

*Registered at G.P.O. for transmission by post as a magazine.*

Vol. 4



No. 2  
Sept.—Dec.  
1947

# The New Zealand NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Proceedings of  
THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

## CONTENTS

	Page
THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND. By Allan Sutherland .....	49
COINAGE OF KING EDWARD VIII.—NOW DUKE OF WINDSOR. By C. J. Weaver, Sydney .....	51
SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY.—THE BLACK ROD. By Allan Sutherland ..	56
NEW ZEALAND WAR MONEY. By Allan Sutherland .....	59
CUPRO-NICKEL COINS .....	60
ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNS TO UNITED STATES SAILORS ..	62
FLEUR-DE-LIS. By Johannes Andersen .....	63
CANTERBURY BRANCH OF SOCIETY .....	64
ON THE WAY.—DECIMAL COINAGE WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE. By James Berry .....	65
ANCIENT COINS. By Professor H. A. Murray, M.A. ....	66
NOTES OF MEETINGS .....	75
NOTES AND COMMENTS .....	78

Issued gratis to Members.

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

# ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND.

---

## OFFICERS:

### Patron:

His Excellency, Lieut-General  
SIR BERNARD FREYBERG, V.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E.

### Hon. Life Patron:

VISCOUNT BLEDISLOE, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.Sc.

### President:

Mr. ALLAN SUTHERLAND, F.R.N.S.

### Vice-Presidents:

SIR JOHN HANHAM, Bt., Dorset; Messrs. JOHANNES C. ANDERSEN, M.B.E., F.R.S. (N.Z.); J. C. ENTRICAN, Auckland; E. K. CAMERON, Hawera; ARCHDEACON G. H. GAVIN, F.R.N.S., New Plymouth; S. R. McCALLUM, A.P.A. (N.Z.), Wanganui; T. COCKROFT, Napier; REV. D. C. BATES; SIR JAMES ELLIOTT, M.D., F.R.A.C.S.; J. W. HEENAN, C.B.E., LL.B., E. GILBERTSON, Wellington; L. J. DALE, M.P.S., Ph.C., Christchurch; P. WATTS RULE, F.N.Z.I.A., Timaru; H. G. WILLIAMS, Dunedin, and J. ROBERTSON, Invercargill.

### Council:

Professor H. A. MURRAY, Messrs. W. D. FERGUSON, E. HORWOOD, A. QUINNELL, G. C. SHERWOOD.

### Hon. Secretary:

Mr. JAMES BERRY, Box 23, Wellington

### Hon. Asst. Sec.:

Mr. M. HORNBLow

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. HASSELL MARTIN, 20 Hay Street, Wellington.

### Hon. Auditor:

Mr. W. CHETWYND

---

## OBJECTS

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

Subscription: Per Annum, N.Z., Aust., 5s; elsewhere 5s Sterling.  
Composite Life Subscription: N.Z., Aust., £3 3s 0d; elsewhere £3 3s 0d Sterling.

# THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

VOL. 4

No. 2

---

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND  
SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER, 1947.

---

## THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

---

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

**H**IS Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of the use of the title "Royal" in the name of our Society. Our Patron, His Excellency the Governor-General, has conveyed this pleasing information to us, through the Department of Internal Affairs, and henceforth our Society will be known as the "Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand." When the new Rules have been approved by members, the word "Incorporated" will automatically be added.

Throughout its existence, the Society has received due recognition by successive Governments and local bodies, which have invited the Society's advice or assistance on the issue or designs of coins, medals, and related matters. This assistance has been freely given, and it is gratifying to know that the designs have been well received, and have evoked praise from numismatic experts overseas.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. W. E. Parry, and the Under-Secretary of the Department of Internal Affairs, Mr. J. W. Heenan, have given valuable encouragement and assistance to the Society, in keeping with their progressive policy of stimulating interest in historical research, educational and cultural pursuits generally, and in recreational activities. The publication of historical works and centennial surveys in 1940 alone, will stand as monuments to their industry and influence in this direction. While ever mindful of the debt we owe to the past, these two leaders have been an inspiration in promoting the advancement of learned and other societies in taking their part in the life of the Dominion. The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand has done its share in recording glimpses of original and fast-fading history which otherwise would have been lost.

Numismatically, New Zealand has no antiquity, but it has a fascinating history of vigorous development, improvisation, and achievement. This is reflected in the currency history of the Dominion, and in the customs of Polynesia—which also comes within the ambit of our studies—and these still afford a rich field for study and research.

Heretofore, New Zealand has offered little opportunity for the development of specialised cultural and educational pursuits, but with the new leisure associated with the five-day working week, there are indications of an awakening of interest in such pursuits.

The study of numismatics provides a diversified and fascinating field, which is as all-embracing as the Globe itself, and which ranges from 800 B.C., to modern times. The classical period opens an attractive vista to those interested in the history and mythology of the ancients, the intervening period reflects the history of civilization, and modern coinage and medals offer interesting points for study, giving enduring contemporary links with the changing events of our own time.

The collection of specimens helps to vitalise the study of numismatics, but the possession of specimens is not a prerequisite of the numismatist. The collection of facts relating to the issuers and their times is of more importance to many leading numismatists today.

As an aid to classical education, the science of numismatics is pre-eminent. The reproduction of coin designs and portraits is widely used in classical dictionaries as the only remaining authoritative evidence, in many cases, of the likenesses of rulers through the centuries, and the historic events associated with their times. Hume in his *History of England*, and Wells, in his *Outline of History*, make prolific use of coin-illustrations, and these facts alone indicate the educational value of these mute metallic archives as keys to the history of humanity.

Many universities and colleges abroad use display cases of coins as an aid to the teaching of history. The fostering of coin clubs in high schools and colleges is a means of using an educational hobby or pursuit to vitalise history in a manner not attainable from the scanning of cold facts from history books. The handling of coins showing the actual portrait of Julius Caesar, of Nero, of Henry VIII, of Queen Elizabeth, or of Napoleon Bonaparte—all obtainable for a few shillings only—conjures up the fascinating history associated with them and their times, and the facts fasten themselves in the memory. Our members could help

materially in assisting college and high school teachers in inaugurating coin clubs among students, and in assisting Education Officers at Museums to arrange display cases for circuit so that the science of numismatics could be used as a real aid to classical education.

The congratulations received following the circulation of the first issue of the *Numismatic Journal* should give every one of us encouragement to devote more time to this educational pursuit in order to increase our sphere of influence and usefulness. The distinction conferred by His Majesty the King has enhanced the status of the Society, and should give us inspiration to further endeavour, and to justify the confidence reposed in us.

—ALLAN SUTHERLAND.

---

COINAGE OF KING EDWARD VIII.  
NOW DUKE OF WINDSOR.

*By* C. J. WEAVER,  
Sydney.

(Read before Society, 27th October, 1947.)

THE COINAGE of King Edward VIII, whose brief reign lasted from January to December, 1936, consists of seven coins for four Crown colonies, New Guinea, West Africa, East Africa, and Fiji, and none of these coins shows a portrait of the King. The coins were issued before Edward VIII abdicated. Practically the whole of his coinage for the Commonwealth had been in preparation, and in some cases was completed, but the issue was stopped by the United Kingdom Government when the question of abdication arose. The reason for this Government action has never been satisfactorily explained, and is capable of a sinister construction when it is realised that the coinage was practically completed.

Sir Robert Johnson, Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint, stated after the abdication: "I am betraying no profound secret in stating that the coinage effigy of King Edward VIII was, at his personal wish, prepared facing to the left."

There is a tradition that the portraits of successive British monarchs should face in the opposite directions on the coins of the realm. The portrait of King George V and

the present King face left, so that tradition has again triumphed.

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, of 6th January, 1937, stated:

When at the death of George V, the question of the coinage was considered by the Mint Committee, King Edward VIII expressed a wish for a complete break away from the traditional designs. The Mint Committee asked a number of artists to submit designs. Sir Robert Johnson the Deputy Master of the Mint was particularly enthusiastic about the opportunity to introduce a new spirit into the national coinage . . . (i.e., simple pictorial devices in lieu of heraldic motifs). Mr. Edmund Dulac, whose design for the King's Poetry Medal of 1935 was considered by many people to be the best English medal in recent years, was told that his designs had been approved and he was commissioned to make the models of the crown, half-crown, florin, shilling and sixpence and the die for reverse of the half-crown was actually cut—a design of a sea horse surrounded by waves and surmounted by the Royal Crown. The reverse of the two-shilling piece showed the rose, shamrock and thistle growing from a central stem; that of the shilling was based upon an arrangement of wings. The Mint Committee, presumably shocked by the very novelty for which it had been seeking, then decided that Mr. Dulac's designs were neither sufficiently British nor sufficiently heraldic. Eventually the reverses of the Edward VIII coins were entrusted to Mr. Kruger Gray, the head on the obverse side to Mr. Paget, and the head wearing the Imperial crown to Mr. Metcalfe.

#### NEW GUINEA.

The first coins struck were bronze pennies of New Guinea (£1,500, 360,000 pieces), and because of their unique character most of these coins are now held by collectors and coin-dealers. On account of the extensive buying up of these coins the local banks received permission to issue Australian pennies. The demand for the coins with the monogram "E.R.I." has been so great that they are now seldom seen in circulation. Australia probably received the greater part of the issue, Sydney in particular, where speculators brought the coins in bulk for profitable disposal to collectors and souvenir hunters. The coin is pierced with a central hole and in size is slightly larger than a halfpenny. The obverse bears, above the central perforation, a crown. To the right and left of perforation respectively a frigate bird resting upon a boat-like object with what is probably a representation of the sea beneath. These are done in native style, and are replicas of a design used on the prows of the old native war canoes. Below in large ornamental lettering in monogram form E.R.I. (Edward Rex Emperor) the title of King Edward VIII. On either side of crown (in minute relief) respectively K — G the initials

of the late George Kruger Gray the designer. (Plate 6.) Upon the reverse, around the central perforation a design of native ornamentation. Around, above TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA. Around, below ONE PENNY 1936. On either side of ornamentation respectively in minute relief K — G. The edge is plain.

#### BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

The nickel issue of British West Africa consists of penny, halfpenny and one-tenth-of-a-penny. All the coins are pierced with a central hole. The obverse bears above the central perforation in half circle formation ONE PENNY above which, a crown. Below, legend in native (Arabic) characters. To left and right a curved line of ornamentation between which and run line: EDWARDVS VIII REX ET IND: IMP: Immediately beneath lower run of central perforation K N (King's Norton Metal Company), or H (Heaton & Son), and those struck at Royal Mint show no mint mark. The reverse depicts, surrounding the central perforation two large interlaced triangles sometimes referred to as Solomon's Seal, a regular device of the coins of British West Africa. Around, above in large letters BRITISH WEST AFRICA. Below, 1936. The edge of the coin is plain. These pennies were struck at the Royal Mint, London, King's Norton Metal Company, and Heaton & Son, Birmingham. Dia. 30 mm.

The halfpenny is the same as the penny except that its diameter is twenty-five millimetres and the obverse denominational legend reads ONE HALFPENNY with the necessary variations in the Arabic legend. The halfpennies were struck at London and King's Norton.

The one-tenth-of-a-penny is also as the preceding coin except that it is twenty millimetres in diameter. The denomination reads ONE TENTH OF A PENNY with the variations in the native legend. The initials of the King's Norton Metal Co. appear, indicating that it was struck there as at the Royal Mint, London.

#### EAST AFRICA.

The bronze issue of East Africa is in two denominations, ten and five cents both with a central hole. The obverse depicts, above the central perforation, a crown and below in two lines TEN/CENTS. On either side of perforation a curved scroll like ornamentation, between which and run line EDWARDVS VIII REX ET IND: IMP: The reverse bears within an inner circle two pairs of elephants' tusks between

which is the central perforation. The tusks are points downward and crossed. Above, 10. Between inner circle and run line, around, above EAST AFRICA. Below, 1936 to left and right of which an ornamental stop. Edge plain. Dia. 30 mm. The ten cents were struck at Birmingham and King's Norton.

The five cents is similar to the ten cents except that the obverse denomination reads FIVE/CENTS and the reverse denomination 5. The edge is plain. The five cents were struck at Birmingham and King's Norton. Those struck at Birmingham are rare.

#### FIJI.

The last coin of Edward VIII is the nickel penny of Fiji. It has a central perforation. The obverse bears above the central perforation, a crown. Around, in the field, in circular formation from right to left EDWARD · VIII · KING · EMPEROR. The reverse bears above the central perforation in large letters FIJI. To left of perforation, 19 and to right 36. Below, in large letters PENNY. Edge plain. Dia. 26 mm.

An interesting and rare "Mule" occurs in the British West African coinage of Edward VIII. A curious error occurred in the minting of some pennies. Apparently the wrong obverse die had been inserted and the resulting coin appeared with TEN CENTS below the central hole instead of ONE PENNY. The die used is apparently that belonging to the East African ten cent piece. It is not known how many of these mules got into circulation but there is information on very good authority that only a few specimens left the mint. Below the "TEN/CENTS" on the obverse of this mule is the letter H (Heaton & Sons, Birmingham).

#### SPECIMEN DEPICTING PORTRAIT.

At least one specimen of an English silver threepence of Edward VIII exists. This specimen was shown by an official of the Royal Mint to a well-known London authority. The coin which would bear on its obverse the bare head to left of Edward VIII and his Royal and Imperial titles, was evidently struck at the Royal Mint before the dies were rendered useless. The Mint official assured the authority that this coin would never be allowed to leave the Mint. It is possible, but not probable, that no other specimen exists and it may therefore be assumed that this coin is unique.

Australia lost the opportunity of an issue of coins of Edward VIII by a narrow margin of time. The dies for



the Australian issue were completed at the Royal Mint London and were on the point of being shipped to the Melbourne Mint when the abdication became known, barely in time to prevent their despatch.

In a digest of the report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint, 1935-36, it transpires that "some Imperial and Australian specimen coins bearing the portrait of Edward VIII had actually been struck, and on these coins the profile faced in the same way as the previous issue contrary to tradition."

Following the usual custom it was intended to issue complete sets of proof pattern English coins of Edward VIII for collectors. The abdication prevented their appearance but it was understood that after the issue of the new coinage of George VI had been completed, the Edward VIII pattern series for collectors would be struck. They did not appear, and the whole proceeding seems to have been shrouded in mystery. Collectors could get no satisfactory information, but it was gathered that three or four years would elapse before patterns would be struck. Later information emerging from the haze surrounding the subject was that at least ten years might elapse before the Edward VIII patterns were available.

The *Daily Telegraph*, London, stated on 10th July, 1936:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, announced in the House of Commons yesterday that in accordance with custom, specimen sets of the first issue of coins of King Edward VIII would be issued to collectors and others requiring them. Sets of gold coins would be available at special prices to all who applied. Full details would be publicly announced and the issue would be available to applicants both at home and overseas. A Coronation set of gold coins, consists of four pieces—£5, £2, £1 and a half sovereign.

Spink's *Numismatic Circular*, February, 1937, (Cols. 55 and 56) shows and describes three medals bearing portraits of King Edward VIII. The first, in silver, is stated to be by a well-known English artist. The second is by far the finest of the three portraits and is by the Austrian artist, L. Hujer. It was struck in bronze at the Vienna Mint in honour of Edward VIII and in appreciation of his visits to Austria. The third is also in bronze and is well executed by the English sculptor, E. Jennings. The second and third of these portraits give us a good idea of how Edward VIII's portrait would appear on the coinage.

Probably the finest portraits of Edward VIII are those appearing on his stamp issue and that by T. H. Paget on

the first medal of the Honourable Company of Mariners struck in 1935 when the King was Prince of Wales.

#### DISCUSSION.

The President stated that at the time, the late Rt. Hon. Mr. Savage had been asked to agree to coins bearing the portrait of King Edward VIII being issued for New Zealand, but the request was declined. Members still hoped that specimen issues would be struck to complete the metallic portrait gallery of English Kings.

Mr. Weaver was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his paper.

---

#### SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY. THE BLACK ROD.

*By* ALLAN SUTHERLAND, F.R.N.S.

THE BLACK ROD used at the opening of each session of Parliament in New Zealand is a black ebony staff, three feet long, gold-mounted at base, centre, and top, and surmounted by a gold lion rampant holding an oval shield from the Royal Coat of Arms. This shield, which is of gold and blue enamel, bears the motto "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*," and is surmounted by a crown embellished with ruby and emerald enamel. At the base is a gold plate inscribed "Presented to the Legislative Council of New Zealand by Charles, Baron Bledisloe, of Lydney, Governor-General, April, 1931."

The Black Rod is used on one day each year, and when not in use is kept in a silk-lined leather case. It was made by Messrs. Garrad & Co., 24 Albemarle Street, London, and was presented by Lord Bledisloe to the late Hon. Sir Walter Carncross, Speaker of the Legislative Council, at Government House on April 1st, 1931.

This symbol of authority is carried by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod when in personal attendance on the Governor-General at the opening of Parliament. The Rod is a replica of that used in the House of Lords. Prior to the presentation of the Rod now in use, a long black wooden rod, resembling a billiard cue, sufficed as the staff of office.

The duties of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod nominally correspond with those of the Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Representatives, that of personal attendant and "thrower-out," but actually he attends only the opening of Parliament, and for this attendance he receives a small fee. In New Zealand the term "Gentleman" does

not appear in the title of that officer in the Standing Orders of the Council—which is the fountain of authority—but the term “Gentleman” is understood, and is, in fact, included in his warrant of appointment.

#### ENGLISH CUSTOM.

The office of Gentleman Usher of the Black-Rod was created in England in 1350. The duties in the House of Lords involve maintaining order and arresting members for misdemeanours. Both in England and in New Zealand his principal duty is to summon the Speaker and Members of the House of Commons or the House of Representatives to the Upper Chamber to hear the Speech from the Throne. If the Sovereign is present in the House of Lords, the Lower House members are “commanded” to attend; otherwise the Black Rod merely “desires” their presence in the Upper Chamber.

According to traditional procedure, the attendant of the House of Commons, on becoming aware of the approach of the Black Rod, slams the door in his face as a gesture of independence. The Black Rod then strikes three times on the door with his staff, and, on hearing the challenge, “Who is there?” replies, “Black Rod,” whereupon he is admitted to deliver his message to the Lower House. In New Zealand the slamming of the door in the face of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod is dispensed with, although the door is closed in anticipation of his approach, and he has to knock three times in order to gain admittance.

#### KING INVADES COMMONS CHAMBER.

This formality originated in the unsuccessful attempt by King Charles the First, in 1642—the year Tasman discovered New Zealand—to arrest five members of the Commons, Hampden, Pym, Holles, Hazelrig, and Stroud, who were prominent in opposing him. Accompanied by soldiers, the King forced his way into the House of Commons, crossed the sacred bar of the House, “borrowed” the Speaker’s Chair, and addressed the Commons. He called out the names of the men whom he desired to arrest for treason, but they had flown, and he then asked the Speaker whether he could see any of those “wanted” men present. The Speaker replied in the following courageous words: “I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as the House is pleased to direct me . . .”

Whereupon the King departed, amid cries of “privilege,” and never since has a King attempted to repeat the

performance. Since that time the Commons has marked its protest against this breach of privilege and right to free speech and uninterrupted debate by closing its doors at the approach of the King's representative.

On one occasion in New Zealand the House of Representatives showed its contempt by slamming and locking the door of the House in the face of a Governor's messenger bearing an order of dissolution. The members had prior knowledge of the contents of the message, and proceeded, behind locked doors, temporarily to extend the life of Parliament by avoiding the acceptance of a notice to quit.

The House of Representatives in New Zealand also asserts its independence in another form by granting a first reading of a mythical "Expiring Laws Continuance Bill" as the first business of a new session. The Bill is never "ordered to be printed" by the House, as in the case of other Bills. This is not done as an act of defiance, but, as May states, "in order to assert their right of deliberating without reference to the immediate cause of summons," that is, to deal with their own business before taking into consideration the King's business referred to in the Speech.



Map of the Aegean region, showing the position of the chief places mentioned in the articles on Ancient Coins.

## NEW ZEALAND WAR MONEY.

*By* ALLAN SUTHERLAND, F.R.N.S.

THE FIRST special currency used in New Zealand during the war just terminated was a series of stamped steel discs manufactured at Whangarei for use at the Japanese Prisoner of War Camp at Featherston. The denominations were 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d., 1d., and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (See Plate No. 5.) It is understood that the specimens extant are rare, as the "camp coins" were called in at an early stage and destroyed.

The New Zealand-made steel money was replaced in the Japanese Prisoner of War Camp at Featherston by a series of brass and copper coins, holed in the centre, and ranging in values from 5s. to 1d. There were five coins, 5s., 2s., 1s., 3d., in copper, and 1d. in brass. The approximate numbers issued were 3,440, 9,000, 18,000, 22,400, and 14,400 respectively. These are well made coins struck from special dies by the Melbourne Mint, and it is understood that they are identical with the issues of the Australian Government in their prisoner of war camps.

### HELAVO SEAPLANE BASE MONEY.

Printed card currency, resembling tickets of admission to cinemas, was used at the Helavo Seaplane Base in the Pacific by the United States and New Zealand Officers in a joint canteen operated at that base during the war. The number of denominations is unknown, and the only specimen reported is for 5 cents. (See Plate 5.)

### CAIRO BRASS CANTEEN MONEY.

In Cairo the New Zealand Y.M.C.A., operating on behalf of the National Patriotic Fund Board, used brass discs, struck from a die, bearing the inscription N.Z. Y.M.C.A. 5 M/M, with a blank reverse. The reason for the issue was that the Egyptian waiters were inclined to "ring the changes" with troops unaccustomed to a new currency, with the result that the Y.M.C.A. Canteen decided to receive only brass tokens which could be bought by the soldiers from European cashiers, and tendered by the soldiers to the native waiters. A curious feature is that there are two dies, one of which is of poor workmanship, suggesting that some tokens may have been struck unofficially. (Plate 5.)

A medal issued in silver and copper by the R.N.Z.A.F. in the Pacific as a sports award, and provided by the National Patriotic Fund Board, is also shown in Plate 5.

## CUPRO-NICKEL COINS.

THE FIRST consignment of cupro-nickel coins for New Zealand, 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s., 6d., were circulated in Auckland and Wellington on November 26, 1947. They are similar in design to previous issues, but are dated 1947, and are slightly duller than silver coins. From 1933 to 1946 New Zealand coins, of 50 per cent silver and 50 per cent alloy, were issued to the value of £4,030,291, and when these are progressively substituted for cupro-nickel coins, the estimated saving will be £1.2 million. The average yearly import of coins from 1933 to 1946 was £270,000 face value, which cost about £129,600, which is under 50 per cent of face value, and the same number of cupro-nickel coins will cost only £10,800, or 4 per cent of face value, thus showing a remarkable saving. A cupro-nickel half-crown will cost about one penny to produce.

The increase in the price of silver, and the dollar crisis, have forced the Government to decide that silver is too expensive a metal to be used for coins. During the war the Royal Mint used, for New Zealand coins, 1.3 million ounces of silver borrowed from the United States and this silver has to be returned, or paid for. In 1946, the price of silver was 4s. 7½d. sterling an ounce. The Government took authority in a Finance Bill, 1947, to issue cupro-nickel coins, to be legal tender up to 40s. When the proposal was under consideration the Minister of Finance promised to consider issuing half-crowns of smaller size; this would obviously involve a reduction in the series, and would be welcome. At that time the Minister also stated that he favoured decimal coinage. He said that the cupro-nickel coins would be more difficult to counterfeit, and aesthetically and practically would be just as attractive.

A table of New Zealand silver issues, 1933-1946, has been supplied by courtesy of the Reserve Bank. It shows that 1,128 crown-pieces were issued. The table shows that £22,600 in half-crowns were issued in 1940. Earlier advices showed that £12,600 centennial half-crowns were issued, and this difference is being investigated. These half-crowns are not now encountered in circulation, and must be considered scarce. The threepence, 1935, is a scarce coin, only £500 worth being struck. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the threepences disappear in ten years. The number of 1935, 1941, and 1942 sixpences struck was small. The blanks in the table indicate the denominations not issued in the respective years:

VALUES OF SILVER COIN STRUCK.

Amounts of each denomination issued bearing the dates 1933 to 1946.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
5/-	—	—	191	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	191
2/6	250,000	340,000	76,500	—	84,000	—	—	22,600	87,000	30,000	140,000	22,500	52,500	120,000	1,225,100
2/-	210,000	285,000	75,500	15,000	119,000	—	—	50,000	82,000	15,000	140,000	14,000	51,500	120,000	1,177,000
1/-	100,000	170,000	84,000	—	44,500	—	—	25,000	18,000	12,000	45,000	24,000	51,500	53,000	627,000
6d	75,000	90,000	14,000	39,500	—	—	17,500	20,000	11,000	9,000	45,000	29,000	23,500	53,000	458,500
3d	75,000	75,000	500	34,500	36,000	—	37,500	25,000	22,000	39,000	55,000	35,500	31,500	76,000	542,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>710,000</b>	<b>960,000</b>	<b>250,691</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>315,500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>142,600</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>210,500</b>	<b>422,000</b>	<b>4,030,291</b>

In addition 364 specimen sets dated 1935 were struck.

**BRONZE.**—New Zealand pence and half-pence were first struck in 1940, and both have been issued for each succeeding year up to and including 1946, *except for the 1943 half-pence.*

## ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNS TO UNITED STATES SAILORS.

### EXPLANATION OF DARKER HUE.

The last time we saw gold coins circulating in New Zealand was when Admiral Coontz arrived with the American fleet in 1925. His sailors were paid in gold sovereigns freshly minted in Melbourne, it is stated, from gold brought there by the American fleet. These coins melted like snow before the sun, and since then gold currency has been a memory only.

So stated a report of the Society recently. Members have specimens given to them by sailors on this cruise who confidently stated that the coins were minted from United States gold. The coins have a coppery hue, in contrast with the usual Australian sovereigns which have a lighter or almost "primrose" tint. Members have asked for the history of these coins, and as a result of an enquiry addressed to the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint, Melbourne, Mr. O. G. Reynolds, the following reply was received:

"The Commonwealth Bank has supplied the following information":

From our records it appears that although there was some interchange of gold coins between the Bank and the U.S. Fleet on the occasion of the visit in 1925, the gold received in the form of U.S. dollars was not re-minted and handed back to the Fleet.

On the 23rd July, 1925, Melbourne Office handed sovereigns to the U.S. Fleet Paymaster, receiving American gold dollars in exchange. Some of these dollars were handed back on the 4th August, 1925, and the balance lodged at the Royal Mint, Melbourne, on the 18th August.

As the American Fleet is understood to have left for New Zealand towards the end of the first week in August, it appears impossible that they could have received back sovereigns minted from the gold they originally lodged.

A similar facility was afforded the American Fleet in Sydney. The gold dollars were lodged at the Royal Mint, Sydney, on 11th August, 1925, and were still held on our account at 7th December, 1925.

Mr. Reynolds adds: "I can readily understand that many of the sovereigns circulated in New Zealand then may have been of a slightly darker hue than usual with the Australian sovereigns. By reference to the 1925 Royal Mint Report you will notice that much American bullion (including gold dollars) was received at the Sydney and Melbourne Mints in 1925. The gold in this bullion was practically fine



and, being alloyed with copper only in the resultant sovereigns, gave a coppery tint. The gold refined at the Australian Mints contains about 99.6 per cent gold, with the balance silver. This gold, on alloying with copper, gives a slightly lighter tint than above. Therefore, a large proportion of the Australian sovereigns (S and M) for 1925 would be of the darker hue."

It would seem, therefore, that although the sovereigns did not contain gold actually brought by the fleet, United States bullion was actually received at the Australian mints in 1925, and was used in the sovereigns that made their fleeting appearance with the United States sailors twenty-two years ago.

### FLEUR-DE-LIS.

The fleur-de-lis on the mace in Parliament House, referred to on page 27 of last issue, has prompted Mr. Johannes Andersen to supply the following interesting information on this symbol frequently seen in New Zealand:

FLEUR-DE-LIS: In Chambers's the pronunciation of this is given as flōōr-de-lě (oo as in poor, e as in led, e as in we) but surely fleur is flér (e as in her, and the same as the name of Soames Forsyte's wayward daughter). The common form is flower-de-luce, and in this form Shakespeare mentions it in *Winter's Tale* (4, 4, 127):

. . . bold oxlips and  
The crown imperial; lilies of all kinds,  
The flower-de-luce being one!

St. Francis de Sales, a contemporary of Shakespeare, writes: "Charity . . . resembles a beautiful Flower-de-luce, which has six leaves whiter than snow, and in the middle the pretty little golden hammers."

This description in no way fits the iris, but it may well be applied to the white lily.

Chaucer, too, seems to connect it with the lily: "His nekke whit was as the flour-de-lys."—Prol., 258.

Spenser separates lilies from the "flower Delice" as he spells it. In his glosse he writes: "Flour delice, that which they use to misterme, flowre deluce, being in Latin Flos delitiarum."

Ben Johnson likewise separates them; and in heraldry fleur-de-lis and the lily are two separate things. Shakespeare in his mention seems to mean the iris, and others beside him have classed it with the lilies. (Mostly from Furness' *Variorum* ed. of *Winter's Tale*, p. 198.)

But it is a question if the word "lis" in "fleur-de-lis" refers to the lily at all. In *The Book of Wild Flowers*, Nat. Geog. Socy., 1933 (p. 124) occurs this passage:

"The iris was long centuries ago adopted by Louis the Seventh, the gallant young Crusader, as the emblem of his house. It became thereby 'the flower of Louis,' which was corrupted into 'fleur-de-lis.' The blueflag iris is really meant when one speaks of the lily of France. The story runs that King Clovis, beaten on the battlefield as long as he had three black toads upon his shield, finally adopted the iris instead, upon the plea of Queen Clotilde, to whom it had been related by a holy hermit that an angel had brought him a shield containing three irises and shining as the sun. Clovis thereafter was successful on the battlefield. In later reigns the iris was thickly strewn upon the royal standards of France, but Charles the Fifth finally reduced them to three to typify the Holy Trinity."

There is only this to be said about this fragment of folk-lore and history. It was not Louis the Seventh who was "the gallant young Crusader," but his grandson, Louis the Ninth (1215-1270). He succeeded Louis the Eighth in the year 1226; in 1248 went on his first crusade, landing in Egypt in 1249 with 40,000 men. He was taken prisoner by the Saracens, released in 1250 on payment of a ransom. He returned to France, but ventured on a second crusade in 1270, and died at Tunis. He was canonized in 1297 by Boniface the Eighth.

You say the fleur-de-lis is the basic design for the red carpet in every corridor in Parliament House, Wellington: the Provincial Council Chamber, Christchurch, Canterbury, had heavy red draw-curtains over the beautiful stained-glass windows, and these too, were scattered with fleur-de-lis that looked grey on their dark red background. What the design means it is hard to say; but seeing that it was received through an angel, a holy hermit, and a queen, I prefer to think of it as being intended, as has been suggested, three flowers of the white lily in a golden circlet—and the motto *Dieu et mon droit*.

---

#### CANTERBURY BRANCH OF SOCIETY.

Ten Christchurch members of the Society attended a meeting on 1st December convened by Mr. L. J. Dale, and decided to form a Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand. Mr. L. J. Dale, M.P.S., Ph.C., was elected Chairman, and Miss Shirley A. Lange, 18 Alpha Avenue, Papanui, was elected Hon. Secretary. The Council of the Society has heartily congratulated the Canterbury members on their initiative.

## ON THE WAY.

### DECIMAL COINAGE WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

*By* JAMES BERRY.

ALTHOUGH Great Britain and most of her Dominions and colonies are the only parts of the world, excepting Saudi Arabia, where decimal coinage is *not* used, it may come as a surprise to many to learn that to date fourteen parts of the Empire have already adopted decimal coinage. Canada was the first Empire country to adopt decimal coinage, about 1859, followed by Hong Kong in 1862, Newfoundland in 1866, Ceylon in 1872, Malaya and Mauritius in 1878, British North Borneo in 1883, British Honduras in 1888, Seychelles in 1890, Sudan in 1897, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika in 1903, and in Palestine in 1918. The total population of these fourteen parts of the Empire using decimal coinage is approximately forty-one millions, almost equivalent to the total population of England and Wales.

Decimal coinage has been studied at different times in England, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, and while opinion has generally been in favour of the change from the fractional system, action has been postponed because of anticipated difficulties in the actual change-over, or because of local conditions ruling at the time. This attitude of approval in principle and postponement reminds one of the Australian State Railways, where there are different track gauges in each State. From the national viewpoint it is senseless and uneconomic to tranship passengers and goods at State borders, and while several efforts have been made to have a unified gauge for the Commonwealth, successive Governments have shelved the project for a more suitable time. This may be an easy way out for the time being, but it is not progress, and each passing year will make the change more difficult. In the national interest the change must take place eventually, and so it is with decimal coinage.

Continued interest is being taken in decimal coinage in Empire countries, and it would seem that in time British countries using fractional coinage will adopt decimal coinage to facilitate domestic and international trade. As recently as May, 1946, a conference recommended a unified decimal currency for British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands, based on the unit of the existing British West Indian dollar.

A change is pending in India and Pakistan too. The *Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Journal* for June 1946 stated that the proposal of the Government of India to adopt decimal coinage was widely welcomed in India. The *Commercial Review*, the journal of the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, stated that for many years there had been a demand for decimal coinage for India, and that the project had been supported by the Decimal Society of India, whose membership covered a vast circle of economists, commercial men and industrialists.

India and Pakistan are now self-governing entities, and if they implement the decision of the earlier Government of India, this will mean that of the total population of 500 millions in the British Commonwealth, more than 400 millions will be using decimal coinage. Truly decimal coinage is "on the way," and New Zealand might well follow the trend by considering the best means of adopting the system without delay.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Much of the foregoing information has been supplied by Mr. R. Noel Johnson, of Auckland.

---

## ANCIENT COINS.

THE GILBERTSON CABINET OF ELECTROTYPES.

(Continued from previous issue)\*

By PROFESSOR H. A. MURRAY, M.A.

(Paper read before the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand,  
24th November, 1947.)

---

### SECOND TRAY TO THE END OF PERIOD 1. SECTION A.

No. 25. This coin is a well-preserved specimen of archaic Greek art, and may possibly be the earliest extant silver coin of the island of Samos. At any rate, the obverse type is the lion's mask which is usually associated with Samos. The type stamped on the electrum coinage would, therefore, be continued in the issues of silver coins. The date when this coin was minted is almost certainly before the Persian invasions of Greece, when Samos was enjoying a flourishing sea-trade. The reverse shows the familiar early device of a rough incuse square.

\* See Plate 1 in previous issue. A map showing the position of the chief places mentioned in the first two papers will be found on page 58.

Nos. 26-37 are all silver coins attributed to islands, cities, and districts in the south-west corner of Asia Minor. In the coastal parts of this region the Phoenicians had planted trading stations, which were superseded by the Dorian Greeks who emigrated from the home-land, and took up occupation. The circumstances are typical of Greek colonisation. The Dorians never absorbed the hinterland. The interior of Caria seems to have had no coinage before the conquests of Alexander the Great. The warlike people of the mountainous country of Lycia preserved their own traditions, and their own language.

From the historical point of view this group of coins preserves much interesting evidence. The example from the Chersonese (No. 26) will remind us of a working federation of city states. Others will recall a league of Dorian states with a rudimentary international law. The coins from the island of Rhodes come from cities which later amalgamated to found the city of Rhodes, which grew to be one of the most important commercial and cultural centres in the eastern Mediterranean. Some of the types may be conjectured to preserve relics of the civilisation and religion of the Mediterranean shores before the arrival of the peoples of Indo-European speech. The varying currency standards on which the coins are minted confirm other historical evidence of the rise and fall of a maritime state in the bitter rivalry of trade.

No. 26 comes from the Chersonese of Caria. Chersonese is a fairly common word in Greek geography. It has been preserved in English literature in Byron's "Isles of Greece,"

The tyrant of the Chersonese  
Was freedom's best and bravest friend.  
That tyrant was Miltiades.

Byron is writing of the peninsula which forms the northern shore of the Hellespont. This coin comes from a tongue of land which juts out from the south-west corner of Asia Minor on the coast of Caria. The word "Chersonese" means simply "land island," and is the Greek way of expressing what we denote by the word "peninsula."

On the Chersonese from which this coin comes there were three Dorian communities which formed a "tripolis," a federation of three states, and issued a common coinage, all the extant examples of which are earlier than 500 B.C. The coin illustrated is minted on the silver standard which was used by the island of Aegina, a close neighbour of Athens. In the 8th century B.C. Aegina was the most powerful trading state of the Greeks on the western side of

the Aegean Sea. She had close trade relations with the coast of Asia Minor, and with Egypt. About 640 B.C. the Greeks had founded a trading colony in the Nile delta, which they called "Naucratis." The settlers were all Greeks from Asia Minor, except for the Aeginetans alone. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that the first Greek coins to be minted on the western shores of the Aegean are those of Aegina. The silver obtainable in the islands, especially Siphnos, was used. This course must have been more economical than the shipment of electrum from Asia Minor. Aegina endeavoured to establish a fixed currency value for her coins, and the influence of the Aeginetan standard can be traced through the Dorian islands to the coast of Caria. But as the sympathies of Aegina were Dorian, she found a dangerous trade rival in Athens, which claimed to be the home city of the Ionians. Intermittent war from 506 B.C. onwards was the result of their quarrel, and Athens began to build a navy which did so much to frustrate Persian aggression in the Greek naval victory at Salamis in 480 B.C. By 456 B.C. Aegina had completely capitulated to Athens. The increasing decline in Aeginetan commercial influence may be traced in the variation from the Aeginetan standard by cities formerly within the Aeginetan sphere of influence, even though their near neighbours may have still maintained the old standard. One result of the endeavour to maintain a fixed standard is that the types of coins of the cities in the Aeginetan group tend to remain constant. The break away from the Aeginetan standard to the Asiatic standards of the nearest mainland increased from the middle of the 6th century B.C. Yet the old influence persisted in this Carian peninsula, which is shut off from the mainland by hills, and has its natural outlet to the sea.

The types of this coin closely resemble those of Lydia. The obverse shows a fine example of the fore-parts of a lion with gaping jaws and protruding tongue. The Greek letter X is stamped between the paws and the chin, most probably the first letter in "Chersonesus," for this letter is represented by Ch in English. (We preserve the letter in the contractions Xmas and Xtian for "Christmas" and "Christian.") The reverse shows the fore-parts of a bull within an incuse square, and underneath, running from right to left in the archaic fashion an inscription which is transliterated CHER, the first syllable of "Chersonesus."

The similarity of the types to those of Lydian coins is probably not without good reason. The lion on this coin may be the symbol of the sun god, and Head (*Select Greek and*

*Roman Coins*) suggests that the bull may have some reference to the moon goddess worshipped by Semitic peoples, who was identified by the Greeks with Aphrodite, the Roman Venus. If this is so, there is a close link between this coin and the next (No. 27) which comes from Cnidus, a city which was a close neighbour to the tripolis of the Chersonese, for on the reverse of No. 27 there appears the head of Aphrodite. Kornemann (*Die Stellung der Frau in der vorgriechischen Mittelmeerkultur*<sup>1</sup>) has tried to show that the early civilization of the Mediterranean basin had a mother-goddess as an important deity, that descent was reckoned through the mother, and that the important animal was the bull and not the horse, for the horse is rather typical of the peoples who spoke tongues belonging to the Aryan group. In these coins, therefore (Nos. 26 and 27), we may perhaps have relics of an early era of civilisation of which the authorities who chose the coin types were probably quite unaware. The Greeks always regarded the institution of matriarchy, survivals of which probably existed in historic times, as something quite unusual. The Spanish bull-fight, and the English "Derby" may have some remote connection with the institutions of these early and contrasting types of civilisation.

No. 27. This fine example of Greek archaic art is attributed to the city of Cnidus. The date is given as the latter part of the 6th century B.C. Cnidus was one of the six Dorian states which formed a league for the worship of Apollo at his shrine at Triopium. At the meetings of the league, which were specifically for religious purposes, other matters of common interest would be discussed, such as the rules by which warfare between the states would be conducted. The other members of this league—it was called the Dorian Hexapolis—were three cities of the island of Rhodes—Camirus, Ialysus and Lindus—the island of Cos and the city of Halicarnassus, birthplace of the historian Herodotus. Rhodes was prominently connected with the worship of the sun. Greek legend said that the island derived its name from a daughter of Aphrodite, who became the bride of the sun. In 278 B.C. the sculptor Chares made the colossal image of the sun god which stood at the entrance of the harbour of Rhodes. It is therefore not surprising that Cnidus, a city which shared in the worship of Apollo, the sun god, at Triopium, should show the fore-parts of

<sup>1</sup> Cited from memory, as Kornemann's works do not appear to be available in New Zealand.

the lion on the obverse of its coins. The reverse of this coin shows within an incuse square a delightful archaic head of the goddess Aphrodite. The portrait shows the smiling face, the slanting almond-shaped eye, and the severely regular rendering of the hair, all well-known characteristics of the archaic period of art. Cnidus had been a Phoenician settlement which was later occupied by the Dorians. From the Phoenicians the new-comers probably took over the worship of the moon goddess in one of her forms. She was most familiarly known to the west as Astarte. One legend says that the supreme god appeared as her lover in the form of a bull, and from this legend the story of Europa and the bull may have taken shape. Head (*Historia Numorum*, p. 615) conjectured that the worship here indicated, carrying on the worship of the Phoenician goddess, is that of Aphrodite Euploia, "Our Lady of the Prosperous Voyage," a conjecture which has not been called in question. This Aphrodite would be a deity of the kind worshipped at sea-ports, and she would have under her care those who did business in great waters. The sculptor Praxiteles, was later to make a famous statue of Aphrodite for a temple at Cnidus. By the opening of two opposing doors a pleasing lighting effect was obtained.

It is notable that on this coin the portrait head appears on the reverse. This is not at all common after the archaic period. Portrait heads were among the most difficult of designs to make. Reverse dies wear out more quickly than obverse dies, and the artists would, therefore, tend to choose the dies that would last longest for the most difficult designs. An additional reason may be that the type of the reverse often does not come out so clearly on the coin as that of the obverse. This kind of coin survived the Persian invasions, and later the absorption of Cnidus into the Athenian Empire. But when Athens decreed in 432 B.C. the adoption of Attic weights, Cnidus, as a gesture of her displeasure, stopped issuing coins and did not mint again until 412 B.C., when Athens was in the throes of the misfortunes brought upon her by the Peloponnesian War, and when the members of her empire were beginning to break away.

No. 28. The lion's mask on the obverse of this coin would seem to indicate that the place of origin is the island of Samos. But the workmanship seems so crude that some other place of origin may be possible. The artistic execution is not unlike that of No. 33, and Head (*Select Greek and Roman Coins*) therefore suggests that both these coins



come from Crete. The island of Crete came under the Aeginetan trade influence and its states copied the coin types of their Greek neighbours. Hence may be explained the appearance of this coin in a group from which it differs remarkably in artistry, although it is of the Aeginetan silver standard. There is no distinct type on the reverse, but simply an incomplete incuse square.

No. 29. This remarkable silver coin differs from all the others in the group, especially in the flatness of its shape. The workmanship shows considerable skill, but in contrast, the head within the helmet on the obverse is archaic to the point of caricature. There is a crudely-formed staring eye, a thick unshapely nose, a deep upper lip, and a small tuft of beard. On the reverse there is a lyre within a deep incuse, the shape of which is pleasingly adapted to that of the instrument. Head (*Historia Numorum*, p. 631) therefore regards the attribution of the coin to the island of Calymna (sometimes called Calymnos) as doubtful, and suggests Euboea or Macedonia as the place of origin, and the date as not later than 600 B.C. If the coin is archaic, we must then accept the fact that its appearance differs greatly from most other archaic coins of the Aegean islands or Asia Minor. On the other hand, Gardner (*History of Ancient Coinage*, p. 181) thinks that the "clumsy archaism" of the obverse is deliberate and shows a sharp contrast with the carefully-wrought artistry of the reverse type. He suggests as a date some year not much earlier than the period 480-445 B.C. The only weighty reason for attributing the coin to Calymna is that the island issued coins with the types of the helmeted head and the lyre. The warrior has his visor up, and wears an impressive crest and a neck-piece. It is suggested that he may represent one of the Heroes who were wrecked on Calymna as they were returning from the Trojan War. The reverse gives in some detail a representation of a seven-stringed lyre with a tortoise-shell bowl. A lyre was made by attaching goat's horns or pieces of wood of similar shape to the shell of a tortoise. The horns were held together at the top by a yoke of wood which held the pegs to which the strings were attached. Hence the poets often use the Greek word which means "tortoise" to denote a lyre, and Euripides, for example (*Alcestis*, 446) speaks of singing and dancing to "the seven-stringed lyre of mountain tortoise-shell."

The rather fanciful explanation suggests itself that the type of the lyre has been associated with Calymna as a punning reference. The first syllable of the word for

“beautiful” in Greek is *Cal*, and “hymnos” (our word “hymn”) means “a song” in Greek. But more probable than this popular etymology is the explanation that there was a cult of Apollo of Delos on the island, and that the type of the lyre has the same significance here as it has on No. 22 which, as we have already noted, probably belongs to the island of Delos.

No. 30. This coin was minted on the Aeginetan standard at Camirus, a city on the north-west coast of the island of Rhodes. Two of the chief cities of Rhodes, Camirus and Ialysus, were within the sphere of Aeginetan influence in the 6th century B.C. The obverse of the coin shows a pleasing representation of a fig leaf, and the reverse shows two oblong incuses separated by a broad band. This kind of design on the reverse is common on the coasts of Caria, and occurs again in No. 32. There are various conjectures as to the reason for using a fig leaf as a coin type. Head (*Historia Numorum*, p. 636) suggests that figs may have been the chief product of the island of Rhodes. The western side of the island is still its main fruit-growing district. Others would see in the fig leaf a religious symbol. The fig was prominent in certain religious rites of purgation, and in this function it was associated with Zeus and Dionysus. The association may even point to a primitive tree-cult. One of the cult-titles of Zeus was *Sykasios*, “Zeus of the fig-gathering.” We are told that a writer of comedy once parodied the title and made it mean “Zeus, the patron of sycophants.” In Greek, the word “sycophant” has a much uglier meaning than it has in English, for it means “a political informer.” The derivation of the word has always been a puzzle, about which the Greeks had various theories. Some of them thought that it meant “the discloser of figs,” and a legend was framed to suit. They spoke of sycophants as unpleasant persons who laid information against smugglers when a law was passed putting an embargo on the importation of figs. Others said that in certain religious rites, a priest held up a fig and uttered a curse; thus the title of the priest who performed this rite “the fig-displayer” came, in time, to denote “slanderer.” But most probably a sycophant was one who laid information about trifling things, just as we say “I don’t care a fig for what you do.”

As for the connection with Dionysus, this god was worshipped by the Spartans as a god of figs, under the title of *Sykates*. The Spartans believed that Dionysus first instructed them in the cultivation of fig trees.

No. 31. The city of Ialysus in Rhodes did not issue coins before the 5th century B.C. This silver coin, minted on the Phoenician standard, shows some similarity to Lycian types like No. 35, and is very different from the coins issued by the neighbouring Rhodian city of Camirus. It seems more probable, as an explanation, that Ialysus broke away from Aeginetan influence and maintained a closer connection with the Asiatic mainland, than to suppose that the Phoenician standard is a tradition from Phoenician settlers in Rhodes and the neighbouring island of Melos.

The obverse of this coin shows a winged boar. The animal was sometimes associated with Apollo, and may therefore be a symbol of sun worship, a cult which, as we have seen, was strong in this part of the Mediterranean and especially in Rhodes. The reverse shows the head of an eagle with an inscription beneath, which in English lettering would be IELYSION "belonging to the people of Ialysus." These are within an incuse square bordered by dots, with a floral ornament in one corner.

No. 32. Poseidion in Carpathus, a small town on a small island, minted this kind of silver stater on the Phoenician standard in the 6th century B.C. The obverse contains a dotted square within which are dolphins in opposite directions, and a smaller fish beneath. These are symbols of the sea. The reverse is similar to that of No. 30.

The next three coins, Nos. 33-35, have been attributed to Lycia. If the attribution is entirely correct, then, as Head says (*Select Greek and Roman Coins*) there is an interesting artistic development in the group from the crude boar's head of No. 33 to the ripeness and careful detail of No. 35, which cannot be much earlier than 480 B.C. But it has already been noted that the identification of Nos. 28 and 33 is not absolutely certain.

Of what race the Lycians were is another unsettled problem. There was a tradition that they were invaders from the sea. They had their own alphabet and their own language, which frequently appear on coin inscriptions. The only Greek colony on their territory was Phaselis, founded about 700 B.C. This fact shows that the Lycians must have been of independent and warlike character. It will be noted that each of the obverse types is a boar. No. 33 shows the head only; No. 34 is an obviously archaic representation of the fore-parts, and No. 35 is an excellent representation of the whole animal. Here, too, the boar may denote some connection with sun worship. But wild boars were found

in Lycia, and Lycian hams were a well-known delicacy. It is possible, therefore, that as in No. 30, the obverse type depicts one of the chief products of the land.

The reverses of Nos. 33 and 34 are merely rough incuse squares, but that of No. 35 is similar in artistic execution to the reverse of No. 31 from Rhodes. It shows within a square with dotted border the device of the three legs called the trisceles or triquetra, each leg ending in a cock's head, and radiating from a central disc. The device will be familiar to those who remember the armorial bearings of the Isle of Man. The theory is that the Vikings brought the symbol to the Isle of Man from Sicily. A more detailed transmission from the same source is described in Arnold Whittick's *Symbols for Designers*, pp. 129-130. Local dynasts were apparently allowed to maintain their rule in Lycia after the Persian conquests. They organised a federation, and the usual emblem of the federation is the device of the three legs. What it essentially signifies is not quite clear. It has been thought to denote rotatory motion, and may therefore be a symbol of sun worship.

Phaselis, in the extreme east of Lycia, is a Dorian colony which maintained its own development and had a coinage distinct from that of the rest of the country. No. 36 is a silver coin from this colony, minted before 466 B.C. on the Persian standard. The obverse shows the prow of a galley in the shape of the fore-parts of a boar. Greek vessels were given eyes to enable them to see where they were going. This vessel has a prominent eye, and shields hung over the bulwarks, after the manner of Viking ships. The bottom part of the prow juts forward. Greek fighting-vessels had this device regularly, and this jutting portion was commonly sheathed in metal to form a good ram. The reverse shows the stern of the vessel within an incuse square, and with neatly delineated bulwarks. Above is an inscription, the transliteration of which is PHAS, the first syllable of "Phaselis." The type may therefore be intended as a punning reference to the name of the town, as the Greek word for a skiff, borrowed by the Romans, just as we borrowed nautical terms from the Dutch, is "phaselus." But if any real etymological connection between the city and the word "phaselus" is implied, it is probably false, for the same word also means a pea—or a bean—pod, and the kind of vessel denoted by the word may have received its name because of its distinctive pod-like shape.

Celenderis in Cilicia tended, as might be expected from its remoteness from the Aegean, to come within the influence

of Persia. Greeks from Samos settled here in the 6th century B.C. The obverse of No. 37, which is attributed to Celenderis, shows a kneeling goat. The reverse is an incuse square. The goat is a symbol of Dionysus, and may here denote the cult of that god. The type is, however, rather distinctive of the island of Andros, where Dionysus was the chief god, at whose festival a fountain in the sanctuary ran with wine. The attribution of this coin to Celenderis may, therefore, not be certain.—(To be continued.)

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Professor Murray for his interesting paper.

#### ERRATA, Vol. 1, No. 4.

- p. 38—l. 11, for *Peria* read *Persia*.  
 p. 39—l. 12, for *obverse* read *reverse*.  
 p. 41—l. 32, for *followed* read *flowed*.  
 p. 42—l. 18, for *north-east* read *north-west*.  
 p. 46—l. 27, read *Cyme in Aeolis, the northern part . . .*  
 p. 47—l. 27, for *Phoceans* read *Phocaeans*.

---

#### NOTES OF MEETINGS.

The 110th meeting of the Society was held in Wellington on the 29th September, 1947. Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., presided.

**Ancient Coins.**—Professor H. A. Murray read the first of a series of papers he has kindly undertaken to give on the Gilbertson Memorial Collection in the Alexander Turnbull Library. He dealt with the first tray of coins of the archaic period, from 700 to 480 B.C., which was exhibited together with photographs. (This paper was published in the previous issue.) In supplementing his remarks, Professor Murray said that these electrum, gold, and silver coins were keys to the history and art of the time. They represented primary evidence that did not fade away. They were the subject of almost continuous investigation with the result that the labels were not entirely up-to-date.

In regard to No. Plate 1, A—4, the Gorgon was shown with her tongue out, and there was a parallel in Maori art which included many examples of the tongue protruding.

The earlier issues were of electrum, a natural blend of gold and silver, found in Asia Minor. Croesus (560-546 B.C.) whose name had become traditional for wealth, was the first issuer of a bi-metallic coinage.

The archaic period coincided with the time of the aggression of the Persians and Medes against the West until they were thoroughly defeated by the Greeks at sea in 480 and 479 B.C. An interesting survival of the travels of the Greeks was the Greek names—presumably of mercenary soldiers—carved on the surface of the Pyramids. The Greek coins were miniature sculptures in high relief which gave them an attractiveness not since achieved. Ten large silver staters

equalled one light gold stater, which some might assume to be the germ of modern decimal coinage.

Mr. A. Quinnell said that the Greeks, who were great traders by sea, would establish trading posts which would be unsecured from the interior, just as the early Pacific traders established unsecured trading posts, and both were frequently overwhelmed from the interior. The poor soil of Greece would stimulate travel, and the imprint left on history by the adventurous Greeks could probably be traced to that circumstance.

Homer sang more in praise of the oar than of the plough. When Athens was at the height of its glory, the wealthy class sometimes, but more frequently the state, employed sculptors to embellish buildings, and yet they had to import large quantities of wheat for which they probably paid in manufactures, and especially in stamped pieces of precious metals of acceptable standards issued by merchants as trade tokens.

Mr. W. D. Ferguson said that the Professor had come from a country rich in culture to a young country which had fewer opportunities for cultural studies. His wide knowledge of the classical field, and his gift for making his subject interesting had created new interest in the Gilbertson Collection, and all looked forward to his subsequent papers.

Mr. Allan Sutherland said that the Society was fortunate in having the expert assistance of Professor Murray and Miss Dettmann in describing in detail the classical-period coins in the Gilbertson Collection. They were opening new vistas to those who had only a superficial knowledge of the background of those coins, and all looked forward to the systematic study made possible with the aid of Head's electrotypes.

In answer to questions Professor Murray said that the Phoenicians travelled as far as Cornwall for tin. The corn-route from Greece to Russia led to the Greeks teaching the Greek alphabet to the Russians, hence the similarity between Russian and Greek lettering on coins to this day. The Russian alphabet is called Cyrillic because Bishop Cyril was the missionary who gave the people of South Russia an alphabet based on the Greek letters. Professor Murray was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

**The 111th meeting of the Society was held at the Alexander Turnbull Library on the 20th October, 1947. Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., President, occupied the Chair.**

A cordial welcome was extended to Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, Auckland, who was visiting the city, and to Mr. R. Walpole who had returned to Wellington. Apologies were received from Rev. D. C. Bates, Messrs. Murray Weston, Moller, Chetwynd and Griffin.

New Members were elected as follows:

Mr. Frank Martin, 138 Norwood St., North East Valley, Dunedin.

Mr. D. R. North, 38 Clarendon St., Dunedin, N.1.

Mr. F. Pridmore, 46 High St., Skegness, Lincolnshire, England.

**New Zealand Coinage.**—A brief review of New Zealand silver coins issued from 1933 to 1946 was given following the tabling of a complete record of silver issues supplied by the Reserve Bank (published in this issue). An enquiry was received from Mr. J. Sutherland, Timaru, asking whether 1943 New Zealand half-pence had been issued. (From 1940 to 1946, inclusive, pence and half-pence have been issued,

except for the 1943 half-pence.—Ed.) Decided to ask the Reserve Bank to supply a list of bronze coins issued to date.

**Donation to University of Otago and Otago Museum.**—Professor H. A. Murray and Mr. W. D. Ferguson reported that Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, F.R.N.S. had presented his collection and numismatic library to the University of Otago. Members stated that Otago would be rich in numismatic material following the earlier donation of the Willi Fels Collection. Professor Murray kindly undertook to obtain, for reference purposes, a list of numismatic books, and notes of outstanding specimens if possible, now in public custody in Dunedin, and members suggested that similar lists be obtained from other parts of the country. Reference was made to the presentation to the Auckland War Memorial Museum by Mr. J. C. Entrican of his coins and numismatic works.

**Catalogue of Numismatic Works in Libraries.**—Decided that the Librarians and Museum Directors in the main centres be asked to supply a list of numismatic works with a view to publishing a combined Dominion catalogue indicating where such works are located. This would help in dealing with enquiries, and assist members desiring to study expensive works, or those out of print. A tentative list compiled from the General Assembly Library and Alexander Turnbull Library indicated that there was a wealth of material in the country. Decided also that further numismatic works be purchased for the Society's Library from the British Museum.

**Symbol of Authority—The Black Rod.**—A short paper was read by Mr. Allan Sutherland. (Printed in this issue.)

**Coinage of Edward VIII (now Duke of Windsor).**—A paper was read on behalf of Mr. C. J. V. Weaver, Sydney. (Printed in this issue.)

**Revised Rules and Incorporation.**—The revised Rules will, in due course, be submitted to members for their approval. A suggestion has been made that the Wellington subscription should be increased to 7/6, and that the Composite Life Subscription in future to £5/5/-, but that the Annual Membership fee for non-Wellington members remain at 5/-.

**Exhibits.**—A ten-cent currency note, 94 by 43 mm. issued in Colombo during World War II was exhibited by Mr. A. Sutherland who explained that it was given to him by a naval man who stated that the size of the note was considered too small by the natives who refused to handle them, with the result that the notes were recalled.

Mr. A. Robinson, Auckland, exhibited two interesting gold coins, one of Emperor Akbar, and the other a Mohur of Shah Alam.

The 112th meeting of the Society was held on the 24th November. Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., presided over a good attendance of members.

**Prefix "Royal" in Name of Society.**—Mr. Allan Sutherland reported that His Majesty the King had granted permission to include the prefix "Royal" in the name of the Society, and stated that members would be pleased to learn of the honour conferred on the Society. Members generally expressed gratification at the distinction which would enhance the status of the Society.

Mr. James Berry, Hon. Secretary, read several letters congratulating the Society on the first issue of the *Numismatic Journal*. Members present expressed their pleasure at the standard achieved.

**Numismatics and Trade.**—The Rev. D. C. Bates, Vice-President, gave an interesting impromptu talk on numismatics and trade, and stressed the value of wool as a one-time staple article of export from Britain. To this day the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords sat on a woosack, covered with red plush, and tied in lugs in each corner, perpetuating the recognition of wool as a major factor in the economic life of Britain.

The Rev. D. C. Bates exhibited the numismatic work, *Famile Romanae*, written by Carolus Patin, in Latin when exiled from his own country. Patin was born in 1633 and died in 1693. The family coins of Rome were well illustrated, and the book was an excellent example of early printing. Also exhibited was a piece of carved oak from the Lady Chapel of the Spalding Parish Church, in Lincolnshire, showing in the carving the woosack, with the lugs in the corners. The carving was some hundreds of years old. It showed that the church, also, recognised the value of wool in the life of the community. Wool brought great wealth to England at the time of Queen Elizabeth, and wool was still important in the economy of the Empire.

Mr. W. D. Ferguson stated that one of the mint marks on coinage in the time of Elizabeth was the woolpack. The Rev. D. C. Bates was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

Professor H. A. Murray read a further paper on Ancient Coins (reported elsewhere).

Mr. P. Watts Rule submitted an unrecorded token of brass bearing the inscription TIMARU across centre, three stars above and below, with BUDD'S around above and LUNCHEON around below. Dia. 26 mm. S189(b).

New members were elected as follows:

Sir Thomas Hunter, K.B.E., LL.D., M.A., Victoria University College, Wellington.

Mr. James Hunt Deacon, National Gallery, Adelaide. (Hon. Member.)

Mr. C. R. H. Taylor, Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. (Honorary Member.)

Mr. F. Kimmerle, Secretary, The Society of Medallists, 115 East 40th St., New York, 16, N.Y. U.S.A.

Mr. R. Marcollo, 325 Hargreaves St., Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

Mr. C. J. Freeman, 10 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, Wellington.

Mr. A. L. Jones, 390 Wairarapa Road, Bryndwr, Christchurch.

Mr. J. C. Anderson, Rector, South Otago Boys' High School, Balclutha.

The Principal, Timaru Boys' High School, Timaru.

The Principal, Christchurch West High School, Christchurch.

The Principal, Wairarapa College, Masterton.

The Principal, Avondale Technical High School, Auckland.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

**Midsummer Recess.**—Easter Monday falls on last Monday in March, 1948, and, therefore, Wellington meetings will not be resumed until Monday, April 5th, 1948. The following meeting will be on 26th April, and thereafter on the last Monday in the month.



**New Members.**—The names of upwards of 50 new members and High Schools and Colleges will be submitted for election at next meeting.

**Otago Centennial Medals.**—Members desirous of securing specimens of the large size medal in bright bronze should place tentative orders with Mr. H. G. Williams, 893 Cumberland Street, Dunedin, or with the Hon. Secretary, Box 23, Wellington. The price is not known as yet, but will probably be 10/- each.

**Papers.**—Members are invited to submit papers to be read before the meetings of the Society, and which may be published in the **Journal**. Such papers should, if possible, be confined to 4,000 words, and be typewritten double-space on quarto pages to suit the printer.

Papers received or in course of preparation are, "Coins of the East India Company," by Mr. L. J. Dale; "Wanganui Metropolitan Club Tokens," by Mr. S. R. McCallum; "Coins of Henry VIII," by Mr. W. D. Ferguson.

**Branches of the Society.**—The formation of Branches of the Society in the main centres has been discussed from time to time. Members interested should contact their local Vice-President and endeavour to arrange meetings which could be of a semi-social nature for a commencement. In view of the handsome donations by members to Museums, particularly in Auckland and in Dunedin, it is likely that the Museum authorities, or the Principals of Universities would co-operate by making meeting rooms available free of charge. Provision for branches will be made in the revised rules. Mr. Johannes Andersen, Auckland, and Mr. L. J. Dale, Christchurch, would like members interested to communicate with them.

**Social Evening.**—Pictures of historic spots in London before and after the "blitz" were screened by Mr. James Berry at an unscheduled social evening held in Wellington on 8th December. The meeting was well attended by members and their friends who were the guests of Mrs. Berry at a dainty supper.

**Junior Collectors.**—A page for junior members will be included in future issues, and items of interest and enquiries from junior members are invited for this page.

\* \* \* \*

It is understood that Mr. Harold Mattingly, F.R.N.S., the noted numismatic author, and British Museum authority, and President of the Royal Numismatic Society is to visit Australia next year to deliver the Todd Memorial Lecture in Sydney. It is hoped that Mr. Mattingly will extend his visit to New Zealand where he will be assured of a cordial welcome.

Miss Denise Dettmann, Lecturer in Classics, Victoria University College, is visiting Australia. Mr. A. Quinnell also intends visiting the Commonwealth shortly.

Mr. James Berry, Hon. Secretary, has been congratulated by the Postmaster-General on the high standard of his designs for the New Zealand Peace Stamps. In a world competition held in London by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Company, to select the twelve best postage stamps issued since the war, Mr. Berry's designs received the first, sixth, seventh, ninth, and twelfth places. Mr. Berry has been the recipient of many congratulations from members of the Society.

"I appreciate very much the receipt of the reports of your Society and read them with interest."—Mr. O. G. Reynolds, Deputy Master, Royal Mint, Melbourne.

The latest Report of the Royal Mint, London, is the 1938 issue.

\* \* \* \*

Joseph Shepherd Wyon (referred to on page 15, Vol. 1), 1836-1873, was the eldest son of Benjamin Wyon, and was the senior partner of the firm of die-sinkers founded by his grandfather, Thomas Wyon, at Birmingham. He was appointed Chief Engraver of Seals in 1858, and engraved the Great Seal of Queen Victoria and that of Canada.

\* \* \* \*

The colour portrait of Sir John Rankine Brown, K.B.E., LL.D., M.A., appearing in our last issue was by A. F. Nicholl. The blocks were by courtesy of Mr. G. F. Dixon, and the printing was by Messrs. H. H. Tombs, Wellington. The painting is displayed in Victoria University College.



**GOLD COINS ACCEPTED BY NEW ZEALAND BANKS UNTIL 1849.**

Above: obv. and rev. of Spanish doubloon of treasure-trove fame.

Below: French 20 franc pieces.

(Illustration reprinted from *Numismatic History of N.Z.*, by Allan Sutherland.)



PLATE 5.

WAR MONEY OF NEW ZEALAND.

Special issues used by Japanese prisoners of war at Featherston. The first six specimens showing value in words were those in use when the camp closed; the six specimens showing values in figures were those first used. Below: N.Z.Y.M.C.A. 5 M/M brass token used in canteen in Cairo; 5 cent card issue for Halavo Seaplane Base, Pacific, and R.N.Z.A.F. sports award medal used in the Pacific theatre.

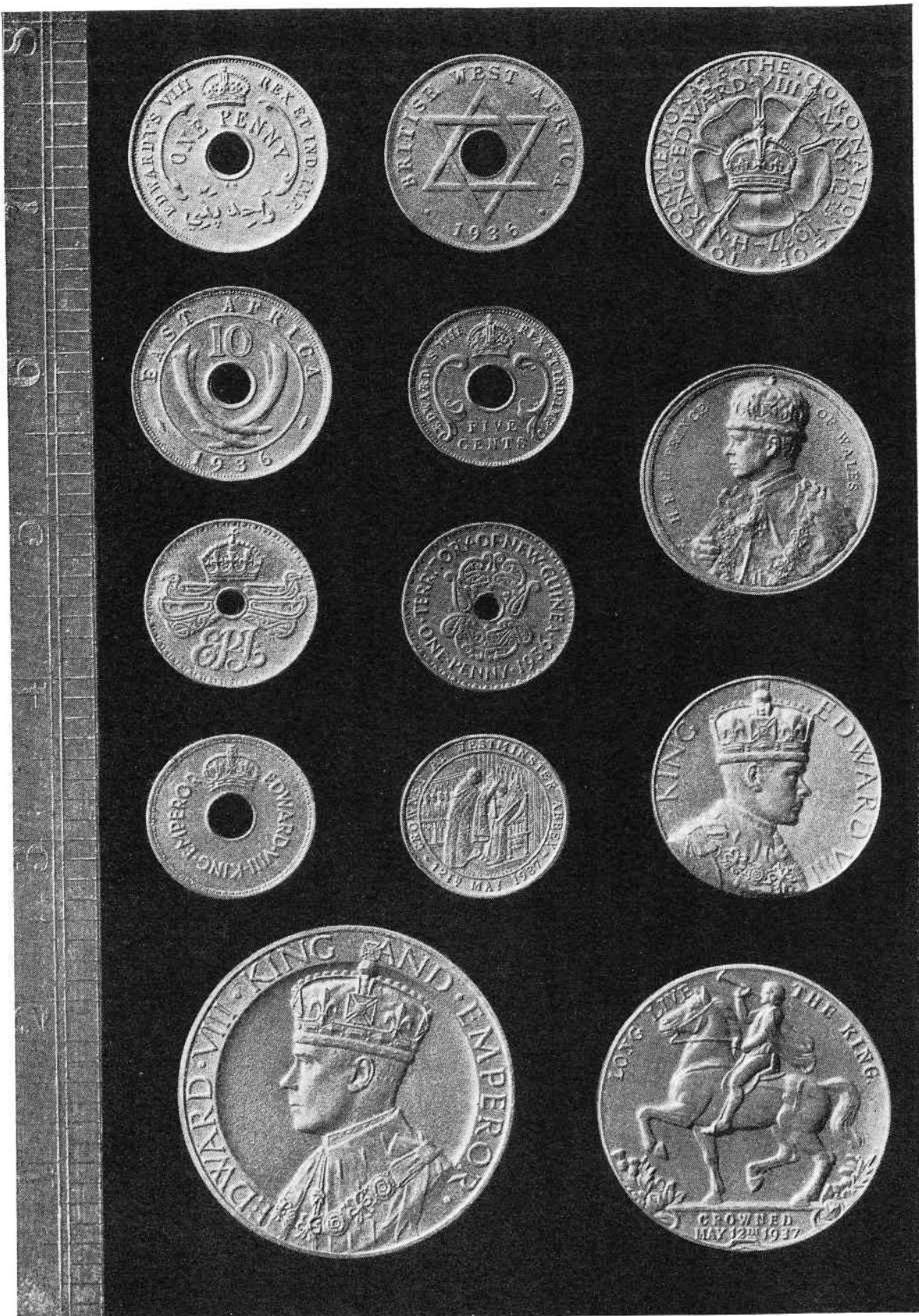


PLATE 6.

COINS AND CORONATION MEDALS OF KING EDWARD VIII.

No portrait coins of King Edward VIII (now Duke of Windsor) have been issued. Depicted above are coins issued in 1936 for East and West Africa, New Guinea and Fiji. The medals showing the date fixed for the coronation, "May 12th, 1937," and a coronation scene, were issued before the abdication. A 3 dokoda piece is also reported from Cutch, a native state in Western India. The reference to Edward VIII and date is in Persian, and the reverse inscription is in Nagari.



PLATE 7.

FOREIGN SILVER COINS ACCEPTED IN NEW ZEALAND UNTIL 1849.

From top across: Spanish piece-of-eight, obv. and rev.; Rupee of East India Company, native style; Bank of England dollar; Reverse of British crown-piece; French five-franc pieces, obv. and rev.; Half rupee, East India Company; Rupee of East India Company, obv. and rev.

(Illustration reprinted from *Numismatic History of N.Z.*, by Allan Sutherland.)



PLATE 8.

TRIAL DESIGNS FOR NEW ZEALAND COINAGE, 1933.

Two top rows by Mr. P. Metcalfe, and two bottom rows by the late Mr. Kruger Gray. The late Mr. Forbes, when Prime Minister, approved of a series by Mr. Kruger Gray, but these were rejected by the New Zealand Coinage Committee with the exception of the half-crown. (Illustration reprinted from *Numismatic History of New Zealand*, by Allan Sutherland.)

# NEW ZEALAND COIN EXCHANGE

H. G. WILLIAMS, Manager

893 Cumberland Street  
DUNEDIN, OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND



*We have for Disposal*

COINS

MEDALS

TOKENS

COMMUNION TOKENS

NUMISMATIC BOOKS,

Etc.

Send us particulars of any Coins, Medals, Tokens, or other Numismatic material you wish to dispose of, and we will be pleased to make you an offer.

We would like to have your wanted list.

Coin Lists sent on application.



## Christchurch Coin Company

P. O. Box 3, PAPANUI

NEW ZEALAND

- ★ We sell all kinds of Coins, Numismatic books and collectors' supplies.
- ★ We always endeavour to give friendly and helpful service to recent or junior collectors.
- ★ Valuations undertaken for probate or insurance purposes.
- ★ We buy silver and gold coins and Numismatic books.
- ★ We issue monthly instructive lists of coins for sale. Free on request.

---

L. J. DALE, Manager

Member

New Zealand Numismatic Society,  
American Numismatic Association,  
and Australian Societies.