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**James Berry,
O.B.E., F.R.N.S.N.Z.
1906 - 1979.**

When Reginald George James Berry died on 6 November 1979, his family, his friends, numismatists and philatelists in New Zealand and overseas, were conscious of a grievous loss. He was a gifted artist, endowed with imagination, taste, immense industry, skill and manual dexterity.

In addition to these qualities, enriched by attractiveness of personality and endearing good humour, he had another gift - the ability to place before the eye of the average man or woman an image that they could understand, could recognize as relating to their own knowledge or experience.

This characteristic was amply demonstrated in the decision regarding the new Decimal coinage change which took place in 1967. The designs that had been virtually decided upon, became known to the press and the "Evening Post" in Wellington ran a vote among its readers upon the various styles submitted. The result was that nearly all of the Berry designs were preferred and were adopted.

But it is still not easy to realize the immense labour that he put into those scores of stamps, coins and medals.

For any one design accepted, he commonly had prepared several, each demanding its own research for accuracy, the concentrated work of planning, drawing, reducing, photographing, so that the result could be technically feasible to strike, that the relief was possible, that the reverse and obverse did not oppose too much metal. And in modesty he often submitted his competitive work under a pseudonym.

I think he was a swift worker, that this feverish energy, once directed to its objective, kept him hard at it with untiring patience and concentration. Yet in all those years he carried on with other interests, a handful of a family, albeit a delightful one and a capable and devoted wife. Once he had become a freelancer, he knew that he must provide in other ways, and he bought property, renovated houses, became carpenter, painter, paperhanger and concrete worker. He had problems with tenants, Government departments, maddening frustrations, but overall fair success. He did a good deal of work around his home; he built a playhouse for the children.

He was keen on his cars, always a Morris Oxford, and did a fair bit of maintenance on them himself. For a short time he ran a bookshop in Wellington, but found this unsatisfying. He was for some years a bee-keeper, and for much of his life he was a devoted cricketer.

Jim was born in 1906 in the London suburb of Dulwich and was educated at Purley in Surrey, but came out to New Zealand in 1924, after a couple of years in the counting house of the Star Eagle Insurance company, London. In New Zealand he worked on a farm near Gisborne till 1927, and then for a time in a freezing works. It is not easy to visualize him guiding a four-horse plough team, or dealing with the tough tasks in the freezing works.

But now his early leaning towards art work, which had won him prizes at school, took him to Wellington into an advertising office till 1932 when he became artist to the "Dairy Exporter" and other magazines, from which it was a short step to the "Dominion", where his occasional cartoons appeared under the identifiable name of "Bim".

His stamp designs date from about this period, notable being the health stamps, the NZ Airmail and the Western Samoa pictorials. This was apparently a propitious time to marry Miriel Frances Hewitt, making a very happy partnership that blossomed with a family of five lovely daughters and a son. From 1942, however, he was on his own, but later in business as a jeweller's representative, an activity that took him the length and breadth of the country, with opportunity to do some landscape painting and to meet numismatists everywhere. This came to a sudden and dramatic halt with Jim's heart attack in Greymouth in August 1962. From this, thanks to the ministrations of the Greymouth Hospital, for which he was generously grateful, he made a remarkable recovery. Before long he was again living almost at the same far-for unhurrying pace as before.

But well before this, his reputation had gone abroad, as evidenced by the success he had with stamps for the Bernudas, as well as Pacific islands. In 1955 the Australasian Post had ranked him as one of the world's leading stamp designers, and the Dominion Sunday Times crowned him as the Sunday Times Man of the Year, largely as a result of the new Decimal coinage designs. Of recent years he had been especially occupied with medals for the Franklin Mint of Philadelphia, and then for the great series of the Medallic History of Australia, an ambitious programme of sixty medals over some years.

I believe he regarded the change to decimal currency in New Zealand as the most satisfying move with which he had been associated, for he had written several articles for the Society's Journal, urging enthusiastically the advantages of decimalization. The whole of Journal no 54 (1975) was his Sutherland Memorial lecture, devoted to the entire routine of coin and medal production in every aspect, profusely illustrated. Because in that very fine monograph many of his successful designs were listed, they are repeated here as a record of what he regarded as his best.

He was a particularly active member of the Society, serving for terms as Secretary, President and latterly Vice-President. In 1957 he was made a Fellow of the Society. Wider recognition came in 1968, when he was honoured with an O.B.E. He was a warm admirer of the Alexander Turnbull Library to which he presented a series of Captain Cook medals. He was also a committeeman of the Friends of the Turnbull Library. A very recent achievement was to have his effigy of Her Majesty the Queen accepted for the latest minting of the N,Z, dollar.

At the time of his death, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt. Hon. R.D. Muldoon, who is an Honorary Member of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, had the following tribute to pay to the memory of James Berry.

— C R H Taylor.

- 1935 New Zealand Airmail (in the days of the two-seater biplane).
- 1935 Western Samoa pictorial stamps. Six and a half designs.
- 1940 New Zealand Centennial. Nine and a half designs.
- 1946 New Zealand Peace. Complete set of eleven designs.
- 1946 New Zealand Government Life Insurance Office. Set of six designs.
- 1948 Otago Centennial. Set of four designs.
- 1950 Canterbury Centennial. Three designs.
- 1950 Tonga (Treaty of Friendship with Great Britain). Set of six designs.
- 1950 Tonga. Queen Salote's 50th Birthday. Set of three designs.
- 1950 Tonga. Pictorial designs. Set of fourteen.
- 1953 New Zealand Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Four stamps.
- 1966 New Zealand Government Life Insurance Office. Further set of stamps.
- 1970 Western Samoa. Set of five Cook designs.
- Various Health stamps. Several other single stamps for New Zealand and other countries. Four stamps for Bermuda in world competition.

COINS

- 1935 Basic reverse design only for New Zealand Waitangi Crown piece. (Amendments and sculpture by P. Metcalfe of England.)
- 1947 Reverse for Fiji. 12-sided threepence (design only).
- 1949 Reverse New Zealand Crown piece (design only).

- 1967 New Zealand's new Decimal Coinage. Six designs, models and sculptures.
- 1969 New Zealand Cook's Chart commemorative dollar. Design and sculptures.
- 1970 Royal Visit to New Zealand commemorative dollar. Design and sculptures.
- 1974 New Zealand Day commemorative dollar. Design and sculptures.
- 1970 Cook Islands commemorative dollar. Design and sculptures.
- 1972 Cook Islands new Decimel Coinage. Complete set of seven coins. Designs and sculptures.
- 1973 Cook Islands James Cook commemorative silver coins. \$2½ and \$7½. Designs and sculptures.
- 1974 Cook Islands Winston Churchill commemorative coins in silver and gold. Designs and sculptures.
- 1975 Cook Islands King George III, James Cook and H.M.S. Resolution. \$100 gold coin. Design and sculptures.
- 1969 Western Samoa. R. L. Stevenson, commemorative *tala*. Sculptures only.
- 1970 Western Samoa James Cook commemorative *tala*. Design and sculptures.
- 1972 Western Samoa Jacob Roggeveen commemorative *tala*. Design and sculptures.
- 1973 Western Samoa Commonwealth Games commemorative *tala*. Design and sculptures.
- 1974 Western Samoa Full set of seven coins. Designs and sculptures.

MEDALS

- 1935 Bledisloe Medal. Reverse design only. N.Z. Aero Club Medal. (Presented in gold to Flt-Lt. Clouston and Jean Batten.) Designs only.
- 1940 New Zealand Institute of Engineers Medal. Designs only.
New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers. Designs only.
Esther Glenn Memorial Medal (N.Z. Library Association). Designs only.
Wellington Chamber of Commerce. Obverse design only.
- 1948 Otago Centennial. Designs only. (Dies hand-engraved in Birmingham, England.)
- 1966 South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education. Obverse and reverse designs for a medallion.
- 1970 Palmerston North Centennial. Designs only. (Dies hand-engraved By Trevor Dick, of Dick & Watt Ltd., Petone), who also produced two bicentenary James Cook medals from my designs for the Hawkes Bay and Gisborne Savings Bank).
- 1970 Australian Numismatic Society Cook Bicentenary. Designs only. (Dieshand-engraved in Sydney.)
Except where otherwise stated the dies for the above medals were hand-engraved by the late George Whitehouse, of Mayer & Kean Ltd (now Mayer & Toye Ltd, Wellington).

The following medals have been designed and obverse and reverse sculptures completed for the reducing machine method of production.

- 1967 The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand. Decimal coinage medal.
- 1969 The Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand James Cook Bicentenary Medal.
- 1970 The First Papal Visit to Australia commemorative medal.
- 1971 The Royal Society of New Zealand, also the Franklin Mint Collectors' Society.
The Lord Rutherford Medal.
- 1971 The National Commemorative Society of America. The Robert Peary North Pole Medal.
- 1971 The Britannia Commemorative Society. The Oliver Cromwell medal.
- 1973 The Franklin Mint Collectors' Society. The Hillary-Tenzing Mount Everest medal.
- 1974 The Britannia Commemorative Society. The City of London medal.
- 1975 The National Commemorative Society of America. Paul Revere's Ride medal.

THE Prime Minister (Mr Muldoon) has paid a tribute to the designer of New Zealand's decimal currency, Mr James Berry, who died on Tuesday.

"Mr Berry's international reputation as a coin designer reflected his mastery of a very difficult art," said Mr Muldoon, who as Under-Secretary of Finance was responsible for the introduction of decimal currency in 1967.

He believed that few designers anywhere had Mr Berry's gift of designing in a perspective that would reproduce in perfect scale on coins and medallions.

Feeling

"Mr Berry had a feeling for New Zealand flora, fauna and wild life which was reflected in his designs and gave the people of this country a sense of complete identification of our coinage, at the same time commending it to the attention of collectors elsewhere," he said.

"He was especially active

in the design of commemorative coins and medals and it was appropriate that he should have designed the New Zealand James Cook bicentenary dollar and the James Cook bicentenary medal of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.

"Mr Berry likewise displayed his understanding and perceptive talent in the design of New Zealand and Pacific Islands' stamps.

"In all, he designed more than 170 postage stamps for New Zealand and other countries.

"He was also well known as a water-colourist.

"His work would earn him an enduring place in the world of designers but that apart, those who enjoyed his friendship would remember him for his modest enthusiasm and wide knowledge of many facets of New Zealand life and history," Mr Muldoon said.

"EVENING POST, 8 NOVEMBER 1979".

STOP PRESS

As we go to press, word has just been received by Mrs Berry that the Academia Italia Delle Arti e del Lavoro has conferred upon James Berry the posthumous award of the Status of Academician and the official Gold Medal of Confirmation.

TAXATION OF IMPORTED MEDALS

In the last journal it was reported that a submission had been made to the Ombudsman on the subject of custom duty and sales tax on imported medals. The Chief Ombudsman has consulted with the Comptroller of customs, and the following is the text of the reply now received:

New Zealand is a member of the Customs Co-operation Council (C.C.C.) and is a signatory to the Council's Nomenclature Convention. The New Zealand Customs Tarriff is based on the C.C.C. Nomenclature and therefore the department is bound to classify goods according to the rules for the interpretation of the Nomenclature and according to any relevant Notes to Section or Chapter and Level. This obligation is mandatory to all contracting parties to the Nomenclature Convention.

The scope of Heading 99.05 has caused problems of interpretation for New Zealand and other signatories to the Convention. When difficulties arise on classification matters they are referred to the Council for an opinion. The scope of Heading 99.05 has been the subject of a review by the Council and it has been agreed that the Heading is generally accepted as having a limited application. The Council has ruled for example that "numismatic interest" is defined for the purposes of the Tariff as the study and science of ancient medals and coins for the light they throw on past civilisations. For articles to qualify as having "historic interest" they must have a bearing on the study of the activities, manners, customs and characteristics of contemporary or earlier people. Articles such as weapons, objects of worship and articles used by primitive races qualify under this Heading. Only coins and medallions which are made or minted during a historic period and have rarity value fulfil the "historic interest" requirement of Heading 99.05 and thus can be imported free of duty. Medals merely depicting a historic event are not regarded as being of "historic interest". If medals are over 100 years old they qualify however for entry free of duty under Heading 99.06.

A wide and varied range of goods has been claimed by importers to fall within the general description of "collectors items" under Heading 99.05. The goods have ranged from the more usual medals and medallions to dishes, wall plaques, goblets and ceramic thimbles. These goods even in "limited" editions and collected by individuals have been held not to be within the scope of Heading 99.05. When applying the rules for interpretation of the Tarriff these goods are classified according to their constituent material and thus fall within Chapter Heading 73-80 if they are made of base metal, Chapter Heading 71, if made of precious or semi-precious metal and Chapter Heading 69 if ceramic. Coins not being legal tender in the country of issue and medals imported as collections or in consignments containing only a few examples of any one coin or medal clearly intended for a collection, fall within the terms of Heading 99.05.

Because the decisions of the Customs Department proceed from its obligations under the Convention to which I have referred, I am of the opinion that the exclusion of medals imported by your Society from Heading 99.05 is not unreasonable and therefore your complaint cannot be sustained.

CHINESE COINS IN NEW ZEALAND

G.S. Park, Otago Museum.

One sadly neglected aspect of New Zealand numismatics is the coinage widely used by the Chinese inhabitants of New Zealand in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Neither Hargreaves' recent book (Hargreaves 1972) nor Sutherland's earlier definitive work (Sutherland 1941) contain any mention of Chinese coinage, nor can I locate any article on Chinese currency in the pages of the Numismatic Journal. However, judging from the number brought in to Otago Museum for identification, these coins must have circulated widely amongst the Chinese, and many have now found their way into collections.

The most commonly occurring coins are cast pieces of copper, round with a square central hole. They are usually referred to as "cash", from a Sanskrit word meaning "copper", though in Chinese they are ts'in. They were cast in a standard form and weight, with only the legend varying, from about 200 B.C. until 1911 A.D. Those commonly occurring in New Zealand are those of the Ch'ing Dynasty, and these will be described in more detail below.

It is not certain exactly what these coins were used for. They are commonly described in New Zealand as gambling tokens, though they were of course legal tender in China. Several members of the Chinese community in New Zealand I have consulted recall the use of these coins in gambling, but none remembers their use in commercial dealings. The very low intrinsic value of each cash makes commercial use unlikely (see below). An examination of some of the published literature on the Chinese in New Zealand (Don 1890-1911; Ng 1959; Greif 1974) has failed to reveal any reference to the use of Chinese currency.

According to the general literature on Chinese gaming, the principal game in which cash were used was fan-tan:

A square is laid out in the centre of a table, its sides being marked 1,2,3, and 4. The banker empties onto the table a double handful of small coins - in China "cash" - beans or similar articles, which he covers with a metal bowl. The players bet as to what will be the remainder when the pile is divided by four by setting their stakes on the side of the square which bears the number each favours. When all have staked the bowl is lifted and the banker, with a small stick, removes coins (or beans etc.) from the heap, four at a time. When the final batch is reached, the number of coins it contains determines the winning number.

(Encyclopedia Britannica 1963)

Thus the cash in fantan are not used as currency nor as gambling tokens, but are part of the equipment necessary for the game. The game was known and was popular in New Zealand amongst the Chinese. A detailed description and rather fanciful woodcut, probably originally derived from an Australian source, but equally applicable to New Zealand conditions appeared in the Illustrated New Zealand Herald of July 16th 1880. Unfortunately, this article does not indicate whether the stakes laid were also in cash, or whether European currency or gold was used. Don (1893 - 4:2) mentions fan-tan stakes of pence, small, half crown and half sovereign, but does not refer to Chinese coins. In 1907 the exchange rate was approximately 10,000 cash to the pound sterling (Morse 1966 : 83).

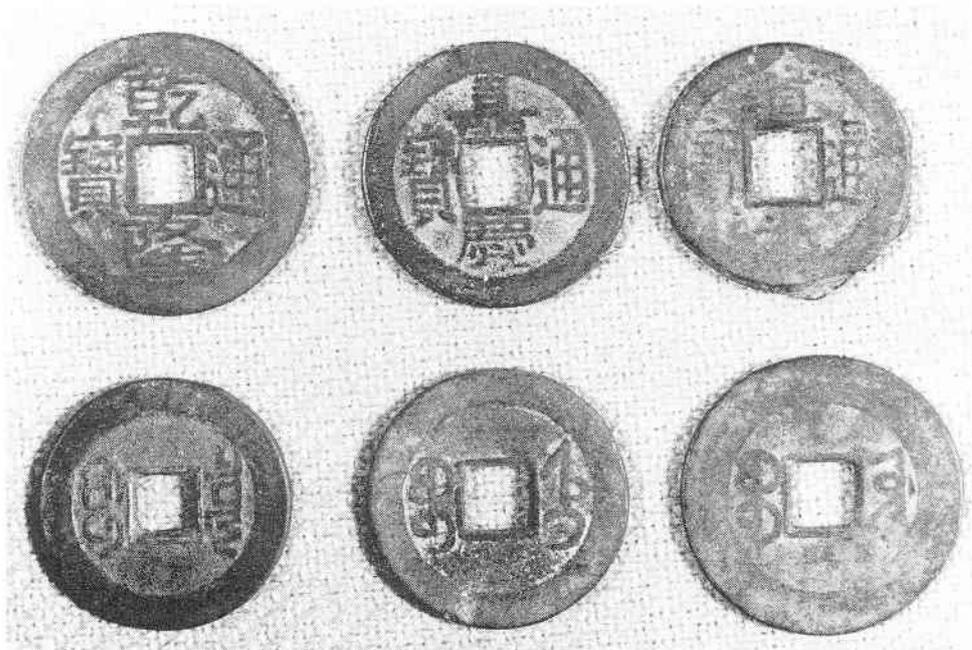


Plate 1.

Six cash from the Ranfurly hoard. The top row shows the names of three Emperors (left to right): Ch'ien Lung, Chia Ch'ing and Tao Kuang. The bottom row shows three mint marks (left to right): Ch'uan and Chih and Chihli Province (Hopei) and Ch'uan in Szechuan.

A little further light is shed on the question by a photograph published in the *Otago Witness* of June 14th 1900. It was taken in a Chinese dwelling in Walker Street, in Dunedin's "Slums". It shows a gaming table from which the Chinese had fled at the approach of the photographer. On the table are some fifty **cash** in a scattered heap, and about ten in a stack. Several large pieces of paper are spread on the table, but no marks appropriate to **fan-tan** are visible. There are also a large number of strips of paper with arrangements of dots on them, presumably paper dominoes (**tim chi p'ai**) which were used in a variety of Chinese games (Culin 1897:837). At least two paper banknotes are visible. The caption says that the reporter was unable to discover whether the game being played was "sin-ti-loo" or "fan-tan". The game was almost certainly not **fan-tan**, but I have been unable to discover what "sin-ti-loo" was. It certainly appears that the cash and the paper notes were the stakes in a gambling game rather than pieces of equipment.

Whatever their precise function, **cash** had a wide circulation amongst Chinese in New Zealand. Over the past few years, quite a few **cash** have been brought into Otago Museum for identification, most of them having been found in the goldfields districts of Central and northern Otago. Although no systematic records have been kept until recently, an impression has been formed that the coins in use in New Zealand were surprisingly old, having been struck in the reign of emperors who ruled one or even two centuries before the period of Chinese immigration to New Zealand. Recently, however, an opportunity arose to quantify that impression, and it is the result of that work which is described here.

In the winter of 1977 an old wooden building in Ranfurly, Otago was demolished. Under the floor of the building a hoard of 34 Chinese coins was discovered. (I am indebted to Mr. J. Smith of the Maniototo Early Settlers' Association for the opportunity to examine this hoard). Little could be discovered of the history of the building or its past occupants. It is not known, therefore, whether the hoard represents the collection of an individual Chinese, or whether it is the result of coin collecting in the goldfields by a European. The latter possibility seems less likely, since these coins have not been popular with collectors in New Zealand, but the possibility cannot be dismissed. Whichever is the case, however, the hoard can be taken as a reasonably representative sample of coins in use by the Chinese in Otago, since a European collector is unlikely to have collected only the coins of a particular Emperor, or from a particular mint. If therefore, we examine the coins and determine where and in which reign they were struck, information of a general nature about Chinese coinage in New Zealand can be deduced.

The 34 coins are all **cash** of emperors of the Ch'ing Dynasty. Their mean diameter is 23.9 mm, with a variation from 22.35mm, and their mass has a mean of 3.69g, with examples ranging from 3.1g to 4.3g. They are of copper or of a copper alloy, probably brass, and almost all are in reasonable condition - the exceptions bear some corrosion, but none is so badly corroded that it cannot with confidence be ascribed to a particular reign and mint.

The coins in the hoard are all of one particular variety of Ch'ing Dynasty **cash** (Plate 1). On the obverse are four Chinese characters, the two above and below the central hole being the names of the emperor in whose reign the coin was struck, and the other two being **T'ung Pao** - "Universal value", i.e. the coins were legal tender throughout China.

The reverse bears two characters, to the left and right of the central hole. On the left is the word **Pao** ("official") in Manchu script (the Ch'ing Dynasty emperors were Manchu) and on the right the mark of the mint at which the coin was struck. Throughout Chinese history coins have been struck at many mints in all the provinces of the country; each mint is however identifiable by its particular mint mark. These marks, as well as the names of the emperors are set out in some detail in A.B. Coole's invaluable book "Coins in China's History" (1965) to which I am indebted for the information necessary to the identifications made here.

The reigns and locations of the mints of the coins in the hoard are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. From these it will be seen that there are a number of anomalies in the distribution of the coins in time and space. Three quarters of the coins were struck at mints in the northern province of Hopei (formerly Chihli). Two thirds of the total were struck at the Ch'uan mint in or near Peking (Coole 1965:66, no.14). The remainder come from mints in central and western China. The numerical predominance of the northern mints is strange when one considers the origin of the Chinese in New Zealand: "with rare exceptions the New Zealand Chinese are . . . from . . . the Canton delta within Kwantung province" (Ng 1972:1) No coins from Kwantung are included in the hoard; Canton is some 1900 km from Peking; all three emperors whose coins are represented struck coins at the Kuang mint in Kwantung.

The other curious aspect of the coins in the hoard is their age. Three quarters of the coins were struck in the reign of Ch'ien Lung, who ruled between 1736 and 1796, or during the equivalent of the reign of George II and the earlier part of the reign of George III of England. All but one of the remainder bear the name of Chia Ch'ing, whose reign from 1796 - 1821 coincides with the second half of the reign of George III. Although not represented in the hoard, coins of the Emperor K'ang Hsi (1662-1723) are also frequently among coins brought in for identification.

Some explanation can be offered for these anomalies. Firstly, coins appear to have remained in circulation in China much longer than would have been the case in Europe. Writing in 1907, H.B. Morse said "thirty years ago, searching critically through hundreds of strings of cash in everyday circulation, I found among them not a few of these coins which had formed part of the ordinary currency of the people for eleven to thirteen centuries, minted before the time of Alfred of England, before Charlemagne was crowned at Rome, and long before a king of France reigned in Paris." (Morse 1966:122). The cash was not a token coin; its value was that of the metal it contained. This fact, and the conservatism in the economic system of Imperial China seem to have allowed very old coins indeed to remain in circulation.

The second anomaly, that of the northern and western distribution of the mints represented in the hoard, may be partly explained by reference to mintage figures. The only figures I have been able to locate refer to the period 1800 - 1830, rather later than that of most of the coins in the hoard, and refer only to 16 mints, of the 19-22 used by the three emperors concerned (Morse 1966:129). The percentage figures for the three provinces whose mints predominate in the hoard are listed in Table 2.

It can be seen that the predominance of the Peking mints is only in part due to the proportion of coins minted there at the time. Further distortion may result from the relatively low numbers of coins involved; information about other finds of cash will be needed to remedy that situation. It is to be hoped that the neglect of Chinese coins in New Zealand numismatics will cease, and that further research will shed some light on the problem raised here.

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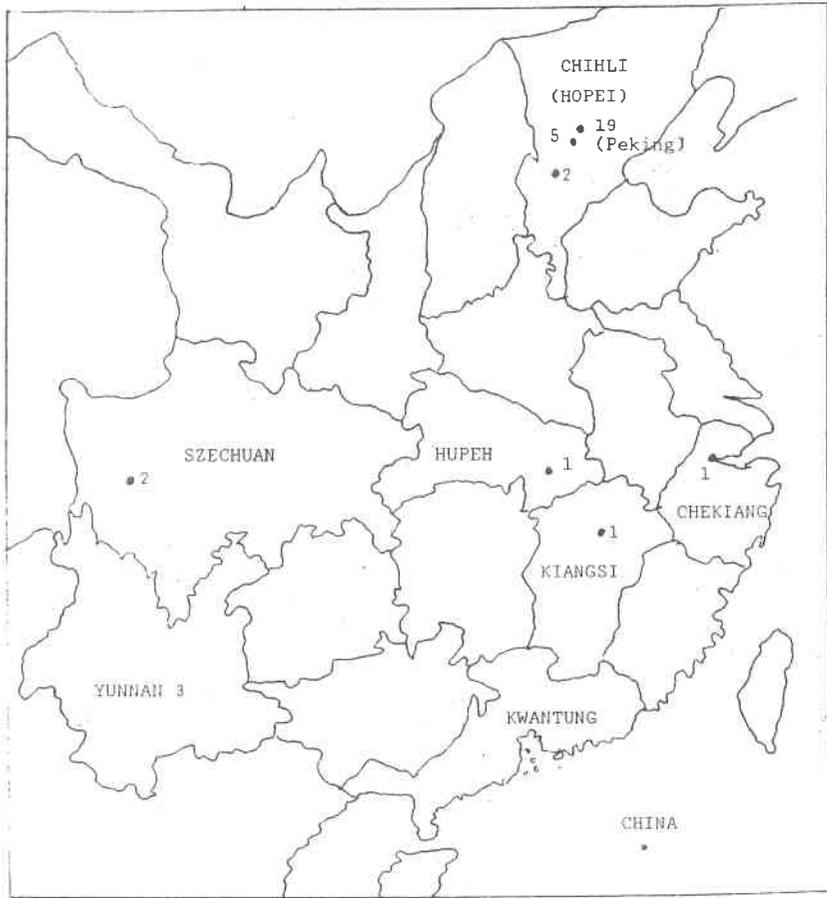


Figure 1.
Mints at which the coins
in the Ranfurly Hoard
were struck

(after Coole 1965:66)

Table 1. Mints and Emperors of Coins from the Ranfurly Hoard.

Province	Chihli (Hopei)			Yunnan Szechuan		Kiangsi	Hupei	Cheking
	Ch'uan	Y'uan	Chih	Yun	Ch'uan	Ch'ang	Wu (?)	Che
Emperor								
Ch'ien Lung 1936-1796	12	4	2	2	2	1	1	1
Chia Ch'ing 1796-1821	7	1						
Tao Kuang	1							

Table 2 Percentages of Cash minted by Provinces

Province	Ranfurly Hoard	Mintage Figures
Chihli & Peking	76	47
Yunnan	9	9
Szechuan	6	9
Other	9	35

AGAIN THE COMET OF 480 AND THE OWL OF ATHENS

Dr. P.J. Bicknell, Monash University

I summarily reiterate, first of all, some commonplaces which I stated at greater length at the beginning of an earlier article in this journal¹. The old style "owl" tetradrachms of Athens fall into two successive general groups. Basic design elements are common to both, but various modifications distinguish representatives of the second class from their predecessors. Most conspicuous, a row of upright olive leaves is added to the bowl of Athena's helmet on the obverse, and to the left of the owl on the reverse a small crescent is placed hard against the bird's neck. The cumulative evidence of hoards has rendered it certain that the minting of owls of the second class commenced as soon as practicable after the final victories, in 479/8, over the Persian invaders led into Greece by King Xerxes.

Given the established order of date for the inception of the second class of tetradrachms it is natural to attempt to connect their more obvious new features with contemporary events. A spray of olive leaves can readily be brought into association with Athens' role, particularly at Salamis, in the Greek triumph over the Medes. The crescent, hitherto universally assumed to be the crescent moon, is less easily explained as an allusion to the events of the war and there has been a recent tendency to deny it any special significance whatsoever. According to Kraay,² for example, the crescent moon is a purely decorative element, associated with the proper, nocturnal sphere of owls. What owl, however, confines its activities to moonlit nights.

After drawing attention in my previous article to the crescent's clumsy and inartistic incongruity and to the apparent pointlessness of adoption of an ugly feature which had no connection with the Persian Wars or their aftermath, I went on to propose an alternative view. In the course of listing the various types of comet that were recognised in his day, Pliny the elder (23-79 A.D.), at N.H. 2.90, distinguishes the *ceratias*. The *ceratias*, he goes on to explain, *cornu speciem habet, qualis fuit cum Graecia apud Salamina depugnavit* (the *ceratias* has a horn shape; an example of this type of comet was observed when Greece fought the decisive battle of Salamis)

Interpreted by the Athenians as an omen of victory, I suggested, the horn-shaped comet of Salamis, which like comet Donati of 1858 may have closely resembled the crescent moon in configuration, found its way onto a grateful city's post-war tetradrachms.

As far as it is possible to judge by such comments as have reached me, my suggestion has not aroused much enthusiasm. The main reasons for scepticism, it would appear, are the silence of Herodotus concerning a pre-Salamis comet, the uniqueness of Pliny's testimony, Pliny's proverbial carelessness, and the vagueness of his description.

With respect to the latter objections at least there is something more that can be said. It recently came to my attention that Pliny's testimony as to the appearance of a comet in Greek skies in 480 is not completely isolated. The same apparition figures in a passage (*de mensibus* 4.116) of Ioannes Laurentius Lydus, a Greek writer of the sixth century A.D.

Like Pliny, Lydus lists varieties of comets. His source is specified as Apuleius the Roman. The appellation Roman, I take it, refers to Apuleius' language, namely Latin. The author concerned can therefore be identified with L. Apuleius of Madaurus (c 123 - c 180 A.D.) who,

in addition to the celebrated *Metamorphoses* (The Golden Ass) and various other extant works, also penned a lost treatise on astronomical matters. Given a general similarity of treatment and yet, at the same time, differences of nomenclature, of descriptive detail and of emphasis in the Plinian and Apuleian passages, it seems tolerably certain that Apuleius did not follow Pliny, but that rather both writers drew upon a common source. The type of comet that Pliny labels *ceratias*, figures in Lydus *askerastes*. ὁ δὲ κερᾶστης, – Apuleius, δούκην σελήνης κεραιοειδῆς, ὅς ἦν ὡς ἰέρξης κατὰ τῆς Ἀττικῆς ἦλθεν, λέγεται φανῆναι

(“the kerastes is horn-shaped like the moon; a comet of this type is said to have appeared when Xerxes moved against Attika”).

Whereas Pliny’s description of the Salamis comet as simply having *cornus speciem* is admittedly imprecise and unspecific, the Lydus-Apuleius passage states categorically that the object in question resembled the crescent moon. I see no reason to doubt that this comparison was derived from the common source.

As to the objection drawn from Herodotus silence, I am still unable to explain this. For the present I can do no more than place on the other side of the scales the evidence of the account which stands behind Pliny and Apuleius, and the probable mention of the same comet in Chinese sources³. I continue to assume that the ultimate Greek source for the apparition was Charon of Lampsakos or Hellanikos.

One further point. Why did the Athenians retain the crescent motif on their tetradrachms when their victory at Salamis was only a memory? Perhaps I should modify my original proposal. There is evidence that in the ancient world comets could be interpreted positively as the harbingers of new dynasties and empires⁴. Almost immediately after the repulse of the Mede Athens found herself mistress of a maritime league; subsequently she was to graduate to imperial power. I now suggest that the Salamis comet was incorporated into, and continued to figure in the design of the post - 479 owls because it was regarded as presaging and in a sense validating Athens’ emergence as one of the hegemons of Greece.

1. “The Comet of 480 B.C. and the Owls of Athens”, NZNJ 14³ (1977), pp. 18-21
2. See C.M. Kraay, NC, 6th series, 16 (1956), p. 56.
3. See note 24 on page 21 of the earlier article, where the expression is somewhat confused. The first Chinese observation of the comet may have considerably ante-dated its discernibility in Greece. The later the date of Salamis, the greater the difficulty of the synchronism.
4. This belief, of course, is the dynamic behind the story of the visit of the magi to Bethlehem.

THE STYLE-EYED KORURU

By M.S. Rodgers and K.A. Rodgers

Errors have been recorded among New Zealand's decimal coinage since that first afternoon of July 10 1967 when the Bahamas mule was discovered. Also from the coinage of that year came the "no-sea" five cent flaw and the "dot-over-one" fifty cent die blob. In subsequent years, a number of other varieties and errors have been reported – some common, others rare.

The most recent addition to this list of oddities appears in the form of series of relatively common diecrack variants observed in and around the eye sockets of the Koruru mask on the reverse of the ten cent piece. To date the resulting die-blob (or blobs) have been found in both a single eye and in both eyes of the one mask. The blobs may occupy either the inner or outer ring of the eye, be of varying size and shape and be either single, double or treble in nature. The net effect is that of a *stye - in - the - eye* (see Fig. 1)

The styes were first noted among 1976 coins where they are both most common and most variable in style. Among several thousand 1976 coins circulating among banks in the central Auckland area in three months of this year about 5% were styed. Subsequently three variety types have been noted among 1975 ten cents while one has been seen in 1977 coins. No doubt others exist and the writers would be grateful to hear of any encountered by other readers.

The various types are shown in Fig. 1 and are listed here for the convenience of any variety enthusiasts. They are easy to collect and at present may be readily obtained in aXF condition. As the blobs form the highest portion of the reverse side they wear quickly and are rapidly modified in shape. Perhaps two varieties shown here of the 1975 coins have been modified one from the other.

We found that a form of descriptive shorthand was necessary to catalogue our various types as we accumulated them over the past twelve months. This scheme might seem excessively complicated for most readers but we present it without apology and hope it will prove an aid to the variety enthusiast:

L = left eye (viewer's left following standard convention); R = right eye; in - inner ring of eye; ot = outer ring of eye; sm = small; lg = large; ↓ = below eye pupil; ↑ = above eye pupil (arrows used only to discriminate otherwise similar types; the above and below being used only in a relative fashion); numbers are self-explanatory.

1975	L-in. 1 : R-nil	Fig. 1a
	L-ot. 1 ↓ - in. 1 : R-nil	Fig. 1b
	L-ot. 1 ↑ - in 1 : R - nil	Fig. 1c
	L-ot. 1 : R-nil	Fig. 1d
1976	L - in. 2 : R - in. 1	Fig. 1e
	L - in. 1 ↓ : R - nil	Fig 1f
	L - in. 1 ↑ : R - nil	Fig 1g
	L - ot. 2 : R - ot. 1 lg	Fig 1h
	L - nil : R - in. 1 sm.	Fig 1i
1977	L - ot. 3 : R-nil	Fig 1j

Two mints (London and Ottawa) have contributed blob variants. None have been collected from the ten cent/one shilling coins or from coins struck at Canberra.

Thanks are due to the numerous tellers who endured our constant changing of ten cent pieces over the early months of 1979.



Figure 1.

Variants identified to date of the sty-eyed Koruru variety.

DETAILED STUDY OF AUSTRALIAN BANKNOTES PUBLISHED
A Review by Jerry Remick

"Australian Banknotes" by Michael P. Vort-Ronald was released at the end of July in both hard and soft cover editions. Copies are available from Michael P. Vort-Ronald, 6 Fisk Street, Whyalla Norrie 5608, South Australia, Australia postpaid in Australian dollars as follows.

The 332 page book is a deluxe presentation: printed on heavy glossy paper 9½ x 7 inches, an inch in thickness, profusely illustrated with 256 sharp photos, and well documented with a number of tables and a great deal of technical data.

The volume is a detailed study (not a priced catalogue) of Australian banknotes from 1910 to date with illustrations of both sides of every type note from 1913. A brief history of paper currency from 1788 to 1910 is given with photos to illustrate it. A great deal of new information was made available to the author by the Treasury and Reserve Bank and is incorporated in this work.

Perhaps the most interesting parts of the book are the detailed and well researched background material presented on the person and on the scene depicted on each banknote. An excellent example is the inclusion of a photograph of the painting of Captain Cook's landing at Botany Bay, Australia by Australian artist E. Phillips Fox accompanied by data on the event and place as background material for the reverse of the 1923 one pound note which shows the scene so realistically.

The chapter on signatures appearing on Australian notes from 1913 on includes a clear photo of each of the signatures as well as a brief history of each signator.

Editorial space in this publication does not permit a detailed discussion of each of the many different topics covered in this book. However the following topics are documented and discussed in detail in the book: forgeries, star notes, specimen notes, watermarks, printing errors, unissued notes, detailed annual note circulation statistics, bank serial number spans for supercribed sets, destroying worn notes, preparation, printing, distribution, press releases, and people, watermarks and a coat of arms appearing on notes.

A 6 page index of subject matter and a 2 page index of illustrations concludes the volume.

Mr Vort-Ronald is Australia's leading expert on his country's banknotes having written many detailed articles on various aspects of the subject over the past 7 years. His book is an encyclopedia of interesting facts and data on Australian banknotes and at the same time is very interesting reading, even for those not knowledgeable on the subject. The volume is an excellent model for writers in other countries to follow as very few countries' banknotes have been so ably documented in such a thorough, detailed, factual and interesting manner.

Australians in the Waikato War 1863 - 1864, by Leonard L. Barton.
Library of Australian History, 17 Mitchell St., North, Sydney, 1979.
Price \$12.95

This volume will be of some surprise to New Zealanders, for it is by no means generally known what considerable numbers, almost 2,500, of Australians were recruited for the campaigns against the Maoris in these years.

To readers of this journal, however, the book has an especial interest, for the sections on medal awards are very full. All recipients are listed for each of the four Waikato Regiments. These lists are subdivided to indicate those who served with the Imperial Commissariat Transport Corps.

In relatively short compass a good deal of ground is covered, for there is a convenient chronology of the Waikato engagements and of the war on the East coast, as well as a note on the military settlements. The work should have use for the genealogist as well as the student of New Zealand military history.

There is a number of vivid illustrations mostly from the gifted hand of Von Tempsky, as well as maps, plans and a good index. The rich resources of the Auckland War Memorial Museum have obviously served him well in this worth-while production.

CRHT

The complete New Zealand Distinguished conduct medal.
Amendment No: 1

In the previous journal we reviewed the basic work on the N.Z. Distinguished conduct medals, compiled by Alan J. Polaschek. Now, with conscientious industry he has compiled and issued in duplicated form a set of replacement pages, updating and correcting texts in the original.

For the collector and student of medals this can be extremely useful as well as of considerable interest. But beyond this relatively narrow field, there is the undoubted value these records will have for the student of military history, even of general history, and certainly for the genealogist, a class of researcher of increasing numbers and scholarship.

Mr Polaschek has done a commendable service to such users, and with the object of making his material widely accessible he has generously, placed copies of his limited edition in repositories when they are likely to meet a need.

CRHT

Seaby (Rare Books) Ltd., Catalogue No: 2. 1980.

For all serious numismatists reference books are indispensable and an accepted part of the cost as of the pleasure of the addiction. Perusing this catalogue, which is excellently produced and illustrated, one is led to appreciate that the literature of the subject has a fascination of its own. Here are listed and described, very fully, 226 items comprising printed books, pamphlets, broadsheets and manuscripts reaching back to the 16th century. Many of them are rare and priced accordingly.

For instance, the earliest illustrated numismatic book, "Illustrum Imagines" by Andrea Fulvio, printed at Rome in 1517, is offered at £1,250. Several royal proclamations on the regulating of coinage of the 17th and 18th centuries are landmarks in the history of money. Particularly surprising, however, is a group of manuscripts of the Royal Mint 1664 - 1683, 1686 and 1728. These include the daybook of the Mint for part of this period.

A good proportion of the books are of Continental origin but English material becomes more abundant in the 18th and 19th centuries. The annotations are so full and informative that they make delightful reading, awakening fruitless yearnings. But it should be remembered that, apart from the attractiveness of these ancient tomes, real and abiding value lies within their often handsome covers.

PERSONAL

We record with regret the death of Mr Herbert Allan Searby on 2 December 1979. The distinguished firm has lost a notable member of their organisation and we are glad that the family association continues.

The Australian Coin Review has been a popular and informative journal over the past sixteen years, but the time has come when the proprietor Mr John Gartner has decided to retire

The management and editorial control will now pass to a group of collectors and journalists, acting in consultation with Mr M.R. Roberts, well-known coin dealer of Sydney, who has purchased the review which is associated with the Hawthorn Press. Some members will remember his entertaining address when he visited New Zealand about ten years ago. The new organisation has our best wishes.

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A COIN OF TRAJAN IN AUSTRALIA

By Brunton Stephens

Through what winding ways of circumstance,
Through what conspiracies of time and chance,
By what long chain of hands, from his who pressed
Upon thy disc the Imperial countenance,
Then threw thee, one of many with the rest -
By what long chain of hands, a living line
Of transfer hast thou come from his to mine?
Could I but trace thee back from mine to his,
Through the long process of the centuries
From touch to touch of hands that took or gave,
And read as current things the destinies
Writ on each palm - of master, matron, slave -
whereon a moment thou hast lain, I should
Know all that life can hold of ill or good.

Stephens was a notable Australian poet, 1835-1902
author of several volumes of poetry, contributions to
journals and a short novel. Born in Scotland, he
lived most of his life in Queensland.

MEMBERS' SPECIALITIES AND WANTS

The following schedule has been compiled for the benefit of Members of the Society. All members have the right to have their names included at no charge. Use registered post or insure parcels when sending specimens by post.

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