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*2004 5c with strong die clash - Queen's forehead, eye and nose visible below tuatara's chin, and top of hair visible above tuatara's back.  
See article, p. 28*

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EDITOR: MARTIN L. PURDY, F.R.N.S.N.Z.

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position by the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc.

## PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS' SECURITY - AND PRIVACY: a personal plea

Dr Kerry Rodgers

Our rapidly changing world of communications is bringing all kinds of advantages but also a host of new issues for an individual to deal with. I have some tech-savvy acquaintances who assure me that for those with the skills, tracking down an individual and their home address from an e-mail address is just as easy as doing it *via* their telephone number - even one with a confidential listing.

Just as I decline before handing out a fellow collector's home address without their say so, I have found it prudent and essential to refuse to hand over phone numbers or e-mails of others I know are in the collecting game. I have a responsibility to respect their privacy, but also a responsibility to protect both their and their families' security.

It can be a nasty world out there. Tigers lurk and piranhas prowl. Handing out a collector's e-mail can be tantamount to drawing a target on their back. And it can be done so easily and quite unthinkingly.

I regularly receive e-mails from a host of numismatists and numismatic organisations from around the world. Many of the messages are part of general large mail-outs. I am always gratified by the senders who practise good netiquette and use the **Bcc** (Blind Carbon Copy) facility. It means when I get an e-mail as part of a mail-out I have no idea who else has received this e-mail, nor do I have their e-mail addresses attached. Importantly, they don't have mine.

I would beg that if you don't know how to use **Bcc** then DON'T send mail-outs to any group of RNSNZ members – or at least don't include my address. However, I can assure you it is dead easy to do, even if you don't have tech-savvy granddaughters, as I do, to instruct you.

In, say, Outlook Express, in the pane of a new message go to **View** and select **All headers**. The **Bcc:** bar will now appear below the **Cc:** line in your message header. Enter one address, perhaps your own, in **To:**. Don't put anything in **Cc:**. Put all other addresses for the group involved in your mail-out in **Bcc:**. Write the message and send. Everyone's privacy - and security - will be maintained.

[Editor's note: I fully endorse Kerry's comments here. I have made the occasional slip of this nature myself but still try at all times to use the Bcc function when dealing with large numbers of addressees who have no need to know each other's identities. The principle described above is similar for other e-mail programs, such as Eudora, Gmail and Yahoo mail, all of which include a Bcc option.]

***The Society's early years:*** reprints of the "Transactions" - the proceedings of the New Zealand Numismatic Society (as it was then) from 1931 to 1936, 1936 to 1941 and 1941 to 1947 - are once again available. More than just minutes of meetings, these contain detailed accounts of papers read at early meetings of the Society and represent a fascinating insight into the first years of our own distinctive coinage and the input by the NZNS.

See page 43, under "Publications Available", for price details.

# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND HECTOR MEMORIAL MEDAL

Walter R Bloom

## INTRODUCTION

This paper details the history of the Hector Memorial Medal and Prize, which was established in honour of the late James Hector. The medal was designed by Allan Gairdner Wyon and struck by John Pinches of London for the Royal Society of New Zealand. The author has a personal interest in this medal as his late father, Harry Bloom, was one of the awardees.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

The Royal Society of New Zealand (known as the New Zealand Institute before 1933) was established in 1867 to co-ordinate and assist the activities of a number of regional research societies including the Auckland Institute, the Wellington Philosophical Society and the Otago Institute. It offers a range of prizes and medals for excellence in scientific research.

## SIR JAMES HECTOR KCMG, MD(EDIN), FRS, FRSE, FLS

James Hector<sup>[1] [2]</sup> (16 March 1834 – 6 November 1907) was a Scottish geologist, naturalist and surgeon who accompanied the Palliser Expedition to Canada, and was appointed geologist to the Provincial Government of Otago, New Zealand. He arrived in Dunedin in April 1862 and for the next two years he examined the Province and its developing goldfields (up until the beginning of 1864, when he returned to Dunedin). In 1864 James Hector was commissioned to tour the Colony to prepare for the New Zealand Industrial Exhibition (Dunedin 1865). Late in 1864, after the seat of Government moved to Wellington, the Premier Frederick Aloysius Weld established a Geological Survey for the whole of New Zealand and appointed James Hector to be Director when his Otago engagement ended. The Geological Survey was located in the Colonial Museum in Wellington, and included the Colonial Laboratory and (later) an observatory. In 1867 the New Zealand Institute Act set up an Institute for the advancement of science and art, to which the Colonial Museum and Laboratory were transferred. James Hector became Director of the Colonial Museum and Geological Survey, and Manager of the Institute, and was recognised as the adviser to the Government on scientific matters of all kinds. James Hector was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1861, and the Clarke Medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales<sup>[3]</sup> in 1887, the dies of which were prepared by JS and AB Wyon.

## HECTOR MEMORIAL FUND

On the death of Sir James Hector in November 1907, regional committees were at once set up with the object of collecting funds to perpetuate by some fitting memorial the great services rendered by him to science and to the Colony. At the fifth annual meeting of the New Zealand Institute, in January 1908, a committee of the Institute was appointed to co-operate with the other committees already moving in the direction of collecting funds for a memorial. The Hector Memorial Committee, at the instance of the Standing Committee of the Board of Governors, suggested to the Memorial Committee of the Institute, and to the allied committees in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, that a joint circular be issued, signed by representatives of all the committees, appealing for further subscriptions to the fund.<sup>[4]</sup>

*Hector Memorial Fund.—The individual members of the Board having signified their concurrence with the request of the Wellington Hector Memorial Committee (a body acting independently of the Institute) that the Institute should assume, under certain stated conditions, the custody and management of the fund, the Standing Committee has given effect to the wishes of the Governors.*<sup>[5]</sup>

On 18 April 1910 The Hector Memorial Fund was established to support the award of the Hector Memorial Medal and Prize. The initial wishes of the Wellington Committee were that *the prize shall be awarded by rotation for the following subjects: Botany, chemistry, geology, physics (including*

*mathematics and astronomy*), and zoology. The Board of Governors of the New Zealand Institute resolved that <sup>[6]</sup>

*The research for which the medal and prize are awarded must have a distinct bearing on New Zealand—(1) Botany, (2) chemistry, (3) ethnology, (4) geology, (5) physics (including mathematics and astronomy), (6) zoology (including animal physiology).*

and this was included in the Trust Deed of 1912. In 1914 this was subsequently modified to read <sup>[7]</sup>

*The prize and medal shall be awarded by rotation for the following subjects, namely—(1) Botany, (2) chemistry, (3) ethnology, (4) geology, (5) physics (including mathematics and astronomy), (6) zoology (including animal physiology).*

*In each year the medal and prize shall be awarded to that investigator who, working within the Dominion of New Zealand, shall in the opinion of the Board of Governors have done most towards the advancement of that branch of science to which the medal and prize are in such year allotted.*

From 1996 the Hector Medal was awarded annually in rotation for mathematical and information sciences, chemical sciences and physical sciences. In 1999 Council agreed that the Hector Medal would, from 2000, be awarded biennially (2001, 2003, 2005), and then in 2005 the Hector Medal reverted to an annual award.

### **COMMISSIONING AND SUPPLY OF MEDALS**

A Committee was appointed to obtain the Hector medal, and in 1911 reported <sup>[8]</sup> that they had communicated with Messrs. Wyon and instructed them to proceed with the designing of the Hector Medal in accordance with the suggestions that had been put forward. <sup>[9] [10]</sup>

The medal arrived in Wellington nearly twelve months late. However it was thought to be well executed, and the likeness a fairly good rendering of the photograph supplied. “*We have to thank Professor Thorpe for generally supervising the design and attending generally to the matter.*” A supply of ten medals was received from Messrs. Wyon and that awarded in the January was engraved with the following inscription—“To Leonard Cockayne, Ph.D.”

In 1919 it was reported <sup>[11]</sup> that a further supply of twelve medals had been received from Messrs. Wyon, but that these were not quite the same as the old medal, being struck on thicker metal of apparently a different composition. I cannot find any reference to the composition of either medal, nor to the thickness of the “old” medal.

And in 1950:

*As the supply of the Hector medals will soon be exhausted, an order was placed with the Society’s medal makers, John Pinches, Ltd. (successors to Mr. A. C. (sic) Wyon). It was good news to learn from this firm that the dies of the Society’s three medals were safe and had received no damage by enemy action during the war.<sup>[12]</sup>*

### **ALLAN GAIRDNER WYON**

Allan Gairdner Wyon <sup>[13],[14]</sup> (1882–1962) was the youngest member of a distinguished family <sup>[15]</sup> of engravers and medallists and the last member of the family to work in this trade. His father Allan Wyon (1843-1907) was Chief Engraver of Seals to Queen Victoria, a post that had been held by members of the family since 1727 when Peter George Wyon came to England from Cologne as a silver chaser and medallist to the Court of George II. Allan Gairdner Wyon studied sculpture at the Royal Academy from 1905 to 1909 and worked as assistant to the sculptor William Hamo Thornycroft. He was eventually to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. On his father’s death Allan Gairdner Wyon took his place as head of the J(oseph)S(hepherd) (1836-1873) and A(lfred)B(enjamin) (1837-1884) Wyon die-engraving firm.

During the 1920s Allan Gairdner Wyon established his reputation as a sculptor, and with Eric Gill, Jacob Epstein and others was one of the earliest sculptors in England to practice direct carving in stone as distinct from working from a clay or plaster model using a pointing machine. His works

include the East Wind for the architect Charles Holden, who had commissioned sculptural panels for the London Transport headquarters building over St James' Park station (1926–1929), a number of small figure sculptures, two memorial brasses and many medals. <sup>[16]</sup>

In 1933 Allan Gairdner Wyon was ordained Deacon in the ministry of the Church of England. He served as a curate in Saltash from 1933 to 1936 before becoming vicar of Newlyn, where he continued his work as a sculptor and medallist, and he retired in 1955.

### **JOHN PINCHES MEDALS <sup>[17]</sup>**

John Pinches Medallists were founded in or around 1840, but were under the shadow of the Wyon family of English engravers for much of their early existence. While a number of the Wyons were engravers and chief engravers at the Royal Mint, other family members ran a medal business outside the Mint. John Pinches Medals was founded by John Pinches (1825-1905), who had learned steel engraving from his mother's cousin, medallist William Joseph Taylor. Four members of the Pinches family were associated with the firm after the first John Pinches:

1. John Harvey Pinches (1852-1941), the son of the founder.
2. John Robert Pinches (1884-1968), a grandson
3. A second John Harvey Pinches (author of [18]), and
4. A cousin, Leslie Pinches

In 1932 John Pinches Medals acquired the JS and AB Wyon firm and all its dies, and in 1969 the company sold out to the Franklin Mint in Pennsylvania as part of the latter's European expansion.

### **HECTOR MEMORIAL MEDAL**



The medal is in bronze and is accompanied by a prize, presently \$500. It was designed by Allan Gairdner Wyon and struck by John Pinches of London<sup>[18]</sup>.

*Obv* Profile portrait to left, bust into rim of raised border. Legend TO COMMEMORATE THE WORK OF SIR JAMES HECTOR K.C.M.G. H.R.S. M.D. IN NEW ZEALAND MDCCCLXIV – MCMVII and horizontally to right BORN MDCCCXXXIV DIED MDCCCCVII.

*Rev* To left a kneeling Maori holding a staff and hand shielding eyes to gaze into a New Zealand landscape with a pair of huia (birds), lake and mountains. The exergue contains a globe, a retort, books etc, all within a border inscribed in gothic letters around top NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE (later "ROYAL SOCIETY OF N.Z.") and around bottom FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Signed on bust: Allan G. Wyon

2.54" (64.5 mm) diameter, 5.5 mm in thickness, high relief, bronze.

Edge inscription of the name of the awardee.

## **HARRY BLOOM MSc(Melb), PhD(Lon), DSc(Melb), DIC(Lon), ANZIC**

The actual medal illustrated is that of my late father, Harry Bloom (25 December 1921 – 1 September 1992), who was awarded the Hector Memorial Prize in 1961 for his research into the physical chemistry of molten salts. This was shortly after he moved from Auckland to Hobart to take up the Chair in Chemistry at the University of Tasmania. His memory lives on with his remarkable contribution during the 1960s and 1970s to environmental issues surrounding the polluting by heavy industry of the River Derwent and other areas of Tasmania, which continues to be recognised through the awarding of the Harry Bloom Memorial Award for Environmental Excellence by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

## **INAUGURAL HECTOR MEMORIAL MEDAL<sup>[19]</sup>**

*Hector Memorial Award.*—The presentation of the award to Dr. Cockayne was made at the celebration of the Jubilee of the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, on 30 August 1912.

## **AWARDEES OF THE HECTOR MEMORIAL MEDAL AND PRIZE**

- 1912. Leonard Cockayne CMG, PhD, FRS, FRSNZ, FLS, for his researches in New Zealand botany.
- 1913. Sir Thomas Hill Easterfield KBE, MA, PhD, FRSNZ, for his researches in chemistry.
- 1914. Elsdon Best FRSNZ, for his researches in New Zealand ethnology.
- 1915. Patrick Marshall MA, DSc, FRSNZ, FGS, for his researches in New Zealand geology.
- 1916. Lord Ernest Rutherford of Nelson OM, DSc, FRS, FRSNZ, for his researches in physics. (The High Commissioner for New Zealand, on 6 August 1918, notified the Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs that at the request of Sir Ernest Rutherford, and with the consent of the Standing Committee, the 1916 medal was presented to him privately on 25 July 1918.)
- 1917. Charles Chilton MA, DSc, MB, CM, FRSNZ, FLS, for his researches in zoology.
- 1918. Thomas Frederic Cheeseman FRSNZ, FLS, FZS, for his researches in New Zealand systematic botany.
- 1919. Philip Wilfred Robertson MA, MSc, PhD, FRSNZ, for his researches in chemistry.
- 1920. Stephenson Percy Smith FRSNZ, FRGS, for his researches in New Zealand ethnology.
- 1921. Robert Speight MA, MSc, FRSNZ, FGS, for his work in New Zealand geology.
- 1922. Clinton Coleridge Farr DSc, FRS, FRSNZ, for his research in physical science and more particularly work in connection with the magnetic survey of New Zealand.
- 1923. George Vernon Hudson FRSNZ, FES, for his researches in New Zealand entomology.
- 1924. Donald Petrie MA, FRSNZ, for his researches in New Zealand botany.
- 1925. Bernard Cracroft Aston FRSNZ, FRIC, for his investigation of New Zealand chemical problems.
- 1926. Henry Devenish Skinner CBE, MA, DSc, FRSNZ, for his research in ethnology.
- 1927. Charles Andrew Cotton DSc, Hon. LLD, FRSNZ, FGS, for his researches in the geomorphology of New Zealand .
- 1928. Duncan McLaren Young Sommerville MA, DSc, FRSNZ, for his general mathematical work and particularly for his investigations in non-Euclidean geometry.
- 1929. George Malcolm Thomson FRSNZ, FLS, for his researches on the acclimatisation of animals in New Zealand and on the natural history of New Zealand fishes.
- 1930. John Ernest Holloway LTh, DSc, FRS, FRSNZ, for his researches in the life-histories of New Zealand Pteridophytes.

- 1931. William Percival Evans CBE, MA, PhD, FRSNZ, for his research in pure and applied chemistry.
- 1932. Te Rangi Hiroa (Peter Henry Buck) MD, ChB(NZ), FRSNZ, for his researches in Maori ethnology.
- 1933. William Noel Benson BA, DSc, FRSNZ, FGS, and John Marwick MA, DSc, FRSNZ, for their researches in New Zealand geology.
- 1934. Charles Ernest Weatherburn MA, DSc, for his outstanding original work in mathematics, especially in the use of vector analysis.
- 1935. Sir William Blaxland Benham KBE, MA, DSc, FRS, FRSNZ, for his original researches in New Zealand zoology.
- 1936. Walter Reginald Brook Oliver DSc, FRSNZ, FZS, for his research in New Zealand botany.
- 1937. John Reader Hosking BSc, PhD, for his research in the chemistry of New Zealand plants.
- 1938. Herbert William Williams MA LittD, FRSNZ, for his researches in ethnology.
- 1939. John Arthur Bartrum MSc, FRSNZ, for his researches in geology.
- 1940. Donald Bannerman Macleod MA, DSc, FRSNZ, for his outstanding work in molecular physics.
- 1941. Harold John Finlay DSc, FRSNZ, for his researches on mollusca and foraminifera.
- 1942. Harry Howard Allan MA, DSc, FRSNZ, FLS, for his researches in New Zealand botany.
- 1943. Lindsay Heathcote Briggs DSc(NZ), DPhil(Oxon), FRSNZ, FNZIC, FCS, for his researches in chemistry.
- 1944. Johannes Carl Andersen MBE, FRSNZ, for his researches in ethnology.
- 1945. John Henderson MA, DSc, FRSNZ, for his researches in New Zealand geology.
- 1946. Henry George Forder MA(Cantab), for original contributions to mathematics, especially his treatise "The Calculus of Extension".
- 1947. Arthur William Baden Powell FRSNZ, for his outstanding and long-continued researches on mollusca.
- 1948. Gordon Herriot Cunningham CBE, DSc, PhD, FRS, FRSNZ, for his researches in mycological botany.
- 1949. Robert Anthony Robinson PhD, DSc(Birm), FRIC, FNZIC, for his researches in physical chemistry.
- 1950. Ernest Beaglehole MA(NZ), PhD, DLitt(Lond), FRSNZ, for his researches in Polynesian ethnology.
- 1951. Francis John Turner DSc(NZ), FRSNZ, FGS, for his researches in metamorphic geology.
- 1952. Keith Edward Bullen MA, BSc(NZ), MA(Melb), ScD(Cantab), for his research in seismology.
- 1953. Lancelot Eric Richdale MA, DSc, FRSNZ, for his researches in bird behaviour.
- 1954. Lucy May Cranwell Smith FRSNZ, for her researches in botany.
- 1955. Francis Brian Shorland PhD, DSc(Liv), FRSNZ, FNZIC, for his contributions to chemistry of fats.
- 1956. Roger Shepherd Duff MA, DSc, FRAI, for his contributions to science of anthropology, and in particular researches in the material culture of the moa hunters.
- 1957. Harold William Wellman MA, DSc, for his research in New Zealand geology.

- 1958. Alister George McLellan PhD(Edin), MSc, for his theoretical work on the physical properties of fluids.
- 1959. Howard Barraclough Fell MSc(NZ), PhD(Edin), for his outstanding researches in Echinoderm embryology and systematics.
- 1960. Edward Edinborough Chamberlain DSc, for his outstanding researches in New Zealand plant virology.
- 1961. Harry Bloom MSc, PhD, ANZIC, DIC(Lond), for his researches in the physical chemistry of molten salts.
- 1962. Ralph O'Reilly Piddington MA(Syd), PhD(Lon), for his administration and research in Pacific anthropology.
- 1963. Charles Alexander Fleming, for his researches in New Zealand geology.
- 1964. Derek Frank Lawden, for his contributions to the mathematical theory of space flight mechanics.
- 1965. Richard Kenneth Dell, for his researches on the marine fauna of New Zealand and the Southern Ocean.
- 1966. John Thorpe Holloway, for his contributions to forest and range plant ecology.
- 1967. Richard Conrad Cambie, for his researches on the chemistry of natural products.
- 1968. Gilbert Edward Archey, for his researches on Maori and Polynesian decorative art and science administration.
- 1969. Douglas Saxon Coombs, for distinguished contributions to the understanding of metamorphic zoning in sedimentary rocks by mineralogical studies particularly by the recognition of the zeolite facies, thus linking low with high rank metamorphism.
- 1970. Brian Garner Wybourne, for his contribution to knowledge in the field of atomic physics.
- 1971. Ira James Cunningham, for his researches in the fields of biochemistry and veterinary science.
- 1972. Edward George Bollard, for his contribution to knowledge in the field of plant nutrition.
- 1973. Michael Philip Hartshorn, for his researches in the chemistry of steroids and terpenoids.
- 1974. Herbert Dudley Purves, for his research on neuro-endocrinology and thyroid physiology.
- 1975. Robert Cecil Hayes, for his pioneer research on seismology in New Zealand.
- 1976. John Newton Dodd, for his contributions to experimental atomic physics.
- 1977. Campbell Stuart Wemyss Reid, for his research into digestive physiology of ruminants.
- 1978. Richard Ellis Ford Matthews, for his research in the field of plant virology.
- 1979. Leon Francis Phillips, for his research into the reaction of atoms and small molecules.
- 1980. Graham Collingwood Liggins, for his research into the hormonal control of parturition in humans and other mammals.
- 1981. Trevor Hatherton, for the application of geophysical methods to elucidate the geological structure of New Zealand and for contributions to the understanding of active plate margins.
- 1982. Roy Patrick Kerr, for his work on the solution to the Einstein field equations of general relativity which opened up research to black holes in space.
- 1983. Raymond Robert Forster FRSNZ, for his long-standing studies on the spiders and opiliones of New Zealand.

- 1984. Roderick Leon Bieleski FRSNZ, for his research in the physiology of plants and especially for his contributions on the transport of essential nutrients and metabolites.
- 1985. Peter Bernard David de la Mare FRSNZ, for his research into the mechanisms of reactions in organic chemistry.
- 1986. Robin Wayne Carrell FRSNZ, for his work on the way in which molecular abnormalities of the blood proteins produce disease.
- 1987. Albert James Ellis FRSNZ, for contributions to hydrothermal geochemistry.
- 1988. Daniel Frank Walls FRSNZ, for his distinguished contributions in the field of quantum mechanics.
- 1989. Patricia Rose Bergquist FRSNZ, for her work on the biology, classification and chemistry of New Zealand, Australian and Pacific island sponges.
- 1990. Peter Wardle, for his life-time work in ecology.
- 1991. Warren Richard Roper FRSNZ for his pioneering studies in organometallic chemistry.
- 1992. Roger Curtis Green FRSNZ, for his contributions to scientific archaeology in the southern hemisphere.
- 1993. Richard Irving Walcott FRSNZ, for his studies of crystal deformation in New Zealand.
- 1994. Geoffrey Ernest Stedman FRSNZ, for his contributions in the field of atomic and radiative interactions.
- 1995. Robert Dudley Jolly FRSNZ, for his contribution to our understanding of lysosomal storage diseases in animals and humans.
- 1996. John Charles Butcher FRSNZ, for his contribution to research on the numerical analysis of differential equations.
- 1997. Edward Neil Baker FRSNZ, for his sustained scientific innovation in the field of protein crystallography.
- 1998. Paul Terence Callaghan FRSNZ, for his innovative applications of nuclear magnetic resonance imaging in many areas of physical science, and Jeffery Lewis Tallon FRSNZ, for his contribution to the physical understanding and practical importance of certain phase transitions in condensed matter.
- 1999. George Arthur Frederick Seber FRSNZ, for his fundamental contributions to statistical theory, for the development of the statistics profession in New Zealand, and for the advancement of statistics education through his teaching and writing.
- 2001. Peter Adolf Schwerdtfeger FRSNZ, for his outstanding research in theoretical chemistry.
- 2003. Kenneth John Dallas MacKenzie FRSNZ, for his contribution as a world leader in the physics and chemistry of ceramics, minerals and inorganic materials.
- 2005. Ian Hugh Witten FRSNZ, for his major contributions to many areas of computer science, including machine learning, data-mining, digital libraries and information retrieval, and for the development of appropriate technology for developing countries.
- 2006. Richard Furneaux FRSNZ, for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of carbohydrate chemistry and to world-wide recognition of chemistry and pharmacology in New Zealand.
- 2007. Timothy George Haskell, for his outstanding contributions as a leader of, and advocate for, several novel New Zealand research programmes, particularly the New Zealand Antarctic Research Programme.

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- [13] Allan Gairdner Wyon and St. Peter's Newlyn  
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- [16] Meara, David, 'Allan Gairdner Wyon', *Trans. Mon. Brass Soc.* 14 (1990), pp 400-412.
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<http://www.24carat.co.uk/johnpinchesmedallionsframe.html>
- [18] Pinches, John Harvey, *Medals by John Pinches, A catalogue of works struck by the company from 1840 to 1969*, *Heraldry Today*, London, 1987, p 182.
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The author is grateful to Judy Lyons of the Royal Society of New Zealand for her assistance in the preparation of this article.

[Note: for an illustration of the earlier medal type, with "NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE" on the reverse, see NZNJ, Supplement to no. 82, p. 17- Ed.]

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## THE PACIFIC COMMEMORATIVE SOCIETY AND THE MEDALS OF JOHN CRESSWELL

Hamish MacMaster

John Cresswell is the Renaissance Man of New Zealand numismatics; his involvement and interests straddle every branch of the hobby<sup>1</sup>. For those of us of a certain generation it was his *Collecting Coins and Medals* published in 1973 by Whitcombe and Tombs<sup>2</sup> that acted as our early guide to collecting. In addition to writing multiple articles and other books on numismatics including *Numismatists of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Auckland*<sup>3</sup> and this year with Jim Duncan *Teutenberg, A Master Engraver & His Work*<sup>4</sup>, John is a past editor of the Journal of the Royal Numismatic Society of NZ as well as a foundation member and past President of the Numismatic Society of Auckland (NSA). This article focuses on his medals and vehicle of issue, the Pacific Commemorative Society.

John's involvement in issuing medals began from his time as President of the NSA when he was responsible for addressing Sir Dove-Meyer Robinson and the Auckland City Council in session and making the case for the issue of the Auckland City Centennial Medal<sup>5</sup>. This was accepted and after a lot of effort was struck locally by Max Elbe, an Auckland badge maker. The Auckland City Centennial medal represented Max Elbe's first numismatic effort and he subsequently went on to found the Waitangi Mint. The profits from this medal were so great that a reduced-size aluminium medal was issued free to every schoolchild in the city.

The following year John organised the issue of the Marion Dufresne Bi-Centennial Medal for the NSA. It was this medal that saw the first reference to the Pacific Commemorative Society. With regard to its formation John writes:

*"After the success of the Auckland City medal I spent some time privately organising fund-raising commemoratives under the name of the Pacific Commemorative Society. This was intended to be a proper society but that never eventuated and I just kept the name. The original "members" were myself, Nanette Cresswell, Max Elbe, Dion Maddock and a few others. A firm in Lower Hutt suddenly burst on the scene and registered the name, so I stopped using it and switched to PCS Commemoratives."*<sup>6</sup>

In total, including the NSA Dufresne Medal, the Pacific Commemorative Society was involved in the issue of some ten medals from 1971 to 1974. These medals were essentially fund-raising endeavours, such as those for the Pompallier School and the Leprosy Mission. But their themes were all New Zealand orientated and they broke new ground in New Zealand commemorative medal making.

The 1972 Pearse medal has been the only medal to acknowledge the role of Richard Pearse from Timaru as a world pioneer aviator. The medal raised funds for the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) where Pearse's aeroplanes are exhibited and being restored. In the production of the 1974 Auckland Metropolitan Fire Brigade Medal the main art work was taken from a hob or punch prepared by Auckland master engraver Anton Teutenberg for the United Fire Brigades Association in the later part of the nineteenth century. Centennial medals with ribbons for wearing had suspension bars also struck from Teutenberg dies, loaned from the collection of the NSA. While the use of these dies was not unique – the NSA's 1967 Decimal Coinage Medal used Teutenberg dies as did the 1971 New Zealand Founders

Society medal – the idea was not commonplace and this issue demonstrates the innovative Cresswell approach to medal making.

Nowhere was this more typified than by the Orakei Medal which John was asked by the Orakei Marae Committee to produce in 1973. This medal commemorated the landing of the migration canoe *Te Arawa* at Orakei, Auckland, and the founding of the settlement there by Kahu-Mata-Momoe in about 1350. Like his ‘discovery’ of Max Elbe, John turned to an unlikely source for inspiration: noted Maori writer and cartoonist Harry Dansey who had never before been involved in medal production. A full description of the circumstances surrounding the production of this medal is given in John’s article “*The Noble Savage on New Zealand Coins and Medals*” published in *New Zealand Numismatic Journal* no. 84<sup>7</sup>. The obverse showed a representative portrait of Kahu in heavy modern style: the reverse a great double ocean-going canoe, with woven sail and crowded deck. Both sides were sculpted by the Maori artist Arnold Wilson to designs by Harry Dansey, the first ever medal to be designed and sculpted by Maori and the first medal to mark a Maori event.

The New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association medals sponsored by Winstone Ltd are an interesting sub-set of those produced by the Pacific Commemorative Society. The aim of this series was “to raise funds for the advancement of New Zealand in the sporting world”<sup>8</sup> and featured New Zealand Olympic Medal winners. In all, some three medals were produced on New Zealand greats Peter Snell, Yvette Williams and Pedersen / Wells, before the series was discontinued.

While of limited duration and output, the Pacific Commemorative Society deserves recognition as a distinct medal issuing entity in the early seventies. It was active at a time when there were many such bodies catering to the upsurge in interest in numismatics brought about by decimalisation in New Zealand. The large number of medals issued during these years came to a rapid halt when the price of silver rose sharply due to wholesale speculation in the United States<sup>9</sup>. The last issue of the Society was in 1974.

A full list of the medals of John Cresswell follows.

### ***Medals of John Cresswell / Pacific Commemorative Society***

#### **1 Auckland City Centennial**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1971   |
| Metal / Mintage | Gold (137), Silver (690), Copper (1660), Aluminium (905) Platinum (1)  |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Arms of the City of Auckland in high relief.   |
| Reverse         | Centennial symbol and AUCKLAND CITY CENTENNIAL 1871-1971   |
| Issued by       | Auckland City Council and the Numismatic Society of Auckland, of which JCM Cresswell was the President. Obverse design by Auckland City Council, reverse design by D. Hatcher. Engraved by Max Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint. |

#### **2 Auckland City Centennial**

|      |      |
|------|------|
| Year | 1971 |
|------|------|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Metal / Mintage | Aluminium (22,000)   |
| Diameter        | 32 mm  |
| Obverse         | Same as medal 1  |
| Reverse         | Same as medal 1  |
| Issued by       | Auckland City Council and the Numismatic Society of Auckland. Issued free to every schoolchild in Auckland City. |

### 3 Auckland City Centennial / Museum of Transport and Technology

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1971   |
| Metal / Mintage | Aluminium. Number unknown.                                       |
| Diameter        | 32 mm  |
| Obverse         | Same as medal 1  |
| Reverse         | Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) logo of cogged wheel. |
| Issued by       | MOTAT for use in a slot machine at the Museum.                   |

### 4 Marion Dufresne Bicentennial Medal

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Year | 1971. Issued to mark the 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of the French navigator Marion Dufresne at the Bay of Islands on June 12, 1772. Profits from the sale of this medal were devoted to the publication of |
|------|--|

## NZ Historical Medals

From 1968 to 1971, the "Historical Medal Society of Australia and New Zealand" struck a series of crown-sized (38 mm) commemorative medals on a range of themes including the Wahine, James Cook (NZ Bicentenary), 1970 Royal Visit and the Auckland City and Harbour Board centenaries.

Only **500** each of the bronze versions were struck.

We have examples of several of these issues for sale.

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|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
|                 | <i>Mintmark</i> , the Journal of the Numismatic Society of Auckland.  |
| Metal / Mintage | Gold (10), Silver (200), Copper (300). Several aluminium trial strikes.   |
| Diameter        | 42 mm   |
| Obverse         | Death of Dufresne after the painting “ <i>La Mort de Marion Dufresne</i> ” by Charles Meryon in the Turnbull Library and MARION DUFRESNE. BAY OF ISLANDS 1772 |
| Reverse         | Dufresne’s ships <i>Mascarin</i> and <i>Marquis de Castries</i> and NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF AUCKLAND INC. 1972  |
| Designed by     | Numismatic Society of Auckland, produced by the Pacific Commemorative Society and struck by the Waitangi Mint.  |

## 5 Auckland Coin and Medal Convention

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1971   |
| Metal / Mintage | Gold, Silver, Copper and Aluminium (1000)  |
| Diameter        | 32 mm  |
| Obverse         | Auckland Town Hall and TOWN HALL AUCKLAND  |
| Reverse         | AUCKLAND COIN AND MEDAL CONVENTION 1971  |
| Designed by     | JCM Cresswell, engraved by M Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint. Two coin conventions were staged in 1971 by a joint committee of members of the Numismatic Society of Auckland and the New Zealand Coin Dealers’ Assoc. The medal was sold at both conventions. |

## 6 Richard Pearse

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Year            | 1972. Pearse’s second plane and the remains of his first are housed at MOTAT in Auckland which sold the medal to raise money for their restoration.   |
| Metal / Mintage | Platinum (1), Gold, Silver, Copper, Aluminium   |
| Diameter        | 42 mm   |
| Obverse         | Pearse aeroplane and RICHARD W. PEARSE ENGINEER AND AVIATOR 1877-1953   |
| Reverse         | Eagle and MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT & TECHNOLOGY, AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND. RICHARD PEARSE, PIONEER OF POWERED FLIGHT 1903-1904   |
| Issued by       | Pacific Commemorative Society. Designed by Auckland Technical Institute, engraved by Max Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint.  |
| Variations      | Minor variations occur owing to several replacement dies having been made for the obverse. Die I shows large wing flaps (scarce), Die II small wing flaps, Die III small wing flaps with slightly frosted ground. |

## 7 Orakei

|      |      |
|------|------|
| Year | 1972 |
|------|------|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Metal / Mintage | Gold, silver, copper, aluminium  |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Head of the legendary chief Kahu-mata-momoe and inscr above KAHU-MATA-MOMOE and below ORAKEI 1350  |
| Reverse         | Migration canoe and inscr in circle TO COMMEMORATE 600 YEARS OF MAORI OCCUPATION OF TAMAKI-MAKAU-RAU 1972  |
| Produced by     | Pacific Commemorative Society for the Orakei Marae Committee in Auckland. Designed by Harry Dansey, artwork by Arnold Wilson Dipl.F.A. (Hons). Engraved by Max Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint. The first medal to be designed by a Maori and to commemorate a Maori event. |

## 8 Peter Snell

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1972. This was the first of a series by the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association sponsored by Winstone Ltd to raise funds and featuring New Zealand Olympic medal winners. Medals for Yvette Williams and for the yachting win were issued before the series was discontinued. |
| Metal / Mintage | Silver (250), Copper (750), Aluminium (25)   |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Head of Snell to left with grandstand in background and signature above  |
| Reverse         | 1960 ROME 1ST 800 METRES 1M 46.3S. 1964 TOKYO 800 METRES 1M 45.1S. 1ST 1500 METRES 3M 38.1S all within a band inscribed N.Z.A.A.A. INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC FUND   |
| Issued by       | New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association. Produced by Pacific Commemorative Society. Designed by G Gilmour and JCM Cresswell, engraved by Max Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint.  |
| Variations      | After striking it was found that the word TOKYO had been rendered 'TOYKO'. The dies were corrected and full quantities struck. Some 'TOYKO' variety medals still exist as follows: Silver (1), Copper (50), Aluminium (1)  |

## 9 Bishop Pompallier

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1972. This medal was issued to mark the centennial of the death of Jean Baptiste Pompallier, 1 <sup>st</sup> Bishop of Auckland. Proceeds from the sale of the medal were devoted to furthering Pompallier's educational ideals. |
| Metal / Mintage | Gold, silver, copper, aluminium  |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Portrait of Bishop Pompallier (as a young man) to the right  |
| Reverse         | Arms of the bishop and JOANNES BAPTISTA FRANCISCUS POMPALLIER EPISCOPUS AUCKLANDENSIS. 1801-1871.  |
| Issued by       | Pompallier College, Whangarei. Produced by the Pacific   |

Commemorative Society. Obverse design by Bishop Delargey, reverse design by JCM Cresswell (based on the seal of Bishop Lineham). Engraved by Max Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint.

## **10 Yvette Williams**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1973. This was the second of the N.Z.A.A.A. series.  |
| Metal / Mintage | Silver (250), Copper (750), Aluminium (25)   |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Female long-jumper to the right with the head of Williams at the left  |
| Reverse         | YVETTE WILLIAMS. 1952 HELSINKI 1ST WOMENS LONG JUMP 20FT. 5 3/4 INS. All within a band inscr N.Z.A.A.A. INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC FUND  |
| Issued by       | New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association. Produced by Pacific Commemorative Society. Designed by G Gilmour and JCM Cresswell, engraved by John Kavanagh and struck by the Waitangi Mint. |

## **11 Pedersen and Wells**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1974. This was the third and final of the N.Z.A.A.A. series.   |
| Metal / Mintage | Silver (250), Copper (750), Aluminium (25)   |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Flying Dutchman class yacht with the heads of Pedersen and Wells inset   |
| Reverse         | HELMER PEDERSEN AND EARLE WELLS 1964 TOKYO. 1 <sup>ST</sup> FLYING DUTCHMAN CLASS, YACHTING all within a band inscr N.Z.A.A.A. INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC FUND                               |
| Issued by       | New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association. Produced by Pacific Commemorative Society. Designed by G Gilmour and JCM Cresswell, engraved by John Kavanagh and struck by the Waitangi Mint. |

## **12 Auckland Metropolitan Fire Brigade**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1974   |
| Metal / Mintage | Silver, Copper, Aluminium  |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | 19 <sup>th</sup> century fireman to right within AUCKLAND METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE  |
| Reverse         | CENTENNIAL OF MUNICIPAL FIRE FIGHTING IN AUCKLAND 1874-1974  |
| Designed by     | JCM Cresswell and produced by Pacific Commemorative Society. Engraved by M Elbe and struck by the Waitangi Mint. A 100 year old punch made by Anton Teutenberg was used for the fireman. Silver and bronzed-copper medals were also issued with a loop and bar suspender |

for a red ribbon. The suspender was struck by A. Halling from a Teutenberg die.

### 13 Leprosy Mission

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Year            | 1974   |
| Metal / Mintage | Silver, Silver Gilt, Copper, Aluminium   |
| Diameter        | 42 mm  |
| Obverse         | Christ and the leper   |
| Reverse         | Small silhouette of Christ and the leper and THE LEPROSY MISSION / COMPASSION / 1874-1974  |
| Issued by       | This medal was the official issue for the world centennial of the mission. Produced by Pacific Commemorative Society. The artist was Peter Featherstone and struck by the Waitangi Mint. |

#### (Footnotes)

- 1 I wish to thank John Cresswell for his extensive assistance in the preparation of this article.
- 2 Cresswell, John C.M., Collecting Coins and Medals, Whitcombe and Tombs, 1973
- 3 Cresswell, John C.M., Numismatists of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Auckland, J.C.M. Cresswell Books, 2005
- 4 John C.M. Cresswell and James B. Duncan, Teutenberg A Master Engraver and His Work, Numismatic Society of Auckland, 2007
- 5 Cresswell, John C.M., Numismatists of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Auckland, J.C.M. Cresswell Books, 2005, p. 33
- 6 John Cresswell, private communication. None of the Cresswell medals were issued under the name of PCS Commemoratives.
- 7 John C.M. Cresswell, "The Noble Savage on New Zealand Coins and Medals", The New Zealand Numismatic Journal, Number 84 June 2006, pp. 15-30
- 8 Promotional material enclosed with NZAAA medals
- 9 Cresswell, John C.M., Numismatists of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Auckland, J.C.M. Cresswell Books, 2005, p. 34

**See pp. 19- 21 for illustrations.** Numbers refer to the medals listed in the body text.

Illustrations 1, 2 & 3 (L to R) to Erwin Lein's article on NZ token counterstamps (see p. 23)



1 - 2



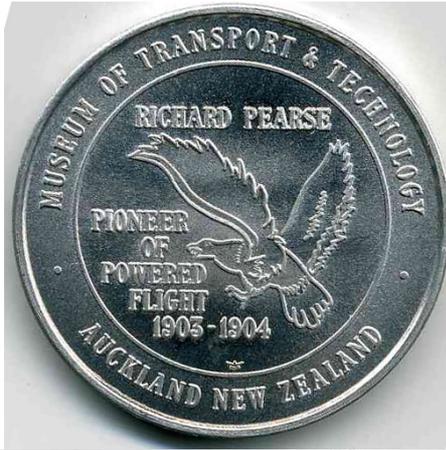
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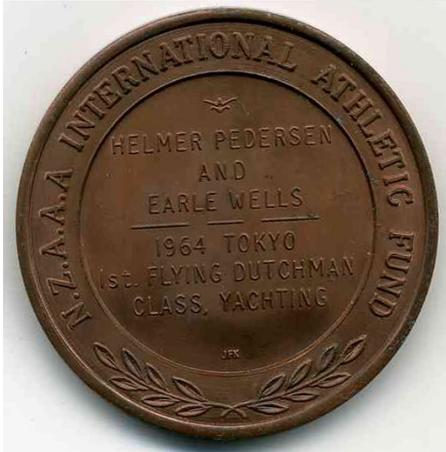
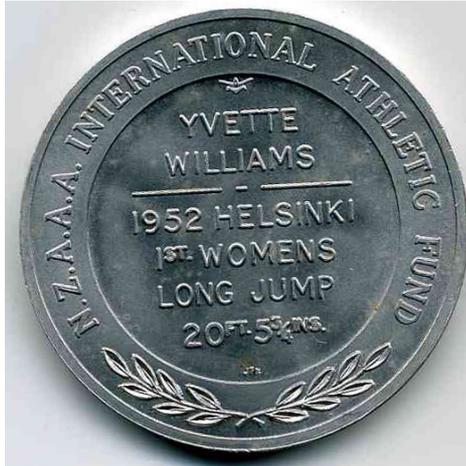
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## NEW ZEALAND TOKEN COUNTERSTAMPS

Erwin Lein

As tokens appeared in New Zealand, so did counterstamps issued by traders and others who wished to place their mark in history.

1) **H.C. JONES** on both sides of a Milner & Thompson (A378 L334b)

Henry Charles Jones arrived in New Zealand on August 26, 1879 (Auckland Passenger Arrivals). Employed as a compositor, he undoubtedly issued his own counterstamp. The 1881 Electoral Rolls indicate that Jones lived on Wingfield Street, Thorndon, Wellington. He departed New Zealand and arrived in Sydney in December 1918.

2) **HAIR** on Morrin (A388 L335a)

The Hair counterstamp is more difficult to identify as it contains no indication of given name, occupation or location. George Bush Hair arrived in New Zealand in 1855. Employed as a watchmaker, he lived on Ramarama Road, Bombay, Franklin.

3) **COUNTERMARK** on S. Hague Smith (A478 L341d)

Is this a Latin countermark, alchemist symbol or what?

**Counterstamps observed on New Zealand tokens:**

4) **G.M.C** on both sides of a M. Somerville penny

5) **S** on reverse of D. Anderson penny

6) **JS** on Milner & Thompson penny (A1207)

7) **123-** on United Service Hotel penny (A591)

**Additional counterstamps as listed in Andrews, Sutherland, Chitty, Lampard collection and research by George Dean:**

8) **SP** on Milner & Thompson penny

9) **JS** on both sides of a Milner & Thompson penny (A382)

10) **J.E.C.** on both sides of a Wilson penny (A639)

11) **F** on Jones & Williamson penny (A308)

12) **RC** on obverse of S. Hague Smith penny (A477) Ex Heyde Sale #1

13) **ABE NATHAN** on Hobday & Jobberns penny (A1174)

14) **C** both sides on E.DeCarle penny (A102)

15) **TRELEAVEN** on reverse of Day & Mievill penny (A98)

16) **S COLLINS** on Archibald Clark penny (Eccles Auction, Lot 43, (1985)

17) **IRVINE** on McCaul penny (C566a)

18) **J IRVINE/CHRISTCHURCH/NZ** on United Service Hotel 1d. (S176a)

19) **Hh MACKIE** on R. Gratten penny (A152) - Lampard collection

20) **WM** on McCaul penny (A359)

21) **GVR** on reverse/**DC** on obverse of S. Hague Smith 1d. (A470) - Lampard

22) **AR** on Mears 1/2d. (A362)

23) **A REED** on ALVA penny (A326)

24) **83** (2x) on Archibald Clark penny (A64)

25) **T.C. HERMSIDE** on Holland & Butler penny (A1106)

26) **NSW** (within a shield) on ALVA penny (in a Tasmanian collection)

27) **P. DICK** on United Service Hotel penny (Ebay sale January, 2003)

28) **ANCHOR** on S. Hague Smith penny (A1003)

29) **F.C.** on Somerville penny (A1038)

30) **U** on Milner & Thompson penny (A1228)

31) **2714** on Ashton penny (A1270)

*(See p. 18 for illustrations of 1, 2 and 3)*

## THREE BACTRIAN FORGERIES

W.J. Noble

*[The three coins described in this article recently reappeared – still together – in a New Zealand collection, so we thought it timely to reproduce it again now. The original appeared in the Report of the Australian Numismatic Society, April 1972, and is reproduced by permission; the illustrations are new scans by the editor – Ed.]*

Close examination of what were purported to be three rare Bactrian gold staters has instead revealed more examples of the nineteenth century forger's art [1]. Bactrian forgeries are relatively prevalent and at times have proved difficult to attribute with certainty. This is due to the style of the originals, the skill of the forgers in producing accurate dies or moulds copied or taken from originals and the lack of accurate information about the coinage. With the interest aroused by the archaeological excavations of last century, particularly in the Kabul Valley region, there developed quite a demand for rare and early Bactrian coins. Unscrupulous dealers must have found it easy to pass off doubtful coins or known forgeries. So deceptive have some of the "rarities" in the gold series been and also so scattered that some have been accepted as genuine by some authorities for some time [2]. In fact, it was not till Jenkins die-linked a group of forgeries that the extent of the deception by forgers could be more fully appreciated [3].

The three coins illustrated cover the period from just prior to the establishment of an independent Bactria (from Seleucid rule) by Diodotus in about 250 BC to the time of Euthydemus I. They have been carefully catalogued and detailed for the benefit of collectors and students.

1. Gold stater of Antiochus II (of Syria), Bactria Mint. Diameter 18 - 18.5 mm, weight 8.36 g [*weighed at 8.38 g in 2008 - Ed.*]

Obv. Head of Antiochus II to right

Rev. Apollo seated on omphalos. In front, lyre; triangle-shaped monogram; star above in field.

The modelling is flat and somewhat coarse. This is a characteristic of each of the pieces.

There is a forgery in the British Museum from an identical obverse die (Lockett sale 2564 is from similar dies).

2. Gold stater of Diodotus. Diameter 19 mm, weight 8.32 g

Obv. Head of Diodotus right.

Rev. Zeus wielding thunderbolt, with aegis on arm. Eagle and wreath in field to left.

While the modelling is flat, the die has been more finely and sharply cut, particularly in the hair and facial characteristics on the obverse.

Identical specimens can be seen in E.S.M. Pl. LIII, 18, and P.M.C. no. 1 (see also footnote on p. 9).

There is a cast in the British Museum.

N.B. This is one of the key pieces in Jenkins' die linkages.

3. Gold stater of Euthydemus I. Diameter 17.5 mm, weight 8.39 g

Obv. Head of Euthydemus right.

Rev. Heracles seated on rock holding club. The monogram is blundered but appears to be NW. [*The legend also appears to be blundered (EYΘYΔHQOY rather than EYΘYΔHMOY) - Ed.*]

Style is particularly coarse on the reverse.

There is a similar forgery in the British Museum.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of G.K. Jenkins, Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, in confirming the correct attribution of these forgeries. Following is an extract from a letter from Jenkins:

"I would certainly agree that the Diodotus is another example of No. 3 in my *Revue Numismatique* article. The Antiochus II specimen, however, is not, I think, quite the same as any in my article, though we can again match its obverse exactly from an item in the British Museum forgeries collection (which, however, I did not include in my article as it is not directly connected with the same group of forgeries but is, I think, a secondary derivative from them). The Euthydemus coin is also paralleled in the B.M. forgeries collection, where we have a specimen from the Montague Collection, and also a version of the same thing in silver. This one I think is very likely to be from the same source as the forgeries in my article, but again I did not include it as it did not bear directly on the problem. No doubt there are other specimens of some of these types in existence."

### Footnotes

- [1] This type of forgery has in general been traced back (as to ownership) to about the mid-nineteenth century. In the 1880s Percy Gardner (BMC) warned collectors against skilfully made forgeries.
- [2] Whitehead (*Punjab Museum Catalogue* 1914) accepted the Diodotus stater as genuine. This error was repeated by Newell in his "Eastern Seleucid Mints" (USA 1938, "ESM"), pl. LIII no. 18. Lahiri in the "Corpus of Indo-Greek Coins", 1965 (as an example of the deception), listed both of these coins.
- The comparisons between a group of coins have permitted conclusive identification.
- [3] G.K. Jenkins, "A Group of Bactrian Forgeries", *Revue Numismatique Series* 6 no. 7.

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1 obv.



1 rev.



2 obv.



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3 rev.

## YMCA AND SALVATION ARMY CURRENCY COUPONS – AN UPDATE

Ray Hargreaves, FRNSNZ

In “YMCA Currency Coupons of the First World War”, published in the *NZ Numismatic Journal*, No. 82, 2004: 17-19, I stated that research on the topic was on-going, but until now no further information had been discovered. Thanks to my wife’s reading of the *Stratford Evening Post* (in search of family history), for the period of the First World War, it has become possible to provide a little more information about the coupons.

I originally suggested that the YMCA’s issue of currency coupons was possibly in response to the prohibition on sending coins in letters to troops overseas, but a news item in the *Stratford Evening Post* of 7 August 1917 states that the idea was a result of a “suggestion from a soldier”. The YMCA accepted the suggestion with alacrity, believing such coupons were a good way of “meeting a widely-felt need” for sending small sums of money to soldiers, whether in New Zealand or overseas. This belief in their acceptability was confirmed in that the YMCA initially ordered a massive 100,000 booklets from the printer. It appears that the booklets were first made available in August 1917 in the Wellington area, and throughout the rest of the country before the end of the same month. The Government wholeheartedly supported the scheme, with the Money Order branches of the Post Office handling the sale of booklets at no charge. A later news item in the *Stratford Evening Post* (1 Nov. 1917) recorded that “over 150,000 threepenny coupons” had been sold during the first month they had been available.

**Salvation Army Coupons.** As I noted in my original article, the New Zealand historian of the Salvation Army could find no reference in their archives or publications to any coupons being issued during the First World War. I suggested that, in their huts, the Salvation Army possibly honoured the YMCA coupons. But in the *Stratford Evening Post* of 3 October 1917 a local item noted:

Booklets of coupons issued by the Salvation Army enabling any soldier to obtain refreshment at any of the Salvation Army hutments in England, France, or elsewhere, are now on sale by Captain Mrs Campion. There are ten coupons in the booklet of the value of 3d each, and it is a handy size suitable for enclosing in a letter to “the boys.” As a small reminder, these booklets are sure to become popular, and will afford much pleasure to both donor and recipients.

The similarity of the Salvation Army coupons to those of the YMCA is evident - they were issued about the same time, both had a value of 3d, and both came in booklets of ten.

It makes no sense that the Salvation Army in Stratford would compete directly with the Post Office in the sale of YMCA coupons. Thus we are left with the assumption that the Salvation Army *did* issue its own coupons, but for some unknown reason little publicity was given to them in the newspapers of the day.

Certainly the Salvation Army ran fewer huts than did the YMCA, and this could explain why no soldier’s letter or diary which I have seen ever mentions them. And if only a very few YMCA coupons out of the millions issued have survived, it is not surprising that no Salvation Army coupons, which were apparently issued in very much smaller numbers, have yet turned up. But hopefully, one day . . . .

# THE QUEEN, THE TUATARA, AND THE SEAGULL

P. Cordue, W. Hunt, L. Mead, B. Collins, J. Braid

## Introduction

The “coin frenzy” of 2006 was sparked by the sale of a 2004 5 cent coin on the New Zealand Internet auction site TradeMe for \$360 (see “The Five Cent Coin Incident”, NZNJ 85, p. 46). The buyer was originally disappointed with the coin, as there was a long, jagged, “scratch”, beginning at the tuatara’s neck and descending, across the field, to the rock below. However, it wasn’t long before they learnt that the coin was not scratched. The long, jagged, line was actually the outline of the Queen’s forehead and nose. An error coin!

Much was discussed on the TradeMe message boards in the months during and after the coin frenzy. There was certainly a new interest in decimal coins for many collectors (indeed there were many new coin collectors, with a focus on New Zealand decimal coins). The discovery of the 2004 5 cent die-clash errors led to interest in other 5 cent error coins. The “missing sea” and “missing tail” of 1967, and the “wart nose” of 1999, were already well known, but other error coins soon came to light as new and “old” collectors went “in search of the treasure”.

Little was known about 5 cent error coins (apart from the three types mentioned above) until the pioneering work of Rob Richards (“The NOT So Humble NZ 5c piece – Error Statistics”, NZNJ 85, p. 58). Over a period of months he examined approximately 20,000 5 cent coins and recorded the different types of errors found. He also made some estimates of error



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frequency from a sub-sample of almost 3000 coins. In his article he says, "... should be an excellent resource for someone to use for a future more in-depth study...". We took his words to heart and attempted the "definitive study". We have, of course, fallen short – there will always be an unfound flaw waiting to be discovered, in, on, between, or around, the Queen, the tuatara, and the seagull.

## **Methods**

The project was led by Patrick Cordue and conducted by members of the online coin club "New Zealand Coin Collectors Association" ([www.nzcca.com](http://www.nzcca.com)). The online forum was used extensively for communications with the team: defining terminology, agreeing on definitions, and posting photographs of newly discovered error coins.

The primary objective of the study was to discover and document the available error types for New Zealand 5 cent coins (circulation strikes only – i.e., not coins in proof or uncirculated sets), including an estimate of their relative scarcity. A secondary objective was to estimate the relative availability of coins in each year (without regard to grade). The scarcity of 2004 5 cent coins precluded the estimation of their relative availability or the relative scarcity of the different error types.

Participants were requested to provide annual counts for coins in their possession excluding any that they had bought to obtain the particular year (most 2004 coins were bought by people to obtain examples for that year). The total annual counts (across all participants) were each divided by the total number of coins in the combined sample to provide a measure of relative scarcity (across years) – being the proportion of coins, in each year, in possession of the group. This addressed the secondary objective. To address the first objective a slightly different sample of coins was needed.

To estimate the relative scarcity of different error types, the participants were requested to use all coins in their possession which were random with regard to whether they contained any flaws. For example, if a member had accumulated their 1999 coins by searching for errors and preferentially retaining error coins then they could not use their 1999 coins in the study. However, if they had obtained a number of 1999 coins without regard to error (whether sorted for errors or not) then they could use them in the study – provided they examined each of them anew.

Participants were supplied with spreadsheets, for each year, to fill in counts for each error type. They were encouraged to examine their coins, by year, starting in 1967. Specific details of the flaws on each coin were captured in the spreadsheet: type, magnitude, and position. Single flaw types were defined and numerically coded. Coins with multiple errors could then be described by listing the numerical codes for each flaw they contained. The magnitude (minor, moderate, or major) assigned to each flaw was "relative" to the flaw type (e.g., a "minor wart" or a "major wart"). Example photographs were posted on the forum to help standardize the judgment of magnitude across participants.

For the purposes of this article, the error types have been grouped:

- LOD (loss of detail)
- cuds (including "leaks" – caused by chips in the die)
- cracks (raised lines caused by die cracks)
- splinters (either single splinters or splinter patterns – caused by scratches on the die, generally caused by deliberate die polishing)

- die clash (parts of the obverse and reverse patterns appearing on each other due to a previous “clashing of dies”, in the absence of a planchet).
- OFF (off-centre strikes, including multiple rims)
- DAE (die alignment error – when the reverse and the obverse are incorrectly aligned relative to each other)
- Other (including lamination errors, clipped planchet, metal flaws, etc)

Some of the more interesting error types are identified by names (e.g., existing names: “missing sea”, “missing tail”; new names: “shooting seagull”, “flannel Queen”).

Full details of the positions of cracks, cuds, etc were given in the spreadsheets, but for the purposes of this article, positions are grouped:

- reverse: seagull, tuatara, 5, left sea, right sea, JB, other
- obverse: Queen, NZ, Elizabeth, 2004-II, other

Not everyone checked for DAEs, but in each year enough data were obtained to provide estimates of the proportion of coins with clockwise or anticlockwise errors (on a coin without a DAE, the tuatara and Queen have the same vertical alignment; a 180 degree error occurs when the Queen is upside down relative to the tuatara; when the tuatara is leaning backwards, relative to the Queen’s vertical axis, it is a clockwise error; similarly, when the tuatara is leaning forwards it is an anticlockwise error). Any error less than approximately 30 degrees was classed as minor, otherwise, the angle was recorded to the nearest 45 degrees.

Off-centre strikes (OFFs) were only recorded when the coin “stood out” relative to coins of the same year (e.g., in a 5 x 5 array of coins). The position of the error was recorded (obverse and/or reverse) and whether the coin had multiple rims or not (it was assumed that multiple rims could only occur when there was an off-centre strike). As with DAEs, only simple statistics are presented for OFFs each year. No statistics are presented for DAEs and OFFs in combination with each other or other errors.

## Results and Discussion

This section contains some “facts and figures” which will be of interest to error coin collectors. Those who wish to enjoy only the highlights should skip the first few subsections and go straight to “A tour through the decades”.

### Relative scarcity of years

The group collectively held over 13,000 coins which had not been bought to obtain a particular year (Table 1). The scarcest year was 1973 (0.9%) and the most common 2002 (9.5%). A comparison of the annual percentages with the expected percentages (assuming an annual loss rate of 4.8% which is consistent with the annual numbers obtained by Rob Richards in his random sample) shows that the group had preferentially accumulated coins minted before about 1980 (see Table 1). There was a particularly strong preference for 1973 – the year with the lowest mintage (0.9% is three times the expected percentage of 0.3%). If the group are representative of New Zealand coin collectors, then these holdings show the relative scarcity across years for coins still in existence (as opposed to coins that were minted). These numbers only show *relative* scarcity. The absolute number of coins available in any year depends on how many were kept by collectors (or part-time collectors). Given the publicity surrounding the first TradeMe sale of a 2004 5 cent coin, and the subsequent hoarding of 5 cent coins, it is safe to assume that there are no years in which coins of average circulated condition are scarce (except 2004).

## **Die alignment errors**

The recording of DAEs is somewhat problematic. It is a tedious job at best and there was little consistency across participants in the years in which DAEs were found. However, while the proportions estimated in any one year are unreliable, (and probably underestimate the true proportion) there are some fairly robust results.

Almost 5000 coins were checked for DAEs. Except in 1999, only minor DAEs were reported. In that year, the mint decided to align the year (on the obverse) with the “5” (on the reverse), thus building in about a 30 degree anti-clockwise DAE (according to the definition used in the study).

As Rob Richards reported, there appear to be very few DAEs in the years 1967-1978 and 1981-1989 (in this study, less than 1% per year). In 1980 and all other years (except 1999), DAEs were often reported (from 6%-30% per year). The proportion and extent of DAEs in 1999 were typical of surrounding years if the deliberate alignment error is taken into account. In most years, anti-clockwise DAEs were more common than clockwise DAEs (70% of coins with DAEs were anti-clockwise). The coins of 2001 were unusual in only having clockwise DAEs reported.

## **Off centre strikes**

As with DAEs, no “major” off-centre strikes were reported and there was little consistency across participants in the years in which these errors were reported. But, again, some results are robust.

Over 6000 coins were checked for off-centre strikes which “stood out” from coins of the same year. This definition precluded high proportions of off-centre strikes being found in any one year, but some participants noted years in which off-centre strikes were common. The following years all had high percentages of slightly off-centre reverses: 1971-1974, 1978, and 1980. No years were noted for high proportions of off-centre obverses. In years with off-centre strikes reported, percentages were typically 1%-2%. Of those coins with off-centre strikes, about 60% were on the reverse, less than 10% showed reverse and obverse off-centre strikes, and only 20% exhibited multiple rims.

## **LOD, cracks, cuds, clashes, splinters, and others**

A total of 6626 coins were examined by the group for errors other than DAEs and off-centre strikes. The stand-out years were 2001 and 2002 with about 50% of coins examined showing at least one flaw (Table 2). Die clashes were present all through the 1990s and also in 2001 (Table 2). The highest percentages of LOD occurred in 1967 (“missing tail” and “missing sea”) and 1985 (“missing waves” – see “Tour through the decades” below). Splinter patterns were found in large numbers in 2001 and 2002 (being the reason those years had the highest percentage of errors). Die polishing would have occurred in earlier years but many patterns are presumably only visible on high grade coins. Few cracks were detected, with the highest percentage of only 3% being found in 2003 (Table 2). Cuds were much more common, with the highest percentage of 19% occurring in 1999 (Table 2).

LOD was uncommon, but present in many years, with the tuatara being the main recipient (1.5% of total coins, found in 1967, 1971, 1988, 1994-97, 1999, 2001-03), followed by the Queen (0.5%, 1970, 1972, 1996-97, 1999, 2001-03), and “Elizabeth” (0.2%, 1981-82, 1985, 1989, 1997-98, 2000).

The “dripping 5” (cud(s) on the edge of the “5”) was found on only 1% of the total coins in the years 1967, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000-01.

Reverse errors were more common than obverse errors (8% of coins compared to 5%).

The percentages of coins found with “named” error types will be presented after a few more names are defined below.

### **A tour through the decades**

There was a promising start for error coin collectors in 1967 with the well-known “missing sea” and “missing tail” error types being produced. However, 1969 and all of the 1970s appear to have few errors – at least, few which are visible on average circulated coins. There were only two coins of any note, a marginally off-centre strike, with a flat rim in 1973 (Figure 1) and an unfortunate portraiture of the Queen in 1974 (Figure 2). These errors are both very rare and so will not give rise to a collectable “error variety”.

The 1980s yielded a few interesting errors: the two examples of clipped planchets found were both from 1980 (Figure 3), “missing waves” were discovered in 1985 (the sea appearing much smoother than usual on both the left and the right), and the “broken neck tuatara” of 1988 was confirmed (Figure 4, called “broken chin” by Rob Richards). An early example of die polishing was also found, with the “sneezing Queen” of 1989 (Figure 5).

In the 1990s the mints were much kinder to the error coin collectors, being happy to produce die clashes each year and a range of other error types. There are “ghost Queens” available in 1994 (Figure 6), a lovely die crack to be found in 1995 (Figure 7), the unflattering “flannel Queen” in 1996 (with a “flannel” on her forehead/brow), the stunning “ship on horizon” in 1997 (Figure 8, called “boat on horizon” by Rob Richards), the “thick legends” of 1997 (first found by Rob Richards; hard to photograph – but you know it when you see it), and the well known “wart nose” of 1999 (see Figure 9, for an “acid damaged” wart nose).

In 2000, die clashes were not found, and there was little of interest except for the “toothed Queen” (a tiny cud in her mouth). However, in 2001 and 2002, with many instances of splinters to be found, approximately 50% of coins showed a noticeable flaw of one type or another (see Table 2). The Queen was seen to have “missing lips” in 2000-02; and in 2001 sometimes had a “forehead wart”. In 2001-03, there were some serious splinter patterns on the reverse (e.g., Figure 10). Less numerous splinters sometimes engaged the seagull, for example, the “shooting seagull” in 2002 (Figure 11). Numerous flaws were noted on 2004 coins including strong die clashes (Figure 12), die cracks, cuds, and splinter patterns (the 2004 error coins perhaps being worthy of their own article).

### **Scarcity of “error varieties”**

The following table shows the percentage of coins found for the main named error types:

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1967 Missing sea,            | 1%            |
| 1967 Missing tail: moderate, | 5%; major, 5% |
| 1985 Missing waves,          | 5%            |
| 1988 Broken neck tuatara,    | 3%            |
| 1994 Ghost Queen,            | 1%            |
| 1996 Flannel Queen:          | 10%           |
| 1997 Thick legends,          | 1%            |
| 1997 Ship on horizon,        | 3%            |
| 1999 Wart nose,              | 10%           |
| 2000 Toothed Queen,          | 5%            |

2001 Missing lips, 1%  
2002 Missing lips, 1%  
2002 Shooting seagull, 2%  
2003 Missing lips, 1%.

Moderate “missing tails” were found in several years but the tail (i.e. the triangle of tail normally visible below the lizard’s chin) has only been reported as completely absent in 1967.

The above percentages are probably under-estimates as some participants would have failed to spot some of the error types in some years. That said, there was a much higher level of consistency amongst participants for these errors than for DAEs or off-centre strikes.

As the 1967 “missing sea” is a long established “error variety”, the estimated percentage should be interpreted with care. It is an estimate of the percentage of 1967 “missing sea” coins in circulation in 2006. Many of the “missing sea” coins had presumably already been found and retained by collectors many years before this study commenced.

### **Conclusions**

The 5 cent error coins are a fascinating study. With the tuatara, the seagull (and the sea) having potential for mischief, in addition to the Queen, there is the possibility of interesting design modification. Many of the error types found by Rob Richards and/or in the current study are deserving of catalogue status – currently the only catalogued “error varieties” are “no/missing sea” (1967) and “wart on nose” (1999).

The “ship on horizon” and “thick legends” of 1997 are particularly striking and an absolute essential for a comprehensive decimal collection. There is no doubt that they will be sought after in years to come. However, many of the other named “varieties” in this article may also find a following – a “wart” on a forehead is surely just as appealing as a “wart” on a nose.

### **Acknowledgements**

This study would not have occurred without the formation of NZCCA, for which we owe a debt to Shane Collins and Jason Merriman. Also, we appreciated their participation in the study and that of Wendy Pedersen, Claire Coates and John Salisbury-Metcalf.

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## **COMING SOON!**

A superb collection of high grade NZ coins, principally 1933-1936 but including other dates up to the advent of decimals. These were set aside over a period beginning in 1963 when the New Zealand Numismatic Co. began operations out of a farm in Taringamotu, a rural settlement outside Taumarunui.

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\*\*\*\*\*

Robert A. Perrin  
Inman, South Carolina

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Sacramento, California

Table 1: The number of coins held by the group compared to the expected number given the mintage and an assumed annual loss-rate of 4.8%.

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>Number of coins</b> | <b>Annual percentage</b> | <b>Expected percentage</b> | <b>Mintage number (millions)</b> | <b>Expected number (millions)</b> |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1967         | 455                    | 3.5                      | 1.4                        | 26.3                             | 3.9                               |
| 1969         | 183                    | 1.4                      | 0.6                        | 10.4                             | 1.7                               |
| 1970         | 182                    | 1.4                      | 0.7                        | 11.2                             | 1.9                               |
| 1971         | 223                    | 1.7                      | 0.7                        | 11.5                             | 2.1                               |
| 1972         | 331                    | 2.5                      | 1.4                        | 20.0                             | 3.8                               |
| 1973         | 116                    | 0.9                      | 0.3                        | 4.0                              | 0.8                               |
| 1974         | 365                    | 2.8                      | 1.4                        | 18.0                             | 3.8                               |
| 1975         | 634                    | 4.9                      | 2.5                        | 32.0                             | 7.0                               |
| 1978         | 434                    | 3.3                      | 1.8                        | 20.0                             | 5.1                               |
| 1980         | 232                    | 1.8                      | 1.2                        | 12.0                             | 3.4                               |
| 1981         | 391                    | 3.0                      | 2.1                        | 20.0                             | 5.9                               |
| 1982         | 635                    | 4.9                      | 5.6                        | 50.0                             | 15.4                              |
| 1985         | 281                    | 2.2                      | 1.8                        | 14.0                             | 5.0                               |
| 1986         | 252                    | 1.9                      | 2.4                        | 18.0                             | 6.8                               |
| 1987         | 496                    | 3.8                      | 5.7                        | 40.0                             | 15.8                              |
| 1988         | 300                    | 2.3                      | 2.4                        | 16.0                             | 6.6                               |
| 1989         | 580                    | 4.4                      | 5.7                        | 36.0                             | 15.7                              |
| 1994         | 579                    | 4.4                      | 4.0                        | 20.0                             | 11.1                              |
| 1995         | 722                    | 5.5                      | 8.4                        | 40.0                             | 23.3                              |
| 1996         | 564                    | 4.3                      | 4.2                        | 19.0                             | 11.6                              |
| 1997         | 445                    | 3.4                      | 3.3                        | 14.0                             | 9.0                               |
| 1998         | 264                    | 2.0                      | 2.0                        | 8.0                              | 5.4                               |
| 1999         | 861                    | 6.6                      | 6.4                        | 25.0                             | 17.8                              |
| 2000         | 852                    | 6.5                      | 7.0                        | 26.0                             | 19.4                              |
| 2001         | 547                    | 4.2                      | 5.7                        | 20.0                             | 15.7                              |
| 2002         | 1236                   | 9.5                      | 12.0                       | 40.5                             | 33.3                              |
| 2003         | 876                    | 6.7                      | 9.4                        | 30.0                             | 25.9                              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>13036</b>           | <b>100.0</b>             | <b>100.0</b>               | <b>602.1</b>                     | <b>277.0</b>                      |

Table 2: The number of coins examined for errors (excluding DAE and OFF) in each year, and the percentage of coins with an error (in total and by type). The manufacturing mint is also given (RM, Royal Mint; RAM, Royal Australian Mint; RCM, Royal Canadian Mint; NM, Royal Norwegian Mint, SAM, South African Mint). Note, by row, the percentages of errors by type need not add up to the percentage of coins with any error (due to rounding of percentages and the presence of multiple error coins).

| Year | Mint | Coins examined | Error coins (%) | Die clash (%) | LOD (%) | Splinters (%) | Cracks (%) | Cuds (%) | Other (%) |
|------|------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| 1967 | RM   | 488            | 11              | 0             | 11      | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1969 | RAM  | 218            | 0               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1970 | RAM  | 83             | 1               | 0             | 1       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1971 | RAM  | 124            | 2               | 0             | 1       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 1         |
| 1972 | RAM  | 149            | 1               | 0             | 1       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1973 | RAM  | 64             | 2               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 2         |
| 1974 | RAM  | 180            | 1               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 1         |
| 1975 | RM   | 308            | 0               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1978 | RCM  | 225            | 1               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 1         |
| 1980 | RCM  | 107            | 4               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 4         |
| 1981 | RCM  | 209            | 0               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1982 | RCM  | 546            | 1               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1985 | RCM  | 133            | 11              | 0             | 11      | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1986 | RCM  | 153            | 0               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1987 | RCM  | 392            | 0               | 0             | 0       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1988 | RAM  | 194            | 5               | 0             | 3       | 4             | 0          | 0        | 1         |
| 1989 | RCM  | 436            | 4               | 0             | 0       | 3             | 0          | 0        | 0         |
| 1994 | RM   | 212            | 10              | 6             | 2       | 0             | 0          | 0        | 2         |
| 1995 | RM   | 231            | 16              | 10            | 1       | 3             | 0          | 2        | 7         |
| 1996 | NM   | 204            | 26              | 8             | 6       | 0             | 0          | 10       | 3         |
| 1997 | NM   | 204            | 14              | 7             | 2       | 0             | 0          | 3        | 2         |
| 1998 | SAM  | 143            | 17              | 10            | 3       | 6             | 0          | 1        | 0         |
| 1999 | SAM  | 396            | 27              | 9             | 4       | 0             | 2          | 19       | 4         |
| 2000 | RCM  | 315            | 10              | 0             | 1       | 0             | 1          | 8        | 1         |
| 2001 | RM   | 236            | 50              | 11            | 1       | 42            | 0          | 7        | 6         |
| 2002 | RM   | 360            | 52              | 0             | 8       | 37            | 1          | 14       | 2         |
| 2003 | RM   | 316            | 28              | 0             | 5       | 19            | 3          | 1        | 2         |



Fig. 1: 1973 off-centre strike with flat rim.



Fig. 2: 1974 "chipmunk Queen".



Fig 3: 1980 clipped planchet.



Fig 4: 1988 tuatara broken neck.



Fig. 5: 1989 "sneezing Queen".



Figure 6: 1994 "ghost Queen" (outline above mouth, nose, brow).



Fig. 7: 1995 die crack.



Fig. 8: 1997 "ship on horizon" (with "dripping 5", and a "dripping neck")



Fig. 9: 1999 "acid damage" (with wart nose).



Fig. 10: 2002 "splinters" (due to die polishing).



Fig. 11: 2002 "shooting seagull".



Fig. 12: 2004 die clash (visible on obverse too).

1780 Maria Theresia Thaler.  
The VW Beetle of the Coin World

Ian Fenn



In the early part of the 14th century silver was found in Bohemia at Saint Joachim's Dale (Joachimsthal) in Bohemia. In 1519 Count Stephen Schlick obtained by royal charter the right to mint coins from these deposits. The resultant crown-sized coins were called Joachimsthaler Groschen, but even in the German-speaking world this was quite a mouthful and was soon shortened to Thaler. The Thaler became one of Europe's most popular trade coins with the only competition being the Spanish 8-reales. Later, the Thaler, with assistance from the Spanish 8-reales and Scottish linguistics, became the direct grandparent of the US dollar. Of all the Thalers, arguably the most important, and overlooked, coin is the 1780 Maria Theresia Thaler.

The 1780 Maria Theresia (MT) has been minted continuously for 227 years (a considerably longer production run than the VW beetle!), yet New Zealand collectors are not often introduced to this coin, and when they are it is often an overpriced, mis-described 20th century re-strike.

This situation may well have seen collectors ignoring a coin that has been of major economic importance, particularly as a means of exchange between Europe and the East.

In World War 1, T.E. Lawrence ("of Arabia") lubricated his military mission with chests of Thalers (not gold as Hollywood would have us believe) and as the Italians well knew in World

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## ALISTAIR ROBB

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War 2, it was only the Thaler that could be used as money in Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Italians had tried twice in 30 years to displace the Maria Theresa Thaler with alternate coins. The first time was in the 1890s and the second in 1918. The resultant failures are themselves worthy, but expensive, additions to a collection of crown-sized coins.

The story behind the 1780 MT Thaler is simple. The Austrian Empress Maria Theresa died in 1780. In Austria, like everywhere else, on the Monarch's death it was normal that the coins were changed so as to bear the new monarch's effigy. However, Emperor Joseph II found that after his mother's death the trust in "her" coin was such that combined with the necessities of trade he had to approve the continued minting of his mother's Thaler. Simply put, the Arab world would accept no other coin. Joseph II's only provision was that the date be "locked" to 1780. This decision led to history's longest minting of a single coin, and to Austria's well known habit of re-striking coins. Since that time the 1780 Thaler has been minted in a variety of locations ranging from the expected Vienna through to Bombay, and there are over 100 varieties to both excite and confound the collector.

Living in Vienna, I have found that an introduction to the Maria Theresa Thaler is only a matter of time. Every coin shop has a box of loose recently minted 1780 Thalers for sale for about €9.00. Yet the earlier and more deserving varieties are far harder to find; the following five coins were obtained over a period of three years:

- 1781 – 1788 Günzburg
- 1792 – 1805 Günzburg
- 1795 – 1803 Vienna
- 1815 – 1828 Milan
- 1936 – 1961 London

I have scanned each of the coins below and listed the main identifying features. Note that not all differences have been listed.

#### 1781 – 1788 Günzburg



Identifying features:

- Tail feather formation 1-3-1
- Oval brooch with **no** surrounding pearls
- Mint official's initials under the bust S:F:
- In crown above eagle two pearls between the larger elliptical pearls.
- Saltire with no dots on either side. ("X" after the date)
- AUST DUX

1792 – 1805 Günzburg

(The coin pictured is a rare variety, with a value of NZ\$800-\$1000)



- Tail feather formation 1-3-1
- Oval brooch with **no** surrounding pearls
- Mint official's initials under the bust S.F.
- In crown above eagle two pearls between the larger elliptical pearls.
- Saltire with no dots on either side. ("X" after the date)
- AUST DUX
- Key feature for this variety: colon between initials of Dei Gratia (D:G).

In these earlier varieties often the main differences are in the pin feathers framing the main tail feather formation. The book "The Lexicon of the Maria Theresien Taler" is the ideal reference for assisting with these differences.

1795 – 1803 Vienna



Identifying features:

- Tail feather formation 1-3-1
- Oval brooch surrounded by nine pearls
- Mint official's initials under eagle- IC-FA
- In crown above eagle five pearls between the larger pearls.
- Upper Austria (Tyrol) Eagle in bottom right quadrant of shield.
- One dot in front of saltire (after the date)
- AVST DUX

1815 - 1828 Milan



Identifying features:

- Tail feather formation 1-2-1
- Round brooch surrounded by nine pearls
- Mint official's initials under bust- S.F.
- In crown above eagle four pearls between the larger pearls.
- Dots either side of saltire. AVST DUX

1936 – 1961 London



Identifying features:

- Tail feather formation 1-2-1
- Oval brooch surrounded by nine pearls
- Mint official's initials under bust- S.F.
- One dot in front of saltire (after the date)
- AVST DUX

I have noticed that the modern restrikes have very poorly defined edge decorations when compared to the early coins. I have not found any confirmation of this in literature on the Thalers.

### Available Literature

- Broome, M: The 1780 Restrike Talers of Maria Theresa (This reference has the best summary of the differences between edge markings)
- Hafner, Walter: The Lexicon of the Maria Theresien Taler (copy held by the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand)
- Semple, Clara: A Silver Legend

All the listed reference books can be hard to find. Fortunately one of the best sources of information on Maria Theresa Thalers is found on the Internet:

<http://www.theresia.name/en/> This site is based on Walter Hafner's book.

A further useful resource is the site maintained by US Maria Theresa Thaler enthusiast JD White: [http://www.jdsworld.net/article/m\\_theresa\\_thalers.html](http://www.jdsworld.net/article/m_theresa_thalers.html)

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The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc (including the Wellington Coin Club) meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month, February to October, at the top floor, Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington (opposite the Beehive). Visitors welcome. The November meeting is usually an early Christmas function at a different venue. See [www.RNSNZ.org.nz](http://www.RNSNZ.org.nz). Contact e-mail [RNSNZ@yahoo.com](mailto:RNSNZ@yahoo.com).

The RNSNZ is a sponsoring society of the Numismatic Association of Australia, PO Box 3664, Norwood SA 5067, Australia. Website [www.naa-online.com](http://www.naa-online.com). RNSNZ members can opt to receive the annual NAA Journal for a small extra charge with their annual subscriptions.

### Other clubs and societies in New Zealand:

The Numismatic Society of Auckland meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month except January, in the Parlour, Methodist City Mission, opposite the Town Hall, Queen St, Auckland. All welcome. Phone Jim Duncan, 09-428-1338. Mailing address PO Box 818, Shortland St, Auckland 1140.

Manawatu Numismatic Society, c/- 15 Troup Road, RD 3, Woodville 4999

Tauranga Numismatic Society, PO Box 202, Seventh Avenue, Tauranga 3140

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