

NUMBER 80



DECEMBER 2002

NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL



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NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

*

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

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Obituary

Dr C.T.H.R. EHRHARDT

Ray Hargreaves



In late November 2001, the death occurred of Christopher Ehrhardt, a Vice-President of the RNSNZ, and a long-time member of the Society.

Chris was born in Germany in December 1937, but went to Britain shortly afterwards with his parents when they fled from the Nazi regime which they opposed. He obtained his university education at Oxford University, and taught at universities in Armidale (Australia) and Jamaica. A doctorate in Classics was gained from the State University of New York in Buffalo, and in 1972 he joined the Classics Department at the University of Otago. In 1997 restructuring at the University saw the end of his appointment. Dr Ehrhardt subsequently lectured for short periods at Changchun in northern China and finally at the University of Waikato. A man of strongly-held views on certain topics, he was always prepared to defend them in public.

Chris joined the Otago Branch of the Society shortly after his arrival in Dunedin, and over the years served it loyally and well as Treasurer and Secretary, and as a frequent speaker at its meetings. His main interest was in the coins of classical Rome and Greece, and he had the ability to make these topics come alive to other Branch members who had no previous knowledge of the subject. A continuing interest was to list and describe ancient classical coins which were held in public repositories throughout New Zealand, and his findings were regularly published in our *Journal*. In all some 18 or so articles plus some book reviews by Chris were published in the *Journal*, the last one being on his numismatic experiences in China, published in the 2001 issue. Always a positive person, Chris even managed to write in the December 1996 issue about the loss of his personal coin collection, stolen from his home.

Dr Ehrhardt was for many years Honorary Curator of classical coins at the Otago Museum, and his encyclopaedic knowledge will be missed by that institution and by all numismatists. Aged 63 when he died, Chris is survived by his wife and two children.

[I only met Chris twice, though I remember him from radio's "Stump the Brains Trust" back in the 1970s. In 1982 I was passing through Wanganui with family, and called into the museum there. I noticed that one of the coins in a display cabinet was incorrectly identified, and told the Director. He said, "There's a chap out the back working on our Roman coins. I'll get him to come out and double-check what you're saying." And that was how I met Chris the first time. I also spent the rest of the afternoon sorting through the Roman material with him and probably made him late for his plane trip home! That session was documented in the NZ Numismatic Journal that year.]

We also caught up briefly at the NZ Numismatic Convention in Wellington in 1990, but things were too hectic for more than a few words at the time. With the advent of e-mail we got into slightly more regular contact in more recent years, and I know his contributions to the Numism-L mailing list were always most welcome. One of the last letters I had from him expressed his regret that he had never had the opportunity to view and catalogue the Greek and Roman coins at Wellington's "Te Papa" museum.

This Journal contains a last small contribution from Chris, some numismatic reflections on a visit to Bulgaria a few years ago. – Editor]

Nikolai Balanski

Ross Kidd

New Zealand numismatics lost a colourful personality with the passing of Nikolai Balanski aged 73 on 1 September 2001. Nikolai was a founder of the Wanganui Numismatic Society and a life member of the R.N.S.N.Z.

Nikolai Balanski and his late wife Norma were instrumental in founding the Wanganui Numismatic Society on 22 August 1967. Together they succeeded in getting the Society off to a sound footing with an initial membership of 23. Norma was the inaugural President and Nikolai a Committee Member. His main collecting interests centred on early New Zealand Banknotes and world gold coins.

Nikolai remained an active member and long-time Patron of the Wanganui Numismatic Society until his resignation in 1983.

Don McDougall

Jim Duncan

I count it a privilege to have been a friend of Don McDougall.

We have been colleagues with a common interest for over thirty years - we both had a passion for and collected coins. We have met monthly for most of those thirty years, and have shared the highs and lows of our interest. Although we had somewhat differing fields of interest, we were both able to appreciate the other's passion, and were able, from time to time, to render practical assistance each to the other. I always enjoyed the talks Don presented, and I think in particular of two - one about a Will from 1609, the other about Geoffrey Chaucer, both thought-provoking and interesting.

Don contributed in a practical way to the Numismatic Society of Auckland, of which we were both members - he served as its President in 1972, and has regularly been an Executive Committee member. His special gift was wisdom, tolerance and patience applied in pretty even quantities so that we did not stray too far from the straight and narrow.

On a personal level Don and I shared a less common interest - we both loved holidaying in Noosa, Queensland. He and Betty would go in August or September, and I would follow in October. In November we would compare notes - what had changed for better or for worse. We both took great pleasure in the place.

Don was one of those rare people who are described as "nature's gentlemen". I have never heard a bad word spoken of him - nor have I heard one spoken by him, and we certainly didn't always see eye to eye on everything. Don was a man of principle, and proud of it. We could always rely on him for sound reasoned judgement which would contribute greatly to the solving of the problems of the day.

We were all greatly shocked when Don took ill a year or so ago, and were so glad when he returned to the fold, somewhat thinner if that was possible, but still Don.

I extend to Betty and Malcolm our deepest condolences. We know Don had faith, and if anyone deserved to find a better life it was him. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Have You Seen This Medal?

Ray Hargreaves

On 20 August 1878 Sir George Grey, then New Zealand's Premier, rose in the House of Representatives to make a personal statement. He advised the House that the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, Australia, had awarded him a silver medal in recognition of New Zealand's generosity in recently making some salmon ova available to them.

In the latter half of the 19th century New Zealand was keen to stock the country with fauna from Britain and Europe which would provide sport as well as expected economic benefits. New Zealand rivers lacked game fish, so attempts were made to stock them with suitable species. In the 1870s repeated attempts were made to introduce salmon. At the beginning of 1878 a consignment of 65,000 salmon ova was shipped from Britain. Whilst the consignment was being transhipped in Melbourne to a New Zealand-bound steamer, the Victorians asked if they could obtain 3000 of the ova. The New Zealand Government willingly agreed, but refused the Victorian Acclimatisation Society's offer to pay for them. It was for this reason that the medal had been voted to Sir George Grey.

Grey was magnanimous and said that, although it was he who had acceded to the Victorian request, it was his colleague James Macandrew who had been responsible for ordering the salmon ova, and was the person who really deserved the medal. But Grey could not without offence return the medal to its donors, so instead

“... felt it his duty to the House and to the colony to order that the medal should be deposited in the Museum as public property, as a proof that New Zealand had rendered such a service to Victoria, and that the Colony of Victoria was very grateful for the benefit conferred upon it.” (*Parliamentary Debates*, v 28, 1878: 330)

A few years ago I wrote to Te Papa asking about the medal but they reported that it was not in their Collections. As Grey was an Auckland representative, I decided to check out its museum, but once again no luck. The only Grey medal they held at the time was a silver one presented to him in 1853 by the “Artisans of Wellington”, as well as one that was from the Auckland Old Colonists' Museum and which had been presented to Grey by the Zoological Society, London.

So what happened to the Victorian Acclimatisation Society medal? Was it lost in transit, deposited in another museum, kept by Grey after all, or was it stolen?

George Ranger (1927-2002), Inez Taylor (1905-2002)

Anne Lampard

The deaths occurred in November 2002, within a few hours of each other, of two long-standing supporters of the Society. George Ranger, son of long-time President Peg Ranger (1907-92), known to many Wellington members as the co-host of numerous enjoyable Christmas functions in their Khandallah home, and Inez Taylor, wife of long-serving Journal Editor and Keeper of the Collection Clyde Taylor (1905-97). The Taylors were also pleased to welcome members to their home, occasions on which Clyde demonstrated his bookbinding skills in conjunction with his amazing book collection and love of ancient history, an interest that she shared. George was 75 when he died, and Mrs Taylor achieved the impressive age of almost 97.

Police Medallion of The International Year of Volunteers 2001

Clint Libby

The United Nations declared that the year from 5 December 2000 to 5 December 2001 would be the 'International Year of the Volunteer'. Various organisations in New Zealand sponsored activities and presentations as part of acknowledging their volunteers.

The New Zealand Fire Service designed and presented an unofficial medal to all of their current volunteer fire fighters during 2001. The New Zealand Police designed a medallion rather than a medal, but it was based on the NZFS design. This medallion too was presented to Police volunteers in 2001.

It is understood that the Police decided not to follow the NZFS decision to produce a medal as most of the Police volunteers were civilians and would therefore have little opportunity to wear one. A cased medallion was thought more appropriate and could be more easily displayed by the recipient.

The Police designed medallion was 39 mm in diameter and was larger than the NZFS medal. The obverse was based on the "United Nations International Year of Volunteers symbolism". This United Nations design was raised and curved on the obverse of the medallion. The reverse was designed by the New Zealand Police in consultation with the company that produced them. The metal used was brass based with an antique bronze finish and the medallion weighed approximately 34.5 grams. The medallion was designed and struck under licence to the New Zealand Police by Gary Price of Badges and Medals Limited, Blenheim, New Zealand*. It is understood that each medallion cost approximately \$14 each to produce. The individual approximate costing of the medal itself was \$5.00, the engraving was \$4.00 and the cost of the case and the card was \$5.00.

Gary Price is the Chief Fire Officer for Blenheim and it was he who designed and struck the Fire Service medal. In designing the Police medallion it was decided to create something different, and the United Nations side of the medallion was produced with a 'domed' centre. As this had not been done before it was considered a technical feat to set up the tooling required. A master mould was produced. The medallions were then struck on both sides at the same time in a coining press. To achieve this a 200 ton hydraulic press was used. The medallions were then 'antiqued' in a solution bath that blackened them. They were then polished so that the recesses remained blackened and the high points retained the brass colour. This process created each medallion as unique in that no two were exactly the same in colour.

There were two types issued by the Police. One was for '**Police volunteers**' and the other was for '**Victim Support volunteers**'. The reverse of the Police volunteers medallion has the inscription "***In recognition of New Zealand Police Volunteers for the International Year of the Volunteers 2001***" with the Police crest centred below. The Victim Support's medallion reverse is different and has the words "***In recognition of work done for victims for the International Year of Volunteers 2001***". The Police crest is off set below to the left and on the right is a motif of sun, cloud and rain.

Each medal had the recipient's name engraved on the edge with the surname first and then the initial which is a departure from normal where it has been customary to have the rank (if applicable), initials and then surname engraved on the edge. Both types of medallion were issued in a plush case with an explanatory card enclosed with the specifications, the description and a note from the Commissioner of Police Rob Robinson.

The message included on the card from the Commissioner of Police stated: "***People from throughout New Zealand help the Police in various roles. Volunteers assist in search and rescue operations, civil emergencies, supporting victims of crime, or just lending a hand at their local Police Station. Voluntary assistance is invaluable in building safer communities. The New Zealand Police are proud to acknowledge the contribution of***

volunteers through the presentation of these specially commissioned medallions. We honour, through the presentation of this medallion, your contribution of time and effort. On behalf of the New Zealand Police, thank you." A facsimile of the Police Commissioner's signature followed by the words "Rob Robinson, Commissioner of Police".

To be eligible for the Police medallion the Police defined a volunteer as a person who **"is an unpaid member of the public who, having been recruited and trained for a Police operated and controlled programme or activity, is accredited with the status of Police volunteer"**. This recognised those people who were unpaid and who were voluntarily involved in such activities as search and rescue operations, civil defence and other emergencies and staffing Police kiosks and public counters and areas of Policing Centres and Police Stations as well as those involved in 'victim support'. To be eligible a person had to be a 'volunteer' at the 'cut off' date of 1 May 2001.

During 2001 the medallions were personally presented throughout the country at a variety of venues and functions. Importance was such that the medallions were personally presented to each recipient by a senior police person at a special function or gathering. As at March 2002 there had been 7,964 Police volunteer medallions and approximately 1,800 Victim Support volunteer medallions issued.

The medallion was well received by the volunteers and the feedback received from the recipients is that the issue of the medallions is appreciated and will be treasured. It was certainly a nice gesture on the part of the New Zealand Police to recognise those people in our community who assist the Police in many varied ways on an ongoing basis.

* Gary Price, Badges and Medals Limited, 8 Opawa Street, Blenheim, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 578-2331

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Illustration to the Police International Year of Volunteers Medallion article by Clint Libby (pp. 5-6)



COINS FROM BULGARIA

C.T.H.R. Ehrhardt

In my first contribution to this Journal, a quarter of a century ago (no. 52, July 1975, 169-173), I gave an account of the *Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards* (New York 1973), and the information that could be gleaned from it, about modern as well as ancient times, and remarked, 'collectors in search of new material might do worse than explore Sofia' (p. 173). At that time, with the Cold War apparently permanently frigid, and the Iron Curtain firmly shut against casual travellers, I never imagined I would have the chance to do so myself, but in 1997 my son insisted I spend a week with him in Bulgaria, and it was an experience I thoroughly enjoyed: Sofia itself has an excellent Historical Museum (the Archaeological Museum, unfortunately, was closed), and the countryside and smaller towns which we visited were beautiful and fascinating, particularly the churches and monasteries.

But back to coins: in Sofia, on the side-walks outside the great Alexander Nevsky church, there were numerous 'flea-market' stalls, selling such things as Red Army binoculars, Communist Party medals, more or less authentic folk art, and coins. I was only interested in Greek and Roman coins, and found a wide variety, both genuine and fake: the usual late Roman bronzes, from the time of Constantine and later, in all degrees of preservation from 'Fine' ('Very Fine', if you were very lenient) to 'Very Poor'; Roman denarii, and ancient bronze forgeries or imitations of them (their makers and their purpose are still a matter of debate, and - as far as I know - there is no published handbook for them); and not only bronzes but silver coins from the ancient Greek cities of Thrace and the Black Sea coast. All, if you haggled, available for much less than they would cost in England.

As an unemployed ex-academic, I could only look longingly at the better quality and higher-priced pieces - I saw tetradrachms of Alexander the Great and of Seleucid kings, and some very good Roman bronzes, as well as others whose sharpness and clarity made me deeply suspicious - but I did not inspect specimens which I knew I could not buy.

Ignorance of Bulgarian was not an insuperable handicap, since the vendors all had at least a smattering of either German or English, and all obviously knew their material, so that they did not make outrageous claims, but also were well aware of the relative values of their goods.

Altogether, my speculation in 1975 that one might 'do worse than explore Sofia' for ancient coins proved fully justified. I only regret that it will be a long time before I can do so again.

SURPRISE ATTACK

Doug Carian

Late in the afternoon of that bleak winter's day a group of friendly Arawa entered the clearing in Opepe bush where a detachment of volunteers from the Bay of Plenty Cavalry had camped.

The soldiers were using some deserted Maori huts a few hundred metres off the main track. They had been led there by a Maori guide who, after dark, had lit several large fires. These were unnecessary since they were very much larger than those the detachment needed for cooking and warmth. However, they did not arouse the suspicions of the commanding officer, Colonel St. John, although George Crosswell, one of the more experienced troopers, had thought it rather strange. Unfortunately he had done nothing about it.

After telling Cornet Smith that Te Kooti and the Hauhau could not be in the area and that he was as safe at Opepe as he would be in London, Colonel St. John and a few others rode on. Smith was left in charge of thirteen troopers, most of whom were young settlers from the Tauranga and Opotiki districts.

Crosswell, in narrating the events of 7 June 1869 to James Cowan more than fifty years later, remembered that he had left the camp that morning to search for his horse which had strayed. He had failed to find it and had got soaked to the skin in heavy rain before returning. When the friendly Maori arrived his uniform was drying by a fire and he was lying on his blanket in a hut "without a stitch of clothing on".

Crosswell had got up, probably wrapped himself in his blanket, and left the hut to greet the visitors. Some of the Maori shook hands with him and he moved towards his comrades, most of whom were now also outside their huts. They were all totally unarmed. Not anticipating any trouble they had left their rifles, revolvers and swords behind in the huts - one of several military errors that would cost nine of them their lives.

The Maori seemed to be well armed and ready for action. They were carrying Enfield rifles already cocked. Some troopers noticed this and became uneasy. A group of Maori moved round and took up a position between the troopers and the huts containing their weapons. Suspicions were firmly aroused now and when even more armed Maori appeared in the clearing, the troopers at last realised that these were not friendly Arawa as they had made themselves out to be but a fighting force of enemy Hauhau.

The troopers who were outside the huts made a sudden dash for the bush about twenty metres away. At first the Hauhau did not open fire. To have done so would have risked hitting their own men, many of whom would have been in the line of fire. As the fleeing troopers got closer to the bush that risk was much reduced and the Maori opened fire. Only four cavalymen escaped from the clearing that was 'safer than London'.

Crosswell and another trooper soon joined up and finally reached Fort Galatea forty miles away. It was winter and bitterly cold and the two took several days to cover the forty miles. It must have been a terrible journey across the Kaingaroa Plain especially for Crosswell who had no clothes or shoes. A truly remarkable achievement. Cornet Smith also escaped and was found near Fort Galatea in a very weak condition by a search party ten days later.

Cornet Smith was awarded the New Zealand Cross - the equivalent at that time of the Victoria Cross which could not be awarded to Colonial troops unless they were with an Imperial force. Cowan claimed that this was regarded as a gross misuse of the decoration for, although Colonel St. John was largely to blame, Smith 'was guilty of an inexcusable neglect of ordinary military precautions in omitting to post sentries and guard against surprise.' Instead of being decorated Smith should have been court-martialled.

Probably nobody in that ill-fated detachment deserved a medal. If anyone did, it would have been Sergeant-Major Slattery. According to a Maori who took part in the attack, only Slattery made anything of a fight of it. He fought ferociously with a stick or stone he had picked up and was killed only after a struggle that gained the respect of his attackers. His gallantry may well have given the five survivors time to reach the edge of the bush and relative safety.

The Hauhau took all the weapons, horses, saddles and even the uniforms as prizes of war but did not disfigure the bodies which were later buried in two graves by Colonel St. John and a group of Maori from Taupo.

Today Sergeant-Major Slattery and the volunteer troopers - amateur soldiers really - of the Bay of Plenty Cavalry who paid the price of military overconfidence and laxity of those who should have known better, still lie in the clearing at Opepe. The graves of these inexperienced young men, together with a few others and a notice commemorating the incident, are just three minutes' walk from the main Napier-Taupo highway (State Highway 5) at a point about 15 kilometres from the turnoff just south of Taupo. There is a signpost at this point and a small carpark just off the highway. If you are passing perhaps you will pause there and make a brief visit to the clearing. It is a beautiful spot despite the gravestones and the memories they invoke.

But, knowing the true circumstances, you may wonder if the wording on the notice is just loosely worded or part of a deliberate cover-up. The Hauhau did not attack 'from the surrounding bush' as stated, but infiltrated the clearing using deception - a legitimate military tactic. It should not have been successful and someone should have been accountable for the deaths of these young farmers and settlers. There is no record that Colonel St. John was ever reprimanded for his part in the incident and the junior officer left in command received the most valued medal for bravery that was available at that time. The New Zealand Cross was awarded to only 23 men. Did Cornet Smith deserve to be one of them?

If you are lucky the time of your visit to the graves will be late afternoon on a very cold gloomy day in midwinter. On such a day you may smell wood smoke and gunpowder and hear rifle shots, startled horses and shouts of triumph and panic. The past haunts such places.

Footnote: Cornet Angus Smith was born in Inverness, Scotland, in 1832, and served in the Crimea before emigrating to New Zealand. He was one of only four survivors of the surprise attack at Opepe escaping into the bush where he was later captured, stripped of his clothing and Crimea medals and tied to a tree for four days without food or water. When he eventually reached Fort Galatea he had been without food or clothing for ten days in midwinter. He had to cross three rivers and, because of a wound in his foot, had travelled a considerable distance on his hands and knees. He was probably awarded the New Zealand Cross for this remarkable exploit which, of course, happened after the attack where nine men under his command were killed, arguably as a result of his negligence. Angus Smith's New Zealand Cross is in Edinburgh Castle. I wonder where his Crimea medals are today.



The New Zealand Cross (1869 version) - see accompanying article, "Surprise Attack" (pp. 9-10)
Illustration courtesy of John Wills, from his book "Zealandia's Brave" (2001).

A FORGED DEKADRACHM OF SYRACUSE

Martin Purdy

In early 2002 I was asked to sell, on behalf of an estate, a Syracusan dekadrachm of about 400 BC. Coins of this type (see illustrations below) are generally considered to be some of the finest examples of ancient numismatic art, and a particularly nice example has been advertised in the US numismatic press for something like US\$ 37,000 in recent months.

The coin came with an press article, presumably dating from the 1950s, stating that the piece had been pronounced genuine and giving it a value of £225, quite a tidy sum at the time. It is believed to have changed hands for about that amount at a later date.

I don't claim to be an expert in these items, or to know any better than the gentlemen who pronounced on the coin forty-odd years ago, but rather than run any risks I thought it prudent to seek some advice of my own. I scanned the coin and posted the picture to my website, then asked members of a number of Internet newsgroups specialising in ancient coins (a) to comment in general terms and (b) to advise if there were any ways to determine its authenticity. I had a few concerns of my own, in that the surface of the coin appeared too smooth and soapy, and the items in the exergue on the reverse looked too chunky compared to illustrations that I had seen.

Replies weren't long in coming. A major dealer in Paris came straight out and said "looks like a lead moulded fake to me". Some of my contacts did say that it matched known die types. Others commented on its cast appearance, and offered more specific advice, specifically to weigh it and check the edge for a seam or file marks, and subject it to a "ring test". It was also pointed out that this type of coin has been extensively forged, many being made in the late 1980s, though this would be far too late a date for our present example.

A dealer in Canada, judging it a fake, commented as follows:

"There are two related problems that I see. The first is that the coin is rather worn, which is unusual for one of these. They were not a standard circulating coin, and all the



ANCIENT GREEK COIN

Auckland's Valuable Possession

An ancient Greek coin of solid silver, over 2000 years old, has been identified by the Auckland branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand for Mr F. Turrens. The coin, which is worth about £235, is believed to have been obtained by Mr Turrens' father for a comparatively small sum.

After consulting an authoritative publication and local experts it was determined that the coin was a dekadrachm of Syracuse, minted in Sicily about 406 B.C. Almost two inches across, the coin is in a remarkable state of preservation considering that it is 2360 years old.

Collectors have called it "the most beautiful coin in the world" because of the fine, elaborate engraving in deep



relief. The obverse, or head, shows a profile of Persephone, goddess of spring, with tightly clustered curls about her head. The reverse, or tail, shows a chariot drawn by four horses, with a nymph flying to crown the charioteer with, probably, a laurel wreath.

The chairman of the Auckland branch of the Numismatic Society, Mr T. W. Attwood, said the members were quite satisfied that the coin was genuine. Arrangements were being made to inform any interested British collectors.

genuine ones I have seen have been in much higher grade.

"The related problem is that the designs are sort of fuzzy over all. When genuine coins wear to this grade, the high points become fuzzy, but the lower protected areas remain sharp.

"My conclusion from this is that the coin is probably a very high quality casting, and was artificially worn to remove surface textures that would give away that it is a casting.

"One thing to try with these is to balance it on a finger tip, and very gently tap it with another coin. Be careful to do this gently and not tap it too hard. A genuine WILL NOT RING LIKE A BELL but a fake one often will. This is because the genuine ones are highly crystallised internally (drop one and it may break) and any that are not crystallised are fakes. Crystallised coins will not ring clearly, and normally will THUD like a piece of lead."

Armed with these criteria, I set to the test.

Known weights of genuine examples ranged between 41.19 and 43.25 grams. The test piece weighed 39 grams. There were faint traces of filing on the edge, and it gave a very high bell-like tinkle when tapped.

I reported these findings to the mailing lists, and the response from my Canadian contact was to the point: "you have pretty much proven it to be a fake".

With too much evidence against it, I rang the consignor, who has now taken it back to keep in the family. My best shot is that it's probably a 19th-century copy, and still very appealing, but with just a few signs that were enough to give it away as not being the real thing.

Copper & Bronze Coinage in New Zealand

Ray Hargreaves FRNSNZ

Copper and bronze coins have generally been the least valued by most collectors. It is a reflection of their character, for their intrinsic worth has always been less than that of silver coins, and considerably less than that of gold coins, nor after a few years is the appearance of copper and bronze coins as appealing as those made of more valuable metals.

It may be safely argued that the early European explorers of, and visitors to, New Zealand carried a few copper coins with them, and these were no doubt bartered with the local Maoris.

An early reference to copper coins in New Zealand is that contained in Augustus Earle's *Narrative of a Nine Months' Residence in New Zealand*, first published in London in 1832. Earle was in the Bay of Islands in 1827, and he recounted the following:

It is rather a remarkable and novel circumstance that the natives, who have been now for 14 or 15 years in close intercourse and carrying on traffic with Europeans, should not in the course of that period, understand the nature and value of money; a laughable instance of which occurred to us a few days since. A native came to our house with a serious countenance and business-like manner, and said he wished to purchase a musket: we asked to see what he had brought in exchange for one; when, with great ceremony, he produced a copper penny piece in the way of payment. We, of course, refrained from laughter; but he was quite astonished and mortified when he was made to understand we could not trade with him. He took a stroll round the beach offering his penny, by way of barter, to every white man he met, but every where with equally bad success. The poor fellow had, doubtless, seen someone pass a doubloon, and had mistaken his penny for one; as a doubloon is about the price given for a musket in our regulated list of charges.

With the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi the British system of coinage became the legal monetary system of the new colony. But during the 1840s various foreign coins also circulated in New Zealand. These were primarily gold and silver coins, but in the *Blue Books* for 1848 and 1849 it is noted that foreign "copper coins" (as well as the gold & silver ones) had "nearly disappeared from circulation" (Alan Sutherland, *Numismatic History of New Zealand*, Wellington, 1941: 74).

One would expect that some copper "cartwheel" twopences, and the similar pennies, manufactured in 1797 by Matthew Boulton, to have arrived in New Zealand in the early days, but they would have been more as curiosities and mementoes brought out by some of the moneyed migrants rather than items to be used in everyday trading. More common were the smaller and thinner copper coins, possibly a few of William IV, but especially those of Queen Victoria issued from 1838 (halfpenny) and 1841 (penny).

In 1860 the "Bun Penny" and halfpenny arrived. The name derived from Leonard Wyon's new effigy of Queen Victoria which showed her wearing her hair in a bun. The coins were smaller and thinner than their predecessors, and made not from pure copper but bronze, the latter being a mixture of 95 percent copper, 4 percent tin, and 1 percent zinc. But despite their changed composition they were still popularly referred to as "coppers".

Tokens During much of the 19th century there tended to be recurring shortages, of greater or lesser extent, of copper coins in New Zealand. Few would be brought out by immigrants - gold coins were less weighty and more valuable. It seems that the Imperial government did not rate the provision of sufficient low-denomination coins to its colonies as a high priority.

As a result, from 1857 to 1881 numerous business people from Auckland to Invercargill issued tokens for a penny and to a lesser extent halfpenny, which though not legal tender, came to be widely accepted. Besides New Zealand-issued tokens, some from overseas also circulated. It was said that in Auckland in 1862 "Professor Holloway's profile adorns every handful of copper change." Australian tokens were passed, though not in such large numbers.

In a report dated September 1874 and published in the *AJHR* in 1875, it was officially estimated that half of the copper currency in use in New Zealand was made up of tokens. As a rough estimate, this 50 percent share was of the value of £2000.

Tokens seem to have largely ceased as circulating currency by the late 1870s. The last token to be issued in New Zealand was one of Milner & Thompson, Christchurch, dated 1881, but there seems to be some question as to whether it actually circulated as a monetary token. Despite statements by a number of numismatists, tokens were not "decried" in 1897 as they had never been legal tender [See my article in the *NZ Numismatic Journal*, v16, July 1982:2-3]. A Dr M.H. Long, writing in Spink's *Numismatic Circular* in 1898, made the interesting observation that "Copper tokens, I am informed, are still in use in some of the back bush towns in New Zealand." I have yet to discover confirmation of this claim.

Shortages In mid-1873 the Auckland suburb of Parnell was said to be suffering from a shortage of copper coins, a result of Maoris obtaining as many as they could from the local shopkeepers. At first the Maoris simply asked for silver coins to be changed, but after a few days these requests were refused. They would then purchase some cheap item, pay in silver, and so receive copper as change. Why this sudden interest in acquiring copper coins was never satisfactorily explained, though amongst some Aucklanders there was a suspicion that the copper coins were to be sent to Waikato Maoris who would then convert them into "missiles" to be used against the pakeha.

But such a shortage allowed a young entrepreneur to make some welcome pocket money. It was reported in early September 1873 that in Auckland

a runner ... earns from 15s to 20s a week by collecting coppers, threepenny bits and small change, and exchanging them with the hotelkeepers at a slight remunerative discount. The young boy can always oblige any publican or shopkeeper with ten shillings worth of coppers, for which he expects to receive ten shillings and sixpence. (*Evening Star* [Dunedin], 9 Sept. 1873:2)

If small change was not available boxes of matches, or some other small everyday items, were given to the customer instead.

Temporary shortages also occurred in later years. For example in 1925 when Christchurch tram fares rose to 2½d and 3½d there was concern in that city as to whether they could obtain enough halfpenny coins to give in change. As one bank manager stated, "Half-pennies are nearly as scarce as sovereigns now. ... Half-pennies are very little used now, and it is very seldom that one is seen. We, for instance, have

no stock of them at all.”

Bronze coins Britain replaced its copper coins with bronze coins in 1860, but it was not until 31 January 1876 that New Zealand legally decried the former. In order to achieve this about £6,000 of bronze coins were imported. Four-fifths of this amount was spent on pennies, and only one-fifth on halfpennies. This suggests that there was no major demand for the latter coin in New Zealand at the time.

Seventy-five cases (weighing over two tons in total) of the replacement pennies and halfpennies arrived in Dunedin in March 1876. As the copper coins were decried on 31 January previously, what happened during February and the first two weeks of March? I would hazard a guess that the government offices turned a blind eye and continued to accept them. On 23 March, a week after the new coins arrived, the Dunedin Collector of Customs issued a reminder that the old copper coins were no longer current and that the new bronze coins could be obtained from the Custom House.

New Zealand Penny The so-called New Zealand Penny dated 1879 is still something of a mystery. Alan Sutherland (*op cit.*: 111) wrote:

It is understood that in 1879, when a suggestion was made that New Zealand should call In penny and halfpenny traders’ copper tokens, with the object of substituting pennies and halfpennies of Imperial design only, a proposal was made that New Zealand should issue its own coins, and a few pattern pennies - now known as the New Zealand Penny - were struck by Joseph Moore, an English Medallist in London, from a design submitted for the Imperial bronze coinage in 1860. The proposal to adopt this coin as an official New Zealand penny was not agreed to, but the pennies were allowed to go into circulation. At the time this penny was struck New Zealand was experiencing serious difficulty in securing sufficient bronze coin to meet the demand.

But as I have noted earlier, large shipments of Imperial bronze coins had arrived in New Zealand at the beginning of 1876, so the shortage of such coins was largely alleviated.

I have found no reference in contemporary newspapers of the pattern pennies circulating. Indeed, I would argue that it was most unlikely since the use of tokens was more or less at an end. And I have found no answer to the question as to who made “the proposal to adopt this coin as an official New Zealand penny”.

Dr Long (quoted above) claimed in 1898 that only six New Zealand pennies had been struck, Both Arthur Andrews (*Australasian Tokens and Coins*, Sydney, 1921:75) and Sutherland (p 111) state that 12 specimens were said to have been struck, but Lampard (*NZ Numis. Journ*, No 60, 1981: 53) claimed the “estimated mintage [to be] 100 to 200.” How he arrived at this figure I do not know. It is obvious that more research is needed on this topic.

Designs At the end of the 19th century there was a change in the reverse of British bronze coinage. In its issue of 2 January 1897 *Punch* made the following comment:

The New Coinage

Our change is changed: the penny of futurity
Portrays Britannia seated on the shore
Ruling the waves in prudence, peace and purity,
As heretofore.

But banished are the lighthouse and the galleon
Which formed the old supporters of the seal;
And now she sits upon the large medallion
(So like a wheel),
Alone, alas! and cold as any icicle.
But, in this land of bye-laws, is it right
Britannia's self should ride upon a bicycle
Without a Light?

When issued, Edward VII, George V, and until 1939 George VI pennies and halfpennies also circulated in New Zealand. The reverses with minor changes remained the same, namely an illustration of Britannia, with the exception of the halfpenny which in 1937 changed to depicting Drake's ship, the Golden Hind.

After Australia adopted its own coinage, pennies from "across the ditch" filtered into New Zealand. The first Australian "copper" coins are dated 1911, and carried on their reverse the denomination but no pictorial design - they were some of the world's most boring coins! It was not until 1938 and 1939 that the more interesting reverses with a kangaroo appeared on the penny and halfpenny. I remember the excitement when I found my first kangaroo coins in my change in Whangarei! Though not legal tender both British and Australian pennies and halfpennies continued to circulate in New Zealand until the introduction of decimal coinage.

Farthings Can we say farthings were ever part of New Zealand's currency? Legally, the answer must be yes, but I would argue that, practically, they were not. In my wide reading on New Zealand in the 19th century I have never come across any reference to their use in commerce. Where I would expect to find the farthing mentioned was in the letters home of the pioneer British settlers of the 1840s and early 1850s, for the cost of articles in the new colony was often mentioned. The occasional halfpenny is referred to, but never a farthing.

But the odd few farthings did come to New Zealand in the pockets of the immigrants. Being legal tender it is quite possible, perhaps probable, that these would be offered in multiples of two or four to some shopkeeper, and be accepted. I have found one report which chronicled a Milton storekeeper being asked by a new immigrant from Britain for a "farthing's worth" of some item in the store. It appears he was unsuccessful in making the purchase.

According to Sutherland (*op cit.* p104), "It is to Mr Larkworthy of the Bank of New Zealand, London, that we owe the decision that no farthings be circulated in New Zealand." Sutherland based this statement on Larkworthy's advice to the NZ Agent-General in London when asked in 1875 what bronze coins should be sent to New Zealand, Larkworthy's advice being "in my opinion by far the greater proportion should consist pence. A limited quantity of halfpence might be found useful. But I doubt if farthings would be of any service in the Colony". This advice was based on the reality of coin usage in New Zealand.

Writing to the *New Zealand Herald* in 1903 a correspondent stated that "in the colony I believe it would be difficult to get a farthing coin".

In early 1932 it was stated by a New Zealand numismatist that the farthing "is not even

recognised as part of this Dominion's coinage," though he stated that they "freely circulated in Great Britain". But he went on to say:

Although New Zealand has hitherto looked with disdain on the humble farthing, the present slump has given rise to suggestions in some quarters that the farthing should be introduced into our currency in order to enable merchants to make easier and quicker reductions in their prices, and thereby transfer this advantage to the housewives who are finding it hard at present to eke out an existence on their reduced incomes. (*NZ Magazine*, 12 Feb 1932:22)

But nothing came of the idea.

Whilst the farthing was never a coin in use in New Zealand it remained as money of account. Thus in actions for libel or slander, a plaintiff may have won a moral victory when the Court found in his favour, but it must have been demoralising to be awarded damages of a few farthings. (For example in 1933 a Wellington plaintiff was awarded three farthings damages.)

Whilst from time to time old worn and mutilated silver coins were called in and replaced by fresh supplies, there is no record of this ever occurring with the copper/bronze coins, though as noted decried copper coins were repatriated back to the Royal Mint in 1875.

Counterfeiting The Coinage Offences Act, 1867, included a section which made it an offence to counterfeit or utter copper coins, but because of their low value, it was not worth while for a counterfeiter to spend his time making copies of halfpennies or pennies. Only one reference to counterfeit pennies has been found, along with a few reports that refer to doctored copper coins rather than counterfeit coins being made.

In William Yates' *Account of New Zealand* (2nd ed., London, 1835) it is stated that "gilded farthings have gone current for sovereigns", at least in the far north. In Dunedin in 1924 a man was arrested for passing a silvered penny as a florin in a local restaurant. At his court appearance the police stated that such silvered coins were in circulation in Dunedin. And in 1952, again in Dunedin, more silvered pennies were circulated as florins, whilst according to a local banker, a few years previously there had been an "epidemic" of dud shillings - halfpennies that had been coated with solder. To be successfully passed these "silvered" coins had, of course, to be passed over with the head side uppermost.

In 1930 it was reported that silvered pennies "with portraits of Queen Victoria on one side and Edward VII on the other" had been passed into Wellington banks. Even schoolboys joined the ranks of those who passed spurious coins by silvering - at least temporarily - copper coins in the school lab before passing them on hurriedly to some unsuspecting shopkeeper

Some devotees of two-up no doubt possessed double-headed pennies, and they were either made in this country, or were obtained from Australia. I have found only one report of a trial of a man for allegedly counterfeiting such pennies. This was in Napier in late 1929. The accused, when questioned by the police, said that a set of soldering tools he had were for making double-headed pennies, which he claimed were worth 5s each. He was also in possession of split pennies, some of which had had the tails ground off on a lathe. The jury, however, brought in a verdict of Not Guilty.

Another reference to double-headed pennies is to be found in the *NZ Numis Journ.* (v12, Oct 1966:7). In the Obituary of long-time Society member Canon W.F. Stent it is

recorded that he possessed “a perfectly-fashioned double-headed penny which he had found in the church plate. ... [He] bought the penny to keep it out of circulation, and added it to his bowling equipment. The only time he used it was when he had to toss with the local Police sergeant”. The reverend gentleman won the toss!

Probably the most surprising case of counterfeiting pennies occurred immediately before the introduction of decimal currency, namely in September 1966, when spurious pennies were passed in Auckland. No-one could understand why ordinary everyday pennies of little value were being counterfeited, as no attempt was made to produce rare dates which would perhaps attract collectors.

New Zealand Currency Whilst silver coins were prohibited from being exported from 1931 it was not until August 1935 that the export of any bronze or copper coin was prohibited. It is to be assumed that this was more an attempt to keep such coins in the country to prevent any shortage rather than a response to any large-scale smuggling in order to cash in on exchange differences.

In 1931 C.A. Wilkinson put forward a Silver and Copper Coin Bill in which he proposed distinctive New Zealand coins, including bronze halfpennies and pennies, be minted. But as it involved an appropriation the Bill was not allowed to proceed.

At this time it was suggested that New Zealand bronze coins should be reduced in size. This made sense. In 1932 it was noted that whilst all the silver coins in circulation in the country weighed about 781 tons, the copper coins weighed about 1023 tons, of which pennies made up 70.7 percent. And of the total tonnage of coins it was further estimated that “at least one-third ... is being carried around daily in the pockets and purses of the people”. No wonder a writer to the *NZ Herald* 30 years earlier talked of “our great, ugly cumbersome penny, that wears out our pockets now.”

When it was decided to mint New Zealand’s own distinctive currency farthings were never contemplated, only halfpennies and pennies. Again their lowly status was emphasised as we did not drop the British penny and halfpenny when we introduced our silver coins in 1933-34, for the Coinage Committee of 1933 did not consider the recoinage of the bronze coin in circulation as “one of urgency”. New Zealand waited another six years before its indigenous coin series was complete. The first New Zealand bronze coins are dated 1940, but were issued in December 1939 because of a growing shortage of the Imperial issue

The 1933 Coinage Committee in its report recommended “that artists in New Zealand be given an opportunity to prepare the proposed designs” when it was planned to issue our own pennies and halfpennies. (*AJHR* 1933, H.44:21). The designs which were adopted were by L.C. Mitchell, and they showed a tui with kowhai blossoms on the penny, and a Maori hei-tiki on the halfpenny. The alloy used was 95.5% copper, 3% tin and 1.5% zinc. From 1959 a new alloy was used, it being of 97% copper, 2.5% zinc and 0.5% tin.

Bronze Decimal Coins In 1963 the decision to go decimal in July 1967 was made, but now arose the question whether we should replace the halfpenny with a half cent coin. The Decimal Coinage Committee in its 1959 Report proposed that a half-cent coin should be part of any decimal series, but in 1965 the Decimal Currency Board said that after wide consultation it appeared that such a coin was not desired. However, there was still talk of allowing the halfpenny to continue to circulate whilst joint pricing continued.

As a result, the halfpenny became scarce in Auckland at least. One banker there stated that the demand for halfpennies had risen over the previous few months by about a third. Some observers suggested that people were hoarding them in the expectation of making a profit after DC Day. But with the disappearance of halfpennies at least one Queen St chain store in March 1966 took to handing out halfpenny stamps instead of coins in change, an action not welcomed by some customers. [Incidentally this was not the first time that halfpennies were replaced by a form of paper currency. Even banks in Greymouth in mid-1873 were forced to give out stamps as small change.]

As noted, first plans were that halfpennies would remain temporarily in circulation as half-cents. This would mean revaluation from 0.5d to 0.6d. Thus 10 shillings worth of halfpennies before the changeover would be worth 12 shillings afterwards. But later in March 1966 Cabinet reversed its original plan and announced that halfpennies would not be revalued as there would now be no half cents in the new currency.

This decision was attacked by trade unionists in particular, who were concerned that with no half-cent coin price increases would occur. Even three years after the changeover the decision was attacked, this time by a Hawkes Bay Federated Farmers spokesman, who claimed that an increase in bread prices was due to the lack of the half-cent coin.

Pennies also became scarce in the nine months or so before the changeover to decimal currency, despite the fact that about 158 million pennies should have been in circulation, and despite the large number of pennies which had been minted in 1964, namely 18 million. No pennies were minted in 1965 except for inclusion in souvenir sets. Halfpennies were minted in 1965, over 5 million of them. No pennies or halfpennies were minted in 1966.

The shortage of pennies apparently affected the North Island more than the South Island. In October 1966 a Queen St (Auckland) branch of a national chain of stores resorted to asking over its loudspeaker system for shoppers to use or swap any pennies they held. One Wellington bank in late 1966 sent out a staff member to find penny-piles in hotels, and to purchase them at a premium. Such penny-piles were almost always in aid of some charity. The bank bought one pile containing 10,800 pennies from Wellington's Pier Hotel. (The pennies were worth £45, plus an unstated premium, the money going to the Wellington College Old Boys.) Dunedin also suffered from a penny shortage, though it was not as severe as in Auckland and Wellington.

Pleas were made by the Government for the public to empty their piggy banks, to stop hoarding the small coins in the hope of making a profit on them, in other words to keep bronze coins in circulation. But to no avail. In October 1966 the Government imported "20 truckloads" of Australian pennies - about 6 million coins with a face value of about £25,000. As always, these Australian coins, made redundant by that country's switch to decimal coinage, were never declared legal tender.

With the changeover in July 1967 not only did our bronze coins undergo a name change, but also a drastic reduction in size. This latter change had more to do with economics than convenience for the public. In 1965 the cost of minting a penny was estimated to be 1½d and the halfpenny 1d, whereas the proposed one cent would cost less than a halfpenny and the 2 cents about 4/5ths of a penny. It was estimated that 138 million pennies and 44 million halfpennies would have to be withdrawn from circulation with the change to decimal currency. It was calculated that these 182 million

coins weighing over 1500 tons would be replaced by 195 million coins weighing only 550 tons, about 37 percent less in weight. Wear and tear on pockets and purses was reduced, for the old penny weighed 145 grains and the halfpenny 87 grains, compared with 64 grains for the new 2c and 32 grains for the 1c.

On 1 June 1968 the halfpenny and penny ceased to be legal tender, though for a time thereafter banks continued to accept them. A newspaper report in September 1969 stated that 65 million pennies and 38 million halfpennies had still not been handed in to the Reserve Bank.

The proposed designs of the new decimal coins were leaked to newspapers in early February 1966. There was an immediate outcry about the “banal”, “tasteless”, “uninspiring” coins. The proposed 1c and 2c pieces, designed by two British men, M. Gray (1c) and E. Fraser (2c), showed respectively the Southern Cross and a flax bush with a rising flower stem. According to R D Muldoon the plaster casts of these two coins were under way, “and when the plaster is complete we will not be likely to change them.” But changed they were, and the designs we got were by Wellington man James Berry, who in fact designed the whole series of our circulating decimal coins.

It is of interest to note that a majority of four to two of the Coin Advisory Committee actually advised the Government to keep the Gray & Fraser designs, a suggestion opposed by the other two Committee members, J.N. Searle and Alan Sutherland. Indeed the latter two were the only members who supported the Berry designs which were eventually adopted by the Government. Part of the reason for the Government’s

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acceptance of the Berry designs was no doubt public opinion, for according to an analysis of various polls 66 percent wanted Berry's fernleaf compared with 16 percent who voted for Gray's Southern Cross; and 72 percent preferred Berry's kowhai to a 15 percent preference for Fraser's flax bush.

And it was a lowly bronze coin that has provided New Zealand with its first and most popular error coin - the 2-cent Bahama Mule. It was released on DC Day, and was brought to the public's attention in the afternoon. The Royal Mint had failed to detect the error, and had minted some 100,000 of the mule, that is a normal run between die changes. The Treasury managed to withdraw some 60,000 of them, but the rest were snapped up by the public and coin dealers. But the government acted wisely by offering one to every member of the Numismatic Society and other coin clubs, plus museums.

In late 1971 newly-minted 2 cent coins created a problem for the Post Office as the slightly thicker-rimmed coins were not accepted by public pay telephones. As a result the Post Office carefully filed the 2c apertures in public telephones, that is, filed only 9/2000ths of an inch from each aperture, so that the new two cents would be accepted, but would not allow the larger Australian two-cent coin to be used.

In 1976 R T Harwood, writing in the *NZ Numismatic Journal* (v14 June 1976:9) suggested that "at some time in the not too distant future New Zealand ... will have to consider a cheaper alternative to copper for low-denomination coins" The reason was the rising price of copper.

Harwood didn't envisage the more drastic step of abolishing the coins altogether, but this is in fact what happened. The Reserve Bank decided to stop issuing 1c and 2c coins in August 1988, but later postponed this action until March 1989. The decision to drop the coins was based partly on cost, as in 1986 it was costing 1.6 cents to make each 1 cent coin, and 2.3 cents to make a 2c coin; as well as the fact that the coins had lost practically all value due to the inflation which had occurred over the two decades since the decimal coins had been introduced. J.N. Searle pointed out in February 1983 that the one-cent coin then had "the purchasing power equivalent to about one-twentieth of a penny in 1933 terms." (*NZ Numis Journ.*, v16, June 1983:33).

It was not until 30 April 1990 that the two coins ceased to be legal tender. At that time the Reserve Bank estimated that about \$10 million worth of the two coins had still not been handed in. But of course many of these coins had been lost, left in drawers as not worth the effort of getting rid of, or remained in the hands of collectors. As a fund-raising venture, the IHC asked the public, in early May 1990, to hand any 1 and 2-cent coins they still had to the society through the Countrywide Bank. The coins could still be redeemed, but had to be presented to the Reserve Bank in Wellington. Thus in 1990, after being part of the New Zealand currency system for 150 years, our copper / bronze coins disappeared, and most eventually ended as scrap.

The one and two-cent coins never entered into the life of New Zealanders as did the old pennies and halfpennies. As the *HZ Herald* (9 July 1977) said, "Compared with the cent piece, which has a mean, introverted look about it, the penny always seemed cheerfully extroverted. And it had a ring of honesty."

The penny was part of our childhood rhymes derived from our British ancestry, such as "one a penny; two a penny, hot cross buns."

And they provided entertainment. It was great fun to put a penny on a railway line for the locomotive to flatten out; or to tie a piece of strong cotton to a penny and leave it

lying on a footpath to be pulled away suddenly when someone bent over to pick it up. Do you remember the “copper trails” which were used to raise money for worthwhile causes? As yet I have not found when or where this idea originated. My earliest New Zealand reference to one is towards the end of the First World War.

Before the Second World War, in Otago at least, some Scottish migrants kept up a tradition from their homeland where the bride’s father scattered pennies to children watching the bride and groom departing from the wedding reception. This was said to bring good luck to the newly wedded couple.

Decimal coins were never substituted for the old sayings which used the term penny, such as “a pretty penny”, “in for a penny, in for a pound”, “spend a penny”, “the penny has dropped”, “a penny dreadful,” and “a penny for your thoughts” - has anyone ever offered you a decimal coin for your thoughts?

Yes, I miss the old pennies, but I was glad when our one and two cent coins disappeared.

[This is an edited version of a paper originally presented to the Otago Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand in 2001]

Notice: Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA) Journals:

The subscription renewal form sent out this year accidentally omitted details of this year’s NAA Journal. The NAA makes its Journal available to us for distribution to members who express an interest in receiving it.

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I want to come home.

Hello there. My name is "Penz", but my friends call me "Siks". I am getting old now as I was born way back in 1965. And, I was born with a broken wing. I am a Huia bird and New Zealand is home to me.

When I was young, I wanted to see the world. Somehow I ended up here in America. But, now I want to come home and live with you. The problem is that my present owner has placed a price on my head, sort of like a ransom.

I am very quiet, well behaved, and my food bill costs next to nothing. I have never flown, so my appearance is as pristine as the day I was born. (To be completely honest, I may have some almost invisible rub marks caused by my brothers while we were in the nest.)

Can I come live with you?

For one hundred New Zealand dollars, my owner will put me on a plane and I will be in your hands within hours. Oh gee. Please think about it. If you can help me come home, here is what you need to do.

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The Otago Branch of the RNSNZ continues to meet, though the number of members attending meetings is usually only about half a dozen. Late last year members were saddened by the death of Chris Ehrhardt, who had served the Branch faithfully and well over many years.

At meetings show-and-tell and talks by members are found to be informative, interesting and entertaining, and as members have different major interests our knowledge of the various branches of numismatics is continually being expanded. In 2002, talks have included ones on aspects of medals, Australian influences on New Zealand's numismatic history, and Euro notes and coins.

Earlier this year, one member was interviewed by Jim Sullivan on New Zealand private promissory notes of the 1840s and on 19th-century tokens, and these were broadcast on two successive Sundays on National Radio's "Sounds Historical" programme. An article by a member marking the 35th anniversary of decimal coinage in New Zealand was published in the *Otago Daily Times*.

The Chairman of the Otago Branch is Brian Connor.



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LEVIN INTER-CLUB MEETING, 2002

Aidan Work

The annual Levin Inter-Club meeting was held on 16 March 2002 at the Red Cross Hall in Levin. The RNSNZ was the host society this year. Twenty-five members of the RNSNZ, Wellington Coin Club, Manawatu Numismatic Society and Wanganui Numismatic Society attended.

Topics discussed at the "round table" session included a brief but very interesting talk on English hammered half-crowns from 1551 to Charles II. Various other world coins and notes were displayed.

A talk on South African paper money was followed by an auction of numismatic items from the estate of the son of Sir Maui Pomare. The auction included a South African Republic gold pond of 1898 and various Spanish-American silver pesos. Proceeds from the auction, organised by Alistair Robb, were donated to the society to assist with the cost of running this annual event.

The quiz which closed the afternoon was won by the Wanganui Numismatic Society.



NZ Historical Medals

We have acquired a limited stock of various medals produced in New Zealand in the 1960s and 1970s, mainly by the Historical Medal Society of Australia and New Zealand. Write, fax or e-mail for details.



We also continue to offer

WORLD COINS AND BANKNOTES:

We have a wide range of world coins (quality material and minors) and a number of banknotes available for sale. Send us your wants list with SAE and we'll see if we can fill any gaps.

Postal only - all coins banked.

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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 2002-2003
(Elected A.G.M. May 2002)

PATRON:	Her Excellency the Right Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright, Governor-General of New Zealand
PRESIDENT:	Mr W H Lampard
VICE-PRESIDENTS:	Messrs K Gottermeyer, A W Grant, C R Libby, K B Mills, L G Morel, M L Purdy, A F Robb, O J Wray, Dr M W Humble, Dr R P Hargreaves
SECRETARY:	Mr C R Libby
TREASURER:	Mr R L Staal
ASST TREASURER:	Mr W H Lampard
AUDITOR:	Mr K B Mills
LIBRARIAN:	Mr R Hall
KEEPER OF COLLECTION:	Mr W H Lampard
ASSISTANT KEEPER:	Mr M L Purdy
EDITOR:	Mr M L Purdy
ASSISTANT EDITOR:	Mr W H Lampard
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Mr M L Purdy
JOURNAL ADVERTISING:	Mr A F Robb
COUNCIL:	President, Vice Presidents, Society position holders and Messrs J R Eccles, G S Park, R Collins

MEDALS AND BADGES

- 1981 RNSNZ Jubilee Bronze Medallion (49mm) in plush case	\$18.00 (US\$10)
- RNSNZ Society Badge	\$3.00 (US\$2)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- Transactions of the Society, 1931-1947 (three vols, photocopied, fcp size, unbound), indexed	\$40 each (US\$24)
- Set of Journals, nos. 1-52, 54-59, 61-75 (including three volumes of Transactions and reprints of out-of-print issues)	\$325 (US\$160)
- Set of Journals, nos. 4-52, 54-59, 61-75 (as above, minus Transactions)	\$225 (US\$110)
- Individual numbers	\$4 (US\$3)
- Index of nos. 4-48	\$2 (US\$1)

(All prices over NZ\$10 are post-paid)

Annual Report 2001-2002

As President I have pleasure in presenting the 71st Annual Report of our activities over the past year. The Society organised a full programme of ten meetings, hosted the Levin Inter-Society Meeting 2002, visited the Treasury with members of the Wellington Coin Club, issued Journal no. 79 (December 2001) and Newsletter no. 32, dated July 2001.

Summary of Meetings and Activities

April 2001	Medals, medalets and badges.
May 2001	AGM & confirmation of 2002 programme.
June 2001	Coins and medals - members' short talks and displays.
July 2001	Banknotes - members' short talks and displays.
August 2001	Cheques, postal notes, bills of exchange, etc.
September 2001	New acquisitions and interesting coins - members' short talks and displays.
October 2001	Visit to Treasury to view a further part of their coin and note collection.
November 2001	Christmas meeting at Turnbull House.
February 2002	New acquisitions made over the previous year..
March 2001	Levin Inter-Club Meeting. A full report appears elsewhere in this <i>Journal</i> .
March 2001	Crown-sized coins. Members displayed items from their collections.

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 29, under "Publications Available", for price details.

Reserve Bank/NZ Post: 2001/2 New Zealand Collectors' Issues

Year	Event	Description	Mintage	NZ Price
2001	Polymer note set	Note sets numbered AA 01 000001-001000 in white RBNZ logo plastic wallet	1,000	\$250.00
2001	Kereru (NZ native wood pigeon (annual issue))	7 coin proof set with silver \$5	2,000	\$120.00
		Silver \$5 in green velvet case	2,500	\$75.00
		7 BU coin set in folder	5,000	\$45.00
		BU \$5 coin in green cloth case	2,500	\$25.00
2001 (NZ Post)	Oct. 2001 Queen's Royal Visit issue	Proof \$5 with first day cover stamp issue	200	\$95.00
		Proof \$5 in magenta velvet case	1,800	\$87.60
2002 (NZ Post)	Architectural heritage issue	Proof \$5 with first day cover stamp issue	500	\$85.00
	Auckland Sky Tower	Proof \$5 coin in velvet case	1,500	\$75.00
		BU \$5 with first day cover stamp issue	500	\$25.00
		BU \$5 in cloth case	2,500	\$35.00
		7-coin proof set with silver \$5	2,000	\$120.00
2002 (NZ Post)	NZ Coastlines issue	Silver \$5 in velvet case	1,500	\$75.00
	Hector's Dolphin coin (annual issue)	Proof \$5 with first day cover stamp issue	500	\$85.00
		7 BU coin set in folder	4,000	\$45.00
		BU \$5 in cloth case	3,500	\$25.00
		BU \$5 with first day cover stamp issue	500	\$35.00

Publications As noted above, Journal no. 79 and Newsletter no. 32 were issued during the year. I remind members that we need more support with articles and items of interest for our publications.

Membership Stands at 116. It is with deep regret that I record the deaths of:

Dr C.T. Ehrhardt of Dunedin
 Mr D.A. McDougall of Auckland
 Mr M.N. Lynch of Gisborne
 Mr D.J. Griffin of Taupo
 Mr N.D. Balanski of Wanganui
 Mrs I.G. Lee of Waipukurau

Branches Otago held meetings during the year but Canterbury remains in recess.

Administration I wish to thank members of Council, the Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Editor for their efforts during the year.

W.H. Lampard
 21 May 2002

Erratum: The introductory paragraph to the Annual Report in the previous Journal (no. 79, December 2001, page 30), should have referred to the issue of Journal 78 in December 2000 and Newsletters 30 (July 2000) and 31 (March 2001). Volume 11 of the NAA Journal was supplied to members who chose to order it separately - Ed.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 MARCH 2002

INCOME	2002	(2001)	EXPENDITURE	2002	(2001)
Subscriptions	3534	(3436)	Journals	327	(1660)
Tax Refund	196	(195)	Books	534	(131)
Medals/Badges	-	(30)	Postage etc.	510	(481)
Interest	1270	(1036)	Meeting Expenses	250	(250)
Levin Inter-Club	100	(-)	Officers' Expenses	600	(600)
			Taxation RWT	249	(208)
			Rent	981	(967)
			Misc. Expenses	373	(308)
			Newsletter	166	(287)
			Grants etc.	-	(-)
			Insurance	103	(70)
			Coin Collection Costs	240	(240)
			Levin Inter-Club	-	(-)
			Depreciation	-	(-)
			Loss on 2000 Medal	-	(300)
 Deficit		<u>(805)</u>	Surplus	<u>767</u>	
	<u>\$5,100</u>	<u>(\$5,502)</u>		<u>\$5,100</u>	<u>(\$5,502)</u>

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2002

LIABILITIES	2002	(2001)	ASSETS	2002	(2001)
Accumulated Funds	20,103	(20,908)	Cash		
Plus surplus	<u>- 767</u>	<u>(-805)</u>	Petty	120	
			BNZ	1359	
			Sth. Canterbury	7000	
			Spiers Group	10000	18479
			Journal Stock	500	(500)
			Medals	120	(120)
			Library	100	(100)
			Coin Collection	450	(450)
			Stock Medals	400	(400)
			Slides	100	(100)
			Projector/Screen	200	(200)
			Chairs/Desk	100	(100)
			Display Cases	150	(150)
Creditors	<u>58</u>	<u>(-)</u>	Debtors	<u>329</u>	<u>(358)</u>
	<u>\$20,928</u>	<u>(\$20,103)</u>		<u>\$20,928</u>	<u>(\$20,103)</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books and accounts of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc. and I am satisfied that the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet correctly sets out the financial results and position of the Society.

K.B. Mills, Hon. Auditor

W.H. Lampard, President

R.L. Staal, Hon. Treasurer

Approved at AGM on ___/___/200__



The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc
and
The Wellington Coin Club

AD 2000 Commemorative Medal



Issued at the
AD 2000
Numismatic Fair
Wellington NZ

The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc and the Wellington Coin Club have designed a medal to commemorate the AD 2000 Numismatic Fair.

The 32mm medal has been struck in bronze by Mayer and Toyne Limited, Wellington and will be available at the AD 2000 Fair in Wellington on the 6th May 2000.

A brief personal message (such as a name and title or name and address) of no more than six words can be engraved in the blank area of the reverse. This will be engraved by the maker of the medal at the Fair.

For those members who are unable to attend and who would like to buy the medal please complete the attached order form and return it with payment to the Secretary, Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Inc, P O Box 2023, Wellington.

ORDER FORM AD 2000 MEDAL.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please supply me with:

Bronze 32mm medal reverse engraved: _____ @ \$9.00 each = \$ _____

Bronze 32mm medal reverse blank: _____ @ \$7.00 each = \$ _____

Plus \$1.00 post and packaging for each medal
(if you cannot pick up the medals at the Fair)

Total payment enclosed: \$ _____

Inscriptions required: _____



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