miss E. R. Thomas; Caro & Co.—Mr. L. R. Denny; W. Pratt and Hobday & Jobberns—Miss S. A. Lange; S. Clarkson—Mr. L. J. Dale; Clarkson & Turnbull—Miss S. A. Lange; Gaisford & Edmonds—Mr. H. T. Allen; Gourlay, T. W. & Co.—Mr. A. Barker; Henry J. Hall—Mr. L. J. Dale; Mason Struthers & Co.—Miss E. R. Thomas; W. Peterson—Mr. C. M. Robb; Milner & Thompson—Mr. H. T. Allen; Edward Reece—Mr. L. H. Denny; Union Bakery—Mr. R. G. Bell.

It is hoped to prepare a complete full story in a booklet form with illustrations of early buildings, etc., and present it to the Society.

Paper.—"Treasure Trove" was read by Miss Thomas. This was an interesting subject and many of the stories of treasure finds were made familiar to those present. Coins were displayed to illustrate this talk and who knows one of those displayed may have been from some treasure trove! Mr. C. M. Robb read an interesting extract on modern law of treasure trove from a Jewellers' Handbook.

Mr. Denny moved a vote of thanks to Miss Thomas for an interesting and well prepared paper. He also added some details on the travels of Henry II, whose coins were mentioned in the paper.

Exhibits.—Many interesting coins were exhibited by members. Mr. Dale showed a rare gold Roman Solidus of Honorius who was Emperor of Britain in 393 A.D. The coin, which is in perfect preservation, is identical with one which was found many years ago in the Tower of London.

Miss Thomas illustrated her paper with numerous coins including a "Spanish piece of eight" and a 1797 penny. Others were as follows: Mr. Osborne—early English silver penny; Mr. Barker—English Anglo-Saxon pennies; Mr. Dale—100 piastre Turkey (dug up in Christchurch garden); Mr. N. Thomas—wooden nickel American Zelig 1938; Mr. Allen—George III English threepence; Miss S. A. Lange—William and Mary halfcrown; Mr. C. M. Robb—N.Z. International medal to B. Peterson & Co., Christchurch, 1882; Mr. R. G. Bell—Sydney International Exhibition medal, 1879, about transportation of slavery.

Dr. W. R. B. Oliver commented on this interesting large bronze medal and mentioned the excellent design of many of these, of which the Dominion Museum had a fine collection mainly gathered by Dr. Hector who personally attended many such gatherings in New Zealand and overseas.

Congratulations.—Miss Lange stated that Mr. Dale had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of London. The motion of congratulations was carried with applause.

At the conclusion of the meeting thanks were expressed to Dr. W. R. B. Oliver for making the meeting room available.

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Canterbury Branch held at the Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch, on Thursday, 24th June, 1948, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—(12) Mr. L. J. Dale in the Chair, Misses E. R. Thomas and S. A. Lange; Dr. W. R. B. Oliver, Messrs. C. M. Robb, L. Osborne, H. T. Allen, N. Thomas, P. Kendall; also two guests, Mr. B. Nairn and Master Graham Henderson.

Apologies.—Mrs. Mottram, Messrs. E. F. Harvey, C. Hitchings, W. Salter, R. G. Bell and L. R. Denny.

New Members.—A new member, Miss Doris Hutchison, had joined the Society since last meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:—

Annual Meeting Date.—It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting the last week in November or the first in December, the financial year ending on 30th November, 1948.

Subscriptions.—It was proposed by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Robb that the present subscription paid would expire on 30th November, 1948. After discussion members felt that we would have no difficulty financially, and that the Canterbury Branch would be self supporting.

Business:—

Newspaper Article.—A newspaper article on tokens supplied to the *Star-Sun* by the Secretary was reported on. There had been several interesting contacts as a result and some information for our token research had been received. One good friend had donated twenty-five tokens.

Photograph of Members.—It was agreed that it would be desirable to have a photograph of our Canterbury Branch Members in the first year of its existence, and it was left to the committee to arrange for this.

Forthcoming Papers.—"Coin Denominations"—Mr. W. Salter; "Trading Companies and their Coins"—Mr. H. T. Allen; "Lundy Island and Martin Harman"—Mr. A. Barker.

"The Hudson Bay Company and their Coinage."—Mr. H. T. Allen gave a short and very descriptive paper on Hudson Bay Company (published elsewhere). Mr. C. M. Robb moved a vote of thanks which was carried with applause.

Report on Token Research.—Satisfactory progress was reported on about half the Christchurch tokens, although very little yet on Alliance Tea Company, Caro & Co., Hobday & Jobberns, C. Clarkson, Clarkson & Turnbull, Gaisford & Edmonds, Gourlay & Co., and the Union Bakery. All members were asked to work on these and gather information which may assist in discovering their early history.

Mr. L. J. Dale, on behalf of the members of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, referred to Dr. Oliver's impending return to Wellington in about two months, and said he hoped that Dr. Oliver would be present at the August meeting. All members were deeply appreciative of the kindly interest the Doctor had shown in the activities of our Branch.

After the meeting, while supper was being served, Mr. H. T. Allen auctioned the tokens which had been donated. The sum of £2 was realised and this was added to the funds. The meeting concluded at 10 p.m.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
(Incorporated)

ROLL OF MEMBERS
AS AT AUGUST 30th, 1948.

PATRON:

His Excellency, the Governor-General, Government House, Wellington.

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OBITUARY

MR. E. GILBERTSON.

Mr. Edward Gilbertson, a foundation member of the Society, died on the 27th August, aged 93 years. His name, and that of his late brother, also a foundation member, will long be remembered in numismatic circles through the gift of the Gilbertson Memorial Collection of ancient Greek coins and electrotypes. Their father was a banker in the Middle East, and while there he secured some beautiful Greek staters from a find by natives, and some of these gold coins are included in the collection, which is the best of its kind in New Zealand.

Edward Gilbertson was born in London; he was educated in Europe, and came to New Zealand in 1879 where he was engaged in sheep-farming, and later as a County Engineer, and still later as District Coroner in Wellington. He was a man of strong personality and downright views, but he had a heart of gold like the coins he treasured through his long and useful life. The Society owes much to him for his support in the foundation stages.

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