

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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Study and Collection of

COINS AND MEDALS

* * *

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETY

(AND INDEX)

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1941 - 1947

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NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 71st (10th ANNUAL) MEETING

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on 28th July. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. The minutes of the Ninth Annual Meeting were taken as read, and confirmed. Correspondence and reports of overseas Numismatic Societies were tabled. Apologies for absence were received from Sir James Elliott, Professor J. Rankine Brown and Mr. D.J. Kerr.

The annual report and balance sheet were adopted unanimously.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY: Mr. Johannes Andersen, Mr. W.D.Ferguson, and Mr. A.Sutherland expressed satisfaction at the Society's progress during the previous decade and referred to the good work of members, absent and present. Reference was also made to the continued interest of Viscount Eledisloe, and Sir John Hanham, and as a mark of appreciation it was decided to present to each of them a bound and autographed copy of the "Numismatic History of New Zealand." In association with the author, similar gifts were made by the Society to the Hon. W.Parry, Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. J.Thorn, Chairman of the National Historical Committee, and the Turnbull Library.

INDEX TO VOLUME II. The Hon. Secretary asked for volunteers to assist in compiling an index to Volume II, and Mr. W.D.Ferguson agreed to undertake the task.

FINANCIAL. It was decided that Mr. G.C.Sherwood, Hon. Treasurer, be sole trustee for the Society's ordinary F.O.S.B. Account No. 608213. Mr. Sherwood explained that the composite subscription Trust Account, which was subject to strict limitations as to withdrawals, stood at about £100, and that the Medal Account stood at about £80. The Ordinary account had been practically depleted.

PROPOSED PRINTING OF REPORTS. Dr. W.R.B.Oliver suggested that, commencing with Vol. III, the reports should be printed. The proposal was referred to the incoming Council.

OFFICERS, 1941-42. Patron (with his consent): His Excellency, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir Cyril Louis Norton Newall, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., C.B.E.; Hon. Life Patron: Viscount Eledisloe, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.Sc.; President: Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S., N.Z.; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J.C. Entrican (Auckland), E.K.Cameron (Hawera), Archdeacon G.H.Gavin, F.R.N.S., (New Plymouth), S.R.McCallum (Wanganui), N.Soloman (Napier), The Rev. D.C.Bates, J.W.Heenan, C.B.E., Professor J. Rankine Brown, M.A., LL.D., Sir James Elliott, M.D., F.R.A.C.S., E.Gilbertson (Wellington), Oscar Harding (Springston), J.B. Ward (Hokitika), P. Watts Rule, F.N.Z.I.A., (Timaru), Willi Fels, C.M.G., Colonel G.Barclay, O.B.E., K.St.J., V.D., F.C.S., N.Z., H.G.Williams (Dunedin) and J.Robertson (Invercargill); Council: Messrs. W.D.Ferguson, H.R.Ford, A.Quinnell, J.Berry, and R.Walpole; Hon. Secretary: Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S.; Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mr. M.Hornblow; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.C.Sherwood; Hon. Auditor: Mr. W.Chetwynd.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the officers of the Society.

GENERAL: Suggestions that a book-case with glass top be provided for the housing of numismatic works and collection on a semi-permanent loan to the Alexander Turnbull Library, and that £20 be paid into a N.Z.N.S. Commemorative Medal Trust Account to assist in issuing historic medals in the future, and that selected papers by Professor J. Rankine Brown on the Charles Gilbertson Memorial Collection, and other outstanding papers, be printed and suitably illustrated, were deferred to future consideration.

REVIEWING THE SOCIETY'S WORK during the year, the President, Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., said:

"Members have been liberal of their time in preparing papers for the consideration and edification of their fellow members, and I can safely say that every meeting of the Society has been well worth while, both on account of information and pleasure received.

"I might mention Mr. H. Martin's paper on the Siamese tical or baht; Mr. J.B.Ward's (Hokitika), read by Mr. W.C.Chetwynd, 'Some Memories of a Coll-collector'; Mr. O.Fleming (Sydney), 'The Suggested Nickel Coinage for the Commonwealth of Australia'; C.W.Brandt's 'Composition of Ancient Greek Bronze Coins,' which suggested a means of dating undated coins; A. Quin-nell's 'History and Evolution of Alphabets and Numerals'; S.R.McCallum (Wanganui), read by Professor J. Rankine Brown, 'History of Coinage and Some Types of English Coins'; E.Horwood, 'Silver and Bronze Coinage of George V.'; A.Bland, information as to the issue of the 12-sided threepenny piece in England, of which 55 millions were issued - practically the whole of which had disappeared; P.Watts Rule (Timaru), 'N.Z.Institute of Archi-tects Gold Medal'; W.D.Ferguson, 'English Silver Crowns, Edward VI. to George VI, and the Soho Mint'; A.Sutherland, 'Early Paper-currency.' To this I have been able to add a £5 note not mentioned in Mr. Sutherland's book; and another paper - U.S.A.-N.Z. Trading and Numismatic Contacts - an opportune paper calculated to have some influence in the hoped-for welding together of the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon English-speaking world-wide dispersed race; Professor J. Rankine Brown, On a number of Greek and Roman coins that recently came into his posséssion; and 'Coins as a Means of Propaganda; papers alive with history told by the coins of peoples who have themselves passed away. We have been indebted to Mr. Ford for exhibits of coins, more particularly gold pieces of such value and beauty that members' eyes have watered, their mouths being momentarily dumb; and to Mr. G.C.Sherwood for exhibit of Transport-card-money.

"Mr. Taylor has given the Society a list of books in the Turnbull Library on Numismatics and related subjects, and he is to be thanked for this, and for allowing the Society to continue to hold its meetings in this beautiful sanotum which witnessed our birth ten years ago and has watched our growing-up through those halcyon years.

"Mr. Ferguson, through his energy and enthusiasm, calls for further thanks in that he compiled the lists of two lots of New Zealand and Australian tokens sent to the Society for sale, the clearness of his lists making the sale easy and quite successful so far as the sellers were concerned, and not unsatisfactory to the buyers, though they realized that tokens were no longer tokens only, but demanders of hard cash. Personally, I have to thank him for presiding over a meeting from which I was absent owing to my being in Auckland, and I have also to thank Professor J. Rankine Brown for presiding for the same reason. I did try to infuse some enthusiasm into the Auckland members of the Society, but they seem to be quite satisfied with the reports issued from Wellington, and when I review these reports as issued through the year, I cannot be surprised at their satisfaction.

"I should like to thank Mr. Bland, not only for his note on the vanish-ing threepenny bits, but also for his readiness in helping readers of papers to illustrate their papers; his service here is invaluable, for members are able to bring two senses to bear on the subject - sight as well as hearing; the speaker also is saved much descriptive matter which, however detailed, cannot convey through the ear the definite impression that can be conveyed through the eye.

"There are two other matters for congratulation - the successful issue of the book by Mr. Sutherland, 'The Numismatic History of New Zealand.' I should also say a word about the completion of our coinages by the issue of the half-crown, the penny, and the halfpenny. The bronze coins are quite successful as regards design and execution, and we have to thank Sir James Elliott, our former President, for his assistance in the issue of these coins; he was in England at the time the Royal Mint was engaged on them, and his advice was of help to the Mint and of benefit to New Zealand. As re-gards the half-crown, it is not his fault if the result is not all that might be wished; the plupiu is longer than Maori fashion ever decreed, and the brasslere was as yet undreamed of by the Hinemoas of Aotearoa. The least that can be said is that the design is better than it might have been had Sir James had no say in it; and our thanks are due to him and gratefully given."

DOUBLOONS USED BY THE MAORI. Mr. Andersen then quoted the following extract from Earle, in "Nine Months in New Zealand" (1827-28), indicating the coinage problems of the Maoris:

"It is rather a remarkable and novel circumstance that the natives, who have now been for fourteen or fifteen years in close intercourse and carrying on traffic with Europeans, should not, in the course of that period, understand the nature and value of money; a laughable instance of which occurred to us a few days since. A native came to our house with a serious countenance and businesslike manner, and said he wished to purchase a musket: we asked him what he had brought in exchange for one, when, with great ceremony, he produced a copper penny piece by way of payment. We, of course, refrained from laughter, but he was quite astonished and mortified when he was made to understand that we could not trade with him. He took a stroll round the beach, offering his penny, by way of barter, to every white man he met, but everywhere with equally bad success. The poor fellow had, doubtless, seen someone pass a doubloon, and had mistaken his penny for one, as a doubloon is about the price given for a musket in our regulated list of charges." (Pages 203-204).

CHANGES FROM BARTER TO MONEY PAYMENTS. Mr. Andersen then quoted from "An Account of the Settlements of the New Zealand Company" (1841), by H.W.Petre, pages 16-17:-

"We employed them (the Maoris) chiefly in shooting, fishing, hunting, cutting firewood, and, as I have said before, building houses. At first they were content to be paid with food only. By degrees their wants increased, and they required various goods, such as tobacco, clothing and hardware. All this took place at our first squatting settlement on the banks of the Hutt; latterly, after the bulk of the settlers were established at Wellington, the natives had begun to require money wages in return for their labour. A similar change took place with regard to trade. At first all our exchanges with the natives were made by barter only, but long before my departure they had begun to comprehend the use and value of money. This knowledge at least extended in some cases to the regular employment of our currency. One native resident at Wellington purchased a horse which had been imported from New South Wales, and used to let it out for hire; and another had an account with the bank. Great numbers were in possession of money, which they usually carried about with them in a handkerchief tied round the neck."

POVERTY BAY CURRENCY NOTES. In drawing attention to his discovery of a £5 denomination of currency notes issued by Captain G.E.Read (not Reid, as in No. 289, p. 195, Numismatic History of New Zealand), Mr. Anderson said:

"The captain was an old colonist in the days of the New Zealand Company, and was associated in business with the Hon. W.B.Rhodes, of Wellington. He was also engaged in trading on the East coast of the North Island, and resided at Te Mawhai, a whaling station near Tokomaru; but about 1840 he settled in the Poverty Bay district, from which he kept up the coastal trade. It was, however, during later years, about 1865, that his name became most intimately connected with the district, where he was known as the 'King of Poverty Bay,' of which, indeed, he might justly be called the father. His exertions at the time of the Te Kooti raids, and through the subsequent hostilities, were of great assistance to the settlers. After that, too, he did noteworthy work in furthering the cause of European settlement in the district on conditions which were, on the whole, favourable to the colonists, which no doubt means that for the rest of it they were favourable to Captain G.E.Read. There were those who criticized his methods - as whose methods will not be criticized? - but, taking one consideration with another, Captain Read undoubtedly did much to promote the settlement of Poverty Bay. That he was shrewd and far-seeing goes without saying. He died suddenly, at the age of sixty-two, in February, 1878. Like many of these early traders, he was a man of substance in more ways than one - in fact, he was, like Falstaff, a gross, fat man. A picture of him, seated in a roomy chair, is shown in the New Zealand Biographical Cyclopædia for Auckland, p. 1002. There being a shortage of money in the district in the 'sixties, he issued notes for £1 and £5, the former pink, the latter buff in colour. They were issued in little books, the notes perforated on the left, like cheque-books.

The £1 note is as follows:-

Sr.289A	ONE	(Royal Arms)	ONE
	No. 2830	----o.o----	No. 2830
I promise to bear the Bearer on demand			
the sum of ONE POUND sterling.			
Poverty Bay.....day of 186			
£1.0.0			

.....

The £5 note is exactly the same, but for the colour, which is buff instead of pink, and the number: the one I have is No. 222. The notes were current at Poverty Bay and beyond that district. The Royal Arms being present shows that they were sanctioned by the Government, and, indeed, the soldiers in the district were paid in these notes."

Mr. Johannes Andersen was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting address. At the conclusion of the meeting, members were the guests of the President and Mrs. Johannes Andersen at supper.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND, Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF 72nd MEETING - 25th AUGUST, 1941

The 72nd Meeting of the Society was held on the 25th August, 1941. The President, Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting were confirmed. Correspondence was explained and tabled. Apologies were received from Professor J. Rankine Brown.

PRINTING OF REPORTS. The recommendation of the Council on the proposal to print the Society's reports was submitted for adoption as follows:-

"That the reports of the Society, commencing with Vol. III, be printed every two months (four issues), each issue to contain not more than 16 pages size approx. 9ins. by 6ins., type to be similar to that used in 'Numismatic History of New Zealand'; number of copies to be printed 200; illustrations to be shown; estimated cost of £40 per annum, including mailing.

"That if necessary a sum not exceeding £15 per annum be paid for two years from the Medal Reserve Account as a subsidy towards the cost of printing.

"That all papers, before being printed, be submitted to a Publication Committee, consisting of the President, Hon. Secretary, and Professor J. Rankine Brown, such Committee to have power to edit all papers and to decline to print where necessary. That digests of not more than 3,000 words be submitted, where original papers extend beyond that length; that digests of earlier papers be printed as appendices where necessary; that members be asked to request librarians and others to subscribe to the Numismatic Journal, and be invited themselves to take an extra copy at 5s. per annum, such extra copy to be retained at printers for binding if desired."

The discussion that ensued showed that the printing would cost £10 more than the present method of issuing reports, and that subscriptions might have to be increased slightly if the proposed two-year subsidy were not sufficient to establish the publication with increased subscribers or members. The motion was agreed to.

Subsequently, Mr. H.R.Ford gave notice of motion, as follows:-

"That the proposal to print be deferred until after the War."

After consultation with members of the Council, it was decided to defer the decision to print until after the War, provided the £30 voted as a subsidy to enable the printing project to be established, be set aside for that purpose.

PATRON. The official secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General advised that His Excellency had consented to become Patron of the Society.

INDEX TO VOL. II. Mr. W.D.Ferguson tabled a draft index to Vol. II, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for undertaking such a lengthy and difficult task. Mr. W.D.Ferguson also intimated that he would bear the cost of binding the second volume of the Reports for the Society's Library, and was thanked by the meeting for his generosity.

NEW MEMBER. Mr. J. B. Wallace, Timaru, was elected a member of the Society.

NUMISMATIC EXHIBIT. Miss Kerry, on behalf of the Wellington City Librarian, invited the Society to arrange an exhibition of coins and numismatic literature in the show-case at the entrance to the new Public Library, and Messrs. W.D.Ferguson, A.Bland, and A.Sutherland were appointed a sub-committee with power to act. A suggestion was made that an exhibition of New Zealand "necessity" coins be included in the exhibition.

NEW ISSUES. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had asked the Reserve Bank to put aside sets of new dates or designs in uncirculated condition. He was advised that new supplies of coin were often sent direct to ordering banks in other centres, and that all new dates were not necessarily issued in Wellington. Exact data regarding new issues could only be obtained from the Royal Mint Report, which usually arrived long after the coins had been issued. Mr. H.G. Williams, Dunedin, advised that so far he had secured supplies of New Zealand florins, pennies and halfpennies, dated 1941. No ordinary half-crowns dated 1940 had apparently been issued.

SOLDIER ARCHAEOLOGISTS. Lieut. Sinclair, who had recently returned from Egypt, gave an interesting talk on modern and ancient coinage he had used and found in Egypt. Several interesting Roman coins unearthed by soldiers were exhibited by Lieut. Sinclair, who also displayed Italian medallic souvenirs and modern Egyptian coinage. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his address.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Mr. H. Playford Whittle, President, conveyed the good wishes of his members to the Council and members of the New Zealand Numismatic Society. Mr. J. Hunt Deacon wrote submitting a copy of "The Australian Numismatist," the official organ of the Association of Australian Numismatists. The Overseas (British) Associate fee is 2s.6d. per annum, (Hon. General Secretary, Mr. J. Hunt Deacon, National Gallery, Adelaide.) Canon T.H. Frewin advised that Mr. Allan Sutherland had been elected as Hon. Member of the Numismatic Society of South Australia.

THE COINAGE OF BRITISH GUIANA, by Sydney V. Hagley, was the subject of an excellently prepared paper read on his behalf by the President, Mr. Johannes Andersen, as follows:-

"**THE COINS OF BRITISH GUIANA.** British Guiana is one of the three colonies, British, Dutch and French, situated on the North coast of South America, between the Orinoco and the Amazon. The largest of the three, and certainly the most progressive, British Guiana is bounded in the North by the Atlantic, South by Brazil, West by Venezuela and East by Dutch Guiana. It includes the settlements of Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara, and is of an area of 89,480 square miles. The capital is Georgetown, the name having been changed from Stabrook after the colony had been captured from the Dutch in 1796. It was so named in 1812 to honour George the Third. The present population of about a third of a million, in addition to the British, consists mainly of native Indians, descendants of negro slaves and mixed European races. The monetary history of the colony contains much that is of interest to the numismatist, influenced as it has been by the Dutch guilder, the American dollar and Sterling. By a strange instance of survival these influences still persist and, in the present monetary system, divide honours in what is actually a sterling silver currency. The metallic currency is in shillings and pence, whilst the paper currency is on a dollar basis. The influence of the dollar is seen also in the postage stamps with their cent denominations.

"Quite the most interesting feature of the coinage is the Fourpenny piece, the only coin of a distinctive type struck especially for use in British Guiana in the last one hundred years. To appreciate the reasons for the existence of this denomination it is necessary to go back to the original Dutch possession of the colony. Although restored to the Dutch in the Peace of Amiens in 1802, British Guiana was again captured by the British in 1803 and finally became a British colony in 1814. As in most countries of the period, where the local currency was not stabilised, the Spanish was utilised along with sundry other foreign coins. What are probably the first pieces bearing reference to British Guiana are countermarked and punched Spanish dollars. The dollar has a crenated piercing in the centre with E & D 3 Gl in a beaded oval, and passed for three guilders. The circular piece with a crenated edge punched from the dollar is stamped E & D 3 Bts and represented three Bitts. There is also a Portugese half joe (gold) countermarked E D in an oval, which passed for 22 guilders, as well as other gold coins variously stamped which are supposed to have been current. The first coins struck by the British were those of 1809 and were based on the old Dutch currency of Guilders and Stivers. These were tokens in silver for 3, 2, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ guilders, and bear the laureated and armoured bust (by Pingo) to the right and the legend GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA. On the reverse is a large 3, 2, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ respectively, with a crown above, the whole within a circle and the legend COLONIES OF ESSEQUEBO & DEMERARY TOKEN 1809 around.

"The next issue was in the form of Copper Tokens for 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ stivers. These are better executed and have the laureated and draped bust of Geo. III (by T. Wyon) with the legend GEORGIUS III D G REC on the obverse. On the reverse the value in two lines beneath a crown within an oak wreath. The legend around is COLONIES OF ESSEQUEBO & DEMERARY TOKEN 1813. 1816 issue: Obverse legend: GEORGIUS III D: G: BRITANNIARUM REX.

"The Regal coinage of 1816 for 3, 2, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ guilders were of a general type similar to the tokens of 1813, but the value is in numerals and the reverse legend reads UNITED COLONY OF ESSEQUIBO & DEMERARY (note change in spelling). The next issue was in 1832. These coins are well struck and have a reverse type similar, except for the shape of the numerals and the absence of the circle, to those of 1816. The obverses of these pieces have the head of William IV (by Wyon) to the right and GULIEMUS IIII D:G: BRITANNIAR: REX F:D: around. In addition to the 3, 2, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ guilders, this issue included a smaller denomination, namely the eighth guilder. All of these bear the date 1832.

"In 1833, 1835 and 1836 another issue, bearing these later dates, was made of the 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ guilder, all of a similar type to the previous issue. These were the last regal issues for British Guiana for over fifty years and, with the exception of a token One Stiver in copper and dated 1838, no pieces bearing direct reference to the colony were struck until 1891. It is probable that the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d silver pieces issued in 1834 and following years for the West Indies had a limited circulation also in British Guiana due to the proximity to the other colonies. This is merely conjecture, but this small denomination, together with the shilling, approximated, in sterling, the then value of the guilder. In 1839 the monetary system based on the guilder was changed to that of dollars and cents in the American style, three guilders being made equivalent to one dollar. Subsequently English coin was introduced and circulated side by side with the coins of various other countries, Spain, Mexico, South America and the United States. All of these were legal tender at certain fixed rates. By Ordinance in 1840, the value of the guilder was fixed at one shilling and fourpence, the monetary unit being the "Bitt" or quarter of a guilder.

"The Groat, which had been revived in 1836 as a denomination in the currency of the United Kingdom, was thus the ideal coin for British Guiana by virtue of the fact that it represented the unit of currency on the new basis. These were struck in subsequent years for the United Kingdom and, together with English coin, silver and copper, became the standard currency in the colony. About 1856 the groat ceased to be struck for the United Kingdom and was demonetised and withdrawn from circulation in England. However, as this denomination had become firmly established in British Guiana and some of the West Indian colonies, supplies were required and an issue was made in 1888. These have the old reverse type with FOUR PENCE divided by Britannia seated.

"This type, however, differs from the previous issues on the obverse and had the 'Jubilee' bust of Victoria and the legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITANNIAR: REGINA F:D: It was then decided to issue a fourpenny piece of a distinctive type especially for use in British Guiana and those parts of the West Indies where the coin was still in use. In 1891 the first of this series, which continued, until 1916, was struck. This type, with the head of Victoria wearing a coronet, to the left and the legend VICTORIA QUEEN on the obverse and FOUR PENCE in two lines within a wreath crowned and the legend BRITISH GUIANA & WEST INDIES 1891, was again struck in 1894 and 1901. Those of Edward VII are of the same reverse type but with the crowned bust of the late King and the legend EDWARD VII KING & EMPEROR on the obverse and are dated 1903, 1908, 1909 and 1910.

"The first issue of George V was of this type but with the bust of the new King to the left and the legend GEORGE V KING & EMPEROR. These were struck in 1911, 1913, and 1916. The influence of the "bitt" in those parts of the West Indies for which this piece was also struck, has gradually diminished and it was demonetised in 1917 in all colonies except British Guiana. It is, however, so firmly established as the unit for monetary calculation on the sugar plantations and among the working people in British Guiana that it was necessary to continue to issue this denomination for this colony only. A change was made in the reverse legend to BRITISH GUIANA and coins of this type were struck in 1917 and made legal tender by Proclamation on May 10th. Subsequent issues are dated 1918, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1931, 1935 and 1936. The same type has been continued in the reign of his present Majesty, George VI., and the first coins bearing his portrait, the crowned head by Paget, was dated 1938. An interesting fact concerning these fourpenny pieces is that the silver has been maintained at the old 925 standard whereas the other silver coins are now of the 500 alloy. 1938 issue: Obverse legend: GEORGE VI. KING & EMPEROR OF INDIA."

Mr. Allan Sutherland, in moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Sydney Hagley, said that the paper was a model, not only in brevity, but also in the manner in which the subject was treated. A special small-scale map, showing British Guiana in relation to the adjoining countries, and its proximity to other British possessions, Tobago, Trinidad, St. Vincent and Barbadoes, was also given. British Guiana, being near the Panama Canal zone, was of strategic importance, and more might be heard of that area in the future. Mr. Sutherland said that the rubbings of British Guiana coins, and the postage stamps, showing the influence of the dollar, together with a summary of the monetary history of the colony, reflected great credit on the scholarly contribution of Mr. Hagley. Mr. W.D.Ferguson, who seconded the motion, said the paper had solved for him the mystery in his collection of fourpenny pieces not recorded as a British general issue. He hoped that Mr. Hagley would permit the Society to add his bound paper to its library. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

EXHIBITS. Mr. M.Hornblow exhibited two currency notes sent from Crete by Private Gosnell, First Echelon. One note was a Germany army-of-occupation note for One Reichmark, and was undated and unsigned. Apparently the note was current before the New Zealander escaped. The other note was a Turkish 50 "Elli Kuruş" "TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ MERKEZ BANKASI." Mr. W.D.Ferguson exhibited a series of British Guiana coins.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND, Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF 73rd MEETING, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1941.

"THE PUBLIC SEAL OF NEW ZEALAND", and "THE SEALS OF THE MAORI KINGS" were the subjects of a paper read before the 73rd meeting of the Society. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. Apologies were received from Mr. J.W.M. Smith, Mr. D.D. Anderson, Mr. R. Walpole, Mr. E. Gilbertson and Mr. J.K. de Rouffignac. A cordial welcome was extended to Mr. J. Robertson, Vice-President, Invercargill.

PRINTING OF REPORTS. The Secretary reported that after the notice of motion had been given regarding the proposal to defer printing of reports until after the war, he had consulted members of the Council who agreed to the following motion being moved:- THAT the decision to print reports be deferred until after the war, and that £30 be set aside from the medal account as a subsidy towards that project when undertaken. Seconded by Professor J. Rankine Brown and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND NUMISMATIC PERIODICALS were tabled, including the second printed report of the Australian Numismatic Association.

BRITISH GUIANA COINS. Mr. S. V. Hagley wrote advising that the Society could retain his bound paper on the above subject, and he supplied the following additional details. "Since writing the paper I have acquired the 1836 half-guilder with the legend BRITISH GUIANA mentioned as having been described by Mr. Anthony. Presumably this is one of the set of 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ guilders. I have since secured the figures for the issues of 1888 to 1909, and these will be supplied later with additional data recently acquired."

NEW ZEALAND PROOF COINS 1933. Following correspondence between the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. G. Williams, Dunedin, and Mr. S. V. Hagley, regarding a claim that there were in existence sets of 1933 N.Z. coins in proof condition, Mr. Hagley wrote as follows:- "To clarify and substantiate my contention that my specimens are definitely proof I will post them to you, and I shall be glad if you will exhibit them at next meeting before returning them." (The coins arrived after the meeting). Mr. Hagley added:- "These are not merely well-struck ordinary specimens. . . The design, lettering, etc., and all the parts struck from the sunken portions of the die have definitely been treated specially so as to produce the matte effect which contrasts so pleasingly with the mirror-like finish of the field. My 1933 specimens are unquestionably proof, and better proofs than any of the 1935 issue (formerly declared to be the only proofs). I should be glad if you would compare them with the ordinary issues of the same year, noting particularly the matte surface referred to." Mr. Allan Sutherland said that when he was compiling his "Numismatic History of New Zealand" a controversy arose between Mr. H. G. Williams and himself over the same matter, and after examining further material he had come to the conclusion that the only proofs issued were in 1935. He was, however, prepared to change that view. Members would be advised of the result of the examination of Mr. Hagley's coins.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows:- Mr. A. S. Wilkinson, Kapiti Island, Paraparaumu Beach; Lt. D. W. Sinclair, 56 Ira St. Miramar, Wellington, and Mr. J. McLean, Hansard, Parliament House, Wellington.

THE PUBLIC SEAL AND THE PROVINCIAL SEALS OF NEW ZEALAND, AND THE SEALS OF MAORI KINGS was the subject of a short paper read by Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S. The paper was illustrated by photographs of the seals discussed. A digest of the paper, the text of which may be printed after the war, is as follows:-

GENESIS OF STATE AND PUBLIC SEALS. The practice of using seals on documents as a sign of personal association and approval of rulers and leaders - and as a guarantee of authenticity - comes to us from antiquity. In earliest times scribes and clerks were employed with quill and pen to prepare and copy documents and orders, on parchment and paper, and it was not until the Kings and feudal lords and rulers could themselves write, and sign their names that scribes became less important, and seals became of less significance. Until then, rulers had to resort to the use of a personal seal, which, in a sense, was their signature, and this seal was always jealously guarded. Seals, however, did not fall into disuse altogether, and with the increase of learning, signatures were used as well as seals. Although history books tell us that King John signed the Magna Charta in 1215, that is not strictly correct. King John did not sign the Magna Charta - he sealed it. In time, in Great Britain, there evolved a Great Seal of the Realm which was used to give added weight to the decisions of the Government of the day. At one time the Great Seal of the Realm was considered almost as the fount of

authority, without which those in office considered themselves powerless. Much romance attaches to the experience of successive Keepers of the Great Seal of the Realm, in their endeavours to guard this precious symbol.

The advent of printing, and later of typewriting, and the issuing of documents in large numbers, has tended to result in the disuse of seals generally, except for documents of major importance. Seals are now used chiefly by States and city corporations, as well as public bodies, to embellish and add weight and assurance to decisions and directions of prime importance.

The Great Seal of the United Kingdom, and the Great Seal of New South Wales (the mother colony of New Zealand up to 1841) were both used in validating documents relating to New Zealand until 30th January, 1840, when the first evidence of a New Zealand seal appears on a "Proclamation by His Excellency William Hobson, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of the British Settlements in Progress in New Zealand." In that document Hobson states that he has opened and published ". . . the Commission under the Great Seal extending the boundaries of New South Wales" (to New Zealand) "and the Commission under the Royal Sign Manual appointing me Lieut. Governor as aforesaid . . .", and the Proclamation concludes:- "Given under my hand and seal, at Kororareka, this 30th day of January, 1840, in the third year of Her Majesty's reign."

This seems to indicate that there was a New Zealand Seal in existence before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. This is confirmed from another source, the Treaty of Waitangi itself. On a lithographed facsimile of the Treaty, made before the rats had "got at it" in the cellar of Government Buildings, Wellington, there appears three seals, one under Hobson's signature, and one at each of the bottom corners, under the signatures or tattoo marks of the Maori Chiefs. The size is about that of a three-penny piece, and therefore may have been affixed by a fob seal or signet. The shape is round and the design is that of the Royal Arms, and (apparently) "New Zealand" below, although the lettering is indistinct. Mr. Goldsworthy, of the Internal Affairs Department, who assisted in restoring the Treaty, informs me that the original Treaty has shed its seals, and that there now remains only wax stains indicating where they were originally affixed.

A second Government Seal of similar design, but larger and oval in shape, and described as "Hobson's Seal" may be seen in an exhibition case in the British Residency, at Waitangi, where it was no doubt used as the second official Seal of the infant Colony of New Zealand.

The lecturer then described the seals of New South Wales, bearing convict emblems, which were also used on public documents relating to New Zealand until New Zealand was separated from the parent colony in 1841.

The THIRD PUBLIC SEAL of New Zealand, which was the first "Great Seal" of a distinctive New Zealand design, was used at least from 3rd June, 1841, until 16th October, 1847, on which date it was used on an Ordinance of the Legislative Council, session 8, 1847. The basic features of this seal were

ON AN ESTRADE, H.M. THE QUEEN RECEIVING THE SUBMISSION
OF THE NATIVE CHIEFS, and inscribed VICTORIA D.G. BRITANNIARUM REGINA F.D. SIG. NOVAE ZEALANDIAE. 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ ins. dia.

The general design shows Queen Victoria standing in the centre, crowned, with eight Maori Chiefs grouped around her. The basic features of this design, but with five Maoris grouped around the Queen were used for the first Public Seal of New Ulster (North Island.)

The FOURTH PUBLIC SEAL, which was adopted in 1848 by Governor Grey, bears a completely new design, that of an English settler in municipal robes, standing, to right, and a Maori Chief standing to left, with a draped table between, depicting on cloth the scales of Justice and the Cross of Christianity, and on the table a mace. The design was prepared by Attorney-General Swainson, who was noted for his pencil sketches of rugged bush scenes. The chance discovery of evidence that Swainson had designed the seal had put to rest the controversy regarding the symbolism of the "Missionary" or "Pope" which was later criticised when the seal was shown on the back of Bank of New Zealand notes. The lettering of the fourth seal is bilingual as follows: VICTORIA D.G. BRITANNIARUM REGINA F.D.
ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND.

It was to the credit of successive Under-Secretaries of Internal Affairs, and particularly to Mr. J. Heenan, the present Under-Secretary, that various attempts to alter the design of the Public Seal of New Zealand had been resisted

and although the lettering of the seal was altered with the demise of the Crown, the basic features were retained, and carried to this day an association with two great figures in New Zealand History, those of Attorney-General Swainson and Governor Grey.

CUSTODY AND USE OF THE GREAT SEAL. In England the Great Seal of the Realm is guarded almost as closely as the Crown itself, and similar care is taken in the case of Public Seals adopted by British Dominions.

In New Zealand, for practical considerations, the Public Seal is now kept at Government Buildings in charge of the Under-Secretary of Internal Affairs (Mr. J. Heenan) who appoints two officers to be in charge of the seal and press, which are double locked and placed in the strongroom each night. Hours are appointed for the sealing of documents for Government Departments.

No princely salary accrues to the Keeper of the Public Seal in New Zealand, and the elaborate customs associated with the custody of State seals elsewhere find no place in New Zealand where the machinery of Government goes on notwithstanding the immediate presence or absence of sealed documents to validate major acts. The signatures of the Governor-General or the Prime Minister are of first importance, and the use of the Seal is a natural corollary in keeping with the importance of the documents signed.

FIRST SEAL SAVED FROM FIRE. In 1841 the most cherished official possessions of the Colonial Secretary were the Treaty of Waitangi, and the Seal of the Colony, kept in a rough sheet-iron box in the Government office at Auckland. During a fire there on 3rd April, 1841, Mr. George Elliott-Elliott, Government Record Clerk, (who incidentally then lived in a raupo whare in Queen Street) rescued the treaty and seal at some risk to himself, and it is interesting to record that the Treaty, now restored, still keeps company with the existing Public Seal, in the custody of the Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

The lecturer then proceeded to describe the fifth Public Seal of New Zealand (which was made of silver and presented by Queen Victoria with the Royal Charter accompanying the Constitution Act of 1852, and which was stolen from the Colonial Museum in 1890) the sixth Public Seal, adopted in 1881 (the cost of which raised a storm in official circles) the seventh (Edward 1901-1910) which bore an extended bilingual inscription; the eighth Public Seal (George V. 1910-1936) and the ninth Public Seal George VI. (1938, first used, to date) which covered the period of a century.

The lecturer then dealt with proposed changes in design, documents required by law to be sealed, "Demasking" of old seals, and referred to early records he had been able to secure in England covering the making and use of New Zealand State and Provincial Seals.

The seals of New Ulster, New Munster, and of the various provinces were then described.

SEALS OF MAORI KINGS. The seal of Potatau, self-styled Native King of New Zealand, was as follows:-

- Oval: A shield of arms of modern canting heraldry: quarterly;
1. A spear between two flags in saltire, each charged with three estoiles.
 2. A hand and a forearm coupé fesswise, holding a branch.
 3. On waves a spouting whale.
 4. On a terrasse a tree; over all a Cross Latin.

Crest on a wreath, a galley or canoe containing seven men with paddles; behind it an orient and radiant sun. Above and partly over the sun, on a wreath an apteryx or wingless bird of New Zealand. At the sides of the shield on jungle grass, a club and a mace of Native forms: Legend on a ribbon in base:-
"POTATAU II KING!"

One writer (Mr. G. T. Roberts) in describing the seal of Potatau says:-
"A beginning was made in the days of good King Potatau when that old boy got himself a seal to bolster up his dignity. Had I been in the old fellow's shoes, I would have stuck out for a crown, but since he probably knew as little about crowns as he did about shoes, he was content with a seal. It was not an unduly pretentious affair, and the chances are that it was more or less a utility instrument. The seal of his successor, Tawhiao, was probably also of some service, but it was

used so indiscriminately that one suspects a touch of vanity possibly less on the part of Tawhiao than of his ministers."

TAWHIAO'S SEAL. The main theme is a series of "whirls", stars and a crescent moon surmounted by a small cross and around is the lettering:-

KO TE HIIRI WHAIMANA O TE ROFU IRARO I TE MARA, O KINGI TA WAHIAO

Mr. Johannes Andersen said that Hobson, and Irish Governor, had influenced the use of Irish names for the North Island (New Ulster); South Island (New Munster) and Stewart Island (New Leinster). Connaught completed the four divisions of Ireland. The origin of the names went further back than Ireland, for all these names ending in "ster" were of Scandinavian origin. The Maori King, Potatau Te Wherowhero, (familiarily called "Old Potato") acquired his name through an association with events. The name "Potatau" was associated with the death of a favourite wife, with whom Potatau sat, day and night, during her illness, "Po" means "night" and "tatau" means "to count", and the Maoris called him Potatau because he sat with his wife as if he were "counting the nights" while she lay dying. The second name "Wherowhero" (red) was associated with the use of a red blanket by that Chief. When being besieged at Ngeruawahia, Potatau noticed a scarlet blanket spread in the sun by the enemy, and being attracted by the brilliant hue, immediately secured one for himself. Red was a sacred colour of the Polynesian ("Kura", red), but the sacred name could not be used, hence "Wherowhero." Some Polynesians used red as chiefly decorations, and in Hawaii scarletfeathers had been used as currency.

Most Maori names had a descriptive beauty, being associated with things or events, and in their names the Maori enshrined history.

Tawhiao, who succeeded Potatau as Maori King in 1860, also adopted a public seal. His classical features were prominent on New Zealand bank notes until recent times, and now they were to be found in the watermark. Swainson, the first Attorney-General, who designed the basic features of the present Public Seal of New Zealand, was noted for his pencil sketches, and it was to the credit of the Government that this excellent design had been retained, in its essential features, to this day.

Professor J. Rankine Brown referred to the use of seals by the Assyrians and Egyptians and the significance of the word "resign" - breaking open the seal.

A vote of thanks was accorded and the usual social hour concluded the meeting.

A. SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

c/o Hansard Room,
Government Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

NEXT MEETING will be held on MONDAY next, 20th OCTOBER, 1941, as the last Monday in the month is a holiday, (Labour Day).

NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
REPORT OF 74th AND 75th MEETINGS

The 74th Meeting of the Society was held on 20th October 1941. Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., presided.

A short paper ON DESIGNING A NEW MEDAL by Mr. F. Watts Rule, Timaru was read by the President, Mr. Johannes Andersen, as follows:

At the end of last year it was decided at a meeting of the Timaru Fire Board to award special gold medals to firemen who complete 25 years' service with the Board. A 25 years gold star is presented by the Fire Brigades' Association to members of brigades in New Zealand on completion of this length of service, but the Timaru Fire Board wished to give a special star or medal, as it felt it would be greatly appreciated by the men concerned. A small sub-committee was empowered to carry the suggestion into effect, and to obtain an approved design. On discussing the matter with a prominent jeweller of the town, the sub-committee was referred to the writer of this short paper, so the first step on the designing of a new medal was taken - the client and the designer met.

The instructions received were that the words TIMARU FIRE BOARD and 25 YEARS SERVICE were to appear, with some suitable symbols or emblems of brigade service. Tentative sketches were commenced, and as it was felt that any attempt at pictorial representation of, say, a fire engine in action, would be too fussy, it was finally decided to simplify the design to include a fireman's ceremonial helmet, superimposed on two hatchets crossed, and surrounded by a laurel wreath. (Plate 1)

From the sketches a drawing twice full size was made in pen and ink and coloured, (Plate 11) and was then reduced by photography to the exact size of the desired medal, (Plate 111) to study the effect of the design. An amended sketch was then made with the lettering reduced in size, (Plate 1V) giving more plain surface to the medal.

The sketches and description were then forwarded to Messrs Mayer & Kean, in Wellington, for a quotation for cutting dies and striking the medals. And here came a great disappointment. The original design and instructions were for the lettering to be formed by leaving the surface of the medal and cutting away the background slightly, the laurel wreath and the helmet and crossed axes to be in as high relief as possible. In his reply Mr. Mayer wrote that he was sorry that they could not undertake to cut the design as shown by the detail. To carry it out as suggested, the medal would have to be modelled in clay, a plaster cast taken, and then the die engraved on a die-cutting machine from this cast, and unfortunately there was not a die-cutting machine in this country. (Since this paper was prepared, I have learned that a special die-cutting machine has been installed by Messrs Vale & Co. Ltd. of Christchurch, Engineers, at a cost of approximately £1500).

He suggested that the laurel wreath and helmet etc, should be cut in high relief, and the lettering in shallow relief. As it was technically impossible to cut the die as shown by the original design, the amended suggestion was adopted and the dies were cut by Messrs Mayer & Kean. Although the touch of modernity has been lost by this alteration, the resulting medal is very pleasing and has been approved by the Timaru Fire Board.

Owing to the difficulty and expense of obtaining gold, it was decided to have the medals struck in silver, and they have been finished with a matt surface, with hand-engraved highlights on the wreath, and the surface of the lettering.

Two copies of the medal have been struck for two members who have completed 25 years' service with the Timaru Fire Brigade, one or two more may be required in a few years' time, and one copy was struck for presentation to the designer, so that this medal will probably remain one of the rarest of the New Zealand medals. (Diameter 33 mm. No. S.522).

Mr. Watts Rule illustrated his paper with four plates.

On the motion of the President (Mr. Johannes C. Andersen) seconded by Allan Sutherland, who said he had numbered the medal 522) a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Watts Rule for his interesting paper.

THE SPANISH DOLLAR; A short paper on the Spanish dollar by Shephard Pond, reprinted in the "Numismatist" (605) from the Bulletin of the Business Historical Society was read by the Hon. Secretary. The paper showed that this most famous of all large silver coins was not truly Spanish, but rather Spanish-American, and that it was not a monetary unit but a multiple of the Spanish real, just as the English crown-piece is a multiple of the shillings. The real (about the size of 6d) was an old Spanish denomination, and although Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain issued four and eight reals, these denominations did not come into popular use until the opening up of trade with the New World, when large deposits of silver there offered an excellent opportunity to make quick money.

The term "dollar" came from "thaler" a large silver coin issued by the Count of Schlick from silver taken from the silver mines at Joachimsthal, Bohemia. In Mexico, in 1535, a Colonial mint was opened, followed by many other mints near silver deposits in the New World. The piece-of-eight (reals) was sometimes called "peso" (meaning unit of weight). The application of a weight-name to a coin was not unusual; for example the pound (English) livre (French) mark (German) and onza (Italian).

In the English speaking world, and particularly in British colonies, during a scarcity of British coin the Spanish dollar became the "unit" and the real (the real unit) became "one bit", hence the American 25 cents ($\frac{1}{4}$ dollar) which was equal to two reals, was often called "2 bits".

The design of the old Spanish dollar was, on the obverse the Spanish Arms and on the reverse two hemispheres crowned between pillars. Beginning with Charles III the obverse bore the head of the monarch, and the crowned shield of Spain (between pillars) on the reverse.

By the middle of the 19th Century the general adoption of the decimal currency denomination in Europe led most of the Latin American countries to follow suit. The Spanish dollar influenced the adoption of the dollar as a decimalised unit of currency over a large portion of the Globe, including the United States, Canada, South American States and many other places bordering on the Pacific as far distant as Hong Kong, Malay States and China. Mexico was the last country to abandon the real when, in 1890, she decimalised the Mexican dollar. The rise in the price of silver after the 1914-18 War made Mexican dollars worth more as bullion than as money, with the result that, like England, she debased her silver coins and the old-fashioned standard Mexican dollar, child of the Spanish dollar, entered the ghostly realm of historical coins.

DECIMAL COINAGE; Reference was made to the statement by the Hon. H. G. R. Mason, Attorney General, in the House of Representatives on 23rd September on the desirability of introducing the decimal system of coinage. In speaking on the Standards Bill he stated that a change from the fractional to decimal coinage in New Zealand would have been a worth-while change in keeping with world trends in standards, and that it was unfortunate that the change had not been brought about in 1933 when New Zealand coins were issued for the first time. (Hansard p. 730).

In a paper on COINS AND HOW THEY ARE MADE Professor J. Rankine Brown, LL.D., M.A., Professor of Classics, Victoria University College, said:

Coins as we know them are made of gold, silver, copper or bronze, and this has been the case ever since the invention of coinage in the West of Asia Minor about 700 B.C. The employment of other metals has been accidental and sporadic. Iron was employed in the Peloponnesus in the fifth century B.C., and later in Japan down to a comparatively recent period. Lead has been used mainly by forgers, but it has been employed in the Far East at different dates, in Roman Egypt and in Roman Gaul, and as late as the seventeenth century in Denmark.

If one purchases a miscellaneous lot of common Imperial Roman coins one is likely to find one or two which have a leaden core and a plating of silver, but these are not necessarily forgeries, though one's first instinct is to imagine that they are. They may be official coins belonging to a period when the coinage was hopelessly debased. Tin half-pennies and farthings were current coins in England for several years before 1692. Platinum was used in Russia about a century ago; nickel was coined by some of the Kings of Bactria not long after 200 B.C., and has lately become very popular on the Continent of Europe. Germany, I believe, as a war measure, has called in its nickel coinage. Ceylon has a square-shaped five-cent coin made of nickel.

The earliest coins of all were made of electrum, a natural alloy of gold and silver, but that material was soon abandoned as it was impossible to guarantee the proportion of the metals in the mixture, and consequently the value of the coin. Originally, though not now, the amount of metal in a coin conformed exactly to the purchasing power of the coin.

As a means of exchange metals have many obvious advantages. They are portable, durable, and homogeneous, their power of resisting destruction tends to make the total supply fairly steady, while their adaptability to the ends of ornament or use makes them esteemed by mankind the World over. But all metals are not equally suitable. It is obviously impossible to pay large sums in copper, the weight of which might require several wagons to transport the required amount. Copper was the original measure of value or coinage in Rome, and silver was only adopted when the Romans came in contact with the silver-using towns in South Italy. Gold and silver were the only metals equal to the strain that the development of commerce involved, and it is in gold and silver that all nations now find their standard of value, and almost necessarily in one of these metals.

Coins are not used now-a-days to pay large sums of money. Early peoples did develop something like the modern banking system. The Greek and Romans certainly did. There must have been a time when the Greeks, for instance, did actually pay large sums in coins, which, in their case, would mean in silver money. Two hundred pounds worth of silver would weight a good deal, so that for the payment of large sums of money they certainly used gold, but not gold of their own coinage. In making large payments they employed foreign money, the darics of Persia. These coins had a wide circulation. They were of pure gold and weighed rather more than an English sovereign. The quantity of these coins in existence must have been enormous. There is a story in Herodotus where one Lydian citizen called Pythius was able to show Xerxes the King of Persia, when on his way to invade Greece, no fewer than 3,993,000 of them, all his own.

About the middle of the fourth century the Persian daric gave place to the gold coinage of Philip of Macedon. Philip had amassed an immense amount of gold in Thrace, so much so that the former standard, or relation between gold and silver of $13\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dropped to 10 to 1. This change in the relative values of gold and silver caused Philip to reorganise the Macedonian coinage. He introduced a gold coin, called after himself 'Philippus' or 'Philip', based on the weight system that the Athenians used for silver, and for that reason about 5 grains heavier than the daric. This coin had an immediate success, and was for a long time the standard coin of Europe and Western Asia. It found its way as far as Britain, for, as is well known, the

first coins minted in Britain, about 150 B.C. were rude imitations of this beautiful coin. The Greek coin had, on the obverse, the head of Athena, and on the reverse, Victory driving a four horse chariot, but on the British coins one can trace the stages by which their designs degenerated into meaningless lines, curves, and dots.

I think it will be found that all nations are more careful about their gold than their silver coinage. The silver coinage of the Roman Empire underwent scandalous debasement, but there was very little tampering with the gold coinage which, after a period of confusion, started by Caracalla, was put on a solid basis by Constantine who ordained that 72 solidi should be struck from a pound weight of pure gold. To the very end of the Empire the gold of Rome retained something of a sacrosanct character. Our own silver coinage is a token coinage, but the sovereign contains 20/- worth of gold, and so many sovereigns go to the ounce of pure gold.

If, on the one hand a silver coinage proved unsuitable for the payment of large sums, on the other hand the normal coins were not small enough to suit the every-day business of small people. Athens tried to get over the difficulty by using silver coins weighing as little as one grain. The Athenians used to carry their small change in their mouths, and it is a joke of their comic writers that some character had swallowed his money, just as one is said to swallow one's teeth. There probably was a good deal of barter in connection with small transactions, until the true solution was found in coining copper, from which it was a very short step to regarding the inferior metal as mere token money. The silver coinage of Greece never became token money. Each coin was worth the silver it contained, and one reason for the commercial supremacy of Athens and the wide circulation of her coins was that these coins were of full weight and of good quality of silver. The fact that Athenian coins were almost a universal currency in the Greek world had as a result that they did not change in character and that while the other Greek States refined and reformed the types on their coins, according to the artistic ideas of the age, Athens retained almost without any alteration, the form her coins had about 480, until a new coinage - not an improvement - was issued in 228, when coinage was deteriorating. The result was that Athens never had a coinage worthy of the centre and leader of Greek art.

SHAPES OF COINS

That coins should be round seems so obvious as to be almost a law of nature. It is in fact the outcome of one of the laws of nature, and was not in the first instance, at least, the result of human thought or intention. When sealing a letter, the melted wax falls in the form of a round blob, and the same thing happens with molten metal. Long before coins proper were invented, pieces of electrum, shaped like beans, circulated in Asia Minor. They have been found in large numbers. They formed a medium of exchange and had to be weighed. All that was required to convert these pieces of metal into coins was to stamp on them some mark, probably by some business man or temple authority in the first instance, as a guarantee of their weight and contents. The oldest coins of Lydia, and the Greek coins of Asia Minor are more like beans than the flat round coins with which the Greeks, and almost all modern nations, are familiar. But there have been coins of different shapes. The old native coins of India, which seem to have originated independently in the fourth century B.C. are approximately square or oblong in shape, and are cut either from a flat sheet of metal or from a bar of metal. In a currency intended to pass from hand to hand, the sharp angular corners are obvious inconveniences, but though this indigenuous coinage was swamped by the flood of coins that swept in from the North West in the wake of Alexander the Great, it did offer a strong resistance, and not only had some influence on the subsequent coinage of the Kabul Valley, but square coins were struck by the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan - 1627-1658 - and by a King of Assam in the middle of the eighteenth century. The modern five cent nickel coins struck for Ceylon have been made square with rounded corners to avoid confusion with the 25 cent piece of silver, which is about the same size.

China had coins long before the clostrum coinage of Asia Minor, and there is a statement that a coinage was instituted by Chang, the second King of Chou, as far back as 1091 B.C. This coinage had nothing to do with our money, and is quite different. This vanished coinage deserves a few words. There were three kinds, spade, knife, and ring money, the coins having the shapes of spades, knives, and rings. The spade and knife money reproduces the shapes of the old barter units which they had displaced, real spades, and real knives. This is interesting because it supports a view as to the devices on the coins of Tenedos, one of the Aegean Islands. The device, a double headed axe, has been said by some to represent the axes which were once like the Chinese knives, barter units or measures of value, like cattle, and so on. Further, the knife money had a hole in the handle, reproducing the hole in the knife proper, through which was passed the thong that served for suspension. From this hole, and from a similar hole in the centre of the ring money, comes the hole which is the most characteristic feature in common Chinese cash of modern times. This hole, of course, is used for stringing the modern coins together, but that is not the reason why it is there. It is a survival like so many features in coins. There are few things which we use which are so conservative as coins. Our modern coins are a direct development from the old coins of Asia Minor, Greece and Rome, and there is nothing on modern coinages which cannot be paralleled in these older coins. That subject would make an interesting paper in itself.

DIFFERENCE IN DEPTH OF RELIEF OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS.

One of the reasons for the great beauty of Greek coins is that they are in high relief. The reason for this was that the form of art in which the artistic sense of the Greeks found its fullest expression was sculpture, just as music is the form of art in which the German mentality has best expressed its ideals, though it is not altogether easy to understand that at present. The Greeks were sculptors, and their coin types are small relief carvings. This is not necessarily the best system for coins, however much one may admire the results and, perhaps, regret its disappearance. Coins in high relief suffer greatly in circulation and their substance is wasted. It is quite impossible to arrange Greek coins in piles and roll them up as modern bankers do with our flat coins. Another objection to high relief is that such coins are more difficult and more costly to strike than coins in low relief. It was with some difficulty that the London Mint was persuaded to give us even the very small relief that our New Zealand coins have. Even among the Greeks the relief was beginning to be flattened in the 4th century and this tendency in Greece and Rome developed into the entirely flat patterns characteristic of middle age coins.

MANUFACTURE OF COINS.

Coins and medals are either cast or struck. The early Chinese coins, owing to their shape, were cast or moulded, either as units or a considerable number were made by a single casting and then separated. The earliest Roman coins called Aes Grave were made in the same way, and slight projections on the edges of many surviving specimens are the remains of the narrow bands of metal which had hardened in the channels that had connected the forms in the mould.

The vast majority of ancient coins however were struck, the process being entirely similar to that used in the present day, though of course much more rudimentary; there was no machinery, and such coins were struck by hand. The essentials are a lump of metal which has been adjusted to the proper weight, whether this metal was heated or not is apparently a doubtful point, but all coins now are struck cold. The piece of metal is technically called a "blank"; it is placed on an anvil and held in position by a punch, the upper end of which is struck sharply several times by a hammer. If in the anvil is inserted a die - a piece of cold hard metal with a device of some kind cut out upon it in "intaglio", or hollowed out - a corresponding impressing in "relief" is produced upon the "blank" so that the coin gets what is called a "type" on the lower side, which is called the "obverse". If there is a device also in "intaglio" on the anvil, then the coin receives a "type" on the upper side as well, and we have a coin as we know it. All this is familiar knowledge.

The majority of archaic coins have a device on one side only, but as the upper side of the blanks bears the brunt of the blow in the punch, a cavity is produced, representing the end of the punch. This mark moulded by the punch is said to be "incuse". This is a Latin word meaning "struck in" and is a technical word, peculiar to numismatics, and was only introduced about the beginning of last century. In origin it has nothing to do with "discuss" and "concuss" nor with "excuse" and "accuse" which come from an entirely different root. (causa, our "cause").

The few ancient dies which survive belong to late Greek and Roman times; some are of iron, some of bronze, some of steel. The probability is that the older dies were made of bronze. The ancients were quite familiar with the hardening or tempering of metals. The process is as old as Homer, who has in the *Odyssey* a simile "And as when a smith dips an ax or an adze in chill water with a great hissing when he would temper it, for hereby comes the strength of iron." Various other liquids were used such as the blood of goats. Oil was used for tempering fine tools and the like and is still so used. We know little of the methods of the die-cutters of the period of the finest art, but it is clear from the surviving specimens of their skill that both the coin die-engravers and the gem-engravers were masters of their art. We know the names of some of them; of two e.g., who worked for Syracuse, Kimon and Euainetos, as these artists signed their names on two Syracusan decadrachms, usually considered to be the most lovely coins ever designed. Those dies often broke and cracked, and had nothing like the lasting quality of modern dies. It is quite certain that the die embedded in the anvil lasted longer than the punch-die for there are many cases where coins have exactly the same obverse but different reverses. Obviously the die on the anvil has better support than the die in the punch. Mechanically Greek and Roman coins cannot compare with our modern machine produced coins which are more accurately and more clearly struck. Their superiority consists in the variety and beauty of the design and the depth of the relief, and is due to the fact that each coin has been struck by itself with a blow delivered by a human being and not by a machine. On modern coins the obverse and reverse designs are precisely parallel, that is, the tops and bottoms of the designs correspond exactly. That is not the case with ancient coins, on which the types may be at any angle towards one another. The obvious plan of attaching the dies together by a hinge did not get a firm hold in Rome until the days of the Empire. Nor are the designs always struck on the centre of the blanks; this irregularity on the other hand adds to the attractiveness, or at any rate to the individuality of the ancient coins, just as one prefers a chair made by a skilled and artistic village carpenter to the stereotyped products of a furniture factory.

There are two methods of making dies; the obvious method is to cut the device in reverse intaglio on the die, and this is the method one naturally thinks of. But there is another method. A positive punch, in relief, is carved in hard metal and then hammered into a piece of softer metal, which can be hardened for use as a die. After that, the details which cannot be produced by this "hubbing", as it is called, can be finished by direct cutting, just as a sculptor adds finishing touches to a bronze statue produced by the *cire-perdue* process. This method apparently was known to the ancients. The advantage of this "hubbing" method is that many dies can be made from one "hub"; if the design is engraved directly on the die, when the die breaks, the work has to be done all over again.

Coin engravers had the ordinary engraving tools, but apparently they did not use the drill, though the gem engraver used this tool. The fineness of the work must have necessitated the use of magnifying glasses, and there is evidence these were known to the ancients.

Now-a-days dies are engraved by what is called a reducing machine; what is done is roughly this: A mould is made in wax about four times the size of the coin to be produced. This model is reproduced in a nickel-faced copper electrotype, which is placed in the machine, which then cuts an exact mathematically reduced reproduction of the model. This takes the form of a punch or "hub" which is then driven into another piece of soft steel, which when hardened gives the die. This machine dates from about 1839.

Like many of our modern inventions the reducing machine is an enemy of the artist. A die produced in this way is three stages removed from the artist's model, which may not be suited for small scale relief. The same difficulty is visible in stamp designing, as is obvious I think from some of our own stamps. When the artists have produced their wax models they have nothing more to do with the children of their imagination. They do not trouble themselves about the final metallic product. Not having to cut the metal themselves, modern coin designers have lost all sense of material; they do not cut steel, but model in wax or plaster.

On Greek coins, lettering was not required as the type identified the coin. It was like a trade mark, or the heraldic device on a knight's shield. Lettering on Greek coins was at first little used and was always subordinate to the design. The Byzantines made an effort at getting a decorative effect out of lettering, but it was the Moslems who developed lettering on coins into an art. The reason for this predominance of lettering on Moslem coins, to the exclusion of figures, is interesting. The second commandment forbids the making of graven images, and under the influence of the Mosaic Law the Jews had put on their coins only representations of inanimate objects. Mahomet went even further so that types of all kinds were banished from Mohammedan issues. The place of "types" was taken by inscriptions, more or less picturesquely arranged or by elaborate monograms such as are found to-day on Turkish coins. There was a time when during the reign of the Iconoclast Emperors at Constantinople even the bust of Christ was banished from Byzantine coins.

During the middle ages no really new principles of coinage were evolved. Striking was done by hand, and apparently the lower die still lasted longer than the upper one. There was less attention paid to the preparation of the dies, which were not engraved but produced by a series of small punches. It has been shown for instance, that the bust of the King on the coinage of Henry III of England was produced by a combination of about a dozen punches - circles and crescents of different sizes, dots and so on, and the lettering was produced in the same way. Owing to the scarcity of the precious metals, coins became not only small but very thin, with the result that during the centuries so far as art was concerned, coinage was at its lowest ebb. With regard to lettering, to which I have just referred, the invention of printing, by reducing letters to fixed and uniform types, and so putting an end to the freedom and individuality of the writers of manuscript books, really brought disaster both to metal and coin lettering.

The beginning of the sixteenth century saw the opening of a new era owing to the invention of machines. Machinery was first applied to the striking of medals, but its employment in the striking of coins soon followed. Bramante (1444-1514) is said to have manufactured the first press, and the great genius Leonardo da Vinci certainly did devise a mechanical method for punching out perfectly circular blanks of uniform weight and size. Benvenuto Cellini, who was for a period in charge of the mint in Rome, made other improvements. The result was that the screw press came into use, of which the essential advantage is that the upper die is brought down upon the blank not with a blow but with a gradual pressure. Such a press was introduced into France about 1550 from Germany. The power for driving the machinery was derived from a mill, and for that reason the coins turned out by it were called "Monnaie de Moulin" or "Mill Money". Some of these coins have inscriptions in raised letters round the edge as a protection against clipping; in course of time, as coins were not thick enough to receive inscriptions round the edge, a close set of indented perpendicular lines was substituted, and so we get the "milling" with which we are familiar.

As has happened in other cases, the introduction of machinery in the making of coins led to trouble, as it did when weaving and spinning machines were introduced and when machine methods of reaping and threshing corn were adopted. The rights of the moneymen were interfered with; they were at the time a powerful and numerous body, for though the right of the Sovereign to control the coinage was never in question, the actual making of coins was let out, or even claimed as a right by certain nobles and ecclesiastical bodies. In 1585 a Royal edict abolished coining by the mill in France, and the same thing happened

in England when machinery was introduced in 1561. But in both countries the return to "hammering" did not last long, so that by 1645 coinage by machinery was permanently established in Paris and a few years later it gained the upper hand in England also.

Since then many machine improvements have been introduced. The most important of these was the lever press in 1839. It is a modification of this that is used in the London Mint to-day. The machine works so well that a single machine can strike blanks at the rate of more than 100 a minute."

The Professor stated that his paper owed a good deal to Sir George Maddonald's "Evolution of Coinage" and to the article on Numismatics in the Encyclopaedia Britannica".

Sir James Elliott, in moving a hearty vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation, said that the Professor had again made an outstanding contribution to papers read before the Society. The screening by Mr Bland of Greek and Roman coins from the Gilbertson Memorial collection had vitalised the paper and had enabled members in one short hour to survey the changes and progress of centuries as reflected on the coins of the ancients. Sir James referred to the imperishable fame then being won by New Zealanders in Greece, Crete and Northern Africa in striving to defend the descendants of the Greeks of the classical period to whom civilisation owed so much and whose coins had been so ably described by the Professor.

The meeting concluded with a social hour and supper.

A. SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

29 Mayfair Flats,
34 The Terrace,
WELLINGTON.

NEXT MEETING will be held on MONDAY next, 30th MARCH, 1942, AT 8 P.M.

Short papers will be read, coins will be submitted and consideration given to future activities of the Society and nights of meeting.

NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 76TH MEETING - 30TH MARCH, 1942

The first meeting of the Society following the Christmas recess, was held on 30th March. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. Apologies were received from Mr. H. Kirkaldie, Mr. W.D. Ferguson, and Mr De Rouffignac (R.N.Z.A.F.). The President stated that the date of the previous meeting (75th) page 14, Vol. 111 should be 24th November, 1941. Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed. Reports of The Numismatic Society of New South Wales, and copies of "The Australian Numismatist" containing reports of the Numismatic Society of South Australia were tabled.

NEW MEMBER: Mr. J.T. Inkersell, Khandallah Rd., N.5. was elected a new member of the Society.

A letter was received from Viscount Blodisloe expressing appreciation of the action of the Society in presenting him with an autographed copy of "Numismatic History of New Zealand". He thanked members for the friendly thoughts which prompted the gift, and he reciprocated the good wishes sent to him on behalf of members. A similar acknowledgment was received from Sir John Hanham who is now serving with the 4th Btn. Grenadier Guards, and who gave news of coin sales in England. Both gift books are to be left in the Turnbull Library until happier times. Greetings to members were received from Mr. Robert Johnson, R.N.V.R.N.Z. who is training for a commission in England.

NUMISMATIC EXHIBITION, TIMARU: Letters were received from Mr. P. Watts Rule, Vice President, and other Timaru members enclosing interesting press accounts from Timaru Herald, 24th March, and Christchurch Star Sun, 21st March, showing that Messrs P. Watts Rule, J. Sutherland, A.J. McPherson, and A.F. M. Patterson had arranged in the Timaru Library a first class exhibition of coins, medals, tokens and early forms of currency, and that the display had attracted wide interest. The initiative of Timaru members was praised by speakers who stated that groups of members in other centres might well follow the example of Timaru.

U.S.A. AND AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED IN NEW ZEALAND:

The Secretary tabled a money exchange card, issued by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand in March, 1942, showing the exchange rates between U.S.A., Australian and New Zealand coins and notes. This is a wartime measure to enable allied armed forces to use their own currencies in payments in New Zealand. An extract from the notice is as follows:

<u>U.S.A. Currency</u>		<u>N.Z.</u>	<u>Australian</u>		<u>N.Z.</u>
5 cents	equals	3½d	10s note	equals	9.11d
10 "	"	7d	£1 "	"	19.10d
25 "	"	1.6d	£2 -	"	£1.19. 9d
50 "	"	3.0d	£3 -	"	£2.19. 8d
75 "	"	4.7d	£4 -	"	£3.19. 7d
1 Dollar	"	6.1d	£5 note	"	£4.19. 6d
5 Dollars	"	£1.10.5d.	£10 "	"	£9.19. 0d
10 "	"	£3. 0.10d.	£20 "	"	£19.18. 0d

Currency dealt with by shopkeepers and others must be immediately turned over to a trading bank. No trafficking in overseas currency between New Zealand citizens is permitted.

MEETING NIGHTS: A discussion on the future activities of the Society, owing to war conditions, resulted in a decision that meantime the meetings be continued as heretofore, on last Monday in the month. Members are asked to assist by submitting short papers to be read at each meeting.

FINANCE: Moved by Mr. Allan Sutherland and seconded by Professor J. Rankine Brown, and carried, "That the Treasurer be empowered to draw from the composite subscription account an amount up to £7 to pay current accounts." Accounts for £14.4.1 were passed for payment.

OBITUARY: Mr. Chotwynd reported that Mr. J.B. Ward, Vice President, Hokitika, had passed away. Members expressed deep regret at his passing. The late Mr. Ward had a long and useful life, and his lovable characteristics had endeared him to all who know him.

CURRENCY HOARDING: Extracts were read from the Bank of England return for March, 1942, showing that notes in circulation as at September 13th 1939 amounted to \$563,500,000 and on December 24, 1941 the figure had grown to £751,200,000. Financial observers suggested that half of the notes in circulation were not accounted for. Hoarding, the desire to make concealed payments by notes and excessive spending were offered as explanations. In New Zealand in 1939 the average note issue held by the public was £12,014,000 and the figures for the year just passed would probably be in the vicinity of £17,500,000, also showing an increase due to war conditions. Press reports showed that there was a shortage of coinage in Europe, due to hoarding in the event of inflation and denying metal to the Germans.

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISCOVERY OF NEW ZEALAND: Mr. Allan Sutherland stated that on the 18th December, 1942, 300 years would have elapsed since the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman discovered and named New Zealand "Staaten Landt". The Dutch Governor-General of Netherlands India, Anthony Van Diemen, despatched Tasman from Batavia on 16th August, 1642 for the purpose of exploring the little known continent of Australia. Tasman discovered Tasmania, which he named Van Diemen's Land, and he then sailed Eastwards, sighting the West coast of New Zealand on 18th December. He sailed up the West Coast and anchored off Nelson, but owing to the hostile reception by natives - who killed some of his men in ships boats - he sailed north, and did not land in New Zealand. The last headland he sighted was named Capo Maria Van Diemen.

Mr. Sutherland stated that if this anniversary had occurred in peace time the N.Z. Numismatic Society would no doubt commemorate the discovery by the issue of a medal, and the Government would probably mark the event in other ways. In these days metal could not be diverted to the making of medals, but the event could be inexpensively commemorated by changing the reverse design of one of the New Zealand coins which would normally be issued this year. In that way the debt New Zealand owed to the Dutch explorer could be recognised without diverting metal from war work, and the striking of the commemorative coin could, perhaps, be undertaken in Australia. He did not suggest any motion, but was sure that Mr. J. Heenan, Under Secretary, Internal Affairs, would examine the suggestion and would take action if he thought the proposal was possible in present circumstances.

Mr. Johannes C. Andersen said that when Tasman anchored in Tasman Bay Maoris came out in canoes and blew native trumpets as a challenge, but Tasman, mistaking the import of the sounds, got his trumpeter to reply which meant that the challenge to fight had been accepted. When Tasman's boats were joined by Maori canoes, some Dutchmen were killed, and Tasman left without landing, naming the place "Murderers Bay". Tasman noticed that the tides were setting strongly from the East, suggestive of a passage, but he played safe and his map shows a bay where it should show a strait. A map was, however, also prepared by Visscher, pilot on the second ship, and it shows the strait, and not a bay only. In order to avoid awkward questions he showed a continuation of land on his map from Westland to Three Kings (so named because it was on the feast of the Three Kings that he was there.) Tasman's discovery of New Zealand should be commemorated in an enduring manner, if possible, apart from nomenclature associations.

EGYPTIAN CURRENCY USED BY 2ND N.Z.E.F. The Hon. Secretary read an extract from an article by "Johnny Enzod" in the N.Z.E.F. Times of 27th October, 1941, which humorously dealt with the difficulties of our troops in handling bad paper and metal money in Egypt. The article in effect stated that the Egyptian currency fell into three classes (1) genuine or substantive piastres, which were rare, (2) not so genuine or temporary piastres, which soldiers could argue about, and (3) definitely not genuine, or "acting piastres", which necessitated the immediate disappearance of the purchaser. Multiples of notes were in all sizes from S.W. to O.S. and an interesting game on Sundays was the pasting of jig saw puzzles, or pieces of notes, to reconcile "shorthand" inscriptions with past and present pashas and boys and their pet asps and scorpions, the object being to enhance the denominations.

A. SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

NEXT MEETING: Monday night next, 27th April. Members are asked to send or bring rubbings or originals of two of their most interesting or valuable specimens, and to include a short description for next report.

NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 77TH MEETING 27.4.42

The 77th Meeting of the Society was held on 27th April 1942. Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., presided. Apologies were received from several members who were absent owing to E.P.S. and other duties. Mr. and Mrs. M.W. Lynch, (Titirangi Auckland - British and crown sized pieces and Continental) were present as visitors and were nominated as members of the Society. Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed. Correspondence and reports from Australian Numismatic Societies were tabled.

NUMISMATIC BOOKS: The Secretary was asked to consult Mr. Taylor, Librarian, regarding the assembling, in one bookcase, of the Turnbull and the Society's collection of numismatic works. (This has now been arranged in the large room. The books may be consulted on application to office. Mr Taylor offered a lockup case for exhibition of numismatic specimens, literature and illustrations at the conclusion of current exhibition).

TREASURED SPECIMENS: A modern coin of Uruguay was exhibited and discussed by Mr. Johannes Andersen. The designs (a puma and a female head) had attractive associations. He had visited South America and Uruguay in 1936 when the coin was first issued. Mr. Johannes Andersen discussed the puma in its native state and in captivity. He also described interesting associations which gave the coin an added value to him.

A metal struck for the Austrian International Exhibition 1868 bearing the portrait of Emperor Franz Josef (whose name the explorer Von Haast gave to a Westland Glacier) was next discussed. Von Haast, as a courtesy used the Anglicised spelling "Francis Joseph" for the Glacier but map-makers reverted to the Austrian spelling "Franz Josef". On the medal itself the spelling was "Franz Joseph", part English and part Austrian.

A Boer War medal (No.S 403) copper 27 mm, was illustrated and described by Mr Allan Sutherland. Only one other specimen was known. The medal showed a galloping horse and two flags crossed. The medal was intended for issue to school children but was not issued due, apparently, to the unexpected continuance of the War. This was one of the first occasions when the N.Z. flag was shown on a medal. The dispute between the late Rt. Hon. Robert Stout (when Acting Governor) and the late Rt. Hon. R.J. Seddon, Premier, on the issue of the flag and Imperial prerogatives was briefly referred to.

NUMISMATICS AND THE WAR: Editorial comment in "The Numismatist" (Editor 4215 Fernhill Ave. Baltimore Md) for January 1942 was read by the Secretary. The following is a passage: "It is not possible for the American people to live successfully without relaxation and diversion. Recreation is essential; we are accustomed to it. Any attempt to get along without it is unwise. Numismatics will continue to prosper in America; serious collectors, as well as non-collectors, require it. In a war-torn world numismatics will continue to exist; we offer the hobby to those who require its message for the better performance of their daily duty."

Mr. Sutherland suggested that members should consider joining the American Numismatic Association if only for the illustrated monthly magazine which mirrored in a scholarly and topical manner all phases of the study of numismatics. If members cared to lodge subscriptions (21/10 N.Z.) and an application for membership in the American Numismatic Association the Society would sponsor the applications and subscriptions would be held for remission to U.S.A. after the War. Mr. Sutherland said he had his magazines bound for the last 10 years and they represented a valuable reference library.

American Members of the Association now in New Zealand with the Armed Forces would be welcomed at meetings of the Society.

EXHIBITS: Mr. H. Kirkaldie exhibited an interesting series of Malayan and Dutch East Indian coins recently brought back from Singapore by her son.

Mr. and Mrs Lynch exhibited a series of English Crowns, $\frac{1}{4}$ guineas and Continental silver.

The meeting concluded with the usual social hour.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND

REPORT OF 78th MEETING, 25-5-42.

The 78th meeting of the Society was held on 25th May. Professor J. Rankine Brown presided in the absence of the President, Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E.

FUTURE MEETINGS. The question of holding meetings every two months during the war was deferred until next meeting.

EXHIBITS. New Zealand commemorative award and other medals were exhibited by Mr. D. Atkinson, Takanini, and Mr. P. Watts Rule, Timaru. These included some N.Z. medals not previously recorded, and details will be given in a subsequent report.

PORTRAITURE ON COINS was the subject of an illustrated address given by Professor J. Rankine Brown, M.A., LL.D. He said - We are so accustomed to seeing on coins the head of a monarch, or of the President of some South American Republic that it is natural enough for us to regard such a design an essential element in a coin. But this is far from being the case; in fact coins had been in existence for about 400 years before the head or representation of a contemporary human being appeared on the obverse. By way of an introduction to the specimens of representative Greek coins with portrait heads upon them which I propose to put on the screen, I should like to say something about the reason for this.

(1) Though coins may have been invented in Lydia, it is certain that the extension of their use is due to the Greeks. Even in Lydia, which was governed by permanent monarchs - of whom Croesus is the best known - the head of the monarch does not appear on the coins, the ordinary device being the forequarters of a lion, possibly emblematic of the power of the King. Among the Greeks there was an obvious reason for not putting the head of a ruler on a coin, namely that during the best period of Greek coinage, the Greek States - most of them democratically governed - had rulers or magistrates who were annually appointed, so that there was a practical objection to putting the head of a ruler upon the coin of the State, for that would require a new issue and alteration every year, which was an impossibility, for alterations in coin designs interfere very seriously with the circulation of the coins, and are themselves inconvenient and costly, involving the cutting of new dies. This fact, however, is not the reason why heads of human beings do not appear on the coinage of the best period. Even when the Greek States did have permanent rulers, in the form of tyrants, whose families may have retained the sovereignty of the State for two or even three generations, these tyrants did not put their heads on the coinage of the States, or make any serious alteration in it. Peisistratus, for instance, who was tyrant at Athens for a good many years towards the end of the sixth century, made very important changes in the direction of improving the coinage of Athens, but he did not substitute his own head for the head of Athena, the tutelary deity of the City, and the same is true of Gelon, the great ruler of Syracuse, at the time of the Persian war at the beginning of the fifth century B.C. His coins have on them the head of Persephone the traditional type. As I have said, Lydian kings did not put their heads on coins, and the famous gold darics of Persia have on them merely the figure of a king, and not of the king who issued them.

(2) The normal device on the obverse of Greek coins of the best period down to the end of the fourth century, i.e., to shortly before 300 B.C., is the head of a god or goddess. This fact has led to the view that coins were originally issued by temples which would have great stores of bullion in the shape of offerings, and that the head of the god or goddess of the temple was naturally selected as a fitting device or mark for the coins. A strong argument against this view, however, is that the coins of the early period are much freer in this respect than the coins of the later period, say after 500 B.C. It is only on coins of the best period, from about 500 onwards, that the divine head predominates, though even then there are exceptions to what had become the rule. Every Greek city or state for during the most important period of Greek history these words are synonymous a state was, with few exceptions, what we call a city, with a few miles of adjacent territory, and not a large tract of country as with us. Every city had its protecting god or goddess, and it was quite natural that in selecting a type or design to characterise the coins of a state and to mark them off from the coins of other states, the head of the tutelary deity of the state should be selected. To this the religious character of Greek life undoubtedly contributed. Greek ideas of religion differed very greatly from ours, and religion as the Greeks understood it entered into all spheres of Greek life in a way that religion as we understand it cannot be said to enter into our life, both public and private.

Though I do not think that the heads of deities were put on Greek coins because the coins had anything to do with temples, it is possible that the mere fact that the predominant device on the obverse of Greek coins was the head of a deity did lend something like sanctity to their coins, and caused the Greeks to look upon them as something sacred. I consider that this belief did help to make them reluctant to substitute for the heads of the deity the head of a human being, however exalted in position he might be. The sanctity of coins, however, was not the main reason for the absence of heads of real people from Greek coins though it may have been a contributory cause.

To anticipate what I shall say later, heads of monarchs made their way on to Greek coins after the collapse of Alexander the Great's empire shortly before 300 B.C. Alexander himself did not put his own head on his coins; the obverse showed the head of Herakles (Hercules) with a lion's mask or skin upon it. This was a traditional device on the coins of Alexander's predecessors, the earlier Kings of Macedonia. The head of Alexander was first put on coins by Iysimachus, one of his successors - the King of Thrace - but this head, though it had the features of Alexander, was the head of the deified Alexander, invested with the horns of Zeus Ammon. Seleucus I., first King of Syria, put Alexander's head on his coins without the emblems of divinity, and after him the Diadochi (the successors of Alexander who made themselves kings of the different monarchies into which Alexander's vast empire was split after his death) put their own heads on their coins. The earliest king to put his own effigy on his coins was Ptolemy I., of Egypt, and even he was probably worshipped as a god by his subjects, so that the step from the head of a god to the head of a mortal was not so great as one might suppose. All these Eastern monarchs were probably in some way or other worshipped as gods. It was, for instance, in the Eastern provinces that the worship of the living Roman Emperor as a god began. I shall show you a coin with the head of the famous Cleopatra upon it, issued probably at Antioch, on which she is definitely called "Thea," or goddess.

(3) What I have said may be sufficient explanation of the appearance of the heads of deities on Greek coins and the reluctance to substitute for them heads of ordinary human beings. One ought also to take into account the power of tradition or habit, for once a habit has established itself it is difficult to shake oneself clear from it. That is true of human life generally.

When thinking about what I would say to you, an idea suggested itself to me which, so far as I know, has not been seen in print though it is so obvious that it must have been dealt with somewhere, and as it has to do with Greek art generally - a subject about which I have some real knowledge, more knowledge, at any rate, than I have about numismatics - I propose to deal with this hypothesis at greater length. Put briefly, my view is that the refusal of the Greeks to engrave on the obverse of their coins the face of any real human being, or rather individual, alive or dead, is in entire harmony with one of the leading principles of Greek art generally. Coins, and the engraving of coins, is a branch of Greek art, though perhaps a minor one, and the Greeks were essentially an artistic people, far more so than we and any modern people can claim to be. Their whole life was permeated by art, just as it was by religion, in a way in which unfortunately our own lives are not. It is probable, therefore, that the Greeks as a whole took far more interest in the artistic quality of their coins than we do, and carried their artistic principles into their coins just as they did into their sculpture and painting.

Coins are essentially a branch of relief carving; they are miniature reliefs. The principle of Greek art which I have in mind is that it is ideal and deals with the essence of things, and not with individuals. There is no such thing as portraiture, or the statues or busts of real persons, during the period of great Greek sculpture and painting, and the most striking confirmation of my hypothesis is that the heads of real people - living monarchs - found their way on to coins just at the time when the declining art of sculpture began to carve statues of existing people. The desire of the kings and the practice of the die-engravers thus corresponded to the practice of the contemporary sculptors. That is the essence of my theory, and that is the point to which, as far as I know, attention has not been called by writers on numismatics.

The two main subjects of sculpture during the best period of Greek art were deities or divine beings, and nude male figures, i.e., athletes. The image or statue of a god or goddess is essentially ideal. Zeus and Aphrodite, for instance, had no existence in the flesh, as we say, but existed only in the ideas that the Greeks had formed of their appearance, and which sculptors embodied in marble or bronze. The figures of deities, which abound among the remains of Greek statuary,

are the representation in the material form of ideas; they are not the representation of individuals at all. Incidentally, the familiarity of the Greeks with statues and images of their gods and goddesses which formed part, as it were, of their daily life, would make it natural for them to put divine heads on coins. A Greek god or goddess was little more than an idealised human being, more beautiful and impressive doubtless than the ordinary citizen of the State, but differing mainly from him by the possession of greater power to act, and of immortality.

The nude male figures which form the other main subjects of Greek sculpture are statues of athletes, runners, spear throwers, boxers, wrestlers, and so on. But the statues are not representations of individual athletes, but of the artist's idea of an athlete. Almost all of them were statues presented to some god or goddess by a successful athlete as a thank-offering for his victory, and these were deposited in some temple or in the vicinity of some temple. They may also have been presented and paid for by the citizens of the towns to which the athlete belonged, or by a number of the athlete's admirers, or "fans," as we say. But in no case during the period of which I am speaking did these statues pretend to be representations of the actual athletes. In modern times if the admirers of a famous boxer or runner, or "all in" wrestler, decided to set up a memorial to their favourite in his native town, say, (we can hardly imagine such statue being set up in a church or cathedral as the Greeks did in their temples), such memorial would undoubtedly be a statue of the athlete in question, and the more accurate the resemblance the more successful the statue or portrait would be considered to be. Such a procedure is entirely unthinkable in the case of the Greeks of the great period of Greek art, and would only be possible in what we call the Hellenistic period, the last period of Greek art, roughly speaking, when the effigies of real people - kings and queens - found their way on to their coins.

This preference for the general - the ideal - to the individual or the particular in art, did not prevent the Greeks from putting on their coins and representing in other forms of art the material objects of life, for these can be idealised just as human beings may be. The distinction is not between the abstract and the concrete, but between the general and the particular. Thus the torch on the coins of Amphipolis is not a particular torch, but simply a torch; the four-horse chariot on the coins of Syracuse is not the representation of the chariot by which Gelon, say, won the chariot race at the Olympic Games of a particular year, but merely a four-horse chariot. I need not labour this point. You can idealise or generalise material objects of which countless instances exist. You cannot generalise or idealise an individual man - of whom only one instance exists, the man himself - i.e. without destroying the man, as it were.

I should like to illustrate this repugnance to the individual in Greek art from other spheres besides that of sculpture, for it pervades all Greek art and, in fact, all Greek thought. After the successful conclusion of the Persian War of 480, the Greeks erected numerous memorials and made numerous offerings in gratitude to the gods, just as we did after the conclusion of the last war, though not necessarily to God. The Greek offerings took the form mainly of temples or of offerings to be deposited in temples. In the sculptural decoration of these temples there is no representation of the actual Greeks of 480 who fought the Persians, and certainly no representation of the defeated Persians. The Greeks represented their victory by elaborate relief carvings of a symbolic character representing stories from their mythology or ancient history, of gods fighting the giants, of the Lapithae fighting the Centaurs, of the Athenians fighting the Amazons - that is, of the power of good and civilization - the Greeks - fighting and vanquishing the power of darkness and evil, the Persians. The contemporary Greeks who did the actual fighting are not represented. Again, in the offerings to the gods there is no reference to even the greatest of the Greeks who took part in the fighting. After the final battle of Plataea the Greeks who took part in it made a joint offering to Apollo of Delphi. This took the form of a tripod of gold, set upon a stand of bronze consisting of three serpents coiled together, the three legs of the tripod resting on the three heads of the serpents. Pausanias, the great Spartan general who commanded the combined Greek army in the battle, caused to be inscribed on his memorial words that mean "Pausanias, the general of the Greeks, after he had destroyed the army of the Medes, dedicated this monument to Phoebus." This arrogant inscription aroused the indignation of the Greeks, and the inscription was erased. All that now remains on the serpent column is a list of the Greek States which had helped to vanquish the Persians. These names can still be read on the column which is in Constantinople (Istanbul) where it was removed by Constantine to decorate his new city.

"The Persians," a tragedy by Aeschylus, deals with the defeat of the Persians at Salamis. It is rightly regarded as the greatest pean of victory ever composed

in honour of a national triumph. The scene of the play is at Susa, the Persian capital. The play abounds in strange high-sounding Persian names - the characters are Persian - but not a single Greek appears on the stage, and, what is even more strange, not a single Greek name occurs in the poem, not even the name of Themistocles and Aristides, though their actions and the parts they play in the battle are carefully and accurately described. They are referred to merely as "A Greek" or "A Greek man." How different is the whole scheme of this Greek song of triumph from the corresponding Shakespearean play of Henry V, the English song of triumph evoked by the victory of Agincourt. Henry dominates the English play but so far as the victors are concerned the Greek play is entirely impersonal.

Just one other instance from the field of literature. In his well-known book called the "Poetics," the earliest and one of the most influential books of literary criticism, Aristotle lays down the fundamental elements of Greek poetry and in an interesting passage contrasts poetry with history. The poet, he says, constructs out of the confused medley of everyday existence an intelligible picture free from unreason and therefore truth of an ideal or universal kind. Poetry is thus a more philosophical or higher thing than history. The historian confines himself to particular happenings, to what some individual did or suffered and he is everywhere subject to the tyranny of facts, but the poet, taking a generalised view of things, represents the universal in and through the particular and so shares in the philosopher's quest for ultimate truth.

To return now to the subject of my paper. What I have been endeavouring to explain is that the absence of the heads of individuals, i.e., of actual real people, alive or dead, on Greek coins of the best period, is in complete accordance with the essential purpose of contemporary Greek art - the preference for the ideal or the general over the individual or the particular. It was natural for the Greeks to place on the obverse of their coins the heads of gods and goddesses and not of individual human beings. About the middle of the fourth century, that is about 350 B.C., with increasing frequency as the years went on sculpture became more realistic. Statues of individuals were carved, of Demosthenes for instance, and Alexander could say that only Iysippus was to be allowed to represent his royal figure in marble or bronze.

A beginning having been made by sculpture and painting, a way was now opened for monarchs to have their portraits engraved on their coins. That would have been impossible, for reasons I have stated, during the finest age of Greek coinage. It was natural for kings to put their heads on coins, for the control of coinage has always been a prerogative of the monarch in countries governed by kings. In the Hellenistic age we do lose the lovely idealist heads of deities that adorn the Greek coins of the earlier period, but we now have a most interesting portrait gallery of numerous persons who played an important part in the life of their time, a series of the heads of kings and potentates similar to the long series of portraits on the Roman Imperial coinage and, from the point of view of art, infinitely superior because Greek art even of the Hellenistic age rises high above the best art of Rome. Between Greek and Roman coins there can be no comparison from an artistic point of view, though from an historical point of view Roman coins are much more important than Greek coins.

I intended to show you some Roman portrait coins as well as Greek coins, but unfortunately the cabinet does not extend beyond the beginning of our era and is confined to Greek coins. However, I have been able to discover a very few belonging to the beginning of the Augustian age. The development of Roman coinage corresponds in every way to that of Greek coinage. The earliest Roman silver coins were copies of the silver coinage of the Greek provinces of Southern Italy, though they do not go further back than about 250 B.C. These have on the obverse a helmeted head emblematic of Rome. Towards the end of the Republic, mainly in the East, Roman commanders began to coin money to pay their troops and, naturally enough, to put their own heads on these coins. I shall show you two coins of Mark Anthony on one of which appears the head of Cleopatra. When Augustus became Emperor his head monopolised the obverse, and after him the head of the reigning emperor, with very few exceptions, appears on his coins, gold, silver and copper. Like a good many other things, the coinage of Western Europe is based on that of Rome, so that the heads of kings appear on the coins of the different countries. In our own case the only exception to this is, I suppose, the Commonwealth period when there was no king.

When I was in Germany four years ago the newer issues had the head of President Hindenburg on the obverse. So far, so far as I know, the old man's successor has not yet ventured to put his head on his country's coins though he has put his foot on its neck.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Professor Rankine Brown for his interesting and informative paper. A vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. A. Bland for his assistance in screening specimens to illustrate the paper.

REPORT OF 79th MEETING - 29.6.42

The 79th Meeting was held on 29th June, Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., presiding.

FUTURE MEETINGS. It was decided not to hold a meeting in July, and to hold the Annual Meeting on 31st August, when members are asked to bring friends. A short film showing how coins are made in the Royal Mint will be shown by Mr. A. Bland.

BANKING TERMS EXPLAINED. In the "New Zealand Banker" for 29th May, 1942, appears an interesting article by Professors Kilduff and Brosius with the title, "What does a Voucher Vouch?". Extracts from the paper, which explains some common banking terms, were read at the meeting on 29th June, and some of the more interesting extracts are copied here, together with a few of the comments made on them at the meeting:

"In the early English law, a voucher was a person who was called as a witness to support or vouch for the claims of another in order to establish the latter's warranty of title to property. Later, the word 'voucher' was applied to certain types of documents and papers that served to bear witness to or to establish the truth of something. Thus it came to be used in banking to refer to a cancelled cheque, for such a cheque bears witness to or vouches for the fact that money was paid by the bank and was received by the payee."

Comment: As in ordinary use at the present day, a voucher is a sheet of paper used for payment of wages or salary. It is signed by an authorized officer who vouches that the persons whose names appear in one column of the voucher are entitled to the amount set opposite their names in another column for services rendered during a period mentioned on the voucher; and the person who receives the money signs his name in another column opposite his name and the amount due to him, thereby vouching that he has received it. A number of names may appear on the same voucher, and the amounts due to each may differ, but each signs and the voucher is filed away as a receipt.

"Thousands . . . have been puzzled by the expressions Receiving Teller and Paying Teller. 'What is a teller? Why is he called a Teller? What does he tell? In such sentences as 'Tell me what you find out,' and 'Tell me who were there,' the word tell is employed in its extended sense, 'inform; recount the details of. For, originally, the word tell . . . meant to count in numbers - a meaning that survives today in such usages, 'The monk was telling his beads,' and 'The top sergeant ordered his men to tell off' (to count off). Hence the word teller in the expressions Receiving Teller and Paying Teller is employed in its original meaning of 'one who counts.' We also find the word teller used in its original sense of 'one who counts' in such a present-day sentence as 'At the stockholders' meeting the secretary was appointed teller to count the proxies.'"

Comment: There may be a little misconception as to the meaning of 'one who counts.' As a matter of fact, a Teller in a bank counts for very little in the bank; the man who counts for most is the man with the biggest deposit; but this meaning was not in the minds of the serious-minded authors of the paper. In the House of Representatives there are Tellers who on divisions count the Ayes and the Nays. Milton, speaking of the early mornings, says in L'Allegro:

And the milkmaid singeth blithe,
And the mower whets his scythe,
And every shepherd tells his tale
Under the hawthorn in the dale.

The tale is not the one that Corydon tells Phillida; the shepherd was taking his flock from the fold, and counting them to see that their number was correct; the tale was the number; the number he took out had to 'tally' with the number he put in. This is clearer in Brown's "Shepherd's Pipe":-

When the shepherds from the fold
All their bleating charges told;
And, full careful, search'd if one
Of all the flock was here, or gone.

where the 'tell' is in the past tense, 'told.' This 'told' is used in another sense by Hood in "Faithless Sally Brown":-

Then reaching on his 'bacco box
He heaved a bitter sigh,
And then began to eye his pipe,
And then to pipe his eye.

His death, which happened in his berth,
At ferry-odd defel;
They went and told the sexton, and
The sexton toll'd the bell.

"In these days, the expression (translated into modern English) 'to finance the friends of the Duc of Picardy for the Duc's release' meant 'to demand a ransom from the friends of the Duc of Picardy for the Duc's release.' . . . The verb, 'to finance' is derived from the Old French word finer, which had several meanings, such as to end, to settle, to pay. The same root (finend) appears in the everyday words, final, finish, and finis."

Comment: Wherefore, if to be financed means to be finished, 'ware finance.

"It does seem far-fetched, but it is a fact that the word check (or cheque) in its meaning of a written order directing a bank or banker to pay money as therein stated, is derived from the game of chess. In playing chess, the expression 'my king was in check' is used. The French word for this situation was eschec. Such an expression means that the king was distinctly menaced by or was under direct control of the adversary's piece or pieces. It is this idea of control that is paramount in our word check which used to designate a bank-check. The present-day meaning came about in this way: the British word cheque originally referred to the counterfoil or stub of a bank-draft or the like on which were recorded the main particulars respecting the bank-draft. This information served both as a permanent record of the draft and as an auditing control or check against the draft. Later, the British word cheque referred to the whole bank-draft including the counterfoil; and still later to the draft alone without reference to the stub or counterfoil.

Comment: In fact, the butt checks the cheque. In chess, 'my king was in check' is never used during play. What happens is, the opponent says 'Check' when he moves a piece to such a position that the king is threatened with capture, either by the piece moved or another unmasked, or by both, and the king must then be moved out of check, or the game is lost. Ordinary pieces may be captured and removed from the board as in draughts, only in chess the capturing piece occupies the place of the piece captured. The king cannot be captured, but he can be placed in check, a position where he would be liable to capture were he an ordinary piece; his inability to move from that position or for one of his own pieces to remove or mask the checking piece finishes the game. The warning 'check' is not required to be given - though it may be given by a courteous opponent - when the queen, the next piece to the king, is placed in 'check'; she can be captured and removed from the field, which usually means the finish, for she is so powerful a piece that the game without her is usually hopeless.

"Have you ever wondered why certain corporations call one of their financial officers the comptroller and other corporations call him the controller? Usage has made both spellings correct. The word comptroller is the result of an error that occurred about 1500. When the London business houses took over the word from the French, they thought that the correct spelling should be comptroller. They assumed that the word must come from the French word compte (meaning account) and that the man in charge of financial accounts should be known as a comptroller. This assumption was a mistake, for the true word is controlleur - a word derived from the French word controleur, meaning 'one who keeps a counter-roll so as to check a treasurer or other person in charge of accounts.' In turn, controleur comes from controle - a combination of two French words contre (meaning against) and role (meaning roll, register.")

"Not so perplexing to customers and bankers is the word cashier. They immediately assume that it refers to a person who is in charge of the cash in a bank - and let it go at that. But how many know that the word cash represents the Englishman's attempt to pronounce the French word casse which means box? The old French banker or business man used to keep the money necessary for his business purposes in a handy money-drawer or box. This box was called a casse. As time went on, the name of the container (casse) referred to the thing it contained (money). Hence casse or cash has come to mean money. And the word for the person in charge of the money-box (and hence of the money in it) became cashier."

Comment: Another English word comes from the French casse, that is, case, with much the same meaning. The fact that the old meaning of casse is lost is the name cash-box, the word also showing the necessity for the old receptacle still existing. Cash-boxes are of iron now, so that the case-hardened would describe the old box as it is now, and some think that the banker, too, has become case-hardened, and one cannot help cogitating on the relation between hard cash and a hard case.

"Two of the most important centres of finance in the world are Wall Street in New York, and Lombard Street in London, England. How Wall Street received its name is more or less common knowledge to Americans; it was the street that ran along the North wall or rampart hastily erected by the Dutch to protect New Amsterdam against the attacks of the English. But relatively few of us know the long and fascinating history behind the name Lombard Street - the world-famous financial street of London. In the year 568, a Teutonic tribe called Langobarden (long-beards) invaded Italy and settled in the valley of the Po River. The district in which they settled became known as Lombardy . . . Many of their descendants, called Lombards, had a marked aptitude for banking; so much so that the word lombard (without the capital 'l') came to be applied to any banker. The first public bank in modern Europe was the Bank of Venice, founded in the year 1171. Later, with the rise of England as a great trading nation, some of these Lombard money-lenders and bankers established branch offices in London - and the street on which they and other bankers met twice a day to transact business became known as the street of the Lombards, or Lombard Street. Paris also has a Rue des Lombards - the name of which originated in the same manner."

Comment: Lombard results from Langobarden through natural processes of speech; it is easier to say and is said more quickly. The Italian merchants were early attracted to England, and many were established in the 1400's as traders and moneylenders, and they gradually took on the business of banking as it was then known. Our Edward III owed the Florentine house of Bardi 900,000 gold ducats, and the house of Peruzzi, also of Florence, 600,000. These people were not Jews, but where trade was Jews were. Against them Edward I had issued (1290) an edict of expulsion, but many of them braved the edict and stayed on under the character of Lombard merchants. Partly through thus being confused with the Jews, partly perhaps through contamination resulting in the hated Jewry, the Lombards became as much detested. The name they gave the street, Lombard, still persists, but the Jews and the Lombards - where are they?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF HON. SECRETARY:

Members are asked to note that the Hon. Secretary's address has been changed to:-

15 Farm Road,
Northland,
Wellington.
Telephone 26-561

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

DON'T FORGET - ANNUAL MEETING, Monday, 31st AUGUST, at 8 p.m. TURNBULL LIBRARY.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 31st AUGUST, 1942.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Society was held on 31st August. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., President, occupied the chair. Apologies were received from Mr. W.D. Ferguson, and Mrs. H. Kirkcaldie. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were read by the President. The work of the year was reviewed by the President and the Hon. Secretary, and on the motion of Mr. Bland, seconded by Professor J. Rankine Brown, the report and balance sheet were adopted.

OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR. All retiring officers were re-elected (see page 1, Vol. III) with the exception of Mr. J. Berry who desired to retire from the Council, and Mr. W.J. Kerr was elected in his stead. A vote of thanks was passed to those who submitted papers and to Mr. Bland, Hon. Lanternist, and other officers.

U.S.A. DOLLAR CURRENCY IN NEW ZEALAND. The Secretary tabled an advertisement issued by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (Evening Post, Wellington, August 19th) headed "Dollar Currency - Warning to the Public" in which attention was drawn to the Finance Emergency Regulations, 1940 (No. 2) imposing penalties against tradesmen retaining dollar notes or selling them back to the public instead of passing them into trading banks. The official dollar rates in New Zealand currency are also given. Mr. Sutherland said that he had received a visit from a U.S.A. naval officer interested in coins, and he hoped that visiting U.S.A. servicemen interested in numismatics would attend future meetings.

HOW COINS ARE MADE - Royal Mint. A short film, loaned from Kodak Ltd., was screened by Mr. Bland, showing how coins are made. The film was an old one, and those who had visited the Royal Mint, London, within recent years, were impressed by the changes that had been made since the Victorian era. The supper, provided by the President and Mrs. Andersen, was much enjoyed.

NEXT MEETING will be held on the third Monday in October - 19th, as the last Monday is a holiday. There will also be a meeting on the last Monday in November, before the holiday recess to March, 1943.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

NEW ZEALAND MEDALS EXHIBITED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following N.Z. medals, not previously recorded, were exhibited as follows:-

Obv. Battleship. VISIT OF U.S.A. NAVAL FLEET TO NEW ZEALAND 1908 in three lines below (heartshaped) brass. SOUVENIR on linked bar above. 30 m.m. by 28 m.m.
Rev. SCHWABBS AND S CO. MILWAUKEE.

Obv. Battleship. H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND above JUTLAND 1916 below.
Rev. Blank. Brass. 23 mm.

Obv. Crowned bust of Victoria. VICTORIAS 60th ANNIVERSARY 1837 1897 around, enclosed in fern fronds, on left mountains and Maori canoe foreground; to right nikau, both latter in panels, and the whole 45 mm. by 26 mm. brass.
Rev. Blank.

Obv. Fireman standing helmeted, holding hose. N to left and Z to right, below two shields, left shield Royal Arms, right shield crossed axes and helmet surmounted by Phoenix around UNITED FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION and in exergue AUXILIUM IN PERICULO Silver 39 mm. In three linked bars above YEARS (2) COMPLETED (2 bars) and third bar axe and helmet shield impaled on flames and on conventionalised ribbon AUCKLAND C.F. BRIGADE.

The above were exhibited by Mr. D. O. Atkinson, Takanini.

A further series were exhibited by Mr. Watts Rule, Timaru, including the following New Zealand specimens:-

Obv. Horse and bull facing, tree, pig, plough and sheep in foreground. W. J. TAYLOR, LONDON, on exergue band. Copper 45 mm. and 4 mm. thick.

Rev. Space in centre for name of recipient, wreath of wheat ears, and TIMARU AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION around. Two medals exhibited were engraved with name and "2nd Prize, Best Boar, 1869" and "2nd Prize, Wool, 1869". Presumably silver specimens of same design were issued as first prizes.

Obv. Two horses in high relief standing to right (An outstanding design) J. MOORE, in exergue. 45 mm, raised rim. Silver (first prize) and copper (second prize.) Issued 1873.

Rev. Space in centre for name of recipient. Wreath of wheat ears, and TIMARU AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION around.

Obv. Three sheep (one lying) in foreground, trees, cow, hill in background. J. MOORE in exergue.

Rev. Space enclosed by wreath of wheat ears. TIMARU AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION around. Issued in 1874. Silver, 45 mm.

Obv. Three fat pigs, foreground, one standing, one sitting, both to left, one sitting full face, wheat straws on ground, trough, farm buildings and tree in background. J. MOORE in exergue.

Rev. Similar to above. Issued 1872, copper, 45 mm.

Obv. Farm house, stack, and two trees, standing corn, horse, cow, pig and sheep, plough and spade behind, four birds flying, high relief, J. MOORE in exergue.

Rev. Space in centre for engraving, enclosed by wreath of wheat ears, and TIMARU AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION around. Issued in 1881. Silver, 38 mm.

"THE WYONS". Mr. P. Watts Rule also exhibited an illustrated work "The Wyons" by Leonard Forrer (1917) in which reference was made to the Charing Cross Hospital, London, Medical School Medal, a silver copy of which Mr. Watts Rule exhibited.

PRICED CATALOGUE, GLENDINING & CO., LONDON. Sir John Hanham, Bt., Dorset, England, presented to the Society a priced catalogue (over 100 pages, illustrated), of an extensive auction of coins and medals, sold on account of Rev. W.L. Gantz. This catalogue has been deposited with the Society's collection.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY NEXT, 19th OCTOBER, 1942.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT of the 81st Meeting, 19th October, 1942

The 81st meeting of the Society was held on the 19th October, 1942. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. Apologies were received from Mr. W.D. Ferguson and Mr. A. Bland.

Reports of meetings of The Numismatic Society of New South Wales and "The Australian Numismatist" (Association of Australian Numismatists) were tabled.

BOUND REPORTS. Mr. M. Hornblow (Assistant Hon. Secretary) submitted Volume II of the Society's reports, suitably bound, for the Society's library. He stated that he required a few copies of page 21, and pages 36 to 40 of Vol. II to complete one or two sets which could be bound and perhaps sold by the Society.

EXHIBITS. Mr. H.R. Ford exhibited a gold watch 179 years old, also 10-dollars, gold, Canadian, 1912; Turkish gold and silver coins; a £2 gold piece, Geo. II, 1740; and a 4-ducat gold piece of Austria, 1881

FIJI CURRENCY. At the end of 1940 the currency of Fiji was in special notes for £1, 10s. and 5s., and coins (silver 2s., 1s.6d., and nickel pennies and half-pennies) but the establishment of troops there created an unprecedented demand for coins, resulting in the rationing of coins and the use of postage stamps for small change. In June, 1942, the Government issued 1s. and 2s. notes (legal tender to £2) and in the following month it was stated that in certain sugar districts a premium of 3s. in the £ was still offered for pennies ("Pacific Islands Monthly," August, 1942). Later, traders and hotel-keepers issued paper and cardboard penny tokens which circulated extensively. To correct the position, the Government issued a penny note which bears the replica of the nickel Fiji penny.

JAPANESE INVASION CURRENCY. The Hon. Secretary tabled press extracts (Press Sep. 22, 1942 and Post, Sep. 24, 1942) indicating that a large number of bank-notes, printed in Japan, had been seized in the South-west Pacific area, and that these notes (£1, 10s., 1s., and 6d.) were printed in English with the words, "Japanese Government" top centre, and a small panel of Japanese printing at bottom centre. The sizes of the £1 and 10s. notes are similar of those of New Zealand. The 10s. is brown in colour and the £1 bright green. The Sydney message reporting the matter stated that "the indications were that the notes were intended for use either in Australia or New Zealand." Japanese currency notes taken from Japanese soldiers (10 yen and 50 sen) were exhibited by Mr. M. Hornblow, who stated that he had been informed that Japanese in the Coral Sea battle were found to possess currency notes printed in English, including, on one series, "Payable in New Zealand," and on another, "Payable in Australia."

Mr. Johannes Andersen said that the issue was reminiscent of Napoleon's action in striking a medal to commemorate his invasion of England - which did not eventuate.

Mr. Hornblow also exhibited a Syrian pound-note (Bradbury Wilkinson), a souvenir of New Zealanders' military occupation of that country, and an Italian note from Libya.

MEDAL ACCOUNT. Moved by Mr. E. Gilbertson, and seconded by Mr. A. Quinnell: "That the amount of £84.2.7 standing to the credit of the Society in the Bank of New Zealand be transferred to a Post-office Savings Bank Account, to be named 'The New Zealand Numismatic Society Medal Account.'" Carried.

Moved by Mr. A. Quinnell, and seconded by Mr. H. R. Ford, "That the signatories for the operation of the Society's Medal Account be the same as those for the Society's Composite Subscription Account." Carried.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. It was decided that Mr. E. Gilbertson be appointed to assist the Hon. Treasurer in ascertaining the number of unpaid subscriptions, and in advising members in arrears.

MEMBERS SERVING IN ARMED FORCES. Messrs. A. Quinnell (Army) and Mr. de Rouffignac (Air Force) were welcomed after an absence in other parts of the country. Messages of good will were read from Mr. R. Johnson (Navy) and Sir John Hanham (Army).

MEDAL. Mr. A. Sutherland exhibited a rubbing of a medal as follows:
Obv. Spray of kowhai blossoms and leaves. WANGANUI HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY around.

Rev. AWARDED TO and space for name of recipient, enclosed by wreath of kowhai leaves and blossoms around. Copper, 32 mm. raised rim. The medal was last issued many years ago.

CORROSION OF BRONZE COINS. Mr. J. de Rouffignac submitted a clipping and illustration from the "Rotarian", April, 1940, indicating that recent studies of bronze coins of ancient Greece have given metallurgists new data on which to plan modern alloys. The conclusion is that after the test of 20 centuries, "Bronzes with low tin content and low to moderate amounts of lead are thus shown to be superior to others on the long pull."

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COINS. The small "s" on the reverse of the 1942 Australian shilling and sixpence is stated to indicate that the coins were minted in San Francisco, U.S.A. New Zealand coins are now being minted in Australia.

REPORT OF THE 82nd MEETING - 30th NOVEMBER, 1942

The 82nd meeting of the Society was held on 30th November, 1942. Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., President, occupied the chair. In anticipation of the presence of interested American members of the Armed Forces, a paper was prepared dealing with Pacific Island Red Feather currency, but at the last moment the visitors could not attend.

CONDOLENCE. A motion was passed expressing the sympathy of members with Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Williams, Dunedin, on the death of their son, Private Owen Moore Williams, killed in action.

MEMBERS IN THE ARMED FORCES AND ABROAD. The Secretary was requested to extend to all members in the Armed Forces, through the minutes, the best wishes of the Society for the coming year.

EXHIBITS. Mr. M. Hornblow exhibited a penny note issued by the Government of Fiji.

DONATIONS. The Secretary reported that a donation of £2 towards the general account had been received from Mr. W. D. Ferguson. A motion expressing appreciation of Mr. Ferguson's generosity was passed with acclamation.

RED FEATHER TREASURE. Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., read the following paper:

The custom of barter is one known to every school-boy, and its pursuit in youth is not a bad training for the more serious engaging in business which sooner or later involves every schoolboy. Amongst the Polynesians of the Pacific barter was at first the only means of trade the Pakeha explorers and traders found it possible to indulge in; and among others Captain Cook found - I am sure much to his surprise - that the Polynesians set a great value on red feathers. They valued the red feathers partly for the sake of their colour, partly because they were able to use them in the making of ornamental articles of dress. When he was at the Marquesas in April, 1774, Captain Cook saw some gay head-dresses which impressed even him as ornamental and beautiful. He writes;

"At the Marquesas, April, 1774. . . . Their principal head-dress, and what appears to be their chief ornament, is a sort of broad fillet, curiously made of the fibres of the husk of coconuts. In the front is fixed a mother-of-pearl shell, wrought round to the size of a tea-saucer; before that, another, smaller, of very fine tortoise-shell, perforated into curious figures. Also before, and in the centre of that, is another round piece of mother-of-pearl, about the size of half-a-crown; and before this another piece of perforated tortoise-shell, the size of a shilling. Besides this decoration in front, some have it also on each side, but in smaller pieces; and all have fixed to them the tail-feathers of cocks or tropic-birds, which, when the fillet is tied on, stand upright; so that

the whole together makes a very slightly ornament. They wear round the neck a kind of ruff or necklace, call it what you please, made of light wood, the out and upper side covered with small red peas, which are fixed on with gum" (Vol. 1, 461).

The feathers of the tropic-birds referred to are the long plumes, of which the birds have only two, springing from the outer sides of the tail and projecting out from the others. There is little of the plume along the sides of the feathers, only a little at the base, the rest being the red tapering quill only. The bird is an inhabitant of tropic seas, and it rarely came alive to New Zealand, but was blown here in storms, and the Maori valued the plumes very highly, almost as much as greenstone, and a chief might wear one fixed in his hair upright over the ear. Sir James Carroll used to wear one in his hat, and the plume always attracted attention, as with every movement of the head of the wearer it would wave back and forth so that you could not help looking at it. The Maori called the bird, amokura, but its name in the Pacific was tavake, and whilst that word is no longer used by the Maori, he has it in one of his old sayings: He huia rere uru, 'a hoka ki runga ra, he tawake maro, he kawau whakateka (A huia, flying to the west, soaring on high; a tawake, keeping steadily on its course; a kawau (shag) flying headlong). This saying, which seems to have reference to the charging of a warrior in battle, must be very old, seeing that it preserves the old name of the amokura.

The red head-dresses, or head-dresses with red feathers, were used in other parts of the Pacific. Cook was at the Friendly Islands on 29th May, 1777, when the chief Poulaho came on board early in the morning, and with him brought as a present to Cook one of these caps covered with red feathers. He writes: "These caps were much sought after by us, for we knew they would be highly valued at Otaheiti. But though very large prices were offered, not one was ever brought for sale, which showed that they were not less valuable in the estimation of the persons here; nor was there a person in either ship that could make himself the proprietor of one, except myself, Captain Clerk, and Omai. These caps, or rather bonnets, are composed of tail feathers of the tropic-bird (that is, the tavake, or amokura) with the red feathers of the parroquets wrought upon them, or jointly with them. They are made so as to tie upon the forehead without any crown, and have the form of a semicircle, whose radius is 18 or 20 inches." They got some of the parakeet feathers, however, and when they reached Tahiti in the following August, Cook writes: "The important news of red feathers being on board our ships, having been conveyed on shore by Omai's friends, 4ay had no sooner begun to break next morning than we were surrounded by a multitude of canoes crowded with people, bringing hogs and fruit to market. At first, a quantity of feathers, not greater than what might be got from a tom-tit, purchased a hog of forty or fifty pounds weight. But as almost everybody on the ship was possessed of some of the precious article in trade, it fell in its value above five hundred per cent before night. However, even then the balance was much in our favour, and red feathers continued to preserve their superiority over every other commodity."

The natives seemed almost to have a reverence for the feathers, for every man, on obtaining a quantity, would turn aside, hold up the feathers before him, and murmur a short address or karakia as if of praise or devotion; but everybody among the Pakehas was too busy with his trade to stop to learn what the karakia was or why it was murmured. Red was, however, a sacred colour with them, and ever since they have been known their admiration for red feathers has been known; it was well exemplified in the magnificent red and yellow feather cloaks of Hawaii; and among the Maori the occasional red feathers of the kaka were highly valued for knotting into their superior flax cloaks.

As soon after the discovery of America, an El Dorado was discovered there and wealth began to pour into Europe, not always remaining in the pockets of those who discovered it or stole it, so the Polynesians of the Pacific had their El Dorado, though the treasure they searched for was not gold, but red feathers. Two names occur in their legends, Whenua-manu and Whenua-kura, names which mean Land of Birds, and Land of Treasure - kura being a word meaning not only treasure, but also red; and the treasure referred to was red feathers. S. Percy Smit considered that the place referred to as Whenua-manu was New Guinea, and I believe that to be true; but the word, manu, means not only bird, but also insect; and in Rarotonga, a Maori homeland, manu alone means insect; if a bird is intended, the word rere, to fly, is added - manu-rere. Whenua-manu, as land of insects, applies well to New Guinea, which has insects of all sorts in superb

abundance. Whenua-kura was also supposed to apply to New Guinea, but I think it applied to only part of New Guinea, and a part separate from the Island itself - that is, an island off the coast of New Guinea, the island Waigiou, off the north-west corner of that great island. That island, and the small group, Aru, are the home of the bird-of-paradise. Let me describe the great bird-of-paradise, which is found in Aru. It is seventeen or eighteen inches from the beak to the tip of the tail. The body, wings, and tail are of a rich coffee-brown. The whole top of the head and neck is of an exceedingly delicate straw-yellow, the feathers being short and close-set, so as to resemble plush or velvet. The lower part of the throat up to the eye is clothed with scaly feathers of an emerald-green colour, and with a rich metallic gloss, and velvety plumes of a still deeper green extend in a band across the forehead and chin as far as the eye, which is bright yellow. . . . The two middle feathers of the tail have no webs, except a very small one at the base and at the extreme tip, forming wire-like cirrhi, which spread out in an elegant double-curve and vary from twenty-four to thirty-four inches long. From each side of the body, beneath the wings, springs a dense tuft of long and elegant plumes, sometimes two feet in length, of the most intense golden-orange colour and very glossy, but changing towards the tips into a pale brown. This tuft of plumage can be elevated and spread out at pleasure so as to almost conceal the body of the bird. Their cry is a loud wauk, wauk, wauk, wok, wok, wok, and the birds have regular aerial dancing-parties in certain trees in the forest which have an immense head of spreading branches and large but scattered leaves, giving the birds a clear space to play and exhibit their plumes. On one of these trees a dozen or twenty full-plumaged male birds assemble together, raise up their wings, stretch out their necks, and elevate their exquisite plumes, keeping them in continual vibration. Between whiles they fly across from branch to branch in great excitement, so that the whole tree is filled with waving plumes in every variety of attitude and motion. At the time of the excitement the wings are raised vertically over the back, the head is bent down and stretched out, and the long plumes are raised up and expanded till they form two magnificent golden fans striped with deep red at the base and fading off into the pale brown tint of the finely-divided and softly-waving points. The whole bird is then overshadowed by them, the crouching body, the yellow head, and emerald-green throat forming but the foundation and setting of the golden glory which waves above. When seen in this attitude, the bird-of-paradise really deserves its name and must be ranked as one of the most beautiful and wonderful of living things. The description is by the great naturalist Wallace, who spent some time in those eastern islands studying the many forms of life so abundant there.

But beautiful as the birds described are, these were not the kura of the Polynesians, though they may have given the Hawaiians their fancy for yellow as well as red. The bird I take to be the kura is slightly smaller, being from thirteen to fourteen inches long, and differing in many particulars, and found only on the island of Waigiou already mentioned. The side-plumes, instead of being yellow, are rich crimson, and extend only about three or four inches beyond the end of the tail; they are somewhat rigid and the ends are curved downwards and inwards, and are tipped with white like the tail feathers of the hula. The two middle tail feathers, instead of being merely elongated and deprived of their webs, are transformed into stiff black ribands, a quarter of an inch wide, but curved like a split quill, and resembling thin half-cylinders of horn or whalebone; when during life they hang down they assume a spiral twist, forming an exceedingly graceful double curve. They are about twenty-two inches long and always attract attention as the most conspicuous and extraordinary feature of the species. The rich metallic green colour of the throat extends over the front half of the head to behind the eyes and on the forehead forms a little double crest which adds much to the vivacity of the bird's appearance.

The name given to the birds by the Malay traders is manuk dewat, birds of God; and it will be noted that the first word is the Polynesian word manu, bird, and the second the Hindoo word, deva, with "t" added. Besides collecting birds, Wallace also collected words, and he has a list of 117 words in about 33 of the dialects spoken in the islands scattered in the neighbourhood of the island Waigiou. The list of words did not include land or country, so the Polynesian, whenua, could not be compared with these, but it did include bird and feather, and manu in one form or another occurs again and again, as does huru, the Polynesian for feather, but not quite so often. In Gilolo, an island 150 miles to the north-west of Waigiou, lived what Wallace called the Galela men, and he has this to say of them: "These are natives of a district in the extrem

north of Gilolo, and are great wanderers over this part of the archipelago. They build large and roomy praus with outriggers, and settle on any coast or island they take a fancy for. They hunt deer and wild pig, drying the meat; they catch turtle and trepang; they cut down the forest and plant rice and maize, and are altogether remarkably energetic and industrious. They are very fine people, of light complexion, tall, with Papuan features, coming nearer to the drawings and descriptions of the true Polynesians of Tahiti and Hawaii than any I have seen." This is a true picture of the navigating, hunting, fishing, cultivating Polynesian, and the significant fact is that the channel between Gilolo and Waigiou of New Guinea is the channel the Polynesians took on their slow migration from somewhere in Asia through the East Indies and into the Pacific. Wherever the Polynesians went in their migrating, a few or more would stay behind and either colonize the spot or mingle with the inhabitants if they had anything in common with them. If they settled on an island and found the inhabitants in possession uncongenial, they would settle on the coast and drive the others inland so that they had to take to the hills, and had to stay there. That happened in all the islands where Polynesians got a footing; they took possession of the coasts, the Melanesians took refuge in the hills, and had to stay there. Wherever, too, the Polynesians left some of their numbers, they naturally left their language, and so traces of it are seen here in the neighbourhood of Waigiou. I have noted eighteen islands in the area where the word for bird is manu or a close form of it - manu, manue, manuo, manok, manuti, manumanu. These are some of the reasons why I incline to identify Waigiou with Whenua-kura, the land of red treasure, and New Guinea as Whenua-manu, the land of insects.

It should be noted, too, that they treasured red feathers as the Peruvians treasured gold - for ornament rather than for utilitarianism. It is little wonder that Cook's people found the red head-dresses highly valued; it is little wonder that the loose feathers so readily commanded trade. The feathers were taken to be used as treasured ornaments; in little tufts, or even singly, they would be neatly bound to small stick-supporters for insertion in the hair. In the early days of their commerce with the Pakahas, too, coins would be used for the same purpose - ornament; they would be perforated and hung in the ear or round the neck.

In Santa Cruz group, British Solomon Islands protectorate, red feathers are used as money; that is, red feathers made up in long narrow strips called tau. These are as much as 26 feet in length, and two inches or more in breadth. Across this band are fixed rows of feathers for the full length of the band. Each row is called a lendu, and a lendu is made by a base of pigeon feathers being knotted into the material of the band, and on each pigeon feather three of the red feathers are stuck with a vegetable gum so that they overlap like the scales of a fish. Each lendu when finished is about the size of the top of a safety-match box, and the lendu are added one after another to the band till the whole tau is covered except for the end which is finished off with a piece of pearl shell, beyond which the end tapers off to a point, the edge ornamented with small shells. The tau is rolled up in a coil, and if well cared for remains springy and resilient. A charm in the shape of an equal-armed cross of wood, often highly carved and ornamented, is laid on each coil before it is wrapped up in many leaves so as to be kept clean and fresh, also so as to protect it from evil spirits. The feathers are obtained from a small bird, the scarlet honey-eater, and each bird is able to supply enough feathers for two or three lendu; usually the feathers are plucked from the snared bird which is then released to produce a new crop. The feathers may be used for trading, and the maker of a tau usually is not the bird-catcher. For trade purposes the feathers of from 15 to 20 birds are placed in a half coconut-shell and covered with pandanus or other waterproof leaf. A coil of first quality may contain about 3000 lendu, or the feathers of approximately 1000 birds; and an idea of their value may be had when it is known that an ocean-going canoe 5 to 6 fathoms in length and capable of carrying three tons, would cost about four good tau. If the feathers were plentiful a skilled worker might make four or five tau in a year; that was so in 1935, when there were only ten people in the group able to finish a tau.

Very few coils were sold for Pakaha currency; £20 would hardly secure a first-class one. Mostly they were exchanged for food-products, canoes, turmeri tobacco; but their chief use was as a bride-price, the average price paid for a desirable wife being 10 tau. In this group shell money was current before the manufacture of tau started, which it did about the year 1860. What started the fashion, who can say?

When I was in London in September, 1936, I had to be vaccinated as I was going to South America, and the doctor I called on to commit the operation was something of a collector, and to my surprise he produced a coil of this red-feather money; but it was very inferior tau, most of the feathers having moulted and what was left being dingy in colour; he also had a pukaea - a Maori war-trumpet about five feet long, and when he said he had never heard it blown I asked him if he would like to hear it; he handed it to me, and after dusting the ancient thing I put it to my lips and it emitted a blast that astonished both him and the spiders in it. The old thing could still roar out its challenge.

So here is a little mixture of numismatics and anthropology which I trust is not unacceptable.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Andersen, and the meeting concluded with supper.

A. SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
Northland,
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

NEXT MEETING - Monday, 29th March, 1943.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

83rd MEETING, 29th MAY, 1943.

The 83rd meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library, on Saturday, 29th May, 1943. Professor J. Rankine Brown presided until the President (Mr. Johannes Andersen) arrived. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE was read, and tabled. Mr. A. Mulligan, Treaty House, Waitangi, wrote asking whether members would assist in securing specimens of coinage in circulation when the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, so that he could exhibit them in a showcase in Treaty House. The Secretary reported that he had sent photographs of the coins. The Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, submitted a copy of his report for 1941, for the Society's Library; Mr. J. Hunt Deacon, Adelaide, (Hon. Corresponding Member) submitted a short report on numismatic affairs in Australia, and the meeting asked that Mr. Hunt Deacon be invited to submit a paper on "Effect of War on Mints" and "The Groat and its Family"; Mr. H.G. Williams, Dunedin, offered to sell his set of Swedish dalers, 4, 2, 1, and $\frac{1}{2}$, and also his set of New Zealand and Australian tokens in oak cabinet, 20 trays, glass top and bottom, framed in aluminium, for £120; Reports of the Numismatic Society of New South Wales were tabled, also enquiries regarding the value of coins, including a request from a U.S. marine, for a New Zealand crown piece. A gold stater of Phillip of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great, 350 B.C.) is to be exhibited for offers at next meeting. Last catalogue price £18-£22. (Head of Apollo, and chariot reverse).

PACIFIC CURRENCY. Mr. A. Sutherland reported that he had been invited by the American Red Cross to give a lecture to inmates of an American Naval Hospital and that on 27th May he had given a talk on "Pacific Currency". He had shown specimens of native money as well as official and private war money of the Pacific, and Japanese invasion notes, and had screened slides of Greek coins kindly loaned by Professor J. Rankine Brown. One U.S. marine had informed him that he had a Japanese pink invasion note inscribed ONE SHILLING NEW ZEALAND and JAPANESE OCCUPATION on the reverse. Efforts were being made to secure a specimen.

CONDOLENCES. Communications were received from Mr. P. Watts Rule and Mr. A.F.M. Patterson advising of the sudden death of Mr. A.J. McPherson, Timaru. References were made to his sterling qualities, and a motion was passed expressing sympathy with his widow and family in their sad loss.

Reference was made to the passing of the Rt. Hon. J.G. Coates. Messrs. Johannes Andersen, Professor J. Rankine Brown and A. Sutherland referred to his close association with New Zealand coinage designs and stated that Mr. Coates and his Treasury officers had at all times consulted the Society on coinage matters. It was due to the personal interest of Mr. Coates that the present distinctive coinage designs were adopted. A motion of sympathy with Mrs. Coates and her family was passed.

FINANCIAL. The Treasurer reported that an amount of approximately £80 was standing to the credit of the Society in the Bank of New Zealand, and that much of this money had been earmarked for use after the war for issuing commemorative medals and possibly printing reports. Moved by Mr. Sutherland and seconded by Mr. H.R. Ford, "THAT the amount standing to the credit of the Society in the Bank of New Zealand be transferred to the Society's Post Office Savings Bank Account where interest is paid, and that that account be then not allowed to fall below £75 in credit without a special motion being passed at a meeting of the Society."

BINDING OF REPORTS. Mr. M. Hornblow reported that some copies of the reports had been bound, and the Secretary reported that Mr. W.D. Ferguson had paid for the binding of the Society's copy. Mr. Ferguson was thanked for his continued unsolicited financial and general support of the Society, this being carried by acclamation.

RECORD OF SOCIETY'S PROPERTY. Mr. Sutherland stated that in association with the Treasurer he would endeavour to bring up to date the register of the Society's property, including books, pamphlets, coins, and other property.

NUMISMATIC LETTER TO NUMISMATIST. The Editor of the Numismatist, U.S.A., stated that he would include the name of the Society in the organisation directory published monthly for the benefit of U.S.A. forces overseas, and he suggested that the Society should send "Numismatic Letters" for publication in the Numismatist. Members prepared to assist are asked to submit contributions to the Secretary.

N.Z. MEDALS. Mr. D.O. Atkinson drew attention to the following medal not previously listed.

Obverse: Cock, crowing. DEFIANCE BUTTER BEATS THEM ALL.
Reverse: Exhibition Buildings, Christchurch (1907-8) Al. Dia
32mm.

Mr. Bernard Teague, Wairoa, drew attention to a George VI coronation medal, issued by the Kerepehi School Committee.

PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNION TOKENS. A complete collection of New Zealand communion tokens, handsomely mounted, and in an oak frame, was presented to the Society by Mr. H.G. Williams, Dunedin. Members expressed appreciation of Mr. Williams' generosity, and a motion thanking him was carried by acclamation. The collection is exhibited in the hall of the Turnbull Library where it is attracting interest. The following paper was read on behalf of Mr. Williams:-

Communion tokens were used as tickets of admission to the Services of the Sacrament of the LORD'S SUPPER and were supposed to have been suggested from the fact that the GREEKS and ROMANS used a similar token for admittance to oath-bound secret societies. The books of St. Saviour's Church of Southwark, England, show that they were in use in that country as early as 1559. These tokens came into general use in the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland during the persecution by the Crown which began in 1638 and continued for over fifty years. During this period the Covenanters, as they were called (being the Presbyterians of Scotland who refused to have Episcopacy forced upon them), were not allowed to meet for worship. Many, however, continued to do so in secret, mainly in the woods or other secluded places, when the tokens were found to be of great value, not only to exclude the ungodly, but spies and unfriendly persons who might betray them to the government, for if caught attending these meetings and they refused to own allegiance to the Crown they were often fined, imprisoned, and sometimes put to death.

After this condition ended, the custom of giving tokens to the faithful, or those who, by their pious lives, knowledge of the Scriptures, care of the poor, and adherence to the rules of the Church, were deemed worthy of admission to the Lord's Supper, continued generally until the middle of the Nineteenth Century. A few are still in use, but in the large communities where the custom prevails a Communion Card is used.

The tokens are classed in three divisions - Parish, Free Church and United Presbyterian; the Parish being a district under one pastor or an Ecclesiastical district having officers of its own and supporting its own poor; the Free Church being that section which renounced its connection with the state in 1843 in order to be free from state control, the tokens being comparatively modern and generally having the word FREE inscribed upon them; and the United Presbyterian, which includes those which called themselves the Original Secession, Second Secession, Associated, United, Union, and different Reliefs and Reforms often inscribed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th.

Many of the early parish tokens have only one, two or three letters inscribed upon them, such as: K for Parish of Keith, R.C. for Reform Church, L.S. for Lord's Supper, M.A.R. for Mr. Alexander Reed, the Minister, etc. These, of course, could not have been classified but for the records of the Church or Parish which issued them. The later ones, however, are more easily identified as they often contain such inscriptions as: Hope Street Free Church; Free Protestant Church; Reform Presbyterian Church of New Connock; Coldstream Relief Church; Gaelic Chapel; Hutton Kirk; Maybole Parish; and so on.

One of the most interesting phases of these later tokens is the inclusion of a quotation of scripture, the reference where found usually being given, principally, "LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF"; "THIS DO YE IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"; "THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS", etc. We also find on some of them the view of the church, a burning bush, a Communion Cup, and other designs.

The material used in their manufacture was mostly lead or a mixture of lead and tin, but they were also made of brass, silver, ivory, etc. The earliest tokens were supposed to be made by the use of soft stone moulds, this being later substituted by iron or brass, and still later by steel punches and dies.

Dealing with the Communion Tokens of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, they are nearly all of the modern type, the only exception being that of the TRINITY Church, Nelson, dated 1849, this being made by a punch on thin sheet lead.

So far as I have been able to ascertain there were only 42 varieties of Communion Tokens in use in New Zealand. Of course, that does not mean they were used only by 42 churches, because many churches used what is termed Stock Tokens, such as, Free Church of Scotland, Presbyterian Church of Otago, etc.

The first Communion Tokens to arrive in New Zealand were the Scots Reformed Presbyterian Mission to New Zealand, dated 1844, which were brought out by the Rev. J. Duncan who, on his arrival, found the ground already occupied by other societies, consequently they were not then used, but I understand they were used in the Maori Mission in later years.

The first Tokens to be used in New Zealand were those of the Free Church of Scotland which were brought out by the passengers of the John Wickliffe, 1848; The First Church of Otago, 1848; Port Chalmers, 1848; Trinity Church, Nelson, 1849.

Of the 42 varieties of Tokens known to be in use in New Zealand only 35 examples can now be traced. Of these 25 are Otago, 3 Southland, 1 Canterbury, 1 Nelson, and 5 for the whole of the North Island. The tokens are listed in a paper I gave previously - see Vol. II, page 37.

Collecting Communion Tokens has for many years been my chief hobby and my collection now numbers about 4,500 varieties from nearly every country where the Presbyterian Church has been established. I am particularly interested in the New Zealand variety, not that they are any different from a collector's point of view, but because they are so closely associated with the early pioneers, particularly those of Otago. I have succeeded in gathering what must be considered to be as near as possible a complete collection of New Zealand Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens. Having completed my object I have decided that the best place to house this collection is in the Otago Early Settlers' Association's Museum, and I am pleased also to be able to present a complete set, suitably framed, to the N.Z. Numismatic Society.

TOKEN COPPER COINS OF ENGLAND (Before 1672) was the subject of a paper read on behalf of L.A.C. Eric Horwood, R.N.Z.A.F.:-

The need of coins for small change struck in a less precious metal than silver became increasingly acute during the latter half of the 16th century. The silver pennies which previously had been broken into halves and quarters for smaller change proved inadequate in numbers and unsuitable in size, were awkward to handle and easily lost, for they had been reduced from 12 grains in the reign of Henry VIII to 8 grains by Elizabeth as she replaced Henry's debased coins with her own of greater purity and value. Also, due to the expansion of overseas trade and privateering by Elizabethan traders and seamen, and the influx into England of new commodities, and foreign coins which passed as current with coins of the realm, the demand for small change of a more suitable size became more urgent.

The expedient of striking silver halfpenny and threefarthing pieces did not alleviate the situation, as these pieces were also too small for convenience. The authorities, taking no other action in a matter that was apparently beneath their dignity, private enterprise, in the form of merchants and traders throughout the country, stepped in to remedy the matter and numerous halfpenny and farthing pledges, or trade tokens, were issued, mostly in lead, and these proved a profitable venture for their issuers. These tokens were looked upon with disfavour by the authorities as infringing the royal prerogative to coin money, and they were made illegal by act of Parliament, but this does not appear to have stopped their circulation.

Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign copper farthings were officially issued for Ireland, and, some thought having been given to the matter, patterns were prepared for copper 1d., 2d. and 3d. pledges for use in England and Wales, and a proclamation was drawn up to introduce the new coins to the public, but the Queen's death in 1601 prevented a final decision being reached and none of the coins were put into current circulation.

Although James I had had experience in the use of copper coins in Scotland he was chary of adopting them for England, and finally approved of the idea of allowing the issue of copper farthing tokens under Royal patent, which he hoped would return him a handsome profit in royalties with no trouble to himself.

In 1613 the first patent was granted to Lord Harrington of Exton in Rutlandshire. These first farthing tokens were approximately the size of the current half groat, were very thin, and weighed six grains. They did not bear the sovereign's portrait as it was considered undignified for the King's likeness to appear on a coin of base metal. Instead, on the obverse was shown a crown through which protrudes crossed sceptres, with the King's name and titles around. The reverse shows a crowned harp and the continuation of the inscription from the obverse. The great discrepancy between the intrinsic and nominal value led to much abuse and dissatisfaction, and was the cause of all the subsequent trouble over them, added to which they were extensively forged and were foisted on to the public in large numbers. After James' death the practice of coining these tokens under royal patent was continued by Charles I. Shortly after the granting of the first patent, Lord Harrington died, and the patent then changed hands several times until in 1634 when it was acquired by Lord Maltravers and Sir Francis Crane, who were given the right by proclamation to coin farthing tokens for 21 years. This privilege cost them the modest annual sum of 100 marks. The only difference in design between the Maltravers farthings and those of earlier date, was the substituting of Charles' name for James', and an inner layer of dots inside the inscription.

At this time, in an attempt to prevent the practice of forcing large numbers of these coins on to the public, the court of Star Chamber declared that the passing of more than 2d. in farthings at any one time was illegal.

Large profits were made by the patentees, 1 oz. of copper cost them 1d., and this was coined into 20d. in farthings which were then vended at 21/- worth for £1 to retail agents throughout the kingdom.

Although the tokens were widely distributed for circulation, the patentees maintained only one office in London for their redemption, and many holders of the tokens living at a distance found it a very difficult or even impossible task to undertake the journey to London to exchange a quantity of tokens for regal coins.

The public dissatisfaction over the token coins was increased when the Maltravers' double ring token was struck and the patentees refused to recognise the previous tokens. The reason given for the change was that the alteration in design was an attempt to defeat the forgers, and the refusal to redeem the earlier tokens was made on the grounds that there were

so many forgeries in circulation that to redeem all the single ring tokens would prove a financial disaster to the patentees. No thought was given, however, to the general public and especially to the poorer section of the community who had to suffer the loss, and who in many cases found that their entire savings were valueless.

The next - and final - change that the patentees introduced, in order, as they said, to further thwart the counterfeiters, was the issuing of the rose farthings in 1636. These were of copper with a brass centre and they were smaller and thicker than the previous types of tokens. On the reverse they showed a crowned rose, which was single in some cases and double in others, while the obverse remained as before. These different changes caused great losses to everyone except the patentees, and general indignation arose at the continuation of such a public scandal. On April 12, 1643, Parliament ordered the patentees to cease striking, and appointed Mr. Peter Hasard and Mr. Harrington, trader, as overseers of the accounts. These gentlemen were to report weekly on the profits which the patentees accrued.

During the Commonwealth period patterns for farthings were prepared for an official issue, but the scheme did not progress beyond this stage.

Between 1648 and 1672 the traders' tokens again resumed their place in currency as a medium of small change and held that position until superseded by the issue of the imperial copper halfpennies and farthings of Charles II on August 16, 1672, which were accompanied by strong enactments - which were effectively enforced - making the tokens illegal currency. And thus the obvious solution to the problem of small change was, for the time being at any rate, satisfactorily settled by means that had been advocated by Queen Elizabeth's master of the Royal Mint nearly a century before.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Williams and Horwood for these papers.

EXHIBITS:

Silver Plunket Oratorical Medal by Mr. P.J.G. Smith, winner, 1922; Harrington farthings by Mr. W.D. Ferguson; Fiji coins and "gunmetal" cent of U.S.A. by Mr. M. Hornblow; and official and private war paper money of Pacific and invasion money by Mr. A. Sutherland.

NEXT MEETING: It was decided to hold the meetings of the Society on the last Monday in the month as heretofore, the next meeting (Annual) being on the 26th July, 1943, at 8 p.m. Nominations for officers will now be received.

A. SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
Northland, N.Z.
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Report of 84th Meeting (12th Annual) 26th July, 1943.

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Society was held on 26th July, 1943. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. Correspondence was explained and tabled.

In moving the adoption of the Annual Report Mr. A. Sutherland stated that despite the war the Society had been able to carry on. Mr. W.D. Ferguson said that the finances of the Society were not improving, subscriptions being in arrear. Mr. G.C. Sherwood, Treasurer, said that the loss for the year was £4, but recent subscription reminders had brought in £7 in 3 days. After a brief discussion the report and balance sheet were adopted. Moved by Mr. A. Quinnell and seconded by Professor Rankine Brown and carried:-

"THAT up to £7.15.0. be withdrawn from the composite subscription account to reimburse the Treasurer who had paid accounts when the Society's working account was not in funds."

All retiring officers were re-elected (References pages 1 and 31).

Moved by Mr. W.D. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. H.G. Ford:-

"THAT the action of the Treasurer in investing £81 in a Post Office National Savings Account instead of an ordinary Post Office Savings Account, be approved." (References pages 33 and 39). Carried.

N.Z. Communion Tokens: The Hon. Secretary reported that Mr. A. Howitt, retired Session Clerk, St. John's Church, Wellington, had located two St. John Communion tokens. One dated 1886 is framed and exhibited in the vestry of the Church. The other, dated 1878, was donated by Mr. Howitt to complete the Society's collection presented by Mr. H.G. Williams. Mr. Howitt advised that the Rev. John Moir was inducted as the Minister of St. John's (then the "Free Church of Wellington", and later as the "Willis St. Presbyterian Church") in the Congregational Church, Woodward St. on 3.11.1853. Early records show that he distributed tokens for each communion. These tokens were probably brought by him from Scotland. St. John's was first given that name in 1872. Session minutes for 23rd December, 1885, show that 500 tokens were ordered from Home, and at the communion on 2nd July, 1886, these tokens were given in exchange for cards. An 1886 token was presented to the Society by Mr. A. Martin, Egmont St., Wellington. The Society's collection is complete but for the St. Andrew's Wellington token.

Danish Association: Birthday of King of Denmark; 26th September: Mr. Johannes Andersen, as President of the Wellington Branch of the above association, referred to the recent handing over of an ambulance to the Government for the Air Force as a gesture of appreciation from Danish citizens of New Zealand of the war efforts of the Allies. Mr. Andersen referred to the influence of the sea-faring Danes on the settling of the coasts of England, and the survival and incorporation of Danish words in the English language. The very name of "England", he said, goes back 1,500 years, being originally Angle-land, the land of the Angles, which in time changed to Engleland - Englalund - England. The capital of Denmark, Copenhagen (which name means Chapman's haven or merchants' haven) was a thorn in the side of the first great commercial combine known - the Hanseatic League of Merchants, with headquarters in the Baltic. Denmark then owned part of Sweden also, and holding the key to the Baltic duly levied toll on all shipping, and waxed wealthy. The members of the Hanseatic league were known to the English as Easterlings, because their seat was in the east, and their credit was so good and their currency so reliable that it gave the name sterling (from Ea-sterling) to the currency that became general - a term still very much in use. An early popular coin called skilling by the Danes became the English shilling. Another Danish and Anglo-Saxon coin, the thaler (or daler), worth about three shillings, was also adopted, though not by England but by America; and when Americans give it their characteristic pronunciation of dalar they are near the original pronunciation. The Danes had crossed the herring-

pond of the North Sea when they settled in England; and when, later on, after the hiving-off of the Pilgrim Fathers, they crossed the duck-pond of the Atlantic and settled in the United States (to be), they and the Dutch founded the city of New Amsterdam (later New York), they introduced the daler, which changed both its pronunciation and its value, and became known the world over.

Mr. W.D. Ferguson exhibited a Pine Tree shilling, 1652, and Mr. Ford a series of U.S.A. cents.

U.S.A. War Medals and Decorations: The Secretary was asked to advise the U.S.A. Minister to New Zealand that the Society would be grateful if specimens of U.S.A. medals and decorations awarded during the present war could be donated for public exhibition at the Turnbull Library.

The meeting concluded with supper.

A. SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

Report of 85th Meeting - 27th September, 1943.

The 85th meeting of the Society was held on 27th September, 1943. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided.

Exhibits: Japanese Invasion Money: Mr. N. Soloman, Napier, exhibited four specimens of Japanese invasion money:-

- (1) Blue Note 1/- Island scene, "The Japanese Government" over "One shilling", $5\frac{5}{8}$ " x $2\frac{3}{4}$ " overprinted O.C. duplicated in red.
- (2) $\frac{1}{2}$ shilling similar Island scene and Japanese characters, 5 " x $2\frac{3}{8}$ ", dark purple, O.A. overprinted twice in red.
- (3) "Half Gulden" notes in light blue same size, S.J. duplicated in black, and DE JAPANSCHIE REGEERING BETAALT AAN TOONDER: also official 5 cent note of Ceylon.

Mr. D.O. Atkinson, Takanini, submitted particulars of a New Zealand copper medal. Design: Seaman, cutlass in right hand pointing with left, bulldog at feet, big gun behind; WELCOME TO THE BRITISH NAVAL SQUADRON 1942 around, "Stokes" in small letters, also a badge souvenir Auckland Exhibition 1913" on scroll, two fern fronds above.

A PAPER ON THE EFFECT OF WAR ON MINTS: Introduction was read on behalf of Mr. J. Hunt Deacon, South Australia, as follows:- War has affected coinage more than any other event in history. For the purpose of this study, it is not proposed to go beyond the introduction of the screw-mill, when coins ceased to be hand-made and were machine-produced. At the first indication of the approach of hostilities in the region where a "mint" was established, the moneymen and workmen would vacate the building, taking their dies and tools with them, and possibly abandoning the specie if it had not previously been removed to a safer place. Owing to the mobility of the workmen and their equipment, it is not surprising to find "minting-places" opening and closing within a short period. Hazlitt in his "Coinage of the European Continent" explains that even the Duchy of Cleves, a very small territory, possessed four mints - due no doubt to the ease with which the master could remove himself and his apparatus. It is also not unlikely that invading forces included skilled moneymen, who could take possession of abandoned minting-places and set up minting-shops on behalf of the successful armies.

Some references illustrate the effects:-

- I. CLOSING OF MINTS: (a) This might be the simple abandoning of the mint - with perhaps the removal of bullion, machinery, dies, and other tools; (b) It might mean a temporary closing of the mint - a premeditated action owing to not being able to defend the town; (c) It might denote permanent closing, particularly if the mint was of a "stop-gap" variety.

During the 1914-18 War, the Government of Belgium was removed from Brussels to Furnes; and the Brussels Mint was used by the Germans for issuing zinc coinage for the occupied country. The Mint at New Orleans was closed in 1861, no doubt owing to the fact that the United States for the period of the Civil War lost control over the Southern States.

In England during the Civil War the complete closing down of several temporary mints can be instanced:- Exeter 1646; Oxford 1646; and Bristol 1645. The Calais Mint was closed by the English when it became apparent that the town could not be held, and the Mint was not re-opened by the French.

- II. OPENING OF MINTS: In the Civil War of England minting establishments were opened by the Royalists as they were forced to move from place to place. They were, Bristol 1643; Chester 1643-44; Exeter 1644; Weymouth 1643; Worcester 1643; and Oxford 1642-43. Some of these were due to transferring of mints, but not all. The Calais Mint was opened up during the Hundred Years War (1347); while a factory at Caselsarrasin was used during the months of October and November of 1914 in France.
- III. RE-OPENING OF MINTS: Instances, the re-opening of the Mint at Melun by Henry IV to take the place of that of Paris; and the re-opening of the Paris mint after the German drive to the capital had been stopped in 1914.
- IV. TRANSFERRING OF MINTS: Instances, Paris to Melun in 1593, and Paris to Caselsarrasin in 1914, but in these cases it is not certain whether the whole minting apparatus was transferred. I doubt it. With more certainty one can instance the removal of the mint at Aberswyth to Shrewsbury, 1642, and its removal again to Oxford in 1643, and a possible removal later to Bristol.
- V. SEIZURE OF MINTS: Early in the struggle of Charles I against Parliament the latter seized the Tower Mint.
- VI. COMPLETE OR PARTIAL DESTRUCTION OF MINTS: I know of no case to illustrate this possibility, but with intensified aerial warfare it is possible that in the present war this has happened - perhaps at Warsaw, or Hamburg.
- VII. TRANSFERRING OF ORDERS FOR COINAGE: One has to go no further than the shores of Australia to illustrate this. During the 1914-18 War the Royal Mint, London, was heavily overtaxed with work. The demand of small currency for the use of troops and the necessity for an increased issue of silver coin to replace the gold withdrawn from circulation resulted in some orders being placed elsewhere, and others not being completed for some time. The order for Australian silver was transferred from London to Melbourne in 1916; and that for the bronze to Calcutta in the same year. In the present war the orders for Australian silver have been transferred from Melbourne to San Francisco and Denver City, and that for the bronze to Calcutta. In 1915-16 many of the orders received at the Royal Mint, London, were let out to the private minting establishment of Ralph Heaton and Sons of Birmingham - and some Australian pieces came from this mint.
- VIII. EXTRA WORK PLACED ON MINTS: During war-time the standard or metal content of coins has been changed, resulting in much experimental work being done by Mints.

IX. CHANGES IN PERSONNEL: In the taking over of a mint by one party a change of officials is often made, perhaps owing to the political views of the master differing from those of the new owners:

This study takes no account for the many pieces of money of necessity for many of these were issued at other than minting establishments. Similarly I have refrained from dealing with any after the war effects for these, too, are reflected on the coins more than upon the Mints.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Hunt Deacon.

THE COPPER, TIN AND BRONZE COINAGE OF ENGLAND: The first issue of English imperial copper coins took place on August 16th, 1672, (Charles II), when farthings and halfpence were issued. Both coins depicted on the obverse the sovereign's laureated and armoured bust to left, and "Carolvs a Carolo" (Charles from Charles) around. On the reverse, for the first time, appeared the figure of Britannia, seated, and "Britannia" around. The design of Britannia was probably copied from Roman coins of either Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, or a medallion of Commodus. The model for Britannia is generally conceded to have been one of Charles' court favourites. The farthing differs from the halfpenny only in that the right leg of Britannia is bare.

The experiment of striking farthings in tin was carried out in 1684, as that metal showed a higher percentage of profit than copper. The design, size and weight were the same as that on the copper coins, but they had a square copper plug in the centre, and the legend "MVMMORVM FAMVLVS" 1684 ("a servant of the coinage", or "a subsidiary coinage") round the edge as a precaution against clipping. The copper plug was yet another attempt to defeat forgery but was not successful. The coins were a failure, owing to the more rapid oxidation of tin than copper, so that they rapidly became worn and defaced, but they continued to be struck until 1693. James II continued striking tin farthings during his brief reign. James also struck tin halfpennies, and a patent was granted to Thomas Neale to coin at the rate of 20d. from each lb. of tin, and with 40% profit for the king.

William and Mary also issued tin money for the first four years of their reign. The difficulty of double portraiture in the design was successfully overcome by the king's head being superimposed on that of the Queen's, both profile and facing right. In 1693 copper halfpennies and farthings were reintroduced, under patent to Andrew Corbet, but after the Queen's death on 28th December, 1694, the mint again resumed charge of the coinage.

The replacement of all the worn tin money was included in the great recoinage of 1696, and in order to increase profits the experiment was tried of casting the copper coins, with the result that many showed flaws and were inferior to those struck in the usual manner, and few of the William III copper issues are to be found in good condition.

The inscription on the copper coins issued after Mary's death reads GVLIELMVS TERTIVS, on the obverse, and BRITANNIA on the reverse. The 1699 issue saw a change in the king's portrait as well as alterations in Britannia's pose.

The abundance of copper coins in circulation made it unnecessary to strike any for Anne until the end of her reign. Only a few farthings of 1714 were put into circulation, which gave rise to absurd stories as to their scarcity.

George I did not issue coins until 1717 when halfpennies and farthings only were issued. The king's head is shown facing right, with GEORGIVS REX round the outside and the reverse as before. The design is unimaginative and heavy and did not change until replaced by the "young head" issue of his son.

George II commenced his copper issue with the halfpenny in 1729, followed by the farthing in 1730, and again the design remained the same except for the change in the king's portrait, and the omission of an inner linear circle.

In 1740 a change was made in the king's portrait showing him as an older man. From 1740 to 1744 the U in the king's name was written in its modern form, but subsequently the V was again used. This series was continued until 1754, which date continued to be struck on all copper issued subsequently and for the first 10 years of George III's reign.

Copper counterfeiting was not high treason as it was for silver and gold but the maximum punishment was fixed in 1742 at 2 years' imprisonment. The forgers were well organised and attempts to punish them were quite ineffective. During the reign of George III the issue of copper and silver coins was a very spasmodic affair. The first issue of copper by George III was the halfpenny of 1770, while the farthing appeared the following year, and both continued to be struck until 1775 when there was a long pause in the issue of imperial copper coins. During this pause the question of small change occupied the public mind and for the third time the privately issued trade tokens made their appearance, led by the Anglesey 1d. and ½d. tokens in 1784. This time the tokens were issued largely by municipalities and important trading companies and clearing houses were established in London, Liverpool and Manchester for their redemption. The designs were mostly coats of arms, articles of trade, or representations of historical or mythical persons connected with the place of issue, while the inscriptions were standardised.

The tokens were suspended in 1797, when a contract for new copper coins was given to Mathew Boulton of Soho, Birmingham; which resulted in the well known cartwheel series. This consisted of the copper 2d. pieces - the first and last time such a coin has appeared in the English coinage - the 1d. making its debut, and the ½d. and ¼d. to complete the series came into being as patterns. The 2d. piece weighed 2 ozs. the 1d. 1 oz., and the ½d. and ¼d. of corresponding weights, and it did not pay to counterfeit them.

In several ways they were unique, for Kuchler, the designer of the series, introduced several variations. Britannia is shown, for the first time, seated on a rock surrounded by water, on which appears a three-masted ship to left. She also carries a trident instead of a spear and under her shield in small raised type is SOHO, where the coins were minted. The king's portrait on the obverse is well executed. The date and inscription is on a broad raised band, and is indented. The new coins were too heavy and were discontinued.

In 1799 lighter halfpennies and farthings were issued. The only other copper coins to make their appearance during George III's reign were the 1d., ½d., and ¼d., struck in abundant quantities during 1806 and 1807.

The ¼d. of 1821 - designed by Pistrucci - was the extent of the first copper issue of George IV. In this coin the king's laureated and draped bust faces left, with the inscription GEORGIUS IIII DEI GRATIA round it, while the direction of Britannia has been changed so that she faces right, is more heavily draped and has been provided with a helmet. She grasps her trident firmly in the left hand, while her right rests on her shield. Also at her feet and behind her is a crouching lion, which is another innovation never repeated. The inscription reads BRITANNIAR: REX FID: DEF: . The coin is surrounded by a raised edge within which is a circle of half dots, and this, with variations, occurs on all later coins. George IV disapproved of the portrait on his coins, and in 1825 a new issue appeared with Chantry's bust on it, executed by W. Wyon, the first of the well-known family to be chief engraver at the Royal Mint. This series consisted of the 1d. and ½d. and was joined by the ¼d. in 1826.

Up till 1825 - with one exception - the reigning monarch's bust on all copper coins is shown laureated and either in Roman armour or draped, but the drappings were dispensed with as from the George IV issue of 1825, though later reintroduced by Victoria. The one exception to this rule was Anne, who, although her ample person was adequately draped, did not wear a laurel wreath, but had her hair curled, while a fillet of pearls is seen running through it on several of her pattern farthings. In 1828 a copper half farthing was issued for use in the colonies, and was subsequently legal tender in Great Britain.

The William IV copper followed the previous design with the exception that the king's bust is not laureated. The $\frac{1}{2}$ farthing of this reign was minted in 1837 only, while owing to the small number struck all the William IV issues are scarce.

Victorian copper coins show little change and, apart from minor variations, continued with the same reverse as that of William IV. The obverse shows an excellent portrait of the young Queen, facing left. In 1842 a proclamation made the $\frac{1}{2}$ farthing, issued for Ceylon, legal currency in Great Britain, but they were never in general use.

No change took place in the copper coinage until 1860 when bronze money was introduced. This was a great improvement as the bronze coins were smaller. The alloy was 95% copper, 4% tin, and 1% zinc. Their obverse design showed a more mature head of the Queen with laureated and draped bust. On the reverse the figure of Britannia was remodelled. To the right the ship again made its appearance, and a lighthouse - generally supposed to be the Eddystone lighthouse, which had been completed the previous year - was introduced on the left, while the date of minting again reverted to the exergue under Britannia. The first pennies and halfpennies of 1860 were bordered, between the inscription and the edge of the coin, by a ring of raised circular dots, but this design had to be discontinued owing to the large number of die breakages, and in consequence the variety is scarce. Later in the same year the present-day "combed" border replaced the "raised dot" variety. In 1874, owing to pressure of work at the Royal Mint, the task of minting the bronze coins was entrusted - under supervision - to Messrs. Thomas Heaton & Son, of Birmingham. These coins are identified by an H in the exergue. No change in the design of the bronze coins was made at Victoria's golden jubilee in 1887 as was the case with the silver and gold issues, and the next change took place in 1893, when Brock's portrait of the Queen was adopted and produced a bust more commonly known as the "old head" issue.

In the new design the Queen's head is crowned and draped, while her titles now include those of Empress of India, in addition to the others which had been gradually added to during previous reigns and reads in full VICTORIA DEI GRATIA, BRITANNARUM REGINA, FIDEI DEFENSOR, INDÆ IMPERATRIX, though abbreviated on the coins.

On the reverse the lighthouse and ship are omitted, Britannia adopts a more alert pose, and the value of the coin is written around her. This design continued to be struck after the Queen's death in 1900, and until replaced by Edward VII's in 1902. Apart from the change in the king's name and portrait the design did not change during the eight years of his reign.

George V's first issues appeared in 1911 and his bronze coins were similar to those of his father.

In 1912-1918 Messrs. Heaton's, and in 1918 the King's Norton Copper Coy. of Birmingham, minted copper coins, mintings bearing H and KN beside the date.

The amount of bronze coins in circulation made it unnecessary to strike pennies from 1923-25 inclusive. In 1927, in common with the silver issues, the designs of the penny and halfpenny were changed. The King's head was made smaller, and once again Britannia undergoes some slight changes. These coins were current during 1936 in which year they are accepted as being of Edward VIII's issue, although no change had been made.

The accession of our present King, George VI, in 1937, saw a welcome and almost complete change in the design of the bronze issues. The penny is the least changed, and still bears the traditional figure of Britannia on the reverse, though a much heavier looking and less graceful figure than before, and showing more of her shield. A lighthouse makes its re-appearance to left. The reverse of the halfpenny shows a three-masted ship, in full sail, upon a formalized sea; while the farthing shows the figure of a wren - our smallest British bird - fittingly on the smallest British coin. 1937 also saw an addition to the coinage in the form of the two-sided nickel-brass 3d. piece. This coin was introduced to supply the need of a coin more easily handled and distinguished from the silver 3d., which was not popular in most parts of England.

For the first four years of its minting a very large number of these coins were struck and yet comparatively few found their way into circulation as they were esteemed for souvenirs, thus perpetrating their reverse design of a thrift flower.

In 1940 after the advent of nearly a year of war it was decided not to mint any more pennies for the duration, and thus make an annual saving of 823 tons of imported copper. The value of the pennies at present in circulation is calculated to exceed £7,500,000. The farthings, halfpence, and nickel-brass 3d. piece continue to be minted.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Horwood for his paper, which revealed what an interesting history there is in our copper coinage.

A. SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

Report of the 86th Meeting - 29th November, 1943.

The 86th meeting of the Society was held on 29th November, 1943. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. Correspondence and reports were tabled.

The Secretary reported that pressure of work had delayed the issue of Reports and he asked for forbearance, particularly of non-Wellington members, for this omission.

Condolences: Messrs. J.C. Andersen, G.C. Sherwood and A. Sutherland spoke of the loss to the Society by the passing of Mr. Arthur Bland, Hon. Lanternist. The President said that with the aid of an up-to-date epidiascope Mr. Bland had illustrated lectures on many occasions, and his method of screening coins not only enlarged them but reproduced colour. The gold and silver coins actually glittered. This visual aid to lectures had been appreciated by all. Other speakers referred to the late Mr. Bland's genial nature, his fund of anecdotes gained as a world-traveller, his diversity of interests and his constant pursuit of learning. A motion of condolence was passed to be conveyed to his relatives, members standing as a mark of respect to his memory.

A similar motion of condolence was passed to the memory of Mr. W.J. Kerr, Wellington, who, although a member for a short period, had made many friends. He was an Auditor in the National Bank.

Tributes were paid to the memory of two other members, Mr. A.S. Kenyon, Melbourne, and Mr. Kruger Gray, London.

George Ferguson Bowen, 1821-1899: In a short paper on George Ferguson Bowen, one time Governor of New Zealand, Mrs. Inkersell (nee Bowen, a descendant) said:-

George Ferguson Bowen was born in Ireland. His father was a vicar of the Church of England in Ireland. George Bowen took his degree at Oxford. In 1854 he went to Corfu as principal of the college established there; later in the same year he was appointed Chief Secretary of the Ionian Islands and while holding that appointment he worked very hard to have the Island of Corfu incorporated in the British Empire. In 1859 he was appointed Governor of Queensland. In 1866 his term was extended to 8 years. During that time a great financial panic occurred in London, and the failure of the Agra and Mastermans Banks caused the stoppage of money supplies to Brisbane. The Assembly, into whose hearts the disaster struck consternation, wished to issue irredeemable paper notes. Sir George was against this move, and it

took great firmness successfully to withstand a proposal, in favour of which - as an immediate expedient - a great deal might have been said. He strongly and triumphantly refused his consent to the step that would have brought a certain and perhaps an irretrievable financial nemesis upon a considerable portion of Australia. The result was that an issue of 10% was made and thus the risk of a depreciation of the currency was - at great temporary inconvenience it is true - averted. In 1867 he succeeded Sir George Grey as Governor of New Zealand and took over his new appointment on 5th February, 1868. In 1869 he presented swords of honour to the friendly chiefs of the Maori race, and called to the Legislative Council the first two of the native race to sit in that Chamber, Ni Mokena and Wi Tako Ngatata. In his letters on the Maori wars he often likened New Zealand and its defence to the wars in Abyssinia. He always stated the difference between the Maoris and the Abyssinians. He had a very marked respect for the Maori as a fighting man. Before leaving New Zealand he recommended the granting of a general amnesty for political prisoners. Thus he saw the long Maori wars brought to a close.

Bowen conducted with the Imperial Government the correspondence relating to the use of the title "Honourable" by retired ministers of the colonies and in 1869 by order in Council instituted the New Zealand award for bravery, "The New Zealand Cross", which was afterwards sanctioned by Queen Victoria. He left New Zealand for Victoria where he was Governor for a term. Although he was twice Governor in States of Australia, New Zealand seems to have held the warmest place, if not in his heart, in that of his family. When I visited his daughters in England in 1931 their house was always open to New Zealand students, and I think many a New Zealand student has spent a very happy time being entertained by those two, then elderly ladies.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Inkersell for her interesting paper.

The President remarked that Sir George, whose wife was a Greek, had showed his classical predilections in the publication of a pamphlet - "Ithaca in 1850" - which had reached a third edition in 1854. He had also experienced a mild adventure when, during a summer excursion in 1871 in the "Clio", that little vessel struck a rock in Bligh Sound, when proceeding from Milford Sound on 17th February, and had to lie up for a fortnight. Mr. James (later Sir James) Hector happened to be on board, and offered to go 40 miles up the Coast in the launch of the "Clio", and repeat his 1863 journey overland from Martin's Bay to Queenstown; this he did and from there sent a telegram to Dunedin, and on 27th February the little steamer "Stormbird" appeared in Bligh Sound, from Dunedin, with 50 sheep and other welcome provisions on board. The famous fall in Milford Sound - Bowen Fall - was named after the Governor or his wife. There is an early mention of it as the Lady Bowen Fall.

Exhibits: Mr. H.R. Ford, Geo. III Guinea 1777, 1791, and 20s. 1820; Mr. M. Hornblow, 50 pfennig, prisoner of war money used by British prisoners in German camps.

The evening concluded with supper.

15 Farm Road,
Northland,
Wellington.

A. SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary,

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on 27th MARCH, 1944. An exhibit of medals has been arranged and a paper by Mr. Dale, Christchurch, on Biblical coins will be read.

13th ANNUAL REPORT & BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1944.

The Council of the New Zealand Numismatic Society has the honour to present its Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30th June, 1944. The Council again regrets to report a restricted programme owing to war conditions. Meetings have been held from time to time, however, and exhibits shown included war money sometimes of surprising kinds, such as anticipatory notes for something which did not come off, reminding us of Napoleon's action in striking a medal for the invasion of England which did not eventuate. While meetings were less frequent, the Society is keeping alive awaiting the hoped for return of absent members when a full scale amicable offensive will again be possible.

There have been no changes in the designs or denominations of New Zealand coins or notes; minting has been done in Melbourne instead of in London, but such coins bear no special mint marks.

The volume of coin and note currency in 1944, excluding till money in trading banks in New Zealand has increased from £11,140,000 in 1939 to £31,196,000, 75% of the increase being in notes of larger denominations from £5 and £10 to £50. An increase of £20,000,000 in five years for a population of 1,600,000 is a startling one to the average citizen on a fixed income. Fixed incomes have shrunk to the extent of war taxation imposed and the increase in the cost of living due to war conditions. War industries are undoubtedly responsible for part of the increase in currency, but the major increase appears to be a corollary of heavy taxation, which has made the stakes sufficiently high to provoke some people to take the risk of hoarding. Including demand bank deposits the total volume has increased from 61.5 millions in 1939 to 137.1 millions in 1943.

The value of silver coins in circulation in New Zealand also reached a new high level. In 1943, the value of the five denominations of silver coins in circulation was £2,397,000, compared with £2,064,000 the previous year, and £1,771,000 in 1941. The numbers of coins in circulation last year were: Threepences, 24.7 million (20.3 million in 1942), sixpences, 10.5 million (8.8), shillings, 7.4 million (6.4), florins 7.0 million (6.1), and half-crowns 6.0 million (5.3), or a total of 55.6 million coins.

The year closed with a membership of 118.

For the Council,

JOHANNES ANDERSEN, President.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR PERIOD FROM JUNE 1st, 1943, to JUNE 30th, 1944.

LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	ASSETS	£ s. d.
Amount owing to Treasurer	15 0 0	Cash at P.O. Savings Bank	14 2 11
Capital Account: Balance		Trust Account - P.O.S.B.	112 11 1
30th June, 1943	171 0 0	National Savings Investment	83 14 0
Receipts:			
Subscriptions	£19.15.6.		
Donations	5. 5.7.		
Interest	2.16.2.		
Composite	6. 6.0.		
Less Payments	34. 3.3. 9.15.3.		
	<u>24 8 0</u>		
	<u>£210 8 0</u>		<u>£210 8 0</u>

G. C. SHERWOOD,

Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct:

W. CHETWYND,

Hon. Auditor.

WELLINGTON, N.Z.

14th July, 1944.

ANNUAL MEETING NEXT MONDAY, 31st JULY, 1944.

ANNUAL MEETING - BIBLE NUMISMATICS

The Annual Meeting was held on 31st July. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided over a good attendance. Apologies were received from Professor J. Rankine Brown, Sir James Elliott and Mr. Geoff. Reid. A welcome was extended to Sgt. H.D. London, domiciled in a nearby military camp, and to Mr. H.R. Ford who has recovered from a serious illness.

The Secretary reported that the meeting called for 27th March had been cancelled, and the meeting on 29th May lapsed through no quorum (inclement weather). Those present viewed a fine collection of medallions exhibited by Mr. H.D. Ferguson, who constantly earns the thanks of the Society for the trouble he takes in bringing exhibits to the meetings, and giving interesting information of many kinds. The Annual Report should have been numbered page 53.

NEW MEMBERS: Mr. Allan Bowler, Wairakau, Te Aroha; Mr. J.L. Griffin, Box 486, Wellington; Mr. Jack Warren, 16 Bunninyong Street, Yarraville, Victoria, W.13.; Pte. T.P. Southern, 132 Devonport Road, Tauranga.

DONATIONS: Mr. Oscar Harding, Springston, R.D., 10/6d.; Mr. G.C. Sherwood, £4.15.0.; a vote of thanks was passed to these members for their generosity.

ANSON COLLECTION OF ENGLISH COINS: Letters from Sir James Elliott were tabled, notifying that the family of the late Mr. George Edward Anson, Wellington, had donated a small collection of English coins to the Society. A vote of thanks was passed to the Anson family for this much appreciated gift. Mr. H.D. Ferguson said that he would like to present spares to build up the collection, and other members also expressed a similar intention.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary tabled a letter from Sir John Hanham, Wimborne, and three illustrated and priced catalogues of the Lord Grantley and G. Drabble collections, British, Continental, Gaulish coins, and Spinks Circulars, gifts to the Society.

A reprint from the National Geographic Magazine, showing U.S.A. insignia and decorations in colour, was presented to the Society by Mr. Harvey L. Hansen, San Jose, California.

Flying Officer S.V. Hagley, Group 314, R.A.A.F.P., a valued member of the Society, wrote enclosing a copy of a catalogue he had prepared of the coins of New Guinea (1) under Germany, and (2) under British mandate. These records will be published later.

Various coin enquiries were tabled, also "Popular Hobbies" weekly (newsprint) 1 dol p.a. (P.O. 710, Los Angeles, 53), Coin Catalogues issued by Mr. B.A. Seaby, 65 Great Portland Street, London. These will be forwarded to members on application.

Lt. R. A. Johnson, R.N.Z.R.N., wrote from the Mediterranean expressing good wishes to members - heartily reciprocated. Mr. S.R. McCallum, Box 346, Wanganui, wrote stating that a complete set of Victorian Jubilee coins had been offered to him for disposal, also that he had a large collection of British Victorian and foreign coins for exchange, and that New Guinea 1936 Edward VIII pennies (large number) had been offered. 40111, Pte. L.E. Watson, M.T. Workshops, A.E.M.E., Hobart, had duplicates of Tasmanian tokens for disposal. Mr. Jack Warren (address above - new member) submitted a want-list of English copper and maundy coins (available on application). Mr. H.G. Williams, Dunedin, wrote expressing pleasure that both St. John's, Wellington, communion tokens had been given to the Society to complete the collection given to the Society. Rev. Hercus said that investigation might discover a St. Andrew's, Wellington, token.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET: Mr. W.D. Ferguson stated that the Society's finances showed an improvement, partly due to fewer reports being issued. Mr. A. Sutherland read a letter from Mr. Meek, Dunedin, suggesting greater promptitude in issuing reports, and that a system of exchange or sale be instituted to assist non-Wellington members who did not have the benefit of attending meetings. Mr. Sutherland explained that two meetings had been missed, hence the gap in reports; he favoured the exchange proposal, which is to be considered further. The report and balance sheet were adopted.

OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR: Mr. Johannes C. Andersen was re-elected President, and all other officers were re-elected. Mr. J. Berry was appointed a member of the Council.

BIBLE NUMISMATICS: The following paper by Mr. W.J. Dale, Christchurch, was read by Mr. Johannes Andersen. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Dale for the care and research shown in the preparation of the paper, and also to Mr. W.D. Ferguson for defraying the cost of reproducing the paper and to Mr. and Mrs. Inkersell, for donating half the cost of blocks for illustrations. The supper, provided by the President and Mrs. Johannes Andersen, concluded the evening.

(See pages 56 to 63 (enclosed) - paper by Mr. W. J. Dale).

NEXT MEETING: As the last Monday in September is a holiday, next meeting will be held a week earlier - 18th September.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
Northland, Wellington.

A Paper read before the

New Zealand Numismatic Society,
31st. July 1944.

By L. J. Dale, 76 St. James Avenue, Christchurch.

FOREWORD. These few observations and investigations into a subject of surpassing interest are not to be thought of as in any way complete, or to have exhaustively covered the material. If they prove stimulating to some more erudite numismatist who may produce further details, and if they succeed in giving some facts and pleasure to the reader, the writing will have been worth while. Actual texts have not been quoted, but the reader will gather much more interest if he looks up the texts from the references given.

To students of ancient money-systems and the trade and social customs associated with them, a source of much information is the world's all-time best-seller, the Bible. This anthology, consisting as it does of sixty-six books in one, is written by a panel of people ranging over the whole gamut of society from king to beggar-man living over a two-thousand year period, and gives many detailed glimpses of the lives and affairs of a great multitude of people. The Bible gives the earliest intimate record of the times and occupations of primitive civilization, and is full of interest to the numismatist.

PART ONE. The first mention of metallic wealth comes in the period before the exile when "Abraham was very rich in cattle, silver, and gold." (Gen. 13 2). This was B.C. 1918. Business was then carried on by weighing the required amounts (generally of silver, and sometimes of gold), mostly, we presume, by means of balances similar to the small pocket ones swung from the finger, such as we still sometimes see in the possession of early settlers, bankers, and miners of New Zealand. For greater amounts the merchants' larger balances would be used. The "bundles of money" carried by Jacob's sons when they went to buy corn in Egypt were typical, and the business procedure in this chapter is worthy of study (Gen. 42 35). Money was then therefore based on the current common unit weight - the shekel - with its multiples and divisions (Lev. 27 25). The shekel weighed 224 of our grains (roughly a grocer's half-ounce of to-day), so that the following weights would give us a table of values for these early Bible transactions (reckoning gold at approximately fourteen times the value of silver, silver valued, for this table, at five shillings an ounce approximately (Ex. 30 13; Num. 3 47)).

UNIT	FRACTIONS	SILVER	GOLD.
Gerah	1/20 shekel	-/1 ¹ / ₂ d.	0: 1: 9
Rebah	"	-/8d.	0: 9: 4
Bekah	"	1/4d.	0: 18: 8
SHEKEL	224 grains	2/9d.	£1: 18: 6
Mina	50 shekels	£6:17:6d.	£96: 5: 0
Talent	60 minas	£412 10:0d.	£5775: 0: 0

The price of one or two early Bible articles would therefore be as follows:

- A present for a girl who showed kindness to a traveller - an ear-ring (or nose-ring) worth 19/3d, and two bracelets valued at £19: 5: 0: generous treatment! (Gen. 24 22).
- A freehold real estate transaction: a field with trees and a cave included, 400 shekels of silver - £55 (Gen. 23 16).
- As the very small portion of the spoils of a military success Gideon received ear-rings from the vanquished valued at £3527:10:0 (Judg. 8 24).
- Apparently in those early days, too, the capitalist lent his money out at interest, and Moses issued considerable directions including repayment procedure &c. (Lev. 25 36-37)
- During a boom time of unusual prosperity an Egyptian chariot sold at £82: 10: 0 and a horse for £20: 12: 6 - the turnout of horse and chariot costing about £103 (1 Kings 10 29).

- (f) Another interesting small purchase of land with all the legal ceremony and title-deed &c. Jeremiah buys Hanameel's field for only £2: 6: 9 (Jer. 32 9 ff): we are not told what the solicitor's fees were!
- (g) The price of fine flour, approximately 1½ pecks for 2/9d. (2 Kings 7 1).

It should not be assumed that weighing was universally and invariably used on all occasions. For instance, Saul's servant had with him apparently an ingot of silver previously weighed and probably stamped with its weight (a ¼ shekel - roughly -/8d.) (1 Sam. 9 8). A number of cases where shekels of silver were "weighed" could be equally translated as "counted" (1 Kings 10 10). Early mention of "pieces of silver", such as where Abraham gave Abimelech 1000 pieces of silver" (Gen. 20 16), or where Joseph's brethren sold him for 20 pieces of silver, would be of circular pieces or ingots for weighing as well as counting, and not coins as we understand them. These were also sometimes made in a token shape such as a lamb or ox-head.

So money in metal form, either as dust, nugget, or fabricated article, was a considerable factor in the lives of these predecessors of ours around 1900 B.C. to 700 B.C.

PART TWO. So much for the earlier Bible money system. We now (c. B.C. 600) meet with actual coined money, which is of more interest to the numismatist of to-day.

The first coins known to have circulated in Palestine were the light gold SHEKEL or DARIC of Darius Hystaspis (B.C. 521-485) weighing 130 grains, and worth about a guinea (Ezra 2 69; 8 27; Nehem. 7 70-72; in these refs. the daric is called a dram) (see Plate 1); and the silver half-shekel weighing 86 grains, and in value about one twentieth of the gold daric - that is, just over a shilling. These gold darics were a well-known coin circulating widely throughout Eastern countries until the time of Alexander the Great. The obverse of the coin symbolizes the Persian monarch kneeling, with a bow in the left hand, and a spear in the right. This crowned-archer symbolism is found on many Persian coins of this period. The reverse is rude and unfinished, with a value punch-mark &c.



Gold Daric.
Plate 1.

The Jewish people next used the silver coins of the Egyptian and Phoenician ports, consisting of tetradrachms, didrachms, and drachms, which were approximately equal to the shekel, half-shekel, and quarter-shekel respectively (Nehem. 13 16; Zech. 11 13; Apocrypha 1 Esdras 8). These circulated up to the beginning of the Christian era. Values and weights are roughly:

Drachm	55 grains	-/8d.
Didrachm	110 ..	1/5d.
Tetradrachm	220 ..	2/9d.

Plate 2 shows a tetradrachm of Tyro of about 450 B.C., "the shekel of the Sanctuary". Obv. shows the god Melkarth with a bow, riding the waves on a sea-horse, and beneath, a dolphin. Rev. an owl carrying over left shoulder the crook and flail (symbol of Osiris).



Plate 2
Tetradrachm of Tyre



Plate 3
Tetradrachm of the Ptolemies

Also circulating in Palestine during the same period (very much in the manner of U.S.A. coins in New Zealand during the 1940 years and also during the 1840 years a century earlier) were Egyptian coins based on somewhat similar values. Plate 3 shows a tetradrachm or double-shekel of the Ptolemies (c. B.C. 300) with the diademed head of Ptolemy I, and on the reverse the "Ptolemy trademark" of an eagle on the thunderbolt.

Other contemporary coins were the silver ones of the Seleucids (the Greek rulers over Syria &c). These were valued:

Drachm	63 grains	-/10d.
Mina of	100 drachms	£4:3:4d
Talent of	60 minas	£250:0:0.

Plate 4 is a tetradrachm of Antiochus Fourth, c.175 B.C., with his head, and inscription on reverse: "King Antiochus, divine, illustrious", with the god Zeus &c.

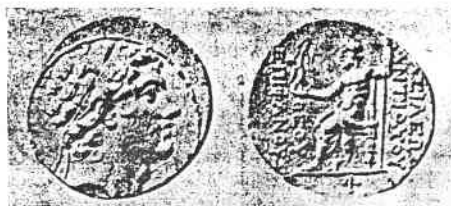


Plate 4.
Tetradrachm of Antiochus.

We have now a gap in the Bible historical record, from c.175 B.C., the period being partly covered by the Apocryphal books, and especially 1 and 2 Maccabees. These interesting accounts of events, from 168-125 B.C., mention various sums of money which was Seleucid. Of these drachms 10,000 were roughly equal to one silver talent of the Phoenician issue.

Examples are:

- (a) In 2 Macabees, 4 19-20 we see an interesting and rather ingenuous account of a little embezzlement by which an offering of £10 did not reach its intended destination.
- (b) Jason offered 150 talents of silver for the privilege (?) of setting up a revolutionary movement under the guise of a sporting and health club (2 Macc. 4 9) - (History of 187 B.C.: not Hitler 1942 A.D.!).
- (c) Tobit lent 10 talents of Silver (£2500) to accommodate Gabael, and later sent his son Tobias to collect it (Tobit 1 14). The wage that he offered his servant was a drachm a day (6/- a week) and keep.
- (d) Nicanor had to raise taxes of 2000 talents (£5,000,000) for the Romans, and sold the Jewish captives for slaves at 90 for one talent - that is about £2:15:0 each! (2 Macc. 8 10-11).
- (e) Money to the tune of 70,000 drachms (£3000) bought freedom for a number of besieged Idumians (2 Macc. 10 20).

Under Simon Maccabaeus and his son John Hyrcanus the Jews first coined copper money of one-sixth of a shekel. This privilege was granted to Simon by Antiochus 7 in B.C. 141, but was evidently withdrawn in about two years, despite his efforts to regain favour, although coins were still issued, apparently without official approval (1 Maccabees 15 6,27). The one illustrated below bears the inscription: "John, High Priest, Commonwealth of the Jews" within an olive

wroath. Rev. is a cornucopia and a poppy-head.



Plate 5
One-sixth shekel



Plate 6
Bronze of Alexander Jannaeus.

The succeeding Jewish rulers struck small bronze pieces right down to 37 B.C. Examples of these are:

- (1) The small bronze of Antiochus 7 (c. B.C. 132) struck at Jerusalem. These weighed about 28 grains, and were undated. Aristobolus (B.C. 105-104) issued some, and Alexander Jannaeus (B.C. 104-78) a good number. The smallest of these is only about a half inch in diameter. Many of the coins used in the period were coined in Heathen mints. Plate 6 above is a bronze of Alexander Jannaeus, and bears the word "King" for the first time. The design is a half-opened flower; the Rev. an anchor within a circle.
- (2) Sovereigns such as Herod (B.C. 37) issued bronze pieces with various designs, such as the cornucopia, helmet, and shield. See Plates 7 and 8.



Plate 7
Helmet design of Herod



Plate 8
Bronze of Herod Antipas



The foregoing gives a picture of the coins circulating at the time of the birth of Christ, and it will be seen that the most common were various bronze pieces, and the occasional Roman silver shekels.

The Herodian princes now issued bronze coins bearing their names up till c. A.D. 100; these were very much in the fashion of Greek designs, but of fairly poor workmanship.

PART THREE. Probably the most interesting section of the Bible, numismatically, is the record of the teachings of Christ in the four gospels. Probably no one before or since has used illustrations in metaphor and simile with such telling effect, and a number of the objects and scenes dramatized deals with money and coins.

The coinage used was considerably altered in 6 B.C. when Judea became a Roman province under a Procurator whose headquarters were in Caesarea. The old Hebrew coins were outmoded by the official Roman issue, so that our money system now is:

The Talent	6,000 denarii	£240: 0: 0
Its 60th part, the mina.	100 ..	4: 0: 0
Its 100th part, the denarius.		9½d.

(The silver denarius would be better translated as "shilling" as Dr. Moffatt translates it, instead of the misleading "penny" of the New Testament. Incidentally, Dr. Moffatt's very excellent translation into modern speech converts most money amounts into something near their present values. This makes interesting comparative reading of the parallel versions.)

Plate 9 shows a denarius of Tiberius (engraved as well as photographed) with head of the Emperor and inscription: rev., Livia, seated, holding sceptre and flower:



Plate 9. Donarius of Tiberius.

Gold is referred to only once in the New Testament - "provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses" (Matt. 10 9).

The Roman taxes were paid in denarii, and the note about the "image and superscription", Caesar's (probably Tiberius), is of much interest, as was the moral pointed (Matt. 22 19).

Jesus bestowed immortality on the humblest bronze coin, the "lepton", in the story about the widow's mite. This coin weighed only about 17 grains, and was valued at about the third of a farthing (Mark 12 42). The same coin is mentioned in the prison payment "the uttermost farthing"



Plate 10. "lepton" (engraved and photographed)

Another bronze coin is the Assarion, the Graeco-Roman piece of a value round about a farthing: so that the boy catching two sparrows for a farthing (Rom. 10 20) would have a hard job to earn a penny. See Plate 11.



Plate 11. Assarion.

An interesting forerunner of our present annual levy is found in the "tribute money" which was exacted from every adult male Jew for the maintenance of the Temple services. This was an amount of a silver didrachm on the Phoenician standard (valued at 1/5d.). This coin is thought to have been issued in very small numbers, so that the usual thing would be for two people to join together and tender a tetradrachm or stater for their Temple levy. This was why the "coin in the fish's mouth" (a tetradrachma) proved to be the usual payment for two people, and not one (Matt. 17 27).

The "betrayal-money" - the sinister "thirty pieces of silver" would be these tetradrachms, so that the amount would have the value of £4: 16: 0. This was the value placed on a slave if killed in the Roman arena on a "gala day": (Matt. 26 15).

Another little custom which, according to a modern writer on travel (Reference A), is still in vogue to-day, is that of the married women wearing on the head a little red fez with rows of coins sewn on, and attached to it a chain with ten perforated coins which are symbolical of the bride's dowry (Luke 15 8). If loss made the ten pieces incomplete, it would be the equivalent of the superstition of the present day of a wife loaning her wedding-ring.

The necessity for "money-changers" (Matt. 21 12), or the equivalent of our bankers' exchange, was caused by the varying currencies brought to the Temple, and the need for the standard coins required by the priests. These men used to start operations a month before the Passover festival in the provinces, and move into Jerusalem ten days before the gathering. Apparently they were not over-scrupulous

(6)

in their dealings with their often illiterate customers. The various coins in use were derived from Italy and Greece in the north-east, Egypt in the south-east, Phoenicia and Syria in the near north and north-west, and Persia in the farther east-north-east.

Now for some high finance. A parable of Jesus deals with a man who was loaned over £4,000,000, but who was too miserable to be generous over a small loan which he in turn made, of less than £4! (Matt. 18 24).

The wages of a day-labourer are set out at a denarius (-/9d.) daily, and apparently the employer in the instance recorded had theories on the unemployment problem! (Matt. 20 2).

There are more of these numismatic cameos to be had for the reading.

In A.D. 66-70 we find the Jews in revolt, and issuing their own silver shekels and half-shekels. One of these shekels (Plate 12a) of 224 grains has on the obverse a cup or chalice with the inscription in Hebrew "Shekel of Israel", and the Hebrew numerals one to five corresponding to the date A.D. 70 &c. On the reverse is a triple lily (thought by some to represent the "budding rod of Aaron", with the legend "Holy Jerusalem" (Numb. 17 8). Following are illustrations of these well-known coins - Plates 12a, b, c.



Plate 12a

Shekel of Israel

Plate 12b

Plate 12c

Half-shekel.

Incidentally, there are in existence pieces which have been coined in the last century, and are unheralded and unauthorized, but somewhat simulate these shekels. They were apparently sold as genuine to unwary travellers and collectors. The writer has one in a brassy metal. Of these H. N. Humphrey wrote in 1863:

"The examination of the obverse alone will be sufficient to exhibit the wretchedness of such attempts at falsification. The type is a vase of quite modern fashion, the handles and other parts being ornamented in the most paltry style of the last century, instead of having the severely simple character of the Omer of the ancient shekels, which it is intended to imitate. The smoke or incense issuing from it, a most unmeaning addition, is also treated in a flat, unartistic and modern feeling. But the great and fatal mistake of the forger is the inscription 'Shekel Israel', in which the modern Hebrew letters are used instead of those of the ancient alphabet, which was always employed for monumental and other public purposes in Judaea, especially for the coinage, even after the later kind of writing had been long generally prevalent as the popular style. Some of these forgeries have been made to bear the name of Solomon, David, or even Samuel, though it is well known that no Jewish coin of any kind was issued previous to the epoch of Alexander the Great, several centuries after the time of Solomon; and that no Jewish coins bearing the name of a prince or high priest were issued till the comparatively late period of the Maccabees."

CONCLUSION. As our New Testament book of Revelation is dated about the year 100 A.D., and as this paper is concerned with Biblical associations, with regret we must leave our little quest, which has proved a considerable pleasure to the writer. An account has been written by an Australian numismatist on the further subject of Biblical influence on modern coins, and that should be stimulating to those who study it (Reference B).

List of References.

The Bible, Revised and Authorized Versions.
 The Bible, Dr. Moffatt's New Translation.
 Oxford "Helps to the Study of the Bible".
 The Apocrypha.
 A. S. Peake's Commentary.
 Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible.
 "The Intellectual Observer," 1863
 Humphrey's "Coin Collectors Manual"
 Reference A -- H. V. Morton "In the Steps of the
 Master"
 Reference B -- C. J. V. Weaver "Biblical Types on
 Modern Coins".

Comments by the President:

This is a most interesting paper, for which the writer, Mr. Dale, is to be congratulated, as is also the Society for having it to add to its records.

Some interest may be added by a note or two from contemporaneous Heathen sources. Marcus Antonius, more known to moderns as Mark Antony, is a well-known character in history as well as in romance. He lived from c. 83-30 B.C., fifty-three adventurous years on which he was launched through the influence of his relation Julius Caesar. It is hard to say if he is more known as a conqueror or as a conquered; a conqueror of thousands of men or as the conquered by one woman. His times were brought to my mind when I came on the note in Mr. Dale's paper - par. (d) on page 3, where it is stated that Nicanor had to raise from the Jews a tribute of 2000 talents. Such an imposition was and is a habit of conquerors. As is learned from that famous biographer, Plutarch (I quote from the translation by Langhorne, 6 vols., 1819) Antony laid a tribute on Asia - what part of Asia is not made clear. The story is as follows:- When Antony laid a double tribute on Asia, Hybrias, the agent for the people, told him, with a pleasantry that was agreeable to his humour, that, "If he doubled the taxes, he ought to double the seasons too, and supply the people with two summers and two winters." He added, at the same time, with a little more asperity, that, "as Asia had already raised her hundred thousand talents, if he had not received it, he should demand it of those who had; but" said he, "if you received it and yet have it not, we are undone." This touched him sensibly; for he was ignorant of many things that were transacted under his authority; not that he was indolent, but unsuspecting. (5, 459)

Here was involved a sum of £40,000,000 or £80,000,000; which makes it look as if national debts had an early origin, and the money-makers were again the war-makers.

Antony had lived a dissolute youth, and at one time through gambling and other excesses he owed at least 250 talents; that is £100,000 (5 436); and when he became a conqueror he did not cease being a squanderer, his conquests providing the means. Plutarch quotes an instance of his 'liberality'. He ordered 250,000 drachmas to be given to one of his friends. His steward, who was startled at the extravagance of the sum, laid the silver in a heap, that he, Antony, might see it as he passed. He saw it, and enquired what it was for. "It is the sum", answered the steward, "that you ordered for a present." Antony perceived his envious design, and, to mortify him still more, said, coolly, -- "I really thought the sum would have made a better figure. It is too little; let it be doubled." (5. 439)

Surely, 'liberality' was the wrong term for Antony's Act, and 'envy' the wrong word for the steward's; the one, like a spend-thrift, was prodigal; the other, like a good steward, was frugal. The 250,000 drachmas was equal to close on £9,000; and that sum he ordered should be doubled. Happy friend. And Antony knew, what money meant; for in his early life he became deeply involved, through gambling and other excesses, and at one time owed at least two hundred and fifty talents; that is £100,000. (5,436).

We can get at the value of silver in those olden times, when we are told that Delphic tablos of silver of very exquisite workmanship, were sold at 1250 drachmas a pound; which, with the drachma at $-\frac{1}{8}\text{d}$. is just over £44; and with twelve ounces of silver to the pound the silver was worth £3: 13: 4 an ounce. We are not told what the silversmith was paid for his work. (5, 209)

Now let us take a leap of a couple of thousand years. It might reasonably be supposed that the coinage of that faraway time would now be dead and done with; not a bit of it. We get quite good information from a quite modern book, Jackson's Passage to Tobruk. He writes: "Mac bought an Omega wristlet watch, water-proof, shock-proof, and many other proofs, for 1200 drachma - about £2: 10: 0 in our money." This was in Greece, where the drachm - he spells it without the final 'a' - was still in lively circulation, but according to his valuation worth only $-\frac{1}{10}\text{d}$. instead of the $-\frac{1}{8}\text{d}$. or some say $-\frac{1}{7}\text{d}$ it was worth 2000 years ago. (p. 24) Later on Jackson gives another example: "The villagers showed us every hospitality. The four of us sat in one room with the master of the house, his wife, three daughters, and two goats. The language proved to be a major problem, but we were given a large piece of bread each, and a pitcher of goats' milk to drink..... Colin gave the woman a 100 drachm note. I do believe she thought it a fortune, as she stared at us, then at the crumpled note she held in her hand, and stared at us in amazement....." (p. 37) Then followed an unexpected incident showing the beastliness of war. The 100 drachm note, according to the value given above was no more than $\frac{4}{2}\text{d}$. - exactly what the dollar used to be.

And here is an extract from a paragraph from the daily paper of 13 June: Before the war, the Greek drachma was worth one half-penny in English money - 24 to the shilling. From papers to hand last week he learned that it now took 1,100,000 drachmas to make up the value of an English £1 note..... He had to pay 8000 drachmas for an oka (3lb.) of bread, and olive oil was costing 65,000 drachmas an oka at the latest quotation; so that whilst the drachma still survives, it is very far gone. It declined from $-\frac{1}{8}\text{d}$. to $-\frac{1}{10}\text{d}$. in about 2000 years, and it has declined from $-\frac{1}{10}\text{d}$. to about one third of $-\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$. in three or four years of war.

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Monday, 18th September, 1944.

The 88th meeting of the Society was held on the 18th September, 1944. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E. presided.

EXCHANGE OF COINS. The proposal that an Exchange Superintendent be appointed was discussed, and it was decided to invite members outside Wellington to express their views on how this scheme should be worked. Meantime it was decided as an alternative to permit members to insert in report short notices not more than 25 words, showing specimens wanted, for sale, or exchange, provided space was available; trade notices to be barred.

"COINS" by Mr. G.C. Hedye, 128 Bathurst Street, Sydney. This book, a useful reference-book for beginners and advanced collectors, is now in the press. Numismatic advertisements have been invited to keep down cost. The meeting decided not to avail itself of the offer to advertise, but several members offered to purchase copies, and Mr. W.D. Ferguson offered to purchase a copy for the Society.

Miss U. Tewsley and Mr. L. Harris tendered their resignations as members of the Society, and these were accepted with regret.

NEW MEMBER. Mr. R.W. Harrison, Queensland Coin Company, and Hon. Secretary Treasurer of the Queensland Numismatic Society, Box 1052N, G.P.O., Brisbane, was elected a member of the Society.

Correspondence and reports were tabled, including 1944 report of the Royal Canadian Mint.

NEW ROLL OF MEMBERS. It was decided to prepare a new roll of members, for possible circulation, showing name and address and specialty of each member. The Hon. Secretary and Mr. W.D. Ferguson were authorised to purge the roll where subscriptions were many years in arrear; membership of unfinancial servicemen to be continued.

PRISON CAMP MONEY. Mr. Sutherland tabled a photograph of prisoners-of-war camp-money, inscribed in German:-

SCRIP GOOD FOR 1 REICHMARK

This scrip is valid as legal tender for prisoners of war only, and may be spent by them or accepted only in the specially designated stores inside the prisoner of war camp, or at the work camps. The exchange of this scrip into legal tender can be made only at the authorised cashier's office of the camp administration.

Violation, imitation, or counterfeiting will be punished.
The Chief of the German High Command.

By Order. (Signature)

COINS OF THE BIBLE. Correction, page 5. Please amend Rom. 10.20. to Matt. 10. 29.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CURRENCY. Mr. Allan Sutherland said that regulations were gazetted in New Zealand on February 18th extending to the Cook Islands and Western Samoa all import and currency controls already existing in the Dominion under the Finance Emergency Regulations and import licensing system. The dollar prosperity had been moving away from certain Pacific Islands as the war front receded. Wartime sidelights in Fiji showed that the import value of "spirits, potable, other" had risen from £3,464 in 1939 to £96,987 in 1943, and beer from £22,076 in 1939 to £113,358 in 1942, but the figures nosedived in 1943 to £47,745 for beer, "possibly due to the fact that the beer-drinking Kiwis were replaced by whisky drinking Yanks about that period".

Under the Samoan "Foreign Currency Regulations" all foreign currency, shares, etc., had to be declared for conversion to Samoan currency. The regulations were said to aim at forcing Europeans and Samoans to disgorge large amounts of U.S.A. currency, and, as a result of a rumour that the American dollar would drop from the 6s value, Samoans were frantically trying to get rid of dollars they had hoarded. The Pacific Islands Monthly recorded that since the American troops had been garrisoned in the Cook Islands a new market had arisen for the tiny snail shells made into necklaces by the women of Mangaia. At one time 3d. a string was good money, but today they fetched 7/6d. a dozen for yard long necklaces. The snails swarmed the rocks in wet

weather. When boiled in caustic lye they turned various colours from red to orange and brown. The shortage of needles and caustic soda restricted the "pupu" trade (pūpū being the sensible Maori and Polynesian name for "Univalve molluscs of the winkle tribe").

In New Caledonia and Tahiti the rate of exchange had been altered from 176 francs to the £. sterling and 140 francs to the £. Australian, to 200 francs to the £. sterling, in keeping with the rate in North Africa. Hitherto all French possessions that rallied to de Gaulle enjoyed the earlier rate, but now the cost of living in the Pacific possessions was likely to increase under the new rate.

CASH. The following definition by Mr. Ken. Alexander was read: Cash is a peculiar herb; it comes from the mint, is synonymous with thymepayment, and is cultivated even by the sage. It does best in banks (and brays), but unlike some herbs it declines if pruned too often. It thrives exceedingly in Scotland, and was originally brought from Jerusalem by a Caledonian crusader named Lucre McHoot, who planted it deep in his garden where it multiplied out of all reason, until it was picked by a wandering Pict in the year L.S.D. 540%. It was about this time that the Picts and Scots fell out and fought their historical Battle of Wits, during which the Scots foreclosed on the Picts' security and won by an exorbitant charge, after which the Picts lost all interest and went broke on principle. How Cash ever escaped from Scotland is a mystery. One theory is that a cutting was cut by the Wandering Jew and sent to a relative in the Jewnited States, before he starved to death in Aberdeen.

MILLED EDGE. The term "Milled Edge", as applied to coins, was stated by Mr. A. Sutherland to be a misnomer. According to early numismatic authorities, the words "graining" or "knurling" were more accurate terms. In 1561, in the time of Elizabeth, a new French method of striking coins with a mill and screw press was tried in London. The new process was called the "Mill and Screw" method, from the use of water or horse mills to supply the power for the machinery, i.e., to roll bars of gold and silver, through a mill, to the required thickness before cutting discs and stamping with dies. The experiment lapsed and was revived in Cromwell's time. In 1662, Blondeau successfully applied for regular work at the Mint, stressing his ability to mark edges of coins with grainings, or words, such as DECUS ET TUTAMEN - an ornament and a protection - against clipping. Sometimes the lettering on the edge of coins is incuse (countersunk) or raised. Despite the fact that the word "milled" was apparently wrong in describing the grained edge on a coin, common usage and Webster's dictionary had authenticated its use and numismatists must travel with the stream!

LARKWORTHY BANK OF NEW ZEALAND NOTES. The following extract from Parliamentary Paper B. - 3 Monetary Committee, 1934, page 494, relative to the issue of bank notes and the use of gold was read:-

Witness: W. Gatenby. Questioned by Mr. Langstone. "I notice in your statement you mention gold. 'All gold shall be sold to the State for State notes.' How have the banks bought gold? Have they bought gold with notes? - Yes. That is very well explained by Falconer Larkworthy, who established the Bank of New Zealand - or, rather, was one of the founders thereof - and it is rather interesting to recall how he got the gold from the miners of Otago. Being a new bank, the Bank of New Zealand had to acquire notes before it could commence business. The notes had not arrived, and a lot of gold had been produced at that time. The other banks trading in New Zealand - the Oriental Bank and the Union Bank, and I think the Bank of New South Wales - were also short of notes, so that there was great competition as to who was to get the gold. Falconer Larkworthy made his alley good, as the saying is, by rising to the emergency. He went round to all the stationers' shops to try and get paper suitable for printing some bank-notes, but he was unable to get real bank-note paper, and he printed his notes on the best note-paper he could get. He spent all one Sunday signing them, and he went triumphantly to the miners and got their gold for that paper. The sequel is also told by him, how the other banks were so jealous that they immediately cast reflections and doubts as to the genuineness of those notes, because they were signed on a Sunday. However, Falconer Larkworthy was not to be beaten. He got hold of the Gold Commissioner, and, filling his bank bag with about eight thousand sovereigns, he went back to the goldfield and offered to take all the notes back, but only one man changed a note for one sovereign."

NEW GUINEA COINS. Flying Officer V. Hagley, Group 314, Royal Australian Air Force, Pacific, submitted the following catalogue of coins of New Guinea:-

Coins of German New Guinea
(now Mandated Territory of New Guinea)

No.	Denomination	Date	Metal	Remarks
1	20 Marks	1895	Gold	All of these issued by the German New Guinea Company.
2	10 "	"	"	
3	5 "	1894	Silver	
4	2 "	"	"	
5	1 "	"	"	
6	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	"	"	
7	10 Pfennig	"	Bronze	
8	5 "	"	"	
9	2 "	"	"	
10	1 "	"	"	
Mandated Territory of New Guinea				
11	1 Penny	1929	Cupronickel	Withdrawn
12	1 "	"	Silver	Pattern only
13	1 "	"	Cupronickel	Mule with obv. die of Aust. 1/-
14	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	"	"	Withdrawn
15	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	"	Silver	Pattern only
16	1 Shilling	1935	"	This is one of the few coins bearing the name of Edward VIII, now Duke of Windsor.
17	6 Pence	"	Cupronickel	
18	3 Pence	"	"	
19	1 Pence	1936	Bronze	
20	1 Shilling	"	Silver	
21	1 "	1938	"	
22	1 Penny	"	Bronze	
All except No. 13, and those of German New Guinea, are perforated.				

Nos. H. 3, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22 were exhibited by Mr. A. Sutherland.

ANSON COLLECTION OF ENGLISH COINS. Decided that this collection would be exhibited at next meeting in November.

INVENTORY OF SOCIETY'S PROPERTY. Decided that Hon. Secretary and Hon. Assistant Secretary, together with Mr. W.D. Ferguson, prepare an inventory of books, coins, medals, and other property of Society housed in Turnbull Library.

MEDALS. Mr. W.D. Ferguson exhibited a series of English and American medals, including a -

Bronze Medal by C.H. Kuchler of Admiral Earl Howe & Naval Battle Known as the Glorious First of June, 1794. 48 m.m.

Obverse - Bust of Admiral to right in cloak and uniform, long natural hair tied with ribbon. Legends. "RIC. COMES HOWE THALASSIARCHA BRITAN". Below (small letters) "Patriae Decus et Tutamen". On truncation of arm C.H.K.

Reverse - View of Battle, in foreground Flagship Queen Charlotte sinking French ship at close quarters, line of ships in rear, boats and wreckage shown on the water. Legends, above, "NON SORTI SED VIRTUE", below, small letters, "Gallor Classis Proflig/Die I Junii/MDCXCIV. To right, below sea. "C.H. Kuchler F."

Richard Howe (1726/1799), second son of 2nd Viscount Howe, had distinguished career as an Admiral and in politics, had opposed war with American Colonists and acquainted with Benjamin Franklin, but later took prominent part therein. Created Earl Howe, 1788, Knight of Garter 1797. Of humane dis-

position and had confidence of his seamen, he was used to pacify naval mutineers in 1797. Chiefly famous for above-mentioned battle which lasted four days ending 1st June, 1794, and fought 400 miles West of Brest. Although not fully decisive the victory came at a time of great peril in England and had a most heartening effect. Lord Howe Island, discovered 1788, named after above. Also named after Howe three small Islands in the Santa Cruz, Society and Solomon Island Groups.

Conrad H. Kuchler was a Flemish Artist employed by Boulton & Watt at the Soho Mint, noted for the large copper coins of 1797 and later issues of George III and the Bank of England token "dollars" being his designs.

The following additional information was given by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen. Lord Howe Islands, 300 miles east of Port Macquarie, New South Wales, discovered by Lieut. Ball in 1788; named after Richard, Earl Howe, who saw service on South American station, in West Indies, under Boscawen against the French off North America and in the Channel; by 1758 had acquired a high reputation, and reached the rank of captain; his first outstanding action was at the battle of Quiberon Bay, 1759, when he commanded a ship under Hawke; made rear-admiral, 1770, vice-admiral 1775; became admiral commander-in-chief in Channel 1782; first lord of Admiralty 1783-1788, and on outbreak of French revolutionary wars in 1793 was again made Commander in the Channel; defeated the French off Brest; Admiral of the Fleet 1796; known as Black Dick; portrait was painted by Gainsborough.

There is a Howe cape, Bay of Islands; but whilst Capes Brett and Pock, who were contemporaries of Howe, were named by Cook after those two naval celebrities, Howe cape was not named at that time, and is supposed to be after the frigate Howe (probably named after the admiral), later the Dromedary, engaged in conveyance of convicts.

Marsden left Sydney, 13th February, 1820, in the Dromedary on his third visit to New Zealand, arriving at Bay of Islands 27th February, 1820; the Dromedary was accompanied by the Prince Regent, a schooner, after which a channel near Auckland was named.

Another medal exhibited by Mr. Ferguson was a --

Bronze Medal of Benjamin Franklin by Aug. Dupre, 46 m.m.

Obverse - Bust of Franklin in very high relief to left, with long natural hair unbound. Legend "BENJ. FRANKLIN NATUS BOSTON XVII JAN. MDCCVI." On truncation Dupre F.

Reverse - Wreath of Oak branches - Legend in four lines therein "ERIPUIT COELO/FUIMEN/SCEPTRUM QUE/TYRANNIS." Below in small letters, "Sculpsit et Dicit/Aug. Dupre Anno/MDCCLXXXVI."

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) the great American scholar, printer, journalist, scientist, statesman and diplomat, has been called the greatest scholar of his times and the best all round man America has produced. He was one of the drafters of the Declaration of U.S.A. Independence.

The following additional information was supplied by Mr. Johannes Andersen:- Mount Franklin, on Southern Alps in source-waters of the Waimakariri, between Goat and Worsley passes; named by Haast after Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), popularly known for his experiment with a kite whereby he demonstrated the existence in the air of electricity, leading to the invention of the lightning conductor, together with other useful results. He was the first to distinguish negative and positive electricity. He was eminent in philosophy, economics and science. Few men have had careers so happy, so wise, or so useful. In New Zealand he should be remembered for something more. Captain Cook suggested the regular colonization of New Zealand, but no attempt was made to carry his suggestions into effect. The earliest definite scheme was suggested by Benjamin Franklin, who, in 1771, published proposals for forming an association to fit out a vessel by subscription to proceed to New Zealand with a cargo of articles needed by the Maoris and bring back a cargo of produce to defray the cost of the venture. The main object was to promote the improvement of the Maori.

Haast had named another peak in Nelson "Franklin", after the Arctic explorer; when climbing became popular in the Waimakariri region, his name here was lost sight of, and the mountain was given another name - "Falling Mountain" - because in the great Murchison earthquake half of the mountain-top was shaken down, and it is still settling; to add to the confusion, when it was found that Haast had named this mountain, so that the name might be saved, it was transferred to another mountain some miles away to the west on the Westland side. There has also been some attempt made to clarify things by calling the Nelson mountain Franklyn - unless that spelling is merely an error.

The meeting closed with supper.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
Northland,
WELLINGTON.

NEXT MEETING: 27th November, 1944.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the year commencing 1st June, 1944, are now due and should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G.C. Sherwood, 103 Willis Street, Wellington.

WANTED by Mr. D.O. Atkinson, Takanini, Auckland, English (Victoria) Silver Crowns, Maundy money, and Australasian tokens.

89th MEETING, 27th NOVEMBER, 1944

The 89th meeting of the Society was held on the 27th November. Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E. presided. Apologies were received from Sir James Elliott, and a welcome was extended to Mr. H.R. Ford, who has recovered from an extended illness, and to Mr. J.L. Griffin, a new member.

MINUTES of previous meeting were confirmed. Correspondence and reports were tabled, including further priced catalogues of English coin sales, sent by Sir John Hanham, Wimborne. A vote of thanks was passed to Sir John Hanham for his help in keeping the Society advised regarding numismatic developments in England. An advice was received from the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint, Melbourne, that no minting of New Zealand coins had been done in Melbourne.

NEW MEMBER: Mr. Bey C. Pike, care Messrs. Keith Walker, Trafalgar Street, Nelson.

EXHIBITS: Mr. J.L. Griffin exhibited a Maori cheque form (resembling the old Bank of New Zealand cheque form) and a framed Maori bank note for £1. The note differed from the Turnbull specimen in that the predominant colours were green, instead of red, and the condition of the note was much better. A handwritten description by James Cowan was also shown. Cowan states: "About 1885 the Maori King's party in the Waikato proposed to establish a bank, with which all the tribe under Tawhaio could do business. Bank notes and cheque forms were designed, and specimens printed. The Maoris had a printing press of their own, but the Government would not grant a charter and the scheme fell through." Cowan stated "INGIKI TAWHIAO" on the King's seal, with which the documents are stamped means "Inca Tawhiao" - The Maoris had read of the ancient Incas of Mexico and Peru, and likened Tawhaio to an Inca King. 4.2.32."

JAPANESE INVASION NOTES FOR DUTCH NEW GUINEA: Flying Officer S.V. Hagley, R.A.A.F., Pacific, wrote advising that after 14 months in his "tropical paradise" (forever debunked) he was returning to civilisation for a spell. Dealing with numismatic specimens he states: "Strange as it may seem it is extremely difficult to secure much of interest on the spot. The Yanks are inveterate souvenirists and sometimes pay £5 for a single note, and cannot get enough at that price. Our R.A.A.F. boys do a roaring trade in New Guinea pennies at £1 each. I am enclosing a catalogue of 7 Jap notes used in Dutch New Guinea . . . I have two full sets of the notes, which I picked up at Noemfoor. The Yanks had cleaned them out everywhere and the natives (who held a lot) would not sell under the ridiculous price of £1 each, and asked £5 for the 10 guilder. So you can see I did not rush to get many duplicates . . . I will endeavour to send along a paper on some aspects of the currencies here . . . The U.S. minted guilder and the internal use of Australian and U.S. coins within units makes an interesting story." Flying Officer Hagley's description of Japanese invasion notes for Dutch New Guinea is as follows:- "The following set of notes are being found in large quantities in Hollandia, Biak, Noemfoor and other Dutch New Guinea territories. There are seven varieties in the series; 10, 5, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ Guilders and 10, 5 and 1 Cents. The first three are excellent examples of engraving and are printed on good quality paper with a faint watermark. These are printed in two colours, the main theme being superimposed on a paler vignette of oriental pattern. The four higher values all bear the inscription, in six lines, DE JAPANSCHER REGERING BETAALT AAN TOONDER HALF, EEN, VIJF, and TIEN GULDEN, respectively. In the three lower values the inscription, in 3 lines, is DE JAPANSCHER REGERING EEN, VIJF, AND TIEN CENTS, respectively. The printing is apparently lithographic and the quality of the paper is poor. A small seal or catouche of Japanese characters occurs on the obverse of all of the notes. The conventional bank note engraved scroll border and background occurs on all the notes and the overprinted letters vary in different specimens. Sizes given are approximate, and in inches.

10 GULDERS: Tien Gulden: Colour, Plum. Size $6\frac{1}{4} \times 3$. Obverse, Left half inscription. Right half, tropical fruits and trees, bananas, pineapples, coconuts and breadfruit. Overprinted S.I. (twice). Reverse, 10 repeated seven times. In middle coconut palms and ship on sea in distance. 10 in top left and right corners in catouche, in middle bottom and bottom left and right corners.

5 GUILDERS: VIJF Gulden: Color, Olive Green. Size $6 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. Obverse, Inscription in middle. Tropical fruit and tree, coconut palm on left side and on the right side paw paw tree and fruit. 5 in top left and right corners and in a catouche in the bottom left and right corners. Overprinted S.G. (twice). Reverse, 5 repeated three times middle and left and right middle on conventional scroll work.

1 GUILDER: EEN Gulden: Color, Light Plum. Size $5\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$. Obverse, Inscription on middle. Tropical tree and fruit left middle and in the right coconut palm. 1 on left and right sides in catouche and 1 in bottom left and right corners. Overprinted S.I. (twice). Reverse, 1 repeated seven times.

$\frac{1}{2}$ GUILDER: HALF Gulden: Color, Dull blue. Size $4\frac{5}{8} \times 2\frac{3}{8}$. Obverse, Inscription occupies left half and a palm and scene in right half. Scroll border and $\frac{1}{2}$ in four corners. Overprinted S.L. (twice). Reverse, $\frac{1}{2}$ in left and right middle and GULDEN in middle bottom.

10 CENTS: Tien Cent: Color, Dull purple. Size $4\frac{1}{4} \times 2$. 10 in four corners, scroll border. Overprinted S over AE (twice). Reverse, 10 repeated five times.

5 CENTS: VIJF Cent: Color, Dull deep blue. Size 4×2 . Obverse, 5 in top left and right corners within circle. Overprinted SH (twice) V. at bottom. Reverse, 5 repeated 5 times.

1 CENT: EEN Cent: Color, Green-green. Size $3\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$. Inscription in middle and 1 in each corner. Overprinted SS (twice). Reverse, 1 in scroll in each corner and middle."

CORRECTION: Refer report Vol. III, p. 66, delete No. 8, 5 pfennig, included in error. Does not appear to exist.

NEW ZEALAND AGRICULTURAL MEDALS: Mr. P. Watts Rule, Timaru, submitted the following eight medals, new varieties, not previously recorded:

Obv. Horse, bull standing to left sheep to right (centre) cow, pig to right, cock, hen, goose, turkey, foreground. House and church spire background. OTTLEY BIRMIN. exergue.

Rev. BLUESKIN AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION around, and G. & T. YOUNG DUNEDIN & TIMARU below; wreath of wheatears, and AWARDED TO above space, 47 mm. silver.

Obv. Horse standing to right, cow standing to left, under tree to right. Pig, plough, sheep, etc., foreground. W.J. TAYLOR, LONDON, in exergue.

Rev. TIMARU AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION around, wreath inside enclosing space in centre for name of recipient. Bronze, 44 mm. This specimen was issued in 1869.

Obv. Three fat pigs, one standing, farmhouse background. MOORE exergue.

Rev. As No. 2 above, bronze, 44 mm.

Obv. Two horses to right standing. J. MOORE exergue.

Rev. As No. 2 above, bronze. 44mm. Also in silver.

Obv. Four sheep, two standing facing. Low hills background. J. MOORE exergue.

Rev. As No. 2 above. Silver, 44mm.

Obv. Cow, horse standing to right, sheep and pig to left, farmhouse, trees, stack, plough in background. J. MOORE exergue.

Rev. As No. 2 above. Silver, 38 mm.

Obv. Sheep lying, fowls, pig, plough, foreground, horse in harness to left. Cow and bull to right all standing centre. House and trees background.

Rev. Wreath of wheatears, plough at base, space in centre, bronze, 47mm.

Obv. Fireman in full uniform, helmeted, holding hose, rolling billows of smoke at feet, on either side two small shields, with arms and crests, above. N.Z. AROUND UNITED FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION. In exergue on ribbon AUXILIUM IN PERICULO.

Rev. LONG SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTED TO above FOR FIVE YEARS' SERVICE DATE COMPLETED below, and space for engraving. Red ribbon and clasp. Silver 38 mm.

These medals are in perfect condition and illustrate medallic art of the Colonial days. Mr. Watts Rule also exhibited a Lincoln medal, bronze, 77 mm. "Inaugurated 1861 . . . Assassinated 1865," and a beautifully executed Anzac bronze medal by Dora Ohlfsen, depicting in silhouette a soldier holding rifle and on the reverse delicately modelled heads - nurse ministering to a wounded soldier.

THE ABERYSTWITH MINT: Mr. W.D. Ferguson read the following paper:—
Lead mines in Cardiganshire, near Aberystwith, had been in existence and worked since early times. In the latter part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, one, Customer Smith, who apparently then held the lease of the Mines, which Ruding says were the property of the Crown, discovered that the minerals produced were also rich in silver, and he then sent large quantities of silver to the Tower Mint to be coined at his own expense. In 1625 Sir Hugh Myddelton (1560-1631) acquired the lease of the mines for 31 years, at a yearly rent of £40 p.a., all the silver produced to be coined at the Tower Mint, and accordingly he sent the silver to be coined there at his own charge. Myddelton was a man of many parts and activities, amongst other things he had been associated with Sir Walter Raleigh in ventures on the Spanish Main, and he is, perhaps, best known for bringing the first water supply into London, by constructing a canal 38 miles long from near Ware in Hertfordshire to a reservoir in Islington called the New River Head; a small reservoir still called the New River Head exists there today, a little south east of King's Cross Railway Station, and the headquarters of the Metropolitan Water Board adjoin it. Later the mines became "drowned by water" but one Thomas Bushell, also a man of many parts like Myddelton, had discovered a means of draining them and also that the deeper they go the richer the ore was found to be. On October 14th, 1636, he bought the lease of the mines from Dame Elizabeth Myddelton, widow of Sir Hugh. He straight away petitioned the King for the right to work the mines, which apparently was not included in the purchase of the lease, and which he says these 16 years had produced 100 lbs. of silver weekly, and were it not for the inundations could be made to produce 100 lbs. a day, and he said that under Myddelton silver from then had been coined to the value of £50,000. The petition was granted probably because Bushell endeavoured "to perfect the silver mines in Wales without the aid of the King's purse", and on January 25th, 1637, the Grant was made. Bushell straight away began to petition the King for the right to coin money at Aberystwith near the mines to save the expense in conveying the silver bullion to the Mint at the Tower. He promised the King a clear tenth of all silver wrought in Wales, and to pay a "wedge" of silver containing £100 sterling at every New Year, and also not to coin silver obtained elsewhere, and "whenever His Majesty thought the mines fit to be taken into his hands, he would lay them at his fees." Although the Officers of the Mint reported strongly against the proposal citing the fact that "His Majesty will not be informed as to the state of the mint," meaning supervision would be difficult, and they also said the Mint was now only in the Tower of London as a place of honour and security. Nevertheless, an Order in Council was issued from Greenwich on July 9th, 1637, empowering Thomas Bushell to erect and operate at his own expense the proposed Mint at Aberystwith, the same to be regulated by Sir William Parkhurst, the Warden of the Mint. A Deed was issued on July 30th authorising the coining of half crowns, shillings, sixpennies, half groats and pennies; Bushell was to have at his own cost "irons" (that is dies) and other necessary utensils for the coins to be supplied by Edward Green, the Chief Engraver of the Mint. The coins struck were to be of the same weight and fineness as those of the Tower Mint, and to distinguish them from other moneys of the Realm they were to be marked with Plumes (Prince of Wales Feathers) on obverse and reverse. In due course the dies, etc., were prepared and sent to Aberystwith and Bushell set up a mint in a room in the Castle. Since the reign of Edward VI, up till the outbreak of the civil wars soon afterwards, this was the only official mint in existence outside the Tower, and it was as events turned out very fortunate for Charles I that he had allowed it to be set up. There had been a tradition that the Mint at York had been established as early as 1629, though one cannot see why one would have been started there then, and Brooke doubts it, and the above-mentioned statement of the Mint officials that in 1637 all moneys were then coined at the Tower, would show the legend to be incorrect. The order to have plumes on each side of the coins was not carried out in the case of the half groats and pennies, these coins doubtless being considered too small for a plume to be placed in the field in front of the bust on the obverse as the other coins have. These two small coins have a large plume on the reverse instead of a shield surmounted by a plume as the others have. In addition all these coins bore as a mint mark an open book, the badge of Thomas Bushell, on each side. The shields on the reverse are all oval in shape. A few months later patterns of groats, threepennies and halfpennies were shown the King and approved by him, and a Commission dated February 22nd, 1638, empowered Bushell to order from Edward Green the necessary irons for these coins as well as those of the original indenture. This seems strange to me as groats and threepennies had not been struck since 1582 (groats since 1561) and were not struck at the Tower till the next reign, although they were struck at the emergency civil

war mints of Oxford, Exeter, Bristol and York. The open book only appears on Aberystwith coins, but plumes, to indicate the coins were struck from Welsh silver, appear sometimes, in various places, on coins struck in all reigns from James I to George II except for James II and William and Mary. The Aberystwith coins were all very well struck and make a fine series, the late Colonel Morrieson describes them in detail with illustrations from his vast collection. They generally conform to the types struck at the Tower from 1636/40 with the Tower mint marks, tun to triangle; they have the same legends, and the groat and threepenny have the "Christo" legend of the larger coins on the reverse. The halfpenny has a rose on one side and a plume on the other side, without any legends or mark of value, and distinguished from the Tower halfpenny which has a rose on each side. This was the only halfpenny struck in this reign other than at the Tower Mint. Colonel Morrieson says rightly that the series of coins of this mint were one of the finest of the period, and Wales should be proud of its only mint in centuries. Mr. Henry Symonds says that one Henry Sutch was the Chief Moneyer at a salary of £100 p.a., but probably this amount was shared by others. The Tower Mint provided five officers (listed by Rixing), to be paid by Bushell, for operating the Mint, a comptroller, surveyor and clerk of Irons, and assay master, the first mentioned is described as "esq." and the others as "gent", these three got £40 p.a.; a clerk (also a "gent") got £15 p.a. and a porter £10 p.a. A record entered in a book exists of the Mint and, as quoted by Mr. Symonds, shows that from January, 1638, to September, 1642, silver weighing 4,052 lbs. had been handed to the moneyers, producing £13,069 in silver currency at the rate of 64/6 per lb. The average weekly output was stated to be £68.1.5. In his petition to the King in 1636 Bushell had estimated an output of £300 per week. Unfortunately the record does not state the number of coins struck in each denomination, but it would appear that there was a demand for groats and threepennies and that many more of these were struck than of the other values, as these coins appear to be much easier than other values to come by to-day. Bushell was evidently wiser than the Tower Mint authorities in having these values struck at his mint. By 1642 the troubles of Charles I and his Parliament had come to a head and open war between them had broken out. Bushell was then ordered by the King to go to Shrewsbury with some of his coining plant, and for a few months from September, 1642, Bushell operated a Mint for the King there; he then went on to Oxford and afterwards to Bristol operating mints at those places. Most of the coins struck at these three mints bear the badge of the Welsh plumes, showing the connection with Bushell and Wales. Also that he took some of the dies with him to Shrewsbury and Oxford is proved by the fact that some of the coins from these Mints have an obverse from the Aberystwith die, and occasionally at Oxford the smaller coins show an Oxford obverse and Aberystwith reverse; this was no doubt owing to the difficulty of fitting the "Declaration" reverse on to the smallest size coins. After the capture of Bristol in September, 1645, by the Parliamentary party Bushell used Lundy Island as a depot for landing his goods till an opportunity of re-exporting them arose; and he struck coins there also; he assisted the King's cause in many ways besides the coinage, and he operated lead mines near Coombe Martin in Devonshire to make bullets with. It is sometimes stated that Bushell opened a mint at Coombe Martin, but Brooke says that no records of this exist; but the above-mentioned record of Aberystwith shows, according to Mr. Symonds, that the Mint there was revived for three months, January to March, 1646, in Bushell's absence, when coins of the weight of 73 lbs. only were struck. There are in existence rare coins of the type of the Aberystwith series but with a crown mint mark instead of Bushell's open book, and these are the ones sometimes attributed to the alleged mint at Coombe Martin; they are in a later style than the ones with the open book mark, corresponding with the Tower Mint coins struck from 1645/9 says Brooke. It would appear to me that fresh dies were prepared at or sent to Aberystwith and a small number of coins from half crowns to twopennies struck there with the crown m.m. The fact that only 73 lbs., or about £250 in value, were then struck would account for the rarity of these coins. Colonel Morrieson believed they were struck at Coombe Martin, however, and probably their birthplace will remain a matter of conjecture. The record left of the Aberystwith mint shows also that in February, 1648, a further small effort was made at this mint when only 8 lbs. or about £25 was struck. It was near the end of the mint. John Sydenham, the agent of Thomas Bushell, made a list of thirty coining "stamps" with tools and implements, which were by the order of Thomas Bushell, who had surrendered to the Parliament, delivered to Thomas Harrington, the agent of the Parliament. Mr. Symonds gives the list in full and the form of receipt signed by Tho. Harrington dated 23 February, 1648. Although Bushell had undoubtedly set up his mint in Aberystwith Castle, Colonel Morrieson said it was later moved nearer the

mines, and that afterwards in 1667 a house was to be seen there with defaced coining stamps therein, which I gather would be additional to those surrendered to Thos. Harrington in 1648, though the two later strikings of coins mentioned may not have been made in the Castle which was destroyed by the Parliamentary armies in the civil war, and is now a ruin. Surgeon Col. Morgan shows recent scientific exploration has established the location of the mint room in the Castle by finding ashes and charcoal, etc., and pieces of broken crucibles in the debris. With the mines and mint Bushell, in a few years, acquired an immense fortune before the outbreak of the civil wars; he loaned the King, says Col. Morgan, for the wars £40,000 which would be a colossal sum in those days, and it became a gift with the loss of the King's cause. In addition he raised a regiment at his own expense from his miners and clothed them and kept them till a late period in the wars. Needless to say he died a poor man. Afterwards in 1662 Sir William Parkhurst then Master of the Mint for Charles II wrote, according to Ruding, that Mr. Bushell had brought from Wales to Shrewsbury his mint, instruments and moneymen when the King could have neither men nor tools from London, and Parkhurst goes on to say that without the assistance of the silver from the mines which he brought to Shrewsbury and Oxford to the value of £100 per week they could hardly have made money at those places, and Parkhurst also mentions clothing for the soldiers supplied by Bushell amounted to thirty six thousand pounds, (presumably included in the above-mentioned £40,000). Had it not been for the existence of the Aberystwith mint and Thomas Bushell at the outbreak of the Civil wars it is hard to see how Charles I could have had money coined, or perhaps carried on the struggle at all. When Charles allowed Bushell to start the mint at Aberystwith in 1636 against the advice of his officers he was wiser than he then knew.

On the motion of Mr. A. Sutherland, seconded by Professor Rankine Brown, Mr. Ferguson was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his informative and interesting paper.

The meeting concluded with supper. It was decided that the usual holiday recess would be taken and that the next meeting would be held on the last Monday in March.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farn Road,
Northland,
Wellington.

90th Meeting - 26th March, 1945.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE LIFE OF SIR GEORGE GREY was the subject of a short paper read before the 90th meeting. Mr. Johannes C Andersen, M.B.E. presided. Apologies were received from Professor J. Rankine Brown, and Sir James Elliott.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows:

Mr. W. F. Bailey, 8 Gloucester St. Wanganui.

Mr. L. W. Bannister, Grove Street, Nelson.

Mr. Andrew Patterson, Caravan 56, Camp I, Winchmore R.D.

Mr. William Salter, 145 Caledonian Road, St. Albans, Chch.

Sir John Hanham, Bt., submitted a further (8th) priced catalogue of the Lord Grantley collection (Continental, Mediaeval, and modern silver issues of France and Italy). The President asked that Sir John be specially thanked for his continued interest in supplying up-to-date numismatic information from the Homeland.

An illustrated priced catalogue COINS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, 1945 edition, by Herbert Allen Seaby, F.R.N.S., was tabled. Collectors in this field should not be without this publication. (B.A. Seaby Ltd., 65 Great Portland St., London, W.I.) 5s.

Mr. H.G. Williams, 893 Cumberland St. Dunedin, advised that he was the sole New Zealand distributor of Mr. G. O. Heyde's work COINS, just issued in Australia. A review will appear in the next report.

Mr. Allan Sutherland read the following paper SIDELIGHTS ON THE LIFE OF SIR GEORGE GREY. He said, The great pro-consul Sir George Grey has woven many golden threads into the fabric of British history in the Southern Hemisphere, where his name is mighty still. During the research that preceded the writing of my "Numismatic History of New Zealand" I found the name of that great man stalking across the pages of Colonial history more than that of any other contemporary. At the time Governor Hobson was implementing the Treaty of Waitangi, and juggling with the relative values to be fixed for the American, Spanish, French, Indian, and other "hard" money current in his new domain, Captain Grey - who had just celebrated his 28th birthday - was assuming control of the Government of South Australia, and setting out to solve similar financial and native problems there.

When I discovered some original currency history in the manuscript Blue Book Returns of New Zealand, submitted by New Zealand Governors to the Imperial Government, and when that search was carried forward, I was baulked by the absence of returns for the first two years of Governor Grey's regime in New Zealand. Earlier, under Hobson and FitzRoy, several copies of each year's Blue Books had been meticulously made in the careful penmanship that belonged to that period. The originals were submitted to the Imperial Government and the copies were retained in New Zealand. I searched the Archives in the General Assembly Library, and documents in the Turnbull Library and in the Census and Statistics Office, Wellington, the Grey Collection in the Public Library, Auckland, The Mitchell Library, Sydney, and I wrote to South Africa whence Grey had taken some papers relative to New Zealand when he was later appointed Governor there. From these sources I filled in most of the pattern of the currency puzzle, but it was not until my friend Sir John Hanham assisted me in gaining access to the British Archives that I was convinced that the master hand of George Grey had succeeded in suppressing Blue Books relating to New Zealand for 1845 and 1846, the first two years of his term of office in New Zealand - an office he assumed when Governor FitzRoy had been recalled,

mainly because he supplemented the meagre supply of foreign coins, then current, with Government currency debentures, contrary to Whitehall instructions. Presumably Governor Grey wiped the slate clean for two years. This apparent masterly method of dealing with the shaky financial affairs of New Zealand gave me renewed interest in the great pro-consul.

Although this review is intended to cover numismatic side-lights of Sir George Grey's regime, a sketch of his life would not be out of place. George Grey was born at Lisbon, in the year Napoleon retreated across the snows from Moscow. Grey's father was killed at Badajoz a few days before George was born. Of aristocratic birth, George Grey developed a radical outlook in his teens, particularly while serving as an ensign in Ireland. At the age of 25 he joined the "Beagle" on an exploration trip to North-west Australia. Because of his unusual interest in the manners and customs of the natives there, he was appointed Resident Magistrate at King George's Sound. This interest, which was repeated in New Zealand and in South Africa, was a leading factor in the role of Empire Builder he was to assume later.

At the age of 28 he was appointed Governor of South Australia. He arrived in Adelaide in May 1840 charged with the duty of cleaning up the so-called financial mess allegedly created by Governor Gawler, but due mainly to a depression. During the depression the number of public-houses in Adelaide and environs declined from 70 in 1840 to 44 in 1842, and the reduction in revenue from spirits further embarrassed the Government. Retrenchment was carried out. Single men on relief work were reduced to 1s 2d a day, but married men received 12s a week - in effect a wife allowance - plus 2s 6d a week for each child. Retrenchment was contrary to Grey's radical outlook, and although he was burnt, in effigy, in the street at this time, his long-term policy eventually earned for him the thanks of the Adelaide citizens, and when he departed in October, 1845, to become Governor of New Zealand, upwards of 600 citizens signed a memorial commending him for the manner in which he had discharged his duties. In Adelaide a son was born to him, but died at 5 months, and was buried at Adelaide.

When Captain Grey arrived in New Zealand the coins that jingled in his pockets, and the coins he found here - plus the £6,000 in specie he borrowed from the South Australian Treasury and sent ahead - were golden sovereigns, doubloons, eagles, mohurs, and 20 franc pieces, and silver dollars, francs, rupees, half-crowns, and foreign copper coins, then officially current in both countries. Just as he faced financial and native problems in South Australia, so also was he faced with similar problems in New Zealand. Duties on tobacco and trade goods, mostly brought by whalers from America, had been imposed by Governor Hobson, and had been continued by Governor FitzRoy, and this had accentuated native troubles at the Bay of Islands, whence Grey repaired to confer with native chiefs. Soon, Grey was actively engaged directing operations against Maori rebels at Ruapokapoka. Grey was then 35 years of age. Hostilities under Rangihaeata broke out later near Wellington, but Grey cleverly checked this by seizing the uncertain Maori "Napoleon", Te Rauparaha, at Porirua. A subsequent outbreak near Wanganui, due to an accidental shooting of a native by a soldier, lasted ten months, and was quelled in 1848, thus closing his main native troubles then.

The financial mist surrounding Grey's handling of New Zealand finances is lifted from 1847, when his first Blue Book extant discloses, inter alia, that he has written down the Spanish golden doubloon to £3 (£3-4s under FitzRoy) and half, quarter, and eighth doubloons correspondingly; Spanish and American silver dollars, and five franc pieces were written down to 3s 6d (4s under FitzRoy), the rupee still standing at 2s. The estimated coin in circulation was £50,000.

Grey's policy, plus importations of sterling hard money, resulted in driving out of New Zealand foreign money which had been used of necessity by the whalers and traders from the commencement of the century until its recorded disappearance by Grey in 1850. Another big factor in the clearance of this foreign money was the use of shinplaster currency - private paper notes - together with the passing, in 1847, of an Ordinance establishing a Colonial Bank of Issue, with the sole right of issuing notes.

In 1848 Provincial Government was established, Grey becoming Governor of New Ulster (North Island) and of New Munster (South Island) in addition to Governor in Chief. Grey took a keen interest in the proposed charter for New Zealand. Earl Grey's proposed charter of 1846 was suspended by Governor Grey, who transmitted a draft constitution of his own to the Imperial authorities in 1851.

Grey was beloved by the Maori people, who regarded him as the Great White Chief. In the North one still meets half-caste people who adopt the names of Grey or Hobson. Grey's books on mythology, traditional history, and proverbs of the Maori are still regarded as standard works. In 1853 Grey relinquished his position of Governor of New Zealand, and returned to England.

In 1854 Grey was appointed to the dual position of High Commissioner of South Africa and Governor of Cape Colony, where he remained until 1861. There, his statesmanship was reflected in his liberal native policy, his struggle for a federal system of Government, and his Empire building activities. It was there that the famous incident associated with his name occurred. Acting on his own initiative, he ordered troops and supplies, en route to China, to be diverted to India to help quell the Indian Mutiny. In all respects he regarded the Empire as his domain, rather than the territory defined in his warrant of appointment. For this example of administrative foresight he was officially thanked, although he was "put on the carpet" later for taking a somewhat similar liberty. He had a brush with the Imperial Authorities in 1859, was recalled by Sir Bulwer Lytton for defiance of instructions, was reinstated later, and in 1861, at the age of 49, he was appointed Governor of New Zealand for the second time.

Grey's second administration of New Zealand lasted until 1868. He found that during his absence his personal mana among the Maori had waned. During that interregnum Governors had had their wings clipped by representative Government, and by the Imperial Authorities, and a Maori King movement had arisen, allegedly based on the following passage discovered by Wiremu Tamihana, in a Bible given him by a missionary:-

"One from among thy brethren shalt thou set King over thee; thou mayst not set a stranger over thee which is not thy brother."

Thus, historians state, started the Maori King movement, which developed aggressively, but which is now flaccid..

In 1863 the Maori War was renewed. During his second regime Grey quarrelled with his Lieut. General, Sir Duncan Cameron, and assumed control of the military forces himself. In 1865 Wereroa Pa was brilliantly captured under Grey's personal direction. Grey persistently opposed instructions regarding the removal of troops. Between whiles he conducted disputes with the Premier, Mr. Fox, who, incidentally provides us with an illustration of the slow tempo of the horse-and-buggy days, in that one of his despatches to England, concerning Grey, was the size of a book, exceeding 600 pages. After further disputes with the Imperial Government, Grey had the temerity to "reprimand" his superior officer in England for receiving complaints from a Colonel in New Zealand, without their first being transmitted through the Governor. The

complaints - afterwards retracted - stated that Maori prisoners had been shot in cold blood, some had been roasted alive, and that one had had his ears cut off, dried, and forcibly attached to his watch chain. But Grey was "fed up", and so were the Imperial Authorities, but the Imperial Authorities got in first by advising Grey the name of his successor. That his successor, Governor Bowen, was given little rein, is borne out in the petulant tone of a despatch in 1869 reproving Bowen for instituting the New Zealand Cross for bravery. Bowen was told that his job as Governor was to "convoke and prorogue Parliament, pardon criminals, etc....but that the authority inherent in the Queen.. has never been delegated to you."

Grey retired to his lovely island home at Kawau, and there he remained until 1874, when he was elected Superintendent of the Province of Auckland; in the same year he was elected a member of the House of Representatives. In 1877 he became Premier of New Zealand, at the age of 65. Grey founded the first really radical or progressive movement in politics; he advocated land taxation, compulsory purchase of large estates for closer settlement, adult franchise, and elective Governors. He strongly advocated the federation of native races in the Pacific under New Zealand, and he repeatedly warned against German and French infiltration in Samoa and New Caledonia. In 1879 he vacated the office of Premier, and in 1890 withdrew from political life. Four years later, after seeing his friend Richard Seddon installed as Premier, he visited England, and while there, in 1898, he died and was buried in St Pauls. I must confess that on a visit to London in 1935 I visited St Pauls not so much to see the great edifice, as to see the grave of Sir George Grey.

Grey's romantic career earned for himself the title of The Great Pro-Consul, and the foremost Empire builder South of the Equator. Viscount Blodisloe - himself an outstanding Governor-General second only to Grey - considers that Grey was the greatest Pro-Consul of his time. The essential difference between Grey and successive Governors, was that Grey was an administrative Governor, particularly during his first term, whereas his successors were mainly ornamental constitutional links with the Motherland. There are similarities between Grey and Blodisloe as Governors. Both were scholarly aristocrats, progressive democrats, and benign autocrats; both had the Churchillian flair for phrasing for posterity, both were idealists, and both had a charm of manner associated with a cultured intellectual outlook. But Grey travelled on uncharted seas, while Blodisloe journeyed on calm and charted seas. Had Blodisloe been confronted with the same set of conditions as those which faced Grey, the indications are that he would have measured up to the best traditions of Grey. Grey was a collector of rare and valuable books which he presented, partly to the people of South Africa, and partly to the people of Auckland. An exchange was later effected to the mutual advantage of both.

Despite periods of intransigence under the curb of authority the name of Grey stands out in Empire history as that of a great statesman and Empire builder whose record will adorn the pages of New Zealand history long after most of his successors have been forgotten. (Reference. "Sir George Grey" by Professor G.Henderson, Adelaide.)

In order to illustrate the times in which Sir George Grey lived, Mr.Johannes C.Andersen, M.B.E. read the following extract from the journal of J. Lort Stokes, Commander of H.M.S.ACHERON surveying ship charting the coasts of New Zealand,1849-50. He was evidently acquainted with English classics:

"Monday April 22,1850 - Went ashore with the doctor, who wished to examine the corpse of a Maori woman who had died the day previous. Saw a very old Native, who seemed tolerably vain of some figures drawn upon her arms, breast and back, in exhibiting which she was sufficiently liberal of whatever charms the

ravages of three score winters had left her. To each of these skin pictures a history was attached, the separate groups being an abstract and brief chronicle of some event in her experience. There were Maori men engaged in mortal combat with their tomahawks, women as spectators seemingly encouraging their husbands and brothers to lay on with right good will. The tattoo on her back was a man holding a gun perpendicularly with the muzzle to his head, the suicide of a relative in years past, detected in an improper intercourse with another chief's 'rib'. Anticipating unpleasant results, and exasperated at losing his paramour, he had "jumped the life to come". The prying curiosity of the pakeha as he wheeled round this old crone like a teetotum, elicited shouts of laughter from the group of Maori women squattening with her about a blazing log fire; the bold one herself, from time to time "grinned horrible a ghastly smile" of gratified vanity. As to her dress, it was so negligé as greatly to facilitate our scrutiny, being merely an old mat, by lifting which she sat naked as Eve.

Half crown pieces pierced for the purpose and of old George IV's coinage hung as pendants in her ears. On our noticing them, and her extravagance, she said they would be a legacy at her death to the half-caste child which her daughter the wife of a white man, was suckling amidst the group of laughers. They also wore shillings and sixpences as ear-rings. This fashion of wearing English silver coins seems peculiar to the Natives of Stewart Island, for I never saw them elsewhere. Northwards their countrywomen principally affect the brilliant white tooth of a species of ground shark, tipped with sealing wax, which, from its showy tint, is extensively used for personal adornment. A single drop of semi-transparent greenstone, suspended in the ear by black ribbon, is also much worn, and many thrust into the enormous apertures slit in that delicate portion of their person any small article of European workmanship they can lay hold of. Thus I have seen old brace buckles, a piece of a gun lock, soldiers brass buttons, and the brass-tipped cotton reel so applied."

A vote of thanks was accorded.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road, Northland, Wellington, N.Z.
Telephone. 26561

NEXT MEETING will be held on the last Monday in May, 28th May, at 8.p.m. when a paper will be read by Mr.W.D. Ferguson, and a large number of Roman copper coins will be submitted.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the current year are now due and are payable to the Hon.Treasurer, Mr. G. O. Sherwood, 103 Willis Street, Wellington.

PAPERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. Members are invited to submit papers to be read at future meetings of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL A new membership roll is being compiled for circulation to members. Members are requested to submit details of change of address where necessary.

91st Meeting - 28th May, 1945.

The 91st Meeting of the Society was held on 28th May. Professor J. Rankine Brown, LL.D., occupied the Chair. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. H. Kirkcaldie, Mr. Johannes Andersen, M.B.E., and Mr. G. Sherwood.

NEW MEMBER: Mr. E.H. Anderson, Moana Road, Day's Bay, was elected a new member.

BOUND REPORTS, Vol. II: Mr. Hornblow, Asst. Secretary, tabled three copies of Vol. II of reports, 1938 to 1943. It was decided to present one copy to the Auckland Public Library.

PROPOSED VICTORY MEDAL: It was stated that if a victory medal is to be issued for sale to the public at the conclusion of hostilities preliminary work of preparing designs should be proceeded with as early as possible, and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to ascertain the mind of the Government on the matter, and to offer the assistance of the Society if the proposal is to be proceeded with.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS: The Hon. Secretary reported that Mr. Willi Fels, O.M.G., had presented his numismatic collection to the Otago Museum, and that the collection was classified so that specimens could readily be obtained for inspection.

ROME-NEW ZEALAND MEDAL: Mr. Allan Sutherland exhibited an illustration of a medal "to commemorate the entry into Rome of New Zealand Forces in 1944". Design, Quadriga to left, ROME above, "1944" in exergue. Presumably silver. "Design engraved by M. Fox, Medallist of Sharia Elfi Bey, Cairo." Two specimens have been ordered by him.

"COINS" by Mr. G.G. Heyde: A copy of this work was tabled. Mr. W.D. Ferguson presented a copy for the Society's Library. He stated that the author was to be congratulated for the conciseness and clarity of the work, which was a "multum in Parvo" of numismatic information. He moved that the author be complimented on the production of such a useful reference work. Mr. A. Sutherland seconded the motion, stating that for the average collector who did not possess specialist works in each field, Mr. Heyde's work provided a long felt want. General information regarding coins of all countries was carefully summarised and tabulated, and collectors, newspapers, and libraries would find the work a mine of information on everyday questions that arose in regard to coins. Mr. Heyde was to be congratulated for his industry in assembling these facts in an attractive and readily accessible manner. (Obtainable from Mr. H.G. Williams, 893 Cumberland Street, Dunedin, 6/9d.)

ROMAN COINS: Mr. W.J. Dale, Papanui, presented to the Society an illustrated work, "COLLECTION BY DE FIEU M.H. MONTAGU", paper covers. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dale.

ROLL OF N.Z. CROSS: Mr. T. Cockcroft, Napier, wrote suggesting that the historic Roll of the New Zealand Cross should be lodged in the Turnbull Library. Decided to make representations accordingly.

WOMEN ON COINS was the subject of a most interesting talk given by Mr. W.D. Ferguson. The talk was illustrated by appropriate specimens. He said:-

Among the many interesting and fascinating sides of collecting coins and medals are, I think, conjuring up in one's mind's eye scenes from the past connected with such old coins or medals, and thoughts upon the persons represented upon them and of the times and customs in vogue when they were struck; also to speculate upon the different kinds of people who may have handled them in the past, and why, by chance perhaps, they have come down to us when most of their fellows have been worn smooth, lost, or melted down. Old coins are the windows of history, and they usually give authentic, though sometimes flattering, portraits of past rulers, from which we can often form judgment upon their characters. Also the coats-of-arms on shields give interesting historical evidence of the rise of dynasties and ruling families such as the Bourbons. The rise and fall of countries and empires can often be traced with great accuracy in their coinage, such as the Roman Republic and Empire.

As regards more modern coins I have an especial liking for those with heads, or effigies, of women thereon, perhaps on account of the fact that there are not very many of these, apart from medals and commemoratives, and many countries like France have none at all; though coins of two present-day countries, Netherlands and Luxemburg, have heads of women. Great Britain is well represented with six women shown on coins, though effigies of one, Mary Queen of Scots, are very rare. However, I will confine my remarks to five Continental women rulers about whom less may be known here than of British Queens.

Although recently struck to facilitate commerce in the East (see Vol. II, page 56) Maria Theresa thalers are an exact copy of those struck in 1780, the year of her death. The effigy shows a somewhat mannish type of woman of strong character. The legend gives her many titles; Roman Empress, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduchess of Austria, Duchess of Burgundy, and Countess of Tyrol. This does not mention all the lands she ruled over, however. Although Austria was the heart and core of the vast Hapsburg dominions it was never a kingdom in name, remaining an Archduchy till after the Napoleonic wars when it became the seat of a new empire. Although Maria Theresa inherited her dominions from her father, the Emperor Charles VI, the title of Roman Empress was hers, strictly speaking, but only as Empress Consort, and after the death of her husband, Francis I, as Empress dowager. She took her duties and responsibilities seriously, and showed great aptitude for public business, and managed to keep in touch with the affairs in all parts of her extensive possessions. She played the part of a beneficent despot. Her husband left everything in the way of government to his capable wife, but after she became a widow in 1785 she let her eldest son, who was then elected Emperor as Joseph II, share in the duties of government with her. In spite of all this she had sixteen children, of whom ten grew up, and two sons in turn wore Emperors, and two of her daughters became Queens, one being the ill-fated Marie Antoinette.

At the same time that Maria Theresa reigned, Russia was ruled in turn - except for a six months' interval - by two women different in character though no less remarkable or able rulers, and the life of one at least proves that history is at times stranger than fiction.

As is well known the Czar, Peter the Great, largely succeeded in modernizing the semi-barbaric Russia of his times, and brought women out of seclusion; but he could not have foreseen that after his death in 1725 Russia would be ruled for the next seventy years by women, except for two brief intervals. After 1730 the crown had passed to descendants of his brother Ivan, but he had left a daughter, Elizabeth, who had been largely neglected in her youth and grew up with peasants in a village and had little education. But about 1740, when she was in her early thirties, and a tall and handsome woman, she came up to St. Petersburg and made herself popular with the people, and especially with some of the officers of the Guards. By this time her father's harshness was being forgotten and the memory of his greatness enhanced, and his reign was contrasted with the existing regime in which unpopular Germans held the chief offices. In spite of this fact she was allowed to continue for a time. A French doctor, who had been brought to Russia by her father and had attended her mother, heard of or sensed danger for her, and advised her to appeal for protection to the Guards regiment; she went to the barracks one evening and changed into uniform and was acclaimed as Empress by them, and then rode through St. Petersburg at their head, the other regiments joining in, and by the next day her position as Empress had been secured by a quite bloodless revolution. Although, like her father, she was not altogether a pleasant character, she was a great ruler, and was popular with her subjects. She had straight away secured the succession to her throne by bringing to Russia her nephew, the son of her sister, Anna, who was a Prince of Holstein-Gottorp, a boy of fourteen then, and also heir to the Swedish Crown. He was confirmed in the Russian church and rechristened Peter, but he was an unfortunate creature, not much better than a half-wit. Elizabeth soon after found a bride for Peter in the person of the young Princess Sophia Frederica, only daughter of a cousin of the reigning Prince of Zerbst-Anhalt, who was a general in the army of Prussia, and whose wife was a Holstein princess and a cousin of Peter's father. The parsimonious Frederick II paid no salaries to his generals. They were extremely poor, and Sophia brought no dowry and had but six changes of clothing when she and her mother set out for Russia in the middle of winter, and this thought of early poverty remained humiliating to her in later life of greatness. She was rechristened in the Russian church Catherine, after Elizabeth's mother, who had reigned two years as Catherine I after Peter the Great's death. Young Peter was quite unable to appreciate the hand-

some young girl of great intelligence who became his wife. Her first years of married life, while still only a girl, were not very happy, and the formidable Empress was often hard to please. However, she had good sense and learnt what the Russians liked and the Russian ways, and soon learned when in Rome to do as Rome does.

Although Elizabeth had had a fine figure and was very proud of her legs in her youth, delighting in male attire as at the time of her accession, she got stout in her forties, as my 20 kopek coin dated 1755 shows. She became indolent toward the end of her reign. She realised that Frederick II and Prussian militarism were a menace to Europe, and joined in the coalition against him in the seven years' war, and her armies occupied Berlin for a time. It was only the inefficiency or treachery of her generals that largely undid the valour of her troops and prolonged the war, which Elizabeth prosecuted with vigour in spite of failing health and increasing indolence. It was only her death that saved Frederick II and the Prussian state from utter destruction.

The new Czar, Peter III, was quite unable to govern anything, let alone a huge country like Russia. His one interest had always been playing with soldiers, and he now had whole armies of his own. He had always admired the Prussian armies, and stopped the war with them, but started to prepare for a new war against Denmark, who had annexed his beloved Holstein since he had left it; this would have involved going through Poland and Prussia; the latter no doubt would have meant a trap. He had been virtually separated from Catherine, but delighted in insulting her on public occasions, and the following summer, six months after his succession, Catherine's position seemed one of danger. However, the army leaders had no wish for involvement in Peter's crazy schemes, and resented his uncle, Prince George of Holstein, being made Commander-in-Chief. In the night before Peter's birthday, when further humiliation, or worse, might have been Catherine's lot, she was summoned about midnight and brought to the Guards' barracks at St. Petersburg where she changed into uniform, as Elizabeth had done, and later marched with another young woman similarly attired at the head of her troops and was acclaimed with enthusiasm as Empress by both soldiers and people. Peter had also offended the Heads of the Church, and had no friends in Russia, and his removal was effected bloodlessly that day. Catherine was not vindictive and thought Peter of such small account that she, it appears, contemplated sending him back to Holstein, but he was murdered by his officer guards a few months later. In the meantime Catherine was crowned Empress in Moscow and no one questioned her right. Although entirely German, she had become a true Russian, and her policy was Russian first and last. Although she encouraged distinguished foreigners, such as artists and authors, to settle in or visit Russia, all her ministers and generals were Russians. She avoided European entanglements and took no part in western affairs, apart from the partitions of Poland, which brought some millions of Russians into her fold. But two wars with the Turks extended her empire to the Black Sea and the Crimea. Like Elizabeth she had a handsome and majestic appearance and followed Elizabeth's wise example in showing herself to her people. Although she earned the name of The Great, she would now be more thought of had she died some years sooner than she did, as after being a beautiful girl and very handsome woman, she became in old age so stout that she could not walk unaided, and she must have been a repulsive old woman. My 20 Kopek coin shows a handsome and strong-minded woman which is what one would expect.

My next woman ruler is of very different type from the three preceding ones. Marianne Elisa was the eldest and ablest of Napoleon's three sisters, and although essentially vulgar like her sisters, she could assume the grand manner at times. The unprecedented rise to fame and power of the poor captain of artillery made his sisters leaders of society, but they were always wanting more and more, and were jealous and quarrelsome. Elisa had married an Italian gentleman named Felix Bacciochi, who was a colonel in the French army, in 1797, and when Napoleon made Elisa sovereign Princess of Lucca and Piombino in 1805, her husband nominally shared the throne with her. My five franc coin shows their heads jugate with Elisa's profile in front and wearing a coronet, and they make a pleasing pair of heads on the coin; the legends are in Italian. Elisa soon tired of such gay life as Lucca could produce, and she induced her powerful brother to make her Grand-duchess of Tuscany in 1809, which gave her further scope for playing the Queen. Although she had ability, her reign was really nominal, as Tuscany was governed chiefly from Paris. Elisa was at times a trial to Napoleon, who no doubt admired her spirited ways. Felix appears to have played a passive part in his wife's affairs and varying fortunes, and to have been content to take second place. After the downfall of Napoleon she retired to a villa near Trieste and died there in 1821.

The last lady of my quintette, Marie Louise, was the daughter of the Emperor Francis II and became the second wife of Napoleon in 1810, when she was nineteen, and when he was at the height of his power. Very contrary and varied opinions have been written about her character, but most of the unfavourable ones have been French. She was at a disadvantage in Paris being married when so young to a man who had been regarded as an ogre and everything that was bad at the Austrian court; and although she must have been the envy of countless women as the first lady of Europe she was never happy in France, and disliked the French whom she regarded as the murderers of her Great-Aunt. Possibly partly because she gave him the longed for son and heir, Napoleon showed real affection for his second wife, and afterward had an almost pathetic hope she would be able to join him at Elba, or even St. Helena. From the first he had tried hard to please her, but this affection was not reciprocated.

In 1814, on Napoleon's banishment to Elba, she was at Vichy and her father sent one of his generals, Count Albert von Neipperg, to conduct her and her young son back to Vienna. Except for a few weeks during the "hundred days" in 1815, he never afterwards left her service. Marie Louise was made sovereign Duchess of Parma at the Congress of Vienna, and reigned there till her death in 1847. Von Neipperg acted as her chancellor and foreign minister, and he stood at the right of her throne at Court. It is said, on what appears to be good authority, that they were secretlymorganatically married after Napoleon's death in 1821. This was probably the happiest time of Marie Louise's life, and her unacknowledged husband must have been a man of great good sense and ability. He played his very difficult part successfully, besides being an able administrator. After his death an unsuccessful revolution took place, but after that experience the character of the government of Marie Louise deteriorated, and her state became practically a part of the Austrian Empire. She married once more. My five soldi coin shows a pleasing head with the hair done in the Greek style, and it has her monogram crowned on the reverse; the legends are in Italian and the date is 1815, her first year.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ferguson for his paper.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
NORTHLAND,
Wellington.

NEXT MEETING: The annual meeting of the Society will be held on 30th July, 1945. Business, Election of Officers and General.

P.S.: SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREARS; ROLL OF MEMBERS: An up-to-date roll of members and mailing list is being compiled for circulation. Members who are in arrears with their subscriptions (as shown below) are asked to remit to the Treasurer without delay to avoid their names being removed from roll at the end of August. Names removed will be reinstated on payment of arrears. Subscription (5/-) is payable in June of each year. Composite life subscription of £3.3.0. absolves members from the payment of any further subscriptions.

G. C. SHERWOOD,
Hon. Treasurer.
103 Willis Street,
Wellington, C.1.

Subscriptions owing _____

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

14th ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET
for year ended 30th June, 1945

The Council of the New Zealand Numismatic Society has the honour to submit its annual report and balance sheet for the year ended 30th June, 1945. The year commenced with 118 members, and closed with 117, including 27 composite life subscription members.

Owing to the war, the restricted programme of meeting once every two months from March to November has been continued. It is hoped that the war will finish next year, and that normal monthly meetings will again be resumed. The Council, on behalf of members, sends its greetings to members serving overseas, and welcomes members who have returned.

Some interesting papers, involving considerable research, were read during the year. The Society is indebted to the Librarian, Turnbull Library, for the use of the Library for meetings. Notable donations during the year included: a cabinet of English coins and tokens presented by the family of the late George E. Anson, Wellington; illustrated and priced coin sale catalogues, and Spinks Circulars by Sir John Hanham, and a monetary donation by Mr. W.D.Ferguson toward the cost of issuing extended reports. A proposal to appoint an Hon. Exchange Superintendent to register "spares, wanteds, and for sale," and to put members into touch with one another, without actually handling specimens, when requests and spares coincide, is to be considered.

Despite the war, the membership has remained constant, and the Council feels sure that after the war the Society will be able to look forward to a period of steady progress in furthering the interests of those who feel the attraction which the cultural pursuit of numismatics undoubtedly affords.

For the Council of the Society,

JOHANNES ANDERSEN, President.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT - 1st JULY, 1944 to 30th JUNE, 1945

<u>LIABILITIES</u>		£	s	d	<u>ASSETS</u>		£	s	d
<u>Capital Account:</u>					Cash at P.O.S.B.				
Balance 30/6/44		195	8	0	Trust Account, P.O.S.B. ..	100	7	1	
Receipts .. . £8 10 6					National Savings Investment	83	14	0	
Interest .. . 3 1 8			11	12					
				2					
			207	0					
Payments		15	17	10					
			£191	2			£191	2	4
				4					4

(sgd) G. C. SHERWOOD,
Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct:

(sgd) W. CHETWYND,
Hon. Auditor.

WELLINGTON,
14th July, 1945.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 92nd (14th Annual) Meeting, 31-7-1945.

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Turnbull Library on 31st July, 1945. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided. A welcome was extended to Mr. Hassell Martin, demobilised from military service, Mr. W.J. Dale, Christchurch, Mrs. C.J. Lynch, Palmerston, A/c M. Lynch, and Mr. H. R. Ford. APOLOGIES for absence through illness were received from Mrs. H. Kirkaldie, Rev. D.C. Bates, Mr. H.G. Mayer, Mr. E. Gilbertson and ~~Mr. W. Stewart~~; also from Professor J. Rankine Brown. The President stated that the thoughts of members were with those who could not attend, and all hoped that they would soon be restored to health.

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows: Mr. J. Craigmyle, Solicitor, c/o Messrs. Christie, Craigmyle and Tizard, Ridgway Street, Wanganui, and Lt. Russell M. H. O'Day, O.1170895, Hq. Fifth Bomber Command, A.P.O. 710, care Postmaster, San Francisco.

A ROLL OF MEMBERS, compiled by Mr. W.D. Ferguson and Hon. Secretary, was tabled, together with a schedule of outstanding subscriptions amounting to £20. Decided that the President, Mr. W.D. Ferguson, the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer be authorised to delete names from the roll where subscriptions more than one year in arrear at 31st August, the names of members on active service to remain on the roll whether financial or not.

REPORTS OF SOCIETY: The Librarian, Mitchell Library, Sydney, requested that Society's reports, pp. 26-28 and pp. 67-70 (Vol. II) and pp. 31-32 and 45-52 (Vol. III) be supplied to enable him to complete his sets for binding. Requests for back reports were also received from other New Zealand Librarians. Members who are not binding their reports are invited to send spares to Mr. M. Hornblow, Assistant Secretary, 7 Harrold Street, Kolburn Extension, Wellington, to enable him to comply with these requests.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS: A suggestion by Mr. J. Hunt Deacon, Adelaide, that application forms, showing objects of Society, be printed and circulated was approved for action later on.

NEW ZEALAND TOKEN "H.J. Hall, Christchurch Coffee Mills," and "Family Grocer, Wine & Spirit Merchant." Mr. J.W. Heenan submitted a clipping showing that a Hall token was unearthed from a depth of 2 ft. in Tuam Street, Christchurch. Mr. Allan Suthorland stated that H.J. Hall was notoriously prolific in his issues of penny and halfpenny tokens in Christchurch. There were 22 varieties, all inartistic, and the differences in dies were usually so minute as to give headaches to collectors. Obviously advertising and seniorago profit were Hall's only motives. Mr. Johannes Anderson said he hoped that the token unearthed was not yet another variety.

THE ROLL OF THE NEW ZEALAND CROSS was exhibited for inspection. As a result of representations by Mr. T. Cockcroft, Napier, supported by the Librarian, Turnbull Library and others, the Minister of Defence had agreed that this unique book, attractively bound, should be deposited in the Turnbull Library. (See 30th Meeting, Vol. I and pages 52 and 77, Vol. III). Mrs. J. Inkersoll, a descendant of Governor Bowen who initiated this historic award during the Maori Wars, was present at the meeting.

COIN CATALOGUES from Messrs. B.A. Seaby, Glenginnings, and Spink & Sons, London, were tabled and placed in the Society's library. Reports of the Numismatic Society of New South Wales, Sydney, recording commendable activity on the part of that organization, were also tabled.

NEW ZEALAND COINS. Mr. H.G. Williams, Dunedin, requested information on new issues (florin and halfpenny, 1944). Mr. A. Suthorland stated that while the Reserve Bank kept a detailed record of bank notes issued, apparently no records of dates of intake shipments of new coins were kept by the bank. Collectors required coins in mint or bloom condition, and had to select specimens from circulated coins. They never knew for certain whether they had secured all specimens issued until Royal Mint reports reached New Zealand, usually two years

after the coins were in circulation. If Mr. Fussell, the Deputy Governor, handled an excellent counterfeit N.Z. half-crown or shilling dated 1936, he would probably pass it without question, but a numismatist would suspect it, as no coins bearing that date had been issued according to Mint reports. Numismatists were on the ever-present watch for counterfeits. Decided to ask Mr. Fussell to advise the Society - or authorise the Royal Mint to advise the Society - immediately any change in dates or dies (however minute) were made, and when such new coins were about to be circulated in New Zealand.

Members have notified the following additional New Zealand issues since 1940: 2s.6d., 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d., and 1d., 1941-1944 inclusive; $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1940-42, 1944.

"NUMISMATIC HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND." Mr. McDonald, of McDonald Publications Limited, M.L.U. Building, Lambton Quay, Wellington, advised that he had a numbered and autographed copy of this publication for sale at £5.5.0d N.Z. (£4.4.0d sterling).

WAITANGI TREATY HOUSE COLLECTION. The Hon. Secretary of the Trust wrote thanking the Society for the gift of the Society's bronze Centennial Medal, 1940, supplied by Messrs. W.J.Dale and W.D.Ferguson.

DONATION. A motion of thanks was passed to Mr. Charles Walker, Wellington, for a donation of £2.2.0d to the general funds, and for his good wishes for the progress of the Society.

MALTESE COIN. Particulars were given of an EMMANUEL DE ROHAN 6 Tari 1780 silver coin unearthed by Mr. F.Carr, M.P., in his garden in Auckland. This Royal and ecclesiastical family was associated with the Marie Antoinette diamond necklace affair which landed Louis De Rohan in the Bastille until acquitted.

CONFEDERATE BANK NOTES. Mr. J. Kennedy, 56 Cleveland Road, Brooklyn, Wellington, notified that he had a U.S.A. dollar bill, 1862, also 50, 20, 10 and 5 dollar Confederate notes and two 10 cent bills for sale.

DECIMAL COINAGE. Decided (a) That the New Zealand Numismatic Society reaffirms that decimal coinage should be adopted for the Dominion at first suitable opportunity, (b) That the Numismatic Society invite the Decimal Association, Auckland, the Council of the Society of Accountants, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of New Zealand, Wellington, and other organizations favouring decimal coinage, to appoint representatives to initiate an educational campaign to publicise the benefits of decimal coinage.

Mr. Johannes Andersen stated that on an overseas tour of seven major countries, he had used decimal coinage in every country except one - Great Britain. But for coin smugglers, the Coinage Committee appointed by the late Rt. Hon. J.G.Coates in 1933 might have recommended decimal coinage for New Zealand. Two years' notice of change-over was necessary, and the smugglers had depleted coin stocks to such an extent that fractional New Zealand coins had to be imported immediately to carry on the business of the country.

Mr. Allan Sutherland said that he had contributed an article in the August issue of a new magazine "FUTURE" summarising his views on the question. British weight, measure and value standards were an incubus from antiquity. The troy pennyweight, for instance - the weight of an English silver penny - was fixed by Edward I to equal "32 grains of wheat, well dried, and gathered out of the middle of the ear." Subsequently, 24 grains were fixed for the pennyweight, with 20 pennyweights for one ounce, and 12 ounces for one pound troy, in contradistinction to the poundavoirdupois of 16 ounces to the pound. The pound in value - which differed in every part of the Commonwealth - came from libra, a Latin balance, pound, which was then a unit of weight equal to 12 ounces avoirdupois. Such was the origin of British-so-called standards. Australia and South Africa were stirring on the question of modernising such standards, and English decimalists would welcome a load from the Dominion.

HON. LIFE MEMBERS: Mr. W.D.Ferguson gave notice that he would move at the next meeting, "That the following addition be made to the Rules of the Society:

"Veteran members who have given outstanding service to the Society may be elected Honorary Life Members at a General Meeting of the Society."

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP ; EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF NUMISMATICS. Mr. Allan Sutherland gave notice that he would move at the next meeting - That the following new rule be added to the Rules of the Society:-

"Junior Members may be admitted at half the annual subscription for ordinary members, provided that applicants are not over 18 years of age."

Mr. R. Walpole said there were three possible types of Junior membership: (1) Junior at half subscription, (2) Corporate membership of a High School or College where one full subscription would be paid and one report supplied for circulation among such College or School Coin Club, and (3) Composite membership. Under the Carnegie Grant, coins or medals, or photographs of same, could be sent to colleges or high schools throughout New Zealand. This would be a valuable adjunct to masters in vitalising the teaching of history, and it would stimulate interest in coin and medal collecting.

Mr. W.J. Dale said there were Education Officers attached to the larger museums and they could be approached with a view to using museum coins and medals as a means of teaching history in an interesting and objective manner.

Mr. G.C. Sherwood said that such museum officers could become members of the Society and use the Society's reports to describe specimens and the history of the times.

Mrs. O.J. Lynch considered that instead of coins being locked away in museums they should be shown in periods, countries and in other ways to colleges and high schools, particularly in inland towns.

Mr. A. Sutherland said he would discuss the matter with Dr. Oliver. The example of Mr. Willi Fels, Dunedin, in endeavouring to induce a Professor of History to become Hon. Numismatist of the Otago Museum, could be followed in other parts of New Zealand. History professors or masters in high schools would then have easy access to specimens to vitalise history in a way that was not otherwise possible. Vice-presidents and members outside Wellington could assist by contacting museum directors and history professors or masters. In this way museum authorities and the Society would materially help education, and the interest thus aroused would increase the number of junior members so necessary for a vigorous educational and cultural society.

HON. CURATOR. Mr. A. Sutherland gave notice that he would move at next meeting that the following new rule be adopted:

(a) That an Hon. Curator be appointed.

(b) If adopted, That Mr. W.D. Ferguson be appointed to the position for the current year.

REGISTER OF SOCIETY'S PROPERTY. An up-to-date register of the property of the Society, compiled by Mr. W.D. Ferguson and the Hon. Secretary, was tabled, and thanks were expressed to the compilers.

HON. EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT. Mr. A. Sutherland gave notice that he would move at next meeting:

That an Hon. Exchange Superintendent be appointed.

Lists of "wants" were tabled. It was contended that the scheme should be tried in the interests of remote members. Meantime it was decided to communicate with Mr. Meek on the matter.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL'S NUMISMATIC WORKS. Exhibited in the meeting room was an old account from Bernard Quaritch, dated December 31, 1895, to Alexander Turnbull for extensive purchases of numismatic works, including Snelling's Coins, at £3.9.9d, and volumes of the Numismatic Society's proceedings for £52.2.0d.

SIR GEORGE GREY. Mr. Allan Sutherland stated that an American friend in Luzon, commenting on the paper on Sir George Grey, expressed surprise that no medal had been issued in Grey's honour. This writer added, "Your Society is reputed to be the most progressive numismatic organization in the whole Pacific area," a pleasing tribute, coming as it did from an independent observer.

EXHIBITS. An attractive series of COINS OF THE UNITED NATIONS was exhibited by Mr. W.D. Ferguson. **ENEMY INVASION AND ALLIED OCCUPATION** paper and card money of necessity were exhibited by Mr. Allan Sutherland. Unpublished specimens included a series of currency canteen cards issued by the New Zealand Signals Division in New California - in various cent denominations - and a 5-cent currency card inscribed HELAVO (TULAGI) SEAPLANE BASE 5 C. OFFICERS CLUB, used by U.S.A. and New Zealand officers there. A Mt. Lyell copper Jubilee medal was exhibited by Mrs. C.J. Lynch. A series of gold coins, including the Kruger double shafter sovereign, were shown by Mr. H.R. Ford.

At this stage an adjournment was taken during which members were the guests of the President and Mrs. Johannes Andersen at supper.

OFFICERS 1945-46

Patron:

HIS EXCELLENCY, MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE,
SIR CYRIL NEWALL, G.C.B., O.M., O.B.E.

Hon. Life Patron:

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

President

MR. JOHANNES O. ANDERSEN, M.B.E., F.R.S., N.Z.

Vice-Presidents

MESSRS. J.C. ENTRICAN, Auckland, E.K. CAMERON, Hawera,
ARCHDEACON G.H. GAVIN, F.R.N.S., New Plymouth,
S.R. McCALLUM, Wanganui, N. SOLOMAN, Napier,
REV. D.C. BATES, PROFESSOR J. BANKING BROWN, M.A. LL.D.
SIR JAMES ELLIOTT, M.D., F.R.A.C.S., J.W. HEENAN, C.B.E., LL.B.,
E. GILBERTSON, Wellington, W.J. DALE, Christchurch, P. WATTS HULE, F.N.Z.I.A. Timaru.
WILLI FELS, C.M.G., H.G. WILLIAMS, Dunedin, and J. ROBERTSON, Invercargill

Council

MESSRS. W.D. FERGUSON, H.R. FORD, A. QUINNELL, J. BERRY, and R. WALPOLE

Hon. Secretary:

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

Hon. Assistant Secretary:

MR. M. HORNBLow

Hon. Treasurer:

MR. G.C. SHERWOOD

Hon. Auditor:

MR. W. CHEETWYND

Hon. Curator:

MR. W.D. FERGUSON (subject to confirmation)

On the motion of Mr. W.D. Ferguson, a vote of thanks was accorded to retiring officers.

Tributes were paid to the services of Mr. Johannes Andersen, who, as President, had guided the activities of the Society during six difficult war years, and who had missed only one meeting during that time. Like his predecessors, he had brought distinction and learning to the Society, and members were proud of his association with the Society.

Mr. Johannes Andersen, in thanking members for his election as President, stated that he would continue for one more year only. The former practice was to elect a President for two years only, and he would expect a successor to be appointed at next Annual Meeting. He had enjoyed his association with members of the Society and always looked forward to its meetings.

After an exhibition of specimens, the meeting concluded.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND, Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
Northland,
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 93RD MEETING, 24-9-1945

The 93rd meeting of the Society was held at Turnbull Library, Wellington, on 24th Sept. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., presided over a good attendance of members. Messrs W. E. Horwood, and J. H. de Rouffignac were welcomed back, after a prolonged absence with the Air Force.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.
CORRESPONDENCE. Exchange of greetings between the President of the Numismatic Society of South Australia and the President of the New Zealand Numismatic Society; letter from Sir John Hanham; letters re decimal coinage; several letters from overseas organisations expressing appreciation of the Society's Reports, and asking the Society to continue sending reports to them; letter from Mr. Clyde V. Ault, P.O.Box 316 Orrville, Ohio, offering to exchange mint specimens of U.S. coins for mint coins of New Zealand. Members interested should write direct to Mr. Ault.

NEW MEMBERS. Miss Joan Palmer, 21 Raffles St., Napier, and Mr. S.E. Jackson, 13 Britannia St., Aotono. The resignation of Mr. S.J. Sheriff was accepted with regret.

PROPOSED PELLOE MED.L. Decided that a Council meeting be held to consider this matter.

HON. LIFE MEMBERS. The proposed new rule notified in previous report, was approved.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP. Notice of motion This matter was briefly discussed and held over for a subsequent meeting.

PROPOSED HON EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT. Letters from Mr. Meek and Mrs. Lynch, and Mr. Warren read and discussed. Decided that no action be taken pending further information being obtained for a subsequent meeting.

HON. CURATOR. Mr. D. Ferguson advised that while he could not accept the position, he was prepared to assist in classifying the Anson Collection.

PUBLICATIONS tabled and placed in Library: 71st Report of the Numismatic Society of New South Wales, Report of Royal Canadian Mint, 1944, Seaby's Coin and Medal List, No. 337, to August, 1945; report of Iowa Numismatic Association; Spink's Circular, No. 7; Frank Causey Wilson's Bulletin No. 7; "Numismatist" August, 1945.

THE OXFORD CROWN AND ITS TIMES was the subject of a paper read by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E. President. He said, - Very different opinions are expressed about our King Charles the First; some think of him as the martyr King, others think that he richly deserved what he got. The world no longer believes in the divine right of kings, though there is one lingering exception. There seems to be no doubt that Charles I had a genuine love for the fine arts. It has been said that his mind was moulded by the Graces, and that Buckingham was the favourite because he, too, was a lover of the fine arts. He excelled in staging masques, ballets, theatricals, and musical entertainments, with which he indulged his fancies while at the same time he delighted his royal patron. Buckingham very well knew the style of entertainment wanted, and secured his effects by employing the best to carry out his ideas; the charms of the verse of Jonson, famed for his masques, and for such lyrics as "Drink to me only with thine Eyes"; the scenic machinery of Inigo Jones, architect and also a contriver of masques, and the variety of fanciful devices of Gerbier. The third name is not so well known. Gerbier

was the architect employed by the Duke of Buckingham, and was a close friend of Rubens, the artist. He was in Antwerp when Rubens died, in 1640, and he sent to London an inventory of Rubens' pictures and effects, in case the King should wish to obtain some of them. Earlier, in 1629, Rubens visited London, and when there he was knighted by Charles for services in Spain on behalf of the King. There are 30 of Rubens' pictures in the National Gallery.

One of the entertainments put on by Buckingham is estimated to have cost him from £5,000 to £6,000, but if this extravagance is censured, it must be remembered that entertainments of the kind were then common. It is recorded by the literary Duchess of Newcastle that an entertainment of this sort, which cost her husband £4,000 to £5,000 was put on for the gratification of Charles the First.

Comus was a masque of the kind referred to. This masque was written by Milton, for presentation at Ludlow Castle, in 1634, before John, Earl of Bridgewater. The music was written by H. Lawes, who was so besieged with requests for copies of the lyrical text that he said his hand ached from the making of the copies - there are 1,023 lines in it - so that in self-defence he had the words printed. This was in 1637, three years after the production of the masque. Lawes writes a short preface, but he does not say that Milton was the composer of the words, and it was not till the publication of a collected edition of the poems of Milton in 1645, that Comus appeared as the work - or rather the pleasure - of Milton. This cast a backward light of fame on the small paper-covered volume of 1637, which is the first edition of Comus. Few copies were printed and fewer survived, so that the little volume is a rarity, worth before the war £5,000 and upward, as much as the production of masque for Buckingham. Comus is a masque in praise of virtue; and it concludes,-

Mortals, that would follow me,
Love virtue; she alone is free:
She can teach you how to climb
Higher than the sphery chime;
Or, if virtue feeble were,
Heaven itself would stoop to her.

Dryden had this in mind, possibly, when he wrote his Ode on St. Cecilia's Day, she being the patroness of music, and supposed to be the inventor of the organ. His ode concludes,-

Let old Timotheus yield the prize
Or both divide the crown:
She rais'd a mortal to the skies,
She drew an angel down.

This is good: so good that Pope, a great admirer of Dryden, must attempt to better it in his Ode on St. Cecilia's Day, which he concludes:

Of Orpheus now no more let poets tell,
To bright Cecilia greater pow'r is giv'n:
His numbers rais'd a shade from hell,
Hers lift the soul to heav'n.

In the reign of Charles I began a remarkable improvement in the art of die-engraving, of which the celebrated Oxford crown is a good example. On the obverse is depicted the King on horseback, with a view of the city of Oxford in the distance. There is good reason to believe that Charles had some influence in bringing about the change for the better, and in helping in the establishment of the engraver Nicholas Briot in the Tower at the mint there. He certainly took an interest in the coinage, and was a numismatist. His approval of new designs was necessary (see note to this effect in Mr. D. Ferguson's paper, Vol III, p. 71, lines 6 and 5 from foot)

In her "Portraiture of our Stewart Monarchs", Helen Farquhar writes: "...in the 16th century, portraiture on our currency was in its infancy, whereas under Charles I it almost attained its zenith. He had such excellent judgment in drawing and painting, that, to quote one of his most severe critics, he might have got a livelihood by them..."p. 170 (See excellent paper by Mr. W.D.Ferguson, on English Silver Crowns Vol II, p. 147).

On the coins of the Commonwealth the inscriptions are in English, instead of in Latin; and Cromwell's portraits, by the famous engraver, Thomas Simon, rank high in excellence. To the series of Charles II belongs the beautiful Petition crown also designed and engraved by Simon. This coin takes its name from Simon's petition to be reinstated as engraver to the mint. The petition is inscribed on the edge: 'Thomas Simon most humbly prays your majesty to compare this, his tryal piece, with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embossed more gracefully ordered, and more accurately engraven, to relieve him.' This coin was an improvement on the ordinary Charles II crown by Jan Roettier, with the head after a drawing by Samuel Cooper to make the Petition Crown, though the coin thus taken as a model had itself great merit. In the reign of Charles II the first guineas were struck, from gold brought from the Guinea coast.

Charles the First was a good critic of art too, and had collected from all parts of Europe; it may be that because he had collected so much he became a good critic. Phillip the Fourth of Spain was a rival collector, and because of the emulation between these two, art-prices in Europe had doubled.

When finally the unfortunate King went, his treasures went too: those who immediately succeeded him had no patience with such vanities, no soul for their appreciation. In March 1648 the Parliament ordered commissioners to be appointed to inventory the goods and personal estate of the late King, Queen and Prince, and appraise them for disposal to the public. The inventory forms a volume, folio size, of near a thousand pages, bound in crimson velvet, and richly gilt, the writing being in a 'fair large hand', but showing that the writer had little knowledge of the objects which he describes. It is entitled "An Inventory of the Goods, Jewels, Plate &c., belonging to King Charles the First, sold by order of the Council of State, from the year 1649 to 1652." So that from the beheading of the King, a year was allowed for the drawing up of the inventory, and the sale proceeded during three years, an indication of the quantity of goods accumulated.

A few of the items disposed of may be mentioned. Disraeli the elder, from whose "Curiosities of Literature" much of this detail is taken, writes, - "The King's curiosities in the Tower Jewel-house generally fetched above the prices fixed; the toys of art could please the unlettered minds that had no conception of its works."

The Temple of Jerusalem, made of ebony and amber, fetched £25. A fountain of silver, for perfumed waters, artificially made to play of itself, fetched £30.

A chess-board, said to be Queen Elizabeth's, inlaid with gold, silver and pearls, £23.

A Saxon king's mace, used in war, with a ball full of spikes, and the handle covered with gold plates, and enamelled, £37 8 0.

A gorget of massy gold, chased with the manner of a battle, weighing 31 ounces, was sent to the mint. (and so with other articles of gold and silver; if the price fixed was not realised, the article was sent to the mint: beautiful works of art were valued by the ounce, silver selling at 4s 11d. per ounce, and gold at £3 10 0.)

The pictures, taken from Whitehall, Windsor, etc., exhibited, in number an unparalleled collection. By what standard they were valued it would be difficult to conjecture; from £50 to £100 seems to have been the limit of the appraiser's taste and imagination. Two, however, did realize something like the value of a picture - a Sleeping Venus, by Correggio, £1,000, and a Madonna by Raphael, £2,000. Others, too, brought a certain value which would perhaps be regarded as ridiculous now - the great Piece of the Nativity by Julio Romano, £500; the Little Madonna and Christ, by Raphael, £800. The great Venus and Parde, by Titian, £600. Rubens' Woman Taken in Adultery, described as a large picture, sold for £20, and his Peace and Plenty, with figures of life size, £100; Venus Dressed by the Graces, by Guido, £200. Titian's pictures seemed generally valued at £100.

The following full-lengths of celebrated personages were rated at the whimsical prices stated:

Queen Elizabeth in her Parliament robes, £1.
The Queen-mother in mourning-habit, £3.
The King, when a youth in coats, £2.

King Charles on horseback, by Sir Anthony Vandyke, was sold at the appraised price, £200.

The highest prices were brought by the tapestry and arras hangings, which were chiefly purchased for the service of the Protector, the amount exceeding £30,000, including the following among others:-

At Hampton Court, ten pieces of arras hangings of Abraham, containing 826 at £10 a yard, £8,260.

Ten pieces of Julius Caesar, 717 ells at £7, £5,109. (This would appear to be copies of Andrea Mantegna's "Triumphs of Julius Caesar," the cartoons of which are still at Hampton Court).

One rich cloth of estate of purple velvet, embroidered with gold, having the arms of England with a Garter, with all the furniture suitable thereunto. The state containing these stones following: two cameos or agates, twelve chrysolites, twelve ballases or garnets, one sapphire seated in chases of gold, one long pearl pendant, and many large and small pearls, valued at £500 and sold for £602.10s. to Mr. Oliver, 4 February, 1649.

Disraeli asks, "Was plain Mr. Oliver, in 1649, who we see was one of the earlier purchasers, shortly after the 'Lord Protector'?"

The following item may be of more interest to numismatists:-

"The coins or medals were thrown promiscuously into drawers: one drawer having twenty-four medals, was valued at £2.10s.; another of twenty, at £1.; another of twenty-four, at £1; and one drawer, containing forty-six silver coins with the box, was sold for £5."

On the whole the medals seems not to have been valued at more than a shilling apiece. The appraiser was certainly no antiquary. No, and he was no numismatist, or we should at any rate have known what they were, and should have been in a position to judge of the prices which seem so ridiculous.

Disraeli has other chapters about King Charles I and they certainly give another side to the character of this unhappy king - unhappy in his fate, that is, if happy in his accomplishments.

Perhaps a few words by Disraeli, father of our famous and extraordinary politician, "Dizzy," would not be out of place here. He writes:-

"The king is accused of the most spiritless uxoriousness, and the chaste fondness of a husband is placed among his political errors. Even Hume conceives that his queen 'precipitated him into hasty and imprudent counsels,' and Bishop Kennet has alluded to 'the influence of a stately queen over an affectionate husband.' The uxoriousness of Charles is re-echoed by all the writers of a certain party. This is an odium which the king's enemies first threw out to make his contemptible; while his apologists imagined that in perpetuating this accusation they had discovered in a weakness which had at least something amiable, some palliation for his own political misconduct. The factious, too, by this aspersion, promoted the alarm they spread in the nation, of the king's inclination to popery; yet, on the contrary, Charles was then making a determined stand, and at length triumphed over a . . . faction which was ruling his queen, and this at the risk and menace of a war with France. Yet this firmness has been denied him, even by his apologist Hume . . . (who) imagined that every act of Charles originated in the Duke of Buckingham" In this instance, on the contrary, he was going directly against the advice and the wishes of Buckingham.

Charles I was a king by nature, perhaps because he believed he was one by divine right, and he loved virtue, as recommended by Milton in "Comus," perhaps for the same kingly reason - how different from his unkingly and voluptuous successor, who came a poor second.

Andrew Marvall has these two quiet stanzas on the calmness and dignity of Charles during the last searching moments at the block:

He nothing common did or mean
Upon that memorable scene,
But with his keener eye
The axe's edge did try:

Nor call'd the Gods, with vulgar spite
To vindicate his helpless right;
But bow'd his comely head
Down, as upon a bed.

Professor Rankine Brown, in seconding Mr. Hornblow's motion of thanks, said that while the paper did not deal entirely with numismatics, it covered a good deal of history. Numismatics and history must always be closely related and, in fact, were inseparable, so that the paper was pleasing from that aspect. He approved of the commendations of Charles I, especially when one contrasted him with the Second of the same name.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

NEXT MEETING will be held on the LAST MONDAY in NOVEMBER (26th)

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 94th MEETING -- 26.11.45

The 94th meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on 26th November, 1945. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen presided over a good attendance of members.

OBITUARIES: Tributes were paid to the memory of Mrs. H. Kirkaldie, and Mr. H. G. Mayer, both of Wellington, who had passed away since the previous meeting. Motions of condolence with relatives were passed, members standing as a mark of respect.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows: Mr. Hugh E. Ramsay, 29 Aldred Road, Remuera, Auckland, S.E.2; Mr. H. G. Collins, 48 Kawatiri Avenue, Wanganui; Mr. A. L. Moller, 11 Northland Road, Wellington; Mr. J. A. B. Wilson, Box 10, Kauwhata, and reinstated from overseas Major Donald Sinclair, 56 Ira Street, Miramar, Wellington.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS: It was reported that 24 names were struck off the roll as unfinancial members for more than two years.

APOLOGIES were received from Mr. W. Chetwynd and Mr. H. R. Ford, both of whom were in hospital. A motion was passed wishing them both a speedy recovery.

PRISONER-OF-WAR METALLIC MONEY: The Secretary reported that following a press reference to a special currency used in the Japanese prisoner-of-war camp at Featherston, he had asked the Minister of Defence for details and specimens. The Hon. Mr. Jones had advised him that the metal currency in use by the prisoners was in denominations of 1d, 3d, 6d, 2s., and 5s., and that the coins had been specially minted in Australia. Specimens could not then be made available, but the Minister was prepared to entertain a request when the camp was closed. The request had since been repeated.

PROPOSED N.Z. VICTORY MEDAL: The suggestion was revived that the Society should be identified with the issue of a Peace Medal similar in quality to the Eledisloe-Waitangi and Centennial medals. Members stated that they hoped the Government would not repeat the errors of early Governments and issue aluminium medals of inferior workmanship, costing eightpence a dozen. Such medals issued to school children had not been treasured. The New South Wales Numismatic Society report indicated that the production of an Australian Peace Medal was in hand by Messrs. Amor Pty., the leading Australian medallists. The Secretary was asked to endeavour to ascertain the intentions of the Government regarding the proposed New Zealand Peace Medal, and whether the Society could assist.

N.Z. CROWN PIECE, 1935: Several requests for specimens were received and tabled. (Catalogue of Dr. Brushfield's sale, 30th July, 1945, showed that a specimen was sold for £5 stg, equal to £6.5.0d N.Z.). Only 660 separate crown pieces and 345 in specimen sets were issued, a total of 1128 pieces (Royal Mint Report, 1935-36, p. 42).

SOLIDUS: Mr. J. Berry exhibited a Ripley assertion that "A solidus was an ancient Roman coin which represented a month's pay for the ordinary Roman soldier, hence the word 'soldier'" (and hence the "s" in £.s.d., the symbols denoting the antiquated English system of currency).

VISCOUNT ELEDISLOE AND SIR JOHN HANHAM: The Hon. Secretary stated that he had received a letter from Viscount Eledisloe expressing appreciation of the gift of the "Numismatic History of New Zealand," which, he stated, would continue to remind him of the happiest quinquennium of his existence, and the country for which he and his wife had the deepest and undying affection. A similar appreciative letter was received from Sir John Hanham, Bt., Hon. Corresponding Member, Dorset. The Secretary reported further gifts of recent illustrated and priced catalogues from him for the library, and the Treasurer reported that Sir John had forwarded a composite life subscription. The President and others expressed warm appreciation of the lively interest in the Society retained by Viscount Eledisloe and Sir John Hanham.

DECIMAL COINAGE: Replies received (1) from Associated Chambers of Commerce of N.Z. stating that the New Zealand executive again expressed agreement on the principle of decimal coinage, and offered to assist in an educational campaign by making space available in the "N.Z. Commerce" if the Society would supply suitable material; (2) from Mr. R. Noel Johnson (Hon. N.Z. representative of Decimal Association of England, 22 Walmsley Road, St. Heliers), offering wholehearted co-operation; (3) from the N.Z. Society of Accountants, affirming the principle of decimal coinage but suggesting that "no action can be undertaken in the Dominion until decimal coinage is adopted in Great Britain."

Mr. J. Berry said that to follow the logic of the N.Z. Society of Accountants, New Zealand should, for instance, use gas for lighting, and similar antiquated methods, simply because the mother country could not or would not adopt modern methods. Mr. Sutherland stated that Canada had not waited for Great Britain, nor had nineteen other parts or protectorates of the British Empire which had enjoyed the benefits of decimal coinage for years. It was decided to advise the Accountants Society accordingly, and to co-operate with other organisations.

PRINCIPAL RIBBONS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, illustrated in a coloured leaflet and issued by the British General Electric Co., Pty., of Australia, was submitted by Mr. L. E. Watson, of Moonah, Tasmania, and the meeting decided to thank him for supplying the leaflets which were both interesting and beautiful.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Reports compiled by Mr. Owen Fleming, were tabled, showing that the Society was making marked progress.

U.S.A. COINS: Corporal Irwing Trouman, 42058653, of 40 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn (25) N.Y., wants to exchange coins of America for coins of New Zealand and Australia, or stamps.

HON. EXCHANGE OFFICERS: A recommendation from a Council meeting held earlier in the evening, to appoint Hon. Exchange Officers, was approved. Mrs. C.J. Lynch and Mr. W.F. Meek were appointed for specific fields and were thanked for their offers to operate the scheme. Mr. W.F. Meek and Mrs. C.J. Lynch considered that no charge should be made, but the meeting decided that there should be an annual fee of 2s. payable to the appropriate Hon. Exchange Officer on registration, and that stamped addressed envelopes be enclosed in correspondence. Members stated that as the Society was primarily a cultural and educational body, it should not be involved in commercial transactions but that it should assist members to secure specimens to vitalize their studies and increase their interest. Members desirous of receiving lists and offering specimens should communicate with the Hon. Exchange Officer concerned, enclosing 2s. postal note or stamps. The following rules have been approved and become operative forthwith:

EXCHANGE RULES

1. The Exchange is for the benefit and assistance of all members.
2. To commence the scheme, Honorary Exchange Officers will deal with lists of coins for sale only.
3. Neither the Society nor its Honorary Exchange officers will accept actual specimens for sale, but this does not debar any member from agreeing to receive or deal with specimens in a purely private capacity.
4. Every member is invited to send to the officers lists of coins for sale, the list to give as full a description of the coin as possible, stating condition and price required. An example of the particulars required would be as follows:

<u>George II</u>	Silver half-crown, Young Head 1732. Rev. Roses and Plumes, Sexto on edge. Very fine. 15s.
<u>New Zealand</u>	Copper Token, penny, A.S. Wilson, Dunedin, 1875 - Rare, fair condition, 20s. or near offer.

Catalogue numbers should be given wherever possible.
5. Particulars submitted to the officers will be incorporated in one list and circulated to all members desirous of participating in the scheme. Members will communicate directly with the seller and make their own arrangements for purchase.
6. Lists will be supplied to registered members of the Society only, and members desiring to receive quarterly lists must register with the Exchange officers.

7. The list of coins for sale to be sent out by the officer every three months, commencing on March 1st, 1946.
8. The first list will contain all particulars of coins for sale submitted to the officers. The officers reserve the right to limit the space allowed to any member on subsequent lists.
9. No list will be repeated after once being published. The onus is on each member to amend his list of spares and submit to the officers for inclusion in the next quarterly lists.
10. A charge of 2s. per annum will be made to members who register for this service.
11. Mr. W.F.Meek, Box 239, Dunedin, will take charge of the following:
 - Coins and tokens of Great Britain, including early English, Scottish and Irish.
 - British Colonial coins, including tokens of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.Mrs. C.J.Lynch, 181 Manchester Street, Feilding, will take charge of all fields not enumerated above.
12. The success of the scheme depends entirely on the co-operation of members. As members benefit by securing specimens for their collection, so give to others similar benefits by sending in regular lists to the officers.

COMMEMORATIVE AND OTHER MEDALS: A collection of exquisitely moulded Art Union of London medals was exhibited by Mr. P. Watts Rule, F.N.Z.I.A., Timaru. By way of introduction to this exhibit, Mr. Allan Sutherland referred to the significance of the commemorative medal, as an almost permanent key to history, and a miniature mirror of contemporary art. Records of great events, outstanding leaders, and stages of progress were usually reflected in the designs. The ingenuity of medallic artists through the centuries had invariably been taxed by the vanity of the subjects or sponsors on the one hand, and the production limits on the other.

The collection of medals was a fascinating hobby for the lover of history or art. The collection of war medals - which were steeped in history - was another wide field, but was not dealt with. Admittedly medals did not go as deeply into the roots of history as did coins - which in the classical Greek and Roman times were really medallic archives - but commemorative medals could be issued spontaneously by learned societies or public bodies, and therefore reflected public opinion in a much wider field than was possible by purely Government issues. A commendable development within recent times was the issue of commemorative coins in U.S.A., which stimulated public interest in milestones in American national history.

The likenesses of most great men were perpetuated on coins and medals. The portraits were usually associated with the related historic events so that the collector could, in turning over his medals, appreciate that association at a glance and quickly span the historical highlights of the past. By handling a coin or medal that had survived for centuries one could feel more intimately associated with the peoples and events of those times than was possible merely from reading the cold pages of a history book.

It had been said that the history of any country was the history of its great men. Thus the enthusiasm by one man for a reasonable change or reform generally resulted in the attainment of the objective - such as Wilberforce and anti-slavery in England, and Sidey and daylight-saving in New Zealand. Both had been commemorated on portrait medals, and long after present-day written records of their achievements had crumbled to dust, such medals would remain to bear mute testimony of their work.

Unlike coins, medals were not intended to circulate or to be stacked, and therefore they were usually much larger and the designs were invariably in much higher relief. That gave the artist a freer rein, and more strikingly beautiful designs resulted. The commemorative medal, in many respects, exceeded the coin in historical value in that the medal recorded all kinds of events, including wars, treaties of peace, rebellions, constitutional and social changes, discoveries, Royal births, marriages and coronations; portraits of Queens, princes, princesses, and pretenders appeared on medals but not usually on coins.

Often artists other than those employed for coinage were used to design medals, showing portraits of monarchs different from the effigies on coins, and that gave additional interest to medals. Medals depicted portraits of many great statesmen, scientists, artists, bishops, authors, architects and painters, and one could not omit the admirals, generals and navigators, such as the great Captain Cook (see Vol. II, p. 73).

The arts of peace, and what might be called public works, were amply represented on medals, including the opening of canals, railways, harbours and public buildings. In a Wellington collection could be seen medals commemorating the opening of canals in France, the Royal Exchange and Crystal Palace in London, and the first pier at Brighton, not to mention somewhat similar issues in New Zealand.

Sometimes medals had been struck prematurely, such as the medal to celebrate Napoleon's "Invasion of England from Boulogne in 1803," and Mussolini's medal in readiness to celebrate the entry of his forces into Alexandria: also there was a portrait medal of Edward VIII (now Duke of Windsor) with legend "Crowned, May 12th 1937."

Medallic art flourished in the small Italian States of the 15th and 16th centuries. The art of the medallist survived as one of the glories of the renaissance. The ruling families showed laudable rivalry to excel as patrons of the arts, and portraits of those patrons by leading artists and struck in high relief, usually with classical subjects on the reverse, survived in leading collections.

Contrary to popular belief, the general issue of war medals to British troops went back only to the Battle of Waterloo, although in 1588 Queen Elizabeth marked the defeat of the Armada by issuing a medal (to chief naval officers only) depicting herself in gorgeous finery. Charles I. encouraged medallic art, and Nicholas Briot designed some outstanding medals about that period, including one issued in 1633 showing London before the Fire, with the old London Bridge with houses thereon, and old Gothic St. Paul's. Later artists, such as Simon, the Roettiers, the Wyons, and others, carried on the fine traditions down to comparatively recent times. The mechanical die-cutting machine had simplified and made more exact the production and copying of dies, but it had almost sounded the death-knell of the hand engraver, and the individuality associated therewith. Nevertheless, that modern process had resulted in medals in high relief with arrestingly beautiful designs. The New Zealand Numismatic Society had every reason to be proud of the artists and craftsmen responsible for its Waitangi-Medisloe and Centennial medals, produced in New Zealand from hand-cut dies.

New Zealand's medallic portrait gallery of distinguished New Zealanders is very incomplete. Tasman had not been commemorated in Holland, nor in New Zealand. No New Zealand Cook medals existed, but some had been issued in England. The principal characters associated with British assumption of sovereignty in 1940 had not been commemorated, and neither had Grey or Rutherford.

The lecturer said that he would like to see revived the proposal that the Society issue portrait medals of historic New Zealand figures, each such medal to alternate with that of a portrait medal of a past President of the Society.

The Society had recommended the issue of a Victory Medal to commemorate the notable part played by New Zealand forces in World War II. An attractive medal had been issued in Egypt to commemorate the entry of New Zealand forces into Rome in 1940. Other great achievements of New Zealand forces might well be similarly commemorated. A graceful gesture would be the issue in New Zealand of a commemorative medal to mark New Zealand's association with United States forces during the dark days of the war, and particularly to express gratitude for the gallantry and sacrifices of the United States Marine Corps and others in the Coral Sea, Midway and at Tarawa. Only six days previously, on the 20th November, the local press published many "In memoriam" notices by New Zealand wives and friends of many U.S. M.C. men who fell on 20th November, 1943, at Tarawa, whence they had gone from Wellington. In the "British Digest" for August, 1944, Leonard Brockington, a noted British aviator, on returning to England, published the following cable "from one of New Zealand's most gifted sons":-

"If our speech is changing under the impact of the American, and our manners under the influence of the camp, we are neither depressed nor afraid. Nor are we a degree less members of the British Commonwealth. We know that if America had not saved us at the Coral Sea, we might today have been learning Japanese. So we are grateful, I hope for ever, to the nation whose long arm saved us. But we know who saved the world in 1940, and London and Coventry still light our path."

Many press correspondents urged that a memorial should be erected in New Zealand to commemorate the association with the U.S. Marine Corps. Apart from the

larger conception, what more fitting memorial could be offered as a personal souvenir in New Zealand and in America than a commemorative medal on the lines of the Dewey Medal or of the standard-raising medal for Iwo Jima, issued by the U.S.A. Society of Medallists?

The Art Union of London medals were then exhibited on behalf of Mr. Watts Rule. These ranged from 1945 to 1884, and included portraits of Reynolds, Wren, Hogarth, Inigo Jones, William Wyon, Vanbrugh, Gainsborough, Sir William Chambers, and many others, all famous painters, architects, sculptors or engravers, and all by leading artists and engravers.

A most hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Watts Rule for exhibiting this outstanding medallic portrait gallery of distinguished men, also a vote of thanks to Mr. Sutherland.

We could wish that our outside members might have seen the beauty of the medals, but at any rate they can read and enjoy the excellent paper inspired by them. (J.C.A.)

NEW ZEALAND SPECIAL PURPOSE TOKENS

(Exhibited by Mr. P. Watts Rule and Mrs. Lynch)

Page 143, S197b. O. (Port Chalmers). Shaw Savill & Albion check presumably issued to wharf workers. S. S. & A. CO. above l. Dia. 32 mm. Base metal. R. Blank.

S197c (Wellington). O - Oval wharf scene, two railway trucks, ship loading. WGTON BRANCH below, and around above N. Z. W. FED. 1922, and below UNION OF BROTHERHOOD. Oval 21 mm by 29 mm. Copper. R. blank.

PROVINCIAL JUBILEE MEDALS

Page 230. S370a. O - Bust of Godley facing JOHN ROBERT GODLEY around, and within quarter on which CANTERBURY JUBILEE 1900 around above and PROVINCE FOUNDED 1850 BY around below.

R. - Exhibition Buildings N.Z. EXHIBITION above CANTERBURY JUBILEE 1900 in exergue. Silver 23 mm. Hole for link.

BOER WAR MEDALS

Page 233, S395. Obverse: delete AND and substitute &, also add M & Y below. Rev. Delete 19 mm and substitute 24 mm.

S395a Similar to 395 but in brass.

S396a Similar to 396 but TROOPS instead of ROUGH RIDERS. 24 mm, white metal.

EXHIBITION MEDALS

Page 237, S.428a. O - Exhibition Building 1882 below, and NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT around IS BARTLETT'S in centre. Brass. 25 mm. Holed for link.

S. 446a O.- Two cabbage trees, Kiwi and water.

R - WESTPORT INDUSTRIAL & MINING EXHIBITION 1904. 15 mm, silver, link. (Mrs. C.J.Lynch).

GENERAL

Page 253. S.559 O - Head to left separating 1879 and 1929. R. B. P. above, No. 438 below SONS OF DAVID CHRISTCHURCH around.
R - Blank, copper, 32 mm. link.

N.Z. COINS 1945: All denominations have now been issued for this year.

15 Farm Road,
Northland, Wellington.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

NEXT MEETING - MONDAY, 25th MARCH, 1946.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE 95th MEETING - 25th MARCH, 1946.

RED FEATHER TREASURE was the subject of an outstanding and original address delivered by the President, Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., at the 95th meeting of the Society. Apologies were received from Professor Rankine Brown and Mr. G. C. Sherwood. Minutes of meeting of 26th November, 1945, as circulated, were confirmed.

RESUMPTION OF MONTHLY MEETINGS. Decided that monthly meetings - on last Monday in the month - from March to November, be resumed. Messrs. Ferguson and Berry agreed to assist in reminding members of meetings. Also decided that meetings commence in future at 7.30 p.m.

PAPERS. Decided that members be invited to submit short papers and to advise dates preferred so that a programme can be issued.

NEW MEMBERS; Elected:-

Mr. A. H. Palmer, 234 Lambton Quay, Wellington.
Mr. Duncan F. Shennan, Regent Jewellers, 41 Manners St., Wellington.
Mr. N. Thomas, Coronation Hospital, Cashmere Hills, Christchurch.

OBITUARY; The Hon. Secretary reported that since last meeting Mr. H. B. Hill, Hamilton, and Mr. E. R. Ford, Wellington, had passed away. The late Mr. Hill, who was not very well known among Wellington members, had kept in close touch by correspondence, and had manifested a keen interest in Society affairs. The late Mr. Ford was a foundation member of the Society and a member of the Council for fifteen years. The President, Mr. Johannes C. Anderson, stated that the passing of Mr. Ford came as a shock to him. Messrs. Ferguson, Quinnell and Sutherland spoke of his keen interest in the classical field, and of the fact that he was a voracious collector of gold coins in mint condition. He regarded coins in other than mint condition almost as trash. Reference was made to the likeable qualities and friendly characteristics of the late Mr. Ford, whose memory would be cherished, particularly among Wellington members. Motions of condolence to the relatives were passed. (See special tribute by the President - appended to this report).

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE; Inquiry received from Professor Juan Cardona, Ministerio de Educacion, Cuba, asking for New Zealand coins to be lodged in a College Numismatic collection for educational purposes. Reports from the Numismatic Society of New South Wales showing increased activities, were tabled; also a questionnaire to new members seeking information as to their fields of interest, and suggestions regarding the work of the Society. Numismatic reports and price-lists were tabled for inclusion in the Society's library.

PEACE MEDAL; The Hon. Secretary reported that he had received no further information as to the likely official action in this connection. Members stated that information as to the present cost of striking bronze and silver medals in Australia and in New Zealand - or making dies in Australia and striking in New Zealand - should be obtained in readiness for any action that might be taken to commemorate the victorious conclusion of the war.

AGGRIPPINA THE ELDER, 13 B.C.-33 A.D. A short paper by Mrs. G. J. Lynch, illustrated with specimens, will be read at next meeting. Members are invited to exhibit their most ancient coin, with a short written description.

WAR MEDALS; Mr. Quinnell suggested that further efforts be made to secure for the Society's collection specimens of World War II medals issued by Allied countries having representatives in Wellington.

OVERSEAS INQUIRIES; Letters were received from the following: Dr. Irwin Smith (M.D.) 504 Queen St. E., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., who wishes to contact one or more members interested in the exchange of current and other issues of New Zealand, for those of Canada and other countries; from Mr. Ghester B. Stevens, 601 Third Avenue N.E., Independence, Iowa, U.S.A., who desires to correspond with a member interested in the exchange of information in regard to United States and New Zealand; from Mr. M. T. Toolin, 18626 Steel Avenue, Detroit, who wants to purchase tokens of Christchurch and Dunedin and other coins; also two inquiries from England regarding membership, and a letter from the President of the Royal Numismatic Society.

EXCHANGE SCHEME; No. 1 Exchange List from Mr. W.F.Meek, Dunedin (Hon. Exchange Superintendent) was tabled. Mr. Meek reported that the response for the registration of names was disappointing, only eight members being interested so far. He thought it was a mistake to charge the registration fee of 2s., as the idea was originally suggested to assist members outside of Wellington. Members stated that the nominal charge was intended to keep the list down to those actually interested, and to cover postages, etc. Mr. Sutherland stated that Mr. Meek's first list contained an attractive series of N.Z. tokens which would probably provoke other members to register. (Since the meeting, List 1A by Mrs. C.J.Lynch, Feilding, covering coins other than British and Colonial, was received). Both Mr. Meek and Mrs. Lynch point out that unless members offer spares for sale or exchange, they cannot expect to benefit from the scheme. Decided to await further reports.

QUEEN VICTORIA CRITICIZES DESIGNS FOR HER COINS; The following extract from *MUNZBLAUJUSTIGUNGEN* Bulletin No. 4 (Switzerland) was read:

"(From; Jean Evans, *Time and Chance, the story of Arthur Evans and his forebears, London, 1943).*

. . . She was strongly opposed to any fresh representation of herself, that necessarily made her look older than the current effigy . . . Almost every year some fresh problem of this kind arose, and almost every year the Committee's (i.e. of the Royal Mint) suggestions were vetoed by the Queen. Her comments stand out among the formal documents of the Royal Mint and the Treasury. 'The Queen has examined the Designs for the new Coinage. She strongly objected to Mr. Brock's design No. 1 of Her Majesty's Head, and does not like the way the Crown is put on nor the arrangement of the head-dress. But she likes No. 2, and approves it, though She thinks the nose too pointed and would prefer it being slightly rounded. Her Majesty asked why the Committee required a different Head on the Florin. No one will look at the Head on the Florin to distinguish it from the Half-crown. Is it likely that the Coat-of-Arms smothered in vegetables on the Half-crown will be preferred to the very pretty Coat-of-Arms on the Half-crown last adopted? The nosogey of Mr. Payntor's design for the reverse of the Shilling is like a Beef-eater's breastplate, whereas the present Coat-of-Arms on the Shilling is very pretty!'"

RED FEATHER TREASURE; The following paper was read by the President, Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E.:

"The old-time Polynesians knew nothing about money, and had no need for it. Every man worked for his keep; food, his greatest necessity, was pooled; clothing he made for himself, nature providing the material, providing also his few luxuries in the way of colours and scents and feathers.

"Among feathers, red ones were particularly prized, and he would go to great trouble to secure them. The place-names Whenua-manu (bird-land) and Whenua-kura (land of red treasure) were well known in older Polynesia, but, like the equally well-known Western name El Dorado, it was not known where they were; it had been forgotten, except that they were somewhere in the West. Far back they were spoken of by people who had been there, but the adventurers were few, for the way was long and beset with difficulties and with dangers - just like El Dorado. S.Percy Smith supposed them to be in Indonesia, through which the Polynesians passed long ago, and thought they probably referred to New Guinea. I suggest Whenua-manu may refer to New Guinea, and Whenua-kura to Waigiou, the most south-easterly island of the Moluccas, lying 50 miles W.N.W. of the northern extremity of New Guinea, from which it is separated by Dampier Strait, leading from the confined seas lying among the islands Waigiou, Gilolo, Ceram, and others of that tooming archipelago, and the open sea of the Polynesian Pacific.

"The birds referred to in the name Whenua-manu, Percy Smith thinks, may be the birds-of-paradise as these occur plentifully in the great island of New Guinea itself, and in various small islands off its shores, some of the species being confined to different islands, the red or ruby bird-of-paradise being confined to the island Waigiou.

"New Guinea, together with the small islands adjacent to it, lie in a shallow sea of under 100 fathoms, so that it forms part of the Australian continental area. The groups of Aru and Waigiou adjacent to it lie in a shallow sea of under 100 fathoms, forming the Austro-Malay area. The other islands to north and north-west are separated from these by a deep but narrow channel, and form the Indo-Malay area.

"The flora and fauna of these two great areas are quite different and the birds-of-paradise are confined to the northern part of the Austro-Malay area. When the earliest European voyagers reached the Moluccas in search of cloves and nutmegs and other rare and precious spices they had discovered were produced in those then unknown parts, they were occasionally presented with dried skins of birds so strange and beautiful as to excite the admiration even of the spice-seeking rovers. The Malay traders gave them the name 'manuk dewata' (birds of God); and the Portuguese traders, finding that the birds had no feet or wings (being deceived by the way in which the natives had preserved them), and not being able to learn anything definite about them, called them *passarosedes sol* (birds of the sun). The learned Dutchmen, into whose possession they finally came, wrote about them in Latin so that everyone who could read might understand them, and called them '*avis paradiseus*' (birds-of-paradise). Jan van Linschoten, one of these learned savants, gives them this name in the year 1568, and says that no man has seen these birds alive, for they live in the air, always turning towards the sun, and never alighting on the earth till they die; for they have neither feet nor wings, as, he adds, may be seen in the birds carried to India, and sometimes to Holland; but being very costly they are rarely seen in Europe. Down to 1760, when the great naturalist, Linnaeus, named the largest specimen *paradisaea apoda* (footless bird-of-paradise) no perfect specimen had been seen in Europe, and absolutely nothing was known about them.

"The feathers are in most perfect condition during the time of the dancing displays indulged in by these birds; and A.W. Wallace, co-discoverer with Darwin of the theory of 'natural selection,' describes such a display as witnessed by him. The bird he then saw was the great bird-of-paradise, 17 or 18 inches in length from beak to tip of the tail. The body, wings and tail of this bird are a rich coffee-brown. The top of the head and neck are of a very delicate straw-yellow, the feathers being short and close-set, so as to resemble plush or velvet. The lower part of the throat up to the eye is clothed with scaly feathers of an emerald-green colour, and with a rich metallic gloss; and velvety plumes of a still deeper green extend in a band across the forehead and chin as far as the eye, which is bright yellow. The beak is pale lead-blue, and the feet are a pale ashy-pink. The two middle feathers of the tail have no webs, except a very small one at the base and at the extreme tip forming wire-like appendages which spread out in an elegant double-curve, and vary from twenty-four to thirty-four inches long. From each side of the body, beneath the wings, springs a dense tuft of long and elegant plumes, sometimes twenty-four inches in length, of the most intense golden-orange colour and very glossy, but changing towards the tips into a pale brown. This tuft of plumage can be elevated and spread out at pleasure, so as almost to conceal the body of the bird.

"The birds have regular aerial 'dancing-parties' in certain trees in the forest which have an immense head of spreading branches and large but scattered leaves, giving the birds a clear space to play and exhibit their plumes. On one of these trees a dozen or twenty full-plumaged male birds assemble together, raise up their wings, stretch out their necks, and elevate their exquisite plumes, keeping them in a continual vibration. Between whiles they fly across from branch to branch in great excitement, so that the whole tree is filled with waving plumes in every variety of attitude and motion. At the time of the excitement the wings are raised vertically over the back, the head is bent down and stretched out, and the long plumes are raised up and expanded until they form two magnificent golden fans striped with deep red at the base and fading off into the pale-brown tint of the finely-divided and softly-waving points. The whole bird is then overshadowed by them, the crouching body, yellow head, and emerald-green throat forming but the foundation and setting of the golden glory which waves above. When seen in this attitude, the bird-of-paradise really deserves its name and must be ranked as one of the most beautiful and wonderful of living things.

"Beautiful as these birds are, I think these were not the kura of the Polynesians. The birds with the golden plumes described above are those from the Aru group, 150 miles south of the narrow neck of New Guinea; the birds with the rosy or ruby-coloured plumes are confined to Waigiou. These are from 13 to 14 inches long. The side-plumes, instead of being yellow, are rich crimson, and only extend about three or four inches beyond the end of the tail; they are somewhat rigid, and the ends are curved downward and inward, and are tipped with white. The two middle tail-feathers, instead of being merely elongated and deprived of their webs, are transformed into stiff black ribbons, a quarter of an inch wide, but curved like a split quill, and resembling thin half-cylinders of horn or walabone; when they hang downward during life they assume a spiral twist and form an exceedingly

graceful double-curve. They are about 22 inches long, and always attract attention as the most conspicuous and extraordinary feature of the species. The rich metallic green colour of the throat extends over the front half of the head & behind the eyes and on the forehead form a little double crest of scaly feathers, which adds much to the vivacity of the bird's appearance.

"It will have been remarked that already as far back as the middle fifteen hundreds the birds, when dead, had become an article of trade, and when Wallace was in the islands they became even more so, for, not content with observing their beauty and describing their evolutions, he must put an end to both by securing them as 'specimens'; the trade of the spice-hunters he augmented by the trade of the specimen-hunters. But Wallace collected more than birds; he collected words. He secured vocabularies from many of the islands in this area, and from these vocabularies it is possible to see that the Polynesian 'character' remained here after the Polynesians had passed through on the way to the side Pacific. Naturally, they lingered on the way, sometimes for years or a generation, married or associated with the non-Polynesian women, and left fragments of their language and fragments of themselves. From nineteen of the islands the Polynesian word for 'bird' (manu) is found, sometimes the very word, sometimes modified - mano, manue, manuti, manok, etc. I noted above that the Malay traders' name for the birds-of-paradise was manuk-dewata (birds of God - 'dewata' being no doubt related to the Hindu 'dewa', a deity); and in eight of the islands the Polynesian word for feather 'huru' appears in that or a modified form.

"Moreover, in Gilolo, an island 150 miles W.N.W. of Waigiou, Wallace found the Galola men, as he called them; and he has this to say of them; 'These are natives of a district in the extreme north of Gilolo, and are great wanderers over this part of the archipelago. They build large and roomy praus with outriggers, and settle on any coast or island they take a fancy for. They hunt deer and wild pig, drying the meat; they catch turtle and trepang; they cut down the forest and plant rice and maize, and they are always remarkably energetic and industrious. They are very fine people, of light complexion, tall, and with Papuan features, coming nearer to the drawings and descriptions of the true Polynesians of Tahiti and Owyhee than any I have seen.' They wander about and settle on any coast or island they take a fancy for - true Polynesians!

"In his *Wawaiki*, Percy Smith writes of these same people; he thinks they are of the Polynesian stock, and he surmises that the period when the Polynesians were partly compelled by the incoming Malays to move on to other parts, partly incorporated, may have been about the year 390, their course to the Pacific being down the archipelago past both sides of New Guinea, the northern migration (heke) being through Dampier Strait referred to earlier, lying between the head of New Guinea and Waigiou. He writes: 'In more than one Rarotonga legend an island or country is mentioned, named Enua-kura (Maori, Whenua-kura), or 'the land of red feathers,' which is possibly New Guinea, so called by the Rarotongans after the bird-of-paradise, the beautiful feathers of which would be to them treasures of the highest value - or such treasures as Europeans who do not know the race can hardly believe in; they were their jewels.' And this scrap of history brings me to that part of my subject that is of more direct interest to my fellow-numismatists.

"A paper on red-feather money was read to the Society on 30th November, 1942, in which was quoted an extract from Captain Cook's Journal for April, 1774. The following extracts from the same Journal bear on the same subject and show the high estimation in which red feathers were held by the Polynesians:

'At Amsterdam (now Tonga-tabu), October 1773: They have a curious apron made of the outside fibres of the coconut shell, and composed of a number of small pieces sewed together in such a manner as to form stars, half-moons, little squares, etc. It is studded with beads of shells, and covered with red feathers, so as to have a pleasing effect. (Second voy., 1-427.2).

'At Tahiti, April, 1774: . . . when we were at the island of Amsterdam we had collected among other curiosities some red parrot feathers. When this was known here, all the principal people of both sexes endeavoured to ingratiate themselves into our favour by bringing us hogs, fruit and every other thing the island afforded in order to obtain these valuable jewels. Our having these feathers was a fortunate circumstance; for as they were valuable to the natives, they became so to us; . . . if it had not been for the feathers, I should have found it difficult to supply the ship with the necessary refreshments. (1-464.3)

'At Tahiti, May 1774: I have occasionally mentioned the extraordinary fondness for the people of Otaheite showed for red feathers. These they called Oora, and they are as valuable here as jewels are in Europe, especially those which they call Oravine, and grow on the head of the green parroquet; all red feathers are, indeed, esteemed, but not equally with these; and they are such good judges as to know very well how to distinguish one sort from another. Many of our people attempted to deceive them by dyeing other feathers, but I never heard that anyone succeeded. These feathers they make up in little bunches, consisting of eight or ten, and fix them to the end of a small cord of about three or four inches long, which is made of the strong outside fibres of the coconut, twisted so hard that it is like a wire, and serves as a handle to the bunch. Thus prepared, they are used as symbols of the Eatuas, or divinities, in all their religious ceremonies. I have often seen them hold one of these bunches, and sometimes only two or three feathers, between the forefinger and thumb, and say a prayer, not one word of which I could ever understand. Whoever comes to this island will do well to provide himself with red feathers, the finest and smallest that are to be got. (--- 477.2).

'Next chapter to above; At Ruahine; Next morning, the natives began to bring us fruit. I returned Oree's visit, and made my present to him, one article of which was red feathers. Two or three of these the chief took in his right hand, holding them between the finger and thumb, and said a prayer, as I understood, which was little noticed by any present. (--- 477 foot).'

"In the third quotation appears the word 'oora'; this is the Maori kura, a word with many meanings; as an adjective, red, glowing, precious; as a noun, red feathers used as a chaplet, ear-ornament, or other adornment, a talaha adorned with red feathers; a treasure, valued possessions, a darling; knowledge of karakia (incantations) and other valuable lore; also many other meanings, but the above are applicable in the present instance. A whare-kura was hence a house in which sacred lore, including karakia, was taught, and one of the chief of such whare-kura was the one in the twelfth Maori heaven. This whare-kura was named Rangiatea - the meaning of the word rangiatea being a clear sky absolutely bare of clouds. It was so named because the most sacred whare-kura in the Pacific was on the island of that name, spelt Raiatea in some places. When the famous carved and decorated church was built by the Maoris at Otaki, on a name for it being required, Te Rauparaha and Te Rangihaeata chose this famous old name. How many people know this when they stand and admire the beautiful Maori art there displayed - and the reverence implied in the name? In Vol. 3, p. 81 of The Lore of the Wharewananga, occur the following remarks about these kuras:

'Plumes of these red feathers were worn by the whatu-kuras, the murei-kuras, and other apas (different classes of deities.) The plumes were obtained from the following birds; hakuai, tapu-turangi, koreko-rangi, tahaki-kare, kaukau-rangi, kura-a-rangi, and rakorakoa (or amokura, called tavake in many parts of the Pacific). All these birds were very tapu; it was their tail-feathers that were used as plumes for the deities above mentioned. There are three birds whose plumes were used not included in the list given; they were the kotuku (white crane or heron), the hulia, and the koekoea (long-tailed cuckoo). These three birds were brought to this world by Tawhaki, in order to produce plumes for his wife Maikuku-makaka; their feathers were not red, but, as most people know, the kotuku plumes were snowy-white and delicate as those of the egret; those of the hulia were black, tipped with white; those of the koekoea, brown spotted with black - all graceful plumes. Most of the birds in the first list are not known now; the hakuai is said to be a very large and fierce bird that is never seen but very high up in the heavens; the rakorakoa, or amokura, is the red-tailed tropic-bird, which occasionally visits the north of New Zealand, but is more often blown here on storms and found dead on the beach; the two long red tail-feathers were highly prized; Timi Kara usually wore one in his hatband, its wiry nature keeping it in constant motion as the head was moved, so drawing attention to the wearer. It is a bird of the tropics, where it is called tavake. There is a fascinating tale from Rotuma about Iilitavake and Ialatawake, two young women who were able to assume the forms of the two species, white tropic-bird and red tropic-bird. When coming from Panama in 1936 one of these birds, a white one, came on board, and as it cannot rise from the deck it was found in the morning, and was brought to me for identification. I was asked what was likely to be wrong with it. I said there was probably nothing wrong; it could not rise off the flat deck, and if they threw it overboard they would probably find it was all right. They threw it accordingly; the bird gave a harsh cry, it might have been one of thanks, it might have been of derision, and flew off and joined its mate which had been keeping up

with the ship during the night, evidently knowing what had happened to its mate, and waiting for it to rejoin it.'

"One word more about these kuras. When the Maori came to New Zealand away back in the year 1350 or thereabouts, some of the people on board the various vessels were wearing these kura of red feathers. One of the men on the Tainui had such a kura; his name was Taininihi, and when they saw the red bloom of the rata Taininihi exclaimed; 'What a waste of care on my part to bring the kura which I have brought from Hawaiki, as there is so much red here in this island.' Then he threw his kura into the sea. The land first touched by this vessel was Whangaparaoa, near East Cape. The kura of Taininihi floated ashore, and was found by Mahina, from which has come the proverb, 'The kura which drifted ashore and was found by Mahina.' This is for anything which has been lost, and when found is not given back to the owner; this was later a custom on the islands.

"When the people landed, Taininihi went to gather some rata-bloom for a wreath, the kura he had brought from Hawaiki being intended to be so worn. He put on the rata wreath, but he had not worn it long before it faded. Then his thoughts went back to the kura he had thrown into the sea. He searched for it, but found it in the possession of Mahina. Mahina refused to give it up, saying: 'I will not give your kura to you; it is the stranded kura found by Mahina.' Even though a valued greenstone treasure might be lost, it will not be given up by the finder. No, it is like the kura stranded and found by Mahina. Mahina was one of the other vessels which had landed long before the Tainui.

"There has perhaps been little said about money in the foregoing and not very much about barter; but even in the bartering the Polynesians had very different thoughts from the sailors, as is suggested in the words about the little prayer addressed to the prized bunch of feathers. The Polynesians thought of these rather as the Peruvians thought of gold - something beautiful and precious for the adornment of their temples and their deities; and we can think of what wonder, and admiration, and reverence, suffuse the thoughts and feelings of the Polynesians when they hear the word Whenua-kura."

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Andersen for his most interesting and informative paper, which was enjoyed by all present. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Allan Sutherland stated that the instructive and original material would be enjoyed by all when circulated in the Bulletin. The Society was fortunate in having for its President a man of such diversified interests and literary distinction. He was able to present a broad canvas and to fit numismatics into the pattern in a most attractive manner.

NEXT MEETING: 29th April, at 7.30 p.m.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

15 Farm Road,
Northland, Wellington.

THE LATE MR. H. R. FORD
Tribute by President

I was much concerned at our last meeting when the death of our member Mr. Ford was announced. At the meetings of the Society one could not help noticing Mr. Ford and his demeanour; regular in attendance, quiet in behaviour, connoisseur and enthusiast in golden mintings. He always had something new to show his fellow-members; and seeing that his specialty was gold coins, his showings were always of interest, and often of extreme beauty. He carried a magnifying-glass, and when you looked at the coin he handed to you he would hand over the glass, saying "Look at the detail!" It was always worth looking at; and when, during the "talk-easy" after the business of the meeting was over I saw Mr. Ford take a little parcel from his pocket and undo the chamois-leather, I knew there was a treat toward. I believe he was not a family man - his hobby must have been wife and child to him; and what a beautiful, ever-growing family he had - a family with a never-fading beauty. I could not help thinking of that family; "Blessed is the man who hath his quiver full." I never knew the whole extent of his collection, and now shall never know, for it is being dispersed. I don't believe, however, that the sum of the admiration of the new possessors will equal the admiration of Mr. Ford. I do know

I shall miss him at our meetings; shall miss his parcel and his magnifying-glass, and his quiet smile as he handed the glass to you saying in a high-pitched but soft voice, "Look at the detail!"

Where he has gone, while the pavements may not be of gold, he will have the world's mintages for his delectation.

Peace to our friend Mr. Ford.

Johannes Andersen,
President.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 9th MEETING -- 29th APRIL, 1946.

The 96th meeting of the Society was held at Turnbull Library, Wellington, on 29th April. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S.N.Z., President, occupied the Chair. Apologies were received from Mrs. J.T. Inkersell, Sir James Elliott, Messrs. Griffin, Hornblow, Chetwynd, Martin, Quinnell, and McCurdy. Members expressed pleasure that Mr. Chetwynd, who had been in hospital, was about again.

DECIMAL COINAGE. Mr. Allan Sutherland reported that he had received the following letter from Viscount Bledisloe:-

"I was so pleased to note in the minutes of the 14th Annual Meeting of the N.Z. Numismatic Society on the 31st July last that the Society is taking energetic steps to promote the adoption of decimal coinage by the Dominion. I always like to regard New Zealand as the pioneer of all constructive progress, economic as well as ethical and social, in the British Commonwealth and Empire, and I have confident hope in this connection that what New Zealand does today, Great Britain will do tomorrow. The present illogical system is a definite and serious handicap to industrial development and facility of international exchange."

Decided to write to Viscount Bledisloe expressing appreciation of his continued interest in New Zealand.

It was also decided to write to the Rt. Hon. Mr. Nash, now in London, suggesting that he should confer with other Empire delegates in London with a view to appointing an Inter-Empire Commission to investigate the advisability of adopting decimal coinage in non-decimalist Empire countries.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED:

Mr. Burton H. Saxton, Box 548, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, U.S.A.
Mr. Murray Weston, 157 Glenmore Street, Wellington.

ROOSEVELT COMMEMORATIVE DIME. Mr. Sutherland conveyed to all members the good wishes of Mr. Frank C. Ross, Kansas City, who forwarded a Roosevelt Dime issued in token of the March of Dimes, inaugurated by the late President, to fight the dread disease, infantile paralysis. The portrait of the distinguished President was admired by those present.

PROPOSED PEACE MEDAL. A letter was received from Amor Pty. Ltd., Sydney, stating that that firm possessed a die-reducing machine and would be pleased to quote prices if the project were proceeded with. Decided to await an intimation as to the Government's intentions in this connection.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE were explained and tabled. Several enquiries were received for the N.Z. Crown 1935 and the Bledisloe Waitangi Medal. Report of the Numismatic Society of N.S.W. tabled.

THE LATE MR. FORD. Professor J. Rankine Brown said that he regretted he was not present at the previous meeting when tributes were paid to the memory of the late Mr. Ford. He associated himself with the tributes of the President and others to a well-informed and enthusiastic numismatist, whose passing would be a loss to the Society.

EXHIBITS. Mr. W.D. Ferguson, a tetradrachm of Syracuse, Sicily, 485-478 B.C.: O.-Quadriga to r. Nike crowns horses; R.-Archaic female head to r. four dolphins around. He quoted Professor Rankine Brown, Vol. II, p. 91, "Period II is the period of transition from 480 to 400 B.C. In the course of this period the roughness and ruggedness of the Archaic Period is being refined away, but the old vigour still remains. People who prefer the vigour and strength of the earlier Greek sculpture, will regard the coins of this period as superior to the more chaste coins of the next." Mr. Allan Sutherland exhibited a didrachm of Tarentum (Italy), B.C. 380-345. This is a coin of the best period of Greek numismatic art. Design: O.-Taras dolphin. R.-Prancing horse, with rider placing crown on horse's head. Tarentum, in Italy, was called "Taras" by the Greeks, and was the most powerful city in Magna Graecia. The remains of the city are still important in archaeology.

NEXT MEETING -- MONDAY, 27th MAY, 7.30 p.m. A paper will be read by Mr. L.J. Dale, M.P.S., Ph.C., on the coinage of Borneo.

A paper on AGRIPPINA THE ELDER (13 B.C. - 33 A.D.) by Mrs. C.J. Lynch, Feilding, was read on her behalf by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, as follows:

"The tragic story of this great Roman lady has for us a fascination all its own. Only a few coins show her portrait, the best known being the one exhibited. History has preserved for us the story of the main events of her life, but many of the details that have come down to us are open to question and have been variously interpreted by historians. This period, the early years of Imperial Rome, has always attracted the serious student of humanity, but among the many outstanding characters upon the world's stage at this time Agrippina has been somewhat overshadowed.

"Agrippina, grand-daughter of the great Augustus first Emperor of Rome, was the daughter of Vispanius Agrippa, one of the great generals of the time, perhaps the most outstanding, yet a man of humble birth, who had married the notorious Julia, daughter of the Emperor. Agrippina's great strength of character and heroic nobility have frequently been ignored, but her early widowhood may have, under its tragic circumstances, for a time accented her faults. The intrigues and murders engineered or at least countenanced by the undoubtedly clever Livia, wife of the Emperor Augustus, and the flaunting in the public eye of the immorality and extravagance of his daughter Julia, have seemed more to have occupied the attention of the historians.

"At an early age Agrippina was married to Germanicus, the adopted son of Tiberius, second Emperor of Rome. Members of the great Claudian house seemed always either utterly bad or really virtuous - Germanicus belonged to the latter type and was the idol of the populace. A soldier born, he fought successfully in the Balkans, and after the conclusion of that campaign he held public office in Rome for a while. This type of life had no appeal for him and at last he was given permission to join the Legions in Germany, where the wars were dragging on unsatisfactorily. His wife, Agrippina, always accompanied him to the wars. She has been variously described - as strong, courageous, heroic, modest, pious, witty and chaste; and, adversely, as proud, overbearing, violent tempered and intriguing. She certainly must have been courageous to follow the fortunes of Germanicus on his campaigns. That she had a deep affection for him has been stressed by most historians, and one remarked that Germanicus and Agrippina were 'One Soul.' Overbearing family pride has been stated to have been her worst fault, but what evidence we possess does not seem to bear this out. The soldiery reverenced her for her bravery and for her care of them - tending the sick and wounded and clothing the ragged. On one occasion during a temporary absence of her husband, she assumed the command of the legions and this unusual act does not appear to have been questioned by the soldiers.

"During the three years spent in Germany the army mutinied and tried to force Germanicus to proclaim himself Emperor. This he utterly refused to consider and firmly quelled the mutiny. Their young son, Caius, became the idol of the soldiery who made him a miniature suit complete with breastplate, sword, helmet, shield, and soldier's boots. He became so attached to these boots that he insisted on wearing them at all times, and in consequence gained the nickname by which he has been known throughout history - Caligula, or Little Boot. The rough mode of life in these camps affected Agrippina's health, so that when her daughter, Agrippinilla, was born just after the mutiny, at Cologne, she remained ill for some months.

"In A.D. 17, Tiberius recalled Germanicus to Rome to celebrate his Triumph, and we read how Germanicus rode crowned in his chariot with Agrippina seated by his side and their five children, Nero, Drusus, Caligula, Agrippinilla and Drusilla, seated behind them. We read, too, of the enormous procession of manacled German prisoners, of vehicles heaped with captured German weapons, shields and spoils of all descriptions.

"Then followed another short period in Rome with Tiberius becoming increasingly jealous of the popularity of Germanicus and cold hostility becoming evident between Tiberius and Agrippina. Finally the Senate voted Germanicus the supreme control of the five Eastern provinces, where Agrippina accompanied him, taking only Caligula and leaving the other children in Rome. The suspicions of Tiberius were continually inflamed against Germanicus by his minister Sejanus, who at the same time contrived to undermine the influence and reputation of Germanicus in the provinces under his control. How well he succeeded soon became apparent.

"At last Germanicus became ill and died. It was the general belief that he was poisoned, and it is certain that his wife was of that belief. It has remained one of the unsolved mysteries of history.

"Taking the ashes of Germanicus with her, Agrippina sailed for Italy where the people genuinely shared her grief. Agrippina had borne her husband nine children, but only six had survived the many hardships of the campaigns. Of the surviving six children, only the boy Nero (not to be confused with the Emperor of that name) was a good Claudian. The other five, Drusus, Caligula, and their three sisters, were certainly among the worst of the Claudians.

"As Sejanus had previously intrigued, so he continued against the family of Germanicus. As her children grew up and the hostility of Tiberius increased, she appealed to him for permission to remarry, but this, needless to say, was refused. Finally, fear of their growing popularity caused Tiberius to act against Agrippina and her son, Nero, and most of their friends. These last were either banished or executed on one pretext or another.

"Agrippina herself was banished to the island of Pandalaria, and Nero to the rocky, barren island of Ponza off the coast. Before sending her to the island, Tiberius had Agrippina brought before him where he mocked and taunted her. His brutality aroused by her courage, he at last ordered the captain of the guard to strike her. Not satisfied with this, he snatched a branch and himself beat her about the head and body until she became insensible. Owing to this brutality she lost the sight of one eye. With dignity and courage she faced him to the last.

"Then her next son, Drusus, was imprisoned. Nero starved to death on his island, and shortly afterwards Drusus died in his prison, also of starvation, as he was found to have eaten a portion of his mattress, rude though it was, in his agony. Agrippina voluntarily starved and for some time was forcibly fed by order of the Emperor, but at last she had her way and died of starvation at the age of 47 in A.D. 33. Her other son, Caligula, lived to become one of, if not the worst of the world's rulers. His three sisters rivalled him in abandonment to vice.

"Numismatically, this period of the early years of the Empire is of considerable interest. The silver sestertius of the Republic had ceased to be minted and the brass sestertius of the same value took its place. This, as most advanced collectors know, is termed Large Brass or Roman First Brass, and was the highest value issued by the Senate. Their issues are recognised by the letters S. and C., standing for Senatus Consulto. The minting of gold and silver coins was the prerogative of the Emperors.

"British authorities of fifty years ago considered that the value of the Sestertius fluctuated during the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius from approximately 2d to 1½d sterling. A much greater depreciation took place during the reign of Nero. The modern American historian, Dr. W. Durant, stated that, ignoring the fluctuations in value prior to the reign of Nero, the sestertius approximated loosely in value and purchasing power to 15 cents United States currency of 1942, or, in our own present currency, 10d. The smaller copper coin, the As, equalled 6 cents.

"Tiberius' policy was the opposite to that of Augustus. Strict economy included drastic cuts in official expenditure and new issues of currency were restricted. Tiberius found 100,000,000,000 sesterces in the treasury on his accession and at his death 2,700,000,000 were found to be there.

"His successor, Caligula, son of Agrippina, and one of Rome's worst Emperors, squandered his money and it is said that on one banquet alone he spent 10,000,000 sesterces. On one occasion at the races he gave a favoured charioteer 2,000,000s. On Dr. Durant's reckoning one million s. would have a purchasing power equal to £42,666 approximately (N.Z. currency).

"A.D. 33, the year of Agrippina's tragic death, was notable numismatically as a 'panic' year. Shortage of currency and expenditure on imported luxuries were the contributory causes. Interest rates rose and difficulty in the way of recovering debts caused almost a cessation of money-lending. The Senate in its endeavour to stop the outgoing of capital from Rome, required every Senator to invest a high proportion of his fortune in Italian land. This brought about a crisis. When one Senator, Publius Spintner, notified his bank that in order to obey this decree he must withdraw 30,000,000 sesterces, the bank immediately went bankrupt. Rumours circulated, and one by one the banks were compelled to close their doors owing to the panic run on them. Then came the news that the banks had failed in other great Roman centres - Lyons, Carthage, Byzantium, etc. Interest rates, of course, soared astronomically in spite of legal limitation. Finally, Tiberius had to suspend the compulsory land investment legislation and himself issued 100,000,000 sesterces to the banks free of interest for three years. We can rest assured that his security was of the best. This gesture of the Emperor renewed public confidence, and conditions gradually returned to normal.

"The seven coins exhibited show portraits of Agrippina and some of her best-known kin.

- "No. 1. Sestertius with Memorial portrait of Agrippina, in which we can clearly see the strength and dignity that she showed throughout her tragic life. The Reverse shows a funeral carpentum drawn by two mules. The inscription, which unfortunately is somewhat worn, is S.P.Q.R. (Senatus Populusque Romanus - the Senate and the Roman people), with, underneath, - Memoriae Agrippinae.
2. As, bearing portrait of the Emperor Augustus, her grandfather.
3. As, with portrait of Agrippa, her father. Rev. shows Neptune with trident, etc.
4. Germanicus, husband of Agrippina.
5. Tiberius, adopted father of Germanicus.
6. Emperor Claudius, her brother-in-law.
7. Caligula, her infamous son."

In proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Lynch for her interesting paper, so well illustrated by contemporary coins, Professor Rankine Brown made some remarks on the general aspects of the question. Owing to the very prejudiced nature of the evidence for the history of the early Roman Empire, it is not easy to speak very definitely about any of the characters involved. Agrippina may have been a very self-willed, pushing woman, but she was certainly devoted to her husband, and, so far as Professor Rankine Brown was able to say from memory, no scandalous stories are associated with her name, as is the case with so many of her contemporaries. She was certainly a very different woman from her daughter, whom the writer of the paper calls Agrippinilla, but who is generally known as Agrippina the Younger. This woman managed to get herself married to her uncle - the Emperor Claudius - in defiance of Roman regulations; she got rid of the Emperor's son, Britannicus, and of the Emperor himself, by poison, got her own son Nero made Emperor, endeavoured to control his policy, and was finally murdered by her own son.

Agrippina and her husband, Germanicus, were in a precarious position. Agrippina was the grand-daughter of Augustus, his only living descendant. Germanicus was the nephew and adopted son of Tiberius and was the son of Drusus (who died some time B.C.), a man of much more pleasing nature than his Imperial brother, and very popular with the people. Germanicus inherited some of his father's popularity. On his mother's side Germanicus was connected by blood with Augustus, by way of Augustus' sister, Octavia - a noble woman and wife of Anthony. They were thus a couple round whom dissatisfaction with the Emperor Tiberius would naturally centre, and were consequently in a dangerous position. It is almost certain, however, that Germanicus died a natural death in the East. The story that he was poisoned is one of the numerous stories invented to discredit Tiberius and his mother Livia. It is now generally believed that though Tiberius may have been a morose and certainly a soured man, he was a most able and competent ruler, and not at all the debauchee that Tacitus and Suetonius represent him as being.

Tacitus consistently used Germanicus as a foil to Tiberius, and represents him in a favourable light; but, though he was doubtless a well-meaning man, he does not appear to have accomplished much. Though he was awarded a triumph for his achievements in Germany to the East of the Rhine, this was because he was a member of the Imperial family. His campaigns were very costly in life, and really disastrous. After these failures the Romans abandoned attempts to conquer Northern Germany. As a result, these wild tribes never came under the civilizing influence of the Roman Empire as the Gauls, the Spaniards and, to a less extent, the original inhabitants of England did. Had Northern Germany been a portion of the Roman Empire, and reduced to order, it is possible that Europe might have been spared the two disastrous wars of the present century. The greater part of modern Austria formed part of the Empire. The Austrians have always been a more civilized people than the Northern Germans, and were the predominant element among the Germanic peoples until the Duchy of Brandenburg came to the front as Prussia, and Bismarck turned Austria out of the German Federation.

The immediate successors to Tiberius were connected with Agrippina and Germanicus. Caligula was their son, Claudius was the brother of Germanicus, and Nero was their grandson. With Nero, what is called the Julian dynasty came to an end in a blaze of infamy.

REPORT OF 97th MEETING - 27th MAY, 1946.

The 97th meeting of the Society was held on the 27th May. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S.N.Z., presided. Minutes of previous meeting confirmed.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM DISPLAY CASE: Lack of space prevented the inclusion of the following in the previous report: "Messrs. R. Walpole and A. Sutherland discussed the desirability of members assisting Museum authorities in the main centres in arranging occasional displays in Carnegie cases for school circuits. Dr. Oliver welcomed the proposal, and members present offered to assist.

NEW MEMBER ELECTED: Miss Denise Dettmann, Lecturer in Classics, Victoria University College, Wellington.

DECIMAL COINAGE: A reply from the Rt. Hon. Mr. Nash from London was read as follows:- " . . . Nothing but the difficulties of change stands in the way of doing that which you consider should be done. To me the advantages of decimal coinage have always been clear, and it was hoped that it would have been practicable to have carried it out when Mr. Coates and his Secretary, Dr. Campbell, were so interested some years ago. I am doubtful whether I can do much in the United Kingdom, by way of helpfully discussing the question, but if an opportunity does occur I will take it - other than that I will have to give it some consideration on my return to New Zealand. I much appreciate your writing."

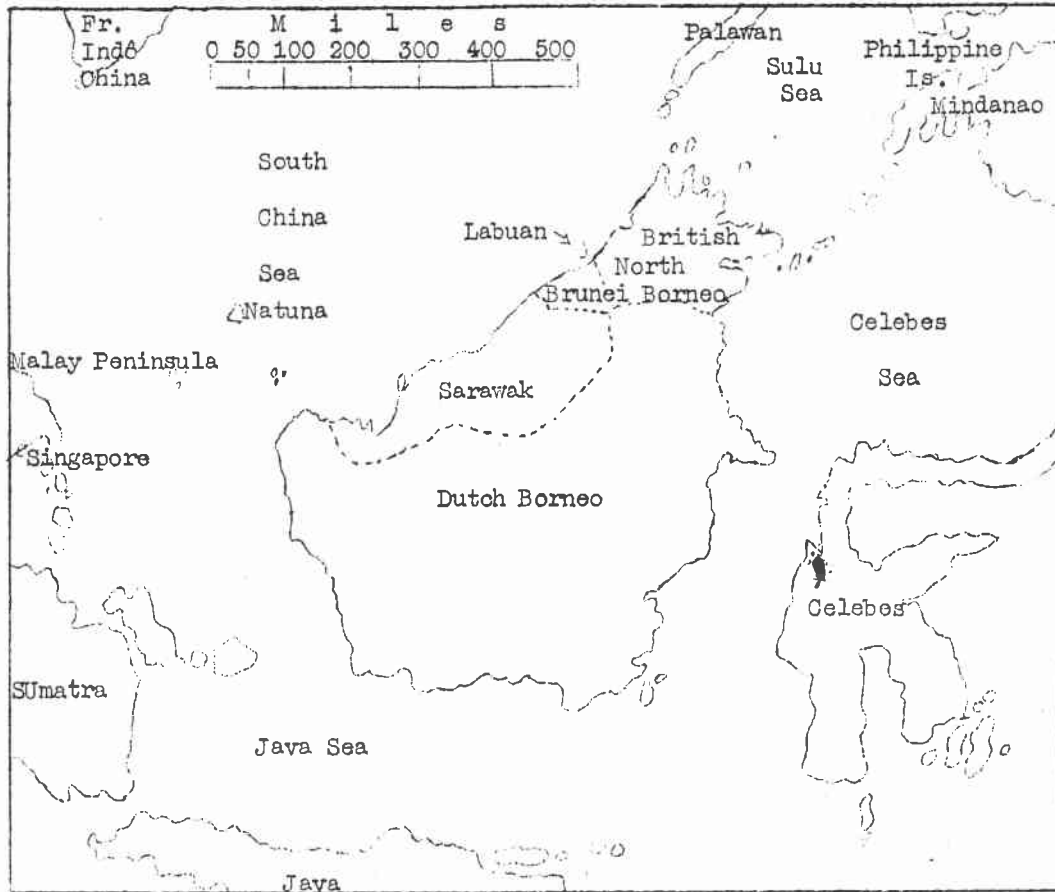
ANNUAL MEETING - ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Nominations for officers for the ensuing year may now be received. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, 29th July, at 7.30 p.m.

A welcome was extended to Mr. R.A. Johnson who has been absent for five years on service with the Royal Navy.

PROPOSED PRINTING OF REPORTS: The Hon. Secretary said that the proposal to print reports to be issued by-annually or annually had been deferred until after the war (see Vol. III, pages 4 and 8). The average cost of each cyclostyled report, including postage, was now £3, and with nine monthly reports, plus an annual report, the cost was in the vicinity of £30. The annual revenue of the Society was approximately £25 provided all subscriptions were paid within the year. While the issuing of monthly reports kept members outside of Wellington in constant touch with the Society's activities, on the other hand, they might prefer to receive bi-annually or annually, a printed and illustrated publication. This could probably be arranged if a sufficient number of members agreed to take an additional printed copy at 5/-, and if desired, this copy could be left at the printers for binding at the cost of the member concerned. Illustrated reports in book form would give members a more attractive and convenient record of the transactions of the Society, and would help to increase membership. Whether printed or not, the reports of papers would (for reasons of cost) have to be condensed to a maximum of two foolscap typed pages, plus one page per month for Society's business. Mr. Sutherland said that he would like members interested to write to him before the annual meeting in July stating if they preferred printed reports, and if so, whether they would be prepared to take an additional copy, if the printing were adopted.

MR. W. D. FERGUSON said that the subscription had been fixed at 5/- p.a. in 1931, and since then postage had doubled and costs generally had increased.

Decided to await the views of members before dealing with the proposal.



"BORNEO - AN OUTPOST OF CIVILISATION" was the subject of a paper read on behalf of Mr. L. J. Dale, P. O. Box 3, Papanui, as follows:-

Borneo is remarkable for the unusually small amount of published matter available for study. Therefore these notes may be of some interest. The writer is anxious to learn more of the effect of the impact of the second world war on the island, and will welcome correspondence from anyone acquainted with currency developments recently. This paper may serve to record the position as it was substantially prior to 1939.

There seems to have been quite a scramble for Borneo territory in the early days of colonisation, with a resulting rather piecemeal distribution mostly by treaty and not by conquest.

From a Numismatic angle, it must be unique to find a single area so comparatively isolated and yet with at least five distinct varieties of coinage in use. Borneo is divided into five important parts which we enumerate here. We will give something in the way of a thumbnail sketch of each, and follow with details of the coinage. Newspapers, various travel books, encyclopaedias and coin catalogues (notably Comencini's) have been consulted, and their help is acknowledged.

1. Dutch Borneo is part of the Netherlands East Indies which also includes Java and Sumatra. The N.E.I. Coinage in cents and guilders is used.
2. Sarawak has been an independent state under British protection with its own coinage - 100 cents to a dollar.
3. Brunei is a British protected Mohammedan state and has issued its own coins in cents.
4. British North Borneo is held under grant from the Native Sultans, and issues its own coinage in cents.
5. Labuan Island is six miles off the coast of British North Borneo, and part of the Straits Settlements, whose coinage it uses, as well as that of the nearby states on the mainland.

BORNEO: Borneo, as a whole, is the world's third largest island (Greenland first, New Guinea second), and steamer connections with Singapore, Surabaya, Manila, Hongkong, etc., are maintained regularly, and probably now regular air services of which the details are not known to the writer. The population of about 3 million (1930) consisted of tattooed native Dyaks of many tribes, Chinese, Malays and an administrative sprinkling of six thousand or so British and Dutch.

As well as the fearsome familiar feature of our younger days (the "wild Man from Borneo" of circus fame!), the animals are a formidable lot. Elephants, rhinoceroses, wild oxen, and pigs, deer and monkeys abound, including the fierce orangutan. There are animals of every variety from tiny badgers to crocodiles and flying frogs. The vegetation of Borneo is rich and abundant, and descriptions are always extravagant. The world's largest flower, Rafflesia, is a native. Some of the products are petroleum, all kinds of timber, copra, sago, rubber, camphor, cinnamon, bananas, rice, beeswax, sugar, etc., etc. Opium is an important product and in British North Borneo 10% of the total revenue was derived from it and in Sarawak 11%.

There is no reason to suppose that Borneo has ever been a political entity, and few of the natives have travelled enough to even know it is an island. It was first discovered by Europeans in 1511, since which time Spanish, Dutch, British and Portuguese have all had "toeholds" at various times, although by 1810 it seemed to be pretty well in the hands of its native Sultans. Then, however, during the British occupation of Java, these Sultans sent an embassy to ask help of Sir Stamford Raffles, which he gave. As a result both the British and Dutch were granted concessions, thus commencing the very lucrative interests now held.

DUTCH BORNEO: This area of over 200,000 sq. miles is larger than any European country except Russia, and is still partly unexplored owing to the rather awkward habit of head hunting practised by the Dyaks, and also because of the difficulty of transport, which has been largely by water or on foot. The Sultan of Kotei is a powerful personage and has had expensive pastimes including a forty-wife harem and a taste for elaborate cockfights! He has imported many European ideas and has controlled considerable assets.

Presumably the main coinage used will be that of the Netherlands East Indies, of which the following are the main issues since 1800.

BRONZE:

1/8th Stiver	1822-26	rev. Nederl Indie,	obv. Arms	1/8th ST
1/4th "	1822-36	" " "	" "	1/4th ST
1/2 "	1821-26	" " "	" "	1/2 - ST
1 cent	1833-40	" " "	" "	1 - ST
2 cents	1833-41	" " "	" "	2 - ST

With Nederlandsch Indie

1/2 cent	1855-60	Arms. Value and date	rev. Malay & Javanese ins.
1 "	"	Similar	
2 1/2 "	1856-58		

Under the British E.I. Co.:

1/2 Doit	1811-13	B. above VEIC in heartshaped shield	rev. Java 1811
1/2 Stiver	1811-15	Similar	1/2-ST
1 "	1812-15	"	1-ST
1 Doit	1812-13	"	without value
1 "	1812-14	1-EVC-date	rev. 1-Doit-Java Lead.

Under the Napoleons, 1807-11:

1 Doit	1808-11	large N monogram and value
1/2 Stiver	1810-11	similar
1 "	1810	"

DUTCH ISSUE:

2 1/2 cents	1871-1901	Nederlandsch Indie, value & date, shield with arms surmounted by a broad crown. rev. inscription in Malay & Javanese.
1 cent		similar
2 1/2 cents	1912-34	similar Royal crown over shield of a narrow shape.

NICKEL - Alloy:

5 cents	1912-34	Royal crown above hole in Centre rev. Inscription in Malay and Javanese.
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SILVER:

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William 1st	1813-40		
$\frac{1}{4}$ gulden	1816-40	Head r. rev. Name, value in wreath	Nederlandsch Indie.
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	1826-34		Similar
1 "	1826-40		
William 3rd	1849-90		
1-20th gulden	1854-90	Crowned Arms. Nederl. Indie rev. Native inscription.	
1-10th "	1855		Similar
$\frac{1}{4}$ "	1855		"
1-10th "	1902-11	Similar Royal Crown over shield of a narrow shape.	
$\frac{1}{4}$ "	"		Similar
1-10th "	1912-34	Similar with broad rim	
$\frac{1}{4}$ "	"		"

Coins of larger denomination are not minted specially for the Indies, but the standard Netherlands coins are used.

This currency in Gulden of 100 cents is the same as in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Approximate Bank Exchange Rates (1934):-

Batavia Guilder	1.00	=	$2/8\frac{1}{2}$
" "	"	=	French Francs 10.31
" "	"	=	U.S. Dollars 0.681
" Guilders	100.00	=	Straits Settlements dollars 88.00

SARAWAK: A country of 50,000 sq. miles in the N.W. of Borneo, bounded on one side by Brunei and elsewhere by Dutch and British Borneo. Until the Japanese gave a grim reminder of how uncertain idyllic dreams may be, the world heard little or nothing of Sarawak, and but for the lesson of the war successive white Rajahs might have been content to perpetuate the regime of isolated princelings in a tropic setting. Now, however, the Rajah, Sir Charles Brooke, is reported to have taken steps that his nephew, Mr. Anthony Brooke, has announced that he will oppose on the ground that the "Sovereign", independent State should be consulted before the country steps down to colonial status. "Sovereign" by sufferance, and "independent" with the qualification that the real inhabitants are subject to the rule of an Englishman, Sarawak has a history that reads like a fairy tale. Since 1888 it has been recognised as an independent State under British protection. In 1841 it became the perquisite of James Brooke, who, twenty years earlier, had fought in the East India Company's Army in the first Burmese war. Inheriting £30,000 from his father Brooke bought a schooner to cruise in the east. From the then new port of Singapore he carried letters for the governor to the Rajah of Sarawak, the weakling head of a rebellious State. "He offered me," wrote Brooke, at the time, "the country of Siniawan and Sarawak with all its government and trade." With the title of Rajah thrown in as the price of his help, Brooke joined forces with the Rajah and with ten of his crew and two guns ended the rebellion, the surrender terms stipulating that Brooke was to be the new Rajah. So amid "the roar of cannon (presumably the six-pounders of Brooke's ship) and a general display of flags and banners," Brooke was declared Rajah of Sarawak, an office filled by his descendants ever since. The Pacific war rudely shattered the dream.

Sarawak coinage is as follows:-

BRONZE:J. Brooke, 1841-63:

$\frac{1}{4}$ cent	1863	Sarawak around, wreath enclosing $\frac{1}{4}$ cent date below. rev. Head facing left and J. Brooke Rajah around.
$\frac{1}{2}$ cent	"	Similar
1 "	"	"

Charles Brooke, 1863-1915:

$\frac{1}{4}$ cent	obv. C. Brooke Rajah, Head in profile facing left, beaded rim, plain edge. rev. top Sarawak. In centre within a wreath $\frac{1}{4}$ cent in 2 lines, date below.
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	Similar
1 "	"
1 "	1896 obv. inscription as above. Small head above & 2 crossed flags below, a central hole. Rev. similar to the preceding. Mint mark H.

NICKEL:

- 1 cent general design. obv. C.V. Brooke Rajah, below Sarawak. Head in profile facing right. rev. in circle value & date. Large numeral of value in centre within a circle formed of a cord with knot. Mint mark in exergue H 1916-33 Wreath.
- 5 " Similar
- 10 cents "

SILVER:

- 50 cents 1900 head to left and C. Brooke Rajah and obv. value, etc.
- 50 " 1911-15 C. Brooke Rajah, in centre, head. Below Sarawak rev. as for nickel coins above.
- 20 " Similar
- 10 " "
- 5 " "
- 50 " 1916-33 obv. C.V. Brooke, Rajah, below Sarawak. Head in profile facing right. rev. same as for 1911-15 Silver coins have milled edge mint H.

Sarawak currency is in British Silver Dollars of 100 cents. Special subsidiary coins for local circulation are exchanged at par at Straits Settlement ports, and bank exchange is the same.

BRUNEI: The total area of Brunei is only about 2,500 sq. miles, but it is becoming interesting because of some of its products including oil. The Sultan handed over administration to a British Resident in 1906 since when it is attached to the Straits Settlements.

The special Brunei coin was:-

- 1 cent Bronze 1885. obv. Malay Arabic inset. In centre within a circle a star of 5 leaves. rev. Sultanate of Brunei, A.H. date below 1304. In centre within a circle a large figure 1.

Currency unit is British Dollar of 100 cents. Mixed subsidiary coins accepted in circulation. Bank exchange rates same as for the Straits Settlements.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO: With 900 miles of coast and an area of 31,000 sq. miles British N. Borneo is smaller than Sarawak. The mountainous country consists of a large area of jungle, which is being gradually developed for the wealth of its products. There is a railway of over 150 miles and other amenities. Unfortunately the telegraph lines are often put out of commission because the elephants like to rub against the poles and often break them off or push them over!

The chartered British North Borneo company has control through its Governor (appointed with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies) and administers all affairs, grants leases and licenses and so on.

As mentioned before these rights were not obtained by military conquest, but by agreements by our farseeing statesmen with the Sultans concerned. As well as the better known products, we run across almost legendary items such as armadillo skins and birds' nests!

The coinage is based on the British Silver dollar current in all the South Sea British Colonies, Hongkong, etc. Silver, nickel, and bronze subsidiary coins are for internal circulation only and are accepted in Labuan, Brunei, and some places in the Straits Settlements at par. Mint mark mostly H.

1887-1907. British North Borneo Company. Bronze. General design - cent coins - shield with coat-of-arms surmounted by two arms holding aloft a flag and supported by two standing natives. Half-cent-shield along. Date in exergue. Edge plain. rev. top British North Borneo, in centre within a wreath vertically, down 4 Chinese characters for the value, value across in English, in exergue Arabic.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cent 1887 on rev. in Chinese Yan Yuen Pan Fen (Sea Dollar half cent) and half cent.
- 1 cent 1889 on rev. in Chinese Yan Yuen EE Fen (Sea Dollar 1 cent) and one cent.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cent 1890-1907 similar
- 1 cent " "

1903-30. State of North Borneo. General design. obv. in the field a coat-of-arms same as on the cent. Motto on scroll pergo et perago.

Silver coins have milled edge. rev. State of North Borneo and date in circle, in centre within beaded circle numerals of value and cents.

50 cents silver	5 cents nickel alloy
25 cents silver	2½ cents nickel alloy
10 cents silver	1 cent nickel alloy

Straits Settlements coins also circulate as noted under Labuan.

LABUAN ISLAND: Situated just a few miles off the coast and only 35 sq. miles in area. Labuan was ceded to Britain in 1846 by the Sultan of Brunei.

It has since been a strong base for cable and other communications and has been a well developed area somewhat analogous to Hongkong in China. It is controlled by Singapore, as it is part of the Federated Malay States, although it is 725 miles from Singapore and only 6 miles from Borneo Coast. When Labuan was a part of the Sultanate of Brunei it was known as "Sultana Island" and issued coins as follows:-

SULTANA ISLAND (LABUAN):

1 kepeng 1804	The Arms (consisting of ship on sea before mountains with sun rising behind, in a shield.) rev. Malay insor.
1 " 1835	Similar. Arms with one flag.
1 " " "	Arms with two flags.

The coinage now used is that of the Straits Settlements (also that of British North Borneo which circulates freely.)

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS COINAGE:

BRONZE:

¼ cent	1845	head left rev. East India Co. value in wreath, date in exergue.
½ "	"	similar
1 "	"	"
¼ "	1862	head left. rev. Value, date, India Straits etc., in 5 lines.
½ "	"	similar
1 "	"	"

Currency in Silver Dollars on a decimal basis. Prior to 1904 no Dollar coin was struck, the dollars current in the Straits Settlements being the British dollar and the Mexican dollar. The Straits Settlements coins circulate in distant places such as Labuan, Borneo, etc., beside the Federated Malay States.

1871-1901. General design. obv. inscription VICTORIA QUEEN. Head in profile facing left. Beaded rims, silver coins have milled edge, as well as the bronze ones from 1889. rev. STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, figures of value in centre within beaded circle, except the Dollars, which have an ornate cross of heart-shaped leaves, value in extenso and date below.

50 cents	Silver	½ dollar
20 "	"	"
10 "	"	"
5 "	"	"
1 cent	Bronze	plain edge
¼ "	"	" " "
½ "	"	" " "
1 "	"	milled "
¼ "	"	" " "
½ "	"	" " "

EDWARD 7th: 1902-10. General design obv. Edward 7th King & Emperor. Bust in Coronation Regalia facing right. rev. as above.

1 dollar	Silver	rev. similar to British Dollar.
½ "	"	" " " previous issue.
20 cents	"	similar
10 "	"	"
5 "	"	"

1 cent Bronze similar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " " "

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GEORGE 5th 1911-1935 Bust faces left otherwise similar.

1 dollar
50 cents
20 cents
10 cents
5 cents

5 cents 1920-25 Nickel same design plain edge.

1 cent Bronze
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " " "

1 cent square (20.75mm)

GEORGE 6th coins - similar.

The George 5th dollar and new square cent were reduced in size principally to prevent the smelting of such coins by the Chinese for the value of the metal compared with the relative exchange value.

Approximate Bank Exchange rates 1934

Straits dollar	1.00	=	2/4
"	"	=	8.93
"	"	=	20/-
"	100.00	=	French Francs 1310
"	100.00	=	U.S. Dollar 60.00
"	100.00	=	Siam Ticals 127
"	1.00	=	India Rupee 1.50

During the war, Japan issued small denomination aluminium coins, and also specially printed notes which we understand were circulated in Borneo. Specimens of some of these are displayed.

As far as the writer knows, the same divisions of territory will obtain now that the Japanese occupation is over, and doubtless we will soon be hearing a great deal about the "mystery Island" of Borneo.

As it is potentially one of the richest Islands in the world it should be much more in the limelight, especially as many Australians and Americans have had an opportunity to "look it over". The future of these states in the new organisation of the Archipelago, should be a matter for great thought among our statesmen.

Mr. Dale submitted an attractive series of exhibits including some examples of the coinages of Straits Settlements, Dutch East Indies, Sarawak, British North Borneo, and the Sultanate of Brunei. Also a series of postage stamps depicting distinctive features of this area. A collection of Japanese invasion paper currency was also included.

Professor J. Rankine Brown moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Dale for his interesting paper. Mr. Sutherland seconded the motion, stating that the paper was a credit to Mr. Dale. Mr. Johannes Andersen stated that the area dealt with was of interest to New Zealand in that the Polynesians, who were by some believed to have come from India, left their mark in place-names and speech in the Malay, Dutch East Indies, and New Guinea Islands on their way to the Pacific. The Europeans discovered Polynesia about 1511, but the Pacific had been explored and its many islands colonized by the Polynesians a thousand years before that time. They settled in New Zealand in 1150, and found a prior people here even then.

Mr. W.D. Ferguson said that Borneo, Sarawak, and Brunei coins received little attention from the average collector who generally possessed odd coins of these areas, but after hearing the paper such collectors would appreciate the interesting historical background of such issues and value their coins accordingly.

15 Farm Road,
Northland, Wellington.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,
Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF THE 98th MEETING - 24th JUNE, 1946.

The 98th meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on the 24th June, 1946. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S.N.Z., presided over a good attendance of members.

OBITUARY: A motion of sympathy with Mrs. J.T. Inkersell in the loss of her husband, Mr. J.T. Inkersell, a member of the Society, was passed, all members standing as a mark of respect to his memory.

SIR JOHN RANKINE BROWN - CONGRATULATIONS: Mr. Johannes Andersen said that there was unanimity of opinion that the honour conferred on Sir John Rankine Brown had been well merited. Apart from his long and distinguished service, he had taken a keen interest in cultural and educational activities outside of University circles. He had contributed many excellent papers to the Society, dealing mainly with the classical period, and he had the capacity to make these eras live. As one listened to him one could see characters in Roman and Greek mythology and history, Kings, Queens, ladies, gentlemen and rascals passing in an imaginative promenade.

Colonel the Rev. D.C. Bates, Vice-President, said that in the past such high honours were usually conferred on politicians, and seldom on scholars and scientists. It was indeed gratifying that the leading classical scholar and teacher in New Zealand had been honoured for his long and distinguished service to the community.

Mr. Allan Sutherland said that Sir John had brought distinction and learning to the Society which he had ably served as President. His papers in the classical field were not only appreciated in New Zealand, but attracted attention abroad where invariably they were reprinted. The honour conferred would be widely approved by his many friends and ex-pupils.

Sir John Rankine Brown said that he had had happy associations with the Victoria University College, and as Vice Chancellor of the Senate. He had always been pleased to assist the N.Z. Numismatic Society. He had been grateful for the widespread approval expressed regarding the honour. In humorous vein he suggested that when the Government and His Majesty conferred a Knighthood, they should provide the Knight with a temporary secretary to cope with the letters of congratulations. Fortunately the flood of such letters to him had now trickled down to a rivulet thus enabling him to get his correspondence under control.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED. Mr. J. Goldstein, 94 Alison Road, Randwick, N.S.W. and Mr. A. Robinson, 32 Landscape Rd., Mt. Eden. Enquiries regarding membership were received from Messrs. John K. Irons, Northampton, England, H. Law, Rochdale, Lancs., and C. Colborne, Worlebury, Somerset.

GENERAL. A welcome was extended to the Rev. D.C. Bates, first President of the Society. Mrs. Lynch, 181 Manchester Street, Feilding, advised that her exchange list for June had been postponed until July, as more items were needed. Mr. A. Sutherland reported that the proposed peace medal to be issued in association with the Government had not been approved. Numismatic periodicals and price lists were tabled, including the report of the Numismatic Society of New South Wales, Vol. VII, page 32-33, containing a paper by Mr. G.C. Heyde listing a series of Australian kangaroo pennies with die-variations, notably in connection with the dot following PENNY. Reference was made to the need for a standardised display system for coins, and attention was drawn to the easy display system illustrated on page 230 of "Coins of the World" by Wayte Raymond Inc., New York. Decided that members interested should communicate with Secretary. Details of a private bank note for £1 issued by John Hughes on May 9, 1812, in fair state of preservation were tabled for possible sale. (Issued at Brightelmston, Sussex).

PROPOSED TASMAN MEDAL. Decided that a sub-committee consisting of the President, Mr. W.D. Ferguson, Mr. James Berry and the Hon. Secretary be set up to report to the Annual Meeting regarding the desirability of issuing a Tasman Ter-centenary medal.

In an address on THE COINAGE OF HENRY VII Mr. W.D. Ferguson said:-

This coinage is of great interest in many ways. The period of this reign, 1485-1509, was one of great progress in commerce, art and culture, and is usually considered to mark the transition from mediaeval to modern times.

The notable changes which were made to the coinage in this reign would be looked for in this time of progress and development, but in addition I think that these changes were, at least in part, due to the King's encouragement, and perhaps to his orders. Henry's mother was a woman of learning and culture, and at a time when it was less common for women to be well-educated than it is today. As the hope of the Lancastrian party in England Henry had at an early age been taken to the Continent for safety, and was brought up there during the reigns of Edward IV and Richard III. He had had a liberal cultural education, and his love of the arts and of learning remained with him for the rest of his life.

He maintained the standard of the weights and fineness of his gold and silver coins, which had been set in the latter part of the reign of Edward IV, the gold coin being 23 carats and $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains fine to $\frac{1}{2}$ grain alloy, and the silver being 11 oz. 2 dwts. fine to 18 dwts. alloy. The gold was almost pure gold, and the silver was of the same standard that was afterwards used from the time of Elizabeth down to 1920 on English coins. Owing to Henry's commercial honesty and his habit of always paying debts on the due dates, and of his care to observe the letter, if not always the spirit, of any agreement it is not possible to imagine him debasing his coinage, as his extravagant son did afterwards. The worth of the coinage of this reign is shown by enactments, which were intended to prevent the export of coins to the Continent or to Ireland, and the import of Irish coins, which were in this reign of about one third less weight than English coins.

In 1489 the first English sovereigns of twenty shillings value were struck; these were magnificent coins, being 1.6 inches across in size, and far larger than any coins which had been struck up to this time. Their name was derived from their obverse design which showed the king seated on a throne, crowned and holding sceptre and orb. The reverse showed a large double rose which was symbolical of the union of the roses of Lancaster and York which was brought about by Henry's marriage with Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV. In the centre of this rose was a shield with the arms of England and France quartered. There are several varieties of this coin, all extremely rare, and no doubt most of them were melted down. Their weight is 240 grains.

A ryal or 10/- piece was also struck; this weighed 120 grains, and showed the King standing in a ship wearing an arched crown and carrying a sword and shield. The reverse had a simpler form of the double rose, which became known as the Tudor rose, and on this was a small shield which for some strange and unknown reason bore only the lilies of France, the English lions being omitted. Only a few specimens of this coin are known today, and it is believed that they were struck before the sovereigns of 1489, and that thereafter the issue was discontinued.

As in previous reigns angels of 80 grains weight and 6/8d. in value were struck. These showed on the obverse St. Michael piercing a dragon, and on the reverse a ship with a cross and a shield over it. There are two varieties of angels, and half angels were also struck. These coins are much less rare and were no doubt the principal gold coins used.

The number of mints was greatly reduced in this reign, possibly so that the King could better supervise the coinage; gold coins and groats were struck at London only, and half-groats and smaller coins were struck there and at Canterbury and York, and at Durham pennies only. For the most part the coins struck at the last named three mints were struck by the Archbishops and the Bishops of Durham under license, as had been done since the reign of Edward IV, thus reviving the old Saxon Ecclesiastical mints. The Archbishops and Bishops usually put their initials, or some other mark, such as keys, on the coins struck at their mints, as well as the King's head and titles. Also Archbishop Morton of Canterbury used a tun for mint mark, being a robus of his name MORTON. It appears that for a time the King and Archbishop Morton operated the Canterbury mint jointly, the Archbishop receiving a share in the profits; and at one time a Royal mint was operating in York Castle at the same time as the mint in the Archbishop's Palace.

The silver coins can usefully be classed in three groups, although Brooke classes them into five groups. The first one had the old type of conventional facing bust with open crown, and cross and pellets on the reverse, as had been

used since the time of Edward I. Coins of this group were formerly confused with those of Henry VI, and possibly an expert would still be needed to attribute some specimens. In the second group an important change was made, the crown worn by the King being shown with one or two arches, with or without jewels shown on the arches. This change was made about 1490, and some extremely rare groats, believed to be patterns, have a portcullis at the centre of the reverse; the portcullis was the badge of the Beaufort family, (Henry's mother), and it became one of the badges of the Tudor sovereigns.

Near the end of Henry's reign the most important and radical change was made in the silver coinage. A remarkably fine profile portrait head of Henry was introduced; this was the work of a German artist, Alexander of Brugsal, who is also believed to have designed the sovereign. There is no doubt that this portrait is a fine piece of work, as good or better than anything else done at that time elsewhere; and it was most probably an excellent likeness, although no other profile portrait of Henry is known, other than the effigy on his tomb at Westminster Abbey. Little seems to be known about the artist Alexander. At the same time the old reverse was discarded for a new one showing the royal shield with arms of England and France over a long cross. This design remained the standard reverse for silver coins till the time of Charles II. Up till this issue no serious attempt had been made to make a portrait of the reigning king on English coins.

Another important development made at this time, or a little earlier, was the striking of shilling pieces, or testoons, with the profile portrait and shield reverse. This was the first time such large silver coins were struck. They are very rare and are believed to have been patterns only. Still another change was made by placing the numerals "VII" after the king's abbreviated name "Henric", on the new groats and testoons. Except for the rare gold penny of Henry III, this was the first time this was done on English coins. On some very rare testoons and groats the word "Septim" is used instead of the numerals, and in other cases neither the VII or "Septim" when the whole word "Henricus" is at times used. It is regrettable that the fine heads on the testoons are so rare. The groats of this profile coinage are fairly numerous with the figure "VII". Half groats of this type were also struck at London, Canterbury and York. At the time of the introduction of the arched-crown type groat an important change was made in the design of the penny, except at the Canterbury mint, and the "Sovereign" type was introduced; this showed the King seated facing on a throne. This design had not been used on pennies since the reign of Edward the Confessor, and the revival of this design at this time seems strange as it is hardly suitable for such a small coin as the silver penny. The reverse had the shield and cross, thus anticipating its use on the reverse of the shillings and groats. This design was continued during the last years of the profile coinage at London and York; no pennies were struck at Canterbury or Durham after about 1500.

Halfpennies were also struck, except at Durham, of the open and arched crown types, there are none of the sovereign and profile types. All are now rare. During this reign all silver coins weighed about twelve grains to the penny.

It is, I think, very probable that the important change made in the coinage during his last few years, was due to Henry's wish and direction. It is said that no detail escaped his attention, and his love of money and the power which money gave him, would lead one to expect that he would give close attention to his coinage. Moreover, he was ever anxious to increase the power and prestige of his kingdom. Under his wise rule the standard of wealth and learning of his subjects rose considerably after the times of wars and turmoil of the previous reigns, and it is not surprising that the coinage would share in this improvement.

The king had a cultured mind and his love of the beautiful is shown by the magnificent Lady Chapel in Westminster Abbey, begun in his reign and called after him. In those days the coinage was the servant of commerce which he sought always to increase, for example, by enacting that all trade to and from England should only be carried in English ships. Whether such laws are wise or not is not for the numismatist to say. Henry VIII is sometimes credited with being the founder of the English navy, and if this was so he certainly had had ideas of his father to profit by.

It is possible that it was only bad luck that prevented Columbus sailing from an English port under Henry VII's patronage on his first great voyage to

America. Although Henry's encouragement of the Cabots at first might have been greater, at least after their first successful voyage to the west and the discovery of Newfoundland, he gave them the means to make further voyages of discovery; and Henry might, I think, be called the first British Empire builder. He loved money for the power it gave him, he wanted the reality of power and not the outward pomp of royalty. This love of money was to lead in his later years to his habit of inflicting extortionate fines unjustly, which makes the one great blot on his character. At the same time this was also done to curb the power of his nobles, and prevent any one subject becoming too rich and powerful; this was a constant policy of the three chief Tudor sovereigns. At least Henry succeeded in leaving England richer and more prosperous than when he landed in 1485, and he was a power to be reckoned with on the Continent.

Henry VII had no personal vanity but he was ever anxious that his Kingdom should not be behind others in progress and culture, and thus it is not surprising that he should wish to emulate, or improve upon, profile portrait coins and medals which had then recently appeared, and were fast increasing on the Continent. For example, there were the gold coins of Spain, with facing busts of Ferdinand and Isabella; fine heads in profile of the Emperor Maximilian I had appeared, and also Henry's rival, Louis XII, of France, had had coins struck with his head in profile, though less attractive than Henry's. Henry had dealings with all these monarchs, and most probably saw these coins.

Moreover, as a man of culture he maintained close relations with some of the smaller rulers of Italy, who at that time led the world as patrons of letters, art and culture. One of these, Guidobaldo Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino, who with his beautiful and accomplished wife, Elizabeth Gonzaga of Mantua, kept one of the most brilliant and accomplished courts in those times, and he had a bust of himself in profile on his coins. Duke Guidobaldo was made a Knight of the Garter in 1504, about the time, it is thought, that the profile testoons were struck. A native of Urbino was then in Henry's employment. Among many others one might also mention the Popes of the della Rovere family, Sixtus IV and Julius II, who were famous patrons of the arts, and the latter especially had fine coins and medals struck with his head thereon in profile. The della Rovere and Montefeltro families were related by marriage. So there seems ample reason for the striking of Henry's portrait coins.

One likes to think that Henry was pleased with his craftsman's achievement, and it is fortunate for us that we can see on these coins the clear cut and prominent features of this far-seeing, if unloved, monarch. He was fifty two years old at the time of his death, and he would be about forty seven when the dies for the portrait coins were made. (Reference Miss Helon Farquhar, British Numismatic Society's Journals).

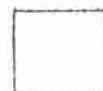
Mr. Ferguson exhibited several specimens to illustrate the paper. On the motion of Mr. A. Quinnell, seconded by Mr. A. Sutherland, and supported by the Rev. D.C. Bates and Mr. Johannes Andersen, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Quinnell referred to the value of numismatics in lighting history, the Rev. D.C. Bates contrasted the high standard of coinage of Henry VII with the debased coinage of his son, Henry VIII. Mr. Andersen said that apparently royal portraits prior to Henry VII were not real portraits. In the Nurenberg Chronicle he had noticed that for the portraits of notable people, the same "portraits" that appeared in the earlier part of the book re-appeared over other names in later parts, the assumption apparently being that the reader had not carried the earlier ones in his memory.

15 Farm Road,
Northland, Wellington.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

A cross in square indicates that your subscription for the year just closed remains unpaid.



REPORT OF THE 99th MEETING (15th Annual) - 29th JULY, 1946

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on the 29th July, 1946. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S.N.Z., presided. The minutes of the previous annual meeting were confirmed. Apologies were received from Rev. D.C. Bates, Messrs. J.L. Griffin, Hassell Martin, A.L. Moller, G. Norman, A.H. Palmer, D. Shannen. It was reported that Sir John Rankine Brown and Mr. C. Gilbertson were indisposed and it was decided to write to them sending the good wishes of those present. Mr. Sutherland reported that it was hoped that Mr. S.R. McCallum, Vice-President, Wanganui, would be present, but apparently he could not make the journey. Mr. McCallum had sent a cheque for £5 for a composite life subscription and exchange fees, and he desired that the balance of £1.15.0d be treated as a donation. He wrote regarding the desirability of increasing the subscriptions and stated that, as a country member, he greatly appreciated the monthly reports, which were informative and interesting. Decided to thank Mr. McCallum for his appreciative references and to invite him to submit another paper to the Society.

OBITUARIES: THE LATE MRS. C. J. LYNCH, FEILDING: Mr. Sutherland said that members would be grieved to learn of the passing of Mrs. Lynch on the 25th July. Mrs. Lynch was an active member of the Society and was one of the few who specialised in the European and Roman fields. She had the welfare of the Society at heart and was keenly anxious to develop interest in coins and medals among students of high schools and colleges, as an adjunct to education. She did her best to make the exchange scheme work. Her recent paper on Roman Coins showed that she had a flair for history. Mr. Sutherland said he had received a letter from Mrs. Lynch from the Palmerston North hospital stating that she had undergone an operation and would be in hospital for another fortnight, and therefore she would not be able to attend the annual meeting as she had wished. A message wishing her a speedy recovery had been sent, and on the 26th her husband telegraphed that she had passed away. Probably the best tribute to her memory would be for the Society to persevere with her special wish that numismatics should be fostered among high schools, thereby laying the foundation for future membership. A motion of sympathy with Mr. Mervyn Lynch was passed, all members standing as a mark of respect to the memory of Mrs. Lynch.

THE LATE MR. WILLI FELS, C.M.G., DUNEDIN. Mr. A. Sutherland said that since the previous meeting Mr. Willi Fels, a Vice-President of the Society, had passed away. He was born 1858, was a foundation member of the Society and one of the leading numismatists in the Dominion. As Chairman of the D.I.C. and H.B., and as a wealthy man, he was able to travel widely, and in his travels acquired some superb specimens. On a few occasions, Mr. Sutherland said, he had enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Willi Fels at his home in London Street, Dunedin, where he had seen some of his treasures. The collection included some Papal coins and Bulls, Roman, Greek, and European coins and some attractive modern plaques. During the sittings of the Coinage Committee, 1933, Mr. Fels took a keen interest in the proposal that a decimal coinage be introduced and his support, coming as it did from one of the leading business men of New Zealand, was invaluable. At his own cost, Mr. Fels brought out 50 volumes of reports donated by the British Numismatic Society to the New Zealand Numismatic Society. On his last visit to Wellington Mr. Fels told with pride how he had catalogued and housed his gift collection of coins in the Willi Fels wing of the Otago Museum. This adopted son of New Zealand grew to love the country and, although forty or more years' residence had not altered his native accent, his heart was here, and his memory would long be honoured among educationists for the Maori and Numismatic collections and other gifts he had given into the people's care for the education of posterity.

Mr. P. Watts Rule, F.N.Z.I.A., Timaru, wrote: "I was very grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Willi Fels, of Dunedin. One of the most unforgettable days I have ever spent was at his house "Manono," in January of last year, when he showed my wife and me his lovely garden and some of his treasures in the house. After lunch, I spent the whole afternoon with him in the basement of the Otago Museum, looking through the great collection of coins and medals which he had presented to the Museum and was then personally cataloguing. He was a true connoisseur and he had a most charming personality."

Mr. W.D.Ferguson submitted the following list of benefactions by Mr. Willi Fels to the Otago Museum; 1924, a splendid collection of ethnographic material and of Oriental Arms, added to continuously in later years; 1939, a collection of books on numismatics and of catalogues, together with a collection of more than 5,000 coins and medals contained in two large cabinets fitted with trays. Included were upwards of 1,000 Greek coins, more than 340 Roman, more than 100 aes grave, and more than 1,300 coins and medals of the Popes. The coin catalogue inaugurated by Mr. Willi Fels has passed the six thousand mark. In addition to presenting his valuable collections of Maori and Pacific Islands material, he organised a campaign to raise funds for a new wing to the Museum to house it, which was opened in October, 1930, and is called after him - the Willi Fels Wing.

Mr. Johannes Andersen said it was disconcerting to see so many of our members passing away. It made one remember that the scythe of death was always moving around and one never knew, with the next thrust, who would be the next to go. Shakespeare said:-

For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause:

But whilst it gave us pause, it need not give us fear; the present world, which we must all leave, is so beautiful that there is no need to fear the world to come, which we all must enter; if life is eternal, so is its beauty. Landor, too, was prophetic: he said:-

Death stands above me, whispering low
I know not what into my ear;
Of his strange language all I know
Is, there is not a word of fear.

Older people could be philosophical, but all deeply regretted the passing of those who appeared to have many years ahead of them, and who suddenly passed from us.

A motion of sympathy with the relatives of Mr. Willi Fels was passed, all members standing as a mark of respect to his memory.

PROPOSED TASMAN MEDAL: The sub-committee presented a preliminary report on the proposal that the Society should sponsor the periodical issue of medals commemorating historical figures in New Zealand history. The sub-committee favoured the issue of a Tasman medal, as being the first in chronological sequence.

Mr. A. Sutherland reported that he had discussed the project with the Netherlands Consul, who was very interested, and who promised to procure a profile portrait of Tasman and to give a summary of his life from recent Dutch works. Perhaps the Consul would consent to be a guest speaker at a future meeting. A Tasman medal with an attractive reverse could probably be sold in Holland, the United Kingdom and U.S.A. **DECIDED,** That the sub-committee obtain quotations for stated quantities from Amor Pty., Sydney, Messrs. Mayer and Kean, and Royal Mint, the size to be similar to the N.Z. Centennial Medal. Details as to when the medals could be delivered were to be given when the sub-committee reported.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows:

Mrs. M. Broad, 76 Oxford Street, Dunedin, S.I.
Mrs. R.S. Humphreys, Balfour, Southland.
Mrs. Mary C. Hamilton, "Cloverdon," Lumsden-Mossburn R.D.

PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF SOCIETY, AND REVISION OF RULES: Mr. W. Chetwynd said the incorporation of the Society would be advantageous in that it would make the organisation an entity, and not merely a collection of individuals. The only fee was £2.2.0d for registration and there was a small fee for registering alterations to rules. Copy of rules had to be lodged, also annual balance sheets. **DECIDED,** on motion of Mr. A. Quinnell, seconded by Mr. Hornblow, That the incorporation of the Society be proceeded with after the rules of the Society had been revised and simplified where necessary, such revised rules to be submitted for approval prior to incorporation. The sub-committee to consist of the incoming President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Mr. W.D.Ferguson, with power to add. Mr. Chetwynd consented to submit full details, and to assist in finalising the proposal.

SOCIETY OF MEDALLISTS, U.S.A. DECIDED, That Society become a corporate member of this Society, the object being to secure for the Society's collection two medals annually issued by the Society gratis.

BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY; DECIDED That the Society should become a corporate member of the above Society (£1.1.0d per annum) the object being to build on the 50 volumes of Reports of the British Numismatic Society presented to the Society.

PENDING DEPARTURE OF MR. JOHANNES ANDERSEN, M.B.E. - ELECTION OF PRESIDENT; Mr. Johannes Andersen said that probably before the next meeting he and Mrs. Andersen would have changed their place of residence to Auckland. He regretted that this would sever his close and pleasant association with the Society, of which he had been President during the whole of the war period. He moved, That Mr. Allan Sutherland be elected President.

Mr. W.D. Ferguson said members regretted that that would probably be the last meeting of the Society which Mr. Andersen would attend, other than on his occasional visits to the City. Mr. Andersen had done much for the Society and, since becoming President seven years ago, he had attended every meeting except on three occasions when he was out of Wellington. That was a wonderful record for a gentleman who had passed the half-century mark. Mr. Andersen was always ready to give his assistance for the benefit of the Society and his vast store of knowledge of Polynesian and New Zealand history had been reflected in many interesting and valuable papers and addresses recorded in the reports. The fact that the Society was able to meet in such pleasant surroundings was due largely to Mr. Andersen and to his successor, Mr. Taylor, and members wished to express sincere thanks for that much appreciated privilege. Mr. Andersen's work in every field was a real labour of love, and he was always out to see what he could give. Although born overseas, he was brought up in Christchurch, one of the few parts of New Zealand where one could not find much native bush and there were few Maoris or native birds there, yet these were three of the principal of Mr. Andersen's many interests.

Although, unfortunately, members were farewelling Mr. Andersen, they were able to find a suitable successor, and he had pleasure in seconding the motion that Mr. Allan Sutherland be elected as President. Mr. Sutherland was eminently fitted to undertake that duty. Although his study of numismatics covered most fields, the Society was at least a New Zealand Society, and Mr. Sutherland was unexcelled in his knowledge of New Zealand numismatics. His book on that subject was a standard work, being the result of great labour and considerable research. So far as the speaker knew, Mr. Sutherland was the only person who had carried out research in the pure field of New Zealand numismatics, and he had covered the field completely. He had carried out research in the archives in England and elsewhere, and anyone who had been for a trip to England knew the sacrifice of time that that involved. Apart from his professional work, which carried him to the seats of the mighty, he was well equipped in other ways to assist the work of the Society. During the war years he had carried a heavy load and yet had been able to devote some time to the affairs of the Society, and it was fortunate that the Society had been able to carry on when similar societies elsewhere had had to go into recess.

Mr. A. Quinnell said it was an extraordinary thing that people who were not natives of a country often took a keener interest in that country than native residents. Probably they were able to see more clearly the things that were accepted as commonplace by the natives, and they had a different slant or outlook. History was passing; the old Maori was dying out and comparatively few pure-blooded Maoris remained. A tremendous amount of knowledge was necessary to understand the Maori language and the Maori mind and to think in their language. In a small country like New Zealand, with a small cultural population, few were able to devote time to the subject of research. Much leisure was required to follow clues in order to piece together the fragments of the past. Posterity would owe much to Mr. Andersen, whose work would live as a monument to his industry and scholarship.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Sutherland said that he had intended to move that Mr. Ferguson, who had prior claims, be elected President, but Mr. Andersen had forestalled him. He thanked all member for the honour they had conferred on him. He had been Hon. Secretary for fifteen years and he knew most of the members of the Society personally. He appreciated their friendship and he would do everything in his power to justify the confidence reposed in him. He regretted most sincerely that Mr. and Mrs. Andersen would soon be leaving Wellington. The Society owed a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Andersen, firstly as Librarian of the Turnbull Library and, later, as President of the Society. As an eminent man of letters he had given members vivid glimpses of his storehouse of knowledge and had illuminated papers with interesting historical facts and sidelights. The meetings would not be the same without his genial presence and his kindly interest in members. He would always be welcome on his visits to Wellington.

Mr. Johannes Andersen said his departure to Auckland would take him away from pleasant associations with the members of the Society. The N.Z. Numismatic Society was the most interesting and harmonious association with which he was connected. Although all the members had individualities of their own, they were able to sink their individualities in the interests of the Society. This was exemplified in the progress of the Society and the enjoyment all experienced in attending meetings. He thanked Mr. Ferguson for his generous remarks and the assistance he had at all times given, also Mr. Hornblow - who, he understood, could not accept the position of Hon. Secretary because of pressure of work - also Mr. Sherwood, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Sutherland, Hon. Secretary, for the help they had given him during his term of office. He wished the Society every success, and he would endeavour to keep in touch during his occasional visits to the city.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR were elected as follows:-

PATRON: His Excellency Lt.-General Sir Bernard Freyberg, V. J., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E. (Subject to his consent).
 HON. LIFE PATRON: Viscount Eledisloe, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.Sc.
 PRESIDENT: Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S.
 VICE-PRESIDENTS: St John Hanham, Bt., Dorset; Messrs. J.C. Entrican, Auckland; F.K. Cameron, Hawera; Archdeacon G.H. Gavin, F.R.N.S., New Plymouth; S.R. McCallum, A.P.A.N.Z., Wanganui; N. Solomon, Napier; Johannes G. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S.N.Z.,; Rev. D.C. Bates; Sir John Rankine Brown, M.A., LL.D., Sir James Elliott, M.D., F.R.A.C.S.; J.W. Heenan, C.B.E., LL.B., E. Gilbertson, Wellington; W.J. Dale, M.P.S., Ph.C., Christchurch; F. Watts Rule, F.N.Z.I.A., Timaru; E.G. Williams, Dunedin and J. Robertson, Invercargill.
 COUNCIL: Messrs. W.D. Ferguson, G.C. Sherwood, A. Quinnell, E. Horwood and R. Walpole.
 HON. SECRETARY: Mr. James Berry, Box 23, Wellington. Telephone: 17-236.
 HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Mr. M. Hornblow.
 HON. TREASURER: Mr. Hassell Martin, 20 Hay Street, Wellington, E.1. Telephone: 51-310.
 HON. AUDITOR: Mr. W. Chetwynd.

A vote of thanks was accorded to retiring officers. Members expressed pleasure that Mr. James Berry, the medal and stamp designer had accepted the position of Hon. Secretary, and that Mr. Sherwood, although relinquishing the position of Hon. Treasurer, would still accept subscriptions from members if that was more convenient to members in the city.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. H.R. Taylor, Librarian, Turnbull Library, for his continued assistance to the Society.

PROPOSED PRINTING OF REPORTS: This matter was discussed at some length. The main consideration in the minds of members was that the reports, being a point of contact with members outside of Wellington, should not be too infrequent, but, on the other hand, several members considered that the printing of reports would enable them to be illustrated and that that would stimulate membership. One suggestion was that reports be circulated as at present but that a book of selected papers and articles, suitably illustrated, be issued annually or at lengthier periods. Mr. Berry undertook to ascertain cost of printing in foolscap sheets. DECIDED, that the matter be referred to the incoming Council and officers with a recommendation that the proposal to print reports be seriously considered, and ways and means gone into.

ROOSEVELT DIMES: Fifty U.S.A. dimes just issued bearing the portrait of President Roosevelt were presented to the Society by Captain M.H.O'Day, an American member of the Society. DECIDED, That members be given an opportunity to secure one specimen each at 1s.3d., plus postage (from Hon. Treasurer) and that 25 specimens be reserved for members outside of Wellington. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Captain O'Day.

STORY OF A DIME: Mr. Andersen said that when in Balboa he wanted a darkie taxi driver to take him to a consulate at Panama. The journey took more than an hour and the driver was obviously tarrying for a tip. When he was asked to hurry, the driver said "There is plenty of time." Mr. Andersen gave him a tip - a balboa - worth ten times more than a dime. After spending some time at Panama, Mr. Andersen went back to Balboa to join a ship and there, in a crowd, the darkie recognised him, coming up and saying "Look what you gave me." "What did I give you?" said Mr. Andersen, and the reply was "You only gave me a balboa." The balboa was one that had been put aside for his collection and he was glad to get it back in exchange for a dime, and both parties were satisfied.

BANKING: DECIDED, on the motion of Mr. W.D.Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Quinnell, That Mr. Hassell Martin be authorised to operate the N.Z. Numismatic Society's ordinary account No. 608213 in the Post Office Savings-bank, as sole trustee, in lieu of Mr. G.C.Sherwood, this authority to date from 15th August, 1946.

ACCOUNTS were passed for payment as follows: Envelopes, foolscap, £1.16.5d; Postage, Annual report, 11s.1d; R.M.Watson, addressograph plates, £2.1.3d; Total £4.8.9d.

EXHIBITS: Mr. A. Quinnell exhibited a series of Japanese invasion notes for the Philippines; Mr. M.Hornblow, three medals commemorating the Italian campaign; Mr. W.D.Ferguson, a Scottish merk, of Charles II, and a shilling of George II, with a curious raised cross under the chin of the portrait. Mr. Sutherland exhibited a portrait medal of Tasman, and a collection of Pacific native shell and other money, including strings of coco-nut and shell beads, an axe-head from the Pacific Islands, and specimens of New Zealand glossy black obsidian (almost the silver money of the Maori but also used as a cutting agent) and dull black obsidian of Hawaii. Mr. S.Jackson exhibited a silver medal issued by the Clydesdale Horse Society of New Zealand (S.482).

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on the last Monday in the month - 26th August, 1946, at 7.30 p.m.

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 100th MEETING - 26th AUGUST, 1946

The 100th meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on 26th August, 1946. Mr. Allan Sutherland, President, occupied the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Fraternal greetings were received from the President, and pleasure was expressed regarding the renewal of activities of that Society, also that the Numismatic Association of Victoria had been constituted. Reports tabled from the Numismatic Society of New South Wales showed that that Society was continuing to progress.

PATRON OF THE SOCIETY. A letter was received from His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Bernard Freyberg, consenting to the invitation of the Society to become its Patron.

CORRESPONDENCE was read, including an enquiry from Tel Aviv for particulars of military and emergency currency issues in the Pacific during the war. A copy of the latest Standard catalogue of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland (Seaby, 1945 Edition) was presented to the Society was Mr. L.J.Dale, of Christchurch. Well illustrated throughout, this catalogue was a most useful acquisition for the Society's library. Members expressed appreciation of the gift, and the Secretary said he would thank Mr. Dale. Copies of this catalogue can be obtained by members at 7s.0d. each, post free.

FRIENDS OF THE TURNBULL LIBRARY. The Numismatic Society has been fortunate in being allowed to hold its meetings in the Turnbull Library during the past fifteen years. As a gesture of appreciation it was decided that the Society become a corporate members of "The Friends of the Turnbull Library," annual subscription 10s.6d., the President to represent the Numismatic Society at the meetings.

100th MEETING OF SOCIETY. Mr. James Berry stated that that meeting was a milestone in the history of the Society in that the century mark had been reached so far as meetings were concerned.

"HOLLEY" DOLLARS, SYDNEY. Mr. W.D.Ferguson drew attention to an article, "The Dawn of Freedom," in "Current Problems Digest," in which reference was made to the silversmith who "cut the dollars for the Government," and the brutal way in which he was treated, allegedly for trespassing in Government House grounds when Governor Macquarie was Governor of New South Wales. The article states:

"The grounds of Government House in Sydney had been laid out in plots and walks, and although they were enclosed by a brick wall, gateways had been provided to allow the public convenient access. Governor Macquarie, however, complained that the privileges which he offered were being abused; trespassers had broken down the wall. . . . In 1816 he issued instructions forbidding anyone from entering the domain. . . . But the results were disappointing. Some arrests were made, but the Magistrate refused to take a serious view of the matter and usually let offenders off with a scolding. . . . Macquarie took action himself, and by dint of a little strategy secured a bag of eight offenders. William Henshall was one of these, and his sworn declaration read:-

"William Henshall, of Sydney, silver smith, duly sworn saith: On the 19th April, 1816, I went across the wall that is broken down on the side of Hyde Park. I had no sooner got in . . . before some constables in ambush jumped out and told me I was their prisoner. I asked them what for and for why, and they answered me it was an order from the Governor to take me, or any persons high or low, into custody. I was taken to the Gaol. The Gaoler said he was sorry to inform us that he had got a warrant to inflict corporal punishment upon us. When he read the warrant, he said look at the back. It is written On Government Service. I said the Governor certainly must be mistaken; he dont know me. But he said, I explained thoroughly that you were the person that cut the dollars for the Government."

Presumably this was the officially-ordered process of cutting out a central piece from the Spanish dollars then circulating, and overstamping them "New South Wales, 1813." Continuing, Henshall said:

"With that, the Triangles were brought forward . . . I was ordered to strip and I received 25 lashes by the common hangman . . . After that Mr. Cubitt said "pay your fees and go about your business." He said that the fees of the gaol for a free person was three shillings sterling, or five shillings currency; I paid it and came my ways. I was never taken before a Magistrate, neither the Governor nor anybody else."

Andrews states that Mr. D. Wentworth "was generally employed, but much suspected of coining dumps" (the centre of the dollar which was also over stamped and officially used as a coin) . . . "and was employed to cut out the dumps from the dollars."

Henshall, when complaining of his treatment, stated "All the colony can speak to my character, and that I was trusted by the Government with near 40,000 dollars and both made the tools to cut them, and had above 1,000 dollars in my possession at a time."

As a result of a public outcry the Governor was later himself stripped of his autocratic powers, with the passing in 1823 of the N.S.W. Judicature Act, setting up a Supreme Court.

COINS AND COIN COLLECTING was the subject of a paper by Mr. Reginald Saw submitted by Mr. C. Brunt, Editor of the Banker, and published in "The Old Lady," London. The paper was read by the President, and is as follows:-

"The most famous saying in history in relation to a coin is undoubtedly Christ's "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's." To the Pharisees who tempted Him He had said "Shew Me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it?" They answered and said, "Caesar's." "A penny" says the A.V., but Mgr. Knox's new translation says "a silver coin," for indeed this "tribute money" was a little silver denarius (rather smaller than a shilling) of the Roman Emperor Tiberius, an adopted son of Augustus. It is not one of the "scarce" coins but is soon sold. When one remembers that in the course of time coins pass from hand to hand and from country to country, there is always a remote possibility of acquiring the very coin that once lay in Christ's hand. The "pieces of silver" for which Judas betrayed his Master are supposed to have been the ten-drachma pieces of Antioch. I have often thought how impressive thirty specimens of this coin would be if arranged in a case with interior lighting let into the wall of a cathedral.

"I quote these two instances to show how interesting a coin can be apart from its store of value, which depends almost wholly on two factors - rarity and condition. Coins worth collecting should be in good condition, as near Mint state as possible, without a scratch or blemish of any kind. Particularly in the case of silver coins (for silver is a soft metal) the careful collector will seek those coins which have been kept in cabinets, on cloth discs in countersunk holes, and been passed on from one careful collector to another, from generation to generation. Such silver coins acquire a patina, a sort of sheen or delicate tarnish, sometimes a steely blue, sometimes gold-blue, which is the very bloom on the metal and is indicated in catalogues by the letters FDC ("fleur de coin", not as the schoolboy thought, "fairly decent coin"). This patina does not appear on gold coins but it has an effect on the value of silver and must never be removed. To polish a coin is fatal to its appearance and reduces its value at once by half. A pierced or mounted coin also loses heavily in "collector's value." Silver which has been "shone up" takes on a staring whiteness and copper turns a harsh tawny hue. Never "shine up" a coin. Silver can be gently scrubbed in hot soapy water, copper burnished with a short-hair dry brush which imparts a radiance without changing the tone produced by time.

"The average collector will content himself with silver and copper, beginning his English series with the first modern-type screw-mill coin, that of Cromwell (1658) and adding the collateral Scottish, Irish, Colonial and Anglo-Hanoverian series. Here is a wide field to cover and there are plenty of expensive coins for those who can afford them. Always buy coins in the best condition you can afford; there are never too many of these and always too many of the worn and shabby sort, as you will soon discover when you try to sell. However, there is just one group of coins which you will probably never even see in pristine condition, and that is the Scottish copper (i.e. before 1707). The legend of Scots carefulness may be a joke but it is a hard fact that bawbees and bodles are always rather worn; they have had to work hard for the canny Scot before he parted

with them and let them go South of the Border. However, there are plenty of silver and copper coins to be picked up quite cheap, even in good condition, and the charm of collecting consists largely in this quest after hidden treasure in shops and elsewhere.

"A friend of mine recently picked up a scarce Charles I half-crown of the Bristol Mint in good condition for ten shillings and worth twenty-five times that sum. And this within 100 yards of Charing Cross Station. It may not be your luck to turn up a pot of gold in your allotment or find a half-sovereign in a potato-root, still less to light upon a bright hoard of some 28,000 (mostly new) Roman coins as occurred when workmen were digging the foundations for Marks & Spencer's shop at Dorchester, but the collector has his surprises and the long-sought coin will turn up somewhere some day.

"Coins are rather heavy in bulk, and it is better to have small (6-tray) cabinets and to limit one's range in some way by having a special line off the beaten track (I chose the George I coins and the Irish series). The Crown (five-shilling piece) has always been popular among collectors, partly because of its portraits, and it has always been the easiest to sell again. Maundy sets (4d., 3d., 2d. and 1d. in silver, almost every year since 1662) are rather monotonous, except perhaps the double-bust William and Mary series; the little Maundy penny about the size of a lentil and weighing $8\frac{1}{2}$ grains gets easily lost.

"The use of the screw-mill gave greater pressure and enabled the hot silver disc to be pressed out against a steel collar in which words or ornamentation were engraved and which appeared later on the edge of the finished coin. The object of this was to prevent the coins from being "clipped" and until the ordinary machine-milling (as we have it today) came into use the edges of coins were decorative. Thus, the Cromwell crown of 1658 has on its edge HAS·NISI·PERITURUS·MIHI·ADIMAT·NEMO. "Let no one remove these (letters) from me under penalty of death." But when Charles II was restored to the throne he substituted DECUS·ET·TUTAMEN ("an ornament and a safeguard"), words taken from Virgil (Aen. V. 262) which John Evelyn, the diarist, found on a decoration in Cardinal Mazarin's Testament and recommended to the Mint. Those words remained on all our crowns (with two exceptions) down to the Coronation of George VI in 1937 when ordinary machine-milling was used.

"Neither the English coins nor the English postage stamps have been used much for commemorative purposes. Austria has a modern series dedicated to her famous musicians; Ireland advertises her national livestock on all her coins to-day; the U.S.A. has a whole list of wonderful half-dollars commemorating all the main events in the history of that country, and artistically often very beautiful (the Connecticut oaktree, for example). England has been much too shy (or unimaginative) in this respect. There is a beautiful George I penny (1722) made for use in the New England colonies with a full-blown rose on the reverse and the words ROSA AMERICANA over it, and UTILE DULCI ("the union of the useful and the pleasant"), words taken from Horace (De Arte Poetica, II, 343) below it. I wish this charming design could have been repeated on our pennies in 1943 to commemorate the presence of large American forces in this country. No doubt the Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee coins of Queen Victoria were commemorative, but they had no special pictorial designs on the reverse. In 1927 George V had a special crown-size silver coin (45 piastres) struck for Cyprus to celebrate that island's Jubilee as a British possession (two lions "passant et regardant" on the back) and in 1935 a special crown was struck for New Zealand - the Waitangi crown - to celebrate New Zealand's centenary under British rule. The reverse shows Captain Hobson, R.N., the first Governor, in full naval uniform greeting a Maori chief under a tree at Waitangi in 1840, promising to protect the tribal rights of the natives to their land, subject to the Crown having first option to purchase in case of any sale. In 1935 was struck a Canadian silver dollar with a design of two Red Indians paddling a canoe in a mountain lake, and this was repeated in the Canadian dollar of George VI in 1937. When the latter monarch visited Canada in 1939 there was struck a special "Ottawa Dollar" with a view of the Parliament House in Ottawa on the reverse, with the motto FIDE SUORUM REGNAT ("He rules with the confidence of his own people"). Many of the smaller Colonial coins have interesting designs; the Australian shilling of 1935 with its head of a Merino ram, the Southern Rhodesia florin of 1937 with an antelope whose elegant horns sweep right back till they almost touch the edge. Australia had two special florins, one (1927) with the Federal Parliament House at Canberra, opened in that year, and the "Melbourne Florin" of 1935 on which a symbolic figure of a torchbearer on horseback commemorates the centenary of the State of Victoria.

"The Indian rupee of 1911 had a short and sensational career. On the front is a shoulder-bust of King George V in his Coronation robes and wearing the collar of the Order of the Indian Empire (elephants alternating with crowns). The trunks of the elephants were so short that the animals were mistaken for pigs and no Indian would accept the coin. It was withdrawn in its year of issue. That also recalls the case of the so-called "godless florin" of young Queen Victoria in 1849. The letters "D.G." (by the Grace of God) were accidentally omitted from the titles and that coin was withdrawn three years later.

"The only English king whose head does not appear on his coins was Edward VIII. Nickel coins were struck for West Africa (3) and Fiji (1), copper for East Africa (2) and New Guinea (1), all bearing King Edward VIII's name and having a central hole so that they could be threaded on a string.

"The Isle of Man had its own pennies and halfpennies when it was the property of the Earls of Derby (1733) and again under the Dukes of Atholl (1758) who sold it to Great Britain in 1765. Under George III and Victoria further coins were struck; all these Manx coins had the "triquetra" (3 legs sticking out from the centre) and bore also the Manx motto QUOCUMQUE JECERIT STABILIT ("Wherever you throw it, it will stand"). Among the older Irish coins I like the St. Patrick's farthing (undated but attributed to 1673-80, Charles II). It shows the mitred St. Patrick with a large church on one side of him and the snakes disappearing on the other. This coin has the motto QUIESCANT PLEBS ("May the people be at peace"), perhaps a sign of "appeasement" after the James I Irish shilling with its challenging words from the Psalms EXURGAT DEUS DISSIPENTUR INIMICI ("Let God arise; let His enemies be scattered"), which the turbulent Irish must have found hard to bear.

"Age and rarity and value are not the only attractions for the coin-collector. Beauty in some cases is justification enough, and this beauty generally comes out best in the crown-size specimens. For those who like ornate coins there is the Gothic crown (1848) of Queen Victoria. It is certainly one of the most beautiful of the English series; but the simplicity of the Anne crown of 1703 with "Vigo" below the bust (the 1703 coins were made from bullion captured by Lord Ormonde from a Spanish treasure fleet in Vigo harbour the year before), minted by the famous mathematician Isaac Newton, then Master of the Mint, is equally fine. Likewise the Victoria rupee of 1862 showing the young Queen wearing a delicate Hindu robe. But for contrast look at the wild splendour of the double rupees of the Indian princes, particularly Kutch and Mysore.

"For 123 years (George I to William IV) we had a series of Anglo-Hanoverian coins with some splendid designs - the leaping white horse of Hanover (originally on the shields of Hengist and Horsa, and thereafter on the arms of Kent), St. Andrew and his cross (the St. Andrew silver mine was in the Harz Mountains) and the Wild Man of Brunswick with his uprooted fir-tree (described, by the way, in chap. xviii of Scott's *The Antiquary*). And what swaggering legends some of these coins had! "George by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Luneberg, Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire." And what large coins those "thalers" were, with flamboyant coats of arms or even landscapes complete with rainbow on them.

"Coin design is a plastic art and we have not yet surpassed the Ancient Greeks in their modelling. And remember this, the Ancient Greeks had not our mechanical contrivances for minting coins, they were simple handicraftsmen striking with the hammer and die. They had not only to create the design but also to cut it in a harder metal to withstand the impact of striking, to cut it in reverse so that the left side should come out on the right in the original, and to adjust the perspective in depth too. And all this four hundred years before Christ. The result is seen in masterpieces that can stand comparison with the best work of any later age. It is generally agreed that the finest coin ever made was the silver ten-drachma piece made by the Greek colonists in Sicily, namely, at Syracuse about 415-405 B.C. The obverse shows the head of Persephone, decked with corn and leaves, surrounded by slender dolphins; the reverse had a four-horse chariot with a divine messenger hovering over it offering a laurel crown to the charioteer. This coin (a little over crown size) is rather convex on both sides and therefore appears slightly lumpy by modern standards, but the design and modelling are brilliant, pure Greek art from a master's hand.

"When the arts flourished, coin-design flourished among them. The silver testoons of Florence and Milan struck during the Renaissance rank high in beauty among the arts of the period. In the Eighteenth Century, when all the arts seem to have flourished all over Europe, the Popes had magnificent scudo's with scenes from the Bible and Church History on the reverse, the Grand Masters of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem at Malta displayed their portraits and symbols on sumptuous coins until Napoleon came and swept them out of Malta for ever. For indeed -

"All passes. Art alone
Enduring, stays with us;
The Bust outlasts the Throne,
The Coin, Tiberius." *

* Austin Dobson: *Ars Victrix.* "

2000th ANNIVERSARY OF ROMAN LANDING IN BRITAIN. Mr. W.D.Ferguson exhibited an interesting series of coins bearing the portraits of Julius Caesar and later Roman Emperors, and drew attention to the fact that 2000 years had elapsed since the Romans commenced the occupation of Britain, which continued for about 450 years. Comments from Sir John Rankine Brown in regard to one coin were as follows:-

"III vir" were Commissioners of the Mint. They were Republican officials who used to control the coinage but though they were continued to be appointed during the Empire they had little or no power. The Emperors took over the coinage of the gold and silver and no name of a moneyer appears on Roman coins of gold or silver after 12 B.C. As the title of Augustus was confirmed on Octavius in 26 B.C., your coin must have been issued between that date and 12 B.C. "Divi F." means "son of the deified one," i.e. Julius Caesar. The head on the reverse is that of Julius Caesar himself. This coin is described in the British Museum catalogue Vol. 1, page 13, No. 71, and is illustrated on Plate 3, No. 1. The Museum has three specimens of the coin as well as an aureus and another denarius signed by the same man, who was moneyer in 17 B.C., but with different reverses. 17 B.C. was the date of the famous celebration of the secular games, for which Horace wrote an official ode. This name is on the inscription dealing with the games, now in the Vatican. The coin was issued in connection with the games. The head on the reverse is the youthful Caesar deified, and the B.M. catalogue says that the device above the head is a Comet with four rays and a tail; a comet appeared in 17 B.C. This is clear enough on the better specimen figured in the catalogue. The coin is, therefore, interesting but not, I imagine, specially rare. Description of coin, denarius; obverse, bare head of Augustus to right; legend, "AUGUSTUS DIVI F"; reverse: laureated head of Julius Caesar to right, with comet above. Legend, "M. SANQUINUS III VIR."

Mr. W.D.Ferguson said that authorities attributed the inscription DECUS ET TUTAMEN to Cardinal Richlieu, and not to Cardinal Mazarin.

PRESENTATION OF MR. and MRS. JOHANNES C. ANDERSEN. The President, Mr. Allan Sutherland, said that Wellington members desired to record their appreciation of the services rendered to the Society by their ex-President, Mr. Johannes Andersen, who had given the Society a home, and who at all times worked for the progress of the Society. He asked Mr. Andersen to accept an illuminated address signed by the Patron, His Excellency Sir Bernard Freyberg, and all members present, and other members.

Dr. W.R.B. Oliver paid a tribute to the services rendered by Mr. Andersen to the many organisations with which he was connected. Few men had such diversified interests, and were so well-informed in each of those interests. He had rendered outstanding service as Chairman of the Management Committee of the Dominion Museum, and as a Member of the Geographic Board. Those organisations, together with the New Zealand Numismatic Society, would lose a valuable member of their controlling bodies.

Mr. A. Quinnell associated himself with Dr. Oliver's remarks and said that Mrs. Andersen had been of definite assistance to Mr. Andersen in his great work. The coinage, stamp, and medal designs, and many other things which bore on New Zealand life and activities had been influenced by Mr. Andersen.

Mr. James Berry supported previous speakers and said that all members joined in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Andersen every happiness in their new sphere in Auckland.

Mr. Johannes Andersen said he appreciated the beautiful gift and the expressions of goodwill that went with it. The Address would serve as a reminder of the pleasant associations he had had in Wellington. He had many regrets in leaving Wellington, but he hoped to make similar friends in Auckland. He spoke of his work on the Geographic Board and on the Management Committee of the Museum. Men with similar tastes and enthusiasms soon became friends and he would miss his many friends in Wellington.

The President, Mr. Allan Sutherland, said members were indebted to Mr. James Berry for preparing the illuminated address at short notice. New Zealand motifs had been incorporated in the borders, which showed, in colour, the golden and scarlet kowhai, the pohutukawa, manuka blossoms, and Maori carvings. Also, there was a representation of the design of the New Zealand penny depicting the tui, symbolising Mr. Andersen's association with the selection of coin designs. The Address was one of the most attractive of its kind he had seen.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Berry and to Mr. W.D.Ferguson for their assistance in preparing the Address.

The meeting closed with a social hour and supper.

NEXT MEETING will be held on the 30th September, at 7.30 p.m.

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

MEETING MONDAY NIGHT NEXT. Subject: Cleaning and
and Care of Coins.

Members are asked to exhibit specimens with short
explanatory notes.

REPORT OF 101st MEETING - SEPT. 30, 1946

The 101st meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on 30th September, 1946.

Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., presided. Greetings from Mr. Johannes O. Andersen, ex-President, now in Auckland, was given to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. Apologies were received from Sir John Rankine Brown, and the assistant-secretary, Mr. M. Hornblow, who were indisposed and unable to attend. Apologies were also received from Rev. D.C. Bates, Mr. D.F. Shennan and Mr. A.H. Palmer.

A letter was received from Emily Forsyth, a daughter of the late Mr. Willi Fels, thanking the Society on behalf of members of the family for appreciative references appearing in the report in recognition of the work and benefactions of the late Mr. Willi Fels in the field of Numismatics.

The Secretary had received a letter from Mr. H. G. Williams, of Dunedin, enclosing a donation of £5.5.0d to the Society's funds. This kind action was much appreciated by members present and, on the motion of Mr. W. Chetwynd, seconded by Mr. Hassell Martin, it was decided that the Society send a letter of thanks to Mr. Williams for his generous gift.

"THE MEDAL" was the subject of a paper read by Mr. J. Berry from an article published in the magazine "FORTUNE" for June, 1945.

It is an art, an honor, a collector's item, a small but handsome business. Today's heroes are heirs to the great tradition of Pisanello. Most of the several million U.S. fighting men who receive medals in World War II may never pause to inspect them closely as works of art. For their wearers, these gauds and honors are likely to have significance of a more personal and painful sort. Such ironies are the fact that the Army's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, is also, by general sculptural consent, its ugliest - a fussy, cluttered affair owing its persistence solely to the power of tradition - may well escape most of the medal's wearers. And yet, of course, the legions of the decorated are, willy-nilly, heirs of an age-old tradition in which rich artistry and delicate craftsmanship have been of great importance. St. Augustine may have been standing on impressive moral ground when he exclaimed: "The honors of this world, what are they but puff, and emptiness, and peril of falling!" But the world, ever a trial to moralists, has continued to regard the making of medals as an opportunity for the practice of some of man's most ornamental talents.

An especially high medallion reputation, in peace or war, is enjoyed by the Medallion Art Company, of Manhattan. The diminutive Clyde C. Trees, Hoosier President of Medallion Art, whose curious history in his craft is well known, undoubtedly deserves to be called the leading medal manufacturer in the U.S. today.

If the design of a medal can be a sculptural botch, its manufacture can be a lucrative form of profiteering through skimping on craftsmanship. For though modern machinery has repeatedly come to the aid of the medallion art, the latter depends heavily on the niceties of handicraft. Consider, for instance, the delicate trouble taken in making the Distinguished Flying Cross for the Navy at the U.S. Mint. When the bronze has been cast into ingots, these are rolled down to sheets, which are thereafter cut into narrow strips. From the strips a punch press cuts blanks of the rough, over-all size of the medal. The blanks are then inserted, one at a time, and by hand, into a huge electric-driven, air braked knuckle-action press, standing a good dozen feet off the floor. This holds the dies and can impart to the thin wafer of blank metal an overwhelming pressure up to 1,000 tons - or the weight of several of the largest steam locomotives.

The impeccable definition sought in fine medallion work usually requires from three to five of these squeezes, and before each strike the medal must be annealed (softened by heating in a small furnace, then doused in water). The perfectly struck medal still has metal flash (waste material) around its edges, and this is removed by a trimming press. In elaborate openwork medals, such as the Legion of Merit, the metal flash remaining in the supposedly open portions of the design is removed by painstaking handwork with a jeweller's saw.

A craftsman with pliers next ranks the decorations on a tray and properly places next to each an infinitesimal piece of solder, dipped into a flux, and the tiny ring by which the medal will eventually hang from its ribbon. Another worker

bends over the tray with a small soldering flame, effecting the delicate union of medal and ring. There are still minute roughnesses around the medal's edges and these are filed away by hand. The decorations are then sandblasted by hand to give the bronze a velvet richness of texture. The medals are finally washed in water and hand pumiced to bring out gleaming highlights. Then, and then only, is it time to sew on the ribbon and box the decoration. The Mint, or any other high-quality manufacturer, performs some sixteen separate operations in making medals from bronze blank to ribboned decoration.

The devoted skill of this craftsmanship is, of course, no more than the practical ingenuity with which the concept, the design of the medal, is brought to repeated reality. The medal is, first of all, a work of art, a sculptural creation - good, bad, or indifferent. As such - together with its first cousin the coin - it has had its own peculiar fascinations for generations of fanciers. The medal is one of the few forms in which surpassing art may be carried about in the pocket, and there are men who regularly companion themselves with a choice medal or two, just as there are those who do so with pocket Shakespeares or Palgraves. There is also a special appeal in the medal's very roundness. Officially, in the U.S. fighting services, the decorations, for service beyond the call of duty, are of irregular outline. The war-service medals, for service in line of duty, are round. So, overwhelmingly, are civilian medals of all sorts. The aesthetic magic of the circle has often been noted, and the British sculptor, Theodore Spicer-Simson, suggests that in the medal its value is negative as well as positive. Having alluded to the pleasing sensuousness of the circle, he continues; "The diminutive scale of a coin or medal requires that all attention should be directed toward the subject depicted and away from the outline, and it is a fact that no outline commands the interest or rivets the attention (on the subject) to the same extent as the circle. It has no angles, no irregularities, and therefore nothing to arrest the eye on any particular part . . . This very suitability of the circular form for small reliefs . . . we might describe as its negativeness or inactiveness." There is also the factor of touch. It has been said of Japan's extraordinary woodcraftsmen that they take a pleasure in the empire's exquisite woods like that of the sybarite in the varieties of fine skin. Something of the sort may also be said of the tactile satisfaction that many numismatists obtain from handling the shaped metal of their collections.

In 1905 the late Augustus Saint-Gaudens wrote to Theodore Roosevelt; "Of course the great coins (and you might almost say the only coins) are the Greek ones you speak of, just as the great medals are those of the fifteenth century by Pisanello and Sperandio." Saint-Gaudens' judgment may seem rather didactic in view of history's long and luminous cascade of coins and medals. But there can be no doubt that the sculptor spoke of especially high periods. As early as the fourth century B.C. the Greeks, with dies of uncertain material, were striking coins of ravishing, stylized design. Antonio Pisano, better known as Pisanello (circa 1395-1455), enjoys in medallion circles a prestige comparable to that of Bach in the musical world. He was a robust flowering of the Renaissance, a mold of rugged commemorative medals, cast rather than die-struck, whose vigorous portraits were superbly adapted to bronze and set off with a lavish indulgence in sheer, blank metal. Pisanello's dignity frequently slid into humorous conceits and his searching studies of character were often pointed up by a deft use of symbolic devices.

Through the following centuries the casting of medals gradually gave way to the faster process of striking them from hand-cut dies. Another rich period occurred in nineteenth-century France, the medals of the time often being notable for suave, neoclassical elegance and a Gallic virtuosity with the most diaphanous effects of low relief. The leading sculptors included David d'Angers, Oudine, Ponscarne, Roty and Chaplain.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century the machine age brought the medallion art a device that revolutionized its designing technique. For years medals had been sculptured in wax or some other soft substance, and a highly skilled engraver (sometimes the sculptor himself) then followed this design, hand-cutting the soft steel die from which the medals were struck. Various scaling methods were developed that gave the sculptor the advantage of making his original model much larger than the intended medal; the engraver could reduce the scale in the process of hand-cutting the die. But in any event the engraving work could never be better than a close approximation of the sculptured original. And in the arts, close approximations are often very far from being enough. Moreover, hand die-cutting was extremely arduous work. It was small wonder that the French engraver, Frederic Janvier, revolutionized medallion design when he perfected a machine that

reduced the sculptor's model exactly, not approximately, cutting the die automatically rather than by hand.

Briefly described, the reducing or die-cutting machine has a tracer that in many hours entirely explores the revolving surface of the large-scale model; as it does so, it actuates a drill that carves the same contours, in medal scale, into a soft steel die. Today the sculptor makes his original model in Plastilene. From this soft positive model, a negative mold of plaster of paris is obtained. This is then used to get another plaster positive, on which a light copper galvano is deposited by means of electroplating. The galvano, a firm, exact replica of the sculptor's Plastilene model, is used as the pattern in the reducing machine.

The introduction of the Janvier process to U.S. indirectly sprang from the correspondence between Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Theodore Roosevelt in 1905. The sculptor and the President agreed that U.S. coinage was generally hideous. Saint-Gaudens undertook to bring to it some of the Greek virtues, and eventually went so far as to meet T.R.'s desire for an Indian feather headdress on the Goddess of Liberty (see Saint-Gaudens's \$10 gold piece). The pair were vastly disappointed when the Mint obliged Saint-Gaudens to lower his relief because his high-relief coins would not stack, but the final result was a distinguished coinage by Saint-Gaudens and other fine sculptors: Victor D. Brenner (the Lincoln penny); James Earle Fraser (the buffalo nickel); Adolph A. Weinman (the dime and half-dollar); Hermon A. MacNeil (the quarter). To get dies for some of these coins, the Mint turned to a French-born engraver, Henri Weil, who had assisted some of the sculptors mentioned. Weil thereupon went to Paris and studied the Janvier process in the engraver's own studio, returning with the first reducing machine to be imported into the U.S.

The leading U.S. temple of the medalllic art - and of numismatics generally - has since 1858 been Manhattan's American Numismatic Society. This is at once an association of some 500 enthusiasts, a library of some 10,000 volumes, and a museum whose tripartite collection of coins, decorations, and medals is of the very first order. Some collections may be more extensive in a single field, but as a combination of three the dignified Ionic building at Broadway and One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Street is probably unsurpassed. The society's leading benefactor has been Archer Milton Huntington, eminent Spanish scholar and founder of the adjacent Hispanic Society of America, son of the Southern Pacific Railroad's co-founder, Collis P. Huntington. The society's current President is Herbert Eugene Ives, the veteran Bell Telephone physicist who first demonstrated television by wire and radio. The society's collections range from the genius of ancient Greece to the tinsel shimmer of recent war-fund insignia. Its own J. Sanford Saltus Medal, designed by Adolph Weinman and awarded when the society feels like it, is a splendid design in itself and the outstanding national award for medalllic sculpture. The society's American exhibits include the remarkable government series of Indian Peace Medals, designed to spread harmony with the tribes and featuring the profiles of the Presidents of the U.S. The first design for the Lincoln Indian Medal, by S. Ellis, was hastily replaced when it was noticed that the observe side showed a maladjusted brave in the act of scalping a white man. This mortifying piece of sculpture is among the treasures of the American Numismatic Society.

Interest in the medalllic design has had a special focus in the Society of Medalists of New York. This group came into being in 1930, when the late George D. Pratt, patron of art, had the notion that many people might be glad to pay a modest price for distinctive new medals in regular issues. For an annual membership fee of \$8 the society issues two medals a year by leading sculptors in a wide variety of styles. The society's issues, as indeed the great majority of fine medals published in the U.S. in recent years, have been manufactured by the Medalllic Art Co., of Manhattan. This is the outgrowth of the shop of Henri Weil, who brought the first reducing machine to the U.S. It is the only company in the world today exclusively making bas-relief replicas from sculptors' models. Clyde C. Trees, the graying, pince-nez, jovial man who heads Medalllic Art, has no intention of expanding except as is possible through the promotion of the highest-grade craftsmanship.

Medalllic Art struck one of its most unusual orders after the death of the late Dr. Sun Yat-sun - 10,000 medals by Robert Aitken depicting the great Chinese revolutionist and his tomb, a large scale bronze being placed in that edifice, the medals distributed by the Chinese Government. Mr. Trees's products have ranged from the romanticism of C. A. Hannan's luscious bouquet in bronze for the

Chestnut Hill Garden Club, to Norman Bel Geddes' sleek symbolizing of cylinder and piston for General Motors. Medallistic Art's several hundred widely diversified clients have included many large organisations of international repute and the many orders filled for portrait medallions include such famous names as Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford.

Some of the finest and most original sculptors have as yet done little or no medallistic work. Industrial clients are seldom notable for advance-guard aesthetic tastes, and the numismatic field is prevailingly conservative and antiquarian. But when medals are struck again in large quantities for peacetime purposes, there can be little doubt that modern sculpture will make headway on the medal as off it.

CLEANING AND CARE OF COINS: Mr. Allan Sutherland said that widely divergent views were held by experts regarding the best method of cleaning and storing of coins. The consensus of opinion was that dirty coins should be washed with a mild soap, and that the grime in the interstices and in the lettering should be removed by a bone needle under a powerful magnifier, and then the coin should be thoroughly dried. Abrasives should not be used. Numismatists differed as to the treatment of mould spots. Gold was a stable metal and required washing only. Silver coins were susceptible to sulphur in the atmosphere and in bleached white paper. Coins should be kept in cellophane envelopes or in unbleached manilla envelopes rather than white envelopes. He had placed brilliant coins on white paper, and in a few months the sides coming in contact with the paper had assumed a yellow appearance while the other sides were still brilliant.

Mr. C. W. Peck, in Seaby's excellent coin and medal Bulletin for April, 1946, stated that it was an inexcusable crime to use metal polish or chalk on toned silver coins. He recommended a small tooth brush, with the second row of bristles behind the top cut away, as a suitable means of removing grime loosened by the bone needle. Ammonia would remove unsightly yellow stains, and 20% was the best strength, but the use of ammonia was full of risks and when applied to worn coins was usually a failure, although it imparted a brilliant appearance. The great trouble with copper coins was corrosion, usually raised spots of green or blue colour, which usually "grew." Green spots were usually brittle and blue spots tough, and damp and tobacco ash were contributing causes. The cure was to remove them with the bone needle and brush, but dark stains usually remained. Tough coloured incrustations should be soaked in oil for a long period to soften before cleaning. Collectors would be well advised to practise on poor specimens first.

Mr. A. Sutherland said that he had in his possession some Australian tokens which had been stored for ten years and their condition was so good that he had enquired from the previous owner as to the method used in cleaning them, as they appeared to have been cleaned with oil. The reply was that if the bronze coins were dirty or slightly corroded, they were treated with a very fine steel brush, used briskly, followed by the use of a fine brass wire brush (to remove the scratches that may be made with the first brush). The coins were then wiped with a duster, and then rubbed fairly hard with Kiwi brown boot polish; left to stand for a few minutes, then rubbed briskly with a jeweller's plate brush, and finally with a soft duster. If the coins were not very dirty the steel wire brush was eliminated, and the brass wire brush only used. The correspondent claimed that after trial of several methods this was the best and the coins did not appear as if they had been cleaned.

Another method of cleaning published in America was as follows: "Lay the coin on a small piece of cotton flannel in a saucer. Squeeze lemon juice on the coin, then apply common baking soda on a wad of cotton batten, and gently rub the coin. Add lemon juice and soda until tarnish is removed. Then dip the coin in boiling water and wipe off with a cotton flannel cloth, and you again have a brilliant coin." "To clean medals or bronze or gold I use common laundry soap and ordinary household ammonia, and scrub well with a bristle brush. Where coins and medals have been lacquered I remove the lacquer with alcohol."

Finally Mr. G.C. Heyde and the British Museum method were quoted as follows: "Whereas a continuous fine hard crystalline and non-porous coating on old copper alloy coins is much prized as a "patina" which may take a high polish, a softer, perhaps powdery or even pasty, uneven, greenish coat indicates the much unwanted "bronze disease." The safest reagent for the removal of "bronze disease" seems

to be a strong solution of sodium sesqui-carbonate which can be used either cold or, in aggravated cases, hot. This solution has little or no effect on the original metal or genuine patina. It is important that any cleaning should be absolutely thorough, as traces of the original corrosion will act as focal points for rapidly developing new corrosion. It is possible to observe if corrosion is still being removed by treating for chlorine (transfer the specimen to a new solution or to distilled water, after some time take a little of the solution, acidify it with a little pure nitric acid and add a small quantity of silver nitrate solution; the presence of chlorine is indicated by the formation of a precipitate.) This method is said to supersede the previous method of warming the specimens in a solution of caustic soda together with metallic zinc. Investigations were undertaken in this method in the British Museum and adopted in 1926.

BRITISH COINS; Reference was made to the proposed substitution of British coins in the United Kingdom for nickel coins in order to secure sufficient silver to return silver borrowed from the U.S. Mr. W.D.Ferguson exhibited steel, nickel, and cupro-nickel coins to illustrate the probable appearance of the new coins.

EXHIBITS; Mr. W.D.Ferguson referred to the previous report, and exhibited Scottish bawbees and bodles in fine condition, together with English coins before 1707, to disprove the assertion that it was the canny Scot who wore out his coins. Obviously it was the English who did so. In inscription of James I Irish shilling translated "Let God arise; let His enemies be scattered" was also on English coins, disproving the suggestion that that was intended to scare the Irish.

Mr. Weston exhibited a fine 5-Kopek Russian piece, and a series of other coins.

Mr. Allan Sutherland exhibited coins of Mauritius, a one-time important calling-place for sailing vessels round the Cape to India and Australasia. On the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 the Island ceased to be of importance. Discovered by the Portuguese, first settled by the Dutch, owned by France 1715-1810, the Island is now British, and the coinage is based on a special Rupee of 100 cents.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

As a holiday (Labour Day) falls on the next usual Numismatic Society meeting day of the last Monday in the month, it was decided to hold the October meeting a week earlier - ON MONDAY, 21st OCTOBER.

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

P.O.Box 23,
Wellington.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 102nd MEETING - 21st OCTOBER, 1946

The 102nd meeting of the Society was held on the 21st October, 1946. Mr. Allan Sutherland presided. Apologies were received from Mr. M. Hornblow and Mr. G. C. Sherwood. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

THE LATE SIR JOHN RANKINE BROWN, M.A., LL.D. The President said it was his sad duty to record the passing of Sir John Rankine Brown, Vice President. Sir John was President of the Society from 1933 to 1936 during the most eventful period in the numismatic history of the country. The first distinctive coins of New Zealand were issued during that time, a decision precipitated by exchange variations; also the first unified series of Reserve Bank notes were then issued. With the Rev. D. C. Bates, Sir James Elliott and Mr. Johannes Andersen, past Presidents, Sir John Rankine Brown had left his impress on the coinage and bank-note designs of the country. The issue of the Bledisloe-Waitangi medal was made during his term as President. The adoption of English instead of Latin inscriptions on New Zealand coins had been influenced by Sir John who, although a classical scholar, offered the view "It is a far fry from Rome" and this turned the scales in favour of English. "The Prof." as members termed him, made many friends among members who valued his assistance in deciphering inscriptions and in attributing coins of the classical period. As a Professor of Classics, and as a teacher for 47 years, he taught of the past but lived very much in the present. He appreciated the attentive audiences at Society meetings. His ability to make the past live, and to capture the interest of his listeners by interesting sidelights on coin issuers also attracted interest abroad, where his papers were often re-published.

Members would always retain pleaaant memories of their association with Sir John Rankine Brown. They would remember him for his dignity and geniality, his characteristic gait, his sharp quizzical glance under bushy eyebrows, and especially for his erudition. That was the mental picture all would carry of a man who had departed rich in years and high in the estimation of his fellow men. Mr. G. C. Sherwood desired to be associated in the tribute. Mr. Allan Sutherland said that he was personally indebted to Sir John for the preface he wrote to "The Numismatic History of New Zealand." He moved, That the Society records its appreciation of the distinguished services rendered by the late Sir John Rankine Brown, ex President, and tenders to his daughter its sincere sympathy in her bereavement.

Mr. W. D. Ferguson seconded the motion. He said that no one had done more in placing the Society on the map than Sir John Rankine Brown, whose erudition was always at the disposal of the Society. His valuable papers, recorded in the Bulletin, would always bear re-reading, and might well be reproduced by themselves in the future. Sir John Rankine Brown had not only served a term as President, but also he had acted in that capacity on subsequent occasions, particularly when Sir James Elliott was in England. The example of Sir John Rankine Brown would remain as an inspiration of those who were left to carry on. The Society had suffered heavy losses of valued members in the year 1946.

Mr. James Berry supported the tributes paid, and said Sir John's name would live for a long time in the history of the country, particularly in connection with the Victoria University College, where, as Professor of Classics, he had taught many thousands of pupils, some of whom were in the forefront of New Zealand affairs today.

The motion was carried in silence, all members standing as a mark of respect.

A letter from Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., received too late for the meeting, stated: "I called at 9 Burnell Avenue on the 4th October to see our late friend, Professor Sir John Rankine Brown. . . . He seemed to know of his precarious state, saying that whenever he lay down he at once went to sleep; he acknowledged he had had a serious breakdown, but was soon chatting away about the Society and the library, and when I at last got up to take my departure he urged me to come again when next in Wellington. And now he has gone, perhaps to meet face to face some of those stalwart ancients of whom he has so often spoken to us, when dealing with Greek and other coins from the Gilbertson collection. He will be missed by the Society. All the members, I am quite sure, enjoyed his talks as much as I did; his quiet way of speaking, and the quiet

humour he so often introduced were characteristic of him and were much appreciated. I felt I should not see him again. I daresay he will be mentioned with affection at the meeting on Monday, and I could have wished that something of what I say could have been told to the members, my very good friends whose sociable company I very much miss. I am glad I was at the Society's 100th meeting; where shall I be at its 200th?"

JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR TOKEN MONEY. Mr. H.C. Williams advised that these tokens are not to be sold by the Government, but are to be altered and used by Government Departments. He is endeavouring to obtain sets for members. He also advises that he has received copies of Wayte Raymond's second edition "Coins of the World," 35s., postage extra.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Mr. Sutherland said he had received a cordial message from Mr. Ron Byatt, Hon. Secretary, on behalf of members, on his election as President. The 85th Report includes a paper by Mr. Sydney V. Hagley on a "Suggested New Reverse Design (the lyre bird) for the Australian Sixpence." An illustration of a design by Allan Jordan is given, and the effect is both striking and pleasing. Another paper by Mr. Hagley was "Americo-Australian Hybrids." A further paper, "The Sower Type on the Coins of France," by Mr. C.J.V. Weaver is included. The report maintains the usual high standard set by this Society.

AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES. Mr. Sutherland stated that several Australians were members of the New Zealand Society, and he would like to see New Zealand members become members of the New South Wales and Victorian and South Australian Societies. Addresses: Mr. R.J. Byatt, 55 Raglan Street, Mosman, Sydney, and Roy W. Farman, 171 Lower Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, Victoria, and Colin Pankhurst, 60a North Parade, Torrensville, Adelaide.

THE ROYAL MINT was the subject of a short summary read by Mr. James Berry from "The Guide to the Pavilion of the British Government" at Dumedin Exhibition 1925-6, as follows:- "The Royal Mint was established in the Tower of London in the very early days, but was rehoused on Tower Hill about 1810, on a site originally occupied by the Cistercian Abbey of Grace, founded by Edward III, and subsequently occupied by the store houses and bakeries of the Navy Victualling Office. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the Master of the Mint, but his duties are performed by the Deputy Master and Comptroller. The coins for British and many foreign countries are manufactured at the Royal Mint, also official seals, medals, stamp plates, and embossing dies. The staff comprises 400 to 500 officers and craftsmen." There was an exhibit showing the process of coining, and a case of electrotypes of early Greek coins, impressions from the Great Seals of England, and English historical medals. The article continued: "Early Greek coins are original works of art, and many examples surpass in skilful die-engraving, medals produced in modern times." The impressions of the Great Seals showed that "a very high pitch of excellence was attained under the early Edwards, and the seventh seal of Edward III is considered to be the finest of the whole series. It is known as the Bretigny Seal, because the King's title "Rex Franciae" is abandoned in accordance with the Treaty of Bretigny in 1360. The gold Bulla or Seal for the Treaty of "The Field of the Cloth of Gold" in 1527 was also included.

The art of the medallist may be said to have begun in England with the reign of Henry VIII, long after it had risen to considerable importance on the Continent and especially in Italy. Medals were usually cast until improvements made about the time of the Restoration in the machinery for the striking of coins allowed also the striking of medals of considerable size. Soon after the accession of Elizabeth, historical medals began to be numerous, the badges issued in commemoration of the defeat of the Spanish Armada being often regarded as the earliest Naval awards, as some specimens have chains for suspension to be worn as a decoration.

NEW MEMBERS were elected:-

Professor Murray, of Victoria University College.

Proposed by the President, Mr. A. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. J. Berry.
Mr. Laurence Osborne, 5 Linwood Avenue, Christchurch, E.1.

Proposed by Mr. W. Salter, seconded by Mr. J. Berry.

As it was desired to bring the list of members up to date for inclusion in the next report, Mr. Berry suggested that he be notified of any recent change in address of individual members as soon as possible. Also, if members desired to forward their particular interests in numismatics (Greek, Roman, British, European, Modern, N.Z. tokens, War medals, commemorative medals, etc.), these would be included in the list of names and addresses. By this means members could get in touch with fellow members with similar interests. Will members wishing to do this please notify the Hon. Secretary not later than 12th December.

PACIFIC CURRENCY. Mr. Allan Sutherland said that native trading transactions, native currency, and bartering in the Pacific Islands were referred to by Dennis Puleston in *BLUE WATER VAGABOND*, published in 1940. This gives first-hand account of the survival of native currencies and methods of trading in the Pacific.

At Tongareva coloured pearls were bartered. Dennis Puleston states that the colours are lemon, pale orange, bronze, copper, red or black, and that although the pearls are not sought after by Broadway dowagers, Indian maharajahs prize them for adorning rich trappings. The natives keep the pearls in tiny pieces of cloth in their belts, and Puleston records having got two fine pearls for "one overcoat, one pair shorts, an ancient accordion, three small glass fish . . ." Soap, perfume, calico, fish hooks, knives and flour were most in demand in exchange for pearls.

In the "Pandemonium" of New Hebrides the natives were eager to trade "for the stick-tobacco we had wisely brought from Suva. They offered in exchange chickens, piglets, yams, taro, bananas, and sometimes 'tooth belong pig'" These last are the tusks of domestic pigs, used as currency throughout the group.

At Utupua, Dennis Puleston says that when he and his yachting friends showed the natives some tobacco "their eyes glistened" and they began offering the usual South Sea foodstuffs, necklaces of flying fox and alligator teeth, and tortoise shell carved into shapes of fish and birds. "One stick of tobacco, about the size of a lead pencil, was fetching a basket of yams or a beautiful string of shells or teeth." Incidentally, the sandalwood English of the natives here is curious, the description of a piano being "Box you fightim teeth belong him, belly belong him sing out."

At Ndeni the natives bought tobacco, trade mirrors and bush knives for "strings of beads, cut out of the tridacna shell with infinite labour; cages made of woven grasses . . . elaborately carved spears and arrows, canoe paddles . . . and strangest of all, the Ndeni Island money. This is made from woven vines in the form of a thick rope. Around it is a binding of bark, into the folds of which are laid a solid covering of small red parrot feathers, giving it the appearance of a great crimson serpent. It is impossible to discover the origin of this remarkable form of currency - in none of the other Islands is it to be found.

Mr. Sutherland also read extracts from page 150 of "The Leaning Wind," by C. Gessler, 1943, giving an indication of currency names in Tahiti where the Tahitian name for five-francs was literally "one dollar"; the Chamber of Commerce tokens were described as "one quarter", although it took five quarters to make a dollar; and other Tahitian names represented "five pence" and "three reals," the latter apparently being a vestige from the use of the Spanish dollar of eight reals.

The stone currency of the Carolines was also referred to, and the following extract from "Pacific Islands Monthly," June, 1946, read: "Nowhere else in the world are mill-stones (of Yap) of greater value. Although not now used in our sense of money, they are (or were before the Japanese occupation) considered the most desirable of possessions. They are made from arragonite - hewed in the quarries of Pelew some 200 miles away. Perhaps one of the virtues of these large coins is that they do not need to be carted around. In conducting business, old style, a native merely had to refer to the number of "Fe" (or mill-stones) in his possession. The other party viewed them "on application" and both sides were then satisfied. The Fe might remain in the custody of the former owner; they could always be found when needed. Many of the chiefs' houses had a single or double line of the immense coins lining the pathway to the door. They ranged in size from a foot to 12 feet in diameter. A hole in the centre enabled them to be transported on a pole.

A story told of the German days, by the late Mr. T. Andrews, of Apia, is that once, when the roads were in a bad state, the Government fined the chiefs in their own mill-stone currency. The police simply marked the required number of Fe with a black cross to show that they were Government property. Black magic could not have worked a greater miracle than that black paint. The islanders set to work and the roads were repaired in a short time. Then the Government rubbed out the black marks, and the Yap natives were restored to their former wealth. Yap stone money was not used as an ordinary purchasing agent as we know money, but served in traditional settlements, such as at birth or marriage, just as do the fine mats of Samoa, or the shell money of the Solomon Islands."

Extracts were also read from "The Technology of Numismatics," by Cecil Thomas, R.M.S.

CLEANING AND CARE OF COINS. Mr. A. Sutherland said that he had submitted pages 135 and 136 of the previous report to Mr. C.W. Brandt, M.Sc., for comment, and Mr. Brandt had kindly submitted the following:

(1) "Silver coins were susceptible to sulphur in the atmosphere and in bleached white paper." Paper pulp is produced by pulping materials with one of several types of sulphur-compound-containing ingredients. Some of these may remain in the pulp, if it is not thoroughly washed, and be carried through to the paper. This is still unbleached pulp, and dark in colour. For white papers the above pulps are bleached. This is done almost invariably by means of chlorine followed by washing. Thus it is possible for chlorine and sulphur compounds to remain in trace amounts in bleached papers, and in unbleached papers traces of sulphur compounds may be found. Traces of sulphur compounds in paper would be more likely to cause tarnishing than any other foreign substances. However, most papers - unless the pulps have been very well washed - are acidic in reaction. These traces of acids, and of chlorine compounds from bleaching could also cause tarnishing, especially under damp conditions. These remarks apply to action on silver and copper coins, and also, to a lesser extent, on those made from other base metals.

(2) "Coins should be kept in cellophane envelopes, or in unbleached manilla envelopes." Cellophane is likely to contain minute traces of sulphur compounds, due to the chemistry of its manufacture. Cellulose acetate film would probably be safer. In regard to unbleached manilla envelopes, see (1).

(3) "Ammonia would remove unsightly yellow stains" on coins. Ammonia definitely has a solvent effect on copper and silver. This solvent action is more vigorous on the oxides of these metals, and if used sufficiently dilute might dissolve the oxide film without removing much of the unoxidised metal.

(4) "Bronze coins that are dirty or slightly corroded should be treated with a very fine steel brush, followed by the use of a fine brass wire brush." The brass wire brush is, of course, much softer than the steel one, and should therefore be less inclined to remove metal from the coins; however, it seems risky on soft coins such as copper, silver, or gold.

(5) "Clean coins with lemon juice, later using baking soda on a wad of cotton batten." The acids in the lemon juice would have a brief and slight action on the metal oxides before neutralisation by the sodium carbonate (baking soda). The subsequent rubbing would be almost entirely mechanical in effect. The same result would probably be obtained by using vinegar and then rubbing off with a wet rag.

(6) "Treatment of coins with "bronze disease" - sodium sesqui-carbonate - and subsequent test for chlorine." Apparently this type of "disease" is due to chloride corrosion (c.f. corrosion from bleached paper packing containing traces of chlorine). However, this seems rather doubtful, and the presence of chlorides by the test described would need perhaps rather more chlorine than that present in the final traces of tarnish (not visible) to be removed.

Mr. Brandt added that the subject was worth carrying out a few well-planned tests, using some clean metal in various types of wraps. Members expressed appreciation of the interest taken by Mr. Brandt and suggested that the Society should co-operate in tests.

NEXT MEETING will be held on 25th November, when Mr. James Berry will exhibit plaster moulds and casts and will explain the process of modelling designs to be used for the modern die-reducing machine. Members are asked to bring friends.

The Society will go into recess after this meeting until the last Monday in February, 1947.

JAMES BERRY,

Hon. Secretary.

Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE 103rd MEETING - 25th NOVEMBER, 1946.

The 103rd meeting was held on the 25th November, Mr. Allan Sutherland presiding. A welcome was extended to Mr. M. Hornblow, who had been absent from several earlier meetings through illness. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

REVISION OF RULES: The President reported that the sub-committee set up to review the rules of the Society had met that evening and had agreed on certain amendments which would be submitted to members for approval in due course.

NEW MEMBER: On the motion of Mr. Quinnell, seconded by Mr. Horwood, Mr. Claude Newman, McCallum Street, Farnham, Blenheim, was elected a member of the Society.

PROPOSED TASMAN MEDAL: Mr. James Berry submitted a draft design for consideration. All agreed that the obverse design, showing Tasman's bust in profile, was attractive, but no finality was reached in regard to the reverse design. Members are invited to suggest subjects for a reverse design.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL: An up-to-date membership roll is being circulated with this report.

REPORTS from the Numismatic Society of New South Wales, together with correspondence, and Seaby's and Spinks Coin Lists were tabled for inspection.

FIJI COINAGE: The President reported that Mr. R.A. Johnson, now in Suva, Fiji, had sent press clippings to him from the Fiji "Times and Herald" 30/10/46 showing that on the suggestion of Mr. Alport Darker and the Suva Chamber of Commerce, the Commissioners of Currency there had agreed to issue an octagonal oupro-niokel threepenny-piece. Threepences disappeared in Fiji in 1934, apparently at the instigation of church authorities. Church revenue there would suffer as a result of the change. Mr. Sutherland said he had received a communication from the Secretary to the Commissioners of Currency, and Mr. J. Berry had shown interest in the matter by preparing and sending to Fiji four designs which might prove of interest to the Commissioners.

MEDALLIC DESIGN: Clay models, plaster moulds and casts were exhibited by Mr. James Berry, who gave a descriptive talk on the preparation and modelling of medallie design for reproduction by the reducing machine method.

The first requirement was a shallow wooden box made of 1" timber with sides approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. The inside of the box was left rough so that the clay used would adhere to the wood. A few large-head galvanised nails could be driven in the wood as an additional aid to holding the clay. After pressing the clay firmly into place, the surface was levelled off with a straight edged piece of timber drawn firmly across the top edges of the box. This gave a smooth-surfaced slab of clay on which to model the design in relief. The low-relief models exhibited by Mr. Berry were 8" in diameter.

Some of the tools used for modelling were shown and their respective uses described. Mr. Berry emphasized that the modelling throughout must have bevelled edges, as vertical or undercut edges in the model would make it impossible to obtain a plaster mould and cast from the design. Also, the deepest relief should be confined to the outline or silhouette of the design, because, with deeper relief in the modelling, the eye would be detracted from the form of the design itself.

To make a plaster mould, a wall of clay was built around the design and plaster of paris, mixed with water to the desired consistency, was poured over the design. Some teased sisal was added to give strength to the mould as the thickness of plaster was built up. After about half an hour the mould could be separated from the clay model, giving a perfect reproduction of the design in reverse. The mould was then treated with a coat of shellac, and before each plaster-cast was made a thin coating of a mixture of mutton-fat and kerosine was applied to the surface of the mould to prevent the cast from sticking. The resultant cast was an exact reproduction in plaster

of the original clay model and, provided the mould was not damaged, any number of plaster reproductions could be produced in this way.

For reproduction of the design for a reducing machine, an electro of the design was produced and mounted on the machine which could then produce a steel die in any required reduced size to be used to produce any number of exact metallic replicas of the design.

The advantages of this method reproduced exactly the artist's design as a complete unit including the lettering. Mr. Berry exhibited a large medallio plaque as presented to next-of-kin of those servicemen who lost their lives in the war of 1914-18, the Allied Service Medal and the British Service Medal of the 1914-18 War. Also the medal of the New Zealand Institute of Engineers, and a bronze plaque awarded by the Philatelic Society of Victoria, Australia, at the time of the Victorian Centenary in 1934.

On the motion of Mr. Sutherland, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Berry for his interesting talk and display of models, moulds and casts.

LOVERS' TOKENS: Mr. A. Sutherland exhibited an article from "The Antique Collector," May 17, 1935, p. 157, dealing with lovers' tokens. An extract is as follows:

"Lovers' tokens provide a fascinating study. Apart from the merits or the quaintness of their inscriptions, they have, for an imaginative eye, a halo of romance, which is absent from ordinary coins and trade tokens. At one time it was clearly the custom for lovers to exchange coins, engraved with appropriate names and sentiments. Coins also with a double bend in them were probably used for the same purpose.

"Although this custom was common in the 18th and early 19th centuries, it is doubtful whether it spread far in fashionable circles, because valuable coins were seldom inscribed with names or initials. The subject has been well written up, notably by Mr. Thomas Sheppard, of the Hull City Museum, where one of the largest collections of lovers' tokens is now preserved."

A series of such tokens were illustrated, the principal design being a heart pierced with arrows. Names, initials and dates are shown. Some coins are shorn of the design while others are merely engraved in the field. The double bend coins included an Edward VI shilling and a French coin. Mr. Sutherland said he had encountered double bend coins, which he thought had been run over by a tram, and he had also seen lovers' tokens, but until he read the article he had not realised their significance.

MEMORIAL CROSS: The Government is issuing a New Zealand Memorial Cross to mothers and widows of New Zealand servicemen who lost their lives on service. The design is attractive, but the only association with New Zealand is a fernleaf on the arms of the silver cross. The initials "N.Z." could have been included with advantage.

ARTICLES ON COINS: Reference was made to the article on coins in the Free Lance for November 6th. This article provoked many inquiries regarding coins. An article "ANCIENT COINS PRESERVE ART AND HISTORY OF THE AGES" appearing in the Evening Post for November 23rd, 1946, has been reprinted for circulation with this report (pages 144 and 145).

NEXT MEETING will be held on the last Monday in March, and not the last Monday in February as stated in the previous report.

SEASONAL GREETINGS: The President and Officers of the Society join in offering hearty seasonal greetings to all members of the Society.



THREE SERIES OF COINS which illustrate in graphic manner the decline of the art of coin-making from the time of the early Greeks to the inartistic and shoddy productions of the worst English periods. The efforts being made to recapture the beauty of the Greek artists is reflected in two modern Italian coins, shown below. The top row shows, left to right, four Greek coins of the best period: a stater from Aspendus, depicting two wrestlers (B.C. 400-300); a didrachm from Tarentum, showing Taras on a dolphin (B.C. 380-345); a tetradrachm from Syracuse (B.C. 317-310), depicting a quadrigras; and a stater from Anactorium, of Corinthian type, bearing a fine head (B.C. 300-250). In the second row are hammered silver English coins of the periods which displayed a lamentable decline in workmanship and art, and in the third row are two modern Italian coins, displaying a return to the classical motifs of the Greek and Roman times. The beauty of design in the Greek coins depicted here is astounding in view of the fact that they were produced by the crudest of methods. All are from the collection of a local numismatist.

Ancient Coins Preserve Art And History Of The Ages.

(By H.C.L.)

Some of the artistic glories of Greece, mingled with the boisterous atmosphere of the very early days of our own country are being recaptured today by many New Zealanders who have taken up numismatics as a hobby. Modest and retiring almost without exception, numismatists do not advertise their collections as a rule, but nevertheless in New Zealand today there are many highly-prized hoards of ancient coins which reflect the lives and manners of bygone days.

Some numismatists do not collect coins, but merely facts relating to them. Normally, however, some specimens are collected, if only to vitalise their study. All sorts of side lines are developed. Some prefer to collect large-sized crowns—metallic portrait galleries—some specialise in certain countries; others collect for the beauty of design, and others again are attracted by historical significance the little discs of gold, silver, bronze, or copper.

The average person values coins purely for their purchasing power, and seldom do these fleeting tokens of wealth attract more than passing attention as they circulate from hand to hand.

Numismatists, however, look at coins from a different angle, and the still living beauty of an old coin, an unusual specimen with special mint marks, or one bearing a rare date will immediately command their attention.

Unlike many objects in everyday use, coins have always been highly prized by their owners, and were therefore frequently hoarded. As is still the custom in the East, it was usual to bury treasure for safety, with the result that today the con-

coins are themselves the most imperishable of antiquities. The result is that they still exist in great numbers from forgotten generations out of all proportion to other remains of the culture with which they were contemporary. They therefore yield a considerable amount of information about the past which might otherwise not have been available.

Like numismatists the world over, many New Zealanders have fine collections of Greek and Roman coins, and in the Turnbull Library there is one of the outstanding collections of this kind in the world.

Our own country, however, is rich in numismatic curiosities, and the motley collection of whalers, convicts, traders, and adventurers which made up a large proportion of its population in pre-immigration days, contributed in no small way to the variety of coins of many nations which were recognised media of exchange.

The early Maori referred to gold money as "moni kouka" and silver money as "moni torra" (dollar, but his native shrewdness led one well-known chief to discover that even in Hobson's day much of this wealth was like "hard water" (snow). It

Officially, our numismatic history commenced with the British coins current in 1840, together with the gold and silver coins of Spain, France, the East India Company, and America. All these were declared official tender at stated values by Governor Hobson and successive Governors up to 1849.

Those were romantic if lawless days, and something of their spirit was reflected in the coins which filled the pocket and relieved the unwary of his possessions.

Golden doubloons from Spain, the well-known pirate coins, were listed at £3 4s, the 20-franc gold piece at 15s, the silver dollar "Spanish and Republic" at 4s, the franc at 9d, and the rupee at 2s.

Famous for its association with pirate treasure, the Spanish dollar was the silver "piece of eight" reals. Known as "the mightiest coin in the world," its claim was well substantiated, for it was recognised currency wherever the ships of the great nations might call.

From 1857 to 1882 many New Zealand traders issued their own penny and halfpenny copper tokens which, for the most part, were struck in Melbourne. These depicted Maori heads, cabbage trees, Maoris in canoes, Mt. Egmont, and at times articles associ-

Mr. J. W. Mears, of Lambton Quay, adopted the design of a saddle on his halfpenny, while Mr. McCaul, of the Thames goldfields, showed the poppet head of a gold mine.

LIPMAN LEVY, after whom two streets were named, issued penny and halfpenny tokens from his premises in Lambton Quay, and Mr. D. Anderson, a grocer, also issued tokens of similar value. Issues were also made in other towns.

Some of these specimens are still resting in button boxes awaiting the eager eye of the numismatists, and although common varieties are worth only 3d on the market some of the rare specimens are worth as many pounds.

In 1879 a New Zealand penny, depicting Britannia with "New Zealand" around, was issued for use in the colony, but for some reason only about 20 were struck. The value of this coin is now £5. The New Zealand crown piece issued in 1935 is at the moment up to £8, owing to the fact that only about 1000 specimens were issued.

Curious types of money are included in some New Zealand collections, such as the bullet money of Siam—circular pieces of silver of varying sizes stamped to give them authenticity—the tambua of Fiji, and the shell money of the Pacific islands.

Shell money is made by grinding certain shells into discs, after which they are holed in the centre and threaded.

Cashing in on the native variety of money, the Germans in New Guinea, during their occupation, made in their own country synthetic shell money with which to reward the hapless natives for their toil.

LIKE other collectors, local numismatists usually start collecting, in a general way, British and British colonial issues and such others as might occasionally come their way, but as their collections expand they develop some particular interest and turn into specialists.

It is surprising the number of Greek and Roman coins of early vintage which are in the hands of collectors in this country. Some have been purchased from British and foreign dealers, but quite a number have come back in the pockets and money-belts of soldiers who have been overseas in either of the two wars.

Some of our servicemen have picked up ancient coins in the desert. In most cases these have been so defaced as to be largely valueless, but such has been the interest created that quite a few soldiers have from the day of finding become followers of numismatics.

Even a coin in bad condition, however, can be of historic interest.

One well-known officer who was overseas went seriously into the question of procuring Greek and Roman coins and came back with a fine collection for presentation to a museum.

EXTENSIVE as is the history of coin-making, it is generally conceded that never have the coins of the classical period of Greece been excelled or even equalled for sheer beauty. The most beautiful coin ever issued is considered to be the decadrachm of Syracuse—a silver coin about the size of a crown piece.

It was in Sicily, particularly in Syracuse, that the engraver's art reached a perfection never attained elsewhere before or since; from the middle of the fifth to the middle of the fourth century B.C. every coin was the work of an artist. The decadrachm of Syracuse bears on one side a superb quadriga, and on the other a representation of a goddess's head.

It is interesting to note that the Syracuse decadrachm is the prize exhibit in the private collection of one New Zealander.

Medals represent a section of the study of numismatics, but their production is really only very recent in comparison with coins.

The early Greek and particularly the Roman coins were called "medallic archives," for they often resembled medals in size and were frequently issued to commemorate events associated with Olympic games and great victories.

COIN collecting need not be an expensive hobby. Condition and rarity determine values, and careful collectors seldom place worn coins in their collections. Hundreds of good coins can be obtained at small cost.

Unlike stamps, coins do not rapidly appreciate in value, and on the average do not reach more than double face value in 100 years, except in the case of rarities, which command high prices in accordance with demand.

In New Zealand a rare copper token will command a higher price than a silver crown piece of Charles I, but the newcomer to the game must beware of imitations.

Frequently brass imitations of sovereigns of George III come to light. These usually bear the inscription, "In memory of the good old days," and they are a puzzle to the uninitiated, who think they might be worth something until they learn they are card counters, made in Germany for English use.

The law provides penalties for making colourable imitations of English coin, but thousands of these have

been circulated in New Zealand, presumably to give colourable reality to the pastime of card playing.



A WONDERFUL HEAD of Heracles on a coin issued during the reign of Alexander the Great.

EVERY month members of the New Zealand Numismatic Society meet in Wellington to hear papers read on coins or medals and to exchange information or specimens. Two-thirds of the members of the society are not resident here, but their interest is sustained by the circulation of full reports of the society's doings and digests of papers read.

In the absence of an established historical society, special attention is given to New Zealand history in so far as it is related to numismatics. The society has been fortunate in the calibre of its presidents, these being the Rev. D. C. Bates, the late Sir John Rankine Brown, Sir James Elliott, and Mr. Johannes Andersen.

Successive Governors-General since Viscount Bledisloe have been patrons and the present secretary is Mr. James Berry, the stamp designer. The coins illustrated are from the collection of Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., who is now president of the society. Mr. Sutherland, who was secretary for the past 15 years, produced "The Numismatic History of New Zealand," a book of great value historically and to numismatists in particular. For his work and enthusiasm in the field of numismatics Mr. Sutherland received the high honour of being made a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society (England), a distinction conferred on only one other resident of New Zealand—Archdeacon Gavin of New Plymouth.



THESE COINS WERE OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED IN NEW ZEALAND during the early days. Left to right: New Zealand penny of 1879, of which only about 20 were struck; rupee of the East India Company; Spanish "piece of eight"; and French 5-franc piece.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

ROLL OF MEMBERS - 1st DECEMBER 1946

A., Australian; BB., Military Badges and Buttons; Br., British; Cm., Commemorative; E., Early English; G., General; Gr., Greek; M., Medals; R., Roman; T., Tokens; U.S., United States; Z., New Zealand. (a) Numismatic Dealers.

Patron:

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

Honorary Life Member:

Bledisloe, The Rt. Hon. Viscount, Redhill, Lydney, Gloucestershire, England. (R.Gr.)

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Hanham, Sir John, Bart., Dean's Court, Wimbourne, Dorset, England. (Gr.R.E.Z.)

Composite Subscription Members:

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The Librarian, Auckland Institute & Museum, Box 27, Newmarket, Auckland.
The Director, Dominion Museum, Wellington, C.3.
The Director, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.
The Director, Otago Museum, Dunedin.
The Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, Bowen Street, Wellington.
The Librarian, Hocken Library, Otago University, Dunedin, N.1.
The Librarian, General Assembly Library, Wellington, C.1.
The Librarian, Public Library, Auckland.
The Chief Librarian, P.O.Box 1529, Wellington, C.1.
The Librarian, Canterbury Public Library, Box 974, Christchurch.
The Librarian, Dunedin Public Library, P.O.Box 906, Dunedin.
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The Deputy Master, Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Canada.
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The Numismatic Society of N.S.W., 32 Fraser Street, Strathfield, Sydney, NSW.
Hon. Secretary, Royal Numismatic Society, 21 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.
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The Librarian, The American Numismatic Society, Broadway at 156th Street,
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The Librarian, Mitchell Library, Sydney, N.S.W., Aust.
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THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

RECEPTION TO LORD AND LADY BLEDISLOE, 13th MARCH, 1947

The New Zealand Numismatic Society, in association with the Librarian and staff of the Alexander Turnbull Library, tendered a reception to Lord and Lady Bledisloe, and Lady Duff, at the Library at 4.30 p.m. on 13th March.

The guests were received by the President, Mr. Allan Sutherland, and Mrs. Sutherland, Lady Elliott, and Mr. C. Sherwood, and later by Mr. C.R.R. Taylor, Librarian, the Rev. D.C. Bates, Vice-President, and Messrs. W.D. Ferguson, James Berry, Hassell Martin, M. Hornblow, A. Quinnell, W. Chetwynd and E. Horwood, members of the Council. There was an attendance of over 50.

In welcoming the guests, Mr. Allan Sutherland said that the names of Lord and Lady Bledisloe had been remembered with affection in all parts of the Dominion. The Society felt that it was welcoming them home. Lord Bledisloe had taken a keen interest in the Society since its inception, and he was still an honorary Life Patron. Mr. Sutherland said that although the gathering had been arranged to enable members and friends to meet Lord and Lady Bledisloe informally and no speeches were expected, he could not let the occasion pass without extending a warm welcome to the guests on behalf of members in all parts of the Dominion, and thanking them for attending in spite of the limited time at their disposal. The Society had endeavoured to mark in an enduring manner the distinguished services Lord Bledisloe had rendered to New Zealand and to the Commonwealth, by striking a medal bearing a portrait of Lord Bledisloe. That medal had been struck during his term of office as Governor-General and specimens were treasured possessions of members.

He wished the visitors success in their mission to help to stimulate the flow of foodstuffs to our kinsfolk in the United Kingdom. The Librarian of the Turnbull Library, and his staff, were associated in the welcome. Mr. Sutherland said the Society was indebted to Mr. Johannes Andersen, past President, and Mr. C.R.H. Taylor, present Librarian of the Turnbull Library, for assisting the Society. All appreciated the continued interest in the Society by Lord Bledisloe and his nephew, Sir John Hanham, who had helped to found the Society sixteen years ago. He wished the guests every happiness in the future.

In reply, Lord Bledisloe thanked Mr. Sutherland for his kind remarks, and said that as he had only received Mr. Sutherland's letter that morning - although the letter had been posted over a month ago - he was sorry to give such short notice but he was pleased to see so many present. Lord Bledisloe said it was a great pleasure to be back to meet old friends again, but he wished to make it clear that he was not visiting New Zealand as an ex-Governor-General, but as a farmer on a good-will mission. The basic wealth of the Empire and Commonwealth was the land and its produce. Referring to the medal produced by the Society, Lord Bledisloe said that many considered that the medallion portrait was a better likeness than photographs. He had regularly received the reports of the Society and derived much interest therefrom. No other literature he received from New Zealand was of greater interest than the reports of the Society and experts to whom he had shown them had expressed admiration of the standard set. He recalled former meetings and visits to the beautiful Turnbull Library, which was an asset to the nation in advancing cultural studies, particularly in Polynesian affairs. He recalled past talks with the former Librarian, Mr. Johannes Andersen and the pleasure he had derived from such talks.

A dainty afternoon tea was then served and the guests spent an informal hour renewing friendships. When the guests departed, an indication of the affection in which they are held in New Zealand was shown by the spontaneous welcome given by passers-by, who were delighted by the unexpected opportunity of again seeing Lord and Lady Bledisloe, two of the greatest ambassadors of good-will ever to visit New Zealand from Britain.

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

P.O. Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 104th MEETING - 31st MARCH, 1947

THE SOUTH SEA COMPANY was the subject of a paper read by Mr. Eric Horwood before the 104th meeting of the Society. Mr. Allan Sutherland presided over a good attendance of members. Apologies were received from Dr. A.R.F. Mackay, Mr. A.L. Moller, and Major D.W. Sinclair. Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed.

Mr. James Berry reported on the reception tendered to Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe, and stated that special thanks were due to the President and Mrs. Allan Sutherland for arranging the reception at short notice. Moved by Mr. W.D. Ferguson, and seconded by Mr. Berry, "That this meeting records its appreciation of the services rendered by the President and Mrs. Allan Sutherland, and the Librarian and staff of the Turnbull Library, for the good work they performed in arranging the reception." Agreed to.

Mr. Berry read an extract from a press cutting in which Sir James Elliott, referring to Lord & Lady Bledisloe, said: "We do not know of any two people in the Empire who are more public spirited, more devoted to service, and who show a better example of all that is finest in the flower of our British people, than Lord and Lady Bledisloe." Mr. Berry said all members would echo the sentiments expressed by Sir James Elliott.

COUNCIL MEETING, 10th March, 1947. PRINTING AND ILLUSTRATING REPORTS:
Mr. Berry reported that a meeting of the Council was held on 10th March. Present: Messrs. Berry, Ferguson, Hornblow, Horwood, Martin, Quinell, Sherwood and Sutherland (in the Chair). The President and Hon. Secretary reported that progress had been made in regard to the long-standing proposal that the reports of the Society should be printed and illustrated so that they could be kept in permanent form. The cyclostyled reports were valued by educational authorities and librarians, and frequently encouraging praise had been received from numismatic authorities overseas, including Mr. Harold Mattingly, the British Museum authority and distinguished numismatic author. These authorities commented on the vigour of the Society and the scholarship displayed in many reports, but stated that it was a pity that these reports were not printed and illustrated so that they could be kept in permanent form for reference and for use as an aid to classical education. University professors had asked for the loan of numismatic specimens to assist their students in classical studies, but under the terms of the Gilbertson Memorial Gift, such specimens could not be removed from the Library. If reports were printed and illustrated from the Gilbertson Memorial Collection, all universities and educational authorities in New Zealand could share in the benefit. As there was no established Historical Society in New Zealand, the Society had given special attention to the history of New Zealand and the Pacific area. These facts had been placed before the Government with an application for financial assistance, and the Government had generously agreed to grant £100 annually. The thanks of the Society had been conveyed to the Hon. Mr. Parry, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mr. J.W. Heenan, Under-secretary of Internal Affairs.

The Council had decided that a sub-committee, consisting of the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. W.D. Ferguson, be set up to obtain full information regarding the printing and illustrating of reports. (This information has been obtained). The Council further decided that all members be advised that the Society is considering issuing printed and illustrated reports at three-monthly intervals, commencing with the Society's new year commencing in June, 1947. Domestic notices could be cyclostyled on the lines of those issued by the Geographic Society.

A further suggestion was made by the Council, that a memorial volume be issued containing a selection of the papers read by the late Sir John Rankine Brown, the papers to be suitably illustrated from the Gilbertson Memorial Collection. The volume would probably contain 96 pages and the size would be uniform with the Numismatic History of New Zealand. Mr. W.D. Ferguson said he would guarantee the cost in excess of £100, if necessary, up to 500 copies, and no doubt others would assist. This special memorial volume could be sold at a special price to members, and be available through booksellers. Professor H.A. Murray had consented to make a selection of papers and illustrations, and to write a preface, and Sir Thomas Hunter would be asked to write a short history of the life of Sir John Rankine Brown. These proposals were deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting, and meantime members are asked to offer suggestions regarding the proposals.

REVISION OF RULES: The President, on behalf of the sub-committee, reported that Mr. John Craignyle, of Christie, Craignyle and Tizard, Barristers and Solicitors, Wanganui, had revised the draft rules to make them comply with the Act relating to incorporation, and had carried out the work in an honorary capacity. Decided to write to Mr. Craignyle expressing the thanks of the Society for his most generous action, and to circulate the draft rules to members for their approval or otherwise.

GENERAL: Correspondence dealing with coin inquiries were read, coin and medal publications were tabled, including Messrs. B.A.Seaby's extended Coin and Medal Bulletin containing papers read before the New Zealand Numismatic Society.

Correspondence was read concerning a George III sovereign, William IV sovereign, N.Z. 3d piece 1935, N.Z. penny, an inquiry from England for N.Z. Crown piece, also for copy of the Numismatic History of N.Z. by Allan Sutherland.

An inquiry from a member regarding possibility of obtaining in New Zealand South African Crown piece to commemorate Royal visit to South Africa; an inquiry from the Associated Chambers of Commerce of New Zealand for permission to reproduce in its Journal "New Zealand Commerce" article on decimal coinage by Mr. Allan Sutherland which had appeared in the August 1945 issue of "Future;" a letter from a member, Mr. D.W.Sinclair, enclosing an extract from Art Journal of 1884 on Italian Medals; reports from the Numismatic Society of New South Wales; a copy of a new magazine, the Australasian Coin Journal, edited by D.Raymond, P.O.Box 4540, Sydney, Australia, were tabled for inspection, together with copies of "The Numismatist," coin lists from Seaby's, Spink's, and other correspondence and circulars.

NEW MEMBERS WERE ELECTED as follows:-

Mr. R. Noel Johnson, 22 Walmsley Road, St. Helier's, Auckland, E.1, nominated by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Quinnell;

Mr. John Hawke, 3 Staffa Street, Parnell, Auckland, nominated by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. E. Horwood;

Mr. Robert Young, Jr., Arthurton, Gore, Concial Hills R.D., nominated by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. de Rouffianac;

Mr. F.J.Fowler, chemist, c/o Messrs. Boot's Ltd., Suva, Fiji, nominated by Mr. R. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. R.G.Bell, 61 St. Martin's Road, Christchurch, nominated by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Sutherland.

Miss S.A.Lange, 19 Alpha Avenue, Bryndwr, Christchurch, nominated by Mr. Dale, seconded by Mr. Norman.

THE SOUTH SEA COMPANY, or "South Sea Bubble," was the subject of a paper read by Mr. Eric Horwood. He reviewed the series of events that made up the history of the South Sea Company from its foundation in 1711 to its dramatic rise and eventual collapse.

"In 1711 Britain's finances were in a precarious state, after wars on the Continent and the upheaval attending the departure of the Stuarts. The National Debt then stood at an astounding figure for those days. Parliament considered means of reducing this figure. Robert Harley, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons that a scheme was being evolved to this end. Before any progress could be made, Robert Harley was stabbed, while in the House, by a member who was being held on treason charges, and Harley was absent for two months, during which time his brother Edward produced a plan for a Government Trade Corporation on the lines of the African and East India companies. The profits from the proposed venture were to be used for redeeming the National Debt.

"Encouragement to subscribe to the company funds was to be given to proprietors of all national debts, in the shape of 6% interest at one year's notice after 1716. The interest charges were to be raised by duties on wine, vinegar, silk, etc., and on trade goods with South America.

"The promoters drew an enthusiastic picture of the riches to be gained from such a venture and quoted Raleigh and Drake in support. A rumour was spread that Spain would grant the Company the use of four ports in South America for trade purposes. So little was then known of that country that obvious exaggerations were overlooked. The principle of an empowering Bill was approved in 1711.

"Among the prominent men of letters interested in the new Company were Dean Swift, who invested £500, and Defoe, who pointed out the dangers in trying to trade where Spanish interests were so strongly centred, and so vital to the wealth of Spain.

"Included in the Treaty of Utrecht with Spain in 1713 were provisions granted to Her Britannic Majesty and the S.S.C. as her agents, to supply Spanish Colonies with 4,800 negroes yearly for 30 years, permission to trade and settle factories at Panama, Portobello, Cartagena, Vera Cruz, Buenos Aires, and Havana, with agents at Jamaica, Cadiz and Madrid, and to send yearly one ship of less than 500 tons, on condition that the King of Spain received a quarter of the profits and 5% of the remainder.

"Dissatisfaction with the terms were expressed by the S.S.C. and this was allayed by the granting of a licence for a further two ships of 600 tons to trade in the first year, the Queen to lend the ships for this purpose. A further loan of £200,000 was raised on this information, but subsequently it transpired that Her Majesty was to take 25% of the profits for her assistance, and that the Spanish Agent at St. James was also to get 7½%. The Directors were so dissatisfied that they petitioned the Queen to relinquish her share of the profits and this Anne reluctantly did. In her Address in Reply to the Directors she said: 'I thank you for your Address. I wish you God speed in carrying on your trade and hope you will make better use than you have hitherto done of what I have bestowed on you.'

"In 1717 the first annual ship sailed and at this time the Prince of Wales relinquished governorship of the Company in favour of his father George I. In 1718 the second annual ship was launched but did not sail owing to Spanish violation of the Treaty of Utrecht. When Spain began by force of arms to regain her former possessions in Sicily and Naples, Britain, as a guarantor of the Treaty, was bound to intervene, and a Spanish squadron was destroyed off Pessaro by a fleet under Admiral Byng. In retaliation all S.S.C. goods and officials in West Indies were seized. The S.S.C. claimed large sums for cargoes spoiled and for other restrictions, but was never fully recompensed for losses. In 1919 the National Debt was £61,300,000.

"Apart from trading ventures, the S.S.C. had conducted profitable financial transactions, and was a concern of considerable importance in London with an imposing building with the SS House as headquarters. In 1720 Sir John Blunt proposed an audacious scheme to amalgamate the funds of the S.S.C., Exchequer, E.I.C. and the Bank of England, under the control of the S.S.C. and their cash keepers "Sword Blade Co." This proposition was rejected with scorn, but notwithstanding the rebuff Blunt persuaded the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Aislacie, and the Postmaster-General, Craggs, to launch a scheme under which 'all funds be reduced under control of the S.S.C., including the taking over of the National Debt.' The S.S.C. offered £3 million to the exchequer as an inducement. The Bank of England bid against the scheme and offered £5 million. Bidding continued and the S.S.C. won despite Walpole's opposition.

"The S.S.C. then held in stock an unwieldy sum of £45 million. Credit had been stretched to its utmost limits, and there was insufficient money in the country to back it up. A pamphlet war started between the Bank of England and the S.S.C., whose directors started rumours and share-pushing to send up the prices of their stock. In May 1720 the price of the £100 stock had risen to £500, and on June 2nd to £890. People indulged foolishly in the stock market in the hope of getting rich quickly. Many companies were floated by promoters who took advantage of public credulity and avarice, and these companies later became known as "Small Bubble Companies." This was seen as undesirable competition by the S.S.C., which influenced Parliamentary action to close them down. This caused some financial losses throughout the country and began public mistrust in the S.S.C., with a consequent drop in shares. Nevertheless, a fourth subscription was well managed and sold out in three hours. After further fluctuations, the S.S.C. announced dividends for the next twelve years, thus sending the price of shares up, but so many tried to take advantage of the rise and sold out, that prices again tumbled.

"The directors of the S.S.C. tried to bring pressure on the Bank of England to share the financial burden but the Bank's refusal put a seal on the affairs of the S.S.C. and the crash came. Stock prices fell from £1,000 to £175. Goldsmiths who accepted pledges of gold and jewellery for clients wishing to invest, absconded and bankruptcy of Sword Blade Co. followed, with a complete dislocation of public credit and poverty to many thousands of people.

"Angry petitions were forwarded to Parliament which apprehended the directors and confiscated their estates pending inquiry. The total of their fortunes was £2 million. Approximately one-sixth of each estate was returned, with the exception of that of Hawes, who was considered most guilty and allowed to retain the odd £31 of an estate of £40,031. Parliament reduced the unmanageable nominal value of the S.S.C. stock by transferring £9 million each to the Bank of England and the East India Company, reducing the total to £25 million, and gradually public confidence was restored. The S.S.C. did not go into liquidation at this time. In 1723 silver supplied by them was used in minting silver coins of that year and the coins bore the letters 'SSC.' A not very profitable trade was continued with South American ports, and in 1723 the last annual ship was sent and showed the best profit of all - £70,000.

"In 1748 privileges were surrendered to the Spanish Government, the Charter was terminated, the funds were taken over by the Exchequer, and so ended the famous SOUTH SEA BUBBLE."

Mr. Allan Sutherland, President, paid a tribute to Mr. Horwood for his survey and said that practically all that the South Sea Bubble had left was a lesson and its imprint 'SSC' on the coins of George I in the possession of many members. The South Sea Bubble had its counterpart in an international scale after Great War I, and this was ably reviewed by Wells in his "Outline of History" (pages 1136 onwards) which bore a striking similarity to current press-reports of world events, showing that even after Great War II the lessons of history were, to a large extent, disregarded.

THE REV. D.C.BATES (Vice-President) said "The lecturer this evening has given us a good outline of the "South Sea Bubble" and we as numismatists are concerned with conditions in the background. It was the Peace of Utrecht in 1713 that led the way to that great upheaval. The great European war then closed, left England with a big national debt. The gains of victory had been Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Hudson Bay Territory from France, Gibraltar and Minorca and certain rights or concessions for trade from Spain. It was these trade prospects and national needs that were really responsible for the South Sea scheme.

"The aftermath of war brought about an age of speculation, betting and gambling, to which the Government of the day lent a helping hand until too late it realised its mistaken folly. Faced with a debit, and unwilling to impose taxation or raise loans voluntarily or by force, the Chancellor of the Exchequer found a way of escape time after time by calling a meeting of stockbrokers and promulgating through them huge State lotteries. At such a conference in 1718 the stock jobbers made another proposal: in exchange for the South Sea trade (Spanish monopolies awarded under the Treaty) they offered to take over the whole national debt in the name of "The Company of Merchants of Great Britain." This was arranged and an Act was passed actually to allow the King to become a director. The shares rose tenfold almost overnight, and were then regarded as capital, although no legitimate trade had taken place. The Spaniards, as Mr. Horwood had shown, thwarted the efforts of the Company. About 150 other companies were also selling shares in all sorts of "wild cat" schemes, which brought sudden fortune or disaster to many. Tales were told of servants and small tradesmen who bought shares and sold them again at vast profits and "from being scarcely able to purchase a dinner, were now exalted in coaches and owners of large estates."

"Berkeley visited England in 1720 when the excitement was at its height. He was shocked at the luxury, the grossness, the corruption he saw prevalent, and published shortly afterwards "An Essay Towards Preventing the Ruin of Great Britain" which he saw was impending from greed. In 1721 the Bubble burst, and the Archbishop of Dublin then wrote: "I will no more of your South Sea scheme, but it has surely made us miserable in the highest degree if starving be misery. The merchants have no trade, the shopkeepers need charity (subsidies?) and the cry of the whole people is loud for bread. The gaols are full, not of State prisoners but of debtors."

"History repeats itself, and we should learn from the same as a guide to wiser conduct. The aftermath of the Great War II is on us with want and waste on either hand, while sport and gambling hold sway on every side, with men and women shirking their responsibilities as citizens and seeking fortune rather by luck than from toil and thrift.

"As an escape from direct taxation or benevolence, and as a means of absorbing surplus wealth or credit, State lotteries, which have been such a curse in other times and countries, are actually being advocated here. We already have big "Art Unions," holding out prizes of "alluvial gold" run off every fortnight, in support of certain charities. There is also a big drain of money out of the country to Tattersalls and Irish and Indian chances on horse races. As elsewhere post-war inflation has already got us in its grip, and the motto seems to be 'more for less and less for more.'"

"Putting on one side the question of paper money, numismatics is the science which treats of coinage and medals in their relation to history, showing by the quality and quantity of the metals used, as well as by the art displayed, the fortunes of mankind in the rise and fall of nations and Empires."

Mr. Bates showed three medals of Queen Anne:

- (1) For the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713;
- (2) For the victory over the French in 1711;
- (3) Malplaquet (battle of), dated on the medal as "31 Aug. 1709" but given in histories as Sept. 11th of that year, bringing to our notice the 11 days omitted from the calendar in 1752. The alteration of date raised the election cry of 1753 "Give us back our eleven days."

Mr. W.D.Ferguson displayed a series of silver coins showing the imprint S.S.C.

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

sent in for identification

A DENARIUS TRAJAN was exhibited by the Rev. D.C.Bates. It was a fine silver specimen for the year A.D. 110. Ob.v profile of Trajan, and rev. figure of young woman lying on ground and a wheel resting on her knee, and underneath VIA TRIANA, which commemorates the new road constructed by Emperor Trajan at his own expense from Beneventum to Brundisium. Roman coins bore likenesses which were confirmed by ancient statues, thus testifying to the skill of the engravers of the coinage of that time. The Romans commemorated victories and great events on coins just as we do on postage stamps. The warring years of Trajan's long reign afforded many specimens that had been concealed during uncertain times. Mr. Bates also showed other coins of Trajan and explained the variety of inscriptions. After A.D. 105 OPTIMO PRINCIPO (the best Prince) was found on most of the reverses. The greeting, for ages, to a newly enthroned Emperor was FELICIOR AUGUSTO TRAJANO MELIOR - "Happier than Augustus and better than Trajan."

Mr. Quinnell said Trajan may have built the road at his own expense, but no doubt the people paid for it in the end.

Professor Murray said there was no income-tax in those days.

EXHIBITS: Mr. Murray Weston exhibited Japanese occupation money of Indonesia, 100 guilders (was worth approx. £16) 10 guilders (was worth approx. £1.12s.) and 1 guilder (3s.2½d), 5 and 1 cent, also 5, 1, ½ guilders, and 1 peso and 5 centavos, also penny and half-penny of British West Africa, Edward VIII, and 5 cents U.S.A. 1870, 2 cents 1864, and 1 cent 1857.

The meeting closed with a general discussion among members while partaking of supper.

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

P.S. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Monday, 28th April. Owing to electricity cuts, meetings will commence at 8 p.m. until further notice.

NOTE BY PRESIDENT: Members offer congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James Berry on the birth of a son, and to Mr. and Mrs. Hornblow, also on the arrival of another son.

THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF 105th MEETING -- 28th APRIL, 1947

The 105th meeting of the Society was held at the Turnbull Library on 28th April. The President, Mr. Allan Sutherland, occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. A message was received from Mr. Johannes Andersen, Auckland, conveying his good wishes to members, and submitting specimens of a numismatic journal from Denmark. The President reported that a Council meeting had been held on 24th April, when a report on the Memorial Volume and on printing reports was received. The sub-committee was directed to go ahead with preliminary arrangements. Draft rules were discussed and amendments made. The sub-committee was instructed to have the draft rules printed for circulation to members for their approval. The Hon. Treasurer was asked to render accounts to unfinancial members. A Programme Committee was proposed to invite members to submit papers and to allocate dates for the ensuing year. In future papers would be read immediately after confirmation of minutes unless urgent matters call for earlier attention.

THE PASSING OF PRECIOUS METAL MONEY was the subject of a paper read by Mr. Allan Sutherland. He said "Goodbye to Gold" was a general cry after the last financial depression, 1931-33. During Great War I, Great Britain went off the gold standard. From 1925 to 1931 there was a return to the gold standard. In 1930, the United Kingdom melted £30 million worth of sovereigns, much of it new, into ingots, and from that time onwards it may be said that the gold currencies in most countries went out the front door. A modified gold standard, but not a gold currency, was now coming in through the back door of most countries, under the cloak of the Bretton Woods Agreement. References to gold in that Agreement had caused suspicion, but all countries appeared to have adopted it, with the exception of New Zealand and Russia.

"The generation that handled gold currency is fast dying out. Gone are the days when the true "hard money" consisted of discs of precious metal, with intrinsic values equivalent to their superscriptions. Shortly, silver coins of the United Kingdom, and presumably those of Commonwealth countries, will have no more intrinsic value than that of steel washers. We shall then have a purely token coinage. Plastic tokens are being used by the British military forces in Germany and, provided the issue is controlled, these plastic discs will be equally efficient as a medium of exchange. Nevertheless, the loss of precious-metal money is a break from British tradition. Sterling values have been synonymous with sterling worth - solid and unchangeable. In an economic sense, however, debasement of coins today had not the same significance as it had when Julius Caesar, or Henry VIII, issued silver-plated copper coins as silver coins. At that time silver coins represented an inherent standard of value in relation to gold, and there was no great superstructure of bank-notes, cheques, and credit as we know them today.

For over 2,000 years Britain has used precious-metal money. The year 1947 will be a landmark in British numismatic history in that it will mark the opening of a new era of base-metal or purely token money.

The varieties of nationalities of the issuers of early English coins, recalls to mind Defoe's satire, 'THE TRUE-BORN ENGLISHMAN,'

"The Romans first with Julius Caesar came,
Including all the nations of that name,
Gauls, Greeks, and Lombards; and by computation;
Auxiliaries, or slaves of ev'ry Nation.
With Hengist, Saxons; Danes with Sueno came,
In search of Plunder, not in search of Fame.
Scots, Picts, and Irish from the Hibernian Shore;
And Conquering William brought the Normans o'er.
All these their Barb'rous Off-spring left behind,
The Dregs of Armies, they of all Mankind;
Blended with Britons who before were here,
Of whom the Welch ha' blest the Character,
From this Amphibious Ill-born Mob began
That vain, ill-natured thing, an Englishman."

Even in those barbarous times, precious-metal money was used and specimens which have come down to us show, in their crude designs, the chequered history of England.

Gold staters, with designs showing Greek influence, were in circulation in England about 50 B.C. Roman gold and silver coins were widely issued during the Roman occupation, including the gold aureus, and the Anglo-Saxon gold thrymsa, issued at Canterbury when Augustine arrived from Rome to convert the British to Christianity. Offa, King of Mercia, 757-796, issued the first silver penny, which was practically the only unit of exchange for about 300 years.

From 1066 "and all that" up to and including the time of King John, of Magna Carta fame, only silverpennies were used. Henry III, his son, issued a gold piece weighing two sterlings, equal to 20 pence. Edward III issued a florin of gold, worth 6s. and a gold noble, worth 6s.8d. It is possible that at this stage, 1527-77, the charge of the legal men began. The numismatic value of the noble, however, is now about £400, rather more than the parallel increase of the fees of some of the legal fraternity.

GOLD COIN DENOMINATIONS: Since that time curious gold coin denominations figure in the list of coins of Britain. Edward IV issued a gold ryal (10s.) and fractions, and Henry VII issued a double ryal (20s.) and thus the pound sovereign was born. Henry VIII issued the so-called double sovereign (44s. or 45s.) and various other gold coins down to the gold crown (5s.) and a half-crown. Queen Mary, 1553-4, issued a sovereign (30s.), a Rial (15s.) and an Angel (10s.), all gold. Elizabeth issued a sovereign (30s. or 20s.) and six minor gold coins. This was the time of the grant of a charter to the East India Company, and of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare.

James I of England, who united the crowns of England and Scotland, was the most prolific issuer of gold coins. He issued a sovereign at 30s., half-sovereign at 15s., and a crown at 7s.3d. His second issue included a unite for 20s. or 22s., a double crown, a Britain crown, a half-Britain crown, and a thistle crown, the latter at 4s. or 4s.4³/₄d, and all of gold. He also issued a rose ryal, spur ryal, Angel, Angelet, and a laurel or unite for 20s.

Charles I issued a unite or broad, 20s., and a double crown, 10s. From the Oxford mint he issued a treble unite, 60s., and a Britain crown, 10s. When Charles I was being hunted, prior to execution, gold and silver plate were as important as arms. Royalists received and commandeered gold and silver plate, which was cut with shears and stamped as currency for payment to troops to carry on the fight. In contradistinction, during the war just ended, gold and silver reserves were buried - most of the gold at Fort Knox, U.S.A. - and the greatest war in history was waged on paper money.

To resume the story of British gold issues, the Commonwealth issued 20s., 10s. and 5s. gold pieces, but the Protectorate issues were a 50s. piece, and a broad for 20s. and a half-broad.

With the Restoration, Charles II called in all Commonwealth money, and at this time commenced the mill-and-screw method of coining in lieu of the hammered method. The day-wage in England during this period averaged 8d with food, and 1s. without, and the Justices of Essex considered that a working man, his wife and four children, required 10s. a week for their maintenance. From this time the handsome gold five-guinea piece, at £5, the two-guinea £2, and the one-guinea £1 and the half-guinea, as well as the broad 20s. and the half and quarter broad made their appearance.

THE GUINEA got its name from gold obtained from the Guinea Coast, in Africa. Fortunately for the British, this gold was captured from the Dutch, and a Royal order provided that the coins struck from this plunder should be marked with a "little elephant." Sometimes a tiny castle was added to the mark.

Guineas (and multiples and divisions) were issued from 1662 to 1813. It appears to have been the coin of the gentry. The survival of the term in accounts in New Zealand today, in the absence of any coin of that value, is merely a polite method of saying "and five per cent rake-off for me."

From James II to Anne, gold five, two, one and half-guineas were issued, at varying values, but it was not until George I (1714-1727) that the value of the guinea as we know it today became £1.1.0d. George I also issued a quarter-guinea in gold.

The five and two guinea pieces ceased with George II, and George III issued the last of the guineas, his issues being one, half, third and quarter guineas. George III reinstated the sovereign at 20s. and the half-sovereign, and subsequent issues have been in those denominations, with the exception of the double sovereign of George IV and the £5 piece and double sovereign of Victoria, Edward VII, and George V.

I have listed only the major gold issues of England, to show the links with gold currency for the last 2,000 years. The same links can be shown in most countries.

GOLD CURRENCY IN NEW ZEALAND. New Zealand affords an interesting history of the use of gold coins of any nations. When trade was commencing between New South Wales and New Zealand in 1800, the guinea - and not the sovereign - was proclaimed current in Sydney at 22s., presumably to keep the coins in the country. The other gold coins used there were the Johanna and half (Portugal), Ducat (Holland), Mohurs and Pagoda (India). New South Wales controlled New Zealand from 1840-41. In New Zealand in 1841 the sovereign and the half-sovereign were the official gold coins at first, but coin shortages resulted in the handsome gold doubloon of Spain being adopted officially to pass at £3.14s.0d, and the 20 franc piece (France) at 15s. In 1847 the doubloon was devalued to £3 in New Zealand, and the half, quarter and eight doubloons of gold were then officially recognised. The eagles and double eagles of the U.S.A. were unofficially current, and were widely used by whalers and traders on the coast.

Although the guinea was never recognised officially in New Zealand, as it was in Australia, this coin term has persisted in New Zealand for over a century as a lucrative device to delude customers. From 1857 to the present, New Zealand has exported over £100,000,000 worth of gold.

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.

INFLATION: Hungary presents a recent example of wild inflation and a return to a gold standard. The Tatham Stamp and Coin Co., Springfield 98, Mass., advertises for a few cents each, a range of inflation notes, and the dates of issue and astronomical denominations show the rapidity with which the pengo deteriorated from its pre-war value of 18 cents, until it was replaced by a Milpengo (1 million pengoes), and a Bilpengo (1 trillion pengoes) based on the country's gold reserve. Presumably this is a much watered "gold-rouble" standard. The table tells its own tale:

100,000	(100 thousand)	SZAZEZER PENG0	Oct. 1945.
1,000,000	(1 million)	EGYMILLIO PENG0	Nov. 1945.
10,000,000	(10 million)	TIZMILLIO PENG0	Nov. 1945.
100,000,000	(100 million)	SZAZMILLIO PENG0	Mar. 1946.
1,000,000,000	(1 billion)	EGYMILLIARD PENG0	Mar. 1946.
10,000,000,000	(10 billion)	TIZEZER MILPENG0	Apr. 1946.
100,000,000,000	(100 billion)	SZAZEZER MILPENG0	Apr. 1946.
1,000,000,000,000	(1 trillion)	EGYMILLIO MILPENG0	May, 1946.
10,000,000,000,000	(10 trillion)	TIZMILLIO MILPENG0	May, 1946.
100,000,000,000,000	(100 trillion)	SZAZMILLIO PENG0	June 1946.
1,000,000,000,000,000	(1 quadrillion)	EGYMILLIARD MILPENG0	June 1946.
10,000,000,000,000,000	(10 quadrillion)	TIZEZER B.-PENG0	June 1946.

A bank note was also issued in June, 1946, for one hundred quintillion peng0 (100,000,000,000,000,000).

The Greek drachma, which had a pre-war value of 7 cents, was inflated during the German occupation to such an extent that notes were issued in large denominations up to 100,000,000,000 drachma, and most of these notes can now be obtained for a few cents.

During the war British sovereigns were dropped from planes into Greece; some boxes burst and the gold coins got into private hands. New Zealand servicemen say that at the end of the war English sovereigns were sold there for 15 English £1 notes, and in Italy for 12 English £1 notes.

From a trade point of view, gold coin values appear to be about five times the original value, although the advertised offers of £2.10s.0d for a sovereign still remain. The inflated trade value appears to be outstripping the numismatic value of many coins. Purchasers of annuities and insurance the world over are learning to their cost the penalty they pay through lack of a stable standard of value.

Throughout the world gold coins have been taken out of the hands of the people, and gold has been elevated to a master position in international exchange. History has shown that a gold currency cannot keep pace with rapidly expanding trade although it has been useful as an anchor. Wells held the view that gold was "dead stuff" and could not respond to the increases and decreases of real wealth and that it made every new production pay tribute to the profits of the past. He considered that while world standards were controlled by a multitude of Governments, gold currencies, while not ideal, were probably the best stop-gap, notwithstanding the "barometric antics" of European currencies after World War I. Like Tennyson, he envisaged a World Federation under which such important matters could be solved without the limitations of patriotic prejudices. Many claim that under the Bretton Woods Agreement, the world is groping towards that end.

Mr. A. Quinnell moved a vote of thanks to the President for his paper and stated that the gold Bezzant of the Byzantium Empire afforded a notable example of a precious-metal coin being widely accepted as a standard of value. Constantinople was then at the cross-roads in a trading sense, and for 500 years that gold coin was accepted because of its purity, and this continued until the cross-roads were blocked by the Turks in 1452. The daric, shekel and the ducat were other examples. Although the British sovereign had a wide geographical distribution as a standard of intrinsic value, its circulation was short-lived in comparison with other standards. At Murdos and Lemnos, during World War I he recalled being paid in sovereigns; this was the last time he had handled gold, but the coins were useless there because there was nothing to buy.

Mr. James Berry, in seconding the motion, said that cupro-nickel coinage, which no doubt would be extended to the Commonwealth, would have a token value only and it would be interesting to see how that affected collectors, who naturally had a greater appreciation of precious-metal money. The proportion of those who collected notes would be small to those who collected gold and true silver money, and he wondered whether the same position would arise as between silver and cupro-nickel coins. After every war, the value of money dropped considerably, and that was in evidence today.

Professor Murray said that the owl of Athens, which did not change in value, was long regarded as the standard measure of value in the Mediterranean and nearby trading areas. The Athenians did not live on their own but exported and imported goods, and merchants who wanted cash would go to the money changers to obtain that standard coin which was an important factor in facilitating trade over a wide area. History provided many examples of devaluation of money following wars, and the marked devaluation of the Roman As following the Punic Wars was a case in point. The Romans imported spices, jewels and other rarities from the East and the East did not want anything in return, with the result that the Romans were gradually drained of their gold, and this problem was thought by some scholars to be acute about the year 450 B.C. when laws were enacted to preserve gold stocks and even to prevent gold objects being buried with the dead.

Mr. W.D. Ferguson said that all countries had to resort to taxation and loans to wage wars, and the piling up of debts and destruction inevitably resulted in depreciation of currency when peace came. The Greek gold stater was an example of a widely accepted coin because of its unvarying intrinsic value, and crude imitations of the Macedonian gold stater were circulated in England in 50 B.C., showing the wide influence of that coin.

Mr. Hornblow referred to the passion for treasuring gold for adornment and referred to an authentic case of a man having sound teeth removed purely for the purpose of having a gold denture made, as a portable gold reserve.

Mr. M. Weston referred to art union prize money of £2,000 being offered in alluvial gold, but actually paid in notes.

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

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows:-

- Mr. C. Corbett, Waimanu Road, Suva, Fiji (nominated by Mr. R. Johnson and seconded by Mr. A. Sutherland). (Inadvertently omitted from previous report.)
- Mr. D. C. Price, Teachers' Training College, Epsom, Auckland (nominated by Mr. J. Berry, seconded by Mr. A. Quinnell).
- Mr. R. W. Steenson, Koromatua, via Frankton (nominated by Mr. J. Berry, seconded by Mr. A. Quinnell).
- Mrs. J. Berry, 56 Neve Road, Seatoun Heights, Wellington, E5 (nominated by Mr. A. Sutherland and seconded by Mr. W. D. Ferguson.) (Composite Life subscription.)

TASMAN MEDAL: Designs were submitted by Mr. J. Berry and examined. Decided that details regarding production be submitted to a future meeting, and meantime the designs to be referred to a sub-committee consisting of the President, Mr. J. Heenan (subject to his consent), Messrs. Martin and Hornblow, for their approval, and that the opinion of Mr. Johannes Andersen be obtained before finally approving of the designs.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS were tabled, including report of the Numismatic Society of New South Wales, and a copy of the first issue of THE AUSTRALASIAN COIN JOURNAL, issued in Brisbane.

DECIMAL COINAGE: Mr. Sutherland tabled an extract from "The Mercantile Gazette," advocating decimal coinage for New Zealand, and a progress report of the Council of the Decimal Association, England, 1946, submitted by Mr. Noel Johnson, New Zealand representative.

NEXT MEETING will be held on 26th May, when Mr. A. Quinnell will read a short paper on the coins of Madagascar.

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

Box 25,
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

REPORT OF 106th MEETING -- 26th MAY, 1947.

The 106th Meeting of the Society was held on 26th May. Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S. presided.

MADAGASCAR: Mr. A. Quinnell read a paper on MADAGASCAR, with some reference to the coinage passing until the complete French occupation. He said, "Details differ a little regarding the discovery of this large Island, but it is generally agreed that in the year 1506 Ruy Pereira Coutinho and Fernao Soares discovered the West and East coasts respectively, and that Lawronoe Almeida, one of the Viceroy's of Portugal, made the first landing when on his way to take up his appointment.

These claims are not essentially contradictory. Presumably the Viceroy would be a passenger on the ship of Fernao Soares who might have been the sailor who first cried 'Land Ho' - or rather the Portuguese equivalent!! At any rate it is conceded that in the year 1506 the first 'Europeans' sighted this large and potentially rich Island.

I am afraid that very few historians know of the very early trading ventures of the Chinese, Arabs and the so-called 'Moors', who had unexcelled boldness, navigational skill, and ship-building ability: so we find in possibly the greatest of travel books, written by Marco Polo, that the Chinese knew and traded to the Island of 'Magaster' or 'Madeigasoar'.

But to return to the Portuguese, who opened up the world for trade, again, I think that, more especially here in New Zealand, we have heard little of the part played by the intrepid courage and ability of these one-time leaders of excursions into the unknown. It is admitted that the maps, sailing directions, and the 'logs' of the great trading associations which contained carefully guarded secrets from rival associations, and foreigners, have been lost, and much that has lain neglected and unknown through the centuries will have been destroyed in the comparatively recent 'orgies of destruction'!

Early in modern Madagascan history one reads of a dispute between the Malagasy and the French over the destruction of a Portuguese Settlement in 1642. You will recollect the great "interests" that France held in India, and the 'East', for many years, and, of course, they would not neglect this 'stepping-stone' to their 'possessions' and the lands in which they were so interested, so we find that the Portuguese failed to hold Madagascar. The Malagasy on land and the French at sea, combined with the growing enfeeblement of the Portuguese, left an almost clear way for the French.

But the French military expeditions met with disasters. From time to time the country generally was benefited by individual traders, planters from the French Island of Reunion, and the now British Island of Mauritius, and, of course, other lands, so we find the French making the most persistent attempts to colonise, settle, annex trade. All this is reflected in the coinage, which 'passed' before the French Protectorate, of the twelfth of December, 1895. Though the island is very rich in easily smelted copper and iron, the natives had no idea of using any shape of metals as currency.

The Malagasy are judged to be very closely akin to the great Malayan peoples, which, coming to the Pacific, became the Polynesians and the Melanesians. Curiously enough, they are very deficient in the usual Poly-Melanesian ability to carve, and the tribal Gods were merely bundles of odds and ends, without the slightest resemblance to human or animal forms, though they were skilled house builders, using the beautiful native woods for panelling, etc. Another point of divergence was the cannibalism of Polynesians and Melanesians whereas the natives of Madagasoar were never cannibals. Also, they had some considerable skill in pottery. They have very definitely no affinities with Africa, across the Mozambique Channel, a bare three hundred miles away, and show very slight influences of Arab trading in the way of writing, (that is Arabic writing, left to right). The Malagasy did not have any script.

Here was a very large land area, with an average breadth of 250 miles in the South, the centre 350, and a length of 978, mountainous, with a swampy coastline fever-ridden, as is usual in the tropics, very rich in woods and metals, practically undeveloped for thousands of years. Reunion, and Mauritius are 450

and 550 miles away, respectively.

When European traders began to penetrate, the usual mixture of coins brought by various means circulated: all accounts were reckoned in Spanish dollars, the so-called 'Pillar dollar' for the 'Pillars of Hercules', (the Straits of Gibraltar; inscribed 'Plus ultra') which passed in so many parts of the world. As Madagascar was 'opened up', the dollar at first dominated the currency, but with the gradually increasing French 'pressure' the French Five Franc pieces, of almost equivalent value were ousting these coins. However, as has occurred in all such circumstances any coins of similar size, thickness, and weight, freely passed from hand to hand. Coins of the European Kingdoms were represented: Sardinia, Belgium, Austria, Italy, etc., and American moneys - the Mexican, Bolivian, Peruvian, and the other North and South American States circulated freely.

Reverting to the tenaciously growing French 'influence': the French coins included the Louis XIV, 1614-1715; XV, 1715-1774; XVI, 1774-1793; the first Republic, (ante-Napoleon Bonaparte); then the Consulate; then the first Empire (Napoleon Bonaparte) 1804-1814; Louis XVIII (brother of Louis XVI); Napoleon (return from Elba); Louis XVIII, 1824; Charles X, 1824-1830; Louis Phillipe (by will of the people), Abdicated 1848; Louis Napoleon, 1851, elected Emperor, 1852; Napoleon III, 1870.

For the smaller values these coins were cut in small pieces, of all shapes and sizes, and the 'test' of these fragments was by means of weighing, everybody carrying small scales.

The dollar was divided into eight 'sika' (roughly 6d.), each sika is divided into nine 'eranambatra' which each yield ten 'vary-venty' or the weight of a plump rice grain. Thus the dollar contained 720 'Parts'. Further weighing was done by varying the basic weights in the scale pans, and adding grains of rice.

To effect some regularity in the business transactions the Hova Government issued stamped weights, the 'loso', representing the half dollar weight, 'kirobo' the quarter dollar, roughly one shilling: 'sika', about 6d., and the 'roa-voamena' of which the value was about 4d.

When RADAMA the first ascended the throne it was intended to issue a National coinage, and one of the Missioners prepared a very good profile of him, but on his death the idea was abandoned.

Part of the Coronation Ceremony consists of the tribes, state officials, foreigners, missioners, etc., presenting a Spanish dollar as their 'Hazina' (present) token of loyalty and submission to the new sovereign; this also applied to when a 'stranger' was granted an audience with the monarch.

I mentioned the first recorded trouble between the French and the Malagasy was in 1642 over the French endeavouring to oust the Portuguese and the 'troubles' continued. More recently, in 1861, France, Great Britain and the Malagasy, concluded a treaty. There was trouble between the French and the most energetic tribe, Hillmen, the 'Hovas', and in 1877 a serious quarrel. In 1882 France claimed Protectorate over part of the North-west portions under a treaty of 1840-1. The Malagasy appealed to the Governments of Great Britain and France, sending a mission of natives to both London and Paris.

French bombarded and took Tamatave in 1883: and there was constant fighting until the proclamation of the French Protectorate in December, 1895, when Madagascar became attached to the French Colonies.

The recent history will be fresh in your minds of the British Expeditionary Force, the 'Vichy Government's local resistance, and now we read that the Malagasy want their independence."

Mr. A. Sutherland said that the small association between French Madagascar and the nearest land mass was paralleled in the case of French New Caledonia, in the Northern throat of the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand. Geography and history had run counter to each other in each case. Many New Zealand troops were garrisoned at New Caledonia during the war, but that Island was

still almost forgotten by the average New Zealander, except when seen on a map. If Sir George Grey's advice had been taken, probably these foreign spots would now be British. The reference to 'Bits' in Madagascar recalled the practice of cutting Spanish dollars into 'Bits' for subsidiary denominations. In the whaling days, when the Spanish dollar was almost the standard coin in the Western Hemisphere, there were closer trade ties between the countries and islands under different flags than existed today.

Miss D. Dottman asked what was the origin of the term "four bits" in United States coinage. Presumably the wide acceptance of the Spanish dollar influenced the United States in adopting the dollar instead of sterling denominations.

Mr. W.D. Ferguson said that in comparatively recent times he had seen Maria Theresa thalers being minted by the Royal Mint in London for use in the Mediterranean area. At the time the United States threw off what they called the British yoke, they were familiar with the Spanish dollar which had been minted in Mexico and elsewhere in large quantities. The United States based its new dollar on the piece of eight, and wisely adopted the decimal system. British coins were often scarce in the Colonies at this time.

Mr. A. Quinnell said that the lack of British coinage was one of the minor causes of the revolution. Repeated requests for hard money brought no appreciable results and paper money had to be issued, thus causing dissatisfaction.

Professor Murray asked whether the Spanish dollar itself was copied from the Austrian thaler used in the Mediterranean area?

Mr. M. Hornblow said that the Bank of England had issued silver dollars in 1804 for circulation in England. The term "threepenny bit" still survived in New Zealand.

Mr. A. Sutherland said that Harwood Frost, in "The Evolution of the Dollar" stated that the dollar originated from the Joachimsthaler coined from silver mined in the Bohemian valley of Joachimsthal.

Recalling the so-called British yoke in America, a students' magazine had recently declared that "It was no wonder the Americans won - the American forces were all English, and the English forces all Germans."

Mr. A. Quinnell was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting paper.

The President stated that Mr. Johannes C. Anderson had written sending his good wishes to all members, and had sent the following interesting comments on Report pages 149-154:- "I was particularly struck by the paragraph relating to the medal for the battle of Malplaquet, on which the date is given as 31 August 1709, but in histories as 11 September of that year, the apparent discrepancy being due to the dropping of 11 days in the calendar for 1752. Numismatists who possess that medal will have a unique memorial of this dropping of 11 days, and no one being any the worse for it.

The reason this passage in the report struck me was that I had quite recently been reading in a History of British Butterflies by E.B. Ford how this same dropping of 11 days had made incorrect an otherwise correct name. Let me quote the passage:-

'One of Ray's names will especially strike the modern collector as remarkable; the title of "April Fritillary" employed for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This would today be most inappropriate, for that insect begins to appear about the end of the first week in May. Its occurrence at the extreme end of April is only recorded as a very rare event in especially early years. But it must be remembered that Ray wrote before the change in the calendar which took place in 1752. Eleven days were omitted from that year, so that in the early eighteenth century the Pearl-bordered Fritillary would normally be seen in the woods at the end of April. Indeed memories of the unreformed calendar are even yet preserved among us in several ways, for the traditional flowers of May Morning are far more appropriate to a date in the second week of the month than they are to May 1st as now known. The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was

at this period known as the May Fritillary for it appears a little later than the larger species. The name would still be reasonable, though not distinctive. Entomologists themselves were in these early days called "Aurelians"; a name derived from the golden (aureolus) chrysalis of some butterflies.'

I liked Mr. Horwood's South Sea Company paper, with its lessons which are quite lost on the inveterate gamblers of these days - I see even the dog-racers are wanting to have a tote for themselves. And Mr. Ferguson was to the fore again with his series of S.S.C. coins; what historical coin hasn't he a specimen or two of? - and he knows the appropriate time to bring them out, affording good illustrations to a good paper.

What a list of coins for sale! - evidently the listing is the work of an expert, an enthusiast, punctilious in the extreme. My tokens are still packed away, so I can make no bid for any of those listed. I wonder how many offers will be received? I hope the work of the compiler is well rewarded by a good sale, even though he may not benefit from it; it may have made it worth his while.

What a nice function it must have been when the Viscount and Viscountess were welcomed; it would bring memories of the first evening long ago when he presided.

When I wrote the paragraph about the dates and the butterflies, when writing the name of the author of the book I could not help thinking of our own Mr. Ford; he was an Aurelian of another kind, the objects of his collecting being less perishable, and not less beautiful; peace to his soul."

The President stated that it was always a pleasure to hear from Mr. Johannes Anderson whose real interest in the Society's activities was an inspiration and encouragement to all.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED: Mr. F.J. Joffery, F.R.N.S., 20 Warwick Street, Melksham, England; nominated by Mr. L.J. Dale and seconded by the President; also Mr. W.G. Wright (composite Life Subscription), care Wright & Company, 81 Clarence Street, Sydney; nominated by Mr. Allan Sutherland and seconded by Mr. O.C. Fleming, Sydney.

DEPARTURE OF LORD AND LADY BLEDISLOE: Mr. J. Berry read the following letter, posted at Pitcairn Island, from Lord Blodisloo in reply to the good wishes he had sent to the visitors on behalf of members prior to the departure of Viscount and Viscountess Blodisloo from New Zealand:- "Your most kind and generously worded letter of the 15th April was handed to me on board this ship shortly before she sailed and I had no opportunity of acknowledging it until she was at sea. Although now a little late let me thank you and the members of the N.Z. Numismatic Society most warmly for the delightful welcome that you gave my wife and me during our hurried visit to Wellington and the charming farewell which you have penned in the Society's name. We shall always remain deeply interested in its instructive and cultural activities. Please convey our warm regards to its members and believe me, Sincerely yours, (Signed) Blodisloo. P.S. I am hoping to post this back to you at Panama in 3 weeks' time."

Mr. W.D. Ferguson and Mr. A. Sutherland said that members had looked forward to welcoming Lord and Lady Blodisloo, and would always have happy memories of their association with the Society.

OTAGO CENTENNIAL MEDAL: Mr. James Berry exhibited a specimen medal being produced in England for issue to school children in Otago. The bright bronze finish suggested by Mr. H.G. Williams of Dunedin was very pleasing in appearance and much to be preferred to the dark bronze. Credit was due to Mr. H.G. Williams and the President in advocating the issue of a medal to mark the centennial of Otago. Decided, That the designer (Mr. J. Berry) the engraver and the Otago Centennial Committee be congratulated on the issue of such a high quality medal which would be a lasting memento of the centennial of Otago.

SEABY'S CATALOGUE OF COINS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND: A copy of this catalogue was tabled for inspection. Well illustrated with line blocks, this handbook of types and values is a necessary reference work for all collectors in this field.

SOUTH AFRICAN CROWN PIECE: Mr. A. Quinnell advises that Mr. C.A. Hall, Johannesburg has informed him that 300,000 crowns were issued, and were rationed by the banks, two to each customer. There was a possibility of a crown being issued there in 1948. There was no possibility of getting sets of the coins as orders had to be with the Royal Mint before the Royal Visit.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on 30th June, at which officers for the ensuing year will be elected. Nominations are invited from members. Members are invited to make this a social event by bringing their wives.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Now that the supply of electric power in Wellington is almost back to normal, meetings will again commence at 7.30 p.m.

JAMES BERRY,

Hon. Secretary.

P. O. Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

SALE OF COINS AND MEDALS BY JOINT COUNCIL OF THE ORDER
OF ST. JOHN AND NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The above organisation has advised that over £100 was realised from the recent postal sale, the principal items being as follows,

No.	Coin	Value
6	Mary groat	£2 10 0
23	Crown, Victoria	2 15 9
28	" " 1897	1 11 0
29	Double florin, Victoria	15 0
30	" "	15 0
31	Edward Crown	2 12 6
65	Hong Kong dollar	1 5 0
83	New Zealand token	1 17 6
91	Silver Jubilee Medal	2 0 0
92-94	New Zealand Medals	3 0 0
107	United States Dollars(2)	2 2 0
	New Zealand Crown 1935	12 0 0 each

The surprise of the sale was £12 each for four New Zealand crowns. It is suggested that the good cause influenced the high price, and that this is not necessarily an index to current values. For detailed description of coins, see list circulated by Joint Council prior to sale.

16th ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

The Council of the New Zealand Numismatic Society has the honour to present its 16th Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

Regular monthly meetings have been held during the year at which interesting and educational papers have been read and specimens exhibited. The Society was privileged in March to welcome Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe during a short visit to New Zealand. The proposed printing and illustrating of reports has been advanced by the generous action of the Government in making an annual grant for this purpose. This help might well be a turning point in the progress of the Society as it will enable illustrated reports to be used as an aid to classical education, and also much original New Zealand and Pacific material will be preserved in permanent form for reference. The Society has interesting projects in hand which should result in widening its sphere of interest and usefulness. The medal account stands at £91.3.6.

The membership roll now stands at: 4 Honorary Members; 36 Life Subscription Members and 84 ordinary Members, making a total of 124, an increase of nearly 20% during the year. There are also 31 exchanges representing other Numismatic Societies, Libraries and Museums in New Zealand and overseas, to which our reports are sent regularly.

The finances of the Society are now in a good state, and there is a wider geographical distribution of now members.

For and on behalf of the Council
of the N.Z. Numismatic Society,

ALLAN SUTHERLAND, President.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS A/C. FOR 11 MONTHS ENDED 31.5.47.

TO	£	s.	d.	BY	£	s.	d.	
Balance at P.O.S.B.	30.6.46.	6	5	7	Transfer to Trust Account	3	3	0
Subscriptions	15	11	0	Illuminated Address for J. Andersen	2	11	6	
Donations - Sundry	9	19	0	Wreath - Prof. Rankine Brown	1	5	0	
Government Grant	100	0	0	Refund due to G.C. Sherwood	2	7	6	
Interest from P.O.S.B.	7	4	0	Expenses Viscount Bledisloe Reception	2	8	9	
Sundry Receipts	4	1	0	Printing, Stamps & Stat'y. ..	29	5	9	
				Balance	95	2	5	
	£136	3	11		£136	3	11	

COMPOSITE SUBSCRIPTION TRUST A/C. FOR 11 MONTHS ENDED 31.5.47.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Balance at P.O.S.B.	30.6.46.	131	7	10	Balance	156	14	11
Subscriptions	22	1	0					
Interest from P.O.S.B.	3	6	1					
	£156	14	11		£156	14	11	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.5.47.

LIABILITIES	£	s.	d.	ASSETS	£	s.	d.
Accumulated Fund:				P.O.S.B. Accounts:			
Balance as at 30.6.46. ..	137	13	5	Trust	156	14	11
Excess of Receipts over Payments:				Ordinary	95	2	5
Ordinary A/c. £88.16.10.							
Trust A/c. £25.7.1.	114	3	11				
	£251	17	4		£251	17	4

Audited and found correct,
W. CHETWYND,
Hon. Auditor.

H. MARTIN,
Hon. Treasurer.

WELLINGTON,
4th June, 1947.

REPORT OF 107th MEETING (16th ANNUAL) 30th JUNE, 1947.

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Society was held on the 30th June. Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., presided over a good attendance of members. Apologies were received from Mr. Hassell Martin, Mr. C. Sherwood and Mr. J.L. Griffin.

IN FUTURE REPORTS WILL BE PRINTED AND ILLUSTRATED, THIS REPORT COVERING THE 107th AND 108th MEETINGS WILL CONCLUDE THE CYCLOSTYLED REPORTS. AN INDEX AND TITLE PAGE WILL BE SENT TO MEMBERS WHEN PREPARED.

THE FIRST NEW ZEALAND EXHIBITION, DUNEDIN, 1865: Mr. Allan Sutherland read a short paper on the medal of J.S. Wyon commemorating the first New Zealand Exhibition, 1865. There was one gold, 55 silver, one brass, and 87 bronze medals struck (S.419). Also one gold and 15 silver medals were issued by Messrs. Driver MacLean and Co. to successful competitors at the Inter-colonial Live-stock Exhibition held at the North Dunedin Cricket Grounds at the time of the exhibition. A summary of the paper will appear in the printed reports.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET: The President reviewed the work of the year, and expressed pleasure at the increased membership, and the good state of the finances, due largely to the grant by the Government towards the cost of printing and illustrating the reports. Difficulty was being experienced in securing good paper for the Rankine Brown Memorial Volume, and the estimate for printing had increased to £250 for 500 copies. The Committee was considering illustrating the Gilbertson Memorial Collection in sections in the Bulletins, and when completed using the blocks for illustrating the Memorial Volume which could then be produced at half the cost, and probably at a time when better quality paper was available. The Tasman Medal design would be exhibited for comment at the meeting. The future of the Society was bright. Members looked forward to the published reports of the Society.

Mr. W.D. Ferguson said that the capital accounts were in a strong position but the working account showed that the cost of reports was greater than the annual income. The decision to go ahead with the Tasman Medal would be welcomed. The Memorial Volume should be proceeded with only if good paper and a first-class book could be produced.

The annual report and balance sheet were adopted unanimously.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR were elected as follows:-

Patron: .. His Excellency, Lt. 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, Telephone 17-236
Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mr. M. Hornblow
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Hassell Martin, 20 Hay Street, Wellington, E.1., 51-310
Hon. Auditor: Mr. W. Chetwynd

APPRECIATION: A vote of thanks was accorded to retiring officers. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. C.R.H. Taylor and the staff of the Alexander Turnbull Library for their assistance to the Society.

Speakers referred to the continued interest shown by Viscount Bledisloe, Sir John Hanham, Mr. Harold Mattingly, F.R.N.S. (President of the Royal Numismatic Society), Mr. J.W. Heenan, C.B.E., LL.B., and Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., F.R.S.N.Z., and stated that the special interest displayed by these distinguished gentlemen gave inspiration and encouragement to the Society in carrying out its work.

TASMAN MEDAL, PROPOSED DESIGNS: Mr. James Berry exhibited the completed design to be placed before the sub-committee; also designs proposed for the Fiji twelve-sided threepence. Mr. Berry and Mr. W.D. Ferguson showed a fine series of medals celebrating the Victorian Jubilees of 1887 and 1897, the 60th and 50th anniversaries of which had occurred the week before the meeting.

GENERAL EXHIBITS: Mr. M. Hornblow exhibited a rare Trafalgar Medal; Mr. E. Horwood, an East India Company bronze coin with a cross and letters engraved thereon.

NEW ZEALAND THREEPENCE, 1935: Mr. J.K. de Rouffignac read an extract from the "Free Lance" giving the history of this scarce coin which was produced at the request of the Society to complete the set for that year. Press reports indicated that the value was £10, whereas the market value for fine specimens was 4/- each.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows: Mr. John Stichbury, Box 296, Wellington, and Mr. J. T. Oram, Fairton, Ashburton.

COIN DEFINITIONS: Mr. James Berry read a series of coin definitions which will appear in the printed reports.

NAME OF PRINTED REPORTS: Members are invited to suggest the name to be given to the Society's Printed Reports. Suggestions to date are "TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY", "COINS AND MEDALS" and "BULLETIN OF THE NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY".

PAPERS: Members are invited to submit papers to be read before the Society. Such papers will be limited to 4,000 to 5,000 words, except in special circumstances. Illustrations should be sent with papers where available, otherwise references to illustrations in standard works.

GENERAL: The following extracts from a letter from Mr. Johannes Andersen were read:-

"What a nice thing it is to have our reports printed, for the sake of absent members. While reading your paper on The Passing Bell of precious Metal Money - a doleful note - I could not help thinking what a lot I miss through being absent; and what little I might have had to say, apart from signifying my appreciation of the paper has to be bottled up, or committed to belated writing. Collectors used to hug their collections the more because the intrinsic value of their coins must always be at least at par with no debased issues to mar their value or their beauty. Collectors! haven't we known them? some collecting in sugar-bags, some in comely cabinets, some in their imaginations (collections not realizable but precious and comprehensive to their owners - like me). Throughout your talk I could not help thinking of our late esteemed friend and fellow-collector, Mr. Ford, with his new acquisitions, his enthusiasm, and his magnifying-glass. He is often in my mind; so, indeed, are many of the members of the Society, to whom I send greetings and felicitations to the new ones on their good luck.

Your note on inflation, page 157, made me think; what an array of ciphers the inflation of the pengo presents; and really the ciphers might as well be on the left-hand side of the integer as on the right for all the difference it makes. But from an English point of view the inflation is not so colossal as it seems. The American, and the French, too, differ from us as regards the million and the higher numbers; their billion is only 1000 millions; ours is a million millions, 12 noughts following the 1 as against their nine; and in the trillion, theirs is only a thousand billions whereas ours is a billion billion - 24 noughts following the 1 instead of a paltry 12; that is, 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000, instead of 1,000,000,000,000. And when it comes to the quadrillion and quintillian - well, you can work it out for yourself; it becomes fantastic and absurd.

I note that Professor Murray says that the owl of Athens did not change in value; I wonder if the same might be true if we could put a morepork on ours? If we had one on one of our medals we at any rate know this; its value wouldn't go down, and we know very well that the morepork wouldn't stop it from going up, and it and its wings might help in its silent ascent, and good luck to it.

(NOTE: There is a reference in the American publication "The Hungarian billion is one million million, whereas we (U.S.A.) consider a billion to be one thousand million." - Most complicated, but Walter would know. - Ed.)

Here's a little note on Newton, whom the astronomical figures brought to mind. His great work, *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, 1687, is considered pre-eminent among all the productions of the human mind. Among his almost innumerable discoveries was the law of gravitation, and the constitution of light; and he invented the differential calculus, a piece of mathematical jugglery that no layman can understand. No one was able to touch Newton till Einstein came along with his theory of Relativity which even fewer can understand than the few figure-wizards who can understand the differential calculus; and Einstein's Relativity does not upset Newton's great discoveries though it modifies one of them - at least, we are told so. And when the King of Newton's time decided, in recognition of his amazing work, to honour him, what did he do? He made him master of the mint, though not, so far as I know, of any of its contents. It was like giving him the glittering smile of a Sovereign de facto and a fortune in vacuo."

JAMES BERRY,
Hon. Secretary.

P. O. Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

REPORT OF 108th MEETING - 28th JULY, 1947.

The 108th Meeting was held on 28th July. Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S. presided. A special welcome was extended to Mr. Johannes C. Anderson, M.B.E., Vice-President, Auckland, and Mr. L.J. Dale, Vice-President, Christchurch.

BARTER: Mr. Johannes Andersen read a paper on Barter. An interesting discussion followed. This paper will appear in the printed reports.

NEW MEMBERS were elected as follows:-

Mr. R. Sellars, 68 Wairiki Road, Mt. Eden, Auckland, E.2.
Mr. Alan G. Barker, 9 Lyndon Street, Riccarton, Chch., W.1.

NOMINATIONS for election next meeting:-

Mr. Fred M. Moore, Rockville, Collingwood, Nelson,
Mr. C. Lawrence, Pukeora Sanatorium, Waipukurau,
Mr. A. Gibson, Alfred Street, Blenheim.

EXHIBITS: Mr. A. Quinnell exhibited a 20 years' Good Conduct Medal, Royal Engineers, with a parchment document setting out the details of the award.

CLEANING OF COINS: Mr. A. Sutherland said that Sir John Hanham had sounded a note of warning regarding various methods of cleaning coins listed on pages 135-136. Mr. Sutherland said that he had summarised various methods to provoke discussions, and that he did not necessarily subscribe to the methods referred to. The comment by Mr. C.W. Brandt (page 140) confirmed the warnings issued by Sir John Hanham, particularly in regard to the use of acids and brushing with steel and brass brushes. In regard to copper and bronze tokens, it was noteworthy that in a paper read before the Victorian Numismatic Association washing with a mild soap, careful drying, and then rubbing with brown Kiwi boot-polish was again recommended. An analysis of this polish, and its possible effect on copper and bronze, was being obtained from Mr. Brandt, B.Sc.

CUPRO-NICKEL COINS: The Government has announced that the "silver" New Zealand coins now circulating, consisting of 50 per cent silver would be called in and progressively substituted by cupro-nickel coins (75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel). Speakers pointed out that the present Australian coins were 92½ per cent silver and would in future be struck from half fine silver and half alloy. Members regretted the change but recognised the necessity for it.

DECIMAL COINAGE: Reference was made to the discussion in the House of Representatives regarding a proposed decimal coinage for New Zealand, and the statement of the Minister of Finance that he favoured decimal coinage, but doubted whether the present was an opportune time to make a change. Mr. Bowden, M.P., argued that the present was an opportune time owing to price increases altering the whole range of prices of articles which were formerly of an almost standard value.

PRINTING REPORTS: A general discussion took place on the form in which the printed reports should take. The sub-committee considered that printing should commence forthwith; that the Gilbertson Memorial Collection should be illustrated in reports in sections and that Professor H.A. Murray should be invited to describe same, that the Sir John Rankine Brown Memorial Volume should be deferred, and that suitable material be printed in the reports for assembly in a volume later, if possible; and that each issue should contain three papers read before the Society, plus other appropriate material. The sub-committee was considering issuing a fourfold report of the business section of the meetings, to be circulated between the issues of the reports of papers, in order to keep more frequent contact with members. Decided to thank the sub-committee for its efforts, and to leave the matter in its hands.

TASMAN MEDAL: Mr. W.D. Ferguson stated that he hoped the Tasman Medal project would be expedited. Mr. Sutherland reported that the sub-committee on designs, with Mr. J.W. Hooper, had met, and when Mr. Johannes Anderson had examined the amended design, final plans could be proceeded with.

The meeting closed with a pleasant social hour and supper.

JAMES BERRY,

Hon. Secretary.

P. O. Box 23,
WELLINGTON.

MEETING NEXT MONDAY, 25th AUGUST, at 7.30 p.m.