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AN ANCIENT DOLPHIN STORY

Opo and Hippo

By Professor H. A. Murray, M. A., F.R.N.S., N.Z.

The town of Hippo Diarrhytus in North Africa was close to the site of modern Bizerta. The old population was probably mainly Semitic. Julius Caesar, or perhaps the emperor Augustus, settled a colony of Romans there. Following the usual custom of maintaining their Roman identity, these settlers preserved the traditional Roman way of life. They would have had their school for the study of Greek and Roman literature, and they no doubt helped to bring about the distinctive African style of Roman literature. They would be familiar with myths and legends about dolphins. Hippo was the headquarters of the assistant governor of the province, and was therefore not without some importance. As often happened with coastal settlements, in the ancient world, the town was situated a little way from the sea. Its name **Diarrhytus** exactly describes the district, for the word denotes the dividing of the land by a channel of water, and in fact there was a lagoon close by.

Hippo came into the news round about the year 50 A.D. It was visited by a most unusual dolphin. The incident is recorded along with other amazing dolphin stories in a massive work called **Natural History** written by the elder Pliny, an important official in the Roman admiralty and a tireless taker of notes. The dolphin stories, like most fish stories, were many but generally not believed. But all the same dolphins had a special interest for the ancient Greeks and Romans; they figured in religious cults and so in works of art and literature. There is a highly intricate web of dolphin mythology, and many of the stories and references are about dolphins as friends and helpers of man. In spite of scepticism any anecdote which is maintained as fact would have aroused some interest, in much the same way as archaeological discoveries nowadays are "news" when they seem to confirm some statement in the Bible or in Homer. The dolphin is a common figure on

ancient Greek coins and one type in particular would arouse special interest, because it seemed to be confirmed in a way by what happened at Hippo. This coin type shows a human figure riding on a dolphin's back. Yet this story about the dolphin of Hippo has hitherto always been received rather sceptically although it has brought New Zealand into the Latin text-books for schools. The most widely-known version of the story of the dolphin of Hippo is given by the nephew of the admiralty official, distinguished from him by the designation **Pliny the Younger**. He gives his account in a letter which he eventually published about 100 A.D. The wealth of detail he supplies makes his story impressive. But editors of his letters have had their doubts. There have only been legends of the past to support what Pliny says, and anecdotes just as suspicious as his own. The cautious editor therefore annotates like this: "He introduces the tale as an after-dinner story. We may compare it with the legend of Arion and the Dolphin . . . and in modern times the story of Pelorus Jack."



TARAS RIDING DOLPHIN c450 B.C. This silver coin, enlarged in photo, was issued from Tarentum, now the modern Italian naval base of Taranto.

The edition from which this quotation comes was first published in 1915. The editor was not going to let himself appear credulous. He seems to have some mental reservations even about Pelorus Jack. But he would now have to think of Opononi.

The Younger Pliny belonged to a rather staid social class

whose members were devoted to good works, literary composition, and criticising one another's literary efforts. In a letter intended for publication he writes to a friend about the dolphin of Hippo. It was the practice of the time to put occasional essays in the form of letters to friends. The friends were flattered, and letter-writing was a useful art, not just a waste of time.

Here is what Pliny wrote to his friend Caninius:

"I've come upon something true, but it's so like fiction that it will suit an inventive, high-brow and obviously poetical type like you. But remember I came upon it at the dinner-table among all sorts of stories when we were on the subject of marvels. I would trust the author anywhere. But does a poet need that? Yet even if you had wanted to write history you could have relied on him absolutely.

There is in Africa a Roman settlement called Hippo near the sea: close by there is a navigable lagoon: a channel leads out of it which is just like a river. The water flows out to sea or into the lagoon with the ebb and flow of the tide. People of all ages in this district are keen on fishing, boating and even swimming, especially the boys, who get bored and like some fun. They think it grand to show their pluck by swimming out as far as they can. The champion is the one who swims farthest from the shore and from his rivals. One competitor was bolder than the rest and on one occasion attempted a long-distance record. Up came a dolphin. It went in front of the lad, behind him, and round and round him: then it came up beneath him, put him off and came up beneath him once more. He was trembling all over as it took him right out to sea and then turned back and beached him among his friends.

The story spread through the settlement: everybody rushed to the spot: they eyed this particular boy as if he were something not altogether human; they questioned him, heard his story and passed it on. The next day the sea-shore was a mass of people. They kept a look-out over the sea and the other waters. The boys started to swim, the hero with them, but he was not quite so daring this time. Again the dolphin arrived, right on time, and again it made for the boy, but he fled with the rest. The dolphin seemed to invite him to come back by leaping out of the water, diving and weaving in and out in all sorts of circles. The same thing happened the next day, the day after that and on several subsequent days, until the dolphin made them ashamed of their nervousness, bred to the sea as they were. They came close to him, played with him, gave him a name, and even touched him and handled him when he wanted it. The more they saw of him the bolder they grew. In particular the boy who had the first adventure with him swam up, got on his back, was carried to and fro, and was sure that the dolphin could pick him out and that the friendship was mutual. There was no trace of fear in either

of them. The more confident the boy was, the tamer grew the dolphin. The next was that other boys went with them on the right and left telling them what to do. Another strange thing is that a second dolphin used to go with them, but only as a companion and looker-on: he never acted like the first one or allowed himself to be treated in the same way: he just led the way in and out, as the other lads did for their friend. You will hardly credit this, but it's just as true as what I've already said; the carrier dolphin who played with the boys used even to drag himself on to dry land, dry himself off on the sand, and when he was warm, tumble back into the sea.

Everybody says that once when the dolphin was ashore some superstitious idea made Octavius Avitus, the Governor General's representative, pour ointment over it. This was something new for the dolphin, especially the smell, and so he made for the open sea. When he did come back, only after several days, he seemed to have no spirit in him but just to mope about. But later on his strength came back: he was just as playful as before and went about his usual duties. There was an invasion of the entire officialdom of the district to see the sight. But they not only came, they stayed. The additional expenditure was a severe drain on a little town like this. Finally the place itself had less and less peace and quiet. They decided to kill secretly the attraction which was drawing the crowds."

Pliny emphasises the truth of the details—a sure sign that such stories are suspect. Yet there are interesting signs of that state of mind which is half-way between scepticism and belief. The well-known mass of legends about the man or boy on the dolphin's back, and about the man rescued from drowning by a dolphin (protected from sharks by dolphins in the twentieth century version) makes people think that there must be something special about the boy who was the dolphin's favourite. If Robert Graves is right in his exciting remarks in *The Greek Myths* (Penguin series) about the boy on the dolphin's back in the myth being the New Year's Child, and about dolphin and Delphi and seasonal rituals, would these people have such ideas at the back of their minds? It is a pity that we do not know what came of the dolphin-boy of Hippo. Yet the people of the district are ready to kill the dolphin when their peaceful town was invaded by sight-seers. But the official sight-seers were the real provocation. So long as they stayed in the town the inhabitants had to pay their expenses.

The action of Octavius Avitus is interesting. No doubt, like all good administrators, he thought it best to be on the safe side. Perhaps the traditional ritual meant no more to him than it did to Pliny,—an empty formality—yet he performs it. He may have been consecrating an animal which had become a favourite. Thereafter the vengeance of heaven would fall upon any who harmed the dolphin. If this is the explanation of his action, the

outpouring of a little ointment is a quick, easy and inexpensive equivalent of the modern parliamentary method of declaring a dolphin a protected animal. The magistrate may have thought the dolphin to be divine, or he may just have been trying to avert any evil results that might come from an unusual phenomenon.

There must surely have been a basis of fact in all these dolphin stories. The dolphin commanded great respect and even veneration. He was the king of all the living things of the sea. The poets were impressed by the unsurpassed beauty and speed of his movements. The best artists succeeded in getting some of this gracefulness on to pottery and coins. The dolphin accompanied their ships. It seemed to have a liking for human company. It was even thought to be fond of music. It was a constellation in the sky with nine stars, the same number as the muses. Small wonder that it was respected as the messenger of the god of the sea while the old Greek religion held its power.



ALAN WELLS, OF WELLINGTON, RIDING OPO, THE
DOLPHIN OF OPONONI, 1955.

The use of the dolphin in art is a tradition that is far from dead. There is a charming dolphin on Italy's most recent coinage.

It is interesting to see what has been made of Pliny's story.

The Earl of Orrery, an 18th century translator of Pliny's letters into English takes the rationalist view of his time. First of all he rightly notes the legend that dolphins had originally been men, and liked human company. But he is sceptical about the story, although that does not keep him from theorising. He points to the effect of the ointment upon the dolphin, and surmises that dolphins may have an acute sense of smell, and may like the smell of human beings. But Pliny's detail of the wise second dolphin seems to contradict this theory as well as the theory that the dolphin of Opononi sought human company because it had lost its mate. The Earl is also a Stoic. He may not altogether believe Pliny's after-dinner story, but even fables have their edifying value if only we will look for it. "But" says he, "if we look upon the story as a fable, these moral maxims, at least, may be deduced from it. Many persons have been ruined by those popular virtues for which they were first admired. Affection, when not contained within proper bounds, fails not to produce the same effects as hatred, and frequently meets with the same returns. The superstitious part of worship is hurtful to every species of the creation; while religion itself is like precious ointment, beneficial only where it is properly applied.

"The ancient authors" continues the Earl, "universally agree that the dolphin, exclusive of all poetical or fabulous accounts, was ever remarkable for a fondness of the human species." Are instances of this recorded in later times? One instance comes to mind that is not altogether irrelevant, although it also has some resemblance to the sad end of the sea creature which was fond of Lyttleton harbour. It will be found in the collection of news-letters sent from all over Europe to the wealthy Augsburg trading and banking firm of Fugger. "From Rome, the 10th day of July, 1599. Two canons have just arrived here from Marseilles in order to recount to the Pope that in the Sea of Provence there is to be observed such a conglomeration of dolphins that not only do they interfere with the fishing, a most valuable source of revenue, but also with ships sailing on the sea. A Papal Brief has been bestowed upon the canons addressed to their Bishop, in which it is ordered that the matter should be taken in hand by means of prayers in the churches, processions and much fasting. Moreover, the Pope anathematises the vermin, so that with God's help it may perish." Yet Mediterranean fishermen to this day think it a sin to kill a dolphin.

Sir James Frazer in his commentary to Ovid's *Fasti* shows by inference that the dolphin legends may not be exclusive to the ancient peoples of the Mediterranean. In speaking of Ovid's version of the famous story of Arion and the Dolphin, he tells of a couple in the ancient world who made money by an exhibition of their son riding on a tame dolphin. Adopting his usual attitude to such stories, and in ignorance of modern American ways with

the dolphin, Sir James suspects trickery and gives as a parallel for this kind of thing the fact that certain Pacific islanders, as part of a religious ritual, tow an imitation sea animal with a human figure astride its back. Robert Graves quotes the German authentic for the ritual of the New Year's Child as dramatically represented at Corinth with the aid of a dolphin trained by the Sun Priests. Taras is sometimes said to be the New Year's Child of the cult at Tarentum. Others would say that behind the mass of legends which give rise to this coin-type we have the core theme of the sea-god rescued by his messenger, the dolphin. The story of Arion is the best known. He had to walk the plank because the sailors who were taking him home to Greece coveted the wealth he had on board. He had made a fortune in Italy in a tour of concert performances. But the muses loved the dolphins, and so did Apollo of Delphi, because dolphins were fond of music. And so a dolphin carries Arion home on its back. He arrived before the ship did and the ancient equivalent of the Chief of Police was waiting to go aboard her when she arrived.

The coin of Tarentum which shows the hero riding on a dolphin is well-known. So is the story of Arion. But there are similar stories about Arion and other places linked with his name. Arion's dolphin brought him to Taenarum in the south of Greece. Herodotus tells us that Arion made an offering there of a small bronze representation of a man on a dolphin. Pausanias saw the bronze in 170 A.D. and Aelian inspected it in 200 A.D., and quotes the inscription upon it. "Thanks to the escort of the immortals, this chariot saved Arion, son of Cyclon, from the Sicilian Sea."

Perhaps Arion made the normal kind of offering at this shrine. Perhaps the inscription is late, added when the Arion legend was invented. Tarentum was a colony founded from Taenarum, and we may have the representation of the marine god astride his favourite creature, commemorating the foundation of Tarentum. Perhaps we have Taras or Phalanthus, reputed founders of Tarentum who sailed there on dolphins. Frazer's parallel from the South Seas suggests that some religious ritual is involved. This Arion story may just have grown out of a religious offering, but Pliny and Opononi show that the story may have a core of fact. At any rate, wherever there is a Greek coin-type of the dolphin-rider, the issuing state has some connexion with Arion. This is hardly coincidence, although the explanation might be hard to find.

The New Zealand Manufacturers' Federation at its annual conference recently considered a remit asking the Government to adopt decimal coinage. The remit was only moved and seconded before a vote was taken and unanimous approval given.

DECIMAL COINAGE

Never before has the chorus of decimal coinage supporters been more harmonious in New Zealand than at the present time. Representatives of business men, chambers of commerce, manufacturers, teachers, accountants, Treasury officers, numismatists and, most important of all, some sections of the farmers, on whose products we depend, are swinging behind a move to adopt decimal coinage. Some also advocate a metric system of weights and distances.

Trade in an airminded world, shrinking in travel-time calls for an easily-understood decimal coinage system for quick recognition of values, or at least a similar basis for ready conversion. Our fractional coinage is outdated in this competitive age. We shall fall back in the race if we do not streamline our methods in keeping with our competitors. Travelling executives note the advantages, and on returning home usually urge an early change-over. The demand for decimal coinage is gaining momentum.

Farmers fix their guaranteed prices in decimal parts of a penny, for sensitive valuations. When farmers sell hides and wool at the regular sales the sales-sheets are covered with $\frac{1}{4}$ d, $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and $\frac{3}{4}$ d, tacked on to pence. Beef prices are stated down to $\frac{1}{8}$ d a lb. The prices of wool are not sensitively priced.

All along the line fractional coinage acts against the efficient performance of business—there is a waste of time teaching the child at school—whose pennyworth of sweets has gone for ever, in any case—and a waste of time in calculations in office and factory in later life.

At present money values are fluid, and therefore now is a good time to press for the change to keep in line with the changing values overseas.

At this stage, however, supporters of decimal coinage should advocate the adoption of decimal coinage in principle, and then experts can be asked to work out the best coinage structure. Too often discussions become “clogged” by unnecessary arguments as to the best of the many decimal coinage systems offering. If we select modern machinery we do so to get efficient performance, and do not worry overmuch whether it has so many large cogs and so many small ones. It is the overall result that counts, and this also applies to decimal coinage.

Even China, India and South Africa have moved to decimal coinage, or are in the process of so doing, and the time is ripe for this reform in New Zealand, where problems of change-over are small compared with those of larger countries.

Our decimal coinage petition to the House of Representatives asking for an investigation into decimal coinage has been given a most favourable recommendation. The way is now open for New Zealand leaders to conduct an investigation, and if decimal coinage is recommended the change should be made without too much delay. The sooner it is made the better.

COIN TECHNOLOGY.

By Mr. B. Forster, Auckland.

Numismatics, to give a formal definition is the branch of archaeology which deals with coins and the evidence which can be deduced from them, regarding economic, social, and political history. A coin, to give another definition, is a piece of metal bearing a stamp guaranteeing its weight and purity, so that it can be generally accepted without weighing or testing, unlike the bullion which preceded it. Tonight I shall outline the processes which take place between the bullion and the coin.

Metals used in coinage.—Since 1925 no gold has been minted for general circulation. However, a few gold coins have been made as commemoratives and for experimental and practice purposes. Gold is sensitive to the presence of impurities such as lead, tellurium, selenium and zinc, all of which render the metal brittle to varying extents, but the effect is made worse when the gold is alloyed. Gold must therefore be refined very carefully, either by electrolysis, which nowadays requires too much expensive equipment, or by the Miller process of reduction from the chloride.

Silver is normally purified electrolytically but occasionally cupelled metal, which may contain a little lead, has been used. This can be absorbed in coinage operations but it is not welcomed.

Electrolytic copper, also, is preferred by the mint but cannot always be obtained in times of scarcity. Fire-refined copper particularly when used for alloying with gold, must be analysed carefully. Bismuth especially, will not mix with the copper, and remains molten long after the metal has solidified. The network of bismuth threads and films, through the metal are lines of weakness.

Nickel must be free from impurities such as iron, manganese and sulphur. Mond pellets from the carbonyl process and electrolytic nickel from the Hybinette process are satisfactory. Nickel I believe to be the up-and-coming metal for coinage. It is harder and stronger than iron, yet is quite workable; it resists abrasion, oxidation and chemical corrosion but will alloy very easily with other metals; and it work-hardens very readily. However, even the purest grades of nickel contain up to 1% cobalt, which has little effect on working properties of the metal but becomes stubborn in contact with silver. Cobalt salts are efflorescent and in contact with the atmosphere would start corrosion. Nickel's work-hardening property has its disadvantages, too, for it is essential to ensure that blanks going to the presses are sufficiently soft to yield a good impression. For the same reason only low reliefs can be used.

With the exception of nickel, pure metals are generally unsatisfactory for coinage, as they lack resistance to wear and tarnish. Coinage alloys are usually a compromise between manu-

facturing and circulatory requirements, and often, external factors impinge fortuitously on the choice. The recent vicissitudes of the silver coinage give a good example of these conditions. Standard silver was 925 fine from the time of Elizabeth I until 1920 when the price rose to 89d. an oz., considerably above the coinage value of 66d. an oz., so the Government reduced the fineness to 500 but left the choice of the alloying metal to the mint authorities. At first, to combine the familiar whiteness with good wearing qualities, 40% copper and 10% nickel were added to the silver. But nickel and silver do not mix well, also manufacturing difficulties came up, and in circulation the alloy tended at first to discolour. Then 45% copper and 5% manganese were tried. Manufacturing difficulties were again encountered and also liquation, although less pronounced than in the previous alloy. On the assumption that the eutectics of copper and manganese and of silver and copper would exist side by side, the manganese was raised to 8.9%. The assumption proved correct but the alloy was so hard it was practically unworkable. The U.S.A. has used a similar alloy, however, but with electrolytic instead of commercial grade manganese. An attempt to use 50-50 silver copper alloy failed because of its pinkish colour.

Eventually in 1927 the composition was changed to 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% each of nickel and zinc. Liquation in this alloy was still pronounced but was accurately known.

Liquation is the name given to segregation of the constituents of an alloy during the solidification of a casting. With the 925 alloy liquation was unimportant, and the silver concentration was in the centre, but with the 500 alloy, liquation was very pronounced and the enrichment was at the edges.

To return to British silver coinage, during the Second World War, Britain received some 88 million ounces of silver from the U.S.A. under lend-lease to meet increased currency and industrial consumption. It was agreed that the silver would be repaid five years after the end of the war, but industrial consumption of silver remained at a high level and the only way to repay the loan was to take it out of the coinage into which it had originally been put. An expanding coinage made speed of conversion important. It was decided to use a base metal currency, and to recall and refine the silver. The New Zealand Government followed suit. The alloy chosen contains 75% copper and 25% nickel. Pure nickel would have been better, although costlier, but could not have been manufactured with the speed necessary at the time. Differences in the weights of these alloys were compensated by slight increases in thickness to keep the legal weights the same.

Cutting Dies.—The cutting of the dies is the coinage process which has been most changed in recent times. In more leisured days when the Royal Mint had an output of a few million pieces,

and engraving was an honoured profession, all dies could be cut by hand. But even in Pistrucchi's day the machine was enlisted to assist the engraver.

Now, with an output of about 500 million pieces, machine-cutting is unavoidable, and the art of steel engraving is dying, transferring the dignity and intelligent humanism of the engraver to the rational, unresponsive reducing machine. Opinions differ as to whether the artist's "feeling" and "sense" are faithfully reproduced at a point some stages removed from the original model, and whether such mass-multiplication kills the essence of sculpture and design. Perhaps the problem is not so important in this country but one hopes profoundly that the art of the expert engraver will be encouraged increasingly if not in coining, then in the other arts.

The artist's model as received by the mint, is a plaster cast about 6 to 9 inches in diameter.

The engraving or reducing machine consists of a horizontal bar about 3 feet long, pivoted at one end. At the free end there is a pointer of agate or hard steel which is adjusted to the centre of the model. As the latter rotates, the bar, and pointer with it, is drawn across its face from centre to edge. At a point along the bar proportionate to reduction required is a rotating Stellite drill cutting into a block of softened steel which rotates in time with the model. As the pointer rises and falls over unevennesses on the surface of the model, so the drill cuts away the softened steel. This machine can produce dies down to an $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter. The reduced die, called a "hub" is hardened and tempered and then becomes a soft punch for producing the matrix. It is placed in a 300 ton press, a soft steel forging, finished to a polished cone, is placed on top and a blow is struck. The steel is then annealed. This striking and annealing is continued until the last details of the design are "up". This method is better than steady pressure but gives only an imperfect impression at each blow. A small coin requires one or two blows but a large medal may need up to twenty. From the matrix the coining dies are struck in the same way. Plain steel, containing 1% or less carbon, makes the best dies for striking about 50,000 pieces. Alloy steels are not so workable and do not strike such uniform numbers of coins.

Melting Metals.—Metals used in coinage are melted in either gas, oil or high frequency electric furnaces. The proportions of the different metals are calculated so that after losses in melting and in pickling or blanching, and with silver alloys consequences of liquation allowed for the finished coins shall be of standard composition. From the crucible or high frequency chamber the melt passes through a dozzle into a cast iron mould.

A dozzle is a graphite pot with two or more straight-sided holes in the bottom. This is to ensure regular delivery to the

middle of the mould to prevent dirt or scum passing into the mould and to minimise the danger of gas bubbles. Larger moulds also improve the solidity of the bar. Deoxidisers, or in some cases oxidisers, are added to remove gases from the melt. After the top end, which includes the contraction due to cooling and any impurities which may have arisen during solidification, has been cut off, the bar goes to the rolling mills where it is passed between steel rolls which are slightly convex. During this reduction in thickness, the strips are annealed at about 750 degrees C. in a steam atmosphere long enough to be softened without any appreciable recrystallization. During rolling the strip increases in length, rather than width, and finishes up about 3 – 4 feet long, 4 – 5 inches wide and roughly the thickness of the finished coin. After test blanks are cut, the fillets are graded for thickness. The thinner ones are fed to the larger cutter and vice versa, thus the average weight of the blanks is kept to standard.

The blanks are cut by passing the fillets under a cutting punch which forces discs through holes in a corresponding bed. To reduce the necessary pressure the punches should have a slight rake, so that one edge enters the metal before the rest, or else the bed should be slightly offset. The blanks are cut in a staggered fashion across the strip to economise material and with the liquidation of silver alloys no more than two rows can be cut across the width of the strip. The blanks are then annealed in a revolving gas-heated drum for about 25 minutes, and they emerge blackened and oxidised, so they are now blanched in a solution of sulphuric acid with some sodium dichromate. The blanks leave this bath with a clean bright surface, or silver with a surface of pure, non-lustrous silver, and are then washed, rinsed and dried. To ensure that blanks of a particular denomination are the same diameter they are passed between a fixed and a rotating die, both grooved to take the piece. These dies raise the edge slightly and can be used to give the blank an edge marking.

The coinage process proper is essentially one of shaping cold metal under pressure within an enclosed die. The blanks are fed automatically into a press which impresses both obverse and reverse designs in the one operation. Surrounding the lower die is a steel plate with a hole corresponding to the cylindrical part of the die. The inner face of this collar may be ribbed to produce a milled edge, or split into movable segments to impress the edge of the coin with raised lettering. After the blow has been struck, a cam action lifts the die sufficiently for mechanical fingers to push the finished coin into the delivery chute and bring another blank into position. Less pressure is needed for striking if the dies are slightly convex. The presses in the Royal Mint can strike about 100 coins per minute.

The finished coins are inspected on a moving belt to remove those bearing imperfections or blemishes, weighed on automatic

balances to reject those too light or too heavy, and counted into bags.

The quantity of coins struck depends entirely on public demand and increases with periods of industrial activity and rising prices, such as wars. The period of deflation after World War I left a very heavy surplus of coins which was only taken up by the heavy withdrawals of the old fine silver coinage. In addition, variations in demand for each denomination reflect changing tastes and social habits.

THREEPENCES TOO SMALL

It has been said that the threepence was brought to New Zealand by kilt-wearers, and that its use should be confined to those people. Many New Zealanders consider that the threepence should be withdrawn, or increased in size. Finds on footpaths and on shop and bar floors suggest that it is the coin most commonly lost.

An interesting summary of facts relating to New Zealand coins by Mr. H. Hughan, Carterton, shows that in the past 24 years no fewer than 284 million coins of all denominations were minted for New Zealand, for a population of about 2,140,000. Admittedly there was a virtual recoinage, to recover the half-silver content of the coins first issued for New Zealand, and to replace them with cupro-nickel coins. The number on issue today, therefore, will probably be half that originally issued. The heavy task of recoinage was efficiently performed by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand without any blare of trumpets.

In 24 years more than 83 million threepences were issued, the largest single denomination represented, and the penny came next with 75 million, then the sixpence with 35 million.

The 83 million threepences does not prove that this is the most popular coin. More of these coins than other denominations are lost through holes in pockets and the wastage requires greater replenishment, and this probably accounts for the large overall issue. The number of threepences now in circulation may not exceed a quarter of the original issue.

The small size of the threepence is a worry to many people. It is elusive in the pockets of men, and in the purses of the women, particularly in church, when collection plates hover hopefully. If the coin cannot be abolished, in the interests of church building funds, and if motor parking-meters are more important, perhaps the size, shape and colour of the coin could be changed to that of the twelve-sided English threepence, but made a little thinner. It could not then be regarded as a silver coin, in vestry parlance, and would take the role of a slug for slot machines, the apertures of which could easily be altered to suit. Decimal coinage would provide an even better solution.

WANTED TO BUY

Any U.S. coins (except silver dollars and gold coins) in fine or better condition. Also need U.S. nickels and quarters (1917-1930) for my collection. Highest prices paid. Douglas Rubb, R.N.S.N.Z. (Auck. Branch), 223 Manukau Rd., Auckland.

Member A. Robinson requires English, Commonwealth and Foreign gold and silver, sets etc. and has for disposal a number of good duplicates. Write c/o P.O. Box 2467, Auckland.

MEDALS, New Zealand, also copper tokens Allan Sutherland 2 Sylvan Ave. Milford Auckland N.2.

A 1933 PATTERN SHILLING BY KRUGER GRAY

By Richard E. Margolis, New York, N.Y.

The pattern shilling illustrated above, one of the series of 1933 essays for which reverses were designed by Kruger Gray, was recently acquired by the writer. Not being a specialist in the coinage of New Zealand (although an avid pattern collector), he at first thought it to be unpublished. Brief research in the library of the American Numismatic Society showed this to be untrue, Mr. Allan Sutherland's remarkably fine *Numismatic History of New Zealand* illustrating an extensive series of 1933 essays by Percy Metcalfe as well as by Kruger Gray (these illustrations later reproduced in the Sept.—Dec. 1947 issue of the *New Zealand Numismatic Journal*).



Trial design for shilling

The reasons for the rejection of this pattern may be found in Mr. Sutherland's book. Not only did the committee which selected the designs for the 1933 coinage desire the kiwi to be on the new florin rather than on the shilling, but it felt that "the earlier efforts of the English coin designers depicted the kiwi conventionalised, with knobby feathers, resembling the surface of a pine-tree cone . . ." Examination of the above illustration shows this opinion to be well justified.

Although this pattern is a published type, and the writer can add nothing new concerning it, he believes there is sufficient interest on the part of New Zealand numismatists in the patterns for their first coinage to justify his bringing their attention to the existence of this particular specimen. It is a reeded edge silver proof, has a diameter of 23 mm., weight 5.66 grams, and has the expected obverse-reverse relationship. The artist's initials, an inconspicuous KG, may be discerned just within the inner circle of the reverse, directly above the second L of SHILLING.

When returning to Carterton by car, after attending the hearing of the Society's petition before the parliamentary committee at Wellington. Mr. H. Hughan, Vice-President, Carterton, tuned his car radio to the broadcast of Parliament, and he heard the "most favourable recommendation" being given, and the discussion "which lasted from Upper Hutt over the Rimutakas to Greytown."

A COIN OF KING CANUTE (Cnut)

By Johannes C. Andersen, M.B.E., K.D., F.R.S., N.Z.,
F.R.N.S., N.Z.

When I was able some time back, through the kindness of Mr. W. D. Ferguson, to send a set of our first New Zealand silver coinage, to Denmark for the royal collection, I was asked by Mr. G. Galster, in charge of the royal collection, if there was any coin I would like in exchange. I wrote thanking him, but said that whilst I was interested in numismatics, and was for some years President of the New Zealand society, I did not collect coins, the subject being too vast, though I did collect New Zealand tokens; but that if there was any coin issued during the time that Margaret was Queen of the three countries, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, I should like one, seeing that I admired her for being able to bring the three kingdoms together under one crown, especially if the coin were stamped with her image. I was told that she did not issue a coin during her reign, but she did issue one for her nephew, to whom she willed the crown, and I was offered one of those coins. I replied, "No; I had no admiration at all for that nephew, who, when he succeeded her, speedily by his actions undid all the good work she had done in uniting the kingdom and holding them together in peace and prosperity."

Instead, I told Mr. Galster that if there was a coin of Cnut when King of England available, I should be pleased to have that. To my surprise, as well as pleasure, I duly received such a coin, and I have pleasure in copying here what Mr. W. D. Ferguson had to say about it:—

"The coin is far better than very fine. I know enough to know that one would probably have to live a very long time before one could find so perfect a specimen again. I am sure it is a most remarkably well-struck coin. Although Canute was a Danish King of England, he left English customs largely alone, and the coinage of his reign conforms to the ordinary Anglo-Saxon forms, and at first it is said to have continued the style of his predecessor Ethelred, called The Unready. As a rule the obverse has a rude bust of the king with his name and title (rex) and sometimes King of the English (Rex Anglorum). On the reverse was some design in the centre and round the edge of the coin was the name of the moneyer who struck the coin or had it struck, and the place of mintage. This is all shown in one word, that is without spaces or stops, a small cross marking the beginning and end of the legend, as on this coin. This practice was continued till the time of Henry the Third. The Saxon word 'on' means 'of' as "John of York," or "Swearing of Lincoln" etc.

On this coin the legend appears to read: Obv. CNUT RECX, and on Rev. SPEARTINC ON LNC (all in one word), with the cross marking the alpha and omega, and P apparently appearing instead of W. Brooke gives on p. 73 the names of numerous moneyers of Lincoln mint, and SWART, SWARTBRAND, and SWARTING are included. Ruding in *The Annals of Coinage*, 1840, gives among a long list of moneyers SWEATING, and LNC is included in a list of abbreviations for Lincoln on the coins. Brooke, pages 68-69, lists six types of pennies of this reign, and the present coin is of type 4, illustrated plate 16 No. 14; this shows a coin almost exactly like this one, but with different writing on the reverse, as is to be expected

seeing there were dozens of mints and more moneyers. He describes type 4 as, Obv. 'long bust to l. with hand holding sceptre.' Rev. "short cross voided". He thinks the six types he lists were produced in succession; if this was so the present coin would have been struck about the middle of the reign, 1016-1035.

Hawkins in his **English Silver Coins**, 1841, divided Canute pennies (only pennies were struck) into eight types, the present coin being his type 1. The reverse description is fuller than Brooke's: 'Cross voided, within inner circle, amulet in the center', which exactly fits this coin.

Grueber in his **Handbook of Coins in the British Museum**, 1899, says on p. 30: The coinage of Cnut is very similar to that of Aethelred the Second. The chief type of reverse is that of a double or voided cross. It was already common in the previous reign. This type facilitated the cutting of the coin into halves and quarters to pass current for half-pence and farthings."

I might say a few words about Margaret: they may be of interest to my fellow-numismatists, as they are to me. Margaret was the second daughter of Waldemar the Fourth of Denmark, and wife of Hakon the Eighth of Norway, and was born in 1353. On the death of her father, without male heirs in 1375, (when she was 22) the Danish nobles offered her the crown in trust for her infant son Olaf. By the death of Hakon in 1380 Margaret became ruler of Norway, as well as Denmark. When Olaf died in 1387 Margaret nominated her grand-nephew, Eric of Pomerania as her successor. The Swedish King Albert of Mecklenburg, having so thoroughly alienated the affections of his subjects that the nobles, declaring the throne vacant, offered in 1388 to acknowledge Margaret as their ruler. She said that as they already had a king she could hardly accept their offer; but they replied that that could soon be remedied, and renounced fealty to the king; so Margaret sent troops to assist in his dethronement, and he was imprisoned, remaining captive for seven years. During these seven years she brought all Sweden under her sway. In 1397 Eric of Pomerania was crowned king of the three Scandinavian kingdoms, but the power still remained in the hands of Margaret. In May 1397 was signed the celebrated Union of Calmar, by which it was stipulated that the three kingdoms should remain for ever at peace under one king, though each of the three should retain its own laws and customs. Before her death at Flensburg on 28 October, 1412, Margaret had enlarged the territories she held for her grand-nephew by the acquisition of Lapland, and part of Finland. She was a woman of strong will, masculine energy, and she ruled her subjects with a firm hand, retaining their fealty throughout. On her death, however, her nephew proved quite unable to hold together what she had consolidated, and the kingdoms again fell apart.

Margaret was known as the Semiramis of the North, as was Catherine the Great of Russia. Whether it was her Semiramis characteristics that contributed to her success cannot be said; but her power of persuading unity cannot be doubted, and it was on

account of her uniting the three kingdoms that I admire her and, wished to have a coin with her presentment. I must be satisfied with the portrait here reproduced, which is one that appears in an 1854 history of Denmark.

May I also add a few words about Canute, which is the Latinized form of Cnut, in which the sounds of the two letters C (or k) and n were both sounded. He was born about 994, the son of Sweyn, King of Denmark, by Sigrid, widow of Eric (or Erik) King of Sweden. His father died in England in his career of conquest (1014), and Cnut was at once chosen by his fleet as King of England, while his elder brother, Harald succeeded to the kingship of Denmark. The Witan sent for Ethelred to be



QUEEN MARGARET



Cnud at the sea-shore

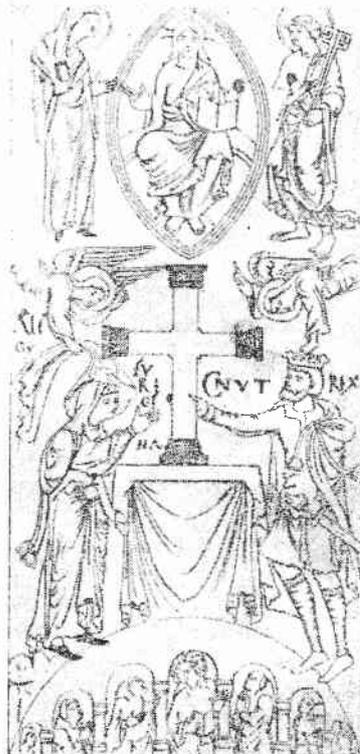
king, and Cnut was soon obliged to flee, and return to Denmark, but not before, with the characteristic cruelty of his early life, he had cut off the hands, noses and ears of the English hostages of his father, and set them ashore at Sandwich. Next year, 1015, he had put to sea again with a splendid fleet. He landed on the coast of Dorset, ravaged the country far and wide, and by Christmas had made himself master. Early next year he marched on York, and overawed all Northumbria into submission. Already he was master of almost all England, save the city of London, when the death of Ethelred and the election, as their king of the Londoners of his vigorous son Edmund gave a new turn to the struggle, which went on fiercely and with varying results. Twice Cnut failed in his attempt to capture London. The final struggle took place at Assandun (Ashingdon) when, after a desperate battle, the English fled. Edmund and Cnut met at the isle of Olney, in the Severn, and divided the kingdom between them, Cnut taking the northern part, Edmund Wessex and the south. The death of

Edmund in 1017 gave the whole kingdom to the young Danish conquerer. His first act was to put to death some of the more powerful English chiefs, and to send the two little sons of Edmund out of the kingdom. In 1018 he levied a heavy Danegeld of over £80,000, with which he paid off his Danish warriors, keeping only the crews of forty ships, the nucleus of his 'hus-carls'. He divided the kingdom into the four earldoms, of Mercia, Northumberland, Wessex and East Anglia.



Above illustration shews Cnut while his savagery was still predominant. Though he put Danes at the head of the earldoms into which he divided England, he was determined not to allow these earls so much power as would render them dangerous to his rule; and on one of them, Edrick Streon, earl of Mercia, boasting of the many services he had rendered Cnut, the king was annoyed, and burst out, "You would boast against your Lord! You shall not long boast against any one."—whereupon, at a sign from Cnut, a jarl, Erik, stepped behind Edrik and 'tomahawked' him: the picture shows him with axe lifted to strike the blow.—From A. Fabricius' Illustrated Popular History of Denmark, 2 vols. 1854.

From an old picture showing King Cnut (Canute) and his Queen Aelgiva with angels bestowing crown and cloak.



From this time onward, till his death, the character of Cnut seemed to have completely changed. At once he laid aside his ruthless revengeful temper to become a wise, temperate, devout and law-abiding ruler. He studied to govern the English according to English ideas, restored the rights that had prevailed in Edgar's time, and gradually replaced the Danish earls with native Englishmen to whom he opened up the highest offices. Aethelnoth became Archbishop of Canterbury; Goodwin Earl of Wessex. He himself married Emma, the widow of Ethelred. He was liberal to monasteries and churches, and reverent to the memory of the native saints and martyrs. He made a pilgrimage to Rome in 1026–7, and a letter sent from Rome to his subjects reveals alike the noble simplicity of his nature, and the high conception he had formed of the duties of a king. The death of Harold in 1018 had given him the crown of Denmark; the death of Olaf

in 1030 closed a long struggle, and gave him secure possession of Norway.

Cnut gave eighteen years of peace and order to England. His power depended mainly on the greatness of his own personality, for at his death his empire at once fell to pieces. He died at Shaftesbury 12 November 1035, and was buried in the Minister at Winchester.

The famous story, telling how he rebuked the flattery of his courtiers, showing them that the advancing waves on the sea-beach had no regard for his kingship, is given by Henry of Huntingdon, who adds that never after would the king wear his crown, but hung it on the head of the crucified Lord. His complete change of character shows how even the worst has in him the germ of the best, which needs only opportunity and encouragement to blossom; and in the same way the best harbours the germ of the worst, his life-work being to prevent the germ from opening out.

My information is taken from English histories, and also from A. Fabricius's **Illustrated Popular Danish History** of 1854.

The line drawings of Margaret, Cnut and his wife, the savagery of Cnut, and the scene with his courtiers on the sea-shore, are from the history of Fabricius.

The above explains my interest in numismatics; all this story and more besides lies within the little circle of the silver penny sent to me by Mr. G. Galster from Denmark. Similar stories have formed the points of interest in the many interesting papers that have been submitted to the Society.

BEGGAR TO BURSAR

There was a time when poor scholars at Oxford and Cambridge Universities were granted licences to beg. The Chancellor issued the licences.

Addressing Cambridge students Quiller-Couch once said.—"The sleeve of this gown in which I address you represents the purse or pocket of a Master of Arts, and may hint to you by its amplitude how many crusts he was prepared to receive from the charitable."

" . . . Oxford and Cambridge—so amazingly alike while they play at differences . . . do by a hundred daily reminders connect us with the Middle Age, or if you prefer Arnold's phrase, whisper its lost enchantments. The cloister, the grave grace in hall, the chapel bell, the men hurrying into their surplices or to lectures, with the wind in their gowns, the staircase, the nest of chambers within the oak—all these softly reverberate over our life here, as from the belfries, the mediaeval mind. And that mediaeval mind actively hated (of partial acquaintance or by anticipation) everything we now study! Between it and us, except these memorials, nothing survives today but the dreadful temptation to learn, the dreadful instinct in men, as they grow older and wiser, to trust learning after all and endow it—that, and the confidence of a steady stream of youth. Lecture "English Literature in our Universities" from the **Art of Writing** by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF COINS FOREIGN SERIES

By Mr. R. Sellars, Auckland

Holy Roman Empire.—When ranging through that section of a general collection which we term the foreign field we notice many handsome silver pieces of Europe which, by their inscriptions and general appearance, we recognize as coins of the Holy Roman Empire. We pause awhile to examine these and our thoughts naturally turn to that peculiar brotherhood of nations and the monarch who was responsible for its formation—Charlemagne, or Charles the Great.

Charlemagne (768-814) son and successor of Pepin le Bref (the Short) was the first Carlovingian king of the Franks, and history records that in the year 800 he founded the Holy Roman Empire.

Just what the Roman Holy Empire was is not easy to define, but perhaps the ground may be cleared by first explaining what it was **not**.

It was not **Holy!**

It was not **Roman!!**

It was not an **Empire!!!**

Clearly, therefore, the title "Holy Roman Empire" was a misnomer, yet this singular organization of European countries, principalities and cities endured as such for more than a thousand years.

The concept of the Holy Roman Empire was, in a way, somewhat similar to that of the League of Nations of 30-odd years ago, or the United Nations of to-day, in that it consisted of a number of more or less friendly peoples, bound together by mutual interests and with peace as their common ideal. Commencing in a modest way and developing slowly through the centuries it aimed at an over-all state for the whole of Europe, without in any way interfering with the rights and privileges of any of the numerous rulers, feudal princes, barons, bishops, etc., sheltering within its domain. In theory this was excellent but, like so many other praiseworthy ideas, it failed to work smoothly in practice. Human nature being what it is, there was rarely a period of absolute peace, various princes within the confraternity intermittently warred among themselves, and sometimes even with their chosen Emperor.

During the first 600 years of its existence there was no definite capital—whoever was elected Emperor would make his own residential seat the principal city of the Empire. In 1438, however, the Habsburg family became firmly established on the Imperial throne and during the next 300 years Austria was the dominant power and Vienna the capital city: Beneath the wide-

spread pinions of the Austrian double-eagle this pseudo-Empire attained its zenith.

One of the requirements of the Holy Roman Empire was that only males should occupy the throne. This enactment was known as the Law of Succession and it functioned here uninterrupted until, and including, the reign of Charles VI (1711 – 1740). Unhappily, despite his earnest endeavours to fulfil the expectations of his subjects, Charles' only issue was a daughter—Maria Theresia—and so, at last, the Law of Succession was broken.

Maria Theresia, however, was not the type of woman to allow an accident of sex to deprive her of what she considered her birth-right, therefore, on the death of her father she formally claimed the Throne. This was hotly contested by Charles, Elector of Bavaria and a War of Succession broke out between the opposing factions. For a time fortune favoured Charles and for over two years (1742–1745) he officially reigned as the Emperor, Charles VII. He was then forced off the Throne, Maria Theresia assuming supreme power, with a Royal consort, Francis of Lorraine.

By this time, however, the Star of the Holy Roman Empire had begun to wane. Whatever lustre it had hitherto possessed now steadily diminished and by the year 1806 it was no longer taken seriously. The reigning Emperor, Francis II, taking a realistic view of the situation thereupon renounced his suzerainty over this unusual roof-organization and thereafter, as Francis I, restricted his activities to the affairs of his own country—Austria.

The Holy Roman Empire was dead! Germany made several token efforts to revivify the corpse but these were abortive and to-day little remains to remind us of its erstwhile existence other than its coinage.

Caliph of Baghdad.—Of the countless people who have whiled away the hours perusing the stories of the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, how many have realised that the Caliph of Baghdad—Haroun-al-Raschid—was a real, live person and not just a figment of the author's imagination? Numismatists, of course, are well aware of the fact, since they are quite familiar with the wafer-like silver dirhems and bronze issues of his reign. Gold dinars also exist but are not often seen in this country.

Haroun-al-Raschid ("Aaron, the Orthodox"—or "Just") was born in the year 764, succeeding to the Caliphate in 786. He was a man of considerable enlightenment and made his Court a centre of attraction to people of culture. Haroun's reputation as a wise and just ruler stood very high indeed.

Towards the end of his reign, however, he marred his fair reputation by an act of unpardonable cruelty. Becoming jealous

of the powers exercised by his grand vizier, the Barmecide Yahya, he authorised the massacre of this official and his entire family. This barbarity so enraged his subjects that rebellion broke out and he was slain. This occurred in the year 809.

Joan of Arc.—The coinage of France, during the early part of the fifteenth century, was not particularly attractive but it has a definite "interest" value in that it connects our thoughts with a milestone in French history—the memorable exploits and subsequent martyrdom of Joan of Arc.

It may come as a surprise to some to learn that the life-span of the Maid of Orleans was pitifully brief, her life being cut off in her nineteenth year.

Joan was born in Domremy, Lorraine, in 1412, her parents being of humble origin. Joan was something of a dreamer, subject to periods of religious ecstasy, in one of which she seemed to hear voices calling from Heaven and urging her to dedicate herself to the deliverance of France, then being laid desolate by an English invasion. Orleans was at the time in a state of siege and the situation was desperate. Obedient to the urgent exhortations from above, Joan sought and obtained an audience with the Dauphin. She told him of her great mission and guaranteed that if he would place the French forces under her control she would raise the siege, put the English to flight and thereafter conduct the Dauphin to Reims, there to be crowned as King of France. Incredible as it seems, the Dauphin granted her extraordinary request and her force of 10,000 troops were so inspired by her leadership that they actually succeeded in driving the English soldiers from their entrenchments and Orleans was freed. The young saviour of her country in due course fulfilled the remaining part of her undertaking, that of escorting the Dauphin to Reims, where he was crowned as Charles VII.

Joan of Arc afterwards assisted in raising the siege of Compiègne but, unhappily, was taken prisoner by the Burgundians and handed over to the English. After an incarceration of four months she was arraigned on a charge of sorcery, found guilty and burned alive in the market-place of Rouen. She met her hideous fate with fortitude.

In 1920 she was deservedly canonised.

Napoleon.—With the passing of the centuries since the martyrdom of the Maid of Orleans the coin issues of France have become more varied and interesting. The issues at the close of the eighteenth century, and also during the early years of the nineteenth, provide mute but eloquent testimony of Napoleon Bonaparte—the Corsican Upstart!

A little man of explosive energy, Napoleon was possibly the greatest warrior-statesman of modern times. The mental images

we form of him are derived largely from the many pictures and paintings which are to be found everywhere. We see him as the gaunt young hero of the Republic, charging with the flag at Arcola, or as the Emperor, kneeling before the altar of Notre Dame, in his long and sumptuous Coronation robes. Other pictures are less heroic but perhaps even more arresting. We see him in one, as the grim leader of a haggard cavalcade retreating through the snows of the pitiless Russian winter; in another we see his cloaked figure upon a ship's deck, with huddled shoulders and sunken chin, his gaze brooding and melancholy. In his prime, however, he is to be remembered as the master-strategist and miraculous man of action.

Born in 1769, in the Island of Corsica, Napoleon was a product of middle-class society. Early in life he decided to make the Army his career and in due season his exceptional qualities proved the wisdom of his choice. He first won distinction as a captain of artillery at the siege of Toulon, in 1793. In the following year he took part in the Italian campaign, acquitting himself so well that he was promoted to the rank of brigadier-general. He was then 25 years of age.

In that turbulent period of plot and counter-plot the shafts of suspicion were liable to be directed against anybody of consequence. The time came when Napoleon's integrity was questioned. However, he succeeded in clearing himself and was shortly afterwards invested with the supreme command of the national army.

This, of course, was a most important post as France, with her "expansionist" ideas had many enemies, including England. In 1799, while attempting the conquest of Egypt, Napoleon secretly left his army and returned home, as the Directory—France's governmental machine of the moment—appeared to be tottering.

Arriving in France, he brought off a coup d'état on Nov. 9th, establishing the famous Consulate, which lasted until 1804. He secured for himself the position of First Consul and, in 1802, was proclaimed consul for life.

Two years later he had himself crowned as Emperor of France, being the first ruler ever to assume this grandiloquent title. It was during the ensuing decade that he engaged in that series of epic battles against other European countries, his notable victories of Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, Eckmühl and Wagram combining to imbue the opposing nations with a lively sense of dread. Then, in 1812, while at the height of his fame he made the mistake of penetrating too far into Russia. He emerged from this disastrous expedition with irreparable loss of manpower and morale, his retreat from Moscow marking the beginning of his downfall.

In 1813/1814 he suffered further major reverses which resulted in the invasion of France and the fall of Paris. Napoleon was compelled to abdicate at Fontainebleau and, by arrangement, he departed for the Isle of Elba on 20th April 1814. He was to be in virtual confinement there but to lessen his humiliation it was agreed that he should have the sovereignty of the island, also a bodyguard and an income.

Within ten months he was back in France, as jubilant as ever and athirst for action. He showed he was still a wily tactician but the many campaigns in which he had engaged over the years had taken an appreciable toll of his forces and his efforts at the momentous Battle of Waterloo thus proved futile. His army was vanquished and his power finally broken. He later surrendered in person to the British, was exiled to St. Helena and this time there was no escape. To cap his loneliness and despair he fell a prey to cancer and perished miserably after six years on this wind-swept, sea-girt rock.

His name and his exploits, however, will live on.

Kaiser William II.—Our survey now brings us to a section of German coins, most of which have been minted during the lifetime of our older members, and the momentous events of which they remind us may therefore be regarded in the light of "contemporary" history.

The numerous issues of this period (1888-1918) are interesting not only because of their pleasing variety but also because on their obverse many of them display the effigy of the monarch whose overweening ambition was largely responsible for the outbreak of the first World War. Kaiser Wilhelm II was a man of small stature, extreme volubility and a penchant for uniform. He was forever rattling his sword in its scabbard and demanding for the Fatherland "a place in the Sun". He was wont to declaim that the consummation of Germany's destiny would be achieved, if necessary, by a policy of blood and iron and a liberal application of the mailed fist to whoever might dare to bar the way. On 28th June 1914 the Serajevo incident provided an excuse for which the Kaiser and his hordes had been waiting. The Arch duke of Austria was assassinated and, at Germany's instigation, backed by her promise to provide any assistance that might be required, Austria imposed such impossible terms upon Serbia that these had to be refused, whereupon Austria forthwith took up arms against her small neighbour. As Russia had previously given to Serbia a guarantee of help against unprovoked aggression she, in turn, leapt upon Austria. This was Germany's cue to move against Russia.

Some time before the setting of the stage for the mighty drama of 1914-1918 two opposing groups of nations in Europe had

formed alliances. On the one side was the Triple Alliance, consisting of Germany Austria and Italy, on the other the Triple Entente, comprising Great Britain, France and Russia. As Russia had now been attacked by Germany it was clear that Great Britain and France must also become involved so, without waiting for any declaration of war the Germans swarmed into France, violating Belgium's neutrality in the process. Britain then declared war upon Germany.

During the four years and three months covered by this tremendous conflict the battlefields of Europe were scenes of carnage unprecedented in history. Other nations were also drawn into the struggle. Italy, who should have entered the War with her partners of the Triple Alliance, first abrogated her treaty with them, then after a discreet interval of nine months, came in on the side of the Allies! Japan, the United States of America, Roumania and Belgium also ranged themselves with us while the Central Powers gained fighting partners in Turkey and Bulgaria.

At the outset, hasty analysis suggested that the opposing forces were unevenly matched and optimists in the Allied ranks vowed that our enemies would be soundly beaten by the end of 1914. Very soon, however, we came to realize that in the German Army we were confronted by the greatest, most efficient and destructive fighting-force of its kind that the world has ever known.

In a very short time Belgium and Northern France were almost completely laid waste, after which a portion of the German forces, under the masterly direction of von Hindenberg, swung round upon the Russians in Silesia, drove them headlong out of Germany, trapped them in the Pripet Marshes and inflicted upon them a defeat from which they never recovered. In April, 1917,, after many reverses and much mauling at the hands of the Germans, Russia capitulated and withdrew from the War. Her defeat was a severe blow to the Allied cause but, fortunately this was offset by America's entry at about the same time.

The battle of the giants continued until near the close of 1918 and then terminated almost as quickly as it had begun. Bulgaria crumbled and collapsed, shortly followed by Turkey and then Austria. Of the Central Powers Germany stood alone, her dauntless army still unconquered, but the economic stress of a long, hard war had by this time weakened the home front beyond further resistance and so our terrible foe was compelled to swallow her pride and sue for an armistice.

Subsequent coin issues of Germany reveal much of her story. The porcelain coinage of 1920-1923 provided clear evid-

ence of her shortage of metals while the inflationary issues of the early twenties proclaimed to the world the chaotic period through which she was then passing.

The swastika, originally a religious representation used by early races of Aryan stock, appeared for the first time on German coins in 1933 when Hitler's star was in the ascendant. It came to be recognized not only as the symbol of the Nazis but also as the national emblem. In ages yet unborn, the sign of the swastika on the coinage of Germany's Third Reich will prompt the keen numismatist to seek the story behind it. The events which comprise that story are of such recent occurrence that they need no recapitulation here.

So extensive is the foreign field that one could continue to discourse endlessly on the historical associations of its many interesting coins. Enough has been written, however, to indicate the pleasure that one may derive by reflecting to some extent on this aspect of our fascinating hobby.

BUSBY'S BARTER FOR LAND

James Busby, British Resident in New Zealand from 1833 to 1840, is unfairly alleged to have bought land from the Maoris for his private use only on the day before Governor Hobson declared British sovereignty, in 1840, and that he used missionaries, as witnesses. Busby thought of land buying long before this, and when he relinquished office he had to fight for recognition of his titles to 60,000 acres of land in New Zealand. With W. C. Wentworth, explorer-statesman, he appeared before the Legislative Council, and the Governor, in Sydney, protesting against a Land Claims Bill of 1840.

Living in comparative comfort in Sydney, Governor Gipps criticised his subordinate, Busby, for buying land while British Resident, but Busby rightly explained that he was living in a primitive country and that shortly after his arrival he had to buy 300 acres for a home farm to grow food. This included 275 acres bought on 30 June, 1834, and part consideration was "fifty Spanish dollars, thirty blankets, forty lb tobacco, and a female calf." There were no spirits or muskets in the barter deal.

Apparently, in December, 1839, when informed that his job would soon be abolished, he bought a further 25,000 acres in the Whangarei district from chief Pomare and sixteen others, and the payment included fifty pounds in gold, sixty blankets, eighty pounds of tobacco, three single bared fowling pieces, and other barter goods. Any prudent businessman would buy land in similar circumstances.

When Busby first arrived at Waitangi as British Resident, accredited to missionaries, he was described as a "man-of-war without guns", but when he retired he became a man-of-peace, with gold (£36,800 in compensation and 9,374 acres) but only after a long legal battle ended in 1867.

USES AND ABUSES OF COINS

By Miss Maud Lister

The following article was brought to light by Mr. H. Hughan, Carterton, after an unusual experience at the official opening of the Rimutaka Tunnel. While waiting for the official train to move off he noticed several persons placing coins on the rails to have them flattened into souvenirs. Being a true numismatist he did not make one of these worthless souvenirs himself, but the incident reminded him of the article on abuses of coins and this was read before meetings in each of the three centres.

(“Seaby’s Coin and Medal Bulletin, 1949”—by permission).

Whether certain practices with coins constitute a use or an abuse depends upon the point of view. The primary use of coins is to make payments, usually for purchases or services, or to make adjustments between sums, which we call giving change, and possibly one might use the term “abuse” when a coin is diverted from its original purpose. That, however, would indicate that a miser who simply accumulated coins and so kept them out of circulation, was abusing them, but the same argument could be applied to numismatists, who, surely, would never abuse a coin.

Here we consider it an abuse to brighten a coin in any manner, but American numismatists have no objection to so treating their coins. I would be puzzled to decide whether it is a use or an abuse to entomb a series of coins in a foundation stone. It certainly is not abusing them physically, but is it using them? On one point I think we are all agreed, that to pierce a coin ruins it, but we must except the Touch Pieces.

Perhaps the most general abuse of coins is to make them into ornaments, both personal and impersonal. We have all seen coins, usually in mint state, mounted as brooches, as earrings, and, in considerable numbers, as bracelets and necklets. Frequently such pieces are enamelled, which in itself can be viewed in two ways. Our late member Mr. Clark told a man who offered to sell him an enamelled crown piece that it was a good coin ruined, and the man’s reply was that he had made a work of art out of what was just a common coin! In the shops today one can see numbers of rings made from sovereigns or half-sovereigns bent to a curve to suit the finger.

When I was a young woman I worked in a cotton district, and at that time—50 years ago—it was a custom there to make into a brooch the coins paid to a child for its first week’s wages. The payment of those little “half-timers”, as they were called, might be anything from a shilling or fifteen pence to half-a-crown, so there was some variety in the number and denomination of the pieces used.

Ornaments for personal wear were not by any means made only for women. For men there were tie-pins made from small

coins, generally gold, and studs, while many men still wear a sovereign or a guinea on their watch chains. Some, indeed, fondly imagine they ARE wearing a spade guinea when what they actually have is an old brass card counter! The most unusual coin-ornaments for a man, which I have seen, were a pair of cuff-links each made with a five-shilling piece and a three-penny bit. A rigid bar joined the large and small coin from their centres, producing an article resembling an enormous stud. The cuffs in which these studs functioned were dissociated from any shirt, so that they fell low on the wearer's wrist, enabling them to be observed and admired in all their magnificence. The owner was a Mason and wore these ornaments in the office when he was going to a Lodge night, so that for years I held the mistaken belief that they formed a recognised part of the Masonic insignia.

Coins have also been used extensively as ornaments for articles in household use. Tea-spoons have had handles inset with small silver coins and drinking vessels, large and small, have had their surfaces covered with silver and, occasionally, copper, pieces. Punch ladles were frequently made with a silver coin inserted in the bowl. Salt cellars were hammered from large silver coins, the device being left complete, though distorted, on the outer surface. Small boxes were also made from coins, some as large as a crown piece, some as small as a farthing. Two identical coins were required for each box. These were sliced in two, the halves hollowed and the pieces given an internal and external thread so that they screwed together, the join on the edge being practically invisible. Occasionally similar boxes may be seen with a pull-off lid. We have an auctioneer's gavel mounted with a silver penny.

Glass blowers, too, sometimes used coins in their craft. They inserted a small silver piece in the stem of a goblet in a "bubble" or "knop", then blowing the bubble to a sufficiently large size for the coin to remain loose within the sealed space. One of the most curious uses of a coin (which I have seen) was to bait a fishing line with a sixpence when trawling for mackerel, and a very successful bait it makes. An unusual use for coins which may be new to some of our members is to regulate the pendulum of "Big Ben", for which purpose a greater or lesser number of ha'pennies are placed on the platform of the pendulum.

Manufacturers of a piece of drawing office equipment known as a pantograph—a machine for producing enlarged or reduced copies of drawings, provide the instrument with a cup just large enough to receive pennies, the number loaded into the cup controlling the weight of the pencil tracing the design.

In engineering works a penny was often drilled and used as a washer and frequently one of the first things a new apprentice

was taught was not a useful item of engineering craft, but how to make a "wedding ring" from a penny. There, too, it was easy to "make a ha'penny into a penny" under a sledge hammer, so that the coin would operate in the slot of a cigarette machine to procure five "Woodbines". This, I think we will all agree was a definite "abuse", as also was the practice of gilding a coin of small denomination in order to pass it off as a gold piece. Members will know that the Victorian Jubilee sixpence had to be withdrawn and one with a new device substituted, on account of this practice.

My dentist used sovereigns for his gold work, and astronomers can and do silver their telescopic lenses by dissolving a sixpence or a shilling in a solution which then deposits a layer of silver on the lens. Housewives use pennies to cut splashes of paint from window-panes, and I think everyone in this room has at some time tried to regulate the tick of the dining-room clock by pushing a penny under one corner.

Coins have been used as weights and measures. Boulton's twopenny and penny pieces made reliable two ounce and one ounce weights, and in Manchester County Court a ha'penny has been used as an inch measure. Domestic culinary and medical recipes frequently contain such instructions as "add as much ginger as can be lifted on a sixpence" or "as much magnesia as will cover a shilling."

Needlewomen use coins in making embroidery designs and I have seen a booklet entitled "Penny-farthing stitchery" in which all the patterns were made by tracing circles from coins.

Love Tokens were extensively made from coins, the device being usually ground from one side of the piece and a name or an initial or perhaps an affectionate sentence engraved on the blank surface. Sometimes a silver coin was broken in two and the sweethearts each kept one half.

A curious use (or was this an abuse?) of gold coins was made by an old clogger in the Ashton-under Lyne district. He was so proud of his little granddaughter that when he made her first pair of clogs he inserted a half-sovereign in each wooden sole, later boasting that "Our Maggie had walked on gold from the time she first put foot to floor."

In making charitable appeals it was a custom a few years ago to try to procure "a mile of pennies..". At first this really was a mile of actual pennies laid on the pavement. And speaking of pennies in the street, certain contractors in testing the level of a newly finished road surface use a penny for the surface.. If the water filling a slight depression in the surface covers the penny, the level is unsatisfactory, but if the upper surface of the penny remains dry, all is well. A new penny is used for this test.

House builders, and the builders of office premises too, used to put a coin, generally a penny, in the walls, the idea being that such building would thereafter never be without money. It was probably the same idea which caused Manx ship-builders to place a penny at the bottom of the mast-socket, or tabernacle, before the mast was stepped in. I am told a similar custom was observed in the Clyde ship-yards.

(to be concluded)

TRUE BLUE ENGLISHMAN

"The Romans that were in Britain gathered together their gold-ward, hid part in the ground and carried the rest over to Gaul" writes Gildas.

"The Jutes, Angles, Saxons, did not extirpate the Britons, whatever you may hold concerning the Romans." writes Quiller-Couch, ". . . the Celtic Briton in the island was not exterminated and never came near to being exterminated: but on the contrary remains equipollent with the Saxon in our blood, and perhaps equipollent with that mysterious race we call Iberian, which came before either, and endures in this island today . . . Pict, Dane, Norman, Frisian, Huguenot French—these and others came in . . . Bethink you how deeply Rome engraved itself on this island and its features. . . no conquering race ever lived or could live—even in garrison—among a tributary one without begetting children on it . . . I see a people which for four hundred years was permeated by Rome . . . I hazard that the most important thing in our blood is that purple drop of the imperial murex we derive from Rome."

". . . the true line of intellectual descent in prose lies through Bede who wrote in Latin, the 'universal language' . . . — The Art of Writing. Quiller-Couch.

KIWI CROWN-SIZED MEDAL

At the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, on 23 March, 1956, lot 1336 at a sale of coins and medals included obv. "1936", beautiful crown, fine bust of Edward VIII. Rev. Kiwi bird "NEW ZEALAND" above, and "1936" below. Bril. proof. These beautiful pieces were struck by orders of admirers of Edward VIII who resented the fact that the Government, while issuing minor coins in the name of Edward VIII, did not realise (release?) any coins bearing his portrait. Only 50 were struck. Will be extra rare. Plate VI. 275 dollars."

This is not an official coin, or medal, but probably a privately issued medal, struck in the United States of America.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Murray Weston, of Calgary, Canada, on his recent marriage. He is now a member of the Calgary Coin Society and enjoys their meetings very much.

Mr. G. C. Sherwood, one-time Treasurer of the Society, is now in England, after visiting Denmark and the Continent. He sends his best wishes to members.

PAPAL COINS

An exhibition of 167 Papal coins was opened on 20th March at the Auckland War Museum by His Grace, Archbishop Liston, D.D. This outstanding collection was part of the magnificent collection owned by Mr. M. A. Jamieson, F.R.N.S., N.Z., a retired member of the British Diplomatic Corps whose crown-sized coins number over two thousand, apart from other more valuable coins and also an outstanding collection of medals and decorations.

The dates of the Papal coins were from 1588 to 1870, when Popes lost temporal power. Mussolini restored it in 1929. Most of the coins showed portraits of Popes; others minted when the Papal throne was vacant, were inscribed "Sede Vacante".

Sir Carrick Robertson introduced the Archbishop who spoke interestingly of the Vatican Library and its treasures, and he thanked Mr. Jamieson for arranging the display.

The reverses of several of the coins were from dies engraved by the Hamerani family who produced work of exceptional quality in the 17th and 18th centuries. Most of the scenes had a Biblical significance. One showed Anzio, the medieval port of Rome.

By courtesy of Dr. Archey, and the Museum authorities, a pleasant social hour followed. The display cases were arranged by Mrs. Turbott whose ingenuity enabled the coins to be shown to the best advantage. Among the guests were leading members of the Society and prefects from some secondary schools to whom the coins opened a new avenue of study.

NEW ZEALAND COINS

On Page 1380 of *The Numismatist*, November, 1955, Gimbel, a numismatic firm advertises a complete set of New Zealand coins, all dates from 1933 to 1953, 118 coins, for 300 dollars, about £107. This, of course, includes the rare crown, and three pence 1935, the two other crown-pieces also some other scarce coins such as the 1954 penny. In 1947 cupro nickel was adopted in place of half silver, and previous issues were progressively recalled for the recovery of silver. This has made the sets difficult to secure, and the number of sets available **in uncirculated condition** could, perhaps, be counted on the fingers of one hand.

PROOF COINS

In the *South Australian Numismatic Journal* for January Mr. S. V. Hagley, F.R.N.S., states that ". . . any coin with a clear impression and high polish without scratches could possibly be passed off as a proof", particularly ". . . some of the coins struck from chromium plated dies in the last two years."

He states that the late Mr. H. G. Williams, of Dunedin, paid an extra fee to the Melbourne Mint for carefully struck and selected specimens, but the arrangement was a private one.

". . . the Melbourne Mint "has again issued official proofs of the four denominations struck in 1955, the shilling, sixpence, threepence, and penny, and these have been available over the counter at 2s. each, plus face value!"

WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

One hundred years ago, when Wellington was without local bodies of any kind, the Wellington Chamber of Commerce was formed.

As one of the commemorative centennial features, the Chamber struck a medallion, the obverse of which is the Chamber crest surrounded by a spray of laurel leaves. The crest shield depicts Mercury, the Goddess of Commerce, together with symbols representing the various facets of commerce (tyre representing road transport; cog wheel, manufacturing; quill, the office and professions; and ship, sea transport) under which is the Wellington City Coat of Arms with the Southern Cross as a centrepiece.

For centenary purposes, the crest proper is surrounded by sprays of laurel leaves on which is superimposed at the base 1856-1956, the whole being surmounted by the word "Centenary".

The reverse shows a quaint feature of early Wellington mercantile life, the combined store and ship known from 1850 to 1883 as 'Noah's Ark', and owned by Mr. John Plimmer.

On 3rd October, 1849, the ship **Inconstant** (460 tons, Captain Cottleton) bound from Adelaide to Callao, when entering Wellington Harbour went on the rocks near Pencarrow Head. The H.M.S. **Acheron** aided the harbour-master to refloat her, but she was badly damaged and subsequently condemned. She was sold and later bought for £80 by Mr. Plimmer, who brought it to its final resting place on the site of the present Bank of New Zealand, Lambton Quay.

Cutting away the upper works, Plimmer built a store measuring 68 feet by 30 feet with two floors, the upper of which was rented by James Smith & Company from May 1851.

When the site was excavated for the Bank of New Zealand, teak timbers of the "Inconstant" were found and were made into three chairs. These are now owned by the Bank of New Zealand, the Wellington Education Board and the Alexander Turnbull Library respectively and the latter is used by Presidents of our Society at monthly meetings.

Designer of obverse: E. M. Bardsley; Designer of reverse: James Berry; Die Engraver: G. Whitehouse; Medals struck by Mayer & Kean Ltd., Wellington, New Zealand. Silver and Bronze 45 m m.

The silver medallions are for presentation only. Bronze medallions in a suitable case, are available at £1/1/- each, post free, from the Secretary, Wellington Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1590, Wellington, N.Z.

SOME THOUGHTS ON SYSTEMS OF DECIMAL COINAGE

(By Mr. W. J. Wills, B. Com. D.P.A. The Treasury Wellington)

The successful outcome of the petition of the Royal Numismatic Society to Parliament makes it almost certain that a Committee of Inquiry will be constituted to consider once again whether New Zealand should adopt a system of decimal currency. One major question on which such a Committee will have to recommend is the actual form of coinage to be used in the event of decimal currency being adopted. In fact a change could quite well depend on the finding of a workable and acceptable system. The 1933 Committee considered one of the major disadvantages of a decimal system was the difficulty in deciding the most suitable basis of decimal coinage to be adopted to suit local conditions. To date, most current discussion has been confined to the principle of decimal coinage. Little has been mentioned of the form the coinage should take. This is understandable—establish the basic principle first, then decide the details. While agreement on the principle seems fairly general, however, the same is not true when a system is considered. A large number of suggestions has been made from time to time, many of considerable merit. This article gives a factual summary of the more important, with brief comments.

First, however, it would be desirable to set out some of the principles of an acceptable system, bearing in mind that the whole community will be affected in some way or another. The system should:

- (a) relate to the present system as closely as possible or be capable of being related easily to the £ s d system. This would both minimize any opposition to the new system by the general public, and assist in statistical comparisons and accounting;
- (b) be such as will present the least change-over difficulty. This is particularly important, as probably the problems of change-over are the greatest obstacle to the adoption of decimal coinage;
- (c) ensure the advantages claimed for decimal coinage, are in fact gained. Some systems could create difficulties as great as those they claim to solve;
- (d) conform as closely as possible to other systems of decimal currency. The use of mechanical accounting equipment is increasing, and is already widespread. New Zealand's system should be such that standard overseas models can be used here.

On another page is set out a summarised comparison of seven systems which have been suggested at one time or another. The heading "Effect on Machine Capacity" has been included, as

COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT DECIMAL COINAGE SYSTEMS

| Factors | Systems | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | £-mil. | £-cent | 10/- - cent | 8/4 - cent | 5/- - cent | 4/2 - cent | 2/- - cent |
| 1. Simplicity Existing units in terms of decimal units. | £1 = £1 1/- = 50 mils 1d. = 5 mils | £1 = £1 1/- = 5 cents 1d. = 5/12 cent | £1 = 2 units 1/- = 10 cents 1d. = 5/6 cent | £1 = 22/5 units 1/- = 12 cents 1d. = 1 cent | £1 = 4 units 1/- = 20 cents 1d. = 1 2/3 cents | £1 = 4 4/5 units 1/- = 24 cents 1d. = 2 cents | £1 = 10 units 1/- = 50 cents 1d. = 4 1/6 cents |
| 2. Size of Units New units in terms of existing units | £ = £1 1 mil = .24d. | £1 = £1 1 cent = 2.4d. | 1 unit = £½ 1 cent = 1.2d. | 1 unit = £5/12 1 cent = 1d. | 1 unit = £¼ 1 cent = .6d | 1 unit = £5/24 1 cent = ½d. | 1 unit = £1/10 1 cent = .24d. |
| 3. Coins and Notes New notes and coins in terms of £.s.d. | £10 = £10 £5 = £5 £1 = £1 | £10 = £10 £5 = £5 £1 = £1 | 10 units = £5 5 units = £2.10 2 units = £1 1 unit = 10/- | 10 units = £4.3.4. 5 units = £2.1.8. 2 units = 16/8 1 unit = 8/4 | 10 units = £2.10. 5 units = £1.5. 2 units = 10/- | 10 units = £2.1.8. 5 units = £1.0.10. 2 units = 8/4 | 100 units = £10 50 units = £5 10 units = £1 5 units = 10/- |
| (a) notes | 500 mils) = 10/- | 50 cents = 10/- | 1 unit = 10/- | | | | |
| (b) silver | 250 mils) = 5/- 100 mils) = 2/- 50 mils) = 1/- | 25 cents = 5/- 10 cents = 2/- 5 cents = 1/- | 50 cents = 5/- 25 cents = 2/6 | 50 cents = 4/2 25 cents = 2/1 | 1 unit = 5/- 50 cents = 2/6 | 1 unit = 4/2 50 cents = 2/1 | 2½ units = 5/- 1 unit = 2/- |
| (c) Bronze | 25 mils = 6d. 10 mils = 2.4d. 5 mils = 1.2d. 1 mil = .24d. | 2½ cents = 6d. 1 cent = 2.4d. ½ cent = 1.2d. ¼ cent = .6d. | 10 cents = 1/- 5 cents = 6d. 2½ cents = 3d. 1 cent = 1.2d ½ cent = .6d. | 10 cents = 10d. 5 cents = 5d. 2 cents = 2d. 1 cent = 1d. ½ cent = ½d. | 20 cents = 1/- 10 cents = 6d. 5 cents = 3d. 2 cents = 1d. 1 cent = .6d. | 25 cents = 1/0½ 10 cents = 5d. 5 cents = 2½d. 2 cents = 1d. 1 cent = ½d. | 50 cents = 1/- 25 cents = 6d. 10 cents = 2.4d. 5 cents = 1.2d. 2 cents = .48d. |
| 4. Effect on Machine Capacity (in general terms only) | | | | | | | |
| (a) No conversion | 1/1000 | 1/100 | 1/200 | 1/240 | 1/400 | 1/480 | 1/1000 |
| (b) Full conversion | unaltered | 10 X | 5 X | 4 1/6X | 2½X | 2 1/3X | unaltered. |

the cost of conversion of accounting equipment has been put forward as one of the major obstacles to a change. It will be seen that while conversion may be costly (but not unduly so per machine) it will bring advantages in greater capacity. For the future if the greater capacity is not required, cheaper decimal machines with a lower capacity would be sufficient.

In the pound/mil system, the pound is retained at its present value, as are the subsidiary coins down to and including the equivalent of the sixpence. The alteration in value of the penny represents the main characteristic of the system since the decimal penny is one-tenth of a shilling—an increase in value of 20 per cent. The smallest unit, the mil, replaces the farthing, and would be 4 per cent. less in value than the latter.

Because the pound consists of 1,000 mils three points of decimals would be required in accounting to record subsidiary coins as decimals of the pound. With the exception of Egypt's this would make New Zealand's currency unique among decimal currency systems. Egypt uses a three-tier system of pounds, piastres and mils. This has serious disadvantages. Decimal accounting machines would need to be modified for use here. This would cause additional expense—their capacity would be the same as with the £ s d system, and for the small New Zealand market it would not pay to modify any but a limited number of standard machines. We would be worse off as far as modern accounting equipment is concerned, therefore, than under the present system.

The pound-cent system is an attempt to overcome the accounting in three decimal places. It resembles the pound/mil system in many respects. The pound retains its present value, while the shilling is equivalent to 5 cents, as against 50 mils in the pound-mil system. The penny would be expressed as one cent but its value would be increased 2.4 times almost equal to the present threepence. This is a definite weakness. The value of the smallest unit is too high. The scheme's supporters often claim the value of money has decreased so much over the last two decades that 2.4 pence now represents what one penny did formerly. This may be true, but nevertheless there is a large range of goods and the services still costing less than 2.4 pence, or measurable in intermediate gradations of less than 2.4 pence. To increase these prices to conform with a currency unit of 1 cent—2.4 pence would be most unpopular. The only solution would be to introduce values of half and quarter cents which, in itself, would mean a partial abandonment of the decimal system.

Both of these schemes illustrate the difficulty under a decimal currency of reconciling the major unit of a high value measured in terms of goods and services, with the minor currency unit expressible as one hundredth of the major, yet of a value low

enough to meet all needs. No currency system has yet managed to do this. Egypt, whose major currency unit the Egyptian £ is roughly at par with the £ N.Z., has been forced to use as lowest unit one thousandth the value of the £ Egyptian. All other major decimal currencies have a major unit much less than the £ N.Z.—e.g. Canada and U.S.A.—the dollar worth 7s. 2d.; Sweden—the kroner worth 1s. 4d., Western Germany—the westmark worth 1s. 8d.

The 10s. cent proposal recognizes this difficulty and compromises with a major unit worth 10s. (half the present unit) and a minor unit—the cent, worth 20 per cent more than the present penny. It has the added advantage that most of the coins at present in use could be used at least initially under the new system, e.g., the shilling would have the same value as the ten cent piece and so on. It is claimed that this would minimize conversion difficulties. To a limited degree this is true—the general public would find it convenient to be able to think in terms of 25 cents or half a crown. Recosting and repricing would not be so simple, however, and this is a major consideration. Where prices can be expressed in multiples of complete shillings, or sixpences there would be no difficulty. Converting £'s to the new units would also be easy. It is where conversion of prices or values containing odd pence that the difficulty lies. For example, a price of 2s. 6d. would be changed to 25 cents. If, however, the price was 2s 4d—an exact conversion would mean a price of 23½ cents which is meaningless for retail transactions. Therefore it would be necessary either to increase the price to 24 cents or reduce it to 23 cents. This example will illustrate the difficulties which would result. The effects would be widespread. Recosting and repricing would be necessary generally. Tram, bus, rail fares, newspapers, milk, bread prices would be affected—to mention only a few.

The 8s. 4d. cent scheme has been devised to overcome these difficulties. It takes the penny as the basic unit, and builds up the coinage system from it. Thus 100 pennies (or cents) equalling 8s. 4d. would be the £ s d equivalent of the new major currency unit, divisible into 50 cents (4s 2d.) 25 cents (2s. 1d) etc. Existing coins could not be used for these denominations and new coins would be required. This is not a fundamental disadvantage, however, as the present coins would not be useless but would represent off-standard denominations, e.g. 2s. 6d. would represent 30 cents; 1s.=12 cents. The cost of minting new coinage would be a conversion cost to be borne by the Government which could gradually replace existing coins with those of the new denomination. The chief advantage of the 8s. 4d. — cent would be involved. Conversion of values would be simple, e.g. 1s. system is the simplicity of changeover. No repricing or costing 11d. equals 23 pence equals 23 cents.

£5 x 2.4 equals 12 units of new currency.

Because of its simplicity the change to decimal coinage would probably be more generally accepted than would be the case with other systems.

The crown-cent and 4s. 2d.-cent schemes are variations of the last two schemes discussed. They aim to provide a minor unit of a value low enough to meet all possibilities. This may or may not be necessary. Generally speaking, it is considered the present penny is of sufficiently low a value to meet satisfactorily most transactions.

If the major currency unit is too low, it reduces the capacity of accounting machines too much and offsets some of the advantages claimed for decimal coinage. The 10s. cent and the 8s. 4d. cent schemes increase capacity by 5 and 4 1-6 times respectively. These are reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{12}$ times under the 5s. - cent and 4s. 2d. - cent proposals.

The 2s. - cent scheme proposes a unit of equivalent value to the 2s - divisible into 100 cents—one cent being of a value of $\frac{6}{25}$ of a penny. While this would provide units of low value enabling more exact costing, it does not overcome conversion difficulties. A unit equal to 2s. is lower than is necessary, and would mean losing some of the advantages of decimal coinage, e.g. additional capacity of accounting machines.

One of these schemes will probably be adopted, if a decision is made to change to a decimal coinage. All have some disadvantage but there is little doubt that any of them would provide a workable system. It would seem the 8s. 4d - cent proposal has much in its favour however.

- (a) It is a satisfactory compromise between a major unit of a denomination large enough for practical purposes (we do not want to measure in terms of millions where we can use thousands) yet at the same time the minor unit is of a denomination low enough to reflect small price gradations.
- (b) It facilitates conversion. Simplicity is one of the advantages of a decimal system. Because it does not involve repricing or recosting, the 8s. 4d. system would provide a simple means of implementing decimal coinage.
- (c) It would allow a decimal and a non-decimal system to operate concurrently during the changeover period. A changeover period is highly desirable to allow conversion of accounting machines stationery etc., otherwise the cost would be very much higher, involving scrapping existing equipment, or at least importing quantities of equipment on a temporary hire basis while sterling machines were converted. Conversion would take up to two years. The

new system and the existing system must operate together during that time. The 8s. 4d. - cent system is the only one suggested which could operate with the £ s d system.

In conclusion it cannot be stressed too strongly that all relevant factors must be taken into account in deciding the basis of decimal currency. A careful and objective assessment of each system is essential. A decision on a matter such as this, once made and implemented cannot be reversed easily. It should be the aim of those concerned to ensure the advantages claimed for decimal coinage are reflected in the system adopted.

DIE CHANGES IN NEW ZEALAND COINS

Mr B. S. Berry, of Wellington, has drawn attention to changes in reverse designs of New Zealand coins as follows.

Threepence.—From 1933 to 1956 the stops used before and after the date vary between lozenge, square, and diamond shapes.

Shilling.—From 1940 to 1949. The base of the **taiaha** in the hands of the Maori is sometimes at the bottom of the figure four, and sometimes halfway through the four.

In the 1940 shilling the left limb of the N points to the left.

Two shillings.—From 1933 the initials of the designer, K.G. progressively move upwards towards the horizon line on which the kiwi stands.

Half-crown.—The design on the cupro-nickel is much more compact, smaller, and closer to the reeded rim.

In 1951 the design appears to have been redrawn.

Details of other changes will be welcomed from other members.

The National Gallery, Adelaide, has purchased a specimen of the rare New Zealand penny from Mrs. De Nise, of United States, and it is understood that the specimen originally came from the Eklund Collection.

Conversion of silver coins to cupro-nickel showed a profit of £3,200,000 p. 1994 **Hansard** Vol. 287. Hon. W. Nash, then Minister of Finance.

THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
25th ANNUAL REPORT JUNE, 1956.

By Professor H. A. Murray, M.A., F.R.N.S., N.Z.

The year has been one of quiet good work, with some progress to report, and signs of a shift of emphasis in the spheres of activity of the Society. There have been difficulties as well, financial and physical, which have caused delays in the issue of the Journal and in proceeding with the project for striking a medal.

There seems to be a developing desire for more emphasis on the interests of the collector, and in this respect the Auckland Branch has been particularly active. It therefore seems likely that in the next few years new developments will take place in the policy of the Society, with increased prominence to certain of its activities. From the Auckland Branch came also a renewed proposal for a distinctive badge for members of the Society, and this has now been agreed to in principle.

Twenty-three new members have been elected in the course of the year, and there have been three resignations. Of the new members eleven are from the Auckland district, nine of whom were elected in the month of April. One is in South Africa, one in the United States of America, and one in England. It is pleasing to report that the activities of the Society can still attract members from all over the world.

There has also been a copious flow of correspondence on a variety of topics in which the Society has been helpful. This correspondence has included interesting letters from various parts, including Australia, U.S.A., Czechoslovakia, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Italy.

The Society's petition on the Decimal Coinage question helped to keep the possibility of action before the Government, and to stimulate a more serious interest in the question from organisations and people such as has not hitherto been the case. The possibility of solid progress seems to be real, and has stimulated the Society to discuss the question of new issues of coins and new designs. No doubt in the near future, the Society will be able to give its advice, as on previous occasions in this important and interesting matter.

The **Journal**, thanks to the activity of the various centres, and in particular because of the skill and enthusiasm of the Honorary Editor, has maintained its standards, and has offered an interesting amount of material on a wide range of topics, amongst which New Zealand numismatics have had an important place. I should like to repeat that in the long run the **Journal** is the Society's most important means of maintaining a wide interest and of disseminating numismatic knowledge, particularly in New Zealand. In addition, there is a pleasing accumulation of first-rate material

awaiting publication in subsequent issues. Of the published work, I should like to make particular mention of Mr. Hamilton's article on "Roman Coins in Otago Museum", now available in pamphlet form. It will be of immense value to visitors to the museum, and to university students who are studying ancient history. It is also pertinent to mention in connexion with this topic Dr. Mattingly's absorbingly interesting work on "Christianity in the Roman Empire", published under the auspices of Otago University. It makes full use of the numismatic evidence, and is copiously illustrated by examples of coins. There are no doubt many who will never take up coin-collecting as a serious hobby, but who are keenly interested in questions which involve some interest in numismatics. Talks and publications by the Society's members and others cannot of course be expected to cater for the interests of every individual member, but I think it is an important function of the Society to keep its field of interest as wide and varied as possible, with New Zealand numismatics as its main duty. Related to this subject is the question of the use of the Society's own collections of books and specimens. Following on its policy of making these available to the branches, it will be necessary to discuss the appointment of a librarian so that the activity may have the widest possible efficient usefulness. I should like to thank those officers of the Society and others who have helped by administrative work, papers, gifts, exhibitions and other means to make the year a successful and interesting one. In particular our thanks are due to Mrs. Inkersell for securing comfortable quarters for the Wellington meetings, and for providing excellent suppers. In leaving office I wish the Society all success, and look forward with interest to future developments.

COLLECTION SPECIALITIES

The following members of the Auckland Branch have notified their collection specialities.—

Anschutz, Miss J., crown-size pieces; Messrs D. Atkinson, medals, general; T. Atwood, general; J. R. Baxter, English silver; J. Brook, world crown-size, N.Z., general and world proofs, British bronze; T. Diamond, East Asian and North Pacific notes, Ceylon and Malayan coins; H. Donald, crown-size pieces, medals and badges; R. Firth, N.Z., English crowns, gold; B. Forster, English and Dominions; C. Geary, general; C. Hulse, old gold; A. Linsen, European coins and medals; M. Lynch, notes; J. McClew Mrs. P. McClew, English Commonwealth and U.S.A. silver coins; Messrs C. E. Menzies, General; J. Roberts, medals and general coins; A. Robinson general silver and gold; D. Rubb, American coins; R. Sellars, ancient series, English and general; P. Southern, general; A. Sutherland, medals, N.Z. tokens and coins; B. Williams, British Empire; E. Morris, English silver and crown-size foreign.

DECIMAL COINAGE PETITION**Full-scale Inquiry Almost Certain**

A full scale inquiry into decimal coinage for New Zealand has been recommended by the Public Petitions M. to Z. Committee of the House of Representatives, as a result of a petition by the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated.

At the hearing of the Society's petition to Parliament on 29 August the Hon. J. R. Marshall, Attorney-General, in his capacity as Member for Karori, introduced the Society's representatives and said that he was impressed by the support given to decimal coinage by Dominion organisations. He noted, too, the trends towards decimal coinage in Australia, South Africa, India and the United Kingdom.

In attendance as representatives of the Society, were the President, Captain G. T. Stagg, Mr. L. J. Dale, F.R.N.S.N.Z., Chairman, Canterbury Branch, Mr. H. Hughan, Vice President, and representing the Auckland Branch, also Mr. Arlow. The chief spokesmen for the Society were Mr. Allan Sutherland, F.R.N.S., N.Z., and Mr. James Berry.

After thanking the Hon. J. R. Marshall for introducing the petitioners, Mr. Sutherland asked the Committee to give a most favourable recommendation to the House, on the grounds that there was widespread support for decimal coinage within the Dominion. New Zealand was the only major part of the Commonwealth, other than Pakistan, that had not investigated decimal coinage, and received a favourable recommendation for adoption.

The widespread support in the Dominion was evidenced by the decisions of representative educational and commercial organisations, including the Associated Chambers of Commerce of New Zealand and the New Zealand Manufacturers Federation which supported decimal coinage in principle. The New Zealand Dairy Board, which worked out its guaranteed price to farmers in pence and decimal parts of a penny, favoured an inquiry, as did the New Zealand Society of Accountants when it affirmed the principle some years ago. Support also came from the New Zealand Educational Institute, the University Teachers Association, Wellington Branch, the Dominion Council of the Workers Educational Association, and some of the leading members of the New Zealand Woolbrokers Association. That was an impressive list, showing that the support was more widespread than at any time in the previous thirty years since the Society members took an interest in the subject.

If the Committee reported favourably, and a Government inquiry resulted, with a favourable recommendation for decimal coinage, New Zealand would then only be in the position of other parts of the Commonwealth where favourable recommendations

had been made. Successive Ministers of Finance had supported decimal coinage in principle.

Values were fluid, and the present appeared to be a good time to consider a change which, if planned in advance, could be made smoothly, and most of the coins in circulation could be used as decimal coins.

Mr. Sutherland paid a tribute to the persistency of the Hon. Mr. H. G. Mason, Q.C., whose Bill on decimal coinage was being considered in conjunction with the petition. It was to be hoped that Mr. Mason would gain even more friends and influence more helpers in his efforts to secure decimal coinage. The matter was not a political one. It would be a proud day if members of the Committee could claim that as a result of the decision they had made that day, they had played their part in bringing about decimal coinage for New Zealand.

Mr. James Berry displayed a map showing the progressive shrinkage of the world's surface where fractional coinage was being used. He gave a graphic illustration of the rapidity with which calculations could be made in decimals, and the reduced number of figures used, and he showed pictorially one system under which decimal coinage could be adopted with a minimum of inconvenience.

Dr. C. J. Adcock, representing the Wellington Branch of the Association of University Teachers, and also the Dominion Council of the Workers Educational Association, stressed the saving in time in the education of children by using decimal coinage. The time saved could be used to teach new skills to cope with modern developments. A recent broadcast discussion panel on decimal coinage had been arranged only after difficulty had been experienced in finding someone to take the negative side.

Electronic equipment, based on decimal notation, was revolutionising accountancy methods, and New Zealand had to move with world trends, or to entrench capital in equipment for the fractional system of coinage that had outlived its usefulness, and if that were done, the chance of change later on would be more remote than ever.

Messrs Hester and Blair represented New Zealand wool-brokers. They said that their company, Messrs. Dalgety and Co. Ltd., one of the largest wool brokers in the country, had installed decimal calculating machinery which saved three-quarters of the time formerly taken by a special staff. Auction catalogue sheets were shown giving lot numbers, weights, and prices at hammer-fall, and the method of working out the returns for the account sales. The results had to be converted finally to £ s d for the accounts to be sent to the farmers.

A representative of the New Zealand Society of Accountants, Mr. A. W. Graham, stressed the advantages of decimal coinage

which had been affirmed in principle by his society in 1939, but had not been considered since then.

A senior investigating officer of the Treasury, Mr. W. J. Wills, B.Com., D.P.A., was present on behalf of the Treasury which submitted a full report which favoured decimal coinage in principle, and stated that there were special reasons why the present would be a good time to plan a change.

The Hon. H. G. R. Mason, Q.C., addressed the Committee briefly, quoting modern trends and opinions, and strongly supporting decimal coinage. He would be content at that stage with a most favourable recommendation for an inquiry into decimal coinage.

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. J. G. Barnes, Government, St. Kilda, and other members asked questions, and then the petitioners withdrew.

Later that day Mr. Barnes presented to the House the report of the Committee for a most favourable recommendation for an inquiry into decimal coinage. He praised the petitioners for their brevity, sincerity and clarity in presenting their case, and stated that the Committee had been impressed by the support given to decimal coinage by representative national organisations.

Other speakers included Mr. N. J. King, Labour, Waitemata, who said that the Committee members were impressed by the evidence submitted, and the Committee considered that an inquiry into decimal coinage should be held.

The Hon. H. G. R. Mason, Labour, Waitakere, said that he was pleased with the recommendation of the Committee. He would await the result of the Inquiry, and would not proceed with his Decimal Coinage Bill, meantime.

The Hon. J. R. Mashall thanked the Committee on behalf of the petitioners for the most favourable recommendation. He said that if an inquiry were held, and if a favourable recommendation were made, consultations on a Commonwealth level with representatives of other non-decimal countries, Australia, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom, would be of advantage in examining the possibility of making the change-over in other Commonwealth countries at the same time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(By Captain G. T. Stagg, R.N.Z.A.)

On assuming the office of President I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the honour that has been accorded me, and to assure members that I shall at all times strive to further the very worthy objects of the society.

My prime interest is devoted to medals. On the subject of coins, I do not profess to have any great knowledge, but I feel

that what I have seen and heard over the past few years, since I joined the Society, has broadened my interest considerably and given me a better appreciation of the value of the study of coins and the relationship between the two main branches of numismatics.

In these days of comparative plenty, and greater leisure, the society could well extend its membership through more active campaigning by members. Though we are not in a position to advertise our society, I feel that the **Journal** could do just that very thing, provided it is brought to the notice of those interested. Approximately one member in every four is from outside New Zealand, and these overseas members rely solely upon the **Journal** to maintain their interest in our work and views. We have very active branches in Auckland and Christchurch, but in other centres there are no similar organisations to stimulate the interest of non-members. Is it not possible to form branches or groups in other cities and towns? It is only by the widest dissemination of all available knowledge that we can encourage the study of numismatics to the full extent, within our resources. Only by getting together in groups at meetings, can we really achieve our objects, and at such meetings only a veritable tyro could feel that he or she had nothing to offer to enhance a discussion on numismatic matters. The tyro could derive great interest and benefit from discussions with older and more experienced members. I put it to you: could not two or more members, known to one another in a locality, try to organise a group or branch to stimulate local interest? Just think of the tiny acorn, capable of developing into a mighty oak tree!

We would like to hear from any new groups formed, and would watch their progress with interest, giving them all the help we can. As soon as the repairs to the Alexander Turnbull Library building are completed, and our own reference library is once again in a more accessible position, it is intended to make reference material available to New Zealand members outside the Wellington area. A catalogue is in course of preparation, and details will be advised in the **Journal** at a later date.

Very rarely do we hear from our isolated members and I feel that they may well be able to contribute some item of interest to other members. Though printing costs are high we should like to publish contributions from sources of this nature; also to see more visitors at our meetings in Wellington. If you are in Wellington on the last Monday in the month, come along and make yourself known, and be assured of a cordial welcome. Similarly I am sure that the Auckland and Christchurch Branches would welcome visitors to their meetings, as by this means we can get to know each other and so arrive at a better appreciation of our mutual interests.

NOTES OF MEETINGS

Brief mention is made of papers read at meetings. These will be published where possible, and when space permits.

AUCKLAND

On the first Wednesday in each month, from March to July, the Auckland Branch held its meetings. Mr. Asher Robinson presided until the annual meeting in June, when he did not accept nomination for another year, and Mr. E. Morris was elected President in his stead.

On 7 March (71st meeting) Mr. H. Hughan, of Carterton, Auckland representative on the Council addressed the meeting. Mr. B. Forster gave a paper on "Coin Technology." Notice was given that on 9 April Mr. R. Sellars would address the Wellesley Philatelic Society on "Introduction to Numismatics, Coins".

On 4 April Mr. M. Lynch gave a paper on "Early Metal used in Coins."

On 2 May Mr. D. Rubb gave a paper "The Development of American Coinage."

On 6 June the Annual Meeting was held at which the following officers were elected.—**Chairman**, Mr. E. Morris; **Vice Chairman**, Mr. J. Roberts; **Executive** Mrs. P. McClew, Mr. D. Rubb; **Auditor**, Mr. J. McClew; **Hon. Secretary**, Mr. J. Brook; **Hon. Treasurer**, Mr. B. Forster.

The branch subscription was increased to 10s., for senior members, and 5s. for junior members, additional to the subscription of 10s. to the parent body in Wellington.

High praise was extended to Mr. Asher Robinson, retiring Chairman, for his untiring work on behalf of the branch; also for his generosity in donating a bookcase and other equipment to the Society. Cordial wishes were also extended to Mr. E. Morris, whose efficient services as Hon. Secretary had helped materially in the progress of the branch.

When the list of officers for the parent body in Wellington was read Mr. Allan Sutherland paid a tribute to the outstanding service rendered to the Society by the retiring President, Professor Murray.

The Auckland Branch issues a report of each meeting to the local members when reminding them of the forthcoming meeting.

Auckland Branch Annual Report

The eighth annual report of the Auckland branch of the Society was presented on 6 June by Mr. Asher Robinson, retiring Chairman. He said that the branch had reason to be pleased with the continued progress made. The local membership showed a healthy increase, notwithstanding some defections. The year commenced with 33 members and ended with 40. New members were proving a valued acquisition to the branch. He advised members to add to the membership; this could be done with a little effort.

The financial statement revealed further consolidation. During the year papers covering a wide range of numismatic material, were presented by members. These were thoroughly enjoyed, and were well up to the high standard of previous years. Several were accorded a place in the Society's Journal. The paper for the evening played a most important role in the life of the Society. Generally meetings were well attended considering the relatively small membership, and the fact that many had to travel long distances to attend.

A petition sponsored by the parent body asking the Government to investigate the possibility of the decimal coinage system for New Zealand was endorsed by the branch and he was pleased to note that the subject was recently discussed by Parliament.

The proposal for a change of design on New Zealand coins was being examined by the Council, and it was to be hoped that the much desired change would come about in the near future. Another proposal for a special

issue of coins, commemorating the coming World Fair to be held in Auckland, was in hand.

The branch was fortunate in the appointment of Mr. Harry Hughan as its representative on the Council. He attended an Auckland meeting, and members were impressed with his drive and sincerity. Members could be assured that the faithful presentation of their views and recommendations to the parent body was in good hands.

Supper continued to be an enjoyable feature of meetings. To members, Mr. Robinson tendered his sincere thanks for their co-operation during his term of office. Their loyal support largely contributed to the pleasant and harmonious atmosphere of meetings. He also thanked the Committee and executive for their wholehearted co-operation in conducting the affairs of the branch. They had worked hard in the common interest and had made his task an easy one. There was a special indebtedness to the Secretary, Mr. Morris, also to the Secretary of the New Zealand Institute of Marine and Power Engineers, Mr. Douglas, to whom any request as to the meeting room had been cheerfully granted. The office of Chairman had afforded him much pleasure, and he regretted that he could not again accept nomination for that office. Mr. McClew then read the balance sheet and commented thereon. The report and balance sheet were adopted by acclamation.

WELLINGTON

The usual monthly meetings were held on the last Monday of the month commencing in February. Professor H. A. Murray M.A., F.R.N.S., N.Z., presided until the annual meeting in June, when he declined to accept nomination for a further term, and Captain G. T. Stagg was elected President.

At the meeting on 23 February, (187th) approval was given to the sending of a cable of sympathy to Viscount Bledisloe on the death of Lady Bledisloe. Among the numismatic periodicals received were Spink and Son Lt., *Numismatic Circular*, the 1956 edition of *Standard Catalogue of Great Britain and Ireland*, by courtesy of Messrs B. A. Seaby Ltd. New members were elected, correspondence from various countries was dealt with, and Mr. Koonce, of Los Angeles, was welcomed. He gave a short address, and the evening concluded with a social hour. The thanks of the meeting was extended to Mrs. Inkersell for the use of the meeting room at Wakefield House.

On 26 March, (188th) meeting was held. Professor H. A. Murray read a paper on "An Ancient dolphin story", dealing with the dolphin of Hippo and the dolphin of Opononi. Mr. Freeman exhibited coins depicting dolphins.

On 30 April, (189th) meeting was held at which many new members were elected, and references were made to the Decimal Coinage Bill and the petition of the Society, also to a proposal to adopt a seal and badge for the Society. Attention was drawn to auctions of a so-called coin of Edward VIII with the name "New Zealand" thereon, and depicting a kiwi on reverse. It was issued in America, presumably, and is described as a crown-sized piece.

This piece has no place in New Zealand coinage, being a privately issued medal or token.

Mr. T. F. Carney read a paper on "A Roman Family in Coins", tracing the fortunes of the Metelli family in the struggle and intrigue for administrative, financial and political power between families and privileged circles.

The 190th meeting was held on 28 May. The meeting endorsed the proposal to advocate new designs for New Zealand coins and bank-notes.

Congratulations were extended to Dr. C. Fleming on his recent award. Mr. C. J. Freeman read a paper "Numismatics and History" by Philip Grierson, M.A., being an abridgment of his inaugural lecture at Brussels.

The 25th annual meeting was held on 25 June. A copy of "Essays in

Roman Coinage" by Dr. H. Mattingly was received for review. The annual accounts and balance sheet were presented by Mr. Freeman and adopted, subject to audit. Mr. H. Martin presided until the arrival of Professor Murray.

The annual report was presented on behalf of Professor H. A. Murray and adopted unanimously. The following officers were elected for the year 1956-57.— **President** Captain G. T. Stagg; **Vice Presidents**, Mr. H. Martin, Wellington, Mr. H. Hughan, Carterton; Mr. R. Sellars, Auckland, Mr. L. J. Dale, Christchurch. **Hon. Secretary**, Mr. P. D. Tether, Box 23, Wellington; **Hon. Treasurer**, Mr. C. J. Freeman, 10 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, Wellington; **Hon. Editor**, Mr. Allan Sutherland, Auckland; **Council**, Mrs. J. T. Inkersell, Mr. M. H. Hornblow, Mr. E. Horwood, and Mr. M. L. G. Leask, Mr. S. B. Berry, Wellington; Mr. James Sutherland, representing Canterbury Branch, and Mr. A. Robinson, Auckland Branch, with Mr. H. Hughan as Deputy. **Auditor**, Mr. W. Chetwynd.

Mr. J. Berry submitted draft-designs for the Society's seal for consideration.

Mr. C. J. Freeman reported on the display of tokens of Australia and New Zealand, and coins and bank notes, at the Wellington Chamber of Commerce Centennial Exhibition.

Captain G. T. Stagg displayed a copy of the New Zealand Cross, from the original die, but with minor differences. He also displayed six medals of the late W.O.I. F. W. James, 1884-1955, and gave a short history of his career.

Tributes were paid to the officers of the Society, and particularly to the retiring President, Professor H. A. Murray, whose outstanding services had enhanced the status of the Society and contributed much to the interest of meetings.

The 191st meeting was held on 30th July at which Captain Stagg presided. Mr. Baird wrote agreeing to give a display of orders, decorations and medals at the November meeting (Ladies Night). Among the publications received was **Flying Eaglet Coin Journal**, vol. 2, No. 1. U.S.A.

Some **Journals** have been returned marked "Gone, no Address". These addresses are to be deleted from the roll, and consideration is to be given to deleting from the roll names of members whose subscriptions are too far in arrear. A committee was appointed to recommend a proposed seal and badge for the Society. Mr. C. J. Freeman donated a subscription for one year for membership in the International Numismatic Commission, and was thanked therefor. A copy of our **Journal** is to be sent to Numismatic Institute Antonio Augustin, Madrid, as an exchange for the publication **Numario Hispanico**.

The meeting was held in the Victoria University College. Members adjourned to a room where the Wellington Branch of the Classical Society had on display numismatic literature, and Greek and Roman coins, and plaster casts of same. Professor Murray gave a short address on the method of study followed, and described several Greek coins. Mr. T. F. Carney dealt with Roman coins. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the speakers for a most interesting and instructive evening.

CANTERBURY BRANCH

A meeting was held on 12 March in the Classics Room of the Canterbury University College. Mr. L. J. Dale presided, and gave an address on "And they gave unto Him a penny". This was enjoyed by all.

On 8 May Mr. H. Hughan, of Carterton, gave an address on topical numismatic subjects and later showed a magnificent display of gold and other coins, mostly in sets. This evoked the admiration of members, and he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. He also gave the solution to a series of questions, the answers to which were to be found on an English penny. The prize, a Maria Theresa thaler, was awarded to Mr. Barker. Mr. Dale presided.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, both on the staff of the Canterbury Museum, on the occasion of their marriage.

Mr. Hughan discussed the proposal for new designs for coins and bank notes to reflect the spirit of the new Elizabethan era, as had been done by other Commonwealth countries. Miss Steven read a paper by an English writer on uses and abuses of coins.

On 9 July a meeting was held in the Canterbury Museum, at which Mr. L. J. Dale presided.

Mr. Dale described his "adventure in friendship" with a fellow numismatist Mr. Ray Turner, of Toledo, Ohio, following publication in U.S.A. of his paper on "Biblical Numismatics". This reached England, and a numismatist in Harrogate, Yorkshire, Alfred Phillipson, wrote a letter on the subject, leading to a close personal friendship with Mr. Dale. When efforts were being made by him to secure an ancient Roman coin (the "Tribute Penny" of the Bible), Phillipson in England wrote to Turner, a retired police officer in America, who supplied the elusive coin for the unknown New Zealander, via the mutual English friend! A letter of thanks began another friendship, which Mr. Dale told the meeting had become a very real one, and which he and Mr. Turner both hope will lead to a personal meeting soon. Mr. Turner became a most interested overseas member of the branch, and Mr. Dale became an overseas member of the Toledo Coin Club, Ohio.

A display of photographs, maps and newspaper clippings relating to the Turner household, and to the history and geography of Toledo, provided a striking example of the way in which numismatics can lead to interest in, and better knowledges of, the people of other nations, and therefore help to develop international goodwill and co-operation.

Mr. Bruce Middleton read a paper by Mr. Ray Turner, entitled "Funny Money". This dealt with unusual currencies and substitutes for coins, and ranged from those of Homeric Greece to modern issues, including the Maria Thersta dollar, and nearly a hundred items, ranging from elephant tails, human hair, knives, tobacco, bricks, cowrie shells, 400 kinds of glass beads, blocks of gold and slabs of copper two feet four inches long! Numerous varieties of actual coined money were also referred to.

This really outstanding evening ended with a warm vote of thanks and greeting to the Toledo member, proposed by Miss Steven, and carried by acclamation, then in turn, a special air mail greeting actually received only that day from Mr. Ray C. Turner was read to the meeting. Each member was then presented with a numismatic souvenir with Mr. Turner's compliments. Members present signed their names to a letter of thanks which will be sent to Mr. Turner.

NEW ZEALAND COINAGE

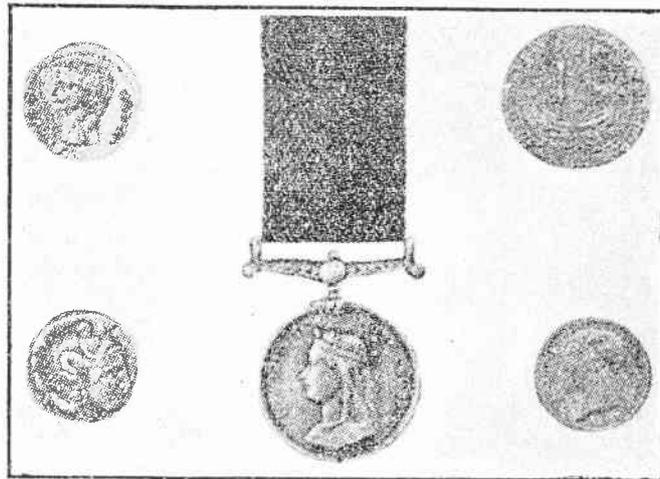
A record of all New Zealand coins from the first distinctive issue in 1933 to date, showing for each denomination the amount in pounds sterling purchased from the Royal Mint, number of coins, size, weight, metal content etc., and a summary of general information on same, has been compiled by Mr. H. G. Hughan of Carterton.

Mr. Hughan, who is a Vice President of the R.N.S.N.Z. has had this information printed in the form of a brochure and it is issued with his compliments as a supplement to this issue.



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