



NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL



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*Special 75th anniversary issue, 1931 - 2006
(also marking the 40th anniversary of the
Wellington Coin Club, 1966 - 2006)*

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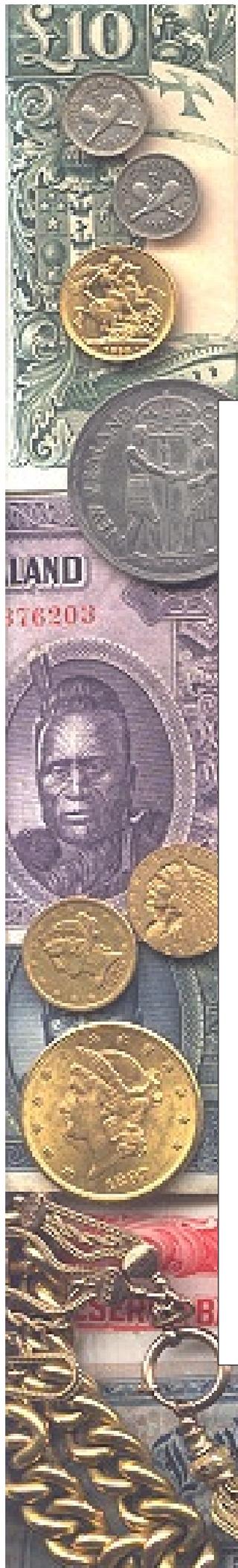
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<http://www.geocities.com/RNSNZ>

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(also marking the 40th anniversary of the Wellington Coin Club, 1966 - 2006)

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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.

TAURANGA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Inc.

Congratulations to the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand and the Wellington Coin Club on this proud achievement, and we wish you well for another 75.

We trust you have a very enjoyable weekend.

Graeme Brown
President.



75th / 40th Anniversary Convention Committee member Flemming Sorensen receives a pewter commemorative medal from Society President Martin Purdy, March 2006

Acknowledgement

Especial thanks to our three Major Sponsors: Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd., Alistair Robb and the Antique Coin and Watch Co. Ltd. for their generous assistance with our Anniversary Convention and Fair in March 2006.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY of AUCKLAND Inc

**The President, Executive Committee and
Members
of this Society wish to extend their warmest
congratulations and best wishes to**

**The President, Officers and
Members of
The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc
(incorporating the Wellington Coin Club Inc)**

**on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary
and 40th Anniversary of the Two
Societies.**

**We trust that our amicable partnership
will long continue, and offer this
Certificate
as a token of our friendship.**

**J B Duncan
President**

**D M Baird
Vice President**

**P E Hammond
Vice President**

**W Ryan
Treasurer**

March 2006



THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Clint Libby FRNSNZ

The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Portland Hotel in Wellington over the weekend of 3 to 5 March 2006. This was combined with the Wellington Coin Club's 40th anniversary.

The weekend was attended by people from throughout the country as well as some from Australia.

The celebrations began on the Friday night with a 'meet and greet' function. On the Saturday morning the celebrations were officially opened by the Society's President, Martin Purdy FRNSNZ. There were eight dealers selling numismatic items and this proved very popular with those attending and with members of the public.

During the afternoon Alistair Robb FRNSNZ conducted a very interesting session on banknotes. There was then a presentation by Jim Duncan, Hon. FRNSNZ, on 'The Noble Savage on New Zealand Coins and Medals' (written by John Cresswell, who was unable to attend) followed by a presentation by Ray Hargreaves FRNSNZ on 'Counterfeit Coins in New Zealand: An Historical View'. Both presentations were video taped and copies have been placed in the RNSNZ library.

Saturday evening saw the official dinner with guest speaker Dr Alan Bollard, Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand. Dr Bollard's speech was an informative and entertaining view on New Zealand currency and was aided by the use of a 'PowerPoint' projector. He took a number of questions afterwards. The Society's President Martin Purdy thanked Dr Bollard and presented him with a silver anniversary medal.

The anniversary cake was made in the shape of a New Zealand \$1 coin by Rita Purdy, the President's wife, and this was ceremoniously cut by the longest serving members of both the Society and the Wellington Coin Club present at the dinner (photo, p. 41). Ray Staal represented the WCC and Leon Morel the Society.

The President then presented to each member of the organising committee, the keynote speakers and the major sponsors a specially struck pewter medal. Only 11 of these were specially produced, one being retained for the Society's collection.

The organising committee also struck 100 bronze medals for sale at \$35 each and some of these are still available by contacting the Society's secretary. Gold and silver medals were struck to order.

The committee also overprinted 25 New Zealand \$1 notes from the Wellington Coin Club's stock of Year 2000 notes with the words 'RNSNZ 75th Anniversary 1931 – 2006' and 'WCC 40th Anniversary 1966 – 2006'. The high demand for these notes resulted in their being balloted and were sold for \$40 each. Already there have been sales on TradeMe for as high as \$255, which reflects their scarcity.

As well as the 25 notes there were two printer's proofs or trial prints. They were a different sequence of numbers from the other 25 notes and were auctioned at the dinner. After some brisk bidding they sold for \$450 and \$550 each. In addition to these two notes a one-off cased antique finish anniversary medal was also auctioned and this was finally sold for \$950.

On the Sunday morning there was a farewell breakfast. This ended a very successful and enjoyable friendly weekend which those attending should remember for a long time.

But a convention like this doesn't simply happen; it takes a lot of time and planning by a dedicated few. About six months before the convention, an organising committee was formed with Martin Purdy (chair), Clint Libby (secretary), David Galt, Tony Grant, Alistair Robb and Flemming Sorensen. Regular meetings were held and tasks were allocated to the various committee members.

There was a suitable date to be agreed upon, a venue to be found, accommodation for those attending to be negotiated and there were funding and budget considerations. Possible sponsors had to be identified and approached in an effort to raise funds. A programme had to be prepared and speakers to be identified and invited, including a high profile and interesting after dinner speaker and as well as keynote speakers.

The committee wrote to the Governor General, the Society's Patron, inviting her to open the convention. Unfortunately she was not available but wished the Society every success for the convention. Dealers were contacted and invited to attend. Advertising through radio and newspapers had to be arranged and Alistair Robb managed to appear on both National Radio and 2ZB to engender interest and to encourage members of the public to come along.

There were registration forms to be designed, printed and sent out and the processing of them when they were received. Name tags had to be designed and printed. A programme had to be put together and printed. Registration packs had to be assembled. Whiteboards, tables for the dealers, a PowerPoint projector and other equipment required had to be identified and obtained.

Lunches, morning and afternoon teas, the dinner and dinner protocols and the 'meet and greet' evening all had to be discussed, agreed upon, costed and arranged.

Then there was the decision to design an anniversary medal and to arrange someone to actually design it and then to strike it. As a result of a further suggestion a decision was made to overprint banknotes. A printer had to be found who would overprint the notes. Liaison and visits to both the medal maker and note printer were regularly required. Inserts had to be prepared and printed for both the notes and for the medals.

Would photographs be taken and by whom? Would the keynote speakers' presentations be videotaped? The tasks seemed to go on and on.

And then suddenly the Convention date was here and just as quickly it was over, but the meetings and tasks continued. Bills to pay and the budget to be reconciled. There were letters of thanks to be prepared, medals and banknotes and conference pens to be sent and the videotapes to be copied for the speakers and the library. Seemingly a host of things had still to be done. Finally the work was all completed. All the records and computer discs were stored away for the information of others in the future.

The feedback since the anniversary Convention has all been positive with many accolades from those who attended and from the dealers. The committee can be well satisfied with the results of their efforts and be congratulated on a job well done. For they know that it will be others who will have to organise the Society's 100th anniversary!

Details of special medal and banknote overprint issues

Anniversary medals (all 38 mm):

Designer: Martin Purdy, design based on RNSNZ and WCC badges

Mintages: Bronze 100, Sterling silver 37, Gold (18-carat) 6, Pewter 11, "Antique Silver" finish 1 only. The silver and gold medals have a small stamp showing their fineness after the "Z" of "RNSNZ".

Struck by Mayer & Toye Ltd., Wellington

Banknote overprints: commemorative inscription overprinted on the Wellington Coin Club's "Year 2000" overprint \$1. Arranged by Clint Libby.

Serial numbers: ANB 261167 to ANB 261191 (regular notes); ANB 261053 and ANB 261054 (trial printings).

Collectors of overprinted banknotes should note that there are now only 173 "original" 2000 overprints in existence from the original 200.

Mention should also be made of an "RNSNZ anniversary" commemorative certificate bearing a photograph of Dr Bollard, a "Bollard" \$5 note and Dr Bollard's signature (on the certificate, not the note); twenty of these were prepared by an individual for sale, but are expressly NOT an official Society commemorative item and are not associated with the Society in any way. The Society requested that they be withdrawn accordingly.



RNSNZ Anniversary Medal in Silver, one of 37 struck



**The Royal Numismatic Society
of New Zealand Inc
Limited Edition Bank Note**

This is one of only 25 overprinted WCC AD 2000
commemorative Reserve Bank of New Zealand \$1 notes
Numbered: ANB 261167 to ANB 261191

Issued by the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc.
to commemorate their 75th Anniversary (1931-2006)
and the Wellington Coin Club Inc. 40th Anniversary (1966-2006)



WELLINGTON COIN CLUB Inc
P O Box 1547, Wellington

Limited Edition Bank Note

This is one of 200 overprinted Donald T Brash
Reserve Bank of New Zealand \$1 notes
Numbered: ANB 261001 to ANB 261200
Issued by the Wellington Coin Club
to commemorate the year AD 2000

The "2006 double overprint" \$1

A VIEW OF THE RNSNZ/WCC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Julian Brook FRNSNZ

Having arrived by car in a Wellington which was bathed in sunshine, it was impressive to see the whole harbour covered in “white horse” choppy waves. We were pleased to be staying in the comfortable Portland Hotel, as it was also the venue for the Convention. That saved us from having to venture outside into what was very wild, windy weather over the next thirty-six hours.

The Friday evening programme consisted of an extremely pleasant “meet and greet” gathering for two or three hours; it was delightful to meet many numismatists whose names were known to me from correspondence and publications over many years. Of course, many others were familiar friends of long standing, such as Alistair Robb, Kevin Mills, John Eccles and my dear friend Leon Morel. Leon seemed as chirpy as ever, and is coping with the rigours of having been deported to live in the, admittedly lovely, city of Melbourne.

There was almost no formality to this first evening and it was very pleasant that so many spouses and partners were present for a series of excellent and relaxed conversations. The irrepressible Jim Noble greeted each person he met with verve and I am sure he must be blessed with a photographic memory, as he included in his conversations with me many facts about my numismatic and social history, each of them accurate. He is a genuinely pleasant and knowledgeable man and his trip from Sydney is testament to his enjoyment of our wonderful hobby and his greatly successful business.

Many of those attending went on to have dinner together in the hotel restaurant and the rest of the evening passed with bonhomie and many numismatic anecdotes. At about 10 p.m. the last arrivals were seen coming into the dining room; two of the Auckland party had chosen to fly to Wellington and their plane was literally on its landing manoeuvre when the gale winds forced it to return all the way to Auckland, for a second attempt a couple of hours later! They were tired but Frans and Adrian Sandberg were philosophical about the delay and were given a hearty welcome.

By 9 a.m. on the Saturday, all the trading tables were set up and stocked with a varied and exciting array of coins, banknotes and medals. David Baird and I spent the morning examining the delights on show and each managed to find some items which we could simply not resist acquiring.

What a surprise! The “magpie syndrome” remains alive and well. Of course I called John Eccles “Peter” the first time I spoke to him that day; when they are together it is easy enough to tell them apart. I have known them since they were in their early teenage years, in Oranga, a neighbourhood of One Tree Hill area in Auckland. It is good to have seen them each succeed in having made their numismatic interests also their careers.

The afternoon session run in forum style by the ever-enthusiastic Alistair Robb was a great success and everyone in the room participated in the wide-ranging discussion. It is certain that all present added many items of interest to their numismatic knowledge. The first of the scheduled addresses, in which Jim Duncan presented the paper written by

John Cresswell, entitled "The Noble Savage on New Zealand Coins and Medals", was encyclopaedic and meticulous in its coverage of the intriguing subject. Likewise, the second subject, "Counterfeits", was ably presented by the erudite and affable Dr Ray Hargreaves of Dunedin; again, an engrossing presentation which deserved and received absolute attention from the listeners. Thanks are due to all those who gave us such an enjoyable afternoon.

The day concluded with a first-class formal dinner. Martin Purdy made everyone feel very welcome and the standard of the meal was worthy of the grand occasion. Martin gave a dignified and appropriate introduction to the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Allan Bollard, who delivered an enthralling and wide-ranging address on the activities, the rights and the responsibilities of the Reserve Bank and its huge impact on everyone in New Zealand, as well as the role it plays in the study of, as well as the enjoyment of, numismatics. The forthcoming major changes to the coin designs were widely explored and explained. Dr Bollard was happy to accept and reply to many questions from the floor; he gave forthright and detailed answers to them all and it is a tribute to him and to all present that those questions were also wide-ranging and thoughtful ones.

Several key items were auctioned, to enthusiastic and interesting bidding. I was seated next to my good mate Leon Morel, who was invited to cut the commemorative cake. He was, as the longest-term member of the RNSNZ present, joined by a Foundation Member of the forty year-old Wellington Coin Club, Mr Ray Staal, to perform that task. Leon and I enjoyed the fact that, with fifty-five years of membership, Leon just pipped my fifty-two years in the Society.

It is a matter for great pride to be enjoyed by the members of the organising committee that the Convention was a total success. What is observed by those attending as smooth, relaxed events such as this one is always the result of countless hours of great work by those who plan and run them. For many of those attending from Auckland, it was the first time we had been to a numismatic affair in Wellington since the equally enjoyable 1990 gathering. In the heady, thrilling days of the 1950's and 1960's which included the build-up to the change to decimal currency, the public interest was overcharged and momentous. In Auckland, two new numismatic societies were formed, the Numismatic Society of Auckland and the Auckland Coin Club. The NSA included many members of the RNSNZ and I was proud to be a Foundation member of the NSA while still enjoying my enthusiastic membership of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.

I know I speak for all who attended from Auckland when I say how much we enjoyed the grand occasion at the Portland Hotel in March 2006. The bond between all numismatists in New Zealand was, I am quite sure, strengthened and enriched by the grand welcome we were accorded.



The 12-inch “Anniversary” cake, modelled on the 1990 dollar coin, courtesy of Rita Purdy



The team from NZ Post at the Convention: Kevin Hurren, Helen Derrick and Roshan Abeyesundere

HISTORY OF THE NZ NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(originally published as a preface to the first volume of the "Transactions of the NZ Numismatic Society", 1931-36, now available from the Society in CD form)

by

ALLAN SUTHERLAND, F.R.N.S.

(Hon. Secretary)

The New Zealand Numismatic Society was founded at the Turnbull Library, Wellington - New Zealand's treasure-house of rare and historical books - on the 20th July, 1931, at an inaugural meeting called by Mr. Allan Sutherland, and presided over by the Rev. D.C. Bates, who became the first President, Mr. Sutherland becoming the first Hon. Secretary. The object of forming the Society was to bring together the fairly considerable number of people scattered throughout New Zealand who were interested in the fascinating pursuit of studying and collecting ancient and modern coins and medals, and kindred objects, and who up till then, had been pursuing their studies in a more or less desultory fashion, with only chance contacts with students and collectors of kindred interests. It was thought that the cohesive force of a Numismatic Society in New Zealand, holding regular meetings at which papers would be read and afterwards circulated, and specimens exhibited, would help to stimulate general and specialist interest in the subject, and would also help numismatists to secure a yet deeper enjoyment from their most fascinating pursuit.

The following is a list of foundation members:-

Col. The Rev. D.C. Bates (Retired Dominion Meteorologist), Wellington.

Mrs. Bates, 1 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, Wellington.

Sir John Hanham, Bt. (A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor General), Wgton.

Dr. (afterwards Sir James) Elliott, F.R.A.C.S., 43 Kent Terrace, Wellington.

Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, F.R.S., N.Z., M.B.E., Librarian, Turnbull Library, Wellington.

Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., ("Hansard" Parliamentary Staff), Wgton.

Mr. E. Gilbertson, Hobson Street, Wellington.

Miss U. Tewsley (Numismatist, Dominion Museum), Wellington.

Mr. H.H. Asher (Wireless Operator), 14 Clifton Terrace, Wellington.

Mr. S.P. Ward, (Bank of New Zealand), Wellington.

Mr. H.R. Ford, Avon Street, Island Bay, Wellington.

Mr. Max Hugo, care Jno. Duthie & Co. Ltd., Wellington.

Mr J.C. Entrican (Merchant), Alexander Avenue, Auckland.

Mr. Willi Fels, C.M.G., (Chairman of Directors H.B. and D.I.C., N.Z.), Dunedin.

Mr. E.K. Cameron, (Public Accountant), Hawera.

Mr. C. Gilbertson, 229 Spey Street, Invercargill.

Mr. O. Harding, Springston Rural Delivery, Canterbury.

The Turnbull Library, Bowen Street, Wellington, was a fitting birthplace of the Society in that it was the home of the late Alexander Turnbull, who, with the late Augustus Hamilton, late Director of the Dominion Museum, took a keen interest in the study of the science of numismatics; and the collection of numismatic books on the shelves of the Turnbull Library, bequeathed to the nation, bears testimony to the interest taken in the science by that generous New Zealander. It was the existence of the collection of reports of overseas Numismatic Societies on the shelves of the Turnbull Library that first suggested the idea of forming a New Zealand Society. From the outset the Library has been regarded as the home of the Society which considers itself fortunate in having been able to prosecute its studies in an attractive atmosphere, and to add something to the advancement of cultural studies in New Zealand. The collection of numismatic books of the Society has, for convenient reference, been lodged on semi-permanent loan in the Turnbull Library, helping also to bring up to date the collection of kindred works already there.

It was fortunate that the N.Z. Numismatic Society was well established when, in 1933, New Zealand adopted her own distinctive coinage in place of the British Imperial coins which had been legally current for the 93 years New Zealand had been a British possession. Owing to variation of Empire exchanges, about 1930, Australian coins, which had been more or less accepted in New Zealand since their first introduction in Australia in 1910, were from about 1930 onwards, illegally imported to New Zealand in large quantities in order to gain a profit on the exchange. Later, too, after further exchange variations, British Imperial coins - the legal coinage of New Zealand - were smuggled out of the country in large quantities, and the resulting situation forced the Government to defeat these malpractices by the issue of its own coinage. In this change the N.Z. Numismatic Society co-operated with the Government to the fullest extent. In 1933 the Government set up a Coinage Committee to consider the designs, denomination, and manufacture of the new coins. This Committee, which was widely representative, dealt mainly with decimal coinage, and a proposal to establish a mint in New Zealand, leaving the question of designs to be determined by a special Committee. Mr. A.D. Park, Secretary to the Treasury, assisted by Mr. B.C. Ashwin, presided over the first-mentioned Coinage Committee, Mr. Allan Sutherland representing the N.Z. Numismatic Society. The second Committee also set up by the Government - the Coinage and Bank Note Designs Committee - was presided over by the Rt. Hon. Mr. J.G. Coates, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and representatives of the N.Z. Numismatic Society associated with him on that Committee were Professor J. Rankine Brown (the then President) and Mr. Allan Sutherland (Hon. Secretary). Not only was a new coinage introduced in the year 1933, but also, on the establishment of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, in the same year, a new standardised issue of bank-notes supplanted the bank-notes of the six trading banks which had issued their own notes from the commencement of the Colony nearly one hundred years before. The numismatic history of the Dominion would not be complete without mention of the fact that owing to frequent shortages of coins and currency generally, from 1840 to 1880, upwards of sixty New Zealand traders issued copper penny and half-penny tokens, whilst some traders issued currency notes, even down to threepence in value, and both types of currency were accepted until called in and superseded by the legal coinage of Queen Victoria. The private paper currency was issued from 1840 but was circulated for a shorter time than the copper tokens which were first issued about 1850 and called in about 1880.

The Society was fortunate in securing a numismatist Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, as its first Patron, and at one of its earliest meetings he was the chief speaker. Lord Bledisloe's outstanding success as Governor-General of New Zealand, coupled with

his generous gift, in association with Lady Bledisloe, of the Waitangi Treaty site to the nation, prompted the Society, in 1935, to strike a medal commemorating the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty, and to link Lord Bledisloe's name with that of the first Lieut. Governor, Hobson, in a symbolic design on the reverse, and to show Lord Bledisloe's portrait on the obverse. The issue of the medal was limited to 100 and was an outstanding success, the portraiture and design from hand-cut dies being uniformly praised.

This volume records not only the progress and activities of the Society in the general field of numismatics, but also contains a connected record of the introduction of our first New Zealand coins and uniform bank notes. The resume of papers read will form a permanent record of the transactions of the Society and the index will constitute a source of ready reference to the many branches of study dealt with during the last five years.

ALLAN SUTHERLAND.



Ray and Cleone Hargreaves examine a display at the Anniversary Convention, March 2006

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THE NOBLE SAVAGE ON NEW ZEALAND COINS AND MEDALS

John C.M. Cresswell

(Presentation read at the Convention in March 2006 by Mr Jim Duncan, Hon. FRNSNZ)

It is readily apparent that, before the arrival of Anton Teutenberg in 1866, there were few if any competent die-makers in New Zealand. Most of the early medals and tokens were engraved and struck overseas, mainly in Australia.

The earliest known commemorative medal was for the New Zealand Exhibition in 1865 (Morel 1865/1-Figure 1). This was a 64mm medal with a conventional obverse. The reverse displays probably the first medallic depiction of a Maori. It is immediately obvious that the engraver had no idea about the appearance of a Maori. He has given us a figure, standing slightly to right and brandishing a *taiaha*, a weapon of chiefs, a sort of combined broadsword and spear. The rest of the figure is more like a Roman in a toga. There appear to be three feathers on the European-featured head, arranged in un-Maori fashion. Its similarity to Milner & Thompson tokens is discussed later.

It is an example of the concept of the Noble Savage, a European myth in which the Polynesians lived lives of innocence and happiness in a Garden of Eden, in which the Maori chief could be portrayed as a man of wisdom and manly bearing, an equal of the great figures of Greece and Rome. Even the blunt savagery of the New Zealand Wars did little to quell the myth overseas. The Maori could be just as savage as the European. The heroic pose was used time and again in art, dating from Sydney Parkinson's *A New Zealand Warrior in his Proper Dress and Completely Armed to Their Manner* (Figure 3), drawn while on the *Endeavour*. Parkinson's Maori, though somewhat idealised, is more true to life. He is dressed in a feather cloak. His hair is drawn up into a top-knot and in it he wears three huia tail feathers. From his ear dangles a *kura* ornament and his face is tattooed. A pouch and ornament hang from his neck and there is a *patu pounamu* (jade club) at his waist. His principal armament is a wooden *tewhatewha* or striking weapon.

Whenever a Maori was portrayed as a warrior he was shown wearing a cloak. Victorian missionary prudery acknowledged that the Maori was naked before Christianity and had him clothed as an example of the dignity which he had acquired through contact with the church. When a warrior went into battle he threw off whatever apparel he was wearing and fought naked. Even in the later nineteenth century old habits died hard. In the village of Te Wairoa, near Rotorua and before the great eruption, all the inhabitants had been Christian for thirty years when in 1864, Lieutenant the Hon. Herbert Meade (1842-1868) visited there. The chief, Te Keepa Te Rangipuwahē (d. 1906), who lived in a wooden-floored, weatherboard house with a brick chimney, was with Meade when a small body of armed horsemen were seen to be approaching. Meade wrote: "Fired with martial ardour, Keepa ran indoors and speedily reappeared armed with his gun and in full costume, having put on his belt and cartridge case and divested himself of his inexpressibles!"

The theme continued with the New Zealand Industrial Exhibition of 1885. One of the medals (Morel 1885/2) shows a standing and a sitting Maori. The standing figure is in the Noble mode but with his *taiaha* resting on his shoulder and he wears a proper cloak. Mt Egmont is in the background. There is also a primitive copy of this scene on a medal for the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition of 1889-90. (Morel 1889-90/12). The standing figure appeared whenever the national coat of arms or versions of it was used, as shown on Morel 1889/2 for the same Exhibition.

All medallic portrayals of the Maori show him grandly but at the same time modestly dressed. Engravers were somewhat strait-laced in Victorian times and restricted the nudity of their subjects to the decorously uncovered breasts of Greek goddesses. Painters were much more explicit but while naked figures were presented, any details below the male or female belt were obscured. However, breasts were the norm. Art galleries presented a plethora of soft porn scenes under the

guise of art. The average Victorian woman had never seen another female, let alone a male, unclothed. Photographers produced hundreds of nudes including Maori maidens (from the waist up) and these were mostly considered unseemly. The engraver, however, was handicapped by the fact that breasts would wear at their extremities in much the same way as the debased coinage of Henry VIII tended to show the facing portrait with a well-worn nose and gave rise to the nickname "Old Coppernose".

The Noble Savage stance was adopted by the Maori and perpetuated into the twentieth century. Outside the council house of the King Movement, Were Were II at Rukumaona Pa, near Morrinsville, there is a statue of the third Maori King, Mahuta, erected about 1913. It shows the King, standing in a European suit with a cloak over his shoulders and holding a grounded *taiaha* in his right hand, perhaps symbolic of the melding of the culture of the Maori and the European. The stance had been dropped from medals by this time, except for supporters on coats of arms.

The medallists Stokes and Martin of Melbourne seem to have had a determined campaign to secure a large part of the New Zealand commemorative market from 1880 onward. Their artist produced several varieties of a realistic Maori head facing right. The *moko* or facial tattoo is stylised and the huia feather head ornament is portrayed as lying backward, flat to the hair, where in real life it would have stood up. No doubt this last fashion was to accommodate the feathers inside the rim of the medal. Probably the first portrayal of a Maori head in this manner was Parkinson's *Head of Otegoowgoow, son of a New Zealand Chief the Face Curiously Tattaw'd (1771)* (Figure 4). This was followed by the publication of *Tiarrah, a Chief of the Bay of Islands*, by G. Cooke in 1807. The Maori head in profile to display the elaborate *moko* became a stock style for engravers as well as painters.

This head was produced many times, whether unsigned by Stokes or copied by other engravers. It first appeared at the Exhibition of 1889. Stokes and Martin struck a 31mm medal for sale at the Exhibition (Morel 1889-90/10). Two other medals also appeared, with larger heads and one signed TM on the truncation, giving the only clue to the name of the artist (Morel 1889-90/8-9) (Figure 6). These medals were obviously of Australian origin as one sports the head of an Aboriginal named Rickety Dick on the reverse (for no apparent reason). Perhaps the TM mentioned above was T. Martin. There seems to be little published information about this man. Thomas Stokes became renowned for producing not only medals and buttons but many of the tradesmen's tokens of the day. He arrived in Melbourne in 1854, bought out W.J. Taylor in 1857 and combined the two factories to produce many distinctly Australian designs. His work is notable for the re-use of old dies and designs, such as the Emu and the wheat sheaf, variously muled. This resulted in a large number of varieties in his tokens. It is reasonable to assume that the Maori heads being discussed were all from his works. In 1870 Stokes took a Mr Martin (TM?) as a partner and they produced a penny token advertising their business and with, you guessed, a Maori head on the reverse (Andr. 566). This was perhaps more of a bust but it was the same Maori head. This time there were three feathers, all leaning back.

This Stokes-type head was used on the following New Zealand medals: the South Seas Exhibition 1889 (3 varieties, Morel 1889/8, 9 & 10) (Figure 7), Otago Silver Jubilee Exhibition 1898 (3 varieties - one with the Australian Arms on the reverse, Morel 1898/2, 3 & 4) and Christchurch Exhibition 1906 (Morel 1906/26).

Stokes became overshadowed by the great German engraver Anton Teutenberg (1840-1933) who had arrived in Auckland in 1866 and, finding he had little or no local opposition, set about with Teutonic thoroughness to corner the engraving market for municipal seals, gold smelter punches, chemist and liquor merchant seals, fire brigade and sporting club medals and everything in between. His production was prodigious. He had begun his Auckland career by carving the heads of important public figures for the Auckland Supreme Court and the Shortland Street Post Office. For both of these buildings he did carvings of Maori. The Maori King, Potatau Te Wherowhero, was one of them. It was natural for him to use Maori figures on his medallic work.

The most important of these was the *Gazelle* Medal (Teut. K2), commemorating the visit of the German cruiser to Auckland in 1875. Teutenberg's left facing profile of a pouting tattooed Maori (Figure 6) is reminiscent of De Sainson's *A Chief of Bream Bay* (1833) (Figure 5), which he may have seen as an illustration in d'Urville's *Voyage de la Corvette L 'Astrolabe*. Teutenberg made several versions of this die and reduced and reversed it for the obverse of the undated Auckland Academy of Arts Medal (Teut. M1). This die was re-used by the Numismatic Society of Auckland for its Decimal Changeover Medal (Teut. K9 1967). Teutenberg used the heroic stance motif for a European oarsman on the North Shore Rowing Club's Trial Fours Medal (Teut. R19). His only other known portrayal of a Maori is on the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association's Medal (Teut. R17), engraved in the 1890s. It shows a *piupiu*-clad man facing, a supporter for a coat of arms. There are two feathers in his hair.

The New Zealand International Exhibition of 1906-07 was the occasion for the issue of another Maori head style. The tiny, 22.5mm medal (Morel 1906-07/23) (Figure 8) was engraved by an unrecorded artist who had obviously seen the Partridge collection of Lindauer Maori portraits the year before they were housed in the new Town Hall in Auckland. Gottfried Lindauer (1839-1926), a Bohemian from Pilsen in the then Austro-Hungarian Empire, was a contemporary of Teutenberg and of the Kohn family of engravers. He was an artist who painted meticulous, life-like portraits of Maori. Comparing the medal above with a reversed impression of Lindauer's portrait of Wi Te Manewha, chief of the Ngati-Raukawa of Otaki, the observer is presented with a good argument in favour of this being the model (Figure 9).

For the next thirty-five years Maori motifs were apparently unfashionable and it was not until 1940 and the issue of the New Zealand Numismatic Society's Centennial Medal (Morel 1940/1 & 2) (Figure 10) that the Maori was again recognised as being part of the scene. The obverse of this 38mm medal, designed by T.H. Jenkin and engraved by G. Whitehouse, shows the rear section of a great carved *waka taua* or war canoe with a cloaked chief in 'Noble Savage' pose by the tall carved and feathered sternpost. In the centre a fuggleman chants the time for many paddlers. After years of mediocre design and quality, commemorative medals had returned to their own. Disappointingly, at the same time some private entrepreneur issued a small uniface medalet with a hideous caricature of a Maori (Morel 1940/4).

My own contribution to this collection occurred in 1973 when I was asked by the Orakei Marae Committee to organise the production of a medal commemorating 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. Having instructions to keep it as Maori as possible I took the problem to Harry Dansey, author of *The Maori in Colour* and a former cartoonist and writer for the *Taranaki Daily News* and the *Auckland Star*. After explaining what I needed, Harry pulled a piece of paper across his desk, picked up a fine brush, dipped it in an old-fashioned inkwell and drew two circles using the inkwell base. Several fast strokes later he had made the drawings shown below. "Done!" He said, "Now what's the problem?" (Figures 11 & 12)

The medal showed a representative portrait of Kahu in heavy modern style. The reverse a great double ocean-going canoe, with woven sail and crowded deck. This was the first medal to mark a Maori event.

The Maori was well-represented on the token coinage of New Zealand. Once again, males only, and well-dressed busts only. The standard Stokes and Martin head was used for the obverse of the Mason, Struthers & Co. penny (Andr. 354). But the Christchurch music firm of Milner & Thompson blossomed forth in 1881 with two new Maori designs. The first of these showed a classic Maori head and shoulders facing right, but the trappings were not quite as they should be (Andr. 377, 378, 379 & 382) (Figure 13). The headdress of feathers is reminiscent of a North American Indian's (or Native American's to be politically correct). The man wears three rows of non-Maori beads and has a feather cloak over one shoulder. What could be another cloak appears over this (or is it a

shield?) and his *taiaha* is strangely stick-like with an untypical pointed tip. The uninformed artwork and the better-than-average finish suggests that this is of Australian origin. There are four varieties, one with another Maori die for the reverse.

This shows the full figure of a Maori man standing by a plaque or perhaps a shield, under a tree fern and with a kiwi and a stylised canoe sternpost on the left. The man is clad in either a blanket or a sort of toga. There are three feathers in his hair. In his right hand he holds a *taiaha* and his left a *mere*. Both arms are outstretched, giving him a graceful rather than an heroic aspect. This second die was used on three tokens and, with slight variation on another, all for Milner & Thompson (Andr. 376, 378, 380, 383). The design is essentially the same as that for the obverse of the 1865 New Zealand Exhibition Medal which was probably a Stokes & Martin original (Figure 2). On the tokens, the palm tree has been centred and the original background table is now the shield or plaque. The cloak has been shifted to the left shoulder of the figure but is still very toga-like. The plough in the right background of this medal has been replaced by vegetation on the tokens. The token figure has his arms outstretched, is more muscular and generally more Maori-like. The stylised canoe stern-post and the kiwi are similar for both designs. Sixteen years separate the medal and the tokens.

The first Milner & Thompson design of the head and shoulders was crudely copied by a local artist for the New Zealand & South Seas Exhibition in 1889 and faithfully pictures the three rows of beads, shield/cloak and adds enough feathers to please a porcupine. The *taiaha* is more like a curtain-rod. (Morel 1889-90/11).

A number of local-use tokens had Maori designs, notably those of the Cosmopolitan Club in Wanganui. Twentieth-century banknotes portrayed Maori, particularly the fine tattooed head of Tawhiao, the Maori King, but these are outside the range of this paper.

The advent of a purely New Zealand coinage in 1933 brought a spate of Maori designs. The passing of the Victorian age and a world war had brought great changes in both thought and art. The Maori was no longer considered a noble but dying race and was pictured both as a part of New Zealand life and with a vital part in it. The most noticeable aspect of this new look was reflected in the changing style of Maori dress. He now wore European clothes and lived, outwardly at least, in European fashion. Gone from sight were the feathered cloaks and *taiaha* and *mere*, now to be brought out only on solemn occasions.

The missionaries had been aghast at the casual nakedness of Maori women and from the earliest contact had insisted that they wear a "Mother Hubbard" dress (Figure 14), covering everything except face, hands and feet. At Rotorua, with the assumption of control at the state spas, the Government, in an attempt to unify and brighten the dress of thermal area guides, introduced a woven bodice, worn over the top of a blouse, and a long *rapaki* or flax kilt, to be worn over a ground-length skirt (Figure 15). This had been worn in pre-missionary times, above the knee for single men and women and below the knee for the married. It developed into the *piupiu* skirt now worn by concert performers and challengers at official functions. The *piupiu* consists of flax thrums, dried to curl into a narrow tube and with a twisted, dyed pattern and nowadays worn over a black or red skirt of the same length. These hang from a waistband and make a soft rattling noise as the wearer's body moves. Today, the length of the *piupiu* is largely a regional thing. Rotorua concert parties wear theirs a little above the knee but those from the Waikato have their knees covered (Figure 16).

Victorian painters often depicted the *piupiu*. For men, it covered the unmentionable bits and for women it could be parted to hint at anatomical possibilities (Figure 17). Now the men wear shorts and the women a skirt underneath. By the 1920s Maori girls suddenly became an attractive part of the picture. Stamps were issued with girls wearing the recently-adopted woven headband of the American Indian. Meeting houses and weapons had to be part of every issue. Thus, in the twenty-

first century young Maori girls wear a re-invented costume rather than a traditional one (Figure 18).

The first national New Zealand coin issue was made in 1933. The largest circulating coin was the half crown which showed the New Zealand Coat of Arms on the reverse within a frame representing Maori carving (KM 5). The shilling depicted a Maori warrior with *taiaha* crouching to the left (KM 3). He wears a *piupiu* kilt. The threepence has crossed wooden and carved *waihaka* clubs (KM 1). The halfpenny, first issued in 1940, has a *hei tiki*, a sacred family heirloom of jade, passed from generation to generation (KM 12). Today, *waihaka* and *hei tiki* are mass-produced in plastic and other materials as souvenirs for tourists. In 1940 a half-crown (KM 14) (Figure 19) was issued to commemorate the Centennial Exhibition in Wellington. Portrayed on the reverse is the figure of a Maori girl with arms outstretched and wearing the *piupiu* and bodice described above (Figure 19). It is interesting to note that the extinction of the huia meant ever-decreasing availability of tail feathers for headwear. This shortage was neatly filled by the tail feathers of the European turkey which are very similar, black with a white tip, though broader.

Commemorative crowns were issued almost from the start of the new coinage. The first was the famous Waitangi Crown in 1935 (KM 6). The reverse of this scarce item depicts a rather tall and muscular Tamati Waka Nene in a *piupiu* and holding a *taiaha*, shaking hands with Captain William Hobson R.N. This is a variation of the Noble Savage stance. Nene, who appears to have been rather squat and rotund (Figure 20), would have worn a cloak as a badge of authority on such an auspicious occasion but is shown wearing what was more likely casual summer wear, while Hobson is sweating in his naval finery (Figure 21). The artist obviously had not done his research and his athletic Tamati was rendered as a modern concert performer. The crown issue for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 sported a variation of the carving design on the standard half-crown (KM 30).

Decimal coinage in 1967 brought new designs but the Maori was largely ignored, scoring only a *koruru-type* carved head on the reverse of the ten cent piece (KM 35). The fifty-year anniversary dollar of 1983 showed the state coat of arms with its Maori supporter with cloak and *taiaha* (KM 53). The post-1990 20c reverse showed a full length carved figure (see below).

More recently a gold \$10 coin has been issued for purely investment purposes. It was struck in New Zealand with the approval of the Reserve Bank and shows a carving of the famous chief Pukaki of Ngati Whakaue of Rotorua, a more refined design of the figure on the standard reverse of the 20c coin. It is in 22-carat gold and was issued in 2004. The carving of Pukaki was once part of a huge carved gateway to a *pa* or village and is about 150 years old. It is in traditional formalised style and for a hundred years stood in the Maori Court of the Auckland Museum. Its controversial history will be related in another paper at a later date. Also worthy of mention are the three recently-issued "Gold Tiki" medals of different sizes showing a *tiki* amulet in similar style.

The process of continuation and modification of the portrayal of the Maori continues in the national coinage and, to decreasing extent, in the issue of commemorative medals. In another hundred years today's Maori dress will seem old fashioned and "traditional" attire will no doubt be as unrecognisable to us as the dress of the modern concert performer would have amazed the dancers of Queen Victoria's day. European dress has altered vastly over the decades and it would be unreasonable to expect Maori dress not to do the same.

In conclusion I wish to say that the subject is extensive and this paper has only scratched the surface. I would like to thank Jim Duncan for reading this at your meeting and battling with some unfamiliar words. I have also used illustrations copied from various catalogues to illustrate this talk and the sources are acknowledged in the text. My heartiest congratulations to the Society for achieving the milestone of its jubilee and my thanks for the friendship and advice that I have received from members over the last half-century.

POSTSCRIPT

Following the presentation of the “Noble Savage” to the RNSNZ, Ray Hargreaves kindly drew my attention to his paper “The 1865 New Zealand Exhibition Medals” which appeared in the *New Zealand Numismatic Journal* in October 1977 (Vol. 14 No. 3 (56)) and which had escaped my attention.

Hargreaves had exhaustively investigated these medals. He pointed out that the original artist was T.S. Monkhouse of Pakiri, North Auckland, whose design and incomplete die were destroyed by fire. Monkhouse had been paid for his work but demanded more for a copy of the design. The medal committee was not impressed and ordered medals from England which were designed by the Queen’s Medallist J.S. Wyon.

According to the *Otago Daily Times*, Wyon made the Maori “poetically heroic and picturesque” and largely followed the instructions of the Exhibition Committee. He probably had access to pictures by Hodges, Parkinson and other explorers and thus established the medallic tradition of the Noble Savage. It is interesting to note that this UK production was granted to “persons who have advanced the Arts, Industries and Manufactures of New Zealand.”

Hargreaves’ paper is an interesting insight into the early history of New Zealand medals.

John CM Cresswell
Eagle Heights
Queensland
Australia

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Figure 1
New Zealand Exhibition Medal 1865



Figure 2
Milner & Thompson Token type 1881

P & M ECCLES



FIJI TWENTY POUNDS, 1st SEPTEMBER 1948 IN VERY FINE CONDITION
Sold by Colonial Coins and Medals at auction in Brisbane for AUS\$9,895.00
(NZ\$11,775.00) on 3 June 2006



FIJI TWENTY POUNDS, 1st SEPTEMBER 1954 IN VERY FINE CONDITION
Sold by Colonial Coins and Medals at auction in Brisbane for AUS\$7,735.00
(NZ\$9,205.00) on 3 June 2006

The three items illustrated were consigned by vendors in the North Island through P & M Eccles. Needless to say the vendors were delighted with the prices realised.

P & M ECCLES



NEW ZEALAND 1935 PROOF SET IN RED PLUSH CASE
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and Commerce Streets, Auckland
P O Box 2937, Auckland 1140



Figure 3

Engraving after Sydney Parkinson's *A New Zealand Warrior in His Proper Dress And Completely Armed to Their Manner*. 1773



Figure 4

Engraving after Sydney Parkinson's *Head of Otegoogoow, son of a New Zealand Chief, the Face Curiously Tattaw'd*. 1771.



Figure 5

Engraving after De Sainson, *A Chief of Bream Bay*. 1883



Figure 6 (left)

Anton Teutenberg's obverse for the *Gazelle Medal*, 1875.



Figure 7 (right)

Stokes-type head on the *South Seas Exhibition Medal*, 1889.



Figures 8 & 9

The New Zealand International Exhibition 1906-07
Anonymous medalet and G.Lindauer's portrait *Wi
Te Manewha, Chief of the Ngati-Raukawa of Otaki.*



Figure 10

New Zealand Centennial Medal 1940 of the Numismatic
Society of New Zealand.

Figures 11 & 12

The Orakei Medal 1972, designed by the late Harry
Dansey.



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Figure 13

The standard Milner & Thompson token obverse of 1881.



Figure 14

The missionary-imposed "Mother Hubbard" outfit worn by Older Maori women until World War I.



Figure 15

Concert Performers with long *piupiu* worn over their "Mother Hubbards" (1903)



Figure 16

Maori women's dress between the World Wars.
Note the American headband.



Figure 18

Modern Maori women's dress for concerts



Figure 19

The Centennial Half-Crown 1940



Figure 17.

Artist's soft porn version of Maori dress. *Spoils to the Victor*
By L.J.Steele 1908. Auckland Art Gallery.



Figure 20

Tamati Waka Nene as G.F.Angus saw him in 1847



Figure 21

Designer P.Metcalf's version of Tamati Waka Nene
On the 1935 Waitangi Crown.

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.

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NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

INAUGURAL MEETING

With the object of encouraging the study of numismatics in all its branches by the holding of periodical meetings, exhibitions of coins, the reading of papers, and discussions, etc., the first New Zealand Numismatic Society has been formed. The inaugural meeting was held in the Turnbull Library, Wellington, on Monday evening. The Rev. D. C. Bates occupied the chair.

In outlining the proposal Mr Allan Sutherland pointed out that this was the first proposal to form a numismatic society in New Zealand. There were three such societies in Australia, and there appeared to be ample scope for the formation of a numismatic society in New Zealand. At the present time many numismatists were collecting in an aimless fashion, not being able to increase their knowledge of numismatics or to improve their collection owing to lack of contact with other collectors, and the absence of a medium by which the latest and best information on the subject could be made available to them. The proposal was supported by representative and influential collectors in different parts of New Zealand.

Messages were read from the Australian Numismatic Society and the Numismatic Society of Victoria wishing the New Zealand collectors every success in their endeavour to found a New Zealand society. Messages were also read from collectors in other parts of the Dominion giving support to the project.

In supporting the proposal, Mr E. Gilbertson, of Wellington, made short, but very interesting survey of the wide field which offered an almost unlimited scope to numismatists for research and study. He stated that the study of numismatics embraced four periods, the Greek, the Roman-Byzantine, the Medieval-Modern, and the Oriental. After referring to the fact that the earliest records showed that the first silver coins were struck in the year 700 B.C. when King Pheidon, King of Argos, issued coins bearing the design of a tortoise, and when contemporaneously the Chinese also commenced to issue coins, he traced the history of numismatics right down to the issue of the English sovereign, which, he contended, was the finest coin in the world.

Sir John Hanham also supported the project, and gave some very interesting details as to the early English coinage, making special reference to the portraiture on the coinage of Henry VII and VIII, which coins, he considered, were the finest in that series.

Mr Bates said that the idea of forming a New Zealand Numismatic Society was a very commendable one. There were many fine collections in the Dominion, and the advent of the new society was a distinct advance in the realm of numismatics. Some of the coins in his collection had been in the family for generations. Mr Bates referred to the design of the new issue of Irish Free State coins, and dealt with the Bill before the House having for its object the minting of coins of a distinctive New Zealand design. He cordially approved of the idea, but thought that some alteration should be made in the denominations in the direction of adopting the decimal system on the basis of either 5s, 4d, or 2s as a unit. The matter, however, required a good deal of consideration.

After deciding to form the society, rules were adopted, and the following officers were elected:—President, the Rev. D. C. Bates, Wellington; vice-presidents—Sir John Hanham (Wellington), Mr A. J. Entrican (Auckland), and Mr E. K. Cameron (Hawera); secretary, Mr Allan Sutherland (Wellington); treasurer, Mr H. H. Asher (Wellington); corresponding secretary, Mr Allan Sutherland; council—Mr E. Gilbertson, Mr Johannes Andersen, Dr Elliott, Mr S. P. Ward, and Mr H. R. Ford.

It was decided that the annual subscription be 5s, and that the meetings of the society be held quarterly. The next meeting is to be held on Monday,

September 21, when Mr E. Gilbertson, Wellington, will deliver an address on Greek coins. At the following meeting Sir John Hanham will read a paper before the society.

Sir John Hanham (vice-president) intimated that he would present to the society, for a period of years, the leading British numismatic periodical, and he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks therefor.

At the conclusion of the business section of the meeting Mr D. C. Bates, president, delivered an interesting address on "Coinage Through the Ages" and illustrated his address by rare and beautiful specimens from his coin cabinet. His remarks will be supplied later.

Source: Otago Daily Times, 23 July 1931, p. 9

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON COIN CLUB,
HELD IN THE NAVY LEAGUE ROOMS AT 7.45pm ON TUESDAY 3 MAY 1966

PRESENT Messrs R.Squire, M.Terry, J.Smith, R.Brown, W.Lampard,
A.Lashlie, R.Lashlie, D.Christie, G.Little, G. Pitcher, P.Tomlin,
S.Friend, Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Jeromson.

1. MOVED M.Terry, SECONDED A.Lashlie, that a club be formed.
CARRIED.
2. MOVED M.Terry SECONDED R.Squire that the Club be known as
THE WELLINGTON COIN CLUB. CARRIED
3. MOVED M.Terry that the club become an Incorporated Society.
This was to be investigated by Mr A.Lashlie who is to report
his findings to the next meeting with recommendations.
4. Moved A.Lashlie Seconded M.Terry that meetings should be held
on the first Thursday of each month, the first of these to be
held in the NAVY LEAGUE ROOMS at 7:30pm on 2nd June 1966.
5. After an informal discussion the aims of the Club were passed
by resolution. These were:-
 - (a) To encourage and foster coin collecting in NZ.
 - (b) To hold regular coin auctions among members.
 - (c) To facilitate swapping.
 - (d) To establish a buying and selling board.
 - (e) Possibly to produce a regular magazine on coins.
Mr. Squire has offered to undertake this responsibility
for three months on a trial basis at no cost to the
Club.
6. Subscriptions are to be decided at a future meeting.
7. Mr Squire received approval from the meeting to advertise
the Club in the Catalogues that he produces.
8. Mr. Terry was elected Acting Secretary until such time as
an election of officers could be held.
9. It was moved Mr Terry, Seconded Mr Lampard that when an
auction is held by the club, the Club will collect 10% of
the selling price of each lot sold in order to boost Club
finances.
10. It was passed by resolution that all coins brought to the
Club for auction (by members only) will be covered by
plastic or cellophane, clearly visible on both sides, and
properly labeled as to date, condition and description.
These will be passed to the auctioneer on arrival.
11. The coins for auction will be displayed for inspection
under the strict supervision of the auctioneer or his assistant
prior to the auction.
12. The Acting Secretary was given authority to advertise the next
meeting in both daily Wellington Papers for three nights prior
to the meeting.
13. It was decided that the minutes of this meeting should be
distributed to all those who had so far indicated their support
and also be hung on the notice board of the World Coins Ltd.
14. The Acting Secretary was asked to purchase a minute book for the
Club.
15. The meeting closed at 9:40pm and was followed by supper and
an informal discussion among members.


(M.R. TERRY)

ACTING SECRETARY

COUNTERFEITS IN NEW ZEALAND

AN HISTORICAL VIEW

1 *Counterfeit Coins*

Ray Hargreaves FRNSNZ

When you hear on the news that “a man is helping the police with their inquiries” do you, like me, think “Oh good, they have a suspect”? Well I must admit that many years ago I was asked to go to the Dunedin Police Station to help the police with their inquiries. No, not as a suspect, but to give them advice on whether a banknote that had been handed in was a counterfeit or not. It wasn't - it had been lightly laminated which gave it an unusual feel and look.

The counterfeiting of currency has a long, long history. Not surprisingly, it is almost as old as coins and paper money themselves. The passing of counterfeits has a long history in New Zealand also. The first use of counterfeit coins was in pre-Waitangi days, when the Maoris of northern New Zealand were paid by unscrupulous traders with counterfeit silver coins and/or gilded farthings. As the Maoris obtained greater knowledge of currency, such deceptions were less easy to achieve. The counterfeits, of course, came from overseas.

To date, the first New Zealand counterfeiter I have been able to trace, and who was brought to justice, was an Auckland carpenter, Joseph Massey. In 1850 he was found guilty of counterfeiting half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, and for possessing moulds for making these coins as well as moulds for threepences. His wife Anne was charged with attempting to utter some of her husband's work to a Maori, but as there was insufficient evidence she was discharged. But she was punished - she lost her husband for the next 14 years, his sentence being transportation to Australia. This was just before transportation to Van Diemen's Land ceased. The next counterfeiter I have found, again in Auckland, was luckier. Thomas Hill's sentence in 1857 for “coining and passing base money” being just “six years' penal servitude.”

And luckier still was Donald McIntosh of Dunedin who, in 1863, uttered a spurious half-sovereign in payment for a bottle of whisky. (He got change!) When McIntosh appeared in Court the Magistrate dismissed the case on the grounds that 1) the coin “had not the slightest resemblance to a half-sovereign”, and 2) because McIntosh was so drunk when he passed over the spurious coin that he did not know what he was doing.

Unfortunately the newspaper report does not describe what the counterfeit looked like, but I suspect it was a gambling counter, the same as that which had landed Caroline Whitehead in the Dunedin Court the previous year. She had used a spurious sovereign to buy a dozen oysters, and had received 18s 6d change! Her “sovereign” was described as a gambling token with the Queen on one side and on the reverse a man on horseback with the words “To Hanover”. Whitehead was not charged with passing a counterfeit coin, but with obtaining money by false pretences, for, as the Judge said, the token was “not half the weight of a sovereign, and it certainly passed his wit to discover how a Dunedin oyster-salesman could have been imposed upon by so evidently spurious a counterfeit”. Witnesses from Oamaru, where the prisoner had formerly lived, gave evidence as to her good character, and the jury when finding her guilty, recommended mercy. Whitehead was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, without hard labour.

The gambling counters turned up again later, particularly in the 1870s, when there was a rash of reports about "Rickety Dick", "Hanover", and other counters being passed in various towns in New Zealand. Certainly the re-introduction in 1871 of Pistrucci's St George and the Dragon design on sovereigns made it easier to pass counters which had a similar design, for if the latter were dated 1837 they were not illegal as they did not replicate any legal coin which had that combination of date and design.

In Nelson in 1871 eleven boys, aged 9 to 14, were charged with passing whist counters as half sovereigns. Luckily for them no-one appeared to give evidence against them, and all were released after the magistrate had given them a "severe lecture".

Changing a legal coin's colour by gilding, and later by silvering, was a common method of counterfeiting. In Dunedin in January 1864, a number of gilded sixpences were passed (and accepted) in some poorly lit shops as half sovereigns. An Australian report of 1875, reprinted in Dunedin at least, told how a change in colour of silver coins could be obtained.

"If a clean sixpence is put into the mouth while smoking a pipe, it will, in the course of an hour or so, acquire a golden tinge, which by gaslight is easily mistaken for the genuine article."

I suspect that a few Otago pipe-smokers experimented with the method, but I have no report that it was ever successful.

Until the First World War, gilding sixpences and shillings to make them look like gold coins was frequently resorted to. Some people went to considerable trouble to make their spurious coins less easy to detect, such as the counterfeiter who removed the word "six pence" from the reverse of the silver coins before they were gilded. These were successfully passed in Wellington and Dunedin, and possibly elsewhere in the country, in 1912.

In 1902, in Christchurch, new English farthings of Edward VII, rather than silver coins, were gilded and passed as half-sovereigns. Queen Victoria had been on the throne for so long that some South Island newspapers at least had forgotten the convention that succeeding monarchs faced the opposite way to their predecessors. A couple of papers warning of the scam of the gilded farthings wrote that one way the spurious coins could be recognised was the fact that "the face of the king looks right instead of left"! (We all know that this was the correct way to face, as Queen Victoria had faced left.)

In Invercargill in 1882 some local lads did not waste time trying to make spurious coins that would be easy to pass - they just flattened out copper rivets, close enough in colour to gold coins - and actually passed some of them to shopkeepers.

The silvering of pennies to make them into florins or half crowns, occurred only after the start of World War I, and these spurious coins were found throughout New Zealand, from big cities to small towns. In one instance in 1927, some trouble had been taken in preparing the fake coins, for the edge of a penny that had been silvered had had rough milling added by the use of a file.

In Auckland in 1966 counterfeit pennies were reported. Such a low denomination caused some discussion as the pennies were not of a scarce date nor of any collectable nature. One coin-collecting Aucklander came up with the following explanation:

"This is the way these people work. They start on the small coins to see if they will get through. Once they find that they are accepted by the public, they begin circulating silver counterfeits."

I have never heard such a fanciful explanation. Certainly from an examination of all the recorded reports of counterfeiting that I have so far found, it is clear that the high value coins tended to be the ones counterfeited. Why take time making a coin with little value, with the same chance of being arrested for it, when you can go for the big one?

Unfortunately, I have no reliable statistics of the number and denominations of counterfeit coins uttered year by year in New Zealand. One can find out for part of our history how many people in

a calendar year appeared in Magistrates' Courts, or were tried in the Supreme Courts, for counterfeiting or uttering, as well as the number convicted or acquitted, but even these statistics are a little confusing.

The data I do have is based on *reported* counterfeit coins noted in the newspapers I have searched, in particular the *Otago Daily Times*. These reports show that until about 1900 three times as many counterfeit or spurious gold coins (sovereigns and half-sovereigns) were reported to be in circulation as compared with silver and copper coins. From about 1900 to 1967, it was the half-crown and florin that feature as the most often discovered counterfeit.

Looking at this admittedly incomplete data, I wondered why the number of gold counterfeits tended to become less after about 1900, even though the sovereign and half-sovereign were in common circulation until the advent of the First World War in August 1914. I have not yet come up with an answer.

Most counterfeit coins in New Zealand have been made with lead, or at least a lead alloy, such as lead and zinc, or lead and tin, though there have been cases where aluminium was used. For example in Hawke's Bay, in early 1914, half sovereigns were discovered which were made of aluminium, with the exterior being of gilt.

Some well-produced counterfeits did include a quantity of gold, such as the half sovereigns that were uttered in Nelson in 1901, which contained 40 percent gold. Similarly, silver was put into some counterfeits, such as certain silver coins passed in Auckland in 1922. The "better" counterfeits were generally thought to have been imported, for it was believed that New Zealand counterfeiters could not do such a good job! Some of the hard-to-detect counterfeit shillings circulated in New Zealand in 1932 were believed to have come to New Zealand from China via Australia. Throughout our European history our newspapers have generally noted significant counterfeit operations in Australia, and warned that the coins so produced could well turn up on this side of the Tasman.

New Zealand did, on occasions, produce some quality counterfeits. In 1914 a coining plant was discovered in a whare on a farm near Te Awamutu, the police seizing 12 moulds for making half crowns, three for making shillings, and one for making sovereigns. A counterfeit half crown the police had was described as

"an excellent piece of work. The imprint on each side was clear and distinct in all details, and the coin was almost as bright as a new genuine coin. It lacked the ring, however."

The accused, Frederick Smith, who lived in the whare on his brother's farm, admitted all charges. Described by one newspaper as "middle-aged" - he was actually 40 years of age - it was reported that Smith only had the mental ability of a child. The offences were said to have been committed whilst his mother was away from the farm.

In the Supreme Court the Judge handed down what must be the lightest sentence for counterfeiting in New Zealand's history. He ordered Smith "to come up for sentence when called upon," and said to him, "You must be a good boy, and don't make anything in future without asking your mother".

Some types of counterfeiting have been rare in New Zealand. On one occasion, in Dunedin in 1879, there was an attempt to pass an Indian rupee of George IV [this must have been William IV - ed.] as a half crown. The charges against the accused - a Chinese man - were 1) uttering a counterfeit coin, and 2) filing a rupee to make it look more like a half crown, though this latter charge was withdrawn in court. The magistrate was told that after the man's arrest five Spanish coins also "defaced to look like shillings" had been found in his possession. The prisoner was ably defended, and in the end doubt as to whether a George IV half crown was current legal tender saw the prisoner found Not Guilty.

In 1922 a Dunedin tram conductor, when counting up after his shift, found two halves of a penny. Each bore the head of Queen Victoria, and had presumably been prepared in order to create a

“double-header” for two-up. The only court case I know of concerning illegal two-up coins occurred in Hawke’s Bay in 1929. Philip Darragh was charged “with having in his possession an instrument adapted for and intended for counterfeiting copper coins”. The case was confusing. The prisoner admitted that he had a number of split pennies on him when arrested, but argued that he had not split them, but they had been done on a lathe in an engineering shop, though he refused to say where this was. The judge thought one of the split pennies had been cut with a hacksaw, but that the prisoner’s hacksaw was too thick to have cut pennies.

When arrested the prisoner had admitted he was going to make double-headed pennies, but in court he told the judge that the tools the police had taken from his workshop, and which were shown in court, were totally unsuitable for the job. In the end, the jury brought in a verdict of Not Guilty. An interesting aspect of the case was that the judge considered there was a question of whether making double-headed pennies constituted counterfeiting, and that a panel of three judges in New South Wales had decided it was. Apparently there was no New Zealand precedent to use.

Why do people indulge in counterfeiting? Ken Peters, a British writer, in his book *The Counterfeit Coin Story* (2002), lists a number of reasons, all of which apply to New Zealand as much as Britain. Greed is accepted as the most significant. Others include necessity, where, because of economic and financial conditions, this is a means by which a man and his family can survive. In New Zealand there were a number of incidences of this during the Depression of the early 1930s. Minor reasons for indulging in counterfeiting include as a protest against society, or at least the “fun” of beating the system; and there is the element of “daredevilry” amongst schoolboys who wished to show their knowledge of chemistry and were not above silvering a penny and then trying to pass it as a half crown.

Another reason is ego, where the counterfeiter (particularly of paper money) is desirous of impressing companions with his apparent wealth. Note I have not used all-inclusive terms for the counterfeiter, for as yet I have not found an example of a coin counterfeiter who was caught who was female. Women, however, seem to have been active in uttering counterfeits, though not on the same scale as men.

An example of counterfeiting because of poor economic conditions occurred in Dunedin in the latter half of 1933. At that time counterfeit coins were frequently passed in the city, the local police having had more than a hundred passed into them. One shop was reported as having taken seven or eight counterfeits over a short time. It was stated that 28 different moulds had been used to make the bad coins in circulation.

A Dunedin relief worker, Robert McCausland, a married man with seven children and receiving only 37s 6d a week to keep his family, was visited by the police as it had been reported that he was in possession of an automatic pistol. No weapon was found, but a tin containing nine counterfeit Australian and three counterfeit British florins was uncovered. No moulds were discovered, though the accused admitted that he had experimented with coin making whilst living at Brighton, but claimed he had thrown away the moulds before he moved to the city. In the Supreme Court the defence counsel suggested that “the crime was probably the result of unemployment and poverty”. McCausland pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two and a half years’ gaol.

In mid-1934, the Auckland police raided a house in Orakei Rd, Remuera, and found what was described as “an elaborate counterfeiting plant” plus a number of false coins, namely 66 half crowns (26 of which were not finished) and 96 unfinished florins. The raid was the result of intensive investigations following the appearance of numerous counterfeit half crowns in Karangahape Rd and Parnell.

The address had been carefully checked out before the raid, and the police noted there was a “savage looking Alsatian dog” on the premises. The police took along a weapon in case they were attacked by it. The dog did get loose when the police were in the house, but the representatives of the law soon had the situation under control. Neighbours saw the Alsatian dog “run from the house at full speed, closely pursued by” a detective “armed with a wicked-looking pitchfork.”

Arrested in the raid was William Bishop, his wife Gwendoline, and their son Denniston, who was aged 19. The two males were eventually found guilty of counterfeiting, the father receiving a term of three years in prison, whilst his son received a lighter sentence.

In defence of William Bishop it was stated that he was a worker on relief, received only 38/6d a week, (or 36/-, according to another source), and had four children. He was virtually starving, and had turned to counterfeiting to support his family. The judge said whilst he had sympathy with the plight of the Bishops, counterfeiting was a serious offence.

As to just uttering counterfeit coin, in a number of cases this was done to prevent loss. Having accepted a dud coin in change, the recipient faced two options: accept the loss, or pass the counterfeit coin on to someone else. An example of the latter occurred in Dunedin in 1924. William Puller, "about 45", went regularly to the Rainbow Private hotel for meals. After having a 1/3d breakfast one morning he tendered what the waitress believed was a half-crown, though Puller claimed it was a florin. But the coin was neither - it was a silvered penny.

Puller was given in charge. He told police that he had had his evening meal at the Rainbow the previous night, paid for it with a pound note, and received the said coin in his change. He had not noticed that it was a silvered penny until later, and having felt victimised, he had returned the coin to the Rainbow by paying for his breakfast with it. He did not think he should stand the loss.

Though a farm labourer, and not particularly bright, Puller was not poor, the police reporting that "he was in a good financial position, judging from the documents found upon him". Having admitted using the counterfeit coin, but with no others of a like nature found on him, he was convicted and fined £3 and costs (20/-).

Counterfeiters have been successful because of lack of care - or should we in many cases call it stupidity - on the part of people to whom counterfeits were offered. From earliest reports of counterfeits in New Zealand, newspapers told their readers what to look out for when checking a coin: sharpness of design, and indeed the design itself, weight, thickness, the ring of the coin when dropped on a hard surface, feel, colour, and milling on the edges, and even the use of a knife to check the hardness or otherwise of the coin.

Certainly the use of a knife in Dunedin in December 1902 would have quickly uncovered spurious threepenny pieces "made apparently of cartridge paper or similar material, and then silvered over or covered with silver paper". I would have thought the deception would be obvious, but the threepences were said to "closely resemble the genuine article", and a number were successfully passed.

And there is the story of a Geraldine bank manager who in the same year (1902) was suspicious about a half crown which had been paid in. The coin was described as perfect in appearance, even having a milled edge and "a splendid ring", but appeared to be somewhat light. So the manager "held it to a lighted candle for half a minute, when it at once began to melt away".

There were certain locations where counterfeit coins tended to be passed more often, namely where the light was poor, or where the pressure of customers made for less care being taken by the receivers of coins. Thus hotel bars, race meetings, shows and carnivals, and shops at busy times, were all ideal locations for passing dud coins. For example, 41 counterfeit half crowns were used on the tote at the Nelson races in April 1899.

Counterfeit coins were passed in big cities and rural towns, though in the latter localities the chances of the utterer being recognised, if more than two or three dud coins were passed, were greater. But not always. In Gisborne, in the first six months of 1931, a variety of counterfeit coins appeared - florins, shillings, sixpences and threepences - and it appears no-one was apprehended.

The counterfeit coins discussed so far were all of British, or from 1910, of Australian design. The first of our own distinctive half crowns were put into circulation in Wellington in late November 1933. Within a month a counterfeit New Zealand half crown was passed in a Lower Hutt chemist's shop. To emphasise the speed of this counterfeiting, the New Zealand half crown had not then

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been released in Dunedin! (The first decimal coin counterfeit I have recorded was a 20-cent piece discovered in Cambridge at the end of October 1967.)

Post World War II there do not seem to have been as many reports of counterfeiting as in earlier years. By this time, with the declining value of our coins, it was hardly worth counterfeiting them. Those that were made were fairly crude, outlines tended to be blurred, and the base metal was more often than not just lead. The counterfeits were used in vending machines, where weight rather than appearance was significant, for their crude appearance should not have fooled anyone, yet in 1978 a soft-metal counterfeit 50-cent piece was handed out by a Tauranga bank to a customer! Interestingly, a couple of Auckland youths had been arrested as early as 1928 for using rounds of lead instead of pennies to obtain chocolate from a vending machine.

Old scams still continue, though infrequently. The gilding of 20-cent coins to utter them as \$2 coins has proved successful on at least two occasions, namely in Oamaru in 1993, and in Levin in 2000.

The most recent counterfeiting I am aware of was the discovery of a counterfeit 50-cent piece in Auckland in 2005. As with many cases of counterfeiting reported in the papers over the past 150-plus years, there has been no follow-up in the media about it as far as I can find out.

May I ask for help with an instance of counterfeiting which I have not yet traced in the newspapers? This concerns the manufacture of counterfeit florins in Wellington in the latter half of the 1890s. An account of the incident originally appeared in the *New Zealand Key Digest* (date unknown), and was subsequently republished in the *NZ Numismatic Journal* in 1961, and again in the in-flight magazine *NAC's New Zealand* of March 1976. The author was a retired Detective-Sergeant J.J. Cassels, who was in charge of the hunt for the counterfeiter.

The article tells how a warder, assigned to look after prisoners who were being used to construct part of the new Mt Cook Gaol, was discovered to be uttering counterfeit florins. He was arrested, but the dud florins still appeared. The prison labourers were marched every day to and from the new gaol under construction. It was observed that, on the way back each afternoon, the prisoners dropped tiny balls of wet clay, and that when they and the warders were out of sight, some ex-convicts would come along and pick up the clay marbles. The police investigated and found counterfeit florins embedded in the clay.

Further investigation revealed "a cleverly-conceived and concealed counterfeiting apparatus" in the new Mt Cook Gaol. According to Detective Cassels, two American crooks, while in the old Wellington gaol, had made counterfeit half-sovereigns, and had taught their fellow inmates the techniques of counterfeiting.

A good story, but being of a suspicious mind, I would like to be shown some confirmation of its accuracy. I have checked the Crime Statistics from 1895 to 1900 inclusive, and while they record that seven males were tried and convicted for uttering counterfeit coins during those six years, no instance of counterfeiters being indicted is recorded.

In conclusion, it seems to me from my wide reading, that widespread counterfeiting has never been common in New Zealand, that the depression years of the 1930s saw more counterfeiting by New Zealanders than any other period, that many of the counterfeit coins uttered were brought into New Zealand from overseas (occasionally in relatively large numbers, but usually only a few), and that many of the spurious coins that were uttered were just a single, or at best a short-lived, attempt to beat the system!

This is an amended and slightly enlarged version of the paper presented at the March 2006 Wellington Convention. Section 2, which will be published in the next issue of the NZ Numismatic Journal, discusses counterfeit paper money.



The longest-standing members of the RNSNZ and the Wellington Coin Club present at the Anniversary dinner in March cut the cake. Left: Leon Morel (RNSNZ, 1950) and right: Ray Staal (WCC, 1966). Below: assembled banknote enthusiasts. (L-R: Messrs Robb, Noble, Tonner, Brown and Wierda)



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The Otago Branch of the RNSNZ can be contacted at PO Box 6095, Dunedin North 9059.

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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.

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