

NUMBER 74



DECEMBER 1996

NEW ZEALAND
NUMISMATIC JOURNAL



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<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5882/info.htm>
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OUR PATRON



Government House has advised that His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Michael Hardie Boys GNZM, GCMG, has kindly accepted the office of Patron of the Society for the term of his office as Governor-General of New Zealand. The Society takes pleasure in the continuance of an association with Government House that dates back to the establishment of the then NZ Numismatic Society with the assistance of Lord Bledisloe (1867-1958) in 1931.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
New Zealand

**His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Michael Hardie Boys GNZM, GCMG
Governor-General of New Zealand**

Sir Michael was born in Wellington on 6 October 1931, the elder son of Mr Justice Reginald Hardie Boys and Edith May (Bennett) Hardie Boys. After attending Hataitai School and Wellington College, he gained a BA and LLB from Victoria University of Wellington (1954). He has been a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and in 1995 was elected an Honorary Fellow of that College.

Sir Michael married Mary Zohrab in 1957, and they have four children (two daughters, two sons) and three grandchildren.

Sir Michael has had a distinguished career in law. He practised in Wellington for many years, before being appointed a Judge of the High Court in 1980. In 1989, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal and became a Privy Councillor in the same year. In 1994, he was elected an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn, London. He was a council member of the Wellington District Law Society from 1973 to 1979 and President in 1979. From 1976 to 1979, he was a Council member of the New Zealand Law Society. Sir Michael was a member of the Legal Aid Board from 1974 to 1980 and Chairperson from 1978 to 1980.

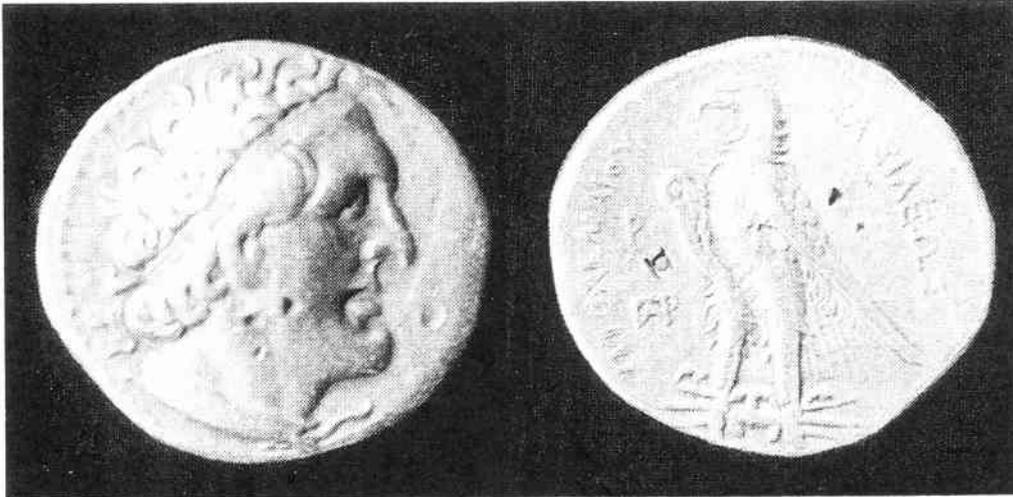
As a young man, Sir Michael was active in youth leadership in the Methodist Church and the Boys' Brigade. He has also been involved in a range of other community activities. For a number of years, he was a member of the Public and Social Affairs Committee of the Anglican Church, a member of the Management Committee and the Trust Board of Samuel Marsden Collegiate School and a member of the executive of the predecessor to the Independent Schools Association. From 1978 — 1980, he was a council member of the Automobile Association, Wellington.

Sir Michael and Lady Hardie Boys share common interests in the arts and the outdoors. Lady Hardie Boys is an artist member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts and of the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists.

Sir Michael was knighted (GCMG) in 1995, and received the first GNZM awarded, in 1996. He was sworn in as New Zealand's 17th Governor-General on 21 March 1996.

PTOLEMY I & PTOLEMY II OF EGYPT

Douglas Carian



The coin shown is a silver tetradrachm of Ptolemy II, 285-246 BC. The obverse shows the head of Ptolemy I. The reverse has an eagle on a thunderbolt and the inscription "Ptolemy King" in Greek. The square and triangular marks are probably check marks.

Why a Greek inscription on an Egyptian coin? Ptolemy I (ptolemaios meaning "warlike") was, in turn, the bodyguard, personal staff officer, intelligence officer and eventually a highly respected general of Alexander the Great of Macedon. He took a major role in Alexander's destruction of the Persian Empire. Although of common birth, Ptolemy had been a close childhood friend of Alexander and was intensely loyal.

From 525 BC Egypt had been part of the Persian Empire but in 332 BC Alexander the Great conquered Egypt and was crowned Pharaoh at Memphis. The next year he founded a new capital city in Egypt, Alexandria, on the Mediterranean coast. In a fit of modesty he named it after himself.

When Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BC at the age of only 32, his family and other high-ranking Macedonians fought for control of his immense empire. None had power and strength enough to rule the whole empire and it fragmented. Ptolemy was appointed satrap (ruler under authority) of Egypt.

Alexander's body was embalmed and a magnificent hearse built to transport his body back to Macedonia. Ptolemy sent a force to intercept the funeral procession and hijacked Alexander's body. It was taken to Alexandria where a tomb was built for it. This reinforced Ptolemy's claim to be Alexander's successor as ruler.

In 305 BC, after long wars with other Macedonian chiefs to further secure his rule, Ptolemy,

known as Soter (preserver), declared himself King of Egypt, thus beginning a Greek dynasty of rulers in Egypt which would last until the death of Cleopatra VII in 31 BC when Egypt became a Roman province.

Ptolemy I made Alexandria his capital and founded the library there - the greatest in the ancient world. Two years before his death in 283 BC, Ptolemy I began to rule jointly with his son Ptolemy, known as Philadelphus (brotherly). Ptolemy Soter died peacefully in bed in 283 BC, one of few survivors of Alexander's retinue to do so.

Ptolemy II Philadelphus ruled a stable and prosperous kingdom until his death in 246 BC. He enlarged the library at Alexandria by sending agents abroad to buy or copy books. Every ship that entered Alexandria's harbour was searched for books which were either purchased or copied and returned. The library during this period contained half a million scrolls or books.

The early Ptolemies established a Museum (temple of the Muses) in Alexandria which operated much like a modern university. Learned men and students were attracted there from all over the ancient world to teach or to study.

Seaborne trade flourished and a famous lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built on the island of Pharos to guide ships into the Alexandrian harbour.

So, under the guidance and patronage of a far-sighted father and son, Alexandria became the literary, mathematical and scientific centre of the ancient western and near-eastern world and remained so for generations, taking over the role previously enjoyed by Athens.

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Buyer and seller of coins and banknotes.

When the Coins Have Gone

Christopher Ehrhardt (Otago)

The nightmare was true: a burglar had stolen all my collection. Obviously a professional with a contract to supply someone who wanted my coins. So now they are gone, and some unknown has them in his cabinet.

But what has he really got? A Victoria "bun" half-crown, worn almost smooth; he will never know it was a gift from an old friend who had always kept it in her shop's till so that the till would never be empty. A "Gothic" florin, not much better preserved; nothing on it to say it was got in change in Maroon Town in Jamaica in 1967, at face value. A little Athenian "owl", only 9mm. across, one of the prettiest coins I had; bought in Athens in 1958 for half a crown - and it's a fake!

Then there were more expensive pieces: a "cistophorus" from Pergamum in Asia Minor, one of the ugliest and worst-designed coins any Greek ever made; but I bought it because the Otago Museum had none, and cistophori were important coins politically and commercially in their time, and raise problems which are still unanswered. One such problem is the relationship between cistophori and the heavier silver coins with the name of Alexander the Great, which were still being struck more than 150 years after the great conqueror's death. I had one (the only really valuable coin in the whole collection), struck at Aspendus on the south coast of Asia Minor in 202 B.C. (if the era has been correctly identified), which had a "cistophoric" countermark, of the Tralles mint of southwest Asia Minor, neatly applied over Heracles' ear on the obverse (for a picture and discussion, see *NZ Numismatic Journal* 68, 1990, 41-43).

This "Alexander" coin, however, had more than intrinsic or even historic value: my godfather had not only been a distinguished professor of law but also a leading German opponent of the Nazis; on his death he left me some money, with which I bought my coin cabinet - too bulky for the burglar to take, so I still have it - and this coin. I chose it because its types reminded me of the six weeks of unremitting but exhilarating effort at the American Numismatic Society's summer school, spent finding out in minute detail the characteristics of one section of the early posthumous Alexander coinage, struck in Macedonia between 318 and 294 B.C. (Alexander had died in 323). When I came to Otago I was delighted to find that the Museum has several life-time and early posthumous Alexander coins, which I greeted as old friends; but it had no late posthumous ones, so I bought the Aspendus coin, and later a similar one, not counter-marked, from Temnos on the west coast of Asia Minor, of about 180 B.C., to supplement the Museum collection and illustrate how artistic style changed over a century and a half.

A real find came from a "special bargain" list issued by Robert Loosley, of Antiquarius, Auckland. The Parthians ruled the area east of the Roman empire, from Mesopotamia to Afghanistan, for over three hundred years; in my opinion, their coins (of which the Otago Museum has several, and the Auckland Museum many more) are boring and frustrating, with repetitive stereotyped designs and poorly arranged lettering, in bad

Greek, often largely off-flan. But the item in the Antiquarius list intrigued me, and I was right: it was a quite unusual tetradrachm, worn but still legible, of a variety not listed in the standard works, struck under Phraates IV (ruled c. 38 - 2 B.C.) and dated, by year and month, to the equivalent of June 31 B.C. A few years ago, so I understand, a quite large hoard containing such coins came onto the market, but this specimen was from an old collection, so must have had a different hiding-place. I had hoped to find out enough about it to write a brief article.

It comes as a surprise to many - even among those who study Roman history - to find that in the Roman empire not only did the imperial mint or mints strike coins, but so did hundreds of civic mints, in Spain, Sicily and North Africa for the first decades of the empire, till about A.D. 40; in the Balkans, Asia Minor and Levant till about A.D. 270; while the great mint of Alexandria struck its own particular coinage for Egypt, which was kept as a closed currency zone till A.D. 296 - hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these Alexandrian coins have found their way to New Zealand, mostly as souvenirs of visits, voluntary or compulsory, to Egypt, and practically every well established collection has some.

Because the huge majority of these coins have Greek legends, they used to be lumped together under the general, rather dismissive, title of "Greek imperials", and were usually despised as poor imitations and pale shadows of the glories of classical Greece. In recent years they have been given the more appropriate name "Roman provincial coinage", and the publication in 1992 of the wonderfully comprehensive and accurate catalogue, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, vol. I, edited by Andrew Burnett, Michel Amandry and Pere Pau Ripollès, has clarified and organised the first century of these coinages, from 44 B.C. to A.D. 69 (before 1992, only Alexandria and a handful of other mints had had their coins fully and accurately catalogued). Of course the drawback of having a thorough descriptive catalogue is that now everyone with access to it can find out what types exist and even get some idea of their rarity, so there is far less chance of using "expert" knowledge to get bargains from vendors who don't know what they are selling. So if you think you have expert knowledge, hurry to buy Roman provincial coins from the period A.D. 69-270, before further volumes of *Roman Provincial Coinage* appear.

Most civic mints struck coins with the head of the reigning emperor, or of members of his family, on the obverse, so they give an opportunity to collect emperors and others for whom the Roman official series are too expensive - notably Nero. I had three coins of Nero, all in base silver, and all nominally tetradrachms: one from Antioch in Syria, with a very strange portrait - quite unlike the portraits of Nero on Roman coins - and two from Alexandria. These two were, for me, "bonus" coins, since they were double-headed: on the reverse of one was a portrait of the deified Augustus, Nero's great-great-grandfather, and on the other was Nero's wife Poppaea, the lady who kept three hundred she-asses so that she could bathe in their milk. Her coin portrait depicted her as elaborately bejewelled, but disappointingly plain; but then, Cleopatra on her coins looks like a dowdy housewife. Incidentally, the reason why Antioch and, especially, Alexandria coins of Nero are plentiful - and therefore cheap - is that his government withdrew and melted down the existing currency from these mints and replaced it with huge quantities of new issues in much more heavily debased silver; for the next century and more, Nero's coins were the most common in circulation in Egypt.

It is still possible to acquire rare or even unrecorded varieties of "Roman provincials", though most, of course, have been published in the catalogues of big collections, especially in the British Museum Catalogues. One which, as far as I could tell, had not

been published was a small brass coin of Prusa in north west Asia Minor. Its obverse showed Crispina, wife of Commodus, who was empress A.D. 180-183, and was die-identical with a Prusa coin in Waddington's *Recueil général*, part I (Paris 1904), Prusa no. 60; the reverse of that coin showed Eros (Cupid), my coin had a picture of Eros' mother, Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Even more remarkable was to get an apparently unpublished coin from the well described mint of Alexandria: a bronze piece dated to the 12th year of Domitian (reigned A.D. 81-96), i.e. 92/93 (the Alexandrian year began in August), with the emperor's head on the obverse and an eagle, or perhaps a falcon, on the reverse. I could not find a parallel. Just for interest, the Prusa coin was a gift to me, and the Alexandrian one cost \$NZ22 in 1990, so they were not really expensive.

Even cheaper was a coin I bought at one of the first meetings I attended of the Otago Branch of the Numismatic Society, in 1974. For 40 cents I got a worn piece of bronze, about 22mm across, with deep seated light green spots on the obverse. It took me a long time to work out what was on it, even longer to identify its origin; but in fact it came from north west India and was a very debased tetradrachm, of about A.D 20-40, imitating the types of the silver tetradrachms of the Indo-Greek king Hermaeus (c. 50-30 B.C.). This identification stimulated me to buy two silver drachmae of the Indo-Scythian king Azes, who displaced the Indo-Greek dynasty about 30 B.C., but then I decided I really did not have the time to find out enough about this area and period to justify buying more of its coins.

Many of my coins I had got without payment, either as gifts from friends or as expressions of gratitude for my work at identifying and describing accumulations of ancient coins, which were usually poorly preserved and of low value. Such coins, therefore, were usually of little intrinsic worth, but to me they were very pleasing, as they brought back memories of the effort, often frustration, and final satisfaction of identifying some particularly recalcitrant pieces. It was in this way that I got several of my bronze "radiates" of the separatist "Gallic Empire" of the third century A.D., under Postumus, Victorinus and the two Tetrici - coins with carefully cut and expressive portraits struck on ragged, poorly made flans. Also coins of the contemporary "official" emperors, Gallienus and Claudius II Gothicus, which were scarcely better made; and some of the contemporary imitations, the "barbarous radiates", which fully deserve their name, since they are small and scruffy, but fascinating to me: they were struck in the north western Roman provinces, and always reminded me of the excitement I felt in Bonn in 1979 at the discovery, not far from the city, of a workshop which had made such imitations 1700 years earlier, and which still contained bronze rods from which the flans were chiselled.

Similar gifts also brought me coins of Constantine I and his family, which gave me more insight than books ever could into the dramatic changes of his time, which still strongly influence our lives to-day: the disappearance of the pagan gods and their symbols from Roman coins, the growing rift between the Latin west and the Greek east of the Roman empire, the foundation of Constantinople as the "New Rome", commemorated by the two parallel issues of celebratory coins, the one with the bust of CONSTANTINOPOLIS on the obverse, in imperial robes, and with Victory in a galley on the reverse; the other with the traditional bust of VRBS ROMA, the "city of Rome" - echoing the obverses of Roman republican denarii - and on the reverse the she-wolf suckling the twins, Romulus and Remus, just as she had been depicted on some of Rome's earliest coins, six hundred years before.

Familiarity with such battered coins gave me the confidence, when in Manchester twelve years ago, to rummage through the bowl of "junk coins" kept on the counter of a coin stall in the Royal Exchange, and to try to beat down the dealer's price. Sometimes I got something special, more often not. But I bought one piece because it baffled me: a lumpy 14mm bronze with a helmeted head on one side and a winged figure on the other. I had no idea what it was, until a friend in Israel sent me Y. Meshorer's *Nabataean Coins* (Jerusalem 1975), and I found it there, as an issue of King Aretas II, c. 110-96 B.C. Even if I never get to Petra, the "rose-red city, half as old as time", something from Petra had come to me.

Now all these coins, and many more, have gone. But I still have the memories. And what has the thief got? Lumps of metal, with no associations. He does not know the coins' stories, he cannot tell where they came from or what they mean. If he has sold them, he got only a fraction of what it would cost to replace them; if he has kept them, he cannot show them or talk about them, even to his friends. Even after my loss, I am still richer than he.

Postscript: At the time of going to press we have learned that a number of Chris's coins have been recovered. We hope that the rest of his collection can be restored to him in due course. - Ed.

BOOK REVIEW: CELTIC COINAGE IN BRITAIN

Michael Humble

CELTIC COINAGE IN BRITAIN

Author: Philip de Jersey, DPhil.

Publisher: Shire Publications Ltd., Princes Risborough, UK, 1996, pp. 56

Dr de Jersey is a distinguished Oxford scholar; since 1992 he has been based at the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford, with responsibility for the Celtic Coin Index, which is a detailed record of over twenty thousand British Celtic coins.

This handbook is an excellent introduction to the fascinating world of Celtic coinage. The first half of the book is devoted to a historical overview of the subject, with chapters on coinage in Celtic society, manufacturing techniques and the introduction of coinage to Britain. The remaining chapters provide detailed information on a geographical basis, covering South and North of the Thames, and the Western and Northern peripheries of ancient Britain. The text is profusely illustrated with 88 high-quality photographs of Celtic coins. At the end of the book is a useful bibliography and details of museums in the UK which hold significant collections of Celtic coins.

This book can confidently be recommended to both established collectors of Celtic coins and also to those wishing to learn more about the subject.

THE NEW ZEALAND AMERICA'S CUP MEDALLION

The award will go to each member of Team New Zealand who contributed to the America's Cup victory on 13 May 1995 in San Diego.

The medallion, which is not designed to be worn, is 63mm in diameter and struck in sterling silver with an antique finish. The obverse bears the New Zealand coat of arms surrounded by the inscription PRESENTED TO TEAM NEW ZEALAND BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND. 1995. and on the reverse a representation of the America's Cup and the inscription PRESENTED/TO THE CREW OF/NZL 32 "BLACK MAGIC"/& SUPPORT PERSONNEL/OF TEAM/NEW ZEALAND/ON WINNING THE/AMERICA'S CUP/SAN DIEGO U.S.A./13 MAY 1995.

The name of the recipient will be engraved on the reverse. Each medallion will be issued in a black leatherette case.

The medallion was designed by Phillip O'Shea, New Zealand Herald of Arms, and struck by the Royal Australian Mint, Canberra.



OBVERSE



REVERSE

Chinese Coins from the New Zealand Goldfields: Qing (Ch'ing) Dynasty Cash

Stuart Park, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

INTRODUCTION

Distinctive round coins with square holes and funny writing are among the many artefacts of Chinese origin found in areas like Central Otago where many Chinese settled on the goldfields last century and early this century. A number of these coins have also been found in Chinese archaeological sites in New Zealand (and in other countries where Chinese migrants settled). In 1980, I published a note in the Society's *Numismatic Journal*, examining a group of coins found under a building in Ranfurly (Park 1980). Since then, I have had the opportunity to work on the larger sample of coins excavated by Dr Neville Ritchie of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Te Pouhere Taonga. These came from Chinese sites of the goldmining era in and around the Clutha Valley at Cromwell, sites that were destroyed by the hydroelectric development of the Upper Clutha, especially the Clyde Dam. This work was published in a specialist Australian journal which not many New Zealand numismatists are aware of (Ritchie and Park 1987), so I summarise the numismatic aspects of that work here.

The coins are cast discs of copper alloy (usually brass, sometimes bronze) known as *cash*. The name is ultimately derived from a Sanskrit word meaning 'copper', though in Chinese they are *qian* (ch'ien). Cash were cast in a standard form and weight with only the legend varying, for over 2,000 years, from about 200 BC until AD 1911. A notable feature of Imperial Chinese cash currency (i.e. pre 1911) is that the coins minted during the reigns of various emperors remained in circulation indefinitely. As a consequence, cash found in overseas Chinese contexts usually considerably pre-date their date of deposition. All those I have seen from Chinese sites in New Zealand were struck during the Qing Dynasty (AD 1644-1911) but in the late nineteenth century specimens were occasionally found in circulation in China that were up to 1000 years old.

Qing Dynasty cash are marked in a standard fashion (Fig.1), which changed little over the centuries (earlier coins have minor variations). On the obverse side there are four Chinese characters, the two above and below the central hole being the names of the emperor during whose reign the coin was struck. The other two are 'Tong Bao' or 'Universal Value', indicating that the coins were legal tender throughout China (Tong is on the right, Bao on the left). The reverse of most Qing coins bears two characters, to the left and right of the central hole. One variety has the word Bao ('universal') in Manchu script on the left, and on the right the Manchu name for the mint at which the coin was struck. The other major variety has the mint name in both Manchu and Chinese scripts, Manchu to the left and Chinese to the right of the hole (the Qing Dynasty emperors were Manchu, not Chinese, hence the use of Manchu script).

You don't have to be able to read Chinese to decipher these coins - a simple illustrated

key and a little practice soon makes the coins of the ten Qing Emperors quite easy to distinguish. In practice, a large majority of those seen in New Zealand were struck during the reign of only one Emperor, Kangxi, with almost all the coins coming from five or six of the Emperors. One difficulty is the change in western spelling of Chinese that has occurred in the last 20 years. Many books use the old Wade-Giles spelling developed last century, while the official spelling is now the Pinyin system. This is the difference which has apparently changed the name of China's capital from Peking to Beijing. I use the Pinyin names here, but I have shown the Wade-Giles form in brackets.

The 10 Qing (Ch'ing) Dynasty Emperors and their dates are as follows:
Pinyin names (Wade-Giles in brackets)

Shunzhi	(Shun Chih)	1644 - 1662
Kangxi	(K'ang Hsi)	1662 - 1723
Yongzheng	(Yung Cheng)	1723 - 1736
Qianlong	(Ch'ien Lung)	1736 - 1796
Jiaqing	(Chia Ch'ing)	1796 - 1821
Daoguang	(Tao Kuang)	1821 - 1851
Xianfeng	(Hsien Feng)	1851 - 1862
Tongzhi	(T'ung Chih)	1862 - 1875
Guangxu	(Kuang Hsu)	1875 - 1909
Puyi	(P'u-i)	1909 - abdicated 1912

The mints are more complex, but again a reference work makes identification relatively simple after a little practice. The book I use is Arthur Braddon Coole's *Coins in China's History* (Coole 1965). There are thirty eight mints recorded by Coole in China proper, with others in outlying provinces bringing the total which cast cash for the Qing Emperors to over fifty. In New Zealand, the large majority of the cash I have examined come from the two Beijing mints of the Board of Works and the Board of Revenue (Qan and Yuan mints).

ANTIQUITY AND MINTS OF ORIGIN

A notable feature of Chinese coins is their age. The 307 cash which were excavated by Dr Ritchie in a number of Central Otago Chinese goldfield sites of the nineteenth and early twentieth century were minted during the following reigns of the Qing Dynasty: Shunzhi (Shun Chih) 1644-1661; Kangxi (K'ang Hsi) 1662-1723; Yongzheng (Yung Cheng) 1724-1735; Qianlong (Ch'ien Lung) 1736-1795; Jiaqing (Chia Ch'ing) 1796-1820; and Guangxu (Kuang Hsu) 1875-1908. The large majority (255 or 83 per cent) were minted during the reign of Kangxi (1662-1723). Their age is attributable to the inherent conservatism of the economic system of Imperial China. Firstly, cash did not have an assigned token value. Their value was based principally on the value of the metal they contained. As a consequence, they tended to retain the same value over long periods of time. They were also allowed to circulate indefinitely, so that large numbers struck during the reigns of some emperors, such as Kangxi, stayed in the monetary system for centuries.

While their age is of interest, cash are of no use for dating nineteenth and twentieth-century archaeological contexts, except as a terminus post quem - i.e. the sites must be later than the date of the coins they contain.

The mints of origin are also of interest, because of apparent anomalies in the distribution of the coins produced by each of the Imperial Mints. For example, the majority (173 or more than two thirds) of the 255 Kangxi reign cash found in the Central Otago sites were struck at the Quan and Yuan mints near Beijing, whereas the majority of the Chinese who came to New Zealand came from Guangdong about 1900 km south of Beijing. Only two coins from the Guang mint in Guangdong are present. Some explanation is offered by the fact that considerably greater numbers of coins were produced by the mints in north China, than by those in the south, but the predominance of northern coins is far greater than mint figures would suggest. The presence in Guangdong of large numbers of coins from northern mints may also be attributable to the mid-seventeenth-century movement of people into southern China. However, given the comparatively small numbers of coins involved, the importation of only a few strings of northern coins for gaming, perhaps by a professional gambler, would seriously distort the normal geographic distribution of the coins.

THE ROLE OF CHINESE COINS IN NEW ZEALAND

The role of Chinese coins in New Zealand (and other contemporary overseas Chinese communities, such as those excavated in the United States) is not fully understood. They were, of course, legal tender in China. Some Chinese may have landed in New Zealand with the expectation that any cash they brought with them would be negotiable but several factors virtually preclude any possibility that they were used as currency in New Zealand (or probably elsewhere outside of China). Firstly, cash had a low intrinsic value. In 1907, approximately 10,000 cash were worth one pound sterling, or about a fiftieth of a penny each (Morse 1966). An economy using cash would require large numbers of the coins; in China they were routinely threaded together in strings of 100 or 1000, and discounted at variable rates, according to a very complex system of equation between units of account, units of payment, and the quality and origin of the cash themselves.

If the coins were being used as currency in New Zealand (or within other overseas Chinese communities), one would expect the presence of substantial numbers (thousands, if not tens of thousands) in archaeological sites, especially since the European banking system would not accommodate them. Yet the 307 cash I have studied, from the Central Otago sites, represent the largest assemblage of such coins recovered archaeologically anywhere in the overseas Chinese world. Numbers from North American Chinese archaeological sites range from 141 to 4. Given the relative value of the coins, surprisingly low numbers have been found if cash were being used as currency.

The existence of closed internal trading systems utilising Chinese coins has been suggested. One US archaeologist suggested, on the basis of a single report from an anonymous elderly Chinese informant, that an artificial or token value was assigned to cash in some overseas Chinese communities in the United States. However, if this were the case, local economies would have been under continual threat of debasement by the possibility of someone importing cash from China at normal values. Indeed, the same informant referred to the importation of large numbers of cash, which would have seriously corrupted any form of local economy which utilised cash as token coins. A further consideration concerns the complexity of the monetary system in China. It is unlikely in the extreme that any overseas Chinese community could have replicated the complicated

system of checks and balances, which were an integral part of the mainland Chinese monetary system.

In addition, the various contemporary observers of the Chinese in New Zealand, notably the Reverend Alexander Don (a Presbyterian minister who extensively chronicled the activities of the Central Otago Chinese), make no reference to the use of cash as currency in New Zealand. It is inconceivable that the Chinese could have operated closed money systems within the goldfield communities without someone commenting on such practices. In fact, if there had been any evidence suggesting such practices, anti-Chinese agitators would almost certainly have used it to arouse further opposition to Chinese immigration. Although lost Chinese coins are quite common in areas where the Chinese lived, they are not sufficiently common to support contentions that they were used as currency, or as trading tokens, within closed localised monetary systems, or that they were regularly hoarded in anticipation of returning home.

For all these reasons, there is in my opinion no likelihood that internal monetary systems using Chinese cash as regular currency, existed in the New Zealand Chinese communities.

It seems much more likely that Chinese coins were imported into New Zealand, the United States, and elsewhere, for use as gambling tokens, or more likely still that they were part of the equipment for playing a popular Chinese gambling game, fan dan (fan tan). According to an American authority on Chinese games and gambling, Culin, Qing dynasty coins were imported into the United States in large quantities expressly for gambling purposes. Only perfect pieces were selected and preferably lots from the same mint. This is particularly relevant when we recall that two mints predominate in the coins found in New Zealand. Although cash may sometimes have been used as gambling tokens, their principal role seems to have been that of counters in the game of fan dan.

In fan dan a square is laid out on a table, its sides marked 1, 2, 3, and 4. The dealer empties a double handful of counters - beans, buttons or most usually cash - onto the table, and covers them with a bowl or cup. Players bet on the number of cash that will be left when the pile is divided by four. Groups of four are then carefully counted out by the controller of each fan dan table. When the final batch is reached, the number of coins it contains determines the winning number. Although the rules of the game were quite simple, the betting procedures were much more complicated.

An observation by Don that, due to the depressed economy in the 1890s 'pence and small silver have supplanted the half-crown and half-sovereign stakes at fan tan', suggests that European currency was generally being used for stake money. At about the time Don was writing, a half sovereign represented some 5000 cash.

Another use of cash coins which might account for the presence of small numbers in one place is in the ancient Chinese divination practice which is part of the I Ching. In the coin oracle, three coins are thrown, and the combination of "heads" and "tails" allows the diviner to make his or her predictions according to the table of hexagrams in the I Ching (Wilhelm 1967:723-4). However, it is very likely that coins older than Qing dynasty ones would have been used, probably coins on which there was an inscription on only one side.

The importation and use of small numbers of Chinese coins for the I Ching, or as good luck pieces, talismans, or as ornaments cannot be discounted, although there is no documentary evidence to this effect in New Zealand.

Cash were used to decorate sewing baskets and possibly other artefacts which were made in China and exported to overseas markets. 'Chinese sewing baskets' were popular among Europeans in North America in the early 1900s, but as there is no evidence that they were brought to New Zealand in large numbers, and if they had been they would occur in European rather than Chinese settings, they would seem improbable sources of the widely dispersed cash frequently found in and around Chinese sites on the Central Otago goldfields. Another possible use of cash, and an explanation for their being scattered in Chinese sites, appears in a New Zealand historical novel about the Chinese goldminers. One of the characters, unable to sleep through worry, scatters cash on the floor of her room and spends the night searching in the dark for all the coins, to take her mind off her troubles (Kang 1985:48).

CONCLUSION

I do not believe that cash were used as trading tokens, or in any form of closed localised monetary systems, within the Chinese mining communities in New Zealand during the last century. For the same reasons, it is highly improbable that they were used as currency in any overseas Chinese community. The evidence suggests that cash were imported from China principally for gambling purposes, and especially as counters in the game of fan dan. Long-standing tradition and 'avoiding bad luck' may have been primary motivations for using cash in this fashion.

Other lesser reasons for their presence in overseas Chinese sites include coins which were inadvertently or deliberately imported in the belief that they could be used as currency, cash retained for spending on an individual's return to China, cash brought out for use in I Ching divination, for talismanic or personal reasons, and possibly from cash used as decorations on imported artefacts.

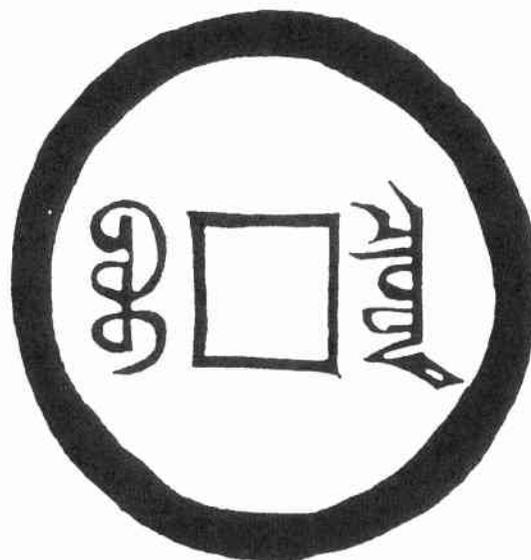
Chinese coins have been largely ignored by writers on New Zealand numismatics, and there still seems to be little interest in them. However, they were legal tender coinage which played a part in the life and history of an important minority in New Zealand. They are deserving of our attention and our study.

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a



b



c

- a) Obverse of cash of Kangxi (1662 - 1723). Top and bottom characters are Kang Xi, the emperor's reign titles. Right character is Tong, left is Bao. Tong Bao = "universal value".
- b) Reverse of cash from Quan mint, Beijing (Coole series 3). Right is mintmark in Manchu script, left is Bao ("universal") in Manchu script.
- c) Reverse of cash from Ning mint, Kansu (Coole series 4). Right is name of mint in Chinese character, left is mintmark in Manchu script.

(after Ritchie and Park 1987).

清紀 CH'ING DYNASTY

(1644-1911 A. D.)

Castling of money in China



Coins in China's History

MINTS IN CHINA
by Arthur Braddan Coole

NEVER TOO LATE FOR HONOUR

Douglas Carian

It was 7:30 a.m. on Anzac Day and the warm public bar of the hotel was crowded. The Dawn Service that morning had been held in chilly overcast weather and the participants had been grateful for this hotel's annual offer to provide breakfast. Old soldiers rubbed shoulders with today's regular soldiers and members of the local brass band as they shared the hot food.

I was there as a bandsman and, being a medal collector, I was particularly interested in the medals worn proudly that morning. Most of the old soldiers wore their medals and most of these were the campaign medals and stars awarded for service in World War II. It was the sprinkling of gallantry medals and a few other unusual awards that attracted my particular attention.

I noticed with interest the former sailor wearing the medal awarded by the Russian Government a few years ago for service in the Russian convoys. Then my eyes were attracted to an old soldier standing on his own. He wore his campaign medals and stars in the usual single row but below them was a simple gold-coloured medal with a blue and

grey striped ribbon. I recognised it and asked him about it.



At first he was a little reluctant to talk about the medal. Then he said he wasn't quite sure whether or not he should be wearing it since it had not been awarded by the New Zealand government. Finally he said that he decided to wear it that Anzac Day because "he had it and he had bloody well earned it". The

medal was that awarded to New Zealanders (and others) by the Greek government for service in Crete and mainland Greece in 1940-41. When these medals became available about 1985 a number of New Zealanders who were eligible wrote to Greece and applied for the medal which eventually arrived together with the appropriate certificate.

There are eight British campaign stars for World War II. No one person could receive more than five stars although various clasps could be added to indicate further service. The stars that were awarded are the following:

1939-45 Star
France and Germany Star
Air Crew Europe Star
Atlantic Star
Africa Star
Italy Star
Pacific Star
Burma Star

One might well ask why there is no star that specifically recognises service in Greece or in Crete. It has been suggested, perhaps cynically, that there was no "Greece Star" or "Crete Star" issued because the Allies lost that campaign and were "kicked out" of the Aegean area. Stars, it was argued, were awarded for successful campaigns. Unsuccessful campaigns should be forgotten and certainly not commemorated. It is true that we lost the battle for Crete. We were forced out and we were lucky to be rescued by the Royal Navy in what could be described as a "Dunkirk experience".

Yet, for a small country, the New Zealand effort was substantial and important. It is certainly still well remembered by the Greeks, particularly those on Crete where stranded Kiwis were known to have lived in the mountains and fought with local guerilla forces. I believe that it shames us to have a New Zealand presence and Kiwi gallantry in a desperate situation recognised by a grateful foreign government when our own has not specifically done so.

There are Kiwis who fought in the battle for Crete who never made it back to New Zealand. Some of them are buried in the Allied Military Cemetery at Souda Bay together with Australian and British servicemen who also died in that battle. The inscription on the plaque at the cemetery gates reads:

1939 - 1945
THE LAND ON WHICH THIS CEMETERY
STANDS IS THE GIFT OF THE GREEK PEOPLE
FOR THE PERPETUAL RESTING PLACE OF
THE SAILORS SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN
WHO ARE HONOURED HERE

The cemetery is on a hillside overlooking Souda Bay, the scene of much action in the dark days of 1941. The graves are well cared for and even in winter there are patches of colour from roses still in flower between the graves. I found it hard to walk past the gravestones without reading the name and age of each Kiwi resting there. Three in particular forced me to stop and think:

39197 PRIVATE
T.R. POA
N.Z. INFANTRY
23RD MAY 1941 AGE 25

and

3184 PRIVATE
B.G. LANDMAN
N.Z. INFANTRY
25TH MAY 1941 AGE 18

and the nameless stone of a New Zealand soldier "KNOWN UNTO GOD".

What part of New Zealand did Private Poa come from? How did an 18-year-old get to fight in Crete? Who is the unidentified Kiwi soldier known only unto God?

Greece has honoured these men and remembers and honours the survivors. It seems that Britain will never do so in the form of a medal. But perhaps we are now a sufficiently independent nation to honour our own and strike our own campaign medal or star. The old soldier and his Greek medal that I saw last Anzac Day wasn't there this year but surely it can never really be too late to give honour where it is due.



Photographs by Sonia Jeffrey-Carian



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COLLECTING MILITARY BADGES

Evan Black, JP

Based on a talk given before the RNSNZ at Turnbull House on 28 May 1996.

Orders, decorations, campaign medals and indeed most military insignia preserves the history of an army and the valour of its servicemen more tangibly than any other means. Each one personally represents a soldier's service, his courage and suffering, travels and adventures, irrespective of colour, religion or creed.

Numismatics and in particular medal and badge collecting has rapidly become one of our leading pastimes and enjoys a world-wide following.

Collecting regimental badges is by no means a new hobby and for many years old soldiers have been seen in barracks wearing belts carrying metal titles, buttons and badges picked up from other units besides those they served in the past.

The hobby is said to have begun just before the turn of the century when the complete range of distinctive cap badges came into being. Some firms made cheap copies and replicas of earlier patterns. These "re-strikes" still appear from time to time.

Despite the post-war growth of interest they are still an unknown quantity and are not usually highly regarded by antique dealers and junk shops. So genuine finds are still possible and I never pass such shops without checking their boxes of old brassware.

Once started the collector can extend his interests to embrace all of the insignia of the soldier, including metal shoulder titles, collar and cap badges, waist belt badges, cross belt badges and shako plates, buttons and arm badges. The field is limitless but most collectors restrict themselves to one category or group such as Highland regiments or regiments that took part in engagements such as the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1856.

To define and recognise the British Army and the NZ Army it is necessary to see how they evolved.

In 1881 the British Infantry consisted of 109 separate regiments of foot, numbering 1 to 109, and some bore regional or territorial designations. The Cardwell reforms took effect in that year and gave a regional title to every regiment. They instituted the two battalion regimental system whereby one battalion served abroad and the other remained in the UK as a training unit. These titles were the common currency of the South African Wars and the two World Wars and can be the basis of a collector's plan.

The 1881 reform made it necessary to discard the old numbers in the helmet plate and a new universal plate was produced, designed to take a standard pattern badge in the centre. This was quite often a collar badge.

Concurrently with the helmet, the glengarry was worn as an undress hat and was worn

and adopted by the English, Irish and Welsh as well as the Scots in 1870, the shako having previously been worn. The glengarry remained in service until WW2 and after a short interval has come to light again in its many varieties with the No. 2 dress.

When the field service cap became general wear the HPC was found to be too large and a collar badge was worn. Cavalry having no collar badges wore brass numerals and letters such as 4 DG or VIII H. There is no date for the changeover and the battalions abroad were far slower to adopt the new fashions. India was a long way from the War Office.

How does one recognise a cap badge? The infallible indicator was the vertical prong or slide fastener which slid into the headdress, but some units preferred the two loops with a slide pin. If in doubt one can usually judge from the size since collar dogs are much



Royal N.Z. Medical Corps Cap & Collar Badges

smaller, having been designed to fit on narrow stand-up jackets.

The standard reference works for the British Army badges are *Regimental Badges* by Major T J Edward, *Military Badge Collecting* by John Gaylor, and for New Zealand badges *Regimental Badges of New Zealand* by David Corbett.

As there are so many varieties the collector may encounter I shall try to explain some of the variations and means of identification.

Crowns are a rough guide to the date of usage of a badge. In 1898 when most cap badge designs emerged Queen Victoria was on the throne. There are several variations of her crown but they are all easily recognised. There is the angular one, the curved one and the flat-topped variety.

When Edward VII ascended the throne in 1901 the crown changed to the Tudor type and was retained by George V, Edward VIII and George VI. With the accession of Queen Elizabeth II the crown was changed to a St. Edward's crown. When the Royal Cyphers were used they changed with the monarch.

Metals are another form of identification and to simplify things I refer to white metal (sil-

Royal Crowns



Victorian Crown



*Tudor Crown
(King's Crown)*



*St. Edward's Crown
(Queen's Crown)*

ver-like) and brass. In 1952 the Staybrite badge of anodised aluminium was introduced. These badges are not popular with collectors.

Forgeries are still fortunately rare since there is not enough money to be made from faking badges. However scarce items such as the LRDG do pop up from time to time. They are sometimes called re-strikes as they are quite often made from the dies discarded by the authorised maker. Cast metal badges must be mentioned as many Territorial battalions were sent to India during the 1914-18 War and were made locally in bazaars.



5th (Wellington Rifles) Regiment
Cap & Collar Badges

Let us now look at the vast range of New Zealand military badges. The fern leaf has always been synonymous with New Zealand and it is appropriate that this was the base upon which the majority of cap badges were designed. The honour of featuring the Garter with Motto is not restricted to Royal regi-

ments; NZ native birds feature prominently, such as the crane (Cants.), Huia (21st Reinf.), Kaka (4th Waikato MR), Kea (14th South Otagos) and Kiwi (Otago Rifle Volunteers); there are also Maori motifs such as the Tiki (23rd Reinf.), Whare and Warrior (30th Reinf.) and crossed spears (NZ Cadet Corps); and animals such as the Boar's Head (3rd Auck. MR), Stag (10th Nelsons) and Horses (NZ Mounted Reinforcements).

Personal arms feature, such as the Earl of Liverpool (Rifle Brigade), Col Cowie Nichols (3rd Otago) and the Dickson Crest (RF Cadets), as well as the Civic Arms Otago University (OUMC).

The influence of the Great War on the young colony of New Zealand was enormous and during this period there was a vast exodus of the cream of the nation's menfolk from all walks of life to the Gallipoli battlefield. Many of these men would have worn a reinforcement badge which was probably in some respects unique in the British sphere. These badges were unofficial and ordered and paid for by the individual soldiers and were dis-

carded at Sling Camp in England. They were manufactured in New Zealand by badge manufacturers and jewellers. The fact that the wearing of definitive hat and collar badges by regiments never appears to have been strictly enforced in the New Zealand Army, unlike the British Army, together with their individualistic outlook, was probably the basis for wearing these badges.

Some types of badge were produced in silver and gold and given by men to their sweethearts, wives and mothers. Likewise some brass badges were fitted with brooch clips.



The Corps of NZ Engineers, Cap & Collar Badges

I have deliberately avoided discussing values because it is a matter of coppers only. But values have become inflated in recent years and simple badges once priced at a few pence are now pursued by people with folding money in their hands. It would be nice to think that collectors were building their collections out of interest and not as an investment.

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CHARON'S FEE

Douglas Carian

*All the time I was in Greece
I kept an obol,
or at least its modern equivalent,
loose in my pocket
where I could touch it a dozen times a day.*

*Worry beads in hand,
I needed to be sure
the Ferryman had no excuse
to leave me on the wrong side
for a hundred years.*

I didn't think he'd accept my credit card.

Douglas Carian

In Greek mythology, Charon was the son of Night and Erebus (the name given to the region of utter darkness under the earth and through which the souls of the dead had to pass to reach Hades, the god of death). Charon personified darkness and was the Ferryman who ferried these souls across the rivers Styx and Acheron to the home of Hades.

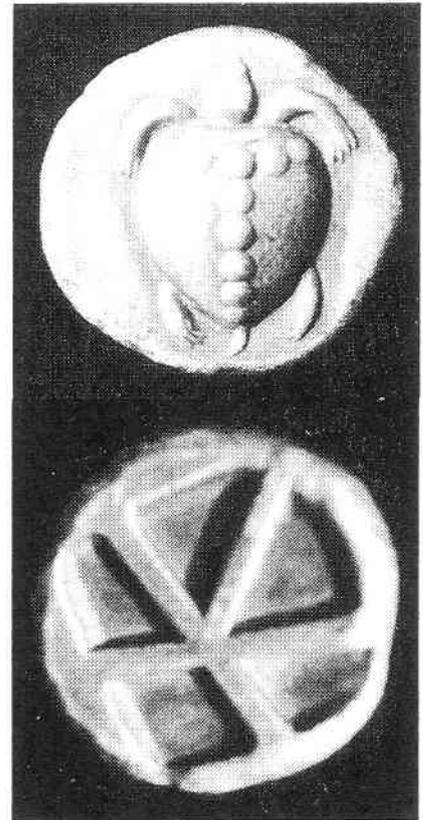
Some readers may remember the BBC Television series of some years ago set in Crete and entitled "Who Pays the Ferryman?" which refers to this ancient belief.

In Greek myths, Charon is represented by an old, dirty and poorly dressed figure. Despite his age, he was known to be very strong. The tradition was that he would only ferry a soul across the rivers if that soul's body had been buried with the correct rites and with Charon's fee, a one obol coin, in their mouth under their tongue. Otherwise he would not take them for a hundred years.

That this tradition was taken seriously by many ancient Greeks is evidenced by the discovery of coins (not always obols) in or near the mouths of Greek bodies buried in ancient times.

The design of obols varied from one Greek city state to another. Originally an obol was a silver coin, one-sixth of a drachm in weight and value. Later it became a bronze and, very occasionally, a gold denomination. The illustration shows the design of an obol (480-456 BC) of the island of Aegina which was the first European Greek state to issue coins. The same design was used for the drachm and other fractional parts of it.

An interesting feature of the Aeginan design shown here is that the reverse design was not originally a deliberate design at all. It was due to the effect of an eight-pronged punch that was used to force the metal into the deep hollows of the obverse die. It formed a design of eight triangles but as prongs became damaged or worn, some triangles were filled in or became joined with others to form new shapes. In 480 BC the design became standardised into the lop-sided so-called "Union Jack" design shown.



ANNUAL REPORT 1995-96

As President I am pleased to present the 65th Annual Report.

Meetings and Activities

- April 1995 Military Banknotes - led by Alistair Robb with contributions from several members.
- May 1995 After the AGM the topic was the Coins of India led by the Secretary and the President followed by a show-and-tell on Indian coins.
- June 1995 Dealers' Night. Dealers reported on the state of the hobby in NZ and members had the opportunity to buy from the stock on display.
- July 1995 Notgeld, presented by Martin Purdy, covering the history of the notes and coins from the World War I emergency issues through to the collector and non-circulating issues.
- August 1995 British and New Zealand Military Medals - a talk and display by Evan Black.
- September 1995 Visit to Police Headquarters, arranged by Clint Libby, plus a talk by John Walker of the Document Examination Centre. The history and nature of the work carried out at the Centre on forgeries, alterations to cheques and documents plus suspect coins and banknotes were covered.
- October 1995 Members' Night. A "show and tell" evening for members to bring along items relating to any type of collectable.
- November 1995 Christmas meeting with members of the Wellington Coin club at Alistair Robb's premises. I thank Alistair for another most enjoyable evening.
- February 1996 The Inter-Club meeting at the Red Cross Hall in Levin, organised by the Wellington Coin Club. The programme included displays by six members, a talk and display on British Coins 1817-1901 by Bill Lampard, an auction of members' duplicates and a quiz which was won by the RNSNZ.
- March 1996 NZ Banknotes, presented by Alistair Robb.

Meetings were held at the Adult Education Rooms, 192 Tinakori Road, from April to July and at Turnbull House from August to March unless otherwise noted.

Reserve Bank Issues 1995

I Coins

	Maximum Mintage	Struck so far	Sales to 31 Dec 95	Issue Price NZ\$
1995 Piedfort \$1 coin	2500	2500	2034	110
1995 Cameo \$20 coin	3500	3500	3363	95

1995 Proof Set "Tui"	4000	3560	3286	85
1995 Proof \$5 "Tui"	3000	3000	2843	60
1995 Unc Set "Tui"	6000	6000	6000	25
1995 Unc \$5 "Tui"	5000	4000	2900	16
1995 Proof \$5 "Ross"	3000	3000	2687	60
1995 Gold \$10 "Prospector"	600	600	600	870
1995 AI-Bro \$10 "Prospector"	5400	5400	5400	20

II Banknotes

1995 \$50 Banknote plus \$50 PhoneCard Set	3000	3000	3000	164
1995 Noteworthy Collection	200	200	155	By Tender (Reserve \$900)

Publications: Journal 73 was published in December 1995 and four Newsletters were issued, no. 18 (April 1995), no. 19 (June 1995), no. 20 (Sept. 1995) and no. 21 (March 1996).

Membership: Stands at 153. I report with regret that Clyde Taylor suffered a severe stroke a few days prior to his 90th birthday and that he has not made a good recovery. During his long membership Clyde served on Council, as Journal Editor, Treasurer and Keeper of the Collection.

Library: This is now back at Turnbull House. During the alterations the House management agreed to a suggestion by the Society that a large glassed-in book case be shifted into our room. This should prove to be a major addition.

Branches: Otago held regular meetings but Canterbury did not meet during the year.

Administration: In conclusion I wish to thank members of Council, the Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Assistant Editor for their work during the year.

W.H. Lampard
31 May 1996

**ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 MARCH 1996**

INCOME	1996	1995	EXPENDITURE	1996	1995
Subscriptions	\$2,968	\$2,941	Journals	\$713	\$654
Tax Refund	\$215	\$243	Books	\$225	\$84
Medals/Badges	-	\$20	Postage etc	\$778	\$786
Interest	\$1,237	\$1,299	Meeting Expenses	\$382	\$424
			Officers Expenses	\$600	\$600
			Taxation (RWT)	\$298	\$314
			Rent	\$519	\$615
			Misc. Expenses	\$290	\$326
			Newsletter	\$583	\$458
			Grants	\$120	\$120
			Insurance	\$105	\$105
Deficit	\$193	-	Surplus	-	\$17
	<u>\$4,613</u>	<u>\$4,503</u>		<u>\$4,613</u>	<u>\$4,503</u>

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1996**

LIABILITIES	1996	1995	ASSETS	1996	1995
Accumulated Funds	\$20,596		Cash:		
			Petty	\$120	
			BNZ	\$982	
Minus Deficit	(\$193)	\$20,596	AGC	\$7,000	
	<u>\$20,403</u>	<u>\$20,596</u>	SPIERS	\$10,000	\$18,155
			Medals	\$120	\$120
			Library	\$100	\$100
			Coin Collection	\$457	\$457
			Stock Medals	\$456	\$456
			Slides	\$159	\$159
			Projector/Screen	\$335	\$335
			Chairs/Desk	\$200	\$200
			Display Cases	\$150	\$150
			Debtors	\$324	\$464
	<u>\$20,403</u>	<u>\$20,596</u>		<u>\$20,403</u>	<u>\$20,596</u>

AUDITORS REPORT

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

A.W. GRANT
(Honorary Auditor)

W.H. LAMPARD
(President)

R.L. STAAL
(Honorary Treasurer)

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1996-97
(Elected A.G.M. May 1996)

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MEDALS AND BADGES

-1981 RNSNZ Jubilee Bronze Medallion (49mm) in plush case	\$18.00 (US\$12)
-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\$28);
-Set of Journals, nos. 1-52, 54-59, 61-70 (including three volumes of Transactions and reprints of out-of-print issues),	\$300 (US\$190);
-Set of Journals, nos. 4-52, 54-59, 61-70 (as above, minus transactions),	\$200 (US\$125);
-Individual numbers	\$4 (US\$3);
-Index of nos. 4-48	\$2 (US\$1).

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

Hanna £1 Notes: Small and Large Prefixes

In Newsletter 23 (September 1996) we asked readers holding Hanna £1 notes with prefixes between G/51 and N/51 to send in photocopies to help narrow down the point of changeover between the small and large prefix varieties.

Three more contributions have been received since then:

Scott de Young: H/51 747210 (small) and N/51 585499 (large)

Bill Lampard: K/51 045239 (small);

Stephen Prior: K/51 583193 (small).

K/51 583193 is the highest small-type prefix we have seen so far. We would welcome details (and a photocopy) of any other £1 notes with prefixes between this and Scott's N/51 note. Please write c/o the Editor, New Zealand Numismatic Journal, P.O. Box 2023, Wellington 6015.



1996 Circulating Coins Struck in Norway

As advised in the Reserve Bank's "Mintage Notes" of June 1996, the two denominations of NZ coin struck for circulation during 1996 (5c and 10c) were struck at the Royal Norwegian Mint in Kongsberg. The coins do not bear the Kongsberg "crossed hammers" mintmark and cannot be distinguished from earlier years' types apart from the date. This is the first time the NZ circulating coinage has been struck by any non-Commonwealth mint. We also learned from the Reserve Bank that a large number of unreleased 20c and 50c coins have been melted down due to oversupply. We were not able to find out which dates were involved.

CARE OF YOUR COIN AND BANKNOTE COLLECTIONS

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The RNSNZ on the Internet

At the time of writing (early 1997) the RNSNZ has some basic details - its annual programme, membership application information, etc., available on the Internet via the Secretary's Home Page.

Anyone with a Web browser can view the pages at either of the following addresses:

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5882/info.htm>

http://www.central.co.nz/~purdy_m/info.htm

The Wellington Coin Club also has a Home Page with numerous links to other numismatic-related pages of interest. Unfortunately this site can only be viewed from within New Zealand at present:

<http://john.chem.canterbury.ac.nz/richard/wgtncoin.htm>

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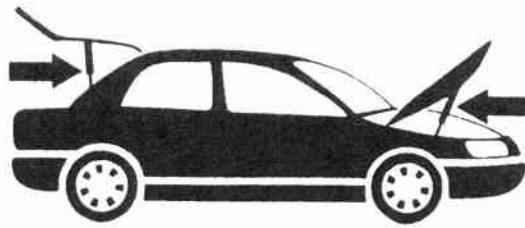
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