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NEW ZEALAND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL



PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 2023, WELLINGTON, N.Z.

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CHARLES II: 1660-85

This reign is of such general as well as numismatic interest, covering a span of 25 years, that I feel one cannot separate the coins from their historical setting and background. Coming as it did after a period of strife of more than 30 years, Charles II's reign is looked upon, in retrospect, as a happy and settled period in British history. In fact it was one of readjustment and involved all the difficulties of compromise with a changed situation, politically, socially and financially with the now very familiar problem of balance of trade payments.

Following the death of Cromwell The Protector—in 1658, and succeeded by his son Richard who quickly realized the tasks confronting him and promptly resigned. England was in very real danger of a return to civil war, not by two opposing sides but fragmented by the ambitions of 12 major generals who governed different parts of the country.

Steps to restore the monarchy and constitutional government were taken by General Monk who entered into negotiations with Charles in Holland and persuaded first, members of the Rump Parliament and then remnants of the old Long Parliament to meet and agree to the restoration.

After 14 years in exile on the Continent, in France, Germany and Holland, always in financial difficulties, Charles was glad to accept the throne on the conditions laid down by the Declaration of Breda and returned in triumph landing at Dover on May 29, his 30th birthday. This period of homecoming was indeed a happy one, but the preceding years of turmoil had wrought changed ideas both for Charles and his subjects. It called for caution by the monarch who wished to retain as much goodwill on all sides as possible. In this respect he was far better suited to the task than his brother James.

On the numismatic scene, the coins continued for a while to be hand-struck as before until in 1662, there was at last an important change with the general issue of machine-struck coins.

There had been previous attempts, with spasmodic issues from the reign of Elizabeth with the moneyer Westrel, of Charles I and Nicholas Briot, Blondeau and Simon in collaboration during the Commonwealth period using Blondeau's machinery. As can be seen, the results of earlier machine-striking varied. Briot was outstanding as a superb craftsman working often under difficulties, for the Civil War meant moving from place to place.

FRENCH INFLUENCE

From the 1662 issues, the custom was begun of marking the source of metal by incorporating a symbol on the reverse die, roses for silver from mines in the west of England, plumes for Welsh silver, an elephant for bullion from the African Company (Guinea) and later this was changed to the elephant and castle.

The king's head is facing right with long hair and laureated bust. There are four bust types showing Charles variously as he aged, the final issue in 1684. This work was carried out in the first instance by Thomas Simon in collaboration with Peter Blondeau and subsequently by Jan Roettiers of Antwerp.

There was considerable argument and recrimination between Simon and Roettiers which included a competition between these engravers as to who should be appointed chief engraver at the Royal Mint. Charles was under an obligation to the Roettiers family for financial help during his exile so although Simon's well known "Petition Crown" was outstanding in its workmanship, the issue was not in doubt. He was relegated to the engraving of small coins and left the mint in 1665.

Blondeau's legacy to us is the introduction on the edge of the crown and 5-guinea pieces of the collar, date and words "Decus et Tutamen" (ornament and safeguard)—against clipping—which continued either in its raised or incuse form.

The smallest silver coins struck were silver pennies, and these were the only coins issued for the Maundy ceremony. There were no Maundy sets until the reign of George II—2d 3d 4d 6d 1/- 2/6 and 5/-.

Following the change to machine-struck coins, the next important move—numismatically speaking—was to tackle the vexed problem of small change that had existed since the middle ages, when the silver penny could be broken into halves and quarters.

During Elizabeth's reign shopkeepers and traders had issued their own tokens in lead for local use and while action was not taken against this practice it was illegal and was superseded by copper farthing tokens, a monopoly for which was leased out by James I and Charles I. These were forged in large numbers so that they were regarded with deep suspicion and were most unpopular.

At last in 1672 Charles issued farthings and halfpennies in copper on the basis of 20d to the lb and legal tender up to 6d in value.

Obverse: bust F.L. armour—Carolus a Carola.

Reverse: Britannia and date.

Britannia as a symbolic figure was similar to a Roman issue of the second century and was modelled by Francis Stewart. Later, the striking of farthings in tin was tried as there was greater profit in using this metal.

During his quarter century as king after a start in difficult conditions with political and religious intrigues, both at home and on the continent with conflicting interests between Holland and France, each seeking allies for their religious beliefs and trading ventures, Charles gradually improved England's position to leave the country far more settled and prosperous, and the coinage on a sure footing.

W. E. HORWOOD.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ALFRED WILLIAM ROBIN,

K.C.M.G., C.B., K.St.J., V.D.

1860-1935

by

P. P. O'SHEA,

M.L.J., F.R.N.S. (Lond.), F.R.G.S.

[Mr O'Shea gave a most engrossing talk to the Society at its May meeting on this same distinguished soldier. The same ground was covered as here.]

To any veteran, or in fact to anyone who has read something of New Zealand's participation in the South African War, 1899-1902, the name of Major Alfred William Robin is prominent. It was in that war he became a legend and destined to become a leading figure in the pre-1914 defence policies of New Zealand.

He was born at Riddler's Creek in the state of Victoria, Australia, in August 1860, the son of a baker. In 1864 he came to New Zealand with his parents and settled in Dunedin, where he received an average education, concluding with a year at Otago Boys' High School (1873). It was there that he was introduced to the military life, in the school cadets; a subject more to his liking and which he received with great enthusiasm. On leaving school he joined his father's coach and carriage building business, established on the family's arrival in Dunedin, and on turning 18 in 1878 he joined 'B' Battery, N.Z.F.A. Volunteers. So began his rise from the ranks; 1882 Trooper, Southland Hussars; 1883 Sgt-Major, Dunedin Cavalry Volunteers; 1889 Lieutenant, Otago Hussars; 1891 Captain, Commanding Officer of the Otago Hussars, a regiment that was the pride of all Otago. It was about this period that his efficiency and leadership were drawn to the attention of the military authorities and in 1895 he was appointed adjutant and instructor of a regimental camp at Palmerston North. He was a success and every good reason why eyes should turn towards him in 1897 to command and train the New Zealand squadron that the Government proposed to send to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Returning from the jubilee celebrations in 1898, he was promoted to Major, made a staff officer and given command of the Otago Mounted Rifles and appointed instructor to the Mounted Rifle units in the South Island. While in this position he established a tactical school for M.R. officers, teaching the latest methods of military science.

His experience, distinction and ability obtained for him the command of the first three contingents that were sent to the South African War in 1899. This appointment met with opposition from senior officers who had received Imperial Army training. New Zealand had answered England's call for troops and in so doing Robin became the first colonial officer to command a unit in the defence of another part of the Empire.

The mark of a born soldier gave Robin his laurels; being Mentioned in Despatch three times, promoted Lieut.-Colonel and appointed a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the

Bath, military division (C.B.). The clasps on his Queen's South Africa Medal give some idea of the places at which he saw active service: Relief of Kimberley, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill.

General French wrote:

Major A. W. Robin, commanding the N.Z. Mounted Infantry, deserves special mention for the frequent occasions upon which he and his men performed signal service during these operations (in the vicinity of Colesberg).

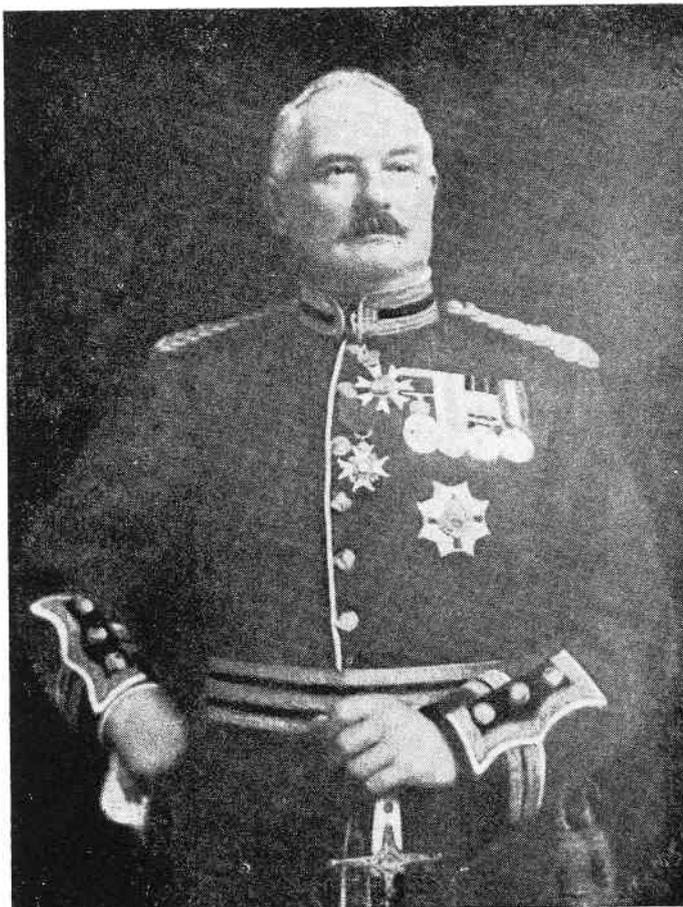
In May 1901 Robin returned to New Zealand and received a hero's welcome, especially in his home city of Dunedin where it was publicly suggested that his exploits deserved the Victoria Cross. In political circles it was deemed wiser to have this efficient officer out of South Africa and though he was appointed Commander of the Otago Military and Volunteer District, with a brevet colonelcy, it was not until 1906 (after Premier Seddon's death), that he became prominent in military affairs as Chief of the General Staff. In this office he was instrumental in preparing the universal training scheme which was later endorsed by Lord Kitchener. In 1912 Robin was appointed Dominion Representative on the Imperial General Staff at the War Office in London and received a commission as a Colonel in the Imperial Forces. He also attended the Imperial Army and Grand Manoeuvres of 1912/1913 in England and France.

His thorough study of the Imperial Army's mobilization schemes proved invaluable for New Zealand when the Great War broke out in 1914. Robin, with the rank of Brigadier-General, became G.O.C. New Zealand Home Forces. In the Birthday Honours of 1916 he was made a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (K.C.M.G.) and several months later promoted to Major-General. For what appear to be his contribution to the European War effort the President of France appointed him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1922.

On his retirement late in 1919 he was appointed acting Administrator of the Trusteeship of Western Samoa, an office held until 1922 when he retired to his comfortable residence overlooking Wellington Harbour.

In retirement General Robin was not idle, being very active in the Boy Scout movement, the founder of which, Lord Baden-Powell, was a close friend from the South African War days. In 1933 the highest scout award, the Order of the Silver Wolf, was awarded to Robin. In the St John Ambulance Brigade he was Metropolitan Commissioner and later he'd that rank in an honorary capacity. In May 1929 the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem accorded him the dignity of a Knight of Grace (K.St.J.). He was a Patron and Gold Badge member of the South African War Veterans' Association of New Zealand, an organisation whose activities were very close to him.

Unmarried, Sir Alfred died peacefully in June 1935, aged 75 years. He was proud of all his honours and achievements but possibly above all he cherished the thought that he was from the ranks of the volunteers; soldiers who were the foundation of the New Zealand Army.



Major-General Sir Alfred William Robin,
K.C.M.G., C.B., V.D.

Photo: W. J. Salt

(From an original oil painting (c1917) in the
author's possession.)

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS OF SIR ALFRED WILLIAM ROBIN

1. Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (K.C.M.G.) (Birthday Honours, 1916). Appointed a C.M.G. in 1912.
2. Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Military Division (C.B.), (April 1907).
3. Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in the British Realm (K.St.J.), (May 1929).
4. Queen's South Africa Medal, 1899-1902. with five clasps; Relief of Kimberley, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, South Africa (1901).
5. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Medal 1897, in silver.
6. King George V's Silver Jubilee Medal 1935.
7. Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decoration (King Edward VII) (awarded 1911).
8. Volunteer Long Service Medal (Queen Victoria), (awarded 1903).
9. New Zealand Long and Efficient Service Medal (awarded 1894).
10. Chevalier, Legion of Honour of France (1922).
11. Order of the Silver Wolf of the Boy Scout Movement (1932).

Present whereabouts of awards: Nos. 1, 2, 3 and a complete set of miniatures are mounted on a shield, being the "Sir Alfred Robin Memorial Shield" and competed for by the St John Ambulance Brigade. Nos. 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10, in Otago Early Settlers Museum, Dunedin. No. 8 in author's collection. No. 11, missing. No. 6, missing. (Sir Alfred died before the medal was actually issued.)

Reprinted from *The Veteran*, official journal of South African War Veterans' Association of New Zealand. Vol. 45, May 1970.

KUSHAN EMPIRE

By Joan Armstrong

The Yueh-chih were a nomadic tribe living in the Kansu district, on the the Chinese border, until shortly after 147 B.C. when the plundering Hsiung-nu hordes under Lao Shang Shan-yu defeated the yueh-chih and killed their leader. Those who were not captured and lead into captivity fled to the area along the shores of the Aral Sea, displacing the Shakyas living there. By 126 B.C. the Yueh-chih had advanced south, and made the Greek kingdom of Bactria their own. At this point they settled down giving up their nomadic life.

In A.D. 25 the Kushan Chief, Kujula Kadphises took the first step in the creation of the Kushana Empire by uniting the five tribes of Yueh-chih. He became King Kadphises I. The southward expansion of the Empire developed with the over-running of Gandhara the last of the Greek kingdoms which were at the time under the rule of the Parthians, and had been since the death of Hermaeus (before 30 B.C.). By A.D. 48 all the land on the Northern border of India was in Kushana hands, and by the time of Kadphises I (about A.D. 50), the Kushan Empire was completed. Wima Kadphises II followed his father becoming Kadphises II, he issued gold coins showing considerable Indian influence.

The next recorded king was in fact the greatest and best known of the Kushans. Kanishka came to power in A.D. 76 through the Shakya King Cashtara in A.D. 78 he gained control of the Western Satraps, to assist in the consolidation of the Empire Kanishka-appointed Viceroys. Shakyas influence continued, the Shakyas founded the Saka era in A.D. 78 and Buddha (536-483 B.C.), founder of Buddhism is according to historians a member of the Shakya tribe. Kanishka extended the Empire, in the South as far as Sanchi, and eastwards to Benaras. Buddhism received his support and patronage and continued to spread throughout Asia. Coins of Kanishka were the last Kushan coins inscribed in Greek. The reign of Kanishka ended early in the 2nd century and he is said to have died defending the border of the Empire against Chinese invaders.

Kanishka's son Huvishka succeeded his father around A.D. 106. Coins of the period show a great religious toleration, depicting Persian, Greek and Indian deities but surprisingly not Buddha. The Greek alphabet was used. During the reign of Huvishka the Viceroys took advantage of the degeneration of the Kushana Empire to seize their own independence.

The last recorded king mentioned is Kanishka III: little is known of this ruler and the dynasty appears to have come to an end here. Tribal kingdoms continued to issue their own coinage until the next invaders, the Sassanians in the early 3rd century.

My coin was issued by King Vasudeva who came to power in A.D. 140. He inherited a shrunken empire, his reign according to one authority lasted until A.D. 147. The coin is described as a Bazodeo. It is a 25 mm copper piece quite thick, the obverse shows the king standing in profile at an altar sacrificing, also holding a trident in the left hand. Inscription Greek alphabet. The reverse depicts the Indian God Siva with an ox.

THE GUINEA

By Joan Armstrong

*(A paper delivered at the October meeting of Canterbury Branch
R.N.S.N.Z.)*

The English gold guinea was first minted in the reign of Charles II, and took its name from the Guinea Coast in Africa whence the gold used in the coin was obtained. An African company of England delivered the bullion to the Mint, a high proportion of which was from *GUINEA*, thus the name guinea arose to distinguish the new gold pieces worth one pound sterling from earlier units. The guinea kept this name long after most of the gold was coming from other sources, but its value soon changed. Towards the end of the 17th century it rose from one pound to 30 shillings, then it subsided to 21/- at which it remained till the guinea went out of circulation in 1816. This stable period of circulation was long enough for the value of 21/- to become identified with the name guinea.

The term guinea was retained as a money of account and used in a prestigious manner up until the introduction of decimal currency. Incidentally a recent English magazine, relates that a well known firm not only still deals in the sterling currency (decimal currency was introduced in 1971) but actually pays its staff wages according to guinea rates. The manager refuses to do his accounts in the current monetary fashion. The Income Tax Dept does not like this situation but there is nothing they can do about it. Apparently there is no law to say you can't stay as you were when it comes to accounting.

* * * *

GUN MONEY

(IRISH VARIETY)

By Matthew Strack

When Charles II died in 1685 his brother James II took on the onerous task of ruling England. He quickly became unpopular with his subjects. After suppressing a rebellion led by the Duke of Monmouth over 1000 rebels — yokels and miners — were condemned to death in the Bloody Assizes. In an endeavour to strengthen his position he started to fill Parliament and the Army with religious associates.

Finally in 1688 William of Orange landed in England; James II was forced to march against William, but his army diminished and the whole of England was against him. Soon James was deposed and forced to flee to Ireland where Louis XIV provided money and soldiers for him to drive out the Protestant forces, but at the Battle of Boyne he was defeated. He died in exile in 1701

in France where he had fled after his defeat. William and Mary reigned from 1688 until 1702. In this reign three important numismatic events took place. In 1694 the Bank of England was founded. The coinage of England was changed and the milling of the edge was reintroduced. While in Ireland James caused to be issued a series of money now known as Gun Money, the piece I have to show is a milled gunmetal shilling, its diameter is 25 mm and 1 mm in thickness. It is dated August 1689. This coin is one of a large range of pieces of emergency money issued during James II's Irish campaign. The range went from crowns to sixpences which were made out of brass cannons, old bells, and various other metal objects.

On the obverse are the letters 'JR' (Jacobus Rex). In between is a crown and sceptres, above the crown is XII and date with 'August' below. Legend MAG BR FRA ET HIB REX Magnae Britanniae Franciae et Hiberniae Rex, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland. On the reverse a portrait of James with inscription.

* * * *

THE HUMBLE COPPER

Late last year the American press published a booklet "One Cent Coinage", a summary of the 1973/74 Treasury Federal Reserve Committee Studies. It is likely that the American study could largely be applied to New Zealand conditions. The purpose of this 1973 study was to examine an alternative to a copper or bronze coin. The American one cent is 95% copper and 5% zinc. The New Zealand one and two cent coins are 97% copper, 2½% zinc and ½% tin.

During 1973 the price of copper was increasing at such a rate that there was concern that the value of the copper content might exceed the value of the coin. The Americans at one time apparently considered that the best alternative was an aluminium coin but this was finally rejected.

It happened that the price of copper fell from US\$3,000 a ton in 1974 to US\$1,000 in December 1975. There are undoubted lessons in this American study for New Zealand.

Like the rest of Western nations, we have come to accept a rate of inflation something like 10% over the last few years. In the long term it can be expected that the price of base metals will continue to increase.

Section 228 of the Crimes Act 1961 makes it illegal for anyone to "melt down, break up or use otherwise than as currency any current coin". However, it is not always easy for the police to catch a villain "red handed".

The American study has shown that approximately 11 to 12 percent of all one cent coins disappear annually and never return to circulation. It is likely that there is a similar loss rate for New

Zealand bronze coins. There are good reasons for this. First the small size of a one or two cent coin: second its colour: If dropped on the ground it is not easily noticed. Thirdly the value of the cent is such that many people would not bend to pick it up.

Since the introduction of decimal currency 260 million 1-cent coins and 236 million 2-cent coins have been minted. Bank stocks of this coin would be higher than other denominations but the fact remains that there must be an awful lot of bronze coins lying around New Zealand in peculiar places.

By way of comparison (if you can compare the two countries), the Americans estimate that the current number of their cents in circulation is 35 billion pieces. Ninety billion have been manufactured since 1972, 62 billion pieces since 1959.

The Japanese have accepted coins made of aluminium but the New Zealand public reaction to aluminium is likely to be unfavourable. One possible alternative is a copper-coated steel coin. This way the coins could be of a colour we are used to.

The fact remains that at some time in the may be not too distant future New Zealand, along with the U.S., will have to consider a cheaper alternative to copper for low denomination coins.

R. T. HARWOOD

* * * *

A BANKNOTE INSPIRES THE WRITING OF A SONG

By David Armstrong

If I was to ask anybody at this meeting tonight the name of the tune which I have just played (taperecorder), I am sure that most here would answer 'DIXIE'—a song which is associated with the confederate side of the American Civil War of 1860. However, if I was to ask does anybody here know the origin of the word Dixie, the true answer would most likely be from somebody who had a good knowledge of Numismatics. Popular supposition is that the name Dixie had its origins in an imaginary line separating the Northern and Southern States, named after two Americans—Mason and Dixon. Dixie did not derive from Dixon: it came from a \$10 bill issued by a New Orleans Bank, during the 1845/1862 period.

The song Dixie was composed in 1859 by Dan D. Emmett, as a 'walk'round' for Bryant's Minstrels, when performing at Mechanics Hall, New York. The songster had just spent a vacation in New Orleans and liked the place, and he was most particularly pleased with the \$10 Bills of the Citizens' Bank of New Orleans which circulated freely and at a 100% valuation—other currency of the period being heavily discounted.

The Citizens' Bank, to accommodate the large French speaking population of New Orleans, issued its money in French and English. The \$10 note had prominently printed on its face and

back the French word for ten "Dix", pronounced in French it is 'Dees', but in popular usage it became the English Dix, rhyming with 'six'. So popular was this denomination that the general public soon began calling the Citizens' Bank, the Bank of the Dixes. The song Dixie was northern by birth, southern only by adoption. When first heard in New Orleans in 1860, it took the City by storm. Folks there knew that the desire "Wish I wuz in de land of the dixes" (first wording of the song) meant the person longed for the old hometown, New Orleans, where the Dix Bill circulated 'good as gold'.

The songwriter's wish was the same, he wanted to be back in the land of the dixes, not only because of the sunshine, the sugar cane and other attractions, but also because the \$10 Bill was worth ten dollars every day of the week.

The Bank's full title was the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana. It was organised in 1833, its notes issued in five, ten, twenty, fifty, hundred, and thousand denominations, had almost a nationwide circulation—more because of the steamboat operations up and down the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Ohio and connecting rivers. The ten dollar notes were the most popular; these bills were always referred to as "dixes". A dixie note, or a Bill on the Dixie Bank was a common expression. The word Dix is so prominently printed that the observer, even an illiterate steamboat worker, could identify a Dix Bill at a glance.

Steamboat men from 'up-river' country, when leaving for New Orleans, in reply to enquiries as their destination, would say "we're going South after Dixes", or we are going to Dixie Land. Gradually the country along the River to the South began to be known as Dixie Land, because so much money (Dixes) came from it. Thus, throughout a wide territory, from Pittsburgh, St Paul and St Louis, to the Gulf the notes of the New Orleans Bank kept in constant circulation and were never discounted (as was the common practice), no matter how far the distance from the issuing bank.

Because of this willing acceptance and wide circulation, the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana, New Orleans, became very well known and highly respected as any Bank in the Nation. At one time, middle 1850's, the Bank's circulations totalled five million dollars . . . at that time an unprecedented expansion. Then during the money panic of 1857, the Citizens' Bank withstood a two weeks' run and came out unshaken, while hundreds of Banks over the Nation collapsed.

General Albert Pike, C.S.A., is credited with taking much of the plantation charm out of the song and making it the stirring martial piece which it became, and remains to this day truly the Confederacy's Marseillaise.

Although the Citizens' Bank issued hundreds of thousands of \$10 Bank Notes, they are quite rare and worth up to 50 dollars. Because of the Dixie (sentimental) appeal, these notes are held currently by thousands who have no collector interest.

Today the other denominations which were issued by the New Orleans' Bank are common and worth only a few cents each.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary, Royal Numismatic Society of N.Z. (Inc.), Wgtn.
Dear Sir,

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY MEDALS 1913

Your letter of October 9 regarding New Zealand Special Constabulary Medal of 1913 refers.

I regret I am unable to greatly assist. I have examined the 1913 Strike file which is silent on the matter of the medal. Nor is there any specific file on the award.

The Police Museum at Trentham has one such medal which carries the following explanatory note:

“Special Constabulary—Foot: This medal was presented to Mr Arthur Thomas Parkinson of Mt Albert, Auckland on 15.4.14 by the then Prime Minister of New Zealand (the late Rt Hon William Massey) for his service as a special constable during the strike of 1913.”

“The medal was struck for the Auckland Citizens’ Defence Committee, and shows on its reverse the Auckland coat-of-arms of that period.”

The Auckland Citizens’ Defence Committee may have been a local body organisation and perhaps the Auckland City Council may have some record of their activities.

I regret the Police Department has no spare medals. In fact, the one I mentioned earlier is our only specimen and that was donated by Mr Parkinson’s next of kin.

I have seen four examples of the medal and all bore the same coat-of-arms on the reverse. I have a feeling that Auckland was the only city to issue them. One such example was sold at Kapiti Auctions in October last year (mounted) for \$15.

I also searched police annual reports to parliament of the strike period and while I found no mention of the medal, details of the operations in which the constabulary were involved were of interest.

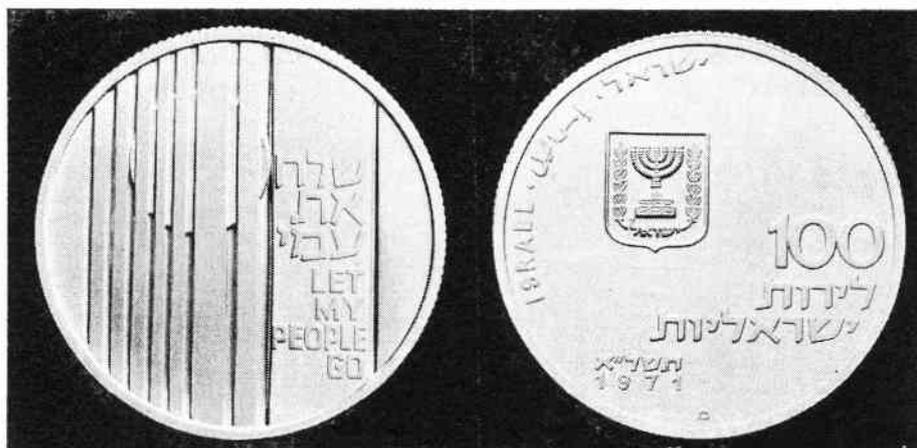
J. A. FRANKLIN, Sergeant.

AMERICA 1776 — 1976**— & Shakespeare.**

As part of the celebrations, a commemorative medal has been designed by the internationally acclaimed sculptor Pave Vincze for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon. Mr Vincze has also designed a series of medals depicting characters from Shakespeare’s plays for the Birthplace Trust.

GOLD COIN—"LET MY PEOPLE GO"

In 1972 the Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in 1972 issued a Legal Tender Gold coin "Let My People Go", dedicated to the struggle for freedom of Soviet Jewry. The coin, issued by the Bank of Israel, has a face value of IL 100, weighs 22 gr, diameter 30 mm, gold contents 900/1000. All gold coins are in Proof condition, marked with the Hebrew letter "mem", and were minted by the Swiss Federal Mint in Bern. Mintage figure, 10,000.



SIR EDWARD ROBINSON 1887 — 1976

Authority on Greek Coins

This world authority on ancient Greek coinage joined the British Museum Department of coins and medals in 1912, and served there with growing distinction till 1952, his last years being as Keeper. He was born in 1887, and died in June of this present year. His academic career had been brilliant forecasting his life-long devotion to classical studies as ancillary to numismatics.

With Harold Mattingly he revised and fundamentally changed the chronology of Roman Republican coinage. His numerous published catalogues and monographs were accepted as authoritative — the London Times uses the term "Magisterial" to describe them. He was commissioned by Gulbenkian to acquire Greek coins for the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. As may be expected, this collection is of unrivalled quality. Robinson was also a collector, presumably with considerable means, but his collecting was altruistic for it enabled him to make princely gifts to the Asmolean and the British Museum itself.

He was knighted in 1872, and during his lifetime had been the recipient of many medals and honorary membership. The science of numismatics is vastly the richer for his many contributions.

QUEEN'S SERVICE ORDER

His Excellency the Governor-General, as Principal Companion of The Queen's Service Order, released on 20 June 1975, illustrations of the Badge of The Queen's Service Order and The Queen's Service Medal. At the same time His Excellency announced the institution by The Queen of The Queen's Service Order (QSO) with an associated medal, The Queen's Service Medal (QSM) on 22 April 1975. The Order and medal are subdivided to recognise "Valuable Voluntary Service and Meritorious and Faithful Services to the Crown or similar services within the public sector in elected or appointed office."

The first appointments to the Order and awards of the Medal were made in the Birthday Honours announced on Saturday, 14 June 1975. There were 4 SO's "For Community Service" and 7 "For Public Services", and 15 QSM's "For Community Service" and 17 "For Public Services". The Order and Medal are currently being manufactured by the Royal Mint, London, and photographs have been taken of the plaster models, prepared by the Mint, from which the dies are made. It is expected to be several months before the completed insignia arrives in New Zealand.

The Badge of the Order is circular in shape, consisting of five large and five small stylised flower petals in frosted silver, superimposed upon which there is a silver gilt medallion bearing the crowned effigy of The Sovereign within a circle of red enamel inscribed "For Community Service" (or "For Public Services") as may be the case, and surmounted with St Edward's Crown in silver gilt.

The Queen's Service Medal is silver and circular in shape, bearing on the obverse the crowned effigy of The Sovereign and on the reverse a representation of the Coat of Arms of New Zealand, surrounded by the inscription "The Queen's Service Medal—For Community Service" (or "For Public Services") as may be the case. The QSO and QSM are suspended from identical ribbons, 38 mm, in width, having narrow ochre edges with, in the centre, alternating diagonal steps in ochre, white and black descending from left to right. When worn by a woman the ribbon is fashioned into a bow.

Both the QSO and QSM were designed by Mr P. P. O'Shea, FRNSNZ, FRNS (Lond.), FRSA, Advisory Officer (Honours) in the Cabinet Office.



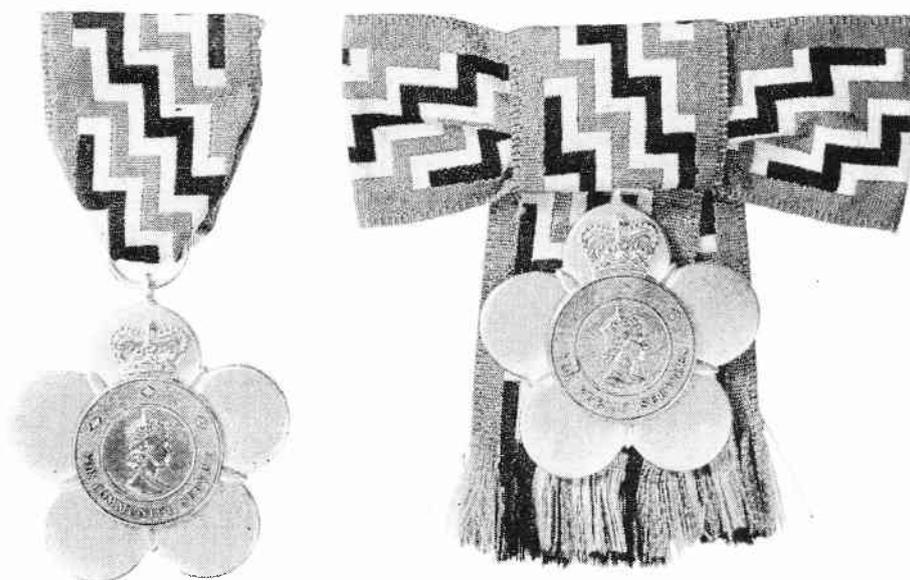
THE QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL (Q.S.M.)

Left: Obverse of Medal (on bow as worn by a woman).

Centre: Reverse of Medal For Community Service.

Right: Reverse of Medal For Public Services.

Photographs by courtesy of The Secretary and Registrar of The Q.S.O.



THE QUEEN'S SERVICE ORDER (Q.S.O.)

Left: Badge of Companion For Community Service.

Right: Badge of a Companion For Public Services (on bow as worn by a woman).

Photos: National Publicity Studios

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The one hundredth and fourth annual report of the Royal Mint for the year 1973-74 has been released in 1976. It is a well-printed book of 68 pages, with a good index, extremely fine illustrations and many tables of production etc. The first thing of note is that Mr Harold Glover who was Deputy Master of the Mint from 1970 to 1974, has been appointed Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. He gave great attention to the export drive which resulted in the Royal Mint's being awarded its second Queen's Award to Industry. The new Deputy Master and Controller is Mr J. R. Christie.

Of a total output of 859 million coins, 624 million were for the United Kingdom. During the years, the striking of circulation coins at Tower Hill ceased, but 115.5 million coins for overseas were struck under sub-contract by Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) Limited, and the Birmingham Mint Limited. It would seem that these sub-contracts will disappear with the development of the new mint at Llantrisant in South Wales.

Besides coins, the Royal Mint is a very fine producer of medallic art. The Bristol Corporation 600th Anniversary medal and the FAO Olave Baden-Powell medal are both very fine examples of British art of this kind. The Mint also produces seals, and the report notes the manufacture of seals for the British Library (formerly the British Museum Library); the Nature Conservancy Council, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, the Secretary for State and others.

The Mint Advisory Council is a list of distinguished personages, for out of 13 members, only three do not claim some academic degree or royal honours.

Since the adoption of decimal currency, the £ s d coins continue to be withdrawn, but it is noted that of the sixpenny coins, a quantity to the value of £5.75 million still remained in the hands of the public at 31st March 1974.

R. T. HARWOOD

REPORT OF THE MASTER OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT FOR THE YEAR 1974

It is an interesting comparison with the British Royal Mint, that the Canadian counterpart produced 1203.7 million coins in the same year. In addition to its own currency needs, the mint executed orders for Israel (56 million), Barbados (18.5 million), for Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, and Indonesia.

Canadian coins of numismatic quality were sold to the number of 2.8 million. Medals for the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Mounted Police, and others, reached a production total of 26,000.

The report is well-produced with the usual tabulated statistics of output etc, seven pages of good illustrations, and it has the advantage that the entire text is in French as well as English.

Renniks Australian Coin and Banknote Guide: ninth edition, by Dion H. Skinner, Owl Pty Ltd, 1975. 192 pp.

The high quality and prestige of this work, confirmed in this ninth edition, continues to be the comprehensive reference book that numismatists have come to regard as a bible. It is much more than an elaborately illustrated catalogue, for it includes at all useful stages good textual notes, usually with a historical note.

The guide derives quality and authority from the several notable contributors to its pages, as well as its reliance upon a number of standard specialist reference works.

Greek Coins in the Otago Museum. Part I. Gaul & Italy, Part II. Sicily; compiled by C.T.H.R. Ehrhardt. 89 pp. Available on application to the Museum.

The two parts of this scholarly and carefully compiled catalogue constitute a most valuable record of the Museum's collections. Also they are a model for the description of such collections in other public institutions.

It is obvious that the Museum's holdings are exceptionally strong and make a valuable aid to the resources for classical studies as well as numismatics.

Dr Ehrhardt says he would be interested to have details of the holdings of other museums. He also would be glad to get information about European travels of Willi Fels who collected the large portion of the Museum's collection.

Illustrations of the coins are to be produced as the next stage of Dr Ehrhardt's work.

Numismatic Literature No. 92. September 1974. American Numismatic Society, New York. X/VIII, 187 pp.

This pretty comprehensive survey of current publications is a semi-annual production. It is assembled from a panel of contributors over the world. The classification is simple to use, and the annotations are useful and often very full.

* * * *

For collectors whose range includes the earlier literature on numismatics, the majority of antiquarian booksellers do not usually give particular attention to this field. However, the excellent book-catalogues issued by John Drury of 11 East Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1. ISS, England list exciting and undoubtedly scarce publications. His catalogue No. 15 well illustrated and copiously annotated, includes books from 1517 to 1795. However, be warned, for such early books are quite as expensive as early coins, though often more informative.

* * * *

Polish Medal Art from 16th to 19th centuries in the Museum of Medal Art in Wroclaw Town Hall.

This is a descriptive account of the exhibition and not a catalogue, so readable and informative (in English as well as in Polish). It has long been a matter for admiration that Polish culture has

survived through centuries of national crises and the vicissitudes of war and political upheaval. It is obvious from this pleasant booklet that excellent representation of medals over the long period under survey.

It will be of interest that the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand has entered into exchange relations with the Polish Museum.

"The coinage of the Roman Republic" by Edward Allen Sydenham, originally published by Spink & Son, London, in 1952, has been reprinted by the Orno Press, New York. The price in the U.S. is \$26, and it will presumably be available from Spink & Son at a comparable price. The reprint is in slightly smaller format, and carries an introduction by Dr C. H. V. Sutherland.

IN OTHER JOURNALS

"World Coins" for May 1975 carries a four-page article by Donna O'Keefe on the coins and medals that give honour to the expeditions of Captain James Cook. It is not exhaustive, but describes and illustrates a number of the better-known examples, including the Samoan dollar 1970 and the Hawkes Bay & Gisborne Savings Bank Medal of 1969. The writer gives acknowledgment to "James Cook, his coins and medals" by W.J.D. Mira.

In the same issue Dr James A. Lock contributes a most informative study on "Medieval European mintages and survival rates." Although some records of mintage do survive, for the greater part estimates are the alternative. These are based on a close study of die variations evinced in coins, where it has been possible to examine sufficient numbers.

The Coin Monthly, April 1975, is of interest for an extensive paper by A. Cadwallender on the New Zealand Day dollar. Prefacing his account with a rapid historical survey, he gives sufficient on the Treaty of Waitangi to indicate its significance in the light of the present establishing of New Zealand Day or Waitangi Day.

A strong note of warning appears on the front page of the Coin Weekly (4 December 1975) about the disturbingly large numbers of coin forgeries coming on the market. They appear to be coming from Lebanon, Italy and Czechoslovakia. Dealers find it difficult to distinguish them from genuine coins. Those noted in this article are European coins of 17th to 19th centuries.

The issue of the same journal for 11 September reports an astonishing discovery of a hoard of coins in a field in Lincolnshire, on the site of an ancient Roman settlement. There were more than 15,000 coins, "dated between A.D. 260 and A.D. 280. The coins had no more than 6% of silver content. The finder disposed of most of the coins privately, apparently unaware that they should have been declared as treasure trove. The police valued the hoard at about £50,000.

On 13 November, the Coin Weekly had a report of a discussion between the editor and the Deputy Director of the Canadian Olympic Coins programme, and the editor (Miss Olive Ports-

mouth) stated that "some modern issues, such as those from New Zealand, are immensely popular with collectors. (In fact, New Zealand probably restricts mintages a little too much.)".

The Journal "Coins and Medals", a relative new comer—well, 12 years ago—has a particularly attractive content with almost every issue. In 1975 the following articles take the eye.

March.—Coins that never were, by N. E. Manville Portal's banknote paper by Roger Ivill.

June.—King Edgar's reform of the coinage (673 A.D.), by Mark Blackburn. Apothecaries' token by George Berry. Wolsey's groat by Brenda Lewis.

July.—The biggest coins in the world, by A. N. Purnes.

August.—Coinage of Edward VI by Ian McAlpine. The Waterloo Medal.

September.—The Birmingham Mint by Heather Salter. The recoinage of Elizabeth I by John Sydney.

October.—The lighthouse at Pharos, by J. R. Allen. Reflections on forgeries by Marcus Arman.

November.—William Cobbett's mad money plan, by M. Arman.

December.—The British Museum's new coin gallery. The 1874 penny by E. S. Cole. Titus and the Colosseum, by P. W. Selby.

January 1976.—Collecting British crowns, by H. Linecar. Collecting military badges, by J. A. Mackay.

The Australian Numismatic Journal, Volume 26, 1975, includes a brief outline of the history of banks in Australia and New Zealand, viz: the Bank of New Zealand, the Commercial Bank of Australia, the London Chartered Bank of Australia, the London Bank of Australia Limited.

Though goldmines have been dug more than two miles deep, scientists believe that if they were to dig 1500 to 2000 miles into the earth, enough gold could be mined to plate its surface several yards thick.—*Coin World*, 27 Aug. 1975.

The Edward Gans Library of Numismatic Literature has been acquired by the University of California at Los Angeles. It numbers some 10,000 titles, with little on United States and Canadian material. Gans started the collection in Europe before moving to the U.S. over 30 years ago. He had been a resident of Berkeley, California, for some years. The scope includes classical, medieval and modern numismatic writings.—*Coin World*, 13 Aug. 1975.

The April 1976 issue of *The Numismatist* (American Numismatic Association) includes "A Brief History of the Double Eagle," but it is a quite satisfying study running to 17 pages with many illustrations.

The March issue of the same journal has an intriguing little article concerning a little-known practice many years ago of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. Worn-out banknotes were returned to the Bureau, chopped up into tiny fragments, and with a liquid acid made into a sort of papier-mache which was then moulded into sundry decorative objects sold as souvenirs and ornaments.

The November-December 1975 number of "Sin Information" has a useful short account of the origin of the art medal. The author traces it to its earliest form in the large Roman Medallions issued by Italian princes to commemorate special events, noticing an example dated 1390. He considers the medallic work of Antonio Pisaro (Pisanello) led directly to the modern medal. His productions date from 1438.

C.R.H.T.

REGULAR NZ HALF-CROWN

(*Coin World*, December 11 1974)

Most world coin collectors would consider "regular issue" a 1940 New Zealand half-crown as an extremely suspect coin.

This year represented the centenary of the signing of the Waitangi Treaty and of British sovereignty in New Zealand, and to mark this event, a special commemorative half-crown was struck. The year also marked the first issue of New Zealand's bronze coinage, "down-under" specialist Andrew Oberbillig of Chicago, Ill., points out.

The uncrowned bust of King George VI appears on the obverse of the commemorative half-crown, and the reverse depicts a Maori woman, a member of New Zealand's aboriginal population, standing facing the sun overhead. The dates 1840-1940 are inscribed in a scroll below, and the legend *New Zealand Centennial/Half-Crown* surrounds.

Oberbillig reports that Reserve Bank records show the Royal Mint struck 22,600 pounds in half-crowns for New Zealand in 1940. Of these, however, only 12,600 pounds were in Centennial half-crowns; the remainder were of the 'regular' type.

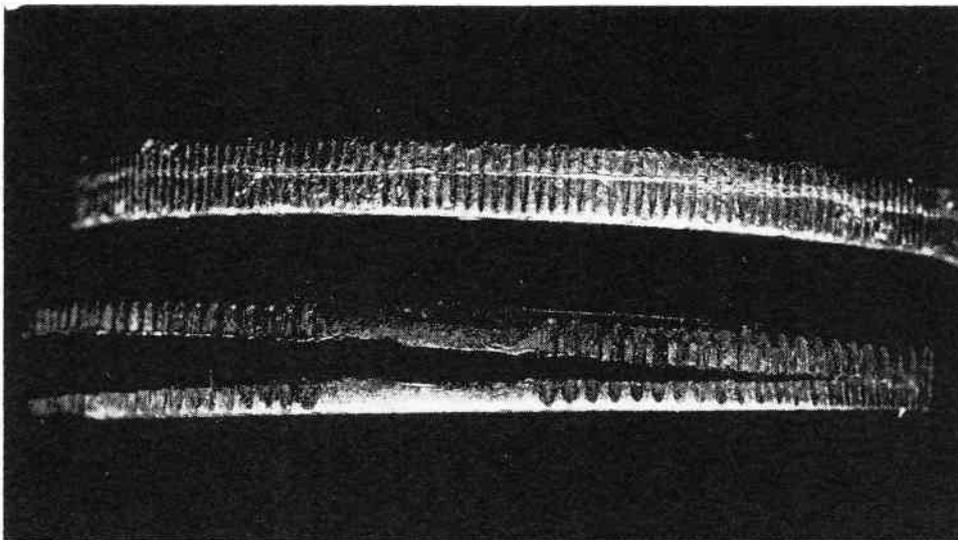
Whatever happened to the latter is a mystery; no collection contains a 'regular' 1940 half-crown today; yet Reserve Bank records indicate 10,000 pounds' worth were purchased, and the 'discovery' coin might prove to be a very rare one.



In the past year, Treasury has had two cases of coins suspected of being counterfeit because the coins did not “ring” when dropped on a table. In each instance the coins were referred to the Police and the Treasury. They appeared to have a hair-line mark along the edge and were sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Chemistry Division, for examination and report.

Both coins were reported to appear genuine, but were cracked,

probably as a result of some fault in manufacture. The cracks were full width of the coins, but would presumably be from different “runs” of blanks. This suggests that more than one strip with this flaw has slipped through the inspection procedure. Many blanks would be punched from each strip, for subsequent “striking”, and unless final inspection is very thorough, there may be many similar faulty coins in circulation.



The photos here show the two coins, one of which has been prised open. The nature of the inspection stage is limited to a surface scrutiny as the coins pass before the several inspectors on a broad conveyor belt, travelling at a speed that permits of little more than a swift sweep of searching eyes.

—By courtesy of the Coin Division, N.Z. Treasury.

OBITUARY**BRUCE, GORDON HAMLIN, F.R.N.S.N.Z., F.M.A.N.Z.**

The death occurred at Wellington on 22 March 1976 of Mr Bruce Gordon Hamlin at the age of 47. He had served on the Council of the Society since 1964 and was President 1964–1969. He also held office as a Vice-President, Keeper of the Collections and editor of the Society's proceedings, the **New Zealand Numismatic Journal**.

In 1967 Hamlin was accorded the unusual distinction of being elected to Fellowship of the Society while in office of President. Unlike most members of the Society he was not a collector but a numismatist with a deep interest in New Zealand numismatics and the early coinage of China.

The highlight of Hamlin's presidency was in 1967 with New Zealand's change to decimal currency and the mounting, in the Dominion (now National) Museum, of the most outstanding exhibition of coins and medals ever seen in this country. The success of this exhibition owes much to Hamlin's enthusiasm and expertise as a museum officer and numismatist.

Bruce Hamlin was born in Wellington on 15 November 1929 and educated at Miramar South School, Wellington Technical College and Victoria University of Wellington. In 1947 he joined the Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and in 1954 he joined the Botany Department of the Dominion Museum, eventually becoming Curator of Botany. When the Museum's coin and medal collections came under his jurisdiction he became interested in the affairs of the Society and was elected to honorary membership.

For ten years Hamlin was Editor of the **Records of the Dominion Museum** and also served as associate Editor of the **Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand**. He was the author of numerous scientific and popular journal articles and three books: **Nature's Ways in New Zealand** (1954), **Native Trees** (1962) and **Native Ferns** (1963). For many years he was a regular broadcaster for Radio New Zealand. In 1968 he was elected a Fellow, and in 1975 President, of the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand, an organisation with which he had been deeply involved for some time.

Drama, music, photography, printing and the correct use of English were among Hamlin's many other interests and talents, all of which equipped him well in his many undertakings. Although Bruce was an infrequent visitor to meetings of the Society in recent years his guidance and assistance were always available to the Society and its members, and this will be missed by his many friends.

P. P. O'SHEA.

CHRISTCHURCH DRAINAGE BOARD CENTENNIAL MEDAL —



OBSERVE SIDE



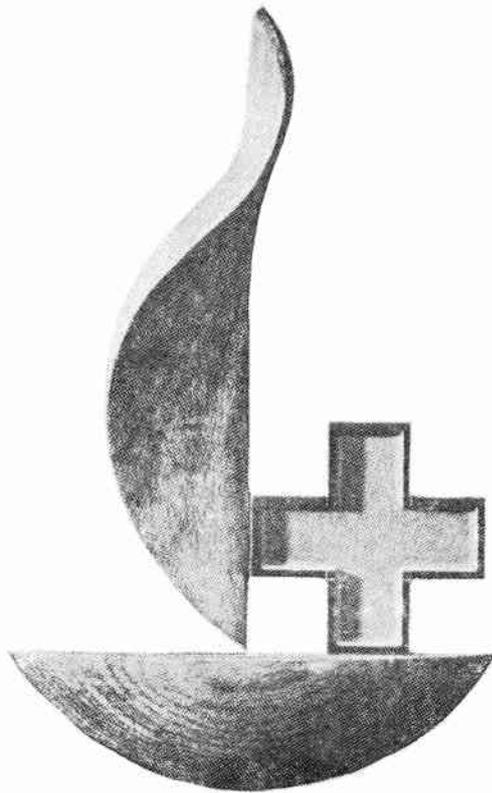
REVERSE SIDE

It has been a century of dramatic change. A century of considerable achievement and unequalled progress. During this, their first one hundred years, the Christchurch Drainage Board has played a major role in the evolution of our city. And to commemorate this important association, a special Centennial Medal issued by the Board in conjunction with the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.

Designed by Mr James Berry (NZ's internationally acclaimed coin and stamp designer), the Centennial Medal features, on one side, an 1875 reproduction of the River Avon and, on the other, the same scene as it looked in 1975. The Centennial Medals were available in both pure silver and bronze (size 44mm diameter). Because they were made only to order, this limited issue may well result in the medals becoming very valuable collector's items.

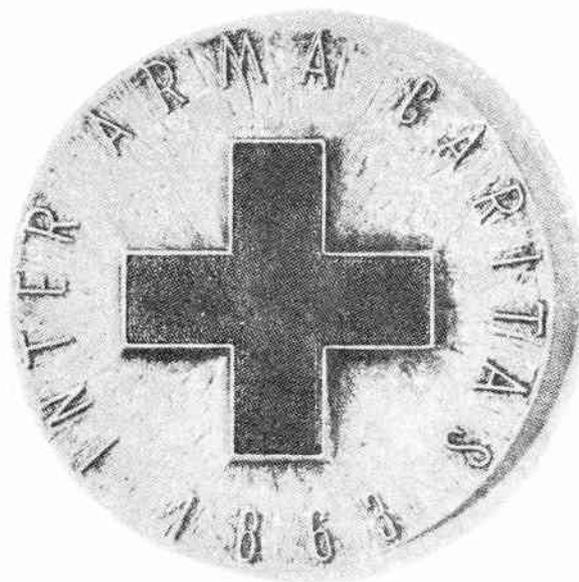
 THE BADGE AND THE MEDAL OF THE RED CROSS CENTENARY


On the obverse side (1863) the cross is of red enamel and on the reverse of the medal (1963) special inscriptions may be engraved below the central emblem.



The Red Cross Centenary's badge has been based on this model in carved wood.

The badge for the 1963 commemorative period is made of silver-coloured metal and red enamel and it reproduces the distinctive mark of the Centenary, set in relief. The flame of the oil-lamp beside the Red Cross, symbolizing Charity will thus decorate thousands of buttonholes. The Centenary Commission has also struck a commemorative medal. On this medal room has been provided for inscriptions, if any. It could thus be used in token of gratitude to those who have served the cause of the Red Cross.



Reverse of Red Cross Medal.

TRIAL OF THE PYX

(FRIDAY, MAY 21st 1976)

[Address of the Queen's Remembrancer, J. H. Jacob at Goldsmiths' Hall. This particular trial was to assay cupro-nickel coins of New Zealand. The High Commissioner for New Zealand was present. Printed by special permission.]

Gentlemen of the Juries:

The Trial of the Pyx Order 1975, which came into operation on December 20th last, requires your verdicts to be signed by each of you and to be read aloud in my presence. I can see no way in which your verdicts, however long and detailed, can in accordance with the prescribed legal requirements be presented at this Court in a summarised or abbreviated form; and accordingly, the Clerk of your Company has duly read them fully and faithfully and with such a fine flourish.

Your verdicts demonstrate, if this was at all necessary, that you have performed your duties with vigilance and with valour and at the same time they have vindicated the need and utility of this Trial. Vigilance you have shown by the scrupulous care and attention and the meticulous and methodical processes you have employed in testing and assaying the enormous quantity of coins submitted to you for your scrutiny. Valour you have shown by your courage in producing verdicts as a result of your examination both favourable and unfavourable to those whom it may concern, as indeed it was your bounden duty to do. Vindication of the Trial itself you have proved by establishing that the Trial is not a mere formal, ceremonial occasion in which the verdicts can be taken for granted, but that it is a real, serious, substantial process in which the verdicts reflect the independent judgment of an expert body in whom implicit trust and faith can be placed to do their lawful duties without fear or favour.

I therefore do not use idle words when I congratulate you on the conclusion of your arduous labours and the faithful discharge of your duties. The incredible accuracy of your weights and measures and your wonderful touch of fineness are so impressive and awe-inspiring as to overwhelm a mere layman like me and to appear to be beyond challenge and to have all the hallmarks of finality. It is the display of these skills, judgment and expertise in determining the justness of the coinage submitted to you that inspires public confidence and trust in your labours, not only among the people of this country but among the overseas customers of the Royal Mint.

Gentlemen of the Juries, apart from the silver Maundy coins, as to which I will say a word or two in a moment, your verdicts establish that the vast quantity of coinage submitted for trial have been found by you to be on the whole within the permitted variations from the standard weight, fineness, composition and diameter as allowed by the Coinage Act 1971, and any proclamation made thereunder. I am sure therefore that your verdicts relating to the United Kingdom coinage will have been received with great satisfaction by the Master of the Mint in the person of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whom we are delighted and honoured to have present again with us at this ceremony, accompanied by Mr Joel

Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Robert Sheldon, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Mr Denzil Davies, the Minister of State at the Treasury.

Moreover I have little doubt that your verdicts relating to the New Zealand coinage will have been received with special gratification by his Excellency the High Commissioner for New Zealand who we are also very happy and privileged to welcome here today.

It is indeed a remarkable fact that throughout the whole period of over 700 years during which these Trials have taken place there are so few recorded instances of failure on the part of the Mint, or its predecessors, the Moneyers, to satisfy the Pyx Jurors. During these seven centuries, millions of coins have been made year after year in this country for use here and overseas, samples of which have been meticulously examined by your predecessors and have been found to have been within the permitted tolerances, but yet during these seven centuries, the number of adverse verdicts can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

The first occasion was in 1319, in the reign of Edward II, when in the assay of the silver coins of the face value of £40,730, the Jury found that the coins were below standard as to their purity to the value of £285 odd. For this defect, the Master of the Mint or the Moneyer, one Giles de Hertsberg or de Herbage and his assistant, Terrick de Lose, were bound to answer to the King.

In addition, Giles was required to answer to the King for a further £100 of melted silver delivered to him to be minted. When it was found that he was unable to pay the £358 odd, he was committed to the King's Bench Prison in Southwark, commonly known as the Marshalsea, but on version says that no record exists of his release, though another version says he was held in prison for six weeks only. The second occasion was in 1620 when the Jury found that the fine gold in one Pyx was too feeble by six grains in the pound weight than it ought to have been but there appears to be no record that anything untoward happened to the Master of the Mint or that there was any order for the amount to be made up.

The third occasion was in 1713, when no less a person than Isaac Newton was Master of the Mint and at the Trial that year the Jury found by their verdict that the gold coins were below standard. Isaac Newton of course became very furious and he was able to demonstrate that the fault lay not in the minting but in the defective new Trial plates that had been supplied that year. The fourth occasion was in 1926, when the Jury found that one silver sixpence was underweight by .008 grams. Lastly, in 1969 some of the coinage minted for New Zealand was found to be slightly overweight but those coins were not for general circulation but only for inclusion in specimen sets.

On two other occasions some mishap occurred at the Trial but there was no question of an adverse verdict. In 1600, there were defects in the furnace and the Trial had to be re-convened on the following day, though the Master of the Mint was ordered to pay the costs of the first Trial. In 1707, the furnace was over-stoked and the Exchequer was set ablaze but the Treasury made the handsome gesture of paying a reward to those who managed to put the flames out.

Today, Gentlemen of the Juries, your verdict on the silver Maundy coins has brought to light a slight discrepancy but a discrepancy nevertheless. In order to appraise the significance of this error, it might be helpful if I were to make a few passing observations on this noteworthy occasion.

Your verdict on the Maundy coins, which is, of course, of special significance to Her Majesty the Queen herself, has reversed the famous Biblical verdict on King Balshazzar. For him, the writing on the wall was that he was weighed in the balances and found wanting, whereas for the Maundy coins the writing on the scroll is that they were weighed in the balances and found abounding. For the coins themselves were found to be fulsome and goodly. Indeed, I should emphasise that your verdict on the Maundy silver shows that the coins were not underweight but that they were slightly overweight—as which of us is not? The amount of this variation for all the 31 Maundy coins weighed in bulk was .77 grams above the standard weight compared with the permitted variation of .36 grams, a difference of .41 grams in respect of the coins that were tested, which according to my poor mathematics is at least much below the much discussed $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ prospective increase.

The Royal Mint, I am sure, would be the first to recognise and regret this discrepancy. It should be noted that this is the first time since 1926 that the verdicts at this Trial relating to United Kingdom coinage have shown a discrepancy from the permitted tolerances. In spite of the most advanced technology used in the processes of the production of coins, the human element must surely enter at some stage, and if this is so, one can say that to err is human and one can add that to err once in 50 years is surely remarkable and surely forgivable. Moreover, it may be of interest to the Master of the Mint to know that the error this year puts him in excellent though unexpected company, for in 1926 when the discrepancy in the United Kingdom coinage occurred, the then Master of the Mint was none other than Winston Spencer Churchill, and that fact should be put in the scales in Mr Healey's favour.

The Royal Mint, I have no doubt, is always aiming at perfection but the pursuit of perfection is perhaps an unattainable ideal though a famous judge is reported to have remarked about one of his brother judges—I hasten to add that this was in the last century—that he was a great and wise and learned judge and had all the virtues without one redeeming vice. On the other hand, I am sure there is a moral in the biblical story about the handsome Absalom of whom it is recorded that from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him, but he turned out nevertheless to be a rebellious son.

The discrepancy in the silver Maundy coins will of course be brought to the attention of the proper authorities to deal with as they think fit. I doubt, however, the extra silver used in minting these coins would cause the Chancellor of the Exchequer a sleepless night or even the raising of the famous eyebrows, still less will he need to rush back to prepare an emergency budget. Both in volume and in value, the error relating to the silver Maundy coins borders on the negligible, if not infinitesimal. So far as volume is concerned, the number of Pyx pieces of United Kingdom coin-

age which were submitted to Trial amounted to nearly 100,000 consisting of 2,000 gold sovereigns and a vast quantity of cupro-nickel coinage, whereas the number of silver Maundy coins was only 31; and so far as the total value of the U.K. coinage is concerned, this amounted to over £45 millions, whereas the total value of the Maundy silver was £113.82. In these circumstances, the proper authorities may well feel that they could follow the example of the fair and firm football referee who when he spots that a member of one team is guilty of an infringement which leaves the advantage to the other team, he would play the advantage rule and waive the game to go on. I think this may be a proper case for playing the advantage rule and everyone would be happy if the worthy recipients who have received these Maundy coins should not be disturbed, even though the 1976 silver Maundy coins, perhaps because they are errant coins, may acquire a greater collectors' value.

In the light of all the above circumstances, I venture to think that the discrepancy relating to the silver Maundy coins revealed by your verdicts should not detract from the high reputation and esteem in which the Royal Mint has always been held. As you know, the Royal Mint is a large exporter and has received the Queen's Award to Industry and it enjoys a notable and pre-eminent record in the production of millions of coins of all denominations, shapes, and sizes and metals. Despite this unhappy lapse, your verdicts will, I am sure, give great comfort and satisfaction to Mr Christie, the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint and his staff, since on the whole they constitute a well-deserved tribute to the admirable way in which they carry out their responsibilities and highly skilled duties.

I hope, nevertheless, it will not be taken amiss if I were to remind you of the helpful remark which a wise judge is reported to have addressed to the prisoner in the dock who after a long and gruelling trial was acquitted by the jury. The report quotes the judge as saying, "As you have been acquitted by the jury, it is my duty to discharge you. You are free to go, but don't do it again!"

Gentlemen of the Juries, you have performed a public service of great national importance both to this country and to New Zealand and as your predecessors before you, you have done so readily and willingly and without reward in a spirit worthy of your great company. Upon the conclusion of your labours, it is now my pleasure and privilege to extend to you the thanks of Her Majesty the Queen and the Government of the United Kingdom as well as the Government of New Zealand for your valuable services and to discharge you from further service on this jury.

MEMBERS' SPECIALITIES AND WANTS

The following schedule has been compiled for the benefit of Members of our Society. All members have the right to have their names included and a small charge is made for each line for each issue. Use registered post or insure parcels when sending specimens by post.

ALLEN, Professor H. Don, F.C.C.T., F.R.N.S., Nova Scotia Teachers' College, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Paper money. Modern lottery tickets as examples of security printing.

ATKINSON, D. O. F.R.N.S.N.Z., 23 Claude Road, Manurewa, Auckland, N.Z.

Speciality — Medals and Badges, especially Australian and Colonial.

BELL, R. G., F.R.N.S.N.Z., 50 Murray Place, Christchurch.

Wanted to buy or exchange: New Zealand and Australian tokens, commemorative medals, medalets, coins. Correspondence welcomed.

BERRY, JAMES, O.B.E., F.R.N.S.N.Z., G.P.O. Box 23, Wellington.

Commemorative Medals of all types with particular emphasis on artistic angle; also Illustrated Books of same.

BETTON, JAMES L. Jr., P.O. Box 533, Santa Monica, California, U.S.A. Zip 90406.

Speciality: Colonial and Commonwealth Coinage.

DENHAM, D. J. Berwick, 69 Seabrook Road, Hythe, Kent, England.

Fire Brigade medals, badges, buttons, helmets, old photos, etc. Will buy or exchange New Zealand coins and tokens.

FERGUSON, J. DOUGLAS, Rock Island, Quebec, Canada.

I am interested in all types of transportation tokens in metal, celluloid, or plastic, from all parts of the world, and will buy or exchange uncirculated Canadian coins of many years for them.

FOWLER, F. J., 2 Essex Street, Tawa, Wellington.

Speciality — Coins of Pacific countries.

FREED, A. J., 20 Cortina Avenue, Johnsonville, Wellington.

Speciality — Coins generally.

GILTRAP, J. S., 191 Te Awe Awe Street, Palmerston North.

Supplies of modern proof sets and other commemorative issues available. N.Z., Pacific Islands, U.S.A., Canada, Jamaica, Bahamas, etc.

HORWOOD, W. E., F.R.N.S.N.Z., 6 Highbury Road, Wellington.

Speciality — English and Roman Coins.

JEFFERY, F. J. & Son Ltd, Melksham, Wilts, England, Est. 1932.

Collects Royal Maundy, top-grade English, enamelled coins. Supplier of coins of the world to any part of the world. Send for free list.

W. H. LAMPARD, B.Com., A.C.A., P.O. Box 1547, Wellington.

Wants — English and British world coins and notes. N.Z. coins. N.Z. Tradesmen's Tokens. N.Z. Church Tokens. N.Z. banknotes and world crowns. Will buy or exchange.

LOWRIE, GRAEME, W., 108 Francis Avenue, Christchurch 1.

Speciality — New Zealand coinage, tokens, commemorative and war medals, and notes. Buy, trade or exchange. Please write.

McNAUGHT, C.M., P.O. Box 166, Wellington.

Stamps and Coins including U.S.A. and Canadian Dollars. N.Z. and Australian commemorative coins and early English silver coins, especially crowns.

METCALF, MICHAEL, 4767 Drayton Green, Baltimore, Maryland, 21227 U.S.A.

Wanted — First and second Annual Reports of the Royal Australian Mint.

MITCHELL, W. A., P.O. Box 282, North Tamborine, 4272, Queensland, Australia.

Wants — Coin Weights and Scales.

NICHOLSON, H. G., c/- Base Radio, R.N.Z.A.F. Base, Whenuapai, Auckland.

Speciality — Military Decorations and Medals, especially British.

NORAGER, L. D., 4 Weymouth Road, Manurewa, Auckland.

Wanted — U.S.A. and Canadian cents. English farthings, pennies and halfpennies.

POLASCHEK, A. J., H.Q. ANZUK SPT. GP., F.P.O., c/- G.P.O., Auckland.

Speciality — Medals, British and foreign.

P. ROBINSON, P.O. Box 5081, Auckland.

Wanted — N.Z. Tradesmen's Tokens, Church Tokens, and all or any material listed or not listed in the N.Z. Numismatic History of Allan Sutherland. Have exchange material or will buy.

SKINNER, RON, 10 Roberta Drive, Christchurch.

Wants — Crown size Coins. Please write.

TANDY, J. G., 83 Beauchamp Street, Karori, Wellington.

Speciality — British Coins.

VAN HALE, MARTIN J., .O. Box 38, Palmerston North, N.Z.

Wants — Coins of the Netherlands and her Colonies, of all types and dates. Will buy or trade.

VIETS, C. S., 36W Chalmers Avenue, Youngtown, Ohio, 44507.

Wants — Sydney Mint Sovereigns, 1860 and 1862. Interested in pre-1940 issues of Australian and New Zealand banknotes in good condition.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**Incorporated****G.P.O. Box 2023, Wellington, New Zealand****OBJECTS**

To encourage the study of the science of numismatics and kindred historical subjects by the holding of meetings for the reading of papers and the exhibition of specimens by the issuing of reports or publications relating to such meetings; by assisting members and students in the study, and acquirement of numismatic specimens—coins, medals, tokens, seals, paper-money, native currencies and kindred objects; by cultivating fraternal relations among numismatists in New Zealand and abroad; by fostering the interest of youth in these objects; by encouraging research into the currencies and related history of New Zealand and the Islands of the Pacific, particularly Polynesia, and publishing or assisting in the publication of such material; by striking commemorative and other medals from time to time; by co-operating with the Government of New Zealand in the selection of suitable designs for coins and medals; by disseminating numismatic and kindred knowledge; by developing interest in the fascinating and educational pursuit of numismatics, and generally by representing numismatic and kindred interests as a Dominion organisation:

(Rules: 2 (b).)

Applications for Membership should be made on the prescribed form available on application to the National Secretary.

Subscriptions: (Renewed on 1st June each year).

Annual Subscription Member N.Z.\$6

Annual Subscription, Junior or Student member N.Z.\$3

(i.e. persons under 16 years or full-time students.)

Journal No. 53: This special Captain Stagg Memorial Issue has been delayed, but will appear shortly.

Members receive copies of the **New Zealand Numismatic Journal** gratis and any other benefits that the Council may from time to time offer.

Membership Badges are available at N.Z. 50c each.

The New Zealand Numismatic Journal is the official organ of the Society being published irregularly. Contributions are unpaid. All matters relating to the Journal should be addressed to the Editor.

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE ROYAL
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand Numismatic Journal (1947–)

Available: Nos. 5 to 24; 26 to 30; 32; 36 to 38; 40 to 49.

	Members	Non-members	
Price: Nos. 5 to 45	35c	50c	
Nos. 46—	50c	75c	

Sutherland Memorial Lecturt 1969

“Captain James Cook, R.N., F.R.S., and his numismatic associations,” by P. P. O’Shea. Supplement to **Journal** 47.51 p., 19 plates. Price: \$2.00.

Sutherland Memorial Lecture 1970

“The Royal Touch in England: a theory of origin derived from observations in the New Zealand Maori,” by Dr L. K. Gluckman. Supplement to **Journal** 49, 36 p., 8 plates. Price: \$1.00.

Index to the New Zealand Numismatic Journal (1966)

Compiled by P. P. O’Shea, being a comprehensive index of all printed Journals of the Society.

From Vol. 4, No. 1 (4)(, 1947, to Vol. 11 No. 6 (42), 1966. Price \$1.25.

(All prices in New Zealand currency.)

THE SOCIETY’S DECIMAL COINAGE MEDAL, 1967

A limited supply of bright bronze decimal coinage medals are still available.

PRICE: (including registered plostage.)

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ORDERS, with remittance, should be addressed to:

The National Secretary,
Royal Numismatic Society of N.Z. Inc.,
P.O. Box 2023,
Wellington, New Zealand.

**ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
OFFICERS 1975-76**

Patron: His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Denis Blundell, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E., K.St.J.

Hon. Life Patron: The Right Honourable the Viscount Bledisloe, Q.C., England.

President: Mrs P. Ranger, F.R.N.S., N.Z.

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Asst Secretary: P. J. Begley.

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Hon. Treasurer: William H. Lampard, B.Com., A.C.A.

Hon. Auditor: A. A. Sadd.

Council Members, R. T. Harwood, W. E. Horwood, A. E. F. Prowse, I. Sanders, W. Stacey.

Canterbury Branch Delegate: Mr H. R. Sampson.

ANNUAL REPORT 1975

As your President for the past year I have pleasure in presenting a review of the Society's activities. Apart from the falling attendance at meetings we have had a successful year with the production of a journal in October and the presentation of several excellent papers.

In June 1974 Mr Peter Seaby and Mr Frank Purvey of B.A. Seaby Ltd, London, visited Wellington, and a number of members had the opportunity of meeting them at an informal gathering.

On the local numismatic scene the Treasury issued a special New Zealand Day Commemorative Dollar with the low mintages of 5000 proof and 50,000 uncirculated. Many members, particularly in the South Island, were unable to purchase the Proof Dollar which was sold out within a few days. As a result both the Society and the Canterbury Branch of the Society have taken the matter of distribution of Treasury issues up with the Government and it is noted that the mintages of the 1975 proof issues have in fact been increased. The Treasury took orders for the 1975 coin issues in May, the mintage figures being: Proof Coin Set 10,000, Proof Dollar 10,000, Uncirculated Coin Set 15,000 and Uncirculated Dollar 15,000. The Treasury advises that all of these are still available.

PUBLICATIONS: as already mentioned Journal No. 51, May 1974, was published in October, and was of the same high standard as those of the past. Three other journals are in production, two of which should appear within the next few weeks, The third, the Captain G. T. Stagg Memorial Journal, is delayed, as mentioned in my report last year, because some of the contributors

have been unable to complete their sections. It was decided at a Council meeting in November that due to escalation in costs of producing the journal 'that publication should be limited to one issue per year. The publication of the journal is one of the most important functions of the Society, and I once again make the appeal of past presidents for material for inclusion in future journals.

MEMBERSHIP: the membership of the Society stands at 492 which is a nett drop of 34 on last year's total.

It is with regret that I record the deaths of: Honourable H. G. R. Mason, CMG, QC, an Honorary Fellow of the Society; Mr J. Craigmyle, FRNSNZ, and Mr L. J. Dale, FRNSNZ. 25 members were removed from the roll during the year for non-payment of subscriptions, being in arrears for at least three years. During the year the Secretary and Treasurer started a complete overhaul of the Membership Roll, and I understand that this should be completed in the near future.

FELLOWSHIPS: no Fellowships were conferred during the year and the roll now stands at 14 ordinary and 2 honorary Fellows.

SOUTHERLAND MEMORIAL LECTURE 1974: It is with regret that I have to report that this lecture was not given during the year and I appeal to members to consider presenting this lecture in future years.

MEETINGS: Attendance at meetings has continued to be low and every effort is being made by the Executive to correct this.

The Annual General Meeting and the June and July General Meetings were held at the National Museum, and I record my appreciation to the Museum and to the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand. In August 1974 the venue of our monthly meetings was changed to the Meetings Rooms of the National Council of Adult Education situated at 192 Tinakori Road. It is with pleasure that I report these rooms as being most suitable, with comfortable furnishings, good lighting and supper facilities. I acknowledge our debt to our Editor, Mr C. R. H. Taylor, in arranging these, and wish to thank the National Council of Adult Education for their generosity.

The year's activities were varied and interesting with papers being presented by Mr J. Berry and Mr W. H. Lampard, several displays and short talks by members and at the October meeting the showing of the Seaby slide set "English Silver Crowns". I wish to thank our Canterbury Branch for the loan of these slides. Through the courtesy of BP (NZ) Ltd our Christmas social was held in the BP Theatre and lounge and I wish to thank my son, Mr R. Ranger, for his part in arranging this function. Two Council Meetings were held during the year, the first in July and the other in November. These were both well attended.

BRANCHES: The Branches in Canterbury and Otago remain in the hands of capable administrators and continue to flourish. I am pleased to report that Mr H. R. Sampson, the Canterbury Delegate, attended the November Council Meeting and the February General Meeting.

ADMINISTRATION: I wish to record the Society's thanks to Mr J. Berry for the continued use of his private box. It will be noted that an independent Post Office box has, as announced in this journal, been engaged.

I conclude this report with an expression of gratitude to my colleagues on the Council, and especially to the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor on whom has fallen the burden of the major part of the administration of the Society.

(Mrs) I. RANGER, *President*.

APPENDIX

MEMBERSHIP (as at 31 May 1975).

Membership, 31.5.74		526
<i>Less</i> Resignations and Deaths	24	
Removal from Roll	25	
In reserve G.N.A.	4	53
		<hr/>
		473
Plus new Members		19
Membership, 31.5.74		492
		<hr/> <hr/>

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 1975
(1974 comparative figures shown in brackets.)

INCOME	1975	(1974)	EXPENDITURE	1975	(1974)
Life Subscriptions	—	(115)	Journals (700X No. 51, May 1974)	863	—
Subscriptions	781	(874)	Tax	—	—
Advertising	20	(60)	Honoraria	—	—
Journals and Badges	55	(11)	Secretarial Service	206	(126)
Interest: Government Stock	51.50	(51)	Postages	65	(61)
Interest: Investment Account	45.00	(45)	Sundry	47	(52)
Interest: Bank of New Zealand	56.13	(43)	Branch Subsidies 1975	120	(120)
Interest: Composite Subscription A/c	39.03	(38)	Conversion Deficit	—	(10)
Interest: Medal Trust Account	15.33	(15)	Excess of Income over Expenditure	—	(894)
Donations	207	(11)			
Conversion Surplus	207	(11)			
Excess of Expenditure over income	35	(11)			
	3	—			
	200	—			
	<u>\$1301</u>	<u>(1263)</u>		<u>\$1301</u>	<u>(1263)</u>

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MAY 1975

LIABILITIES	1975	(1974)	ASSETS	1975	(1974)
Accumulated Funds as at 1.6.74	5994	(5100)	Petty Cash Float	20	(20)
Less Excess of Expenses over Income	200	5974 (894)	Bank of New Zealand	1800	(1996)
			B.N.Z. Investment Account	1000	(1000)
			Composite Subscription Account	1341	(1302)
			Medal Trust Account	454	(438)
			N.Z. Govt. Stock due 15.9.75	1000	(1000)
			Medals on Hand	179	(238)
	<u>\$5794</u>	<u>(5994)</u>		<u>\$5794</u>	<u>(5994)</u>

MEDALS ACCOUNT AS AT 31st MAY 1975

Medals on Hand—1 June 1974			Medal Sales		
D.C. Bronze Medals—9 @ 6.50	58		Medals on hand 31st May 1975:		
Cook Silver Medals—8 @ 20.00	160		D.C. Bronze Medals—3 @ 6.50	19	
Cook Bronze Medals—2 @ 10.00	20		Cook Silver Medals—7 @ 20.00	140	
	<u>238</u>		Cook Bronze Medals—2 @ 10.00	20	
				<u>179</u>	
					<u>\$238</u>
					<u>\$238</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books and accounts of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc), and I am satisfied that the above Income and Expenditure Account, Medals Account and Balance Sheet correctly set out the financial affairs of the Society.

PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SEABY'S

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STANDARD CATALOGUE OF BRITISH COINS

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Part 3. Coins and Tokens of Ireland. Compiled by Peter Seaby.
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Part 4. Coins and Tokens of Scotland. Compiled by Frank Purvey.
£2.15.

ANGLO-SAXON COINS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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THE ENGLISH SILVER COINAGE FROM 1649

By H. A. Seaby & P. A. Rayner. £4.75.

BRITISH TOKENS AND THEIR VALUES

Edited by Peter Seaby & Monica Russell. £1.65.

GREEK COINS AND THEIR VALUES

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By D. R. Sear. \$4.75.

ROMAN SILVER COINS

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SS5. English Crown Pieces, Edward VI—Elizabeth II.

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SS13. Byzantine Coins in Gold, Silver and Copper.

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