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Nero, AE Sestertius. Rev. Temple of Janus, AD 64-66

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Collecting Ancient Coins in New Zealand

by Douglas Carian

(This article first appeared in the Wanganui Numismatic Society Chronicle in 1992. Reprinted with the author's permission.)

Collectors of ancient coins in New Zealand seem to fall mainly into two types. The first type is interested primarily in the quality of their coins. The second type is interested in ancient coins almost entirely for the history, art and customs they represent. Strangely, there seem to be but few collectors in the gap between these two types.

The Quality Coin collector, unless very rich, will have a relatively small collection of choice coins in the upper grades of condition. Such a collector will avoid badly struck coins and those which show more than just slight damage. He or she will enthuse about "fine portraits", "beautiful patinas" and "sharp lettering" on those special occasions when the collection is not in the bank.

The Q.C. collector will have access to up-to-date catalogues to keep tabs on his/her investment. There won't be very much interest in general reference books on ancient coins or the ancient world but considerable trouble may be taken over the storage and display of the collection. A very high proportion of this collector's available hobby finance will be invested in the coins themselves. For this collector, the enjoyment lies in the appreciation of the beauty of a well-struck, well-patinated piece of numismatic sculpture and its appreciation by others.

The Q.C. does little research. His coins, being of superior quality, were well described and fully attributed when purchased and do not need puzzling over for hours. They just need to be appreciated.

The History collector has many more coins than the Q.C. collector - perhaps ten or twenty times as many. They are not worth as much individually or collectively for this collector has had to spread available finance much further than just the coins themselves. The H collector is also a book collector.

The H collector's library, if he or she has been collecting for some time, is likely to contain catalogues, history books, picture books, classical dictionaries, numismatic dictionaries, books on Hadrian's Wall, Greek and Roman myths, ancient warfare, Greek art, Roman architecture and so on. In addition there will be many magazine articles, photocopies and scraps of information.

The coins in an H collector's collection will vary in condition from those barely recognisable as coins to some quite respectable specimens worthy of a second look from even a Q.C. collector. The H collector gets enjoyment from identifying coins from very few clues and learning about the figures on them, be they historical, allegorical or mythical.

Mintmarks fascinate such a collector. This collector is delighted to acquire a small collection of unidentified ancient coins with interesting figures, designs, blurred mintmarks or even forgeries because it can mean many hours of enjoyment before the coins are identified and fully researched, as process that, indeed, may never be complete.

How does one begin to be a collector of ancient coins? If you wish to be a Q.C. collector, you begin by saving money. Being an H collector is easier. Buy or borrow an ancient coin, preferably in readable condition, and begin your research.

So you have no books. When I began collecting I was advised to spend on books at least a tenth as much as I spent on coins. But many reference books, sometimes even catalogues, can be obtained from public libraries on ordinary loan or can be ordered from other libraries on "interloan". Perhaps your society has some books on ancient coins in its library or can be persuaded to acquire some. Perhaps you can borrow from another collector or photocopy a few pages for reference purposes.

Most beginners in collecting ancient coins start with Roman coins. They are relatively plentiful and can be fairly inexpensive. Roman Coins and their Values by David Sear, published by Seaby, is the key beginner's book for this series. Even an old edition can be very useful although the prices are out of date.

If you have a Roman coin, you may want, first of all, to identify the emperor or empress. Then you may wish to find out more about that person. When did they live? What did they accomplish? How did they die? Where? Why? Aim at identifying the abbreviations on the obverse and discovering what they mean. Is there a mintmark? If so, identify the mint and find out something about the city or area. What does the figure on the reverse represent? What are his/her attributes? And so on....

Remember to record your research in a book or on a card. It may lead you to a collection of a particular emperor or family. You may develop an interest in the coins of a particular mint such as Londinium or you may build a collection of different emperors, different mints, different personifications and so on.

Where do you get the coins? Most dealers have a few ancients and it is worth asking. Antiquarius (P.O. Box 25-097, St. Heliers Bay, Auckland 5) specialises in ancient coins, mainly in Greek and Roman. You could write to him and explain the kind of coins you are interested in and give him some indication of the price range you can afford. He will be able to advise you what is available or likely to become available. He may also be able to advise you where to purchase your first book or books.

One of the best ways to enjoy collecting ancient coins is to talk to other collectors. I have several times been helped to identify or gain further information about a coin by another collector. Perhaps your society can have an occasional meeting on the subject of ancient coins and invite a few collectors from other clubs. How about a special half-hour or so at local conventions for collectors or ancients to get together and share problems, resources and knowledge?

Finally, don't be discouraged. Rome wasn't built in a day!

The Last and the First - the 1965 and 1967 Coin Sets

Michael Humble

The introduction of decimal currency in this country proved to be a frustrating experience for the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand. Following the passing of the Decimal Coinage Bill by Parliament in 1964, it was announced that 6000 proof sets of the last complete issue of fractional coinage would be struck to commemorate the change-over to decimal currency. It was also intended to issue proof sets of the first decimal coins, which would include a commemorative crown-sized dollar coin.

The subsequent decision of the Government not to issue any proof sets of the 1965 coins provoked a strongly-worded public statement to be issued by the Society.¹ More disappointment was to follow, with the decision that no proof sets of the first decimal coins would be issued either, in spite of an eloquent plea by the Society's President.² Nor was the Government prepared to accept the Society's request that the 1967 dollar coin should be issued in silver and not cupro-nickel.³

The Government's philosophy at that time was revealed by Mr Muldoon (Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Finance), in his address to the 289th general meeting of the Society, held on 25 July 1966.⁴ He stated that the Government's interest was in the Public and not Numismatists, and that the Public should be given the first opportunity of obtaining the 1965 coin sets. The decision not to issue a silver dollar coin was justified on the grounds of cost and the inevitable draw on external funds.

In spite of these democratic ideals, it was announced by Mr Muldoon in his speech at the opening of the Wellington Exhibition of Coins and Medals in July 1967 that ten full proof sets of the 1967 coins had been struck by the Royal Mint. Five sets had been retained in the United Kingdom for presentation to the Queen and Government Officials, and the remaining sets were intended for presentation to Officials in New Zealand. In what could be interpreted as a conciliatory gesture, Mr Muldoon presented the Society with one of these proof sets.⁵ Many years later Sir Robert Muldoon's own 1967 proof set (which was presented to him when Minister of Finance) was sold at auction in Melbourne in July 1993 for A\$3,100.

The 1965 coin issue was (and is) of great numismatic interest, not only because it was the last striking of fractional coinage for New Zealand but also because two coins in the set (the penny and halfcrown) were not struck for general circulation that year. Pennies had been minted every year since their introduction in 1940 (with the exception of 1948), and so the appeal of the 1965 set to the Public and Numismatists alike was considerable at the time. As an example, 70,000 sets were sold through New Zealand post offices in November 1966; at the Wellington GPO the allocation of coin sets was sold out by 9:30 a.m. on the first day of sale.

A total of 200,000 sets (see Table) of the 1965 coins were struck by the Royal Mint and offered for sale in three grades.⁶ The grades were described as ordinary uncirculated (pink label), selected (green label) and polished standard specimen (blue label). Selected

coins were struck on new dies and carefully sealed without contact with other coins. Polished standard specimen coins were struck on polished blanks with specially prepared dies and the coins were subsequently handled with gloves and inspected individually. All three grades of coin set were issued in an identical illustrated cardboard folder. In addition, 500 sets of polished standard specimen coins were issued in a red plush case, bearing the New Zealand coat of arms on the outside and the Royal Mint's emblem on the inside lid. A descriptive card, containing details of diameter, weight and design of the coins was also included. These sets were intended for presentation purposes, but 300 sets were made available by ballot to Numismatists.

For the first issue of decimal coinage in 1967, the total mintage of coin sets was increased to 300,000 (see Table) with an additional 200,000 uncirculated dollar coins issued separately. The coins were struck in two grades: ordinary uncirculated and polished standard specimen. No selected grade coins were struck, and so the 1965 green label sets remain unique in New Zealand's numismatic history. As in 1965, the 1967 coin sets were issued in an illustrated cardboard folder. It is perhaps curious that the 1967 folder carried photographs of all the pre-decimal coins but none of the new decimal issue. Five hundred sets of polished standard specimen coins were again issued for presentation purposes, this time in a blue plush case. The outside lid bore a more informative inscription than the 1965 case, with "1967" above the New Zealand coat of arms and "New Zealand Decimal Coins" below. A descriptive card was again included with the coins. As previously, three hundred sets were balloted to Numismatists by the Treasury.

Possibly "coin fever" had disappeared after the issue of the 1965 coins the previous year, but at any rate the 1967 sets were not a sell-out. Many sets were broken up and the coins used for circulation.⁷ The Treasury had kept reserve stocks of both polished and uncirculated sets in order to replace sets damaged or lost in the mail. It was decided to dispose of the remainder of these sets by issuing Twin Sets of both 1965 and 1967 coins in either uncirculated or polished standard specimen grade. Approximately 600 twin sets were sold by the Treasury on the open market, with at least 400 of these being in uncirculated grade. Due to the small number available, these sets sold out quickly. The twin sets were issued in an attractive blue plastic wallet bearing the inscription "Coins of New Zealand" in gold lettering below the coat of arms. On the left side was the legend "1965" with "£.s.d." below, and on the right, "1967" with "\$c" below. The wallet also contained two descriptive cards which carried a brief history of New Zealand coinage and details of the old and the new coin systems.

Numismatists would have to wait until 1971 for the first issue of proof coin sets since the 1953 Coronation set, and until 1974 for the first silver dollar coin to be released. However, the polished standard specimen coins struck by the Royal Mint for the 1965, 1967 and 1968 sets fully justified the description "proof-like". In contrast, the polished grade coins struck by the Royal Australian Mint for the 1969 and 1970 coin sets, although described as "specimen coins with proof-like finish", in fact more resembled the selected grade coins of the 1965 issue in quality. The polished grade coins issued from 1967 to 1970 in New Zealand will remain a numismatic curiosity in the history of Commonwealth coinage.

Acknowledgement: I am very grateful to Bill Mitchell (now retired from the Reserve Bank) for providing much helpful information, in particular on the twin set issue.

Table

The 1965 and 1967 Coin Sets

1. Mintage Figures and Issue Prices

1.1	<u>1965</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Mintage</u>	<u>Issue Price</u>
		Polished Standard Specimen (Blue Label)	25,000	£2 (\$4)
		Selected (Green Label)	75,000	£1 (\$2)
		Ordinary Uncirculated (Pink Label)	100,000	10s (\$1)
1.2	<u>1967</u>			
		Polished Standard Specimen (Blue Label)	50,000	£3.10s (\$7)
		Ordinary Uncirculated (Pink Label)	250,000	£1.10s (\$3)
		Uncirculated Dollar	200,000	12s 6d (\$1.25)

2. Twin Sets of 1965 and 1967 Coins

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. Issued</u>	<u>Issue Price</u>
Polished Standard Specimen	200 (Est.)	\$11.00
Ordinary Uncirculated	400 (Est.)	\$4.00

3. Cased Sets of Polished Standard Specimen Coins

	<u>No. Issued</u>	<u>No. Balloted</u>	<u>Ballot Price</u>
1965 (Red Plush Case)	500	300*	\$6.00?
1967 (Blue Plush Case)	500	300*	\$9.00

* Editor's note: Some doubt exists as to the number balloted, but the records of the Wellington Coin Club show the following:

1965: first ballot of 200 sets resulted in 19 to members;
1965: second ballot of 100 sets resulted in 8 to members;
1967: ballot of 300 sets resulted in 48 to members.

The remaining 200 sets of each issue would appear to have been given to VIPs and other officials.

References

1. Editorial. Proof coins 1965
NZ Numismatic Journal 1966; 11:239-40
2. Hamlin BG. The case for proof coins
NZ Numismatic Journal 1966; 12:13-15
3. Editorial. Silver dollar for New Zealand
NZ Numismatic Journal 1965; 11:181
4. Society Report. The 289th general meeting
NZ Numismatic Journal 1966; 12:31-32
5. Society Report. 1967 proof decimal currency coins
NZ Numismatic Journal 1968; 12:119
6. Searle JN. The development of New Zealand's decimal coinage
NZ Coin News; July 1967:3-13
7. Robb AF. New Zealand coin scene
NZ Numismatic Journal 1984; 16:76-81

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Some Collections of Greek and Roman Coins in New Zealand VI: Hawkes Bay Museum, Napier

C.T.H.R. Ehrhardt
Hon. Curator, Greek and Roman Coins,
Otago Museum.

During the Asia-Pacific Orienteering Carnival in January 1994, I managed to take time off to visit the Hawkes Bay Museum in Napier and look at its ancient coins. There are no ancient coins on display in the museum, but by the kindness of the then Registrar, Ms. D. Quigley, I was allowed behind the scenes, and to my delight I found not only that the museum does own twenty ancient coins but also - what is much more exceptional - that it has some information about their provenance. Since I was on holiday, I could not weigh the coins (though this time I had brought magnifying glass and calipers with me)¹, and I had no numismatic books with me, so I had to wait till I was back in Dunedin before I could write up my notes².

Certainly the single most exciting piece is the electrum piece from Syracuse (no. 1 in the list below, and illustration 1), of the time of Agathocles, c. 310-300 B.C. I know of no companion piece in any New Zealand collection. It came to the museum in 1955, along with 24 other European coins, as a gift from Mr. C. Boddy of Napier (accession no. 55/39). For a discussion of these coins, and the other electrum coins of Syracuse, see G.K. Jenkins' article, cited in the catalogue; he states (pp. 160-61) that the gold content of this issue is about 50% (i.e. about 12 carat gold; ancient gold coins are normally 23 carat or better), and (p. 148) that each obverse symbol appears only on a single die. The Napier coin has a lyre as symbol; coins with the same symbol are in the British Museum, the Hunter collection in Glasgow (neither one illustrated in the catalogues) and in the public collection in Munich. The museum's notes dated the coin accurately (I do not know how), but the description of its types, 'Obv. Minerva; rev. Lamp of Vesta', would have baffled anyone seeking to identify it from written information alone.

A cardboard box (accession no. 57/148) contains coins given by W.E. Anderson in 1957, obviously collected during war service in Egypt; besides fourteen small thin Islamic coins, which I could do nothing with, it contains three of the inevitable mid to late third century tetradrachms of Roman Alexandria (nos. 11, 13, 15), one late Roman and one early Byzantine coin (nos. 19, 20) which are almost equally common, and, much less usual, a group of four Ptolemaic heavy bronzes of the late third century B.C. (nos. 2-5); regrettably there is no way of knowing if all four were found together.

¹ Contrast Journal no. 69, 1991, 16-20. The Napier Museum provided the weight of coin no. 1 later, at my request, and photographs of nos. 1 and 6.

² Once again I must express my appreciation to the University of Otago for Research Grants over several years in the past, which have made it possible to build up a useful collection of books on ancient numismatics in the university library; regrettably, these grants have now ceased, which will inevitably detract from the quality of further researches on ancient coins in New Zealand.

The 'Italy' tray in the Museum's coin cabinet contains ancient and modern coins from a variety of lenders and donors, but it is not clear which coins came from whom. Remarkably, of the ten ancient coins, only two (nos. 17, 18) are Roman imperial coins; the others (nos. 6-10, 12, 14, 16) are from Roman Alexandria. Seven of them are the usual tetradrachms, but no. 6, a bronze half-drachma of Hadrian (illustration 2), is quite unusual; unfortunately, though the portrait is clear and the reverse design reasonably well preserved, the legends on both sides are almost completely erased. It is, however, definitely an unusual coin: the large collections in Copenhagen and Oxford do not have a specimen³, and though the British Museum catalogue of 1892 lists three comparable coins, none have been added to that collection in the past century⁴.

Twenty coins are not a large collection, but they include two unusual specimens, and in any case they are valuable as lasting, tangible and easily intelligible evidence of our cultural heritage and of the material and intellectual influences which have formed New Zealand society. I would welcome information about other small collections, either in public or in private hands, which I might describe and publish, and I would urge members of this Society to undertake the much larger task of organising and publishing the numerous collections of later coins held by museums throughout New Zealand.

Catalogue
(the die-axis is indicated by the figures of a clock-face)

Greek coins

1. EL; 3.51gm; 15.9mm; 8. Syracuse; 25 litrae; c. 310-300 B.C.

Obv. Laur. head of Apollo, l.; behind, lyre.

Rev. Traces of legend [SYRAK - OSION]. Tripod-lebes.

British Museum Catalogue, Sicily (London 1876), p. 184, no. 260.

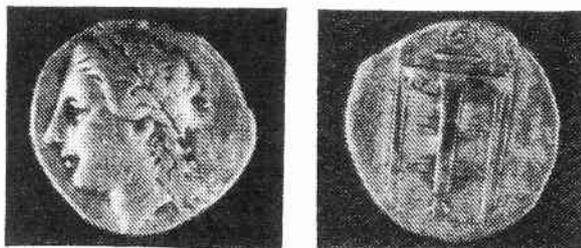
G. Macdonald, *Greek coins in the Hunterian Collection I* (Glasgow 1899) p. 231 no.

84.

Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum (SNG), Munich 6 (Berlin 1980), no. 1199.

G.K. Jenkins, 'Electrum coinage at Syracuse', *Essays in Greek coinage presented to Stanley Robinson*, ed. C.M. Kraay & G.K. Jenkins (Oxford 1968), 145-162; catalogue (p. 156), obv. die O 8; rev. die close to R 4.

Gift of C. Boddy, 1955.

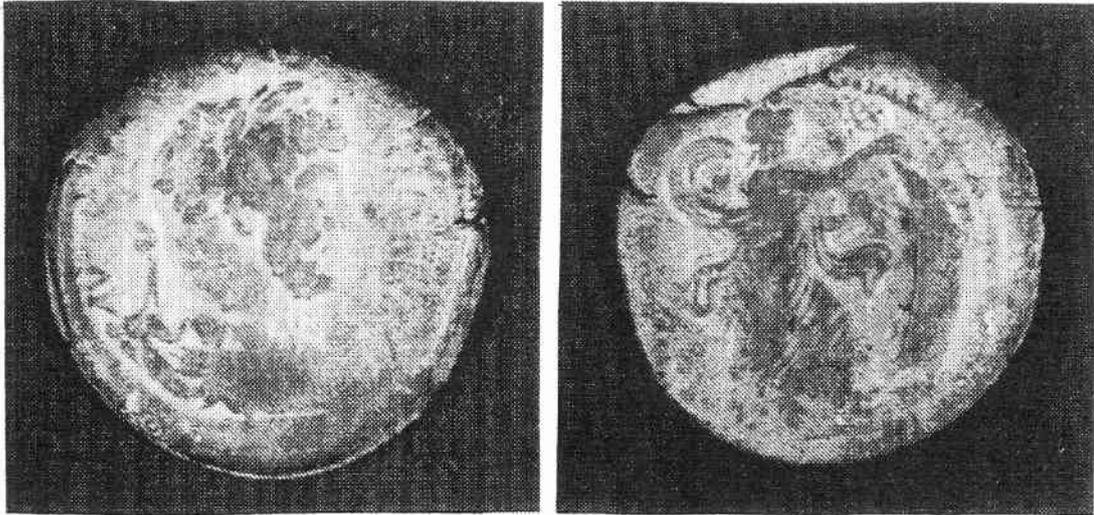


No. 1. Syracuse EL 25 litrae, c. 310-300 BC

³ *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum, Copenhagen*, part 41, Alexandria-Cyrenaica (Copenhagen 1974); J.G. Milne, *Ashmolean Museum, catalogue of Alexandrian coins, reprinted with supplement by C.M. Kraay* (Oxford 1971).

⁴ E. Christiansen, *Coins of Alexandria and the Nomes (supplement to British Museum catalogue)* (London 1991).

- 2-4. Ptolemaic Egypt, AE. All given by W.E. Anderson, 1957.
2. 29.9 x 31.6mm; 12. Ptolemy II (285-246 B.C.), or later.
 Obv. Laur. head of Zeus r.
 Rev. PTOLEMAIOU - BASILEOS. Eagle standing l. on fulmen; between legs, D.
 SNG Copenhagen 40 (Copenhagen 1977), no. 156.
3. 31.5mm; 12. Same date.
 Same types as preceding, but on rev., symbol between eagle's legs not clear.
 Same ref.
4. 39.9mm; 1. Ptolemy IV (221-205 B.C.)
 Obv. Head of Zeus Ammon in taenia, r.
 Rev. PTOLEMAIOU - BASILEOS. Eagle standing l. on fulmen, head r., filleted
 cornucopiae on left shoulder; between legs, E.
 SNG Copenhagen 40, no. 224.
5. 38.4mm; 12. Same date.
 Same types as preceding.
 Same ref.
- 6-16. Roman Alexandria. 6 is a AE half-drachma; 7-16, billon tetradrachms. For all the die axis is upright (12). They are all dated by the emperor's regnal year, in Greek numerals.
6. 28.9mm. Hadrian (A.D. 117-138), perhaps 129-130 (illustrated on following page)
 Obv. AVT —. Laur. draped bust of Hadrian r.
 Rev. Isis Pharia standing r., robe billowing behind, holding sail with both hands and left foot, sistrum in r. hand. Legend effaced.
 British Museum Catalogue, Alexandria and the Nomes (London 1892, reprint Bologna 1976), cf. nos. 750, 751 (both year 14 = A.D. 129/30), 752 (year 16 = A.D. 131/2) (none illustrated).
 G. Dattari, Numi Augg. Alexandrini (Cairo 1901, reprint Bologna 1975), cf. no. 1756, (year 16) (rev. illustrated, pl. XVII).
 G. Förschner, Die Münzen der römischen Kaiser in Alexandrien (Historisches Museum, Frankfurt a. M., n.d. (1987)), cf. no. 441 (year 14).
 A. Geissen, Katalog alexandrinischer Kaisermünzen der Universität zu Köln 2 (Cologne 1983), cf. nos. 1016, 1017 (year 14).
7. 21.0 x 22.6mm. Claudius II Gothicus, A.D. 269/70.
 Obv. Legend erased, to emphasise portrait. Laur. bust, draped and cuirassed, of Claudius II, r.
 Rev. L - B (= year 2). Ares in crested helmet standing facing, head l., spear in r. hand, parazonium in l.
 J. G. Milne, Ashmolean Museum, catalogue of Greek coins, reprinted with supplement by C.M. Kraay (Oxford 1971) no. 4226 or 4256.



No. 6. AE Half-drachma of Hadrian

8. 21.8mm. Claudius II Gothicus, A.D. 269/70.
 Obv. AVTKKLAVDIOCCEB. Laur. cuirassed bust of Claudius II, r.
 Rev. L - B (= year 2). Eagle standing l., head r., wreath in beak.
 Milne no. 4248.
9. 21.3mm. Probably Claudius II Gothicus, A.D. 268-270.
 Obv. AVTK — IOCCEB. Laur., draped and cuirassed bust r.
 Rev. L - -. Eagle standing r., head l., wreath in beak.
 Milne cf. no. 4265.
10. 18.9mm. Perhaps Aurelian (A.D. 270-275); if so, 272/73.
 Obv. Legend mostly illegible. Laur. bust r.
 Rev. No date visible. Eagle standing l., head r., wings open, between standards.
 Milne cf. 4391.
11. 18.0 x 20.2mm. Diocletian, A.D. 285/86.
 Obv. — DIOKLETIANOCCEB. Laur. cuirassed bust of Diocletian r.
 Rev. L - B (= year 2). Alexandria in turreted crown standing l., Sarapis bust on r.
 hand, vertical sceptre in l.
 Milne no. 4781. Gift of W.E. Anderson, 1957.
12. 21.3mm. Diocletian, A.D. 288/89.
 Obv. Legend effaced. Laur. cuirassed bust r.
 Rev. L - E (= year 5). Eagle standing l., head r., wreath in beak.
 Milne no. 4908.
13. 16.3 x 19.2mm. Diocletian, A.D. 289/90.
 Obv. — KLETIANOCCEB. Laur. bust of Diocletian r.
 Rev. L S (= year 6) in l. field. Eirene (i.e. Peace) standing half l., in r. hand olive
 branch, in l. long sceptre.
 Milne no. 4925. Gift of W.E. Anderson, 1957.

14. 18.0 x 20.2mm. Maximian, A.D. 286/87.
 Obv. AK —. Laur. bust r.
 Rev. L - B (= year 2). Elpis (i.e. Hope) standing, head l., r. hand extended holding flower, l. hand raising skirt.
 Milne no. 4814.
15. 17.2 x 18.4mm. Probably Maximian, A.D. 287/88.
 Obv. Legend effaced. Laur. draped bust r.
 Rev. L - G (= year 3). Nike (i.e. Victory) advancing r. with wreath and palm.
 Milne no. 4860. Gift of W.E. Anderson, 1957.
16. 18.0mm. Types and reference as preceding.

Roman imperial coins, all AE

17. 20.2 x 23.2mm; 5. Constantius II, A.D. 348-350; Trier mint.
 Obv. D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r.
 Rev. FEL TEMP - REPARATIO. Emperor, with phoenix on globe in r. hand and Chi-Rho standard in l., standing l. in galley steered by Victoria. In exergue, TR S.
 Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC) VIII, by J.P.C. Kent (London 1981), p. 153 no. 214.
18. 15.4mm. 6. Constantius II, A.D. 355-361. Thessalonica mint.
 Obv. D N —. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust r.
 Rev. SPES REI-PVBLICE. Emperor standing l., globe on extended r. hand, spear in l. In exergue, SMTS..
 RIC VIII p. 422 cf. no. 213.
19. 16.2 x 17.7mm. 6. Valentinianus I, A.D. 364-375. Alexandria mint.
 Obv. D N VALENTINI-ANVS P F AVG. Diademed draped bust r.
 Rev. GLORIA RO-MANORVM. Emperor, labarum standard in l. hand, advancing r. holding captive by hair by r. hand. In exergue, ALE D.
 RIC IX, by J.W.E. Pearce (London 1951), p. 298 no. 1a. Gift of W.E. Anderson, 1957.

Byzantine coin

20. AE. 16.7 x 18.1mm. 12. 12 follis. Perhaps Justin II, A.D. 565-78. Alexandria mint.
 Obv. Legend effaced; bust r.
 Rev. Large I B; rest too worn to be legible.
 C. Morrisson, Bibliothèque Nationale, Catalogue des monnaies byzantines I (Paris 1970), p. 147. Gift of W.E. Anderson, 1957.

Perkins Bacon Printer's Proofs

Notes by Alistair Robb written prior to the June 1995 Spink Auction in Singapore

In 1994 I visited London to attend the International Bank Note Society Annual Congress which was held on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 October. Amongst two large rooms full of banknote dealers from all over the world there were banknotes for all types of collector. On the first table I looked at there was a superb BNZ £10 note dated 1927. From there I spent the whole day looking at New Zealand items that I didn't expect to see. All of the items I bought were for stock as I didn't have my personal lists or the master copy of my book with me. I hadn't expected to see so much New Zealand material. I met Barnaby Paul who is with Spinks Banknotes (Spinks was established in 1666 but was recently taken over by Christie's who I think are now owned in the USA - wow, it's hard to follow) and he invited me to look at the balance of the banknotes printed by Perkins Bacon being put up for auction. The story goes that a stamp dealer bought all the stamps upon their disposal in 1971 and the banknotes were thrown in. I quite believe that as there was not the collector interest in banknotes at the time. Some of these notes were sold by Stanley Gibbons at auction and mainly bought by Bill Barrett of Canada. It looks as if he has let them out since then in dribs and drabs at very high reserves. The stamp dealer has since died and his beneficiaries do not wish to mess about with piecemeal sales. The whole balance of the proofs from Perkins Bacon Limited is therefore to be auctioned in June 1995 by Spinks in Singapore. From indications given there will be in excess of 1000 different New Zealand notes alone, and as many from other countries. The mind boggles with the thought of obtaining Oriental Banking Corporation, Bank of New Zealand (1862-70) and Commercial Bank of New Zealand notes in unused condition. Not the real thing but so much better than the nothing available before.

The auction will be held without reserves which means the notes will not go for under \$100 and will no doubt fetch a lot more for the unique items. I will try and produce a list of dates available as soon as possible. The list will double as a list of presumed issue dates for the various banks. My personal estimation is that where collectors require an issue then they will be happy to pay about \$200 for the year of their choice. Some of the others may not sell as well but I will be recommending to my clients to take the opportunity to get a sample of an old note issue while they are available.

October 1994

A Brief History of Perkins Bacon, Printers of Many NZ Bank Notes

Nov 1819	Perkins, Fairman & Heath traded from 29 Austin Friars, London
Nov 1820	shifted to 69 Fleet Street, London
Jul 1822	Perkins & Heath, London
May 1829	Perkins & Bacon
May 1834	Perkins, Bacon & Petch
1837	Earliest Australian note known but with Perkins Heath on it
Feb 1840	Began printing notes for New Zealand banks
1840	Printed their first adhesive postage stamp - the penny black
May 1852	Perkins, Bacon & Co



Bank of Australasia £10. Dunedin , 1st issue [?], c. 1863-77



Union Bank of Australia £1. Nelson, 2nd issue [?] 1st Jn'y 186-

- May 1887 Perkins, Bacon & Co still at 69 Fleet Street
 Nov 1904 Shifted to 14 Southwark Bridge Road
 1935 Went out of business
 Feb 1936 Reformed as Perkins, Bacon & Company
 1937 Fifty packing cases of stamp documents were summarised and presented to the Royal Philatelic Society in London. Percy de Worms died in 1941 and the Society completed the work in two volumes published in 1953. The banknotes were virtually ignored.
- Apr 1939 Perkins, Bacon Ltd
 ? Name acquired by W W Sprague (security printers established in 1785). Some records of Perkins Bacon were lost in the 1942 blitz. Both were taken over by Metal Box Ltd in 1965.
- 1971-1975 Stanley Gibbons auctioned off some notes from the archives. Most notes were bought by Bill Barrett who has auctioned them slowly since then with high reserves.
 1994 Spinks (established 1666 but taken over by Christie's 1993) obtained the balance of the banknote proofs for auction.
- Jun 1995 Approximately 1000 separate proof notes of New Zealand banks to be auctioned.

Printers of Privately Issued New Zealand Notes - A Summary

Perkins Bacon		Waterlow & Sons Ltd	
Bank of Australasia	1840-1932	Commercial Bank of Australia	1919-1934
Bank of New South Wales	1863-1902	Union Bank of Australasia	1905-1934
Bank of New Zealand	1862-1870	Moffitt (Sydney)	
Colonial Bank of Issue	1850-1856	NZ Banking Company	1840-1845
Colonial Bank of New Zealand	1874-1890	Bank of New Zealand	1862
Commercial Bank of New Zealand	1863-1866	Batho & Co (London)	
National Bank of New Zealand	1873-1934	Bank of Otago	1863-1873
Oriental Banking Corporation	1857-1861	Ferguson & Mitchell (Dunedin)	
Union Bank of Australasia	1840-1905	Colonial Bank of New Zealand	1874
Charles Skipper & East		Sands & MacDougal (Melbourne)	
Bank of Auckland	1865-1867	Commercial Bank of Australia	1912-1919
Bank of New South Wales	1867-1934	Uncertain	
Bradbury Wilkinson		Bank of Auckland	1864-1865
Bank of New Zealand	1870-1934	Thomas de la Rue	
Colonial Bank of New Zealand	1890-1895	Bank of Australasia	
1932-1934			

New Zealand Army 1845-1995 150th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

The Wellington Army Association considered that the occasion of the NZ Army's 150th anniversary should not go unheralded and therefore commissioned Award Productions in the United Kingdom to strike an unofficial medal commemorating the service of men and women, Maori and Pakeha, conscript and volunteer, who have soldiered in peace and war with distinction.

The design of the medal incorporates the traditional devices that have been used since the 19th century to depict the New Zealand Army from the South African War to the present day.

The medal is 36mm in diameter and crafted in highly polished cupro-nickel. The 5000 medals are a limited edition exclusively available to all soldiers who can substantiate a claim that they have served in the army. Similarly it is made available to the next of kin of deceased soldiers who can provide the details required on the application form. Because the Wellington Army Association Inc. is a non-profit making organisation any surplus revenue, after production costs, will be used to preserve the history of the army and for the welfare of ex-soldiers where a case for assistance can be substantiated.

For further details contact:

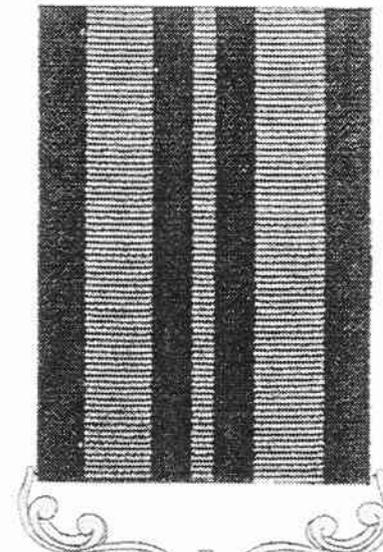
Wellington Army Association Inc.
P.O. Box 50-154
Porirua
Wellington
New Zealand



OBVERSE

A kiwi surmounted by a stylised crown within a wreath of New Zealand fern fronds each bearing the letters "NZ"; at the base of the fern fronds a scroll bearing the dates 1845-1995.

ACTUAL SIZE



RIBBON

The traditional colours of the army are depicted by a khaki ribbon bearing crimson stripes on each edge with a double crimson stripe in the centre.



REVERSE

Bears "mata" (faces) from which emanate stories of valour, hardship or adventure. The design recognizes the service of Maori soldiers for 150 years.

A VISIT TO THE FIJI MUSEUM, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF FIJI AND THE RESERVE
BANK OF FIJI, JULY 1995

notes by Martin Purdy

Museum

On Thursday 13 July 1995 I was fortunate to be able to spend an hour in the Library of the Fiji Museum examining some of the Registers of the Museum's banknote holdings and a small number of the banknotes themselves. The files to which I had access were 550a-c (Notes on Fijian Currency) and D-198 (Cakobau Government etc: Currency Notes). The file for Register entry 244 (transcribed below) was not immediately to hand, some of the notes in question believed to be on display.

Details of these documents are given below for reference. A fuller listing may be found in Paper Money of Fiji I, by K.A. Rodgers and Carol Cantrell, IBNS 1989.

File 550a-c, "Notes on Fiji Currency": an article from Pa[...]thly [Pacific Islands Monthly?], September 1942 concerning the shortage of coin in the islands at the time (this will be reprinted in a future Newsletter), Fiji Treasury Clerk's Memoirs (article from World Coins, June 1973), and correspondence between the Board of Trustees, Fiji Museum, and the Hon. Financial Secretary, Suva, 1938-39, concerning the donation of specimen banknotes to the Museum.

File D-198, "Cakobau Government etc: Currency Notes", containing the following three items:

F-59-1 Treasury note, unissued, 187-, Levuka. \$50, red, uniface. "His Excellency" handwritten in ink on the reverse. 197x120mm.

F-59-2 Bank of Tonga cheque, serial no. A [printed] 0312 [stamped], unissued, dated 18-. Bank of Tonga shield in filigree at L, legend "No. A0312 Nukualofa 18/The Bank of Tonga/Pay or Bearer/\$ " Detached from stub. Uniface, some water damage. 192x84.5mm.

F-59-3 Plain paper (washed and ironed?), handwritten text only visible. 193.5x123.5mm. Serial no. 4689 in ink at centre L and R, date "12 June 3". Printed date possibly "187" between. Three "cancelled" stamps across. Two signatures: C.E.Gundry [?] below L., Howard [illegible: Clarkson] at R. Illegible signature across reverse.

Museum Register entries [actual notes not observed; some notes, or copies thereof, on display within the Museum]:

"Doc No. File No.

See 244 18 Currency Notes ("C.R." [Cakobau Rex?]), Bills & Debentures Presented by the Torquay Museum, England.

1. 50 cent. note 1873
2. 50 cent. note small
3. Treasury note 1 dollar no. 2010 1 Sept. 1873
4. no. 2019 "
5. no. 2021 "
6. no. 2039 "
7. Treasury note 5 dollars no. 3510 20 Feb. 1872
8. no. 3515 "
9. no. 3518 "
10. no. 3531 "
11. no. 3534 "
12. Treasury note 10 dollars no. 5111 1st May 1872
13. no. 5189 "
14. no. 5214 17 Mar 1873
15. no. 5221 "
16. no. 5297 "
17. Treasury note 25 dollars no. 2500 5 April 1872
18. Treasury note 50 dollars no. 519 12 June 1873
19. no. 525 "
20. no. 529 "
21. no. 542 "

19 Treasury Notes and two "Cent" notes received from Torquay Museum, and not previously entered.

245 19. Treasury Notes (Cakobau Government) Found in Museum

1. Treasury note 1 dollar no. 71 10 Oct. 1872
2. no. 1739 11 Jan. 1873
3. 5 dollars no. 4068 4 Apr. 1872
4. 10 dollars no. 5382 17 Mar 1873
5. 25 dollars no. 2467 23 Mar 1873
6. 50 dollars no. 38 15 Jul 1872

19. Commercial Promissory Notes.

7. F & W Hennings, Lomaloma, 1 dollar, March 11, 1872
- *8. Brewer & Joske, Suva, 2½ dollars, 1 Oct 1871 Believed to be F & W Hennings, Levuka
9. One dollar (unused)
10. £1 or 5 dollars no. 495 4 Jan 1872
11. T & G Grover, Levuka, One pound (unused)
12. A G Scott to George Winter £260.0.0 15 Oct 1869 (Reg. 2781/32)

*8. See also framed series of three notes, with framed pictures in Store Room.
1444 \$1 3102 \$2½ 1866 £1

246 20 (a) The Kingdom of Bau (1867) Treasury Note, One Dollar

- (b) The Colonial Government of Fiji Salary receipt for £50, dated at Lomaloma, 14th Jany. 1875, and signed by Maafu [Ma'afu - Tongan leader on Lau - MP] Witnes[s] [?] G. Ruthven Le Stunde [?]

- (c) The Currency Company Fiji, 25 cents note Unissued and unused.
- (d) The Kingdom of Fiji ("C.R.")
 - (1) 12½ cents note (Sikisipeni ni Vakacavacava) No. 663, September 1, 1873
 - (2) Sight draft for £165.16.4 No. 39, 26 Feb 1874 Payable to Messrs J.C. Smith & Co. or order. Presented in N.S.W. & in New Zealand (21/4/74) and payable at the Bank of New Zealand, Auckland. Dishonoured.
 - (3) Treasury Note 10 dollars, no. 3155, 1 Mar 1872
 - (4) Fiji Government Debenture 5 dollars dated 1 Jan 1872 Payable 15 Dec 1873
 - (5) Fiji Government Debenture (on parchment) 500 dollars dated 1 Aug 1872, No. 16, payable 12 months after date. Interest at 10% p.a. Payable at the Oriental Bank Corporation, Sydney. Taxed [?] and dated at Sydney, 3/12/1873."

This Register also contained references to 20th century Fijian banknotes and various foreign notes in the Museum's collection, including 19th century German notes. There was not time to deal with these more fully.

National Archives

I visited the National Archives of Fiji, once again at short notice, on Friday 14 July. The Archivist made available to me a number of monographs and publications concerning Fiji currency together with their holdings of currency and debentures from the period of the Kingdom of Fiji, 1871-4.

Publications:

- K.A. Rodgers and Carol Cantrell, Paper Money of Fiji I (IBNS 1989) ("Rodgers")
- Kerry Rodgers, "Fiji Threepence Tarnished", World Coin News 16/25 1989
- Kerry Rodgers, "Fiji's Second Decimal Currency", IBNS Journal 24/3 1985
- Extract from Cyclopaedia of Fiji, Sydney 1907 (p. 187 on early Fijian currency)
- Kerry Rodgers, "Fiji Decimal Banknotes: An Update" (IBNS Journal 1987)
- David L. Maynard, Sources of Change in the Money supply: Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa (Centre for Applied Studies in Development, USP 1981)
- Wadan Lal Narsey, A Re-interpretation of the History and Theory of Colonial Currency Systems (Ph.D. Thesis, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, January 1988?)

Rodgers lists and illustrates the banknote and promissory note holdings of the Fiji Museum, which are more extensive than those made available to me; the National Archives; and the BNZ (Suva) Archives. His volume does not cover the Reserve Bank's collection, of which I have arranged to view a selection on a future visit. Rodgers identifies the faded note from the Museum collection as a Treasury Note \$5, signatures Gundry/Clarkson. He also lists many private tokens of the 1941-2 period referred to in the presumed Pacific Islands Monthly magazine of September 1942.

Files viewed: MS9, 9A, 10, 25 (all listed in Rodgers)

1. 12½ cents (6d) C.R. unissued, "His Excellency" handwritten on Rev. "CR No./Levuka 187-12½ cents 12½ cents/SIKISIPENI NI VAKACAVACAVA/Ai vola oqo sosomi ni lavo Vakacavacava Vaka Viti/Lave Turaga ni Lavo".
2. Treasury Note, Levuka \$1, no. 779 11 Nov 1872 Cancelled.

3. Treasury Note, Levuka \$1, no. 1315 11 Jan 1873
4. F & W Hennings \$1, 14? Oct 1871 mounted on card.
5. Brewer & Joske, Suva \$2½, no. 3081 1 Oct 1871 Unissued.
6. F & W Hennings \$1, 9 Mar 1872

Also twelve printer's samples and a note by Kerry Rodgers suggesting that the printers, Whitehead, Morris & Co., were touting for business at about the time that Fiji was considering issuing its own notes, c. 1912-4.

MS42 (not mentioned by Rodgers, possibly outside the scope of his volume) Kingdom of Fiji, Government Debenture, \$500 at 10% interest p.a., payable at the Oriental Bank Corporation, Sydney. Issued 1 [month illegible] 1872, stamped Suva 3 December 1873. Entered by A.F. Henning. Poor, water-damaged, some parts of note missing, mounted on card. 8 5/8" x 7 9/16". Serial no. 25 [?].

Reserve Bank

I also visited the Reserve Bank of Fiji to discuss viewing its collection. Time was short, however, and I had to leave this for a future visit. I did, however, have a pleasant interview with Mr Solomon Tawake, Assistant General Manager, Banking/Currency. Our discussion covered both the Bank's collection (not a systematic arrangement owing to budgetary constraints, more an informal accumulation of notes received from the Commissioners of Currency at the time the Bank was formed in 1973) and the Bank's policy on new issues and "collector's coins", a favourite bugbear of mine!

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Museum Director Kate Hindle and Librarian Sela Rayawa, and Margaret Patel, Principal Archivist of the National Archives of Fiji, for their kind assistance in dealing with my request to view their holdings at such short notice. Thanks also to my good friends Paul Linton and Susan Guthrie, presently in Suva, for their hospitality during my visit, and for allowing me to use their equipment to write up my notes and e-mail them back to New Zealand.



ADVERTISEMENT

COINS OR MEDALLIONS ?

I have become increasingly concerned at the number of pseudo issues being released by various Government related agencies around the World. I know that our Reserve Bank has helped numismatics tremendously in recent years but never-the-less I must publicly question their procedure in following overseas trends by issuing coins, sets, or commemoratives for virtually any reason year after year, and sometimes often during the year! And, in 1995, to receive a brochure offering about 6 different items, all at a high price, was perhaps the last straw for me.

The issues are all beautifully presented, advertised widely, with rarity created by limited numbers manufactured and limited in availability thus giving the air of scarcity but their release price is probably the part that ultimately upsets me. Except in a very few cases the issues have an initial demand furore created by the gullible investor with the price after issue often (*but I don't think so often now*) rising to a higher price and then staying at about that price for 4 years. The demand then drops off and as well dealers start getting more of the issue as older people die and their estates just sell the coins. The resultant price drifts for a while and then gradually goes down as dealers stocks continue to increase.

Where did N C L T (*Non Circulating Legal Tender*) coins begin in New Zealand? A coin is money issued for public use by a Government authority and a medallion is an item not issued for public usage. Personally I believe New Zealand has had NCLT since 1981 as to me that was when issues jumped in price from what I called a reasonable amount (*\$13 for Proof Sets in 1980*) to a far higher price (*\$39 in 1981*). Other purists may consider 1965! as the year we started issuing medallions but I don't agree as the sets were released for 10/- (*\$1*) yet had 6/8d (*67 cents*) face value in them. And the specialist sets were priced at \$2 and \$4 with following years having moderate increases to follow inflation. My view is perhaps when the Government agency (*Treasury at the time*) began using a Public Relations firm to promote the issues and to think up new gimmicks for sale.

Try my views out - ask a dealer what they will pay for an issue of older than 5 years ago. You will be disappointed with their response but don't blame them. Their only fault collectively is continuing to hold the prices up higher in the hope that a sale may be made at a high proportion of the apparent retail price. They know that reducing the price by itself does not create a demand.

So they leave the prices as they were. I believe that the prices should be according to the current market and my next catalogue to be published in 1996 will reflect such lower prices. And I will sell at those low prices. *These are the personal views of Alistair Robb and do not reflect the views of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.*

ALISTAIR ROBB 90 The Terrace Phone 04 499 1900 Wellington.

New Zealand Token Varieties - Recent Discoveries

W. H. Lampard

I Tokomairiro 1860 Communion Token (L390)

L390



Normal issue struck in pewter with medal $\uparrow\uparrow$ die alignment.

L390a

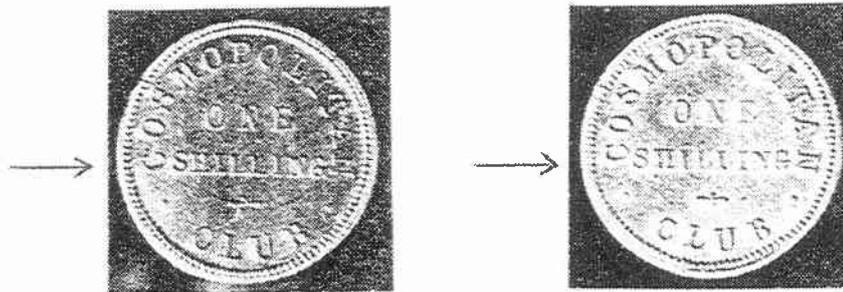


Struck in lead (?) on thicker flan with coin $\uparrow\downarrow$ die alignment.

Both types appear to be struck from the same dies and L390a is rare.

II Wanganui Cosmopolitan Club 1/- 1905

A second obverse die of this issue was located by Mr Tony Grant in a recent purchase.



Die "A"

C of "Cosmopolitan" level with base of "Shilling"

Die "B"

C of "Cosmopolitan" higher than base of "Shilling"

The quatrefoil below "Shilling" on Die A usually exhibits a die crack which distorts the lower foil to the left and continues to the C of "Club".

The Die B type is probably scarcer than Die A.

What Type of Note is That?

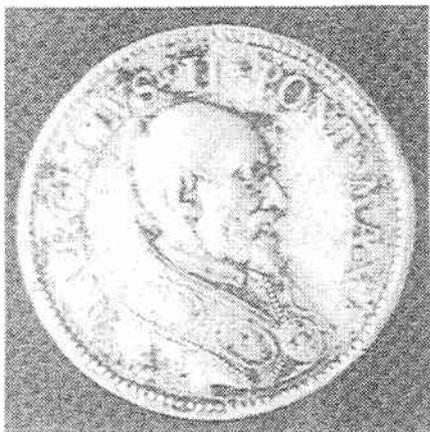
Alistair Robb

Without referring to any other books about banknotes here is the author's understanding of some banknote terms:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Proof | A black and white copy of the real note, usually on the correct type of banknote paper. Often with mount marks where the note has been glued to a book previously kept as examples of each year printed.
Sometimes in one colour. |
| Printer's Pull | What we would call a photo copy today - black and white on ordinary paper rolled through the printing press as a trial run. |
| Specimen | A full-colour example of the note on correct banknote paper. With SPECIMEN in the margin they were usually carried from country to country by salesmen as a sample of the range of notes their business could produce.
Other notes that had Specimen written or typed on them or Cancelled cut into the notes were usually notes ready for issue, usually not numbered (but if they were, then the number was a number that was clearly out of sequence) retained by the banks to be circulated to staff as examples. They weren't signed or issued, didn't have a [correct] number and thus had no chance of being redeemed. |

A Commemorative Medal of Pope Marcellus II

Martin Purdy



Marcellus II (?1500-1555) has the distinction of being one of the shortest-reigning popes. Elected on 9 April 1555, he died on 1 May of the same year. Good things had been expected of him, and French writer Joachim du Bellay (1522-1560) who was in Rome at the time devoted a sonnet to him. Comparing Marcellus to one who has undertaken to clean up a sewer, Bellay does not spare his revulsion at the state in which Rome was left by Marcellus' predecessor. He claims that Marcellus was "overcome by the stench" which brought about his untimely death, his task of "cleansing" the city only half completed.

The 38mm medal, in copper, was found in an oddments tray in Wanganui a few years ago.

It is a little less than fine, but is still an attractive piece in view of the high relief of the portrait. The obverse shows Marcellus to R, with the legend MARCELLVS.II.PONT.MAX. The reverse gives a short biography of the pontiff in sixteen lines: NATVS/PICENI/PATR. RICHARDO CERVINO/EPISCOPVS RIGENSIS/ET/IN CONCILIO TRIDENT. LEGATVS/A PAVLO III. CARDINALIS/A S. COLLEGIO PONTIF. M. ELECTVS/A. MDLV. D. IX. APRILIS/PACEM/INTER CAESAREM ET GALLOS/CONCILIARE STVDVIT/A. MDLV. D. I. MAII/AETAT. LIV./OBIIT. This tells us, inter alia, that he was sent to the Council of Trent by Pope Paul III and, after his election as Pope, sought to make peace between the Holy Roman Emperor and the French, before dying at the age of 54.

A query sent to "Cronaca Numismatica" in Italy elicited the following response:

"The medal was not struck in 1555 but in 1712... it belongs to a series produced at the order of Caspar Lauffer, director of the Nuremberg Mint, by various engravers in order to obtain a full Papal portrait series. The medals in question are generally common, and cover 253 Popes. The series was later extended to cover the Popes as far as Benedict XIV. The series was first described in a catalogue published in 1742. The medal of Marcellus II was the work of Wilhelm Vestner and is no. 226 in this catalogue. There is a 1978 edition of the catalogue, produced by the Museum of Frankfurt am Main (Das Laufferische Medaillen-Cabinet)."

I seem to associate the name "Lauffer" with brass jetons produced in Nuremberg in the 16th - 17th centuries. I wonder if it is the same family? Any information from readers would be most welcome.

Septimius Severus: The Superstitious Emperor?

T.E. Bray <SeptSev@AOL.COM>

This article originally appeared in the Internet newsgroup NUMISM-L. Reprinted with the permission of the author.

I recently purchased a denarius of Septimius Severus, RIC 369, with the reverse legend BONI EVENTUS (Bonus Eventus, or the personification of Good Success, holding a basket of fruit and corn ears). RIC lists the mint as Emesa, in the East, with a question mark. Even though the mint's location may be in doubt the coin was certainly struck in the first troubled years of his reign and almost certainly during the wars with one of his rivals¹ to the imperial purple, Pescennius Niger.

My next stop (as always with a new coin in my collection) was A Dictionary of Roman Coins by Seth William Stevenson. This massive 929 page classic, first published in 1889, is of course outdated in places, but I still consider it an effective reference and it enjoys a prominent place in my library.

Looking up BONUS EVENTUS we find that not only does this legend appear on the early coins of Severus, but it also appears on the coin of his rival, the above mentioned Niger.² Stevenson also goes on to add that there exists a rare coin of Niger containing the reverse legends BONAE SPEI³ (roughly, "Good Hope"), and that Severus also has coins struck in his eastern mint containing the exact same legend.⁴ He then makes the rather fascinating observation that

"...Severus and Niger frequently used the same [coin] type in their respective mints; and this not by chance, but by design; for they mutually adopted legends on their money which are not to found on the coins of other emperors. Each emulated the other...."⁵

Why? Why would two rivals for the Empire use coin types in a kind of "tit for tat" manner?

It could be argued that traditional types were used on imperial coinage for years, and the two candidates were just following tradition - looking "imperial" if you will. But Stevenson says they had both used legends "which were not to be found on the coins of other emperors", in other words - unique. And he also says they "emulated each other." Why?

I examined the legend referenced by Stevenson, BONAE SPEI to see if it was indeed unique. Starting with Augustus and working through Pertinax, I searched RIC for any sign of the legend. I could find none. Therefore Stevenson was correct: Niger and Severus suddenly decided, at the same time (c. 193-194 A.D.) to adopt a unique coin type. It certainly could not have been a coincidence. Were there others, as Stevenson had mentioned?

I searched RIC for other legends that both Niger and Severus - from his Eastern mint - shared. They are: FELICIA TEMPORA (although Severus has slightly altered his to FELICIT TEMPOR.), FORTVNAE REDUCI, INVICTO IMP, (Severus, INVICTO IMP TROPAEA), IOVI PRAE ORBIS, and IVSTITIA AVG (Severus is IVSTI. AVG), MARTI

VICTOR, MONETAE AVG, ROMAE AETERNA, SAECVLI FELICITAS, VICTORIA AVG., and of course my recently purchased coin, BONI EVENTUS. Of these, all are tried and true traditional coin types, except for the following: FELICIA TEMPORA (roughly, "Happy Times"); INVICTO IMP, ("Imperial Valour"; "Unconquered one"⁶), and IOVI PRAE ORBIS (Jupiter the Governor of the World.) Of this last, Stevenson says

"This inscription appears for the first time on a coin of Pescennius Niger... Severus, however, immediately afterwards adopted the same dedication in his own coinage."⁷

So it seems from this last that Severus is the copy-cat. But why? Why go to all the trouble of copying a rival's new coin type?

Of the four unique types (including BONAE SPEI) two of these are "boastful", meaning for example, "if you support me I will give you happy times;" or "I am unconquered and full of valour." One might conclude, therefore, that the reason these legends were copied was a good old fashioned macho spitting contest: "Anything you can do, I can do better!"

The two other legends interest me the most, however, for one has to do with Jupiter, father of all gods, and the other Spes, the personification of hope.

Both of these concepts - a god and a feeling - require faith, the belief in intangibles. If Niger suddenly calls upon Jupiter for help in the battles for control of the empire, or he enlists "Hope" to his cause, it is conceivable that Severus might feel he had to do the same. And so I have formed a theory as to why these two coin types of Niger's were repeated by Septimius Severus: it is simply because of superstition. Septimius Severus - governor, general of his legions, eventually emperor of Rome for eighteen years - was a superstitious man.

Before continuing with my admittedly simple theory, it might first be best to set the political scene prior to 193. Commodus, after a bloody rule, was finally assassinated on 31 December 192⁸ by a wrestler who strangled him while he bathed. His successor, Pertinax, seemed to get off on the wrong foot and was murdered by his Praetorian Guards, on 26 March 193.⁹ Then in one of the most notorious scenes in Roman history, the imperial office was auctioned by the guard to the highest bidder, Didius Julianus.¹⁰ He fared no better than Pertinax, for he was instantly abused by the people, who seemed to want Niger (who was then governor of Syria) to come to their rescue. Niger, getting wind of this, had his troops proclaim him emperor (calling himself "the new Alexander"¹¹), and Severus, who was governor of Pannonia, didn't let the grass grow under his feet either and was proclaimed emperor by his troops as well (April 9, 193).

Julianus had Niger and Severus proclaimed "public enemies," but the writing was on the wall for this hapless emperor. Severus marched his army towards Rome, and even though Julianus suggested joint rule with Severus, the later refused and sent word to the Praetorian Guard that if they "surrendered the slayers of Pertinax and themselves kept the peace they would suffer no harm."¹²

This was Julianus' death warrant. He was assassinated in his palace, crying out, "but what harm have I done? Whom have I killed?"¹³ It is irresistible to point out that at that

moment he must have wished he had been out-bid in the auction for the purple.

Severus marched into Rome, disbanded the Praetorian Guard, consolidated his power and got ready to deal with Niger, whose base was Antioch. Severus may have been - with good reason - concerned that Niger might advance through Libya to Egypt and cut off Rome's corn supply¹⁴, so he left Rome for the East almost immediately.

With civil war facing him and his rival invoking the good name of "Hope" and the divine help of Jupiter (on two unique coin types), Severus might have felt he had to cover his bets - he had to invoke the same images on his coins. Not to do so might tempt the gods, or fates, or cosmos. And you can't win a civil war with Jupiter mad at you or with "Hope" on the other side! (Sound crazy? How many of you "knock wood" or say "God bless you" at a sneeze?)

There is also plenty of historical evidence to support the notion of Severus as a superstitious man. According to ancient sources, when he wanted to

"take another wife, he made inquiries about the horoscope of marriageable women, being himself no mean astrologer; and when he learned that there was a woman in Syria whose horoscope predicted that she would wed a king (I mean Julia, of course) he sought her for his wife...."¹⁵

He also believed in dreams (which was not uncommon at the time). While he was governor of Gaul he dreamed

"the whole Roman domain approached him and saluted."¹⁶ and

"When he was admitted to the Senate, he dreamed that he was suckled by a she wolf, just as Romulus had been."¹⁷

Severus apparently interpreted these dreams to mean he would someday be emperor, although it is possible that these stories were made up years into his reign, as justification for his forming a dynasty. But considering the emphasis many of his fellow Romans placed on omens and dreams and horoscopes¹⁸, it is indeed possible that these stories were true.

Niger was also a believer in omens. He was apparently disturbed when

"an eagle perched upon a military standard and remained there until captured, in spite of attempts to drive it away, and bees made honey comb around the military standards and especially around his images."¹⁹

Once again, this could be historical embellishment, but for the same reasons as above, there could also be grains of truth to these stories. One thing is certain: Niger, who had proceeded against Severus' army from his base in Byzantium, apparently got cold feet and high-tailed it back there. Now it could be for strictly military reasons, but his retreat could also have been hastened by "bad omens." Remember, this is an age when priests read the entrails of birds to predict events!

Another important thing to remember is why denarii were minted in the first place: to pay the troops. If Severus' army got wind that their opponents were being protected by Jupiter, or Good Hope, I would not doubt that Severus would not want them thinking that the gods were against them. For that reason alone these unique coin types could have been copied. Soldiers were, after all, extremely superstitious. In fact, at the final big battle between Severus and Niger, the day was saved for the former when an electrical storm blew in and

"this inspired courage in one side [Severus], which believed it was being aided by Heaven, and fear in the other [Niger], which felt that Heaven was warring against it; thus it made the one army strong beyond its own strength, and terrified the other in spite of its real power."²⁰

In other words, an outnumbered army fought itself to victory on the belief that the gods were fighting with them, while their opponent - occupying the high ground and outnumbering them - fled in superstitious terror.

Before I conclude, there is another possibility (admittedly thin), which might also explain these shared coin legends.

Niger's coinage was minted in Antioch, capital of Syria, which he governed. The eastern coinage of Severus we are discussing here is attributed - with some controversy - to the mint of Emesa, about 150 miles to the south-east.

At the time the rivals were busy proclaiming themselves emperor, the East was under Niger's control, including, presumably, Emesa. But Niger very quickly lost the support of the city²¹ (which was the home town of Severus' wife Julia Domna). One might therefore be tempted to explain the "shared" coin types as "spoils of war;" i.e., Emesa had first used the reverse dies in question to strike coins for Niger. Once loyalties had changed, the city then used the very same dies for the coinage of Severus.

The problem with this theory is my inability to find good illustrations of the coins in question to see if they are exactly the same reverse portrait (the coins themselves are rare). The next problem would then be comparing dies. And then one would have to prove that Niger's coins were struck anywhere else but Antioch. (I'll give this theory to anybody who wants to do the research!)

I think it far more likely that both Niger and Severus, each with strong supporters and no real idea of how their civil war might turn out, used every tool at their disposal to insure victory. Like General George Patton summoning the chaplain to put in a word with the Lord for good weather, Severus, seeing his rival invoking Jupiter and Hope (in unique coin types) was not about to be outdone.

If my theory is correct, it is a fascinating look inside the mind of Septimius Severus, who otherwise must - as his biographer Anthony Birley observed - "remain a mystery."²²

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References

- 1 The other rival, Clodius Albinus, is outside the scope of this study.
 - 2 Mattingly, Harold. The Roman Imperial Coinage Vol. IV Pt I. (Spink & Son, London 1936) p.23, # 4.
 - 3 Ibid. p. 22, #3.
 - 4 Ibid, p. 140, #365, 366
 - 5 Stevenson, Seth W. A Dictionary of Roman Coins. (Seaby, London, 1982.) p. 131.
 - 6 Ibid. p. 482
 - 7 Ibid. p. 486
 - 8 Scriptores Historiae Augustae, I. Translated by David Magie. (Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University, 1979.) Commodus Antoninus 17.2 p. 305.
 - 9 Ibid. Pert. 2.6 p. 347
 - 10 Dio's Roman History, IX. Translated by E. Carey. (Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University, 1982.) 74.11.3 p. 143
 - 11 Ibid. 75.6.2a pp. 174,175
 - 12 Ibid. 74.17.3-5 pp. 157-159
 - 13 Ibid. 74.17.5 p. 159
 - 14 HA, Sev. 8.7 p. 389
 - 15 HA, Sev. 3.9 p. 377
 - 16 Dio 75.3.2 p. 167
 - 17 Ibid. 75.3.1 p. 166
 - 18 See the excellent article about Domitian's assassination, "Blood on the Moon", by Michael R. Molnar in the May 1995 Celator.
 - 19 Dio 75.6.3
 - 20 Ibid 75.7.1-8 p. 180-181.
 - 21 Birley, Anthony R. Septimius Severus, the African Emperor. (Yale University Press, New Haven. 1988.) p. 112
 - 22 Birley. p. 200.
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New Zealand

CAPTAIN COOK MEDALS

- an extract from Journal 37 (March 1963), now out-of-print.

Four rare and well-preserved medals commemorative of Captain Cook's achievements were presented recently to the Alexander Turnbull Library, by Mr. James Berry, artist, of Wellington. The most interesting is that struck to mark Cook's Second Voyage in 1772. Copper and silver examples are known, and the one now presented is the fairly rare silver specimen. On one side are shown the two ships "Resolution" and "Adventure", and on the other, the head of King George III. The ships, both Whitby built, were originally named "Drake" and "Raleigh", but as these names were somewhat offensive to the Spanish who still claimed a monopoly of the South Seas, the names were changed to "Resolution" and "Adventure".



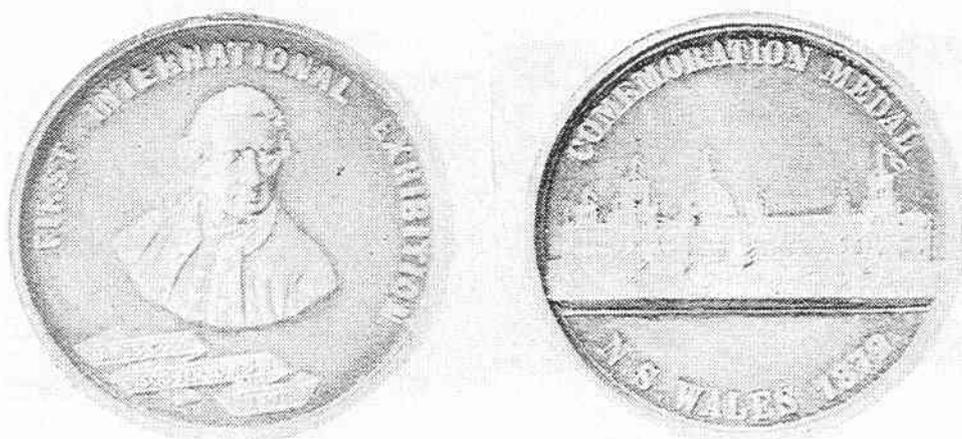
The only copper medal is one struck after the Third Voyage, with the bust of Cook on one side and "Courage and perseverance" on the other.



The silver medal struck by the Royal Society bears a good portrait in profile, surrounded by the legend "Jac. Cook Oceani Investigator accerimus". On the reverse stands Britannia with the words "nil intentatum nostri Liquere" and "Auspiciis Georgii III" around the design.



For the occasion of the International Exhibition of 1879, a commemorative medal was struck in silver, with a full-faced portrait of Cook above the words "James Cook discovered NSW. 1770". On the reverse is a view of the Exhibition Building.

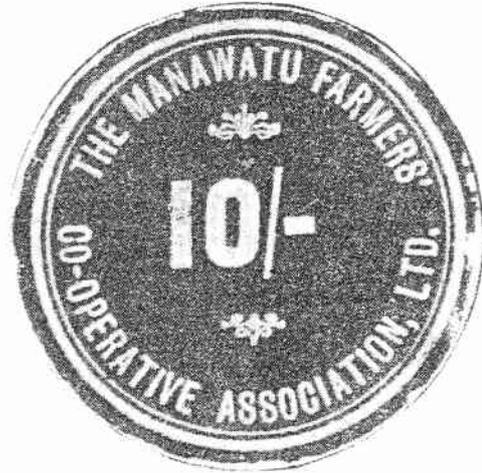


The gift was made at the Annual Meeting of the Numismatic Society, of which Mr. Berry is the retiring President, and was received by the Chief Librarian, on behalf of the Library where the medals will shortly be on permanent exhibition.

A Cardboard Discount Token of the Manawatu Farmers' Co-operative Association

Martin Purdy

At the 1995 Levin Inter-Club meeting, one of our members obtained an example of the cardboard discount tokens issued by the Manawatu Farmers' Co-operative Association. As reported in our Journal (no. 67, September 1989, p. 23), the cardboard discount tokens are believed to have been issued in around 1892, prior to the issue of the familiar brass and white-metal tokens issued from the mid-1890s by the Manawatu, United and Wairarapa Farmers' Co-operative Associations.



The example obtained in Levin is the "Type I" variety, 45mm, uniface, with the value 10/- in the centre of the obverse and a small floral design above and below. Around is the legend THE MANAWATU FARMERS'/CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, LTD. broken into two semi-circles above and below. The cardboard is a very dark brown with light lettering and thus difficult to illustrate. The piece is in very good order (GVF or better, if it is possible to grade cardboard), but has unfortunately been defaced on the reverse. It had been in the United States for a number of years, where the owner wrote on the "blank" side "NEW ZEALAND \$10.00 TOKEN" then crossed out \$10.00 and wrote underneath "10 SHILLING"!

Despite being defaced, the piece is extremely rare. The authors of the Journal article state that only ten examples of the cardboard tokens are known, across all six denominations. The Society would welcome details of any such tokens owned or sighted by members in case more should come to light. It would be interesting to determine just how many of each denomination (1/- (two types), 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1 and £2) there are.

Newsletter Editor

As we noted in our Newsletter no. 19 (June 1995), Keith Gottermeyer decided during 1995 to step down as Newsletter Editor after ten years. During this period he produced 18 newsletters, most of the material for which he provided himself. These publications contain a lot of original articles on, and illustrations of, tokens and other paranumismatic items that are seldom documented. I am sure that we all greatly appreciate the work that Keith has put in over the years. (The Secretary has now taken on the challenging task of trying to fill Keith's shoes for an interim period, and would greatly welcome any contributions concerning new issues or original research in any field.)

James Berry Decimal 10c Design Drawing

W.H. Lampard

At a recent Wellington Auction sale the Society purchased a few decimal currency design drawings by the late James Berry.



This proposed 10c design is described by Jim as:

""Decimal"

'Carved front of Te Oha Pataka (Maori Treasure & Food Storehouse). Originally at Rotoiti, this Pataka is now in the Auckland Museum. It was carved with greenstone adzes.'

The diameter of the drawing is 119mm.

Obituary - Spencer Russell (1923-1995)

Sir Spencer T. Russell, whose signature appeared on New Zealand banknotes issued between 1985 and 1989, died in July 1995. The following obituary by Lindsay Knight, himself a signatory of NZ banknotes (1975-7), is reprinted with the kind permission of the Evening Post.

When, in 1984, Robert Muldoon invited Spencer Russell to become the first "outside" Governor of the Reserve Bank, he knew he was appointing a man known to be sympathetic to the Government. He may thus reasonably have expected some change in the stream of strongly critical economic advice that had been coming to him from the Reserve Bank.

The Prime Minister was to be quickly disillusioned. Spencer Russell's life had long been driven by a determination to use his talents to serve his country to the best of his ability. The New Zealand flag, which stood in his Reserve Bank office, was no token gesture, nor was his later request to have the same flag draped on his funeral casket.

Russell was also a persistent advocate of the virtue of free markets. On assuming office, he rapidly became convinced of the extent of the economic disaster facing New Zealand. He thus threw his full support behind Reserve Bank calls for financial reforms, in particular an immediate devaluation and urgent removal of financial sector controls.

This promptly led him into direct conflict with the Prime Minister and at once established his credentials as an independent central banker. The consequent situation was fraught with pressure but Russell proved to be cool and unflappable and the ideal man for a crisis.

The qualities that gained Russell respect around the world as a central bank governor had been evident throughout a 40-year career with the National Bank of NZ Ltd., during which he rose from office junior to chief executive. Russell was, above all, a man of great integrity, engendering respect and loyalty from others by demonstrating those qualities himself. Physically, he stood tall in any company and had a presence that made him a natural leader.

Though not an intellectual, he coped readily with the complexities of highly technical issues and had a sure touch in identifying the best solution to a problem.

His calmness under pressure was legendary. None of his colleagues ever heard him raise his voice, yet there was no doubting his authority. His quiet sense of humour was frequently needed to defuse tense situations and, as a raconteur, he was in the highest class.

Although his career at the Reserve Bank lasted just four years, they were years of tumultuous change in the New Zealand financial sector. Russell was there to oversee the initial 20 percent devaluation in July 1984, the subsequent elimination of interest rate and other financial controls, the end of exchange controls in December 1984, and the exchange rate float in March 1985. Other key changes were the liberalisation of the

banking system, the introduction of prudential supervision for banks, a new market-based style of monetary policy, and the development of a framework for the 1989 Reserve Bank Act, with its focus on containing inflation between 0 and 2 percent.

Following his retirement as governor, Spencer Russell was knighted for his services to banking.

The occasion of Sir Spencer's funeral reminded those present of his many other qualities - his compassion and concern for other people, his overwhelming commitment to a closely bonded family, and his meticulous attention to detail. The funeral service, as Dean John Rymer noted, was masterminded by Sir Spencer at a family conference ten days before his death. Typically, it was orchestrated in style, and included moving tributes from all three sons and a military farewell from the New Zealand RSA. Altogether, it was a fitting exit for an extraordinary man.

Dean Rymer rightly described Spencer Russell as a great yet humble man who fulfilled his life's objective - to serve his country well.

Obituary - Maurice Conly (1920-1995)

Maurice Conly, designer of the current \$1 and \$2 coin reverses, died in August 1995. The following obituary is reprinted with the kind permission of the Evening Post.

An Air Force officer who became the service's official artist, Maurice Conly was also responsible for designing stamps and coins familiar to all New Zealanders.

Mr Conly's grounding in design was acquired when he began work in 1937 at commercial printers Coulls Sommerville Wilkie in Dunedin. He enlisted with the Air Force in 1941 as a trainee pilot, but was grounded due to illness. While convalescing at Levin he became artist for the RNZAF magazine Contact and he was sent on tour of the southwest Pacific, making sketches and paintings of New Zealanders at war. He returned to commercial art at the conclusion of the war, and in the mid-1950s started designing stamps. In the 60s he was awarded coin design commissions; the \$1 and \$2 coins in use today are his work.

A range of commemorative works, including the 1986 Royal Visit and the 1991 World Cup coins issued by the Reserve Bank, also came from the Conly Studio. He designed medals and was responsible for the designs of Royal Standards for RNZAF squadrons.

Two visits to Antarctica were among the highlights of his career. He painted the Scott and Shackleton huts and penguin colonies around Scott Base. In 1981 he was awarded the Antarctic Society Conservation Trophy.

In 1969 Maurice Conly was assigned to South Vietnam, where he painted and sketched the activities of New Zealand servicemen and women. An active reserve officer, Maurice Conly reached the rank of wing commander in 1985. He was commissioned to illustrate Portrait of an Air Force, the 1987 book published for the 50th anniversary of the service.

He was awarded the MBE in 1981 for services to art.

Magic

Clinton P. Rusaw

Have you heard about the magic in those clubs? Those Patus! The clubs used by the people of New Zealand long before the arrival of any European settlers. The clubs immortalised by George Kruger Gray in his design displayed on the New Zealand threepence.

1933 was the first year that this design appeared on any coin. Kruger Gray engraved the clubs with breathtaking clarity of detail, which at first seemed to have imprisoned the magic for all time. But, he underestimated the power of this magic and before long it began to escape from the tip of the handle. I know this to be true, for I have seen the trail left by the magic as it escaped to the edge of the coin. Look closely and you too may see a nearly invisible track resembling a lightning strike from the handle of the club to the rim of the coin.

Numismatists will claim that what you see is merely the results of a crack in the 1933 die. But wait! Look again. The magic also escaped in 1934. Surely such a deficiency in the design would have been corrected by the Mint. No responsible Mintmaster would allow the dies to break year after year.

However, the magic continued to escape from the handle of the Patu for the next thirty-two years, until the configuration was finally discontinued in 1965. Check it for yourself. Look at your threepences. I have found tracks for every year in my collection except two and I am sure that it is merely a matter of time before I find these.

Now, look again. Could it be that the magic is escaping as you read this very article? Are these really "die breaks" from a weakness in design overlooked or ignored by complaisant mint officials for nearly a third of a century? Or are they the tracks left by the magic as it is escaping at this very moment?

I leave it to you to decide.

Members' Wants

Does anyone hold, have information about or illustrations of, New Zealand special-purpose tokens, e.g. bread, discount, advertising, canteen tokens etc.? Details would be much appreciated. Costs will be reimbursed. Please send to Bill Lampard, c/- P.O. Box 2023, Wellington Central 6015, NZ.

Library:

About fifty books dating from 1763 to 1969 were purchased during the year, easily the most important addition we have made for some years. I thank long standing member Mr Eric Price, of Christchurch, who has presented to the society an important collection of papers and photographs relating to his banknote collection. I also thank Librarian Clint Libby and his team for their efforts during the year.

Council:

Met in October 1994 to arrange the programme for 1995.

Levin Inter-Club Meeting:

This was attended by about twenty members and activities included discussion groups, displays, sales tables and a talk on "Alexander the Great" by Doug Carian. The Quiz was won by the RNSNZ.

Fair, 17 September 1994:

As a fund-raising venture with the Wellington Coin Club a Coin, PhoneCard and Collectibles fair was held in the Seminar Suite of the Wellington Town Hall. Dealers provided the best stocks of numismatic items seen in Wellington since the 1990 Convention. Members had a most enjoyable day adding to their collections and the Fair was well supported by the public. I thank Pacific Coin Company for the firm's contribution to expenses.

Review of the Royal Honours System in New Zealand:

The Society was invited to make a submission by the Committee to Review the Royal Honours System in New Zealand. Copies of the Prime Minister's Press Statement on the Committee, its terms of reference and information on the current honours system were sent to New Zealand members. A summary of the views of members formed the basis of our submission.

Turnbull House:

After years of delay work has started on upgrading and strengthening the building, which should be completed by the end of July 1995. I thank members who assisted with the move out and with the storage of library books and other small items. We have been advised that rents will rise by about 20% as a result of the upgrade.

Branches:

Otago held regular meetings but Canterbury did not meet during the year. Both produced annual accounts.

Administration:

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

W.H. Lampard
President
31 May 1995

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1995-96
(Elected A.G.M. May 1995)

PATRON:	Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard, GCMG, DBE, Governor-General of New Zealand
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VICE-PRESIDENTS:	Messrs K Gottermeyer, R T Harwood, L G Morel, O J Wray, A F Robb, K B Mills, Dr K Rodgers
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ASST EDITOR:	Mr M L Purdy
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Mr M L Purdy
JOURNAL ADVERTISING:	Mr K B Mills
COUNCIL:	Messrs J R Eccles, A P Vlaar, I W Boyd, C Libby, S Park, Dr M W Humble

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)

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 MARCH 1995

INCOME	1995.	1994.	EXPENDITURE	1995.	1994.
Subscriptions	\$2,941.	\$3,221.	Journals	\$654.	\$985.
Tax Refund	\$243.	\$269.	Books	\$84.	\$583.
Medals/Badges	\$20.	\$214.	Postage etc.	\$786.	\$846.
Interest	\$1,299.	\$1,128.	Meeting Expenses	\$424.	\$361.
			Officers' Expenses	\$600.	\$600.
			Taxation (RWT)	\$314.	\$286.
			Rent	\$615.	\$654.
			Misc. Expenses	\$326.	\$156.
			Newsletter	\$458.	\$453.
			Grants	\$120.	\$120.
			Insurance	\$105.	\$97.
Deficit	-	\$309.	Surplus	\$17.	-
	<u>\$4,503.</u>	<u>\$5,141</u>		<u>\$4,503</u>	<u>\$5,141</u>

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1995

LIABILITIES	1995.	1994.	ASSETS	1995.	1994.
Accumulated funds	\$20,579.		Cash:		
			Petty	\$120.	
			BNZ	\$1,035.	
			AGC	\$7,000	
Plus Surplus	\$17.	<u>\$20,596</u>	SPIERS	\$10,000.	\$18,155.
		<u>\$20,579</u>	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	\$464.	\$470.
				<u>\$20,596.</u>	<u>\$20,579</u>

AUDITOR'S 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)

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