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Issued gratis to Members.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

OBJECTS

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

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NOMINATIONS

Nominations for all officers of the Society will be received by the Hon. Secretary, Box 23, Wellington, up to and including the date of the Annual Meeting, 30th June, 1952.

Back numbers of this Journal, except No. 1, Vol. 4, may be obtained at 3s 6d each from Mr. M. Hornblow, 7 Harrold St., Kelburn Extension, Wellington, N.Z.

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ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
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SEPTEMBER, 1951 - APRIL, 1952

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DEATH OF KING GEORGE VI.

The following letters are published for the information of members:—

February 14, 1952.

The Private Secretary to
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,
Buckingham Palace,
LONDON.

Dear Sir,

It is with a deep sense of grief and great loss that we learned of the passing of our Beloved King.

On behalf of my Council and all members of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, I would be grateful, therefore, if you would convey to Their Majesties the Queen and the Queen Mother and all members of the Royal Family, our profound sympathy in this grievous loss sustained by them.

Would you kindly make known to Her Majesty the Queen, also, our continued loyalty and devotion and we pray that Her Majesty's reign may be a long and happy one.

I have the honour to be

Your most obedient servant,

M. H. HORNBLow,

President.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

29th February, 1952.

Dear Sir,

I am commanded by The Queen to express to you and to all those on whose behalf you wrote her sincere thanks for your kind message of sympathy in her great loss.

Her Majesty greatly appreciates their thought of her and her family at this time.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Edward Ford.

M. H. Hornblow, Esq.,
President,
Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, Inc.,
G.P.O. Box 23,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

NEW COINS FOR NEW ZEALAND.

The lamented death of His Majesty King George VI will necessitate a change in the obverse portraits of British Commonwealth coins. Already the Duke of Edinburgh has presided over a Committee charged with the duty of advising on suitable portrait designs for Queen Elizabeth II, and appropriate reverse designs for United Kingdom coins.

By the effluxion of time the reverse designs on New Zealand coins are due for a change, but the time factor will probably prevent this being done concurrently with the change in the Royal portrait. In the 19 years since New Zealand coins were first issued the portraits of two monarchs have appeared, and there have been changes in the titles consequently upon the altered status of India.

The British Empire paved the way to greatness in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I; Queen Elizabeth II ascends the throne at a time when the financial and other fortunes of the Commonwealth and Empire are at their lowest ebb due mainly to an exhausting war for freedom. The British race usually displays its best qualities in adversity; let us hope that the second Elizabethan era will witness a restoration of some of the greatness that characterised the first.

PRIMITIVE ECONOMICS OF THE MAORI

By ALLAN SUTHERLAND.

Despite the high New Zealand price, nearly £3, *A Survey of Primitive Money*, by Mrs. A. Hingston Quiggin (Methuen, London), is a worth-while addition to any numismatic library.

Naturally the New Zealander looks with special interest to the conclusions on Polynesia, and particularly on the customs of the New Zealand Maori. The authoress declares "In a world map showing the distribution of currency many thousands of square miles covering Australia and the Polynesian Islands including New Zealand must be left blank. In direct contrast Micronesia and Melanesia show the most abundant, most varied and most complicated forms of money, the delight of the collector and the despair of the cataloguer." (p. 111). She refers to "Australia and Polynesia in which no native currencies developed." On the evidence she is on sound grounds in quoting Mr. McCarthy that in Australia "no [native] medium of exchange or measures of value existed," but the grouping of Australia and Polynesia, although, no doubt, unintentional, was unfortunate in view of the marked differences between the two distinct and widely separated races involved. Indeed, in her summary she again erroneously grouped New Zealand with Australia when she declares that ". . . at the present day . . . Barter suffices for most of the natives of Australia, New Zealand, and Islands of the Pacific."

Today the only barter practised is in the school-playing grounds where the Maori and white school-children may exchange pocket-knives or marbles, as children do the world over. As far back as 1837, before the advent of British sovereignty in New Zealand, evidence given before the British House of Commons Select Committee showed that in the Bay of Islands the Maori was displaying "a decided preference to money over barter." In 1839 Captain Hobson reported that in certain areas in New Zealand tobacco was almost the circulating medium.

Going further back there were similarities between the ceremonial gift exchange of the Maori (Polynesia) and the Melanesian whose communal modes of living had a similar background.

Dealing with Fiji the authoress states that "Present-giving attained such prominence that the border-line between presents and currency is very faint. Certain objects used in presentations acquired a conventional value and were used also in exchanges, and hoarded as wealth." She refers to the *tambua* (whale-tooth money), orange cowries, *tapa* and feathers being regarded as primitive currencies, and states that in Samoa (Polynesia) and in Fiji barkcloth represented wealth, whether piled in the owner's hut, or wound round his person. "Pieces were also used for presentation or exchange there, as in Samoa."

She quotes Dr. Raymond Firth, whose outstanding work on the primitive economics of the Maori, is the standard work on the

subject. Firth, she points out, stated that for purposes of gift-exchange, all articles, food, clothing, and ornaments had their potential exchange value, and that nephrite (*pounamu* or greenstone) weapons and ornaments “. . . so nearly developed into money that they have been so described by Europeans, and even by the Maori themselves. Nephrite was, however, never a *common** measure of values, nor was it used as a medium of exchange in trading transactions.” The distinction between gift-exchange as clear-cut gifts, and bartering where there were discussions as to values, is given. Here is a custom common to Polynesia and Melanesia.

As to Fiji in Melanesia, the authoress states: “Present-giving attained such prominence that the borderline between presents and currency is very faint . . . Fijian *tambua* are found in almost all collections of primitive currency, and orange cowries, *tapa*, and feathers are equally admissible—or inadmissible.” *Tambua* “were bartered for sandalwood by early traders but their chief function was, and still is, to serve in ceremonial present-giving.” (p. 110). The greenstone ornaments and weapons of the Maori, too, were the main articles in ceremonial gift-exchanges, and still are presented ceremonially to visiting notables. If the *tambua* served the dual purpose for money and for ceremonial gifts among the Melanesians, one is tempted to ask why the Polynesian did not similarly regard the *pounamu* articles as wealth, and a convenient medium of exchange?

Pounamu is found in very few places in New Zealand, mainly along the Arahura River in Westland, and obsidian, a glossy-black bottle-glass substance (*tuhua* or *kahurangi*) used as a cutting agent, is found only on Mayor Island, and near Rotorua. These were two of the main items of barter between the North and South Island tribes, and Mr. W. J. Phillipps, of the Dominion Museum, aptly describes greenstone as a luxury and obsidian as a necessity among the Maori. He states that every South Island Maori midden of importance contained numerous chips of obsidian from the North Island showing that obsidian, too, ranked very high as an object of barter because of the restricted localities from which it came.

Unworked *pounamu* (greenstone) and *tuhua* (obsidian) had the main attributes of money; they were difficult to obtain and to work, they were durable, distinctive, divisible and highly prized for their ornamental or use value, they were easily portable, and concealable. In a sense I would regard the *pounamu* as the gold and obsidian as the silver of the Maori.

When writing my *Numismatic History of New Zealand* I had many talks with the late Hon. Sir Apirana Ngata, one of the great Maori leaders of our time. I discussed with him gift exchange and barter, and also Dr. Firth's great work on Maori economics. I was privileged to hear Sir Apirana Ngata's colloquial descriptions of the various facets of gift-exchange, from the friendly

* The italics are mine—A.S.

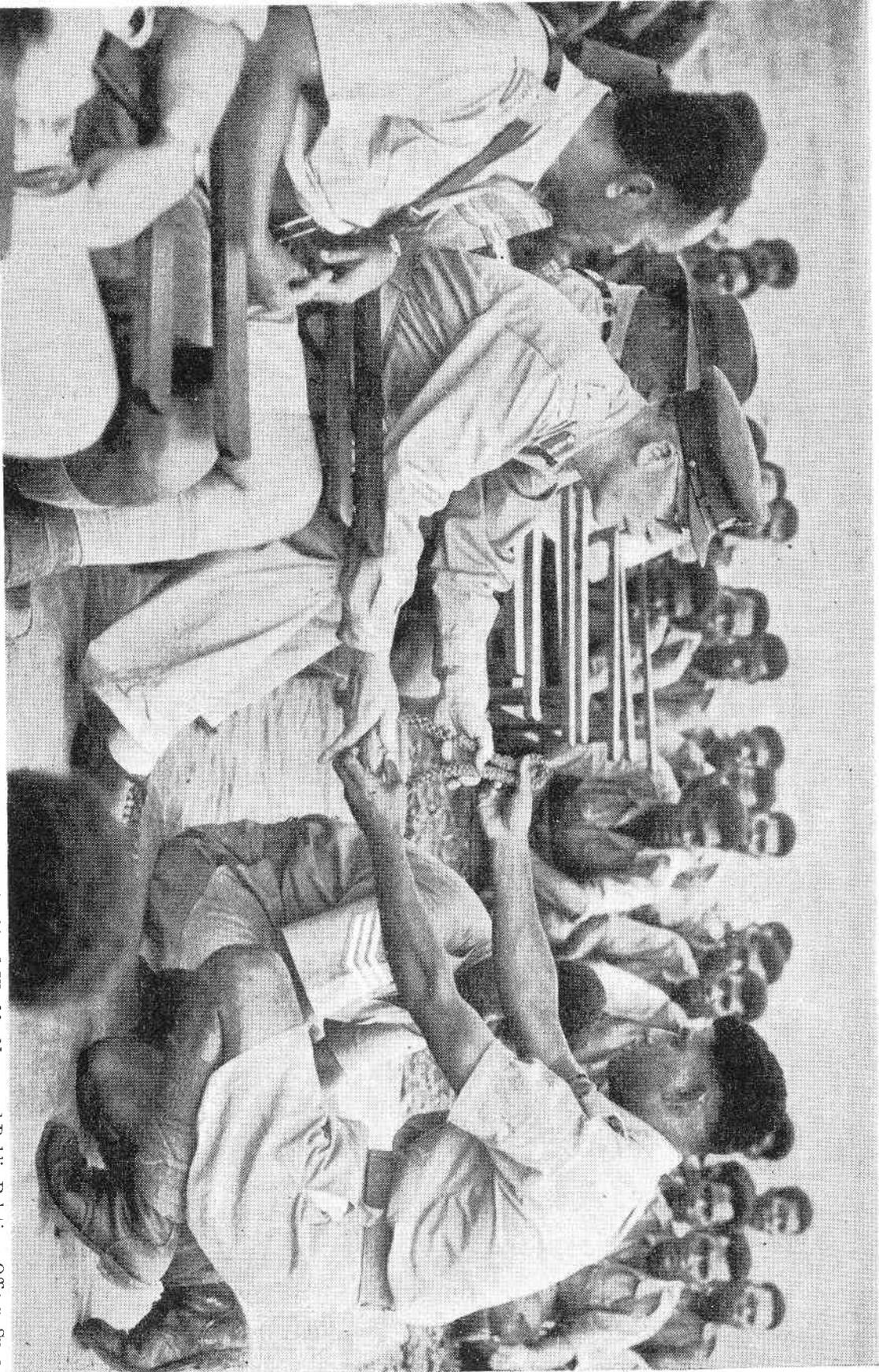


Photo by courtesy *Auckland Weekly News* and Public Relations Officer, Suva.
Ceremonial presentation of a *tambua* (whaletooth) by Fijian troops to Major General K. L. Stewart.

implications of the delayed exchange to the unfriendly meaning of a prompt return gift. After several discussions with him I gave it as my conclusion that greenstone and obsidian were almost the money of the Maori, and when the manuscript, dealing with gift exchange and barter, was later submitted to Sir Apirana it was approved by him. For these reasons I do not agree that in a survey of primitive economics and money, New Zealand "must be left blank."

The reaction of the Maori to European money, and the function of money suggests that in more primitive times they had a limited money or currency sense. The value of a carved box of rare feathers, of a feather or *phormium tenax* cloak, of a greenstone eardrop, or *mere*, must have been judged by some standards. No doubt rarity would be a prime factor and there would be marked fluctuations just as there are in modern times, despite our so-called stable monetary medium.

One of the complaints of Petone Maoris was that a paramount chief did not share evenly his tobacco and money, received with other trade goods for the sale of tribal land. He was accused of concealing them in his cloak and enjoying them at his leisure—apparently in the manner of the modern private-enterprizer. This does not square with the claim that the early Maori did not understand wealth. Admittedly, over all, the communal concept prevailed, that of sharing in common, but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the intelligent Maori understood the meaning of value and wealth; also that, apart from ceremonial adornment or use value, *pounamu* and *tuhua* did represent a form of wealth, because of its durability, portability and rarity, and that it performed a function approximately to that of money.

Professor H. A. Murray has pointed out that the exchange of gifts is very widespread, and ancient. It is a prominent thing in the epics of Homer, and, of course, could easily and naturally develop into barter. There is just a hint of this in the *Iliad*, at a passage where currency values appear to be already assumed. The poet, at any rate, thinks of the exchange value of the gifts:—

“‘Therefore now am I to thee a dear guest friend in midmost Argos, and thou in Lydia, whene’er I fare to your land. So let us shun each other’s spears, even amid the throng; Trojans are there in multitudes and famous allies for me to slay, whoe’er it be that God vouchsafeth me and my feet to overtake; and for thee are there Achaians in multitude, to slay whomsoe’er thou canst. But let us make exchange of arms between us, that these also may know how we avow ourselves to be guest friends by lineage.’

“So spoke the twain, and leaping from their cars clasped each other by his hand and pledged their faith. But now, Zeus, son of Kronos, took from Glaukos his wits, in that he made exchange with Diomedes Tydeus’ son of golden armour for bronze, the price of five score oxen for the price of nine.”
—*Iliad VI*, 224-236.

Professor Murray adds that some archaeologists claim that the custom arose in primitive times before stock-piling was heard of. If a clan was particularly successful in hunting or in plunder, and had an unmanageable surplus, it would invite another clan to share in the good things. The second clan was bound to return the compliment with interest. Clan prestige would develop into personal prestige where there was individual exchange of gifts, and some idea of values would arise.

Mrs. Hingston Quiggin's book is interestingly written, well documented, and illustrated. It will earn for her and for her helpers lasting renown for the painstaking research that must have been involved in producing such a comprehensive and attractive work.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I, 1558 - 1602.

“The complete restoration of the integrity of the currency is justly ascribed to Elizabeth, although she only gave the finishing hand to what had already been commenced by her brother. She ascertained the amount of silver in the base money, and caused it to be stamped and pass for its true value, a course which involved loss to the nation (the people) and gain to the government, which received back as 2½d that which it had issued at 12d, and for which, perhaps, we do not owe her much gratitude, but she likewise produced a coinage scrupulously corresponding in weight and purity with its nominal value—with the exception, of course, of a deduction for that rate of profit or seignorage which had always been considered the fair profit of the sovereign. It would appear, however, from the discovery of letters in the State-paper Office, that we are chiefly indebted for the originating and carrying out of this great measure to a London merchant—the same illustrious Gresham to whom the city owes its Royal Exchange, and other useful institutions. It would appear that some difficulties occurred as to the mode of refining the base metal of which the existing silver coinage was composed; and Gresham, during his residence in Antwerp, effected arrangements with a great firm in that city for refining the whole for the remuneration of ¾ oz. per pound of silver, for all the silver refined, and also the whole of the copper contained in it. But the Queen was quick to perceive the popularity that would accrue to her from connection with such a measure of reform, and therefore made herself as conspicuous as possible, even going to the Tower and coining pieces of fine money with her own hand, which she graciously distributed to those immediately around her. A medal was struck to commemorate the restoration of the coinage, on which all the merit is ascribed to Elizabeth; the efforts of Edward VI, and the great assistance derived from the intelligence of Gresham, being passed *sub silentio*.”—*Humphrey's Coin Collector's Manual*, Vol. II, p. 457.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

A Decimal Coinage Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives in November last by the Hon. Mr. H. G. R. Mason (Labour, Waitakere). The Bill provided for a tenpenny-shilling. The Bill was a private member's Bill and failed to gain a second reading. The Hon. Mr. Mason is to be congratulated in persisting in his advocacy of this reform. The Hon. Mr. Bowden, Associate Minister of Finance, too, is to be congratulated in his support of decimal coinage, in principle. He put forward an interesting proposal which we have not seen advocated before, that a coin or note to the value of 8s 4d, or 100 pence, also a coin for 3s 4d should be introduced to circulate with existing coins, and he considered that in course of time the decimalised coins would drive out the fractional system. The *Hansard* report of part of the speech by the Hon. Mr. Bowden on 8th November is as follows:—

“The honourable member for Waitakere has dealt with the retention of the system based on the pound, and one moves quite naturally to the florin, as one-tenth part of a pound, to the shilling and the sixpence which in binary sequence are coins that we can retain, but at some stage it becomes necessary to have a coin representing 2.4d. The system seems to break down, as it were, at that point, as to what is to be done with the threepence and the penny. It is important, to my mind, that the relativity of prices under one system to the prices that rule under another system should be readily preserved.

“Another school of thought prefers the florin as the basis. Other people may think that that is too small a unit; as against that I would remind the House that in many countries the unit is small in value. The franc is a unit, and it used to be valued at 9d.; it is now worth about a farthing. The mark used to be valued at about a shilling, and there is the guilder, the krone and the lire, all denominations considerably lower than the florin in value. The countries which use such units of value seem to get along quite well. In the higher scale there is the dollar, which used to be valued at 4s. 2d., but it happens to be valued at about 7s. 2d. at the present time. As that great nation, the United States, gets along quite well with a unit of value that used to be worth 4s. 2d. in our money, I can see no difficulty in our getting along with a unit of value of 5s. It is possible to manage quite well with whatever unit of value the people get used to; the important thing is to be able to express the relationship of prices in one system to that of the system that formerly obtained.

“There is another school of thought that bases the coinage on the farthing. They say it is quite easy as there are 960 farthings in the pound, to make one thousand farthings to the pound, and alter the coinage accordingly. The coinage would be built-up on the farthing. I was interested to see that the honourable member took the shilling as the basis and the ten shillings as the expression which, for want of a better name, he called the great crown. Therefore he would retain the shilling, the two shillings, and the sixpence, and you could very well retain the two shillings and sixpence because that would become a quarter,

and as honourable members know, one of the most popular coins in America is the quarter, so there is a place for the half-crown in the ten-shilling system. The ten shillings as a basis may be as good as any other denomination. It has some relationship with the pound expressed in sterling. It is either two great crowns of the pound, or half, as the case may be. Nevertheless, I am not concerned so much with the person who wants to spend £1,000 on a car or £3,000 on a house, and so forth, as I am concerned with the people who want to express prices of day-to-day transactions—that they should have a basis they can understand. I am inclined to the opinion that we should retain the penny and build up on the basis of the penny-piece. I know that the former argument no longer applies. You used to have the penny as car fare or the price of postage or the price of a newspaper. That has passed. People's ideas have changed with shifting values, but people still understand the value of pence. I do think it is important to retain the penny as the basis.

“What I have in mind is that there should be an entirely new coinage system. I would create a coin or a note, as the case may be, that represents 8s. 4d., or one hundred pence. It is not unrelated in value to the dollar, which is now 7s. 2d. in our money. It is still possible to express relationship between this new coinage and the present coinage system, because I would propose to retain both systems and let them run along side by side for the time being. If you have an 8s. 4d. coin, it would be desirable to have a 40d. coin, too—that is, 3s. 4d. Two of these 8s. 4d. coins plus a 3s. 4d. coin would represent your present pound. If those two systems remain side by side, both based on the present penny, then it would be only a matter of years before the decimal system would supplant the other system. Just as bad money drives out good, so, conversely, I am sure, the good system would drive out the bad. It is the older people who would resent the change. The younger people coming up through the schools—the member for Waikato pointed out the importance of adjusting school-books—would support it. And what is ten or fifteen years in the lifetime of any of us? Time goes fast enough, and within a few years I am sure the decimal system would drive the other out. Another great advantage is this: business houses could continue to keep their books, if they wished, in the present coinage, but up-to-date houses could adopt the new system. Therefore there is no need to scrap present accounting-machines, and there could be then a very considerable saving in the capital cost, or in the avoidance of the loss to which I have already referred.

“I want to make passing reference to another matter that is not in the Bill, and that is to advocate the adoption of a new computation in regard to weights. I would like to get rid of quarters. And I see no need for the retention of the 14 lb. stone, which I think is used now only to express human weight. But I would like to see the adoption throughout New Zealand of what we call the short ton—the 2,000 lb. ton—which prevails all through the produce trade; and let the hundredweight be 100 lb. The great point is that weights then would be stated only in tons, hundredweights and pounds. I urge the business community to adopt that. On the grounds indicated by the member in charge of the Bill—the simplification of calculation, the reduction of error, and the wider availability of machines all over the

world—I would support in principle the adoption of the decimal system. I know that a loss of capital would have to be faced, but it would be less now than later, and I think we could avoid a great deal of the loss by running both systems together.”

AUSTRALIAN JUBILEE FLORIN.

Two million Jubilee Florins have been issued in Australia to mark the Jubilee of the Commonwealth, 1901-1951. The obverse design, by Mr. Leslie W. Bowles, has been criticised in Australia. The main features of the reverse design are a parliamentary mace and sword crossed under the Royal Crown, a large seven-pointed star representing the seven States, and the Southern Cross. Mr. James Hunt Deacon, F.R.N.S., of Adelaide, has reviewed the design in the *South Australian Numismatic Journal* for January, 1952. He states that the Southern Cross was taken in error from the badge of the State of Victoria instead of from the fly of the Australian Commonwealth flag. He states, also, that the time is opportune for the Commonwealth Government to seek informed opinion on future issues associated with the coins of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. Owen Fleming, Vice-President of the Australian Numismatic Society has also criticised the design. He states:—

Simplicity of design is the keynote required both from the actual minting process as well as the artistic appeal of a coin. If numismatists and others were consulted anomalies which at present exist would be eliminated and future designs would be subject to scrutiny and criticisms before issue in lieu of after.

The parliamentary mace is usually five feet long, and does not appear to be a suitable subject to be associated, in crossed form, with the smaller sword. We can agree with our fellow numismatists in Australia that consultations as to proposed designs can save Governments from criticism. Fortunately in New Zealand our Society has been invited to assist in selecting designs from time to time, and we trust that this friendly co-operation will continue.—A.S.

AUSTRALIAN FLORINS.

A recent report of the Australian Numismatic Society quotes a report in the *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, of 24th December last that pre-1946 Australian florins are being melted down for their high silver content, which is stated to be worth 2s 8.94d for each florin, at the current rate of 8s 1d an ounce.

THE ORIGIN OF COINS

(Read before the Auckland Branch)

By MISS P. ROBERTS.

Coins were invented far back in the history of civilized man for use in trading. The invention developed by degrees, and in the earliest stages coins were treated as goods rather than as money.

In primitive societies men bartered one article against another; the man who chipped axes out of flint might exchange them with a hunter who killed and skinned animals. It might not be easy to decide how many axes a coat of skins was worth, and it was found convenient to fix on some article in common use, and agree that a certain quantity of it should be the unit of value; then the axe and the skin could each be valued at so many units, and the exchange settled on that basis. The commodity chosen would vary according to the interests of the district. An early measure of the Greeks was a handful of iron spits, but our Saxon ancestors adopted as their unit grains of corn. Both commodities could be turned to practical use. In the course of time it was realised that metal was the handiest commodity, particularly when it had to be carried about, and metal standards became general as trade expanded.

Different countries used different metals according to what they could get in the locality. Greece had silver mines, and adopted silver for its standard; in Italy copper was more plentiful, and the first standard there was of bronze. In Asia Minor gold was found in the river beds and furnished a standard. In England the metal chosen was silver, and the old unit of corn was converted into silver. Twenty-four grains of corn were weighed against silver, and the quantity of silver that balanced the corn was a pennyweight which was the basis of our currency. The term "sterling" is only the old name for the silver penny.

When the metal had been chosen, and the amount to be regarded as the unit had been settled, it was convenient for that quantity to be made into a lump, and stamped with the mark of the maker as a guarantee that it was correct. Anyone who recognised the mark and trusted the maker would accept it without troubling to weigh it. These stamped lumps of metal were the first coins, and got their name from the Latin word for stamping.

Of the three metals most commonly used—gold, silver, and copper, silver leads, with copper a good second because one or other has been the standard on which most currencies have been based. Gold standards have seldom lasted for long, and in Europe it is not a natural medium of exchange. In early times a line of trade in gold could be traced diagonally across Europe, from the Lower Danube to Ireland; to the north and south silver was the main currency, and gold was used much in the same way as paper

currency is used today, for payments too large to be made conveniently in silver.

In Asia gold plays a more important part. There have been instances of bi-metallic currencies, where gold and silver were struck at a fixed ratio to one another. This is practicable only where the Government or King controls the supplies of both metals, and so can determine at what price each can be put on the market.

Coins are so called because they are stamped or struck, but the name is also applied to cast metal pieces. The process of casting comes at an earlier stage in the history of many currencies than that of striking. The first Assyrian currency was cast, and cast bronze was used in most parts of Italy long before any coins were struck.

The invention of dies made it possible to strike coins of almost any size, and the first used in European countries were produced with an anvil and a punch. The first Greek coinages show a type only on one face, the side which lay on the anvil: the next stage consisted in the engraving of a design on the punch as well as on the anvil, so that the coin came out with types on both faces. Subsequently presses were used to produce more perfect and uniform coins.

The first reason for impressing a type—that is, a distinctive mark on a coin—was to show who had made it, or caused it to be made; it was virtually what would be called today a trade-mark. Different types were used to distinguish denominations.

With the foundation of the Roman Empire came the practice of portraying the ruler on the obverse of coins, and ever since it has been the custom in Europe—and in countries which derived their civilisation from Europe—when a monarch occupied the throne, to put his image and superscription on the “head” of the coins.* This idea, however, has not been adopted in most Oriental lands, especially in Mahommedan countries, where there is a religious objection to making an image of any living thing. In the main the designs adopted there have been objects of common interest in the country.

* This had been done, however, previously with the Persian darics, and with Alexander the Great and Hellenistic monarchs—Ed.

OF MEDALS

By P. WATTS RULE, F.R.N.S., N.Z.,
Timaru.

(Read before meetings of the Society at Christchurch and Wellington.)

"Medals," says Addison, "give a great light to history in confirming such passages as are true in old authors, in settling such as are told after different manners, and in recording such as have been omitted. In this case a cabinet of medals is a body of history. In fact it was a kind of printing before the art was introduced." In writing these lines Addison probably was referring more especially to Roman coins, which are remarkable as chronological records. The word "medal" in his time had a more general meaning, and included also coins. Its application was not then confined, as it is now, to such metallic pieces as were never intended for circulation, but only issued as memorials or records of events. The Roman medallions, which resembled in type the bronze currency of that State, were the first distinct series of this special class of object. Between the issue of these pieces, which extended from the first to the middle of the fourth century, and the Italian medals which followed them, there is an interval of ten centuries.

The general principles of composition, both in cast and in struck medals, are the same as those which obtain in relief sculpture, so far as the filling of the area in two dimensions is concerned. But the small size of medals emphasizes the undesirability of certain features which are sometimes tolerated in larger sculpture, such as the pictorial touch, the highly complicated design, or the attempt at realistic representation. As regards the first, the eye is not satisfied when one feels that the design on the medal is merely a picture translated into metal, however much one may admire the techniques. The design should arouse the feeling that it is suited to the medium used and to no other. Again, a highly complicated design, such as an elaborate battle-scene, or a crowd of figures, even if carried out with the virtuosity of a Simon, becomes a curiosity, and it is no recommendation to have to say that in order to see its quality you must use a magnifying glass. Some of the finest designs are built up on the most simple lines, with the severity of composition of a Greek relief.

An element which normally plays a much more important part in medallic design than in reliefs on a larger scale, is lettering. For some reason it is usually neglected, and is one of the last things which medallists learn. The disposition of the inscription can, of course, play a very important part in the general composition, and the right proportions in scales of lettering to design is equally essential. But the letters themselves can, by their treatment, make or mar a medal. An examination of Pisanello's lettering reveals a most profound study of form and proportion. A section through his letters shows that they have a

curved surface, and this harmonizes with the modelling suitable to cast medals in a way that the ordinary rectangular section, which most medallists use, fails to do. Flat-topped lettering, on the other hand, is perhaps the form naturally in keeping with the technique by which struck medals are produced.

The technique of medallic treatment may be divided into two parts, according as the medal is cast in a mould from a model, or struck from dies.

Cast Medals: The model for the cast medal is a simple thing to make compared with that for the medal which is struck. Strictly speaking, the relief may be as high as you please, but the effect of a medal with both sides in very high relief is unpleasant. It ought to be possible for it to rest comfortably on a table without "wobbling." An excessive contrast between the height of the relief on obverse and reverse is jarring to the sense. The portrait side is usually higher than the other, and if that is kept in moderate relief, the reverse may be quite low.

In modelling in plaster or wax, the artist is sorely tempted to forget that these media are only means to an end; that is to say, he forgets that the finished bronze medal is the final object of his work, and tends to regard the model as an end in itself, and the bronze as a mere means of preserving a record of his work in wax or plaster. But if a medal is anything, it is not a mere metallic record of work in another material, any more than a bronze statue is a mere reproduction of a clay model.

Struck Medals: A medal that is to be produced in great numbers must necessarily be struck from dies, the process of casting being too slow and expensive. It cannot be too strongly insisted that, as the process of producing the relief by striking is wholly different from the casting process, this difference should be borne in mind by the artist while modelling his design. The treatment of the relief is profoundly affected by this consideration.

When, as by the best workmen, the design is cut direct into the steel dies, the model is no essential part of the process; the engraver may indeed make a model in relief as a guide to assist him in cutting; but it is quite possible to cut direct into the dies with nothing but working drawings as an aid. Few engravers at the present time have the skill or courage for such a task; though the freshness and liveliness which result from such a method are an ample reward. A bad effect on metallic art is the practice of modelling on a large scale and leaving the rest to the reducing-machine and the mechanical die-engraver. The popular error, which seems to pervade our art schools, that a medal is merely a bas-relief reduced, encourages the artist who designs a coin or medal to model in plaster on a scale of some eighteen inches. Apart from the tendency, already mentioned, to forget that his ultimate result is to be embodied in metal, he also forgets that the spatial relations which are correct in a design on the scale of his model, may be quite wrong for a design one-tenth of the size. On whatever scale, therefore, the drawings are

made, the actual model should be on the scale of the ultimate medal; and if the artist can cut his own dies, so much the better. He will realize that even with powerful modern presses, every millimetre added to the height of the relief necessitates extra blows in striking; in other words, means a more costly medal, as well as increasing risk of fracture.

Benvenuto Cellini in his *Treatises* has several chapters describing his methods of casting and striking coins and medals, and there are some most interesting passages in the *Memoirs*, as told by himself. Cellini was doing some goldsmith's work for Pope Clement VII, about 1530, ". . . when he told me of his great desire to have dies made for his money . . . He ordered me to make a model of a broad golden doubloon. On one side was to be a Christ, naked with His hands tied, and the legend *Ecce Homo*; on the reverse a Pope and an Emperor, both of them propping a cross on the point of falling, with the inscription, *Unus spiritus et una fides erat in eis* . . . So I went away, and with all the speed in the world, made two steel dies. Then having stamped a coin, I carried them all to the Pope one Sunday after dinner. When he saw them he was astounded, and his great satisfaction was not merely on account of the fine work, but also for the quickness of my execution." Again a little later on— ". . . The Pope again gave me an order for a coin of the value of two carlins. His own head was to be stamped on the face; and on the reverse, a Christ upon the waters stretching out His hand to St. Peter, with the legend *Quare dubitasti?* This coin gave so much satisfaction that a certain secretary of the Pope, a very able man called II Sanga, said: 'Your holiness may congratulate yourself on having such coins as the ancients, with all their splendour, never possessed.' Whereupon the Pope replied, 'And Benvenuto, too, is fortunate in serving an Emperor like me, who knows his talents.' While I was working on the great gold piece, I showed it often to the Pope, for he entreated me so to do, and every time he saw it he was more astonished."

When Pope Clement died, Cellini was employed by his successor, Alessandro Farnese, Pope Paul III (1534). ". . . The first coin I made was one of forty soldi, with the head of His Excellency on one side, and on the other a San Cosimo and a San Damiano. These were silver coins, and they gave so much satisfaction that the Duke maintained they were the finest pieces in all Christendom. So said all Florence, and everybody who saw them . . . Afterwards I made the dies for the giulio. On this coin was a San Giovanni in profile, seated, with a book in his hand; and I thought I had never done anything so fine. On the other side were Duke Alessandro's arms. After this I made the dies for the half-giulio, on which I designed a head, full face, of San Giovannino. This was the first coin ever made with a full face on so thin a plate of silver. But the difficulty of the thing is not at all apparent except to the eyes of skilled masters in the art. Then I made stamps for the gold crowns. On one side was

a cross, with some little cherubs, and on the other the arms of His Excellency."

A great boaster, this Benvenuto, but the coins remain to show how beautiful was his workmanship, and as mentioned before, each is an exquisite work of art, from the dies cut by his own hands.

I would like to mention briefly some engravers in England whose work was of the highest quality. First is Benedetto Pistrucci, 1784-1835, who was responsible for the design of St. George and the Dragon on the reverse of the gold coins and the crown pieces, and which has been used again on the 1951 English crown.

The most important piece of all is the "Waterloo Medal," which was designed and executed by Pistrucci, and is one of the finest productions of medallic art in modern times, a work on which the artist spent a great portion of his life. It took him over thirty years to complete. It was begun in 1817, and the matrices were not delivered to the Master of the Mint before 1850. The Waterloo medallion, the dies of which were never hardened, though impressions in soft metal and electrotypes were taken and sold to the public, far excelled, according to Pistrucci's own published account, anything ever attempted in that way both in its magnitude ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter) and likewise in the number of the figures introduced. The dies lie in the British Museum.

At the beginning of the last century we meet with the older members of a family of medallists who may be said to have occupied a position similar to that held by the Roettiers during the seventeenth century. These are the Wyons, who held the posts of Engravers to the Mint since the resignation of Pistrucci in 1828, and also that of the Chief Engraver to the Office of Seals. In virtue of these offices they have executed a large number of medals and seals, and the greater portion of the dies for the English coinage. In spite of the efforts of such artists, and also in spite of the large demand for medals of all classes, it cannot be said that medallic art has flourished. The artistic decadence which was noticeable during the eighteenth century became more marked during at least the first half of the nineteenth century, and there were, with the exception of those mentioned, no medallists who can be said to have shown excellence in their works. This decadence was not confined to England, but was general throughout Europe. The process of producing medals by mechanical means limits the area in which the artist can exercise his skill, for his design has to be in low relief and his lines precise and clearly defined, thus depriving it of the freedom so pleasing in the earlier works which were cast in moulds.

HEBREW COINS—BRIEF HISTORY

(Read before the Auckland Branch)

By MR. A. ROBINSON.

Judaean Coins: Up to the year 142 B.C. we have no evidence that the Jews had a positive coinage of their own. It therefore can be safely assumed that the shekel was the earliest known coin of the Jews. The shekel, derived from Hebrew "to weigh" was originally a weight but was later incorporated into the monetary system of the Jews under Simon Maccabaeus (B.C. 142-134) who received the privilege of striking coins from Antiochus VII, King of Syria. Its value was fixed at four drachmai which was according to the standard of Tyre. First type was of bronze and was issued about 142 B.C.; weight unknown. Second type was of silver and issued about A.D. 67 during the first revolt of the Jews; weight 220 grains. Two and four shekels were also issued in addition to fractions which consisted of the half shekel called bekah, the quarter shekel called rebah and a further division of one-twentieth called gerah was occasionally employed. Tribute money or money of atonement referred to in Exodus was equal to half a shekel; not to be confused with the tribute penny mentioned in St. Matthew; this was actually the Roman denarius. The silver shekel depicted on obverse; sacred cup of manna which legend has it that Moses was directed to preserve in commemoration of the food furnished to the Israelites in the Wilderness; above, the Hebrew characters "Shekel Israel." On the reverse is shown a triple lily which, according to legend, portrays Aaron's rod that had budded; above, in Hebrew "Jerusalem The Holy."

Palestinian Coins: After the revolt so fearfully suppressed by Hadrian A.D. 131, every vestige of Semitic nationality was swept away from Judea, and we then go on to the twentieth century to witness the re-birth of Jewish coinage. The year 1922 saw the establishment of a new Palestine Government administered under British Mandate. Authority was given for the issue of coinage subject to the Mandatory Commission's approval, of which the mil was the basic unit. Coins minted were 1 and 2 mils of bronze; 5, 10, and 20 mils of bronze and also of cupro-nickel, and 50 and 100 mils of silver. The 5, 10, and 20 mils have a hole in the centre. Legend is in English, Arabic and Hebrew; the obverse showing value of coin; reverse has the word "Palestine" and the year of minting. All the Mandatory coins were minted in London.

Israelic Coins: With the founding of the new State of Israel in 1948 came the first coin of the Jews since Biblical times. The new monetary unit was the "prutah" which was equivalent in value to the mil. First issue was early in 1949 and these bear the corresponding Hebrew date 5709. With the adoption of the prutah came into being the Israel pound, equal to 1,000 prutahs.

So far, Israel, has issued seven coins, all minted in Birmingham. Denominations are: 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 250 prutahs, and the metals used are bronze for 1, 5, and 10; 25, 50 and 100 are cupro-nickel and the 250 is of silver. On the obverse of all the coins appear, encircled by a wreath of leaves, the denomination, the word "prutah" in Hebrew and the Hebrew year of minting. The reverse has the word "Israel" in Hebrew (above) and in Arabic (below). In between are symbols taken from coins of the ancient independent Jewish State. Reverse of the 1, 5 and 10 show the sacred cup (or chalice) of manna; reverse of the 25 shows a cluster of grapes; reverse of the 50 shows a vine leaf similar to the one found on ancient copper coins from the War of Liberation (67-70 C.E.) which culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem. On the reverse of the 100 appears a seven-branched palm copied from a coin actually minted in the year when Jerusalem was conquered by the Romans. The present-day value of the prutah is about one-farthing and 50 prutah pieces are freely exchanged in Israel for the English shilling whilst the Israel pound has an exchange rate equal to that of the English pound.

Prior to the advent of the new State, the currency of Mandated Palestine was controlled by the Palestine Currency Board, administered through a Currency Officer in Jerusalem. In the early part of 1948, when rumours of the Mandatory's possible withdrawal were rife, the Anglo-Palestine Bank had to prepare the country monetarily for such an eventuality, important decisions had to be made and quickly. Printing of a new note would have taken at least six months, and would have had to be done abroad. In the meantime, in order to meet the situation, the Anglo-Palestine Bank secretly arranged for a Tel Aviv printer to print notes on ordinary cheque paper. What degree of legality they would possess, if issued, no one knew. They were fortunately never used and shortly afterwards, on May 15, 1948, came the declaration of the independence of Israel. The notes were then destroyed. Mandatory notes and coins were carried on with, as legal tender, but with the influx of the new Israel currency, the Mandatory currency is being gradually withdrawn from circulation. Up to the end of 1950, small change was still scarce and municipalities and other institutions had recourse to the use of tokens. Latest information indicates that the smaller denominations are now plentiful. For all denominations above 250 prutahs, notes are used. It is the intention of the Government to establish a mint in Israel as soon as conditions permit.

SILVER COIN ISSUES OF FRANCE FROM THE TIME OF THE REVOLUTION

(Read before the Auckland Branch)

By MR. R. SELLARS.

FRENCH REVOLUTION.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, in July, 1789, the national coinage was based on the Ecu, a silver piece of greater size than our English Crown, and of beautiful design.

Its description is as follows:—

Obverse: Bust of Louis XVI, facing left.
“Lud. XVI, D.G.Fr. et Nav Rex.”
Duck below bust.

Reverse: Fleur de Lis, within oval.
Crown above, spring of leaves around.
“Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum.”
Date above and to left of, crown.
Mintmark “A” (Paris) below.

Fractional coins of the period were the $\frac{1}{2}$ Ecu, 1-3 Ecu (Petit Ecu), $\frac{1}{4}$ Ecu, 1-6 Ecu, 1-10 Ecu, 1-12 Ecu, 1-24 Ecu.

CONSTITUTIONAL PERIOD.

Following on the Revolution, efforts were made to frame a new National Constitution and the period to May, 1793 has been termed the Constitutional Period. Among important happenings of the time were the overthrow, in 1792, of the Monarchy and the introduction of a new coinage during the years 1791-1793. The Ecu (now known as 6 Livres) was reduced to about the size of a Crown-piece. Type is outlined, hereunder:—

Obverse: Head of Louis XVI, facing left.
Louis XVI. Roi de François.” Date below.

Reverse: Genuine writing on Scroll, etc.
“Regne de la Loi.”

Subsidiary silver pieces were the 3 Livres, 30 Sols and 15 Sols.

FIRST REPUBLIC.

On 21st January, 1793, the hapless Louis XVI was executed by the Jacobins and the first Republic was born. This period was notable for the notorious Reign of Terror, which commenced with the fall of the Girondists on the 31st May of that year and lasted until 27th July, 1794. During these fourteen months death stalked abroad: the tumbrils rumbled monotonously through the streets of Paris, conveying their affrighted occupants to their brief meeting with Madame la Guillotine, who, in true feminine fashion, unfailingly had the last word. Several thousand people were thus butchered for no other crime than that they were suspected of belonging to the hated aristocracy.

A new 6-livre piece appeared in 1793.

On the obverse, in place of the King's head we find a different design, thus:—

Value, over Mintmark, all within wreath.

“Republique Francoise” around. L'AnII below.

The reverse is similar to that of the previous issue, but with the date, 1793, below Genius.

In 1794, the 6-livre coin was again issued, the calendar date this time being conspicuous by its absence.

DIRECTORY.

The next period in French history was termed the Directory, this lasting from 27th October, 1795, to 9th November, 1799. Numismatically, an important change took place, the franc supplanting the livre as the silver monetary unit. However, the only silver coin issued was the 5-franc piece—description as follows:—

Obverse: Three figures—Hercules, Liberty and Equality—standing in a group.

“Union et Force,” around.

Reverse: Value, and number of year since the beginning of the Revolution. All within wreath.

“Republique Francaise,” around, mint-mark below.

NAPOLEON.

We come now to the Napoleonic era. A Corsican, born of humble and obscure parents, Napoleon Bonaparte decided early in life that he would be a soldier. He received a good grounding at the military schools of Brienne and Paris and 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 and was promoted to the position of Brigadier-General. His exceptional qualifications clearly marked him as a Man of Destiny and before long he was invested with the supreme command of the French Army.

CONSULATE.

In 1799, when the Directory appeared to be tottering, Napoleon was recalled from Egypt, whereupon he accomplished his *coup d'état* on November 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.

During the last two years of the Consulate a new set of coins was issued. Napoleon's head, bare, and facing right, appeared on the 5-franc piece in place of Hercules, Liberty and Equality. For the rest, the coin may be outlined as hereunder:—

Obverse: “Bonaparte, Premier Consul.”

Reverse: Similar to that of Directory except that the Revolutionary year appears below instead of inside the wreath. To the right is the mint-mark “A” (Paris), to the left a rooster, strutting.

Supplementary silver coins were the 2-franc, 1-franc, $\frac{1}{2}$ -franc and $\frac{1}{4}$ -franc.

FIRST EMPIRE.

The First Empire was established in 1804, when our Man of Destiny was crowned as Emperor of France. He was the first French ruler to assume this grandiloquent title.

Curiously enough, until 1808 the coinage continued to refer to France as a Republic, this anomaly being removed in 1809 when the word "Empire" was used for the first time.

The coinage of this decade (1804-1814) presents to the specialist a most interesting field for study. Apart from the main groupings of Republic and Empire we have the Revolutionary years and the Calendar dates, also various heads of Napoleon—bare head, laureated head and a so-called "Negro" head, which appeared on an issue of 1807.

After his ill-fated venture against the Russians in 1812, terminating in the disastrous retreat from Moscow, Napoleon's star began to wane. In 1813-1814 he suffered a series of major reverses which resulted in the invasion of France and the fall of Paris. The great warrior-Emperor was compelled to abdicate at Fontainebleau and, by arrangement, he departed for the Isle of Elba on 20th April, 1814, there to live in exile.

And, while he was moodily proceeding on his way, a cynical, gouty old gentleman who had been enjoying asylum in England, was making his preparations to occupy the Throne of France—Louis XVIII.

LOUIS XVIII.

Louis' first tenure of office as King was singularly brief, his only coin issue being a 5-franc piece, dated 1814. Type as follows:—

Obverse: Bust, to left.

"Louis XVIII, Roi de France."

Reverse: Fleur de Lis on escutcheon.

Crown above. Sprigs of leaves around.

"Piece de 5 Francs." Date below.

RETURN OF NAPOLEON.

Within ten months of his abdication, Napoleon was back in France, as jubilant as ever and athirst for new conquests. On receiving the news of his coming, Louis discreetly withdrew, leaving the field to his doughty rival. Napoleon's term of freedom, lasting from March 2nd to June 22nd, 1815, is referred to as The Hundred Days. During this short time silver coins of 5 francs and 2 francs, respectively, were issued. Apart from the date (1815) these pieces are similar to those of his preceding issue.

RESTORATION OF LOUIS XVIII.

Napoleon's banishment to St. Helena was the signal for Louis' return to the Throne, which he occupied until his death,

in 1824. The 5 franc piece struck during his latter reign differed somewhat from that of 1814.

Obverse: Head to left. Head of horse, below.
"Louis XVIII, Roi de France."

Reverse: Fleur de Lis on escutcheon. Crown above.
Sprigs of leaves around.

5———F in field. Date below, with mint-mark
to right an anchor to left.

Denominations of 2 francs, 1 franc, $\frac{1}{2}$ franc and $\frac{1}{4}$ franc were also issued.

CHARLES X.

The new King was Charles X, brother of both Louis XVI and Louis XVIII. Charles was a weak, unpopular ruler and was forced to abdicate in 1830. His head appeared on the new coinage.

LOUIS PHILIPPE.

Next came Louis Philippe (1830-1848). He was known as the "Citizen King" and for some years France prospered under his rule. However, his Government gradually became reactionary and corrupt, the people ultimately revolting in February, 1848, and compelling Louis Philippe, like his immediate predecessor, to abdicate.

The first coinage of this reign consisted of 5 franc and 1 franc pieces:—

Obverse: Bare head, to right.
"Louis Philippe I, Roi des Francais."

Reverse: Value, over mint-mark and emblem.
Date below. The whole, enwreathed.

In 1831, a complete silver set was issued comprising the 5 francs, 2 francs, 1 franc, $\frac{1}{2}$ franc and $\frac{1}{4}$ franc values, this time with laureated head while, in 1845, the two fractional values were replaced by pieces of 50 centimes and 25 centimes, respectively.

THE SECOND REPUBLIC AND LOUIS NAPOLEON.

The year 1848 ushered in the Second Republic and brought upon the scene another Napoleon. A nephew of the great warrior-Emperor, Louis Napoleon was fired with much of the ambition of his illustrious uncle. On two occasions he had unsuccessfully attempted to seize the throne of France—in 1836 and again in 1840. Now, in 1848, after years of prison and exile he managed to secure election to the Constituent Assembly and became President of France during that year.

In the initial year of the Second Republic the only silver coin issued was the 5 franc piece, the design of which was similar to that of the Directory and the first three or four years of the Consulate. The obverse of the later coin, however, has the well-known motto "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," in place of the earlier legend "Union et Force."

A complete silver set was minted during the years 1849-1851, featuring on the obverse, the head of Ceres, Goddess of Agriculture, etc. The legend is "Republique Francaise." The reverse is similar to that of the preceding issue, but with "Liberte," etc., outside the wreath. A 20 centimes value now takes the place of the 25 centimes piece.

In 1851, Napoleon dissolved the Constitution and in the re-shuffle which followed was re-elected President—for ten years! A further set of silver coins was issued in 1852, consisting of 5 francs, 1 franc and 50 centimes, all bearing Napoleon's effigy.

Obverse: Bareheaded, facing left.
"Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte."

Reverse: Value and date, within wreath.
"Republique Francaise."

Mint-mark below.

SECOND EMPIRE—NAPOLEON III.

About a year later, by a *coup d'état*, Napoleon assumed the title of Emperor and, as Napoleon III, remained on the Throne until 1870, when, as a result of the disastrous Franco-Prussian war he also had to follow that old French custom and abdicate.

So ended the second French Empire.

During this period two complete silver issues appeared. Most of these coins are quite common, and, because of their abundance and the fact that they are often found in very worn condition, their beauty is largely overlooked.

First Issue—to 1860.

Obverse (all values): Bare head, to left.
"Napoleon III, Empereur."

Reverse (5 francs): Crowned Shield, with mantling.
"Empire Francais," above.
Date below. Value in field.

Reverse (lower values): Value and date—in 3 lines—within wreath.
"Empire Francais," above.
Mint-mark below.

Second Issue—to 1870.

Obverse (all values): Laureated head, to left.
"Napoleon III, Empereur."

Reverse (5 francs, 2 francs and 1 franc): Similar to top value of first issue.

Reverse (50 centimes and 20 centimes): Large crown, surmounting value and date, in two lines.
"Empire Francais" above.
Mint-mark below.

THIRD REPUBLIC.

In 1870, following on the collapse of the Monarchy, the Third Republic was established. With varying fortune it endured for 70 years, but was eclipsed in 1940 as a result of France's defeat during the Second World War.

The coinage of 1870 consisted mainly of the Ceres Head type—5 franc and 2 franc pieces—both with, and without, the motto, "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," which was a feature of the same type during the period of the Second Republic. In the same year the "Three Figures" type of 5 franc piece was also repeated. It was almost identical with that of the Second Republic, the only difference being in the symbols beside the mint-mark, and the date. The next two values of the Ceres Head type—with motto—appeared in 1871 and the 20 centimes denomination in 1878 and again in 1889. This little coin is very rare.

The picturesque "Sower" type, consisting of 2 franc, 1 franc, and 50 centime values was first issued in 1897-98, continuing until 1920. One regrets the omission of a 5 franc value—such a piece would have been beautiful indeed.

During the period 1929-1939 the final silver issues of the Republic appeared. These consisted of 20 franc and 10 franc denominations, of the size of our double-florin and florin, respectively.

Obverse: Republic head, to right.
"Republique Francaise."

Reverse: Value over date.
"Liberte," etc., below.

As the general tendency throughout the world today is to use nickel, brass, zinc and suchlike base metals in place of silver, the probability is that no further A.R. issues will ever again emanate from France. It is therefore with profound regret that we envisage the numismatic rubbish which is likely to (dis)grace our cabinets in the years ahead.

GOLD STANDARD.

It is rather curious that no one seems to have noticed that, by pegging exchange rates in 1939, we went back to something not very unlike the gold standard. It might be said that the First World War pushed us off the gold standard, and the Second almost pushed us back. When we pegged the dollar rate at 4.03, we virtually fixed the sterling price of gold at £8 12s 3d an ounce, and the lowering of the peg to 2.80 raised the price to £12 8s 0d an ounce. Not too much should be made of this, however, as the link with the dollar is now more important than the link with gold. The point to be noted is that our currency is no longer a managed currency in its own right, but a sort of poor relation of a gold standard currency.—Reprinted from *The Bank Officer*, London.

NOTES ON THE BANK TOKENS OF GEORGE III

(Read before the Auckland Branch)

By D. C. PRICE, B.A.

II.

We have seen in an earlier paper how the sixty years of the reign of George III produced very little in the way of currency of the realm. From the time George III ascended the throne in 1760, until the end of the century the largest silver coins minted were sixpences and shillings, and these only in quantities in 1787. Little wonder then, that the populace used foreign coins in their everyday transactions.

The most common foreign coins in use during this period were Spanish-American pieces of eight reales, which were being minted in vast numbers for the use of Spain and her American Colonies. English gentlemen were systematically robbing Spanish ships of large quantities of these coins, and bringing them to England where they readily passed as currency. As this use of foreign coins was illegal, the Government proceeded to legalise it in 1797, merely by stamping these stolen coins with an effigy of the English King. This was done by using a punch similar to that used by the Goldsmiths' Hall, and stamping the head in a small oval recess. Coins counterstamped in this fashion were the 8 reales of Mexico, Potosi, Guatemala, Lima, Santiago. The 4 reales of Spain, Spanish or Spanish-American 2 reales and 1 reales were also counterstamped and used, but apart from the Spanish 4 reales these coins are not common. (There are also rare instances of Spanish, French and American coins being counterstamped in this fashion.) These pieces-of-eight were circulated in England at the value of 4s 9d, their silver content being 4s 4½d. The two kings heads on them originated two popular sayings from His Majesty's loyal subjects. These were "Two kings heads not worth a Crown," and "The head of a fool on the neck of an ass."

Owing to the large number of false dollars circulating, the stamp was changed early in 1804, the King's head being larger, as on the Maundy twopence, and stamped in an octagonal recess. The coins used were the 8 reales of Mexico, Potosi and Lima (with rare instances again of Spanish, American and French coins). The 4 reales of Spain, and Spanish or Spanish-American 2 reales (these latter being rare) were also stamped in this fashion.

The value of silver had so risen by this year that the 8 reales was being accepted by the banks at 5s. Because of this, the Spanish dollars were completely restruck, by means of Boulton's machinery, in the Soho Mint. This restriking removed all but traces of the original design. The pieces were struck for the Bank of England, and were called "Bank Dollar Tokens." There are numerous patterns of these tokens, but I will restrict my subject matter to the coins actually struck for general currency.

The obverse of the Bank dollar tokens show a garlanded, draped bust of George III to right, with legend GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA REX. The initials C.H.K. appear on the truncation of the bust in minute letters. Several minor varieties occur in this obverse, the most important of which are the presence or absence of a dot after the word REX in the legend. On the reverse is a figure of Britannia within a crowned oval, date below, BANK OF ENGLAND around, and FIVE SHILLINGS DOLLAR in the oval. Beneath Britannia's shield is a small K in relief. Varieties occur in which the K is either inverted, or inverted and incuse.

The bank at first was not permitted to issue small silver, but in 1811 they began an issue of 3s and 1s 6d tokens. These have a draped, cuirassed bust with legend GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA REX on the obverse. On the 3s minor varieties occur, depending on the position of the top leaf of the garland with respect to the letters of DEI. (A variety issued in 1812 has 5 berries on the garland instead of the usual 4.) The reverse of these tokens has BANK TOKEN 3 SHILL. and date (or 1s. 6d.) within an oak wreath. Varieties exist here also, depending on the number of acorns on the wreath.

A later type of these smaller tokens was issued from 1812-1816. These have a laureated head to right with legend GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA on the obverse, while the reverse has BANK TOKEN 3 SHILL and date (or 1s. 6d.) within a wreath of oak and olive. These tokens are a uniform issue having no important varieties.

The issue of these Bank tokens was discontinued after 1816, as a regular issue of regal currency was begun in that year. The value of the 5s bank token had appreciated to 5s 6d in the years 1812-15, but after that had returned to 5s. The public was given until 13 March, 1820, to cash all tokens at their face value at the banks, but after that the tokens were bought according to their bullion value.

Silver tokens were also issued by the Bank of Ireland between 1805 and 1813. These consist of six-shilling tokens, thirty-pence tokens, ten-pence and five-pence. The 6s token has laureate, cuirassed bust to right, with inscription GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA REX on the obverse. The reverse shows Hibernia seated to left, palm branch in her right hand, and left leaning on a harp, with legend BANK OF IRELAND TOKEN SIX SHILLINGS 1804. This coin was only issued in the one year.

The thirty-pence tokens were issued in 1808. On the obverse is a draped bust to right, date below, GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA REX around. Hibernia is portrayed on the reverse as on the 6s token, with BANK TOKEN above, and XXX PENCE IRISH in two lines in the exergue.

The tenpenny and fivepenny tokens have a draped, cuirassed bust to right on the obverse, with the legend GEORGIUS III DEI

GRATIA around. On the reverse is BANK TOKEN TEN (FIVE) PENCE IRISH 1805 in six lines across the field. A second type of tenpenny token was issued in 1813, with laureate head to right, GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA REX around the obverse. On the reverse is BANK TOKEN 10 PENCE IRISH 1813 in five lines across the field, within a wreath of shamrock.

The issues of Bank Tokens may be summarised as follows:—

BANK OF ENGLAND.

- 1797—Oval counterstamp. 8 reales, 4 reales, 2 reales, 1 real.
 1804—Octagon counterstamped. 8 reales, 4 reales, 2 reales.
 1804—Bank dollar tokens, 5 shillings.
 1811-12—Bank tokens, 3 shillings, 1s 6d, first type.
 1812-16—Bank tokens, 3 shillings, 1s 6d, second type.

BANK OF IRELAND.

- 1804—Bank Token, 6 shillings.
 1805—Bank Token, 10 pence, 5 pence, first type.
 1808—Bank Token, 30 pence.
 1813—Bank Token, 10 pence, second type.

OBITUARY.

Members throughout New Zealand were grieved to learn of the passing of Sir Joseph William Allan Heenan, K.B.E., C.B.E., LL.B. He was a Vice-President and Fellow of our Society. Born in Grey-mouth in 1888, he joined the Colonial Secretary's Office in 1906. In 1930 he occupied the position of First Assistant Law Draftsman, and that of Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, from 1935 until he retired in 1949. He was a member of many Boards and Royal Commissions, and during his life he rendered conspicuous public service, for which he was knighted in 1949. He took a keen interest in athletics, and racing. Members of the Society will long remember him for his friendly nature, his sterling qualities, and the great help he gave, at all times, to the Society and his activities.

He was Government representative and Chairman of several commemorative coin and medal designs Committees, and officers of the Society were always delighted to work with him. These commemorative pieces bear silent testimony of the good work he did in the numismatic field.

CORRECTION.

Page 61, Vol. 6, No. 2—Mr. Entrican of Auckland presented his collection of coins and medals to the Auckland War Memorial Museum, not to the Old Colonists' Museum. The earlier information was taken from a press report.

NEW ZEALAND CROSS

Name: Henare Kepa Te Ahururu,

Rank: Constable,

Corps: No 1 Division, Armed Constabulary.

Act of Bravery.

For his gallant conduct during the attack on the enemy's position at Moturoa, on the 7th November, 1868.

The storming party, failing to find an entrance, passed round to the rear of the work. Conceiving an entrance to the Pa was desired, Constable Kepa climbed the palisades of the fortification alone; in doing which he was shot through the lungs, but nevertheless walked out of action and brought his arms into camp.

S. J. Bowen

Orate M. Egan

approved in Council

August 17th 1870

For on 17th Nov.

Order of the Executive Council

Photo by courtesy Evening Post.

Handwritten citation from the Roll of the New Zealand Cross.

NEW ZEALAND TOKEN DIES.

A few of the actual dies used by Messrs. Stokes & Martin Pty., Melbourne, to strike penny currency tokens for New Zealand traders in the 'sixties and 'seventies of last century have at last found a home in the Dominion Museum, Wellington.

Nearly twenty years ago the writer ascertained that some dies were in the possession of the Melbourne Museum, and in 1939, when living in Melbourne for some months, he asked Mr. A. S. Kenyon, then Keeper of Coins (now deceased), whether he would give the New Zealand dies to a New Zealand Museum. This proposal found favour with all concerned, but a considerable time elapsed before the dies could be located and despatched. A small but very heavy case ultimately reached Dr. Falla, Director of Dominion Museum, who made them available for study. Mr. Lindsay, of the Museum staff, kindly made wax impressions, and from these and the dies themselves, preliminary descriptions have been made, and are now being checked by Mr. James Hunt Deacon, F.R.N.S., Keeper of Coins, National Art Gallery and Museum, Adelaide. Included was the die for the Oamaru Presbyterian Church Communion token, the only circular communion token issued here. Further details will be published later.—A.S.

GOLD COIN OF EAST ROMAN EMPIRE.

A gold coin dating from the East Roman Empire is in the possession of a New Plymouth jeweller.

Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, a prominent New Plymouth numismatist, says the coin is a rare find. It bears on one side the heads of a Byzantine emperor and his wife, but the name of the emperor, which is above the heads, cannot be deciphered. However, Archdeacon Gavin recognised the Eastern crosses on the coin as indicating Byzantine origin.

On the exergue of the coin, known as a Bezant, the letters CONOB are stamped. This means that the coin was minted at Constantinople (CON) and was pure gold. OB is an abbreviation for the word Obryziacum, or pure gold.

Either the Emperor Heraclius, who reigned over the East Roman Empire from 610 to 641, or Constans II, Emperor of Byzantium from 641 to 668, is believed to be portrayed on the coin.

—*N.Z. Herald*, 28/3/52.

CLEANING MODERN BRONZE COINS.

Bronze coins, if dirty or greasy, may be washed in ordinary soap-suds, or better, dip into a hot solution of caustic potash, and then wash in suds with a soft rag. Rinse well in running water. If then not clean and bright, dip into the following mixture:

Nitric acid 3 oz., Aluminium sulphate 2½ dr., water 12 oz.
Then rinse well in running water.

The above treatment is not recommended for ancient coins which have a patina, which only is obtained by the slow process of ageing. Such coins should not be cleaned under any circumstances, other than by carefully removing dirt with a bone needle, or by a gentle brushing with a brass wire brush, such is used by platers or for cleaning suede leather shoes.

—*Bulletin Pacific Coast Numismatic Society*,
October, 1951.

OBITUARY.



The late Mr. W. F. Meek, Dunedin.

Mr. Walter Frederick Meek, of Dunedin, a long standing member of the Society, died suddenly in Dunedin at the age of 69. He was well known in Dunedin business circles as the general manager of Stephens' Inks (N.Z.) Ltd., as a numismatist, a keen bowler, and a leader of the Boy Scout movement in Otago. He was an early member of the Dunedin Rotary Club.

Mr. Meek was a specialist collector of coins and tokens, and in his collection was a practically complete series of New Zealand coins. Since his death an excellently printed book on the New Zealand tokens in his collection, and described by him, has been issued as a private edition by his wife.

Mr. Meek was President of the Balmacewen Bowling Club for five years, and at the time of his death was Club Captain. For some years Mr. Meek was Metropolitan Commissioner of the Dunedin district for the Boy Scout movement in Otago, and he was awarded the Silver Wolf badge in recognition of his outstanding service.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
(Incorporated)

ROLL OF PRESIDENTS.

1. Col. Rev. D. C. Bates—Elected 20th July, 1931.
2. Col. Rev. D. C. Bates—Elected 27th June, 1932.
3. Professor J. Rankine Brown—Elected 31st July, 1933.
4. Professor J. Rankine Brown—Elected 23rd July, 1934.
5. Professor J. Rankine Brown—Elected 22nd July, 1935.
6. Sir James Elliott—Elected 29th June, 1936.
7. Sir James Elliott—Elected 28th June, 1937.
8. Sir James Elliott—Elected 27th June, 1938.
9. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 31st July, 1939.
10. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 29th July, 1940.
11. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 28th July, 1941.
12. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 31st August, 1942.
13. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 26th July, 1943.
14. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 31st July, 1944.
15. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen—Elected 31st July, 1945.
16. Mr. Allan Sutherland—Elected 29th July, 1946.
17. Mr. Allan Sutherland—Elected 30th June, 1947.
18. Mr. Allan Sutherland—Elected 5th July, 1948.
19. Mr. William D. Ferguson—Elected 27th June, 1949.
20. Mr. Maxwell H. Hornblow—Elected 26th June, 1950.
21. Mr. Maxwell H. Hornblow—Elected 25th June, 1951.

ROLL OF FELLOWS.

1. Sir John Hanham, Winborne, Dorset, England—30th August, 1948.
2. Sir Joseph Heenan, Wellington—30th August, 1948.
3. Sir James Elliott, Wellington—30th August, 1948.
4. Mr. Allan Sutherland, Auckland—30th August, 1948.
5. Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, New Plymouth—30th August, 1948.
6. Mr. Percy Watts-Rule, Timaru—30th August, 1948.
7. Mr. H. G. Williams, Dunedin—30th August, 1948.
8. Mr. J. C. Entrican, Auckland—27th June, 1949.
9. Professor H. A. Murray, Wellington—25th June, 1951.
10. Mr. W. D. Ferguson, Wellington—25th June, 1951.
11. Mr. M. H. Hornblow, Wellington—29th October, 1951.
12. Mr. L. J. Dale, Christchurch—29th October, 1951.
13. Mr. T. Attwood, Auckland—29th October, 1951.
14. Mr. J. Robertson, Invercargill—29th October, 1951.

ROLL OF HONORARY FELLOWS.

1. Col. Rev. D. C. Bates, Wellington—30th August, 1948.
2. Mr. E. Gilbertson, Wellington—30th August, 1948.
3. Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, Auckland—30th August, 1948.
4. Mr. C. R. H. Taylor, Wellington—30th August, 1948.
5. Mr. J. Craigmyle, Wanganui—30th August, 1948.
6. Viscount Bledisloe, Lydney, England—1st November, 1948.
7. Mr. Harold Mattingly, London—1st November, 1948.

NEW ZEALAND COIN.

Amounts of each denomination bearing the dates 1947 to 1951.

Denomination	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
N.Z. 2/6	200,000	175,000	350,000	450,000	50,000
N.Z. 2/-	250,000	175,000	350,000	350,000	100,000
N.Z. 1/-	140,000	50,000	—	30,000	60,000
N.Z. 6d	80,000	50,000	—	20,000	45,000
N.Z. 3d	80,000	50,000	—	10,000	45,000
N.Z. 1d	24,500	—	8,400	24,100	28,700
N.Z. ½d	5,680	—	3,680	2,970	4,880
N.Z. Crowns	—	—	50,005	—	—

Note: Previous issues were published in Vol. 4, No. 2, 1947, except that a minting of £32,000 of 1937 sixpences was omitted. The issues for 1952, covering the last year of issue of King George VI coins for New Zealand, will be published when the information is to hand. We are indebted to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand for supplying this information.

NOTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the 146th Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on Monday, July 30th, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—Mr. Hornblow (in the Chair), Messrs. Weston, Tether, Tandy, Horwood, Freeman and Prof. Murray.

Prof. Murray stated that the four universities will soon be using literature on numismatics as evidence of ancient history. A letter was received from Blackwell's of Oxford asking for our Journal, and all back numbers, to be sent to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England, at their expense. Letters were received from Hon. Mr. Bodkin, Mr. A. G. Harper and Hon. Mr. Marshall stating that the Government grant had been restored. Other correspondence tabled was from Mr. R. J. Taylor concerning Waitangi Crowns; Prof. B. Simonetta, saying that he has forwarded two reprints of researches of his on Parthian numismatics; and an enquiry concerning postage stamps which was passed on to Mr. Berry. Also, copies of Bills on Decimal Coinage, by Hon. Mr. Mason; the minutes of the last meeting of the Canterbury Branch; a copy of *Numismatic Literature*, published by the American Numismatic Society; the *South Australian Numismatic Journal*; *Monete E Medaglie*, April, 1951; and numerous newspaper cuttings on numismatics in general.

Thanks were tendered to Mr. Horwood when he displayed a handsome mahogany cabinet that he had made to house the Society's collection. A stand for this cabinet will be made when more timber is available.

The meeting concluded with supper.

Minutes of the 147th Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on Monday, August 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—Mr. Hornblow (in the Chair), Messrs. Weston, Martin, Freeman, Berry, Horwood, Chetwynd, Leask, Prof. Murray and Mrs. Berry.

New Members.—The following new members were elected: Mr. D. F. Spink, 6 King's Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1; Mr. D. M. Stafford, c/o Stafford's Ltd., Tutanekai Street, Rotorua; Mr. J. A. Finikin, Brois Street, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth.

Mr. Berry said that he had received two bound volumes of *Milled Silver Coinage of England* for the Society's library from Spink & Son Ltd., London.

The Coin Collector's News, the official publication of the British Coin Exchange Club, was tabled.

Several crown-size coins were exhibited by Mr. Berry, who drew to members' attention that the 400th anniversary of the issue of the first English crown falls this year.

Mr. Hornblow read a press clipping stating that in Siam, monkeys are used in the banks to detect counterfeit coins. By biting a coin these monkeys can tell instantly whether it is good or bad. If the coin is good, it is placed in a receptacle, but if it is bad, it is flung on the floor, the finder chattering loudly.

An interesting article entitled "Britannia and Her Penny" was read as well as several short papers that had been printed by the American Numismatic Association.

The meeting terminated with supper.

Minutes of the 148th Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on Monday, September 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—Mr. Hornblow (in the Chair), Messrs. Weston, Tether, Leask, Martin, de Rouffignac, Ferguson, Griffin, Cairns, Prof. Murray and Mrs. Inkersell.

Mr. Hornblow welcomed Mrs. Inkersell on her return from England.

New Members.—Mr. R. W. von Bock, "Bellevue Towers," 164 Bellevue Road, Double Bay, N.S.W., Australia; Mr. L. F. Cairns, 123 Onslow Road, Khandallah, Wellington.

Letters were received from Mr. G. W. Morris, South Africa, offering to exchange S.A. crowns for those of other countries; Sgt. W. Toft, Ohakea, saying that at present his time was taken up by his Air Force duties and that he found little time for his hobby of numismatics; Mr. Haycock, Foxton, wishing to dispose of his collection, and a number of coins for identification from Mrs. Hughes, Kilbirnie.

A prize medal of the 1873 Exhibition, of Hokitika, was presented to the Society's collection by Mr. Justice Northcroft.

A George III penny was received from Mr. H. R. Dykes, Woodville, but as no letter was accompanied it the Secretary was asked to write to the sender.

A query from the *Handbook of N.Z. Writers* is to be dealt with by the Secretary. A *Numismatic Circular* from Spink's Ltd., and a copy of *Monete E Medaglie* from Rome were tabled.

Prof. Murray read the first part of a paper on "Parthian Numismatics" by Prof. Simonetta. A vote of thanks was recorded both to the writer and to Prof. Murray who translated the paper.

Minutes of 149th General Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on 29th October, 1951, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. M. H. Hornblow in the Chair.

Obituary.—Members stood as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sir Joseph Heenan, a Vice-President and Fellow of the Society. The President and others referred to his great interest in the Society, and the value of his assistance through the years.

Council Meeting.—A report was received of a meeting of Council held on 1st October. This dealt with recommendations for Fellowships, constitution of Society and Branches, the regular issue of Journal following restoration of subsidy, and other matters.

Fellows.—On the motion of Professor Murray, seconded by Mr. Tether, it was decided to adopt the recommendation that the following members be elected Fellows of the Society:—

Mr. M. H. Hornblow, Wellington.

Mr. L. J. Dale, Christchurch.

Mr. T. Attwood, Auckland.

Mr. J. Robertson, Invercargill.

New Members.—Mr. H. R. Parlane, 83 Thames Street, Morrinsville; Master N. R. A. Netherclift, Collegiate School Wanganui.

Donation.—A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. S. R. McCallum, Wanganui, for a donation of £2/2/- to the funds of the Society.

Journals.—Overseas requests for Journals were dealt with, including one for the Department of Archaeology, Madras. The President was authorised to send one copy gratis.

N.Z. Coins.—The Reserve Bank submitted a supplementary table of coin issued from 1947 to 1951. This showed that there were issues of all denominations in each of these years, **except** the 1s in 1949, 6d 1949, 3d 1949, and the 1d and ½d in 1948, and the crown in 1947, 1948, 1950, 1951.

Paper.—Professor Murray read the second part of the paper on "Parthian Numismatics" by Professor B. Simonetta, and was accorded a vote of thanks therefor.

Minutes of the 150th General Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on Monday, 26th November, 1951, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—Mr. Hornblow (in the Chair), Messrs. Weston, Tether, Ferguson, de Rouffignac, A. Sutherland, J. Sutherland, Taylor, Martin, Horwood, Freeman, Prof. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Berry, and eight visitors.

The following publications were received: A booklet on the American Numismatic Society; the 4th Annual Report of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Numismatic Society; *Coin Monthly*; *Numismatic Circular* from Spinks; *Italia Numismatica*; and a copy of *Munzen und Mediallen*.

A letter, thanking the Society for its sympathy, was received from Mr. A. Heenan written on behalf of Lady Heenan.

All general business was held over until the next meeting.

Mr. Hornblow welcomed visitors from the Classical Society and the Society of Friends of the Turnbull Library to the meeting. A welcome was also extended to Mr. J. Sutherland from Christchurch.

A very interesting talk was given by Mr. C. R. H. Taylor on "Bindings and Other Associations in the Turnbull Library," for which he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

As this meeting was the last for the year, Mr. Hornblow wished all present a Merry Xmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

The meeting terminated with supper.

Meeting of Council Members.

A brief meeting of Council members held prior to the General Meeting resolved that the Common Seal be affixed to a letter of authority to the Bank of New Zealand regarding the operation of the Society's banking account.

Minutes of the 151st General Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on Monday, 25th February, 1952, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—Mr. Hornblow (in the Chair), Messrs. Tether, Weston, Horwood, Chetwynd, Freeman, Berry, Prof. Murray; Mesdames Inkersell and Berry.

New Members.—Dr. H. B. Fell, Victoria University College, Wellington; Duncan E. McKee, Brunswick, R.D., Wanganui; James B. Kirkood, Brunswick, R.D., Wanganui; F. Bowman, 5550 Queen Mary Road, Apt. 6, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Resignation.—Mr. E. Goodchild, 48 Holland Street, Rotorua.

The following publications were received: *Numismatic Circular* from Spink & Son, two Auction Sale lists from Stack's, *South Australian Numismatic Journal*, *Monete E Madaglie*, A.N.S. catalogue of numismatic literature, price list from G. E. Hearn, England, and a card from a dealer in Libia.

Business.—Mr. Hornblow welcomed members to the first meeting of the Society for the year 1952.

Members stood as a mark of respect for the memory of the late King George VI and also for the late Mr. W. F. Meek of Dunedin.

Moved and seconded that Mr. C. R. H. Taylor be asked to write an article for the Journal on the recent talk to the Society on "Books and Bindings and other Associations in the Turnbull Library."

The resignation from the Secretaryship by Mr. Weston was regretfully accepted. The duties will be shared by Mr. Tether and Mr. Freeman until the end of the financial year. Mr. Weston was warmly thanked for the manner in which he had carried out his duties and Mr. Hornblow added that it had been a pleasure to work with him.

Paper.—The final part of the paper on "Parthian Numismatics," by Prof. Simonetta was read by Prof. Murray.

The meeting terminated with supper.

Minutes of the 152nd General Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on Monday, 31st March, 1952, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Hornblow (in the Chair), Prof. Murray, Messrs. Freeman, Weston, Tether, de Rouffignac, Tandy, Leask and Horwood.

Mr. Sherwood joined the meeting later accompanied by Mr. Cameron from Scotland as his guest.

New Members Elected.—Mr. J. T. Matthews, 15 Raroa Road, Lower Hutt; Mr. I. F. Baird, 109 Russell Street, Palmerston North; Mr. J. F. L. Johnson, 235 Lichfield Street, Christchurch; Mr. W. J. Burns, Russell Street, Upper Hutt.

Publications Received.—*Numismatic Association of Victoria Journal* (3); *Spink & Son's Numismatic Circular* (2); *Monete E Medaglie*; *Numismatics and History* (donated by Mr. Sherwood).

Correspondence.—The letter written by the Society on the occasion of the death of King George VI and the acknowledgment thereof were tabled.

Paper.—Mr. Freeman read an interesting paper by Mr. P. Watts-Rule entitled "Of Medals."

General.—Mr. Sherwood was welcomed on his return from overseas. He conveyed to the meeting a personal message from Lord and Lady Bledisloe.

It was moved by Mr. Tandy and seconded by Mr. Sherwood that a suitable magnifying glass be purchased for the use of members at meetings.

It was moved by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Messrs. Tandy and Weston that printed notices of meetings be obtained.

The meeting then terminated with supper.

CANTERBURY

The Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand held at the Chairman's residence, 18 Somerfield Street, Christchurch, on 26th June, 1951, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—(16) Mr. J. Sutherland (in the Chair), Miss S. A. Lange, Messrs. A. Barker, L. J. Dale, S. Ebbett, J. T. Hunt, C. Hitchings, L. Morel, C. M. Robb, W. Salter, N. Thomas, and guests Mrs. Sutherland, Miss J. Sutherland and Mrs. Evans.

Correspondence.—(1) Congratulatory letters were received from Mr. W. D. Ferguson, A. Sutherland, re the token book. The librarian of Christchurch Public Library acknowledged copy presented.

(2) A letter was received from the Council in answer to our enquiry re Journals, also re Branch representation by Wellington representative residing in Wellington, for the Council. It was decided to write to the Secretary asking that the position re the temporary nature of substitute delegates be clarified as it was felt that Branches should not abrogate their right to official representation when the delegates could attend.

Mr. Hitchings reported re exhibition, that he had met the Secretary of Auckland Branch and had been promised support from there, as well as encouragement from Wellington. It was decided to leave the matter to the Exhibition Committee meantime, and if sufficient support was forthcoming to hold it early in 1952.

The following part of the evening was of a social nature. Miss S. A. Lange who had recently returned from a trip to Australia spoke of her experiences and of a visit to the Royal Mint, Melbourne, and

showed colour movie films. These were very interesting and a brief discussion followed.

A hearty vote of thanks was moved by Mr. J. Sutherland. Supper was served and the evening concluded at 10.15 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland were thanked for their gracious hospitality.

The Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society, Canterbury Branch, held at the Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, on Thursday, 23rd August, 1951, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—(7) Mr. J. Sutherland (in the Chair), Miss S. A. Lange, Messrs. L. J. Dale, E. A. Dennis, C. M. Robb, L. Morel, and N. Thomas.

Correspondence.—Letters from Wellington were read, and correspondence from Dutch enquirer was handed on for answering.

Business.—A subsidy of £2/2/- was received from Wellington for last year subscriptions. Re future library purchases: It was decided that the finance permitting, books should be secured from time to time as available.

Mr. L. Morel gave an interesting paper on "Papal State and its Coinage," which showed evidence of considerable preparation.

A further short talk was given by Mr. C. M. Robb on "The Process of Coin Making in its Various Steps." This was unusual and informative. Both speakers were thanked for their contributions.

Mr. J. Sutherland showed a specimen of the Festival of Britain Crown.

Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand (Inc.) held at the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, on Thursday, 25th October, 1951, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—(12) Mr. J. Sutherland presided over the following members: Miss Stevens, Messrs. P. W. Rule, L. J. Dale, H. T. Allen, W. Salter, R. G. Bell, N. Thomas, S. Ebbett, J. T. Hunt, C. Hitchings and Master Warwick Mottram, and four visitors. A welcome was extended to all visitors.

Greetings were sent from a member, Miss E. R. Thomas, now in London.

Resignation was tendered from Owen Dennis and accepted with regret.

Reports.—(1) *They Made Their Own Money.* The Chairman reported that our 150 copies had been all sold and Whitcombe & Tombs had paid for approximately half of the 350 they had purchased. As the funds now stood at £80 odd, it was decided to repay the Association of the Friends of Museum £35 as agreed, and the £20 out-of-pocket expenses of the associate editors. Pleasure was expressed at the satisfactory progress with the book.

(2) Mr. L. J. Dale reported on a visit to the Dominion Council in his capacity of Vice-President. He brought greetings and good wishes to the Branch.

Library.—The Chairman reported that several very suitable volumes were reserved and now awaited purchase and inclusion in our Library. This matter to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

Medals.—It was decided to approach the Army Department to endeavour to obtain specimens of the Second World War medals for our Society, also a representative set for Canterbury Museum.

Address.—A most enjoyable address was then delivered by Mr. P. Watts-Rule who had travelled from Timaru for the purpose. He spoke of "Medals" in his usual gifted way and showed enviable familiarity with his subject. He had arrayed a fine display from his collection and dealt in detail with many of the exhibits, which included his own gold medal from the Institute of Architects, a very nice group of Art Union medals, Lusitania, Queen Victoria, Edward VIII, and many scarce New Zealand medals and other choice pieces.

After answering questions from his deeply interested audience, the speaker was accorded a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. R. G. Bell and carried with applause.

Supper provided by Mr. and Mrs. Dale concluded an enjoyable evening at 9.45 p.m.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Numismatic Society held at the Canterbury University College at 7.30 p.m. on 23rd November, 1951.

Present.—(18) Mr. J. Sutherland (in the Chair), Miss M. K. Stevens, Miss S. A. Lange, Messrs. H. T. Allen, J. Caffin, L. J. Dale, E. A. Dennis, J. T. Hunt, C. Hitchings, W. Mottram, B. McCormack, and N. Thomas and six visitors.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report:—

1951 draws to a close four years' life of our Canterbury Branch. During the year six meetings have been held and the attendance has been quite encouraging. The roll now stands at 40 members.

Members were most fortunate to have had visits from member Mr. P. Watts-Rule who travelled from Timaru for two meetings. At the annual meeting, 1950, he gave a most interesting and educational address on "Odd and Curious Money," copiously illustrated from his collection. He also gave a further address "Of Medals" which made another much appreciated evening. Miss M. K. Stevens dealt with the subject "Greek Coin Types," illustrating her topic with specially prepared slides impressing all present with her familiarity with the subject. Mr. L. G. Morel made a splendid effort with his paper on "Papal Coinage." The remaining two evenings were occupied by short addresses by Mr. J. Sutherland on "Coin Collecting for the Amateur," "Minting Coins" by Mr. C. M. Robb, and a social evening where Miss S. A. Lange who had recently returned from Australia showed interesting colour movie films and spoke of her visit to the Royal Mint in Melbourne.

The greatest effort of the year was the publishing and distributing of our book *They Made Their Own Money*. This has met with great approval both in New Zealand and overseas. A large number of the 500 copies have been sold, those remaining being taken by Messrs. Whitcombe & Tombs for distribution throughout New Zealand.

The co-operation of the various firms as well as the Association of the Friends of The Canterbury Museum was much appreciated as the producing of the book was greatly assisted by their financial support. We feel gratification for a well worth-while Branch effort.

It is hoped to use portion of the proceeds towards building a comprehensive library for member's use.

Interesting displays were set up in the Canterbury Museum in conjunction with the Centennial celebrations, New Zealand coinage, trade tokens, and medals being advantageously arrayed. We would like to thank the Director of the Canterbury Museum for again making facilities available to us for our meetings.

It was hoped that plans for an exhibition might be developed but after investigation, it was decided not to proceed with the project this year, but to review it at a later date.

The Officers desire to express their gratitude to members for their assistance and co-operation and would stress the need for increased membership as only by well attended meetings can our Branch really thrive.

Financial Statement.—This was adopted. There was a credit of £3 17s 1d. The second account opened for the book *They Made Their Own Money* was left to be finalised when the balance of the money was to hand. Meantime it was decided to transfer £30 to the general account in order that the outstanding account for stationery and printing be paid to the Caxton Press.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

Expenditure	£	s	d	Receipts	£	s	d
Stationery and Postage	2	17	0	Balance in hand	3	17	1
Subscription	1	0	0	Donations	2	10	0
Presentation		16	6	Subsidy	2	2	6
Balance in hand	3	18	0	Interest		1	11
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
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Election of Officers.—The following were elected for 1952:—

Chairman: Miss M. K. Stevens.

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. J. Sutherland and Mr. L. J. Dale.

Secretary: Miss S. A. Lange.

Auditor: Mr. Logie.

Librarian: Mr. J. Caffin.

Council Representative: Miss M. K. Stevens (Chairman).

General Committee: Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Messrs. Hitchings, Salter and Hunt.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the officers for the past year.

Correspondence.—A letter of thanks was received from Mr. P. Watts-Rule, for flowers sent to his wife in hospital.

Donation.—Mr. R. G. Bell was thanked for his contribution.

Congratulations.—Congratulations were extended to Mr. L. J. Dale on his being elected a Fellow of the Society.

Business.—A motion was carried that meetings be held quarterly this year. It was left for the Committee to arrange the future activities of the Branch and for speakers. The Committee were also to purchase suitable books for the library as these were available.

"Greek Coin Types" was the topic chosen by Miss M. K. Stevens. This was a most instructive lecture being illustrated with numerous lantern slides. The speaker dealt in a most interesting way with the development of Greek art forms, showing the vast changes that took place over 200 years or so in design, engraving, and perspective. She spoke of the actual rendering of details of anatomy on the coins, and

her approach to the subject proved fascinating. After showing a wide variety of designs she was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

The 26th Meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society, Canterbury Branch, held at the Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch, on 6th March, 1952, at 7.30 p.m.

Present.—(7) Miss M. K. Stevens (in the Chair), Miss S. A. Lange, Messrs. J. Sutherland, L. J. Dale, C. Johnson, N. Thomas, H. T. Allen.

Welcome.—A new member, Mr. C. Johnson, was welcomed.

Correspondence.—A letter was received from the Royal Empire Society requesting a copy of the book *They Made Their Own Money* be sent. It was agreed to forward one.

Business.—The next meeting date was set down for the 5th June. The topic of the evening to be several short papers prepared by members on coins depicting flowers or animals.

Library.—Index cards had been suitably affixed to each book and several new books have now been added. Payment was passed for £17 4s 2d to cover the cost of these. Miss Stevens was thanked for her work, which was very capably dealt with.

“Coins of the East India Company” was the title of a paper compiled and read by Mr. L. J. Dale. This was very interesting and well illustrated by most of the coins dealt with. This paper was previously printed in the R.N.S.N.Z. Journal but had not been read before the Branch.

On the motion of Miss Lange, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Dale.

Auction.—At the conclusion of the meeting coins and books which had been donated by members were auctioned, and the sum of £2 raised towards the Branch's expenses. The highlight of this was when a George III half-crown was sold for 1s 6d!

The meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

AUCKLAND BRANCH ACTIVITIES.

Contributed by D. C. Price, B.A.

General meetings of the Branch have been held on 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 6th December (Annual Dinner), 5th March and 2nd April. Mr. J. P. Roberts, Branch Chairman, presided over each meeting.

New members to the Branch include Mr. Mickle, Mr. Geary and Master Brian Forster.

General Business.—Resolutions passed at the general meetings include the appointment of a resident deputy on the Council in Wellington to represent this Branch (Mr. C. J. Freeman), the obtaining of British Festival Crowns for members, obtaining a copy of the late Mr. Meek's book on N.Z. tokens for the Branch library, and a recommendation to the Council of the Society that the Society press for the issue of specimen sets of current N.Z. coins to mark the occasion of the Coronation.

Annual Dinner.—The Third Annual Dinner was held at the Waverley Hotel, and members and guests had an enjoyable evening. Unfortunately, the local by-law seemed about to be infringed, and the general meeting following the Dinner had to be abruptly closed. In

spite of this, and the greatly increased charges, the evening was a success.

Papers.—Mr. E. J. Morris read a paper dealing with some of the personalities appearing on coins, including Maria Theresa and George II. The background history of the times was discussed, and members followed the paper with interest.

Mr. A. Robinson gave a well-prepared talk on "Hebrew Coins." This talk was cyclostyled and copies were given to members, an action which was appreciated by all. The cyclostyled notes included drawings of some of the coins mentioned—an innovation as far as we are concerned.

Miss P. Roberts—"The Origin of Coins." Our first contribution from one of our lady members was enthusiastically received. The paper contained a brief survey of the types of primitive moneys used before the development of coins, as we know them.

Mr. E. W. Robson read a paper dealing with the development of the "South Sea Company" as far as the bursting of this "Bubble."

Mr. M. A. C. Lynch read a paper dealing with the Tower of London as it existed at the time of Queen Elizabeth. The Tower at this period was used for a variety of purposes which included the minting of currency and the hanging of felons.

Films.—A new and enjoyable item on our programme has been the showing of films at the meetings. Two gentlemen have been responsible for this development, a visitor—Mr. Cuff—and a member, Mr. A. Robinson.

Venue.—Unfortunately the Branch, along with many others, is experiencing "housing difficulties." Public institutions in Auckland seem taxed to their limits, and our meetings are being continued through the grace of one of our members—Mr. A. Mickle, who has placed his centrally situated studio at our disposal for our monthly meetings until some more permanent arrangement can be made.

In general, the activities of the Branch are continuing unabated. The meetings held so far in 1952 have been well attended (average of 16 members present), and if we continue as we have begun, an enjoyable year will be the result.

Members received with pleasure the information that a second Honorary Fellowship has been bestowed on the Branch. This was awarded to Mr. T. Attwood.

FIVE MINUTES WITH SHAKESPEARE.

By W. E. CURRAN, Melbourne.

(Extract from report of Numismatic Association of Victoria, pp. 130-32)

To the young numismatist, desirous of increasing his knowledge, I suggest that he arm himself with two books of reference, a volume of Shakespeare, and a year's issue of a coin-dealer's catalogue, for with these two volumes he can delve into the monies of the world, and learn therefrom, much that would otherwise be by-passed in his ordinary numismatic readings.

But first let me say that Shakespeare, despite his other wonderful attributes, was no numismatist. He scrambles his monies and his countries, and yet occasionally he sets his coins in the verisimilitude of time and place. Money is mentioned in startling sums, disbursed with

a prodigality which surely had no part in the life of poor Will, who on his retirement, had but £1,000 per annum.

But be it in tragedy or comedy, or in historical picture, his characters all agreed that money was a most important factor in life. Most every English coin, up to the time of Elizabeth I, and many of continental and ancient type are to be met with through his works.

A few quotations from various parts of the works of the Bard of Avon, will illustrate my point. So firstly to speak of coinage in the terms of money, we draw on the "Merry Wives of Windsor," and find Master Brook, alias Page, saying "If money go before, all ways do lie open." How true today as then.

And as though to confirm those whose opinion is that to have money is the Alpha and Omega of life, Petruchio, in the "Taming of the Shrew," says, "I come to wive it wealthily in Padua, and if wealthily, then happily in Padua." And friend Grumio concurs with "nothing comes amiss, if money comes withal." But in case we may be too happy about it, there enters the pessimist who drops that little touch of vinegar in our glass of happiness, viz., the Duke, in "Measure for Measure," declaiming "If thou art rich thou art poor, For like an ass whose back with ingots bows, thou bearest thy heavy riches but a Journey, and Death unloads thee."

In our play "Henry VIII," we find that quarrelsome monarch having some little financial trouble with his moneyer, and accusing Cardinal Wolsey that "out of mere ambition thou hast caused your Holy Hat to be stamped on the King's coins."

Those were the days of debased and false currency, and "Hamlet, Prince of Denmark," says, "Pray God, your voice, like a piece of uncurrent gold, be not cracked within the ring," and "Richard III" likens Buckingham to a piece of current gold.

We know that Elizabeth made several much needed changes in the coinage.

- (1) She raised the standard, and melted down all debased coin of Edward VI and Henry VIII.
- (2) In her reign the mill and screw was first used.
- (3) The use of dates on coins became general.
- (4) She substituted Roman lettering for Gothic.
- (5) Issued new small denominations, viz., 3 half-pence and three-quarter pence.
- (6) And the first Colonial coins were issued, to supercede the Spanish dollar.

That Shakespeare was conversant with all these innovations, his plays are the proof, but with that queer elfish whimsicality, so often evidenced, he cannot be relied upon chronologically. He places his monies in the terms familiar to his audiences, and so we find "testers," and 6d's in Illyria, whilst in "Coriolanus" he buys and sells with "groats." In ancient Athens the crown is often met with, whilst Falstaff and his set, glibly prate of coins they never knew.

In "King John" we find reference to the $\frac{3}{4}$ pence. King John, scoffing at the appearance of his brother, Phillip Faulconbridge, says—

"My arms—such eelskins stuffed, my face so thin,
That in my ear I durst not stick a rose, lest men
should say 'Look where 3 farthings goes'."

This was an allusion to the small Tudor rose behind the ear of Elizabeth on the obverse of this small coin.

(To be continued)



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BOOKS

Numismatic History of N.Z. (Allan Sutherland, 1940). Blue cloth bound volume of six parts dealing with barter and early coinages of N.Z., Medals, Tokens, Paper Money and all true N.Z. coinages. £4/12/6 (post paid).

They Made Their Own Money. New book published by Canterbury Branch of the R.N.S.N.Z., dealing with the Canterbury merchants who issued trade tokens (1857-1881). Full story of great interest to all New Zealand Token Collectors. Well produced and fully illustrated, issue limited to 500 numbered copies. 12/6 per copy. (Posted 12/10.)

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