

Volume 49 Number 3

August 2017

Perth Numismatic Journal



*Official publication of the
Perth Numismatic Society Inc*



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PERTH NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Contributions on any aspect of numismatics are welcomed but will be subject to editing. All rights are held by the author(s), and views expressed in the contributions are not necessarily those of the Society or the Editor.

Please address all contributions to the journal, comments and general correspondence to:

PERTH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Inc
PO BOX 259, FREMANTLE WA 6959

www.pns.org.au

Registered Australia Post, Publ. PP 634775/0045, Cat B

WAnumismatica website:
Designer & sponsor:

www.wanumismatica.org.au
Mark Nemtsas, The Purple Penny

PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Walter Bloom

The last twelve months has seen a continued period of prosperity for the Perth Numismatic Society Inc, in membership, activities and our balance of funds.

During the year we held five Coin, Medal and Banknote Fairs at the South Perth Community Centre (in August, November, December, February and April) and made a substantial contribution to the ANDA Perth Money Expo in March with a 5 cent forage and world coin forage for children and others, for which we received a welcome donation from ANDA. The WA Numismatica website continues to expand, and the Society's website with its on-line membership application form is attracting new members. Monthly meetings continue to be strongly supported, with 55-65 attending each night.

The Society had four invited talks in the last twelve months:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 28 September 2016 | John Wheatley, <i>The pawnbroker tokens of Fremantle: Alfred Davies and John Henderson.</i> |
| 26 October 2016 | Professor John Melville-Jones, <i>Forgeries or not forgeries?</i> |
| 29 March 2017 | Bob Forbes, <i>Trends in Canadian numismatics.</i> |
| 26 April 2017 | John Wheatley, <i>The siege banknotes of Mafeking from the Anglo Boer War.</i> |

The Haydn Powell Memorial Award has been made in two classes, gold and silver, and medallions for these were designed and struck by the Adelaide Mint. Haydn's son Darrell very generously funded the reverse die and the striking of 50 of each of these medallions. Haydn Powell Memorial Awards have been made as follows:

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------------|
| 2013 | Gold: James Taylor | Silver: Jan Edward Hosking |
| 2014 | Gold: Rowley Edward Butters, Frank Marshall Gare | |

There have been no awards since 2014.

We are most grateful to the Perth Mint for its generous donations of substantial door prizes for our fairs.



Perth Mint

We have also had regular donations of coins, medals and catalogues from Mike McAndrew of Phoenix Auctions and Tom Kemeny of WA Coins; these have supported our tender sales and the *Coins for Kids* program.

Many members have contributed so much to the Society during the year and have helped in a variety of ways, not just those on the Management Committee, but also from the general membership.

The Executive Committee has done a sterling job as usual, and I would make special mention of our Treasurer, Alan Peel and Membership Secretary Sandra Vowles.

I am grateful to Mike McAndrew for taking on the running of our Fairs, John McDonald who has edited the Journal with some outstanding articles, Rob Vaisey for raising the Society's profile in the media, Lucie Pot for handling the catering, Dick Pot for running the tender sale, and Ben Selentin and Jim Hidden for chairing meetings during my periodic absences.

Walter R Bloom
President and Secretary
Perth Numismatic Society Inc.

www.pns.org.au

www.wanumismatica.org.au

THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING AND THE BANKNOTES ISSUED BY COLONEL BADEN POWELL

John Wheatley

The 217-day long siege of Mafeking (now called Mahikeng) took place in South Africa during the Second Boer War, from October 1899 to May 1900. The defending forces numbered around 2,000, while the Boer forces led by General Cronje numbered around 7,000, supported by heavy artillery.

The siege received considerable attention for four reasons:

1. The presence in the besieged town of journalists from four London Papers – The Times, Morning Post, Daily Chronicle and Pall Mall Gazette. Their dispatches were slipped through the Boer lines by native runners who carried them to a telegraph office 50 miles away.
2. Lord Edward Cecil the son of the British Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, was besieged in the town.
3. The siege turned the British commander Colonel Robert Baden-Powell into a British hero and paved the way for him to start the Boy Scout movement. Although the Boer War lasted for two years after the relief of Mafeking, its resistance stopped the Boers from gaining a position from which to threaten the Cape Colony and is thus said to have hastened the Boer defeat. The relief of Mafeking and freeing Mafeking from the siege was a morale boost for the British.
4. The first woman war correspondent, Lady Sarah Wilson, recruited for the Daily Express in 1899, was present. She was the aunt of Winston Churchill, acted as hostess at Baden Powell's Sunday events and helped out at the hospital.

Account of action

Baden Powell was a wily operator who conducted the defence of the town with much guile, causing the Boers to believe that there was a much greater garrison than existed. In November 1899, he launched a series of raids on the Boer lines, causing them to be wary of the garrison.

Initially the defenders had no artillery, so Baden Powell improvised items to look like genuine guns and engineers manufactured a gun known as 'Wolf' from a length of steel pipe. Unexploded shells from the Boer guns were remade and fired from 'Wolf'.



The 'Wolf' Gun

Image source: J Ineson, 1999

An old Muzzle loading naval gun used as a gatepost was put into service after having been christened 'Lord Nelson' and dynamite grenades were made and hurled at the Boers.¹

The subterfuges worked. On 19th November 1899, almost 4,000 Boers were deployed elsewhere. But the siege remained and shelling continued. On 12th May the Boers made a final major attack, breaching perimeter defences and setting fire to some of the town, before being beaten back by the British forces.²

Relief

The siege was lifted on 17th May 1900 when some 2,000 soldiers commanded by Colonel B.T. Mahon of the army of Lord Roberts relieved the town after fighting their way in.

Prior to the relieving force arriving, Major Karri-Davies and eight officers of the Imperial Light Horse had ridden ahead to reconnoitre the road into Mafeking.³

Major Karri-Davies was the son of the great timber baron M.C. Davies of Karridale, Western Australia. To commemorate the occasion, Major Karri-Davies ordered nine silver salvers, one for each of the officers and one for himself. Barker Brothers of Birmingham made the salvers in 1902.⁴

The good news that Mafeking had been relieved was celebrated throughout England none more so by the boys at Baden-Powell's old school, Charterhouse. '*Good old Bathing Towel*' they shouted, being his nickname when he was at the school.

Deprivation

As in any siege, deprivation of food and supplies and the inability to leave the town had a very unsettling effect upon morale. Baden Powell was very aware of this and took pains to maintain the morale of the civilian population.

He ordered that all stocks of food and other stores be taken over by the military authorities and rationing was established early in the Siege.⁵ The local Baralong tribe owned most of the cattle and farms nearby and they provided fresh meat for those living in or around Mafeking, supplementing supplies by raiding the Boer camp and stealing cattle.⁶ Rationing of the supplies and food for the white population was more generous than the rations for the natives. Modern historians have made much of this difference in recent years, however it was the accepted way in which these matters were carried out at that time. '*Indeed, Plaatje, the sole recorded African voice from the Siege laid no blame at the door of Baden Powell; his finger of guilt pointed solely at the 'abominable Transvaal Boers' etc.*'⁷

Sunday cease-fires were negotiated enabling sports (including cricket matches), competitions and theatrical performances to be held.⁸

Soup Kitchens

Baden Powell established soup kitchens in mid-February 1900 to provide food for the natives. The first batches of soup were of very poor quality, however within a week horses were slaughtered to provide a more nourishing brew. The soup was mixed with oat bran and mealie meal.⁹

Four soup kitchens operated and sold horse or donkey soup daily for the cost of 3 pence per pint for those working.

For those who were not in employment, the soup was free.¹⁰ Adults received a ration of 2 pints, while children received 1 pint.



Natives Waiting for Rations of Horsemeat Soup

Image source: J Ineson, 1999

The soup tickets were issued in values of 3 pence (red), 6 pence (green) and free (pink and yellow).¹¹ There is no record of the circulation numbers and although some of the 3 pence and 6 pence tickets survive, there are very few free tickets in existence. All measure approximately 77 x 58 mm.¹²

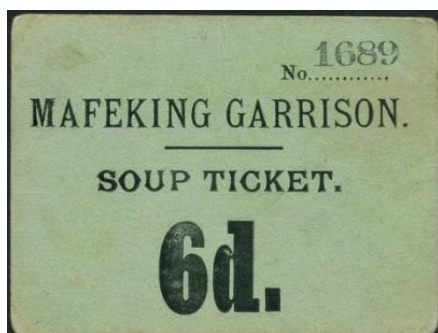


Image source: J Ineson, 1999

Sowen Tickets

In March 1900 Baden Powell ordered a trial batch of 'Sowen Porridge', made of oat bran, be produced and if successful that it be fed to the natives and troops. The trial was a success, so much so that by 24th March 1900 Baden Powell recorded that; '*Sowen was a great success and that the natives liked it and the whites had asked to buy it.*'¹³

Men, whites and natives, bearing arms received 1 quart (2 pints) free daily.¹⁴ Natives in receipt of a Government Native Ration received 1 quart, as did poverty stricken whites. Other whites could purchase Sowen.¹⁵ To receive Sowen, a ticket was shown or handed over. The tickets were yellow, blue, beige, pink, deep pink and green and look a little like bus tickets.¹⁶



Image source: J Ineson, 1999

There were also family tickets (white) and hospital tickets (deep pink). The tickets were printed in pairs. The top one has no damage to the type while the lower one has a broken 'N' in No and a broken 'A' in the word Garrison. The cards were printed with various names and locations. All tickets measure approx. 77 x 58 mm.¹⁷

Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slips

The Mafeking local newspaper was in its infancy prior to the Siege and had only published twenty two issues. It was known as 'The Mafeking Mail and Protectorate Guardian'. The newspaper ceased publication at the beginning of the Siege and was reissued as 'The Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip'.¹⁸

On the 1st November 1899, within 2 weeks of the commencement of the Siege, the first issue was published headed; '*The Mafeking Siege Slips. Issued Daily, Shells Permitting. Only Terms; One Shilling Per Week Payable in Advance.*'¹⁹

The last issue published during the Siege was No. 146 published on Monday May 21st 1900. The newspaper contained local and national items of news, General Orders and advertisements.

Mafeking Siege Notes ('Good Fors')

By the 1st January 1900, 3 months after the commencement of the Siege, the town was running out of currency. The hoarding of currency by some local inhabitants exacerbated this shortage. Money was required for everyday transactions and to pay the soldiers.

The following General Order was included on Thursday 25th January in issue 58 of the Mafeking Mail.

*'Paper Currency – Owing to the scarcity of silver it has been found necessary to issue a paper currency for small amounts (namely 3s., 2s., 1s., 9d., 6d. and 3d.) This will be redeemable on the termination of the Siege, and is current for its full-face value. All persons are, therefore warned that refusing to accept, charging a commission on, or paying less than the full-face value of this currency is illegal, and will render the offender liable to severe penalties.'*²⁰

The first notes were only issued in denominations of 1 shilling, 2 shillings and 3 shillings. As each issue of notes was released into circulation the Chief Paymaster paid a cheque to the Mafeking Standard Bank to cover the money the Bank promised to pay when the notes were exchanged on the resumption of Civil Law. During March 1900, it was found necessary to prepare notes of higher value so a ten shilling and one pound were placed into circulation by the Mafeking branch of the Standard Bank. The 3 pence, 6 pence, and 9 pence notes were never printed.²¹

The 1 shilling and 2 shilling notes were issued in January 1900 and February 1900 and the 3 shillings in January 1900 only. The January issue had the number prefixed by the letter 'A' and the February issue by the letter 'B'.²² Although the one and two shilling notes were issued in January and February 1900 only, a March 1900 issue of both notes was prepared by way of a back-up. Although not issued, a few have survived and are in private collections.²³

Messrs. Townshend & Son, the local printers and publishers, who also produced the Mafeking Mail Newspaper, printed these notes in blue on ruled Croxley notepaper. The values were added in different colours, the one shilling in green, the two shillings in brown and the three shillings in red. Before delivery the notes were numbered in black.²⁴

The notes are extremely plain and lacking in design, simply showing the British arms at the top, the date at the left and the serial number at the right. Beneath these, 5 lines of text read:

‘This voucher is
Good for the sum of ... (1s, 2s, or 3s)
And will be exchanged for coin
at the MAFEKING BRANCH of the STANDARD BANK
on the resumption of civil law’

Some of the notes are perforated down the left-hand side, while others have two staple holes. A pad of one shilling notes that originally contained 40 notes is perforated down the left-hand side with both the note and the counterfoil showing the serial number.²⁵

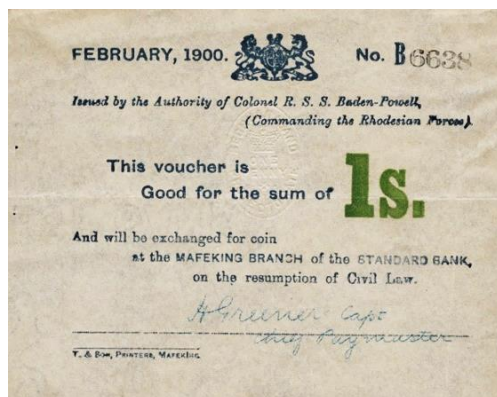


Image source: Dix Noonan & Webb

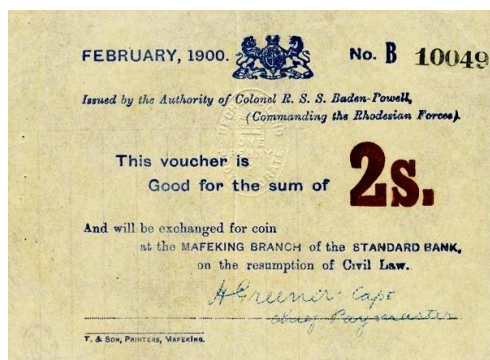


Image source: Spink & Son



Image source: Christof Zelliveger

The 3 shilling note is known to exist with the numbers altered. John Ineson has seen four notes where this has happened. In each case the original number has been crossed out with two black bars and the new number, 520 higher than the original, printed above.²⁶ It is most probable that these notes were given the same numbers twice by mistake.

As the notes were printed in haste under difficult conditions errors were made on some of the plates. There are two varieties of each of the lower denominations, which suggest that the notes could have been printed in pairs. The first shows a break in the crown of the Royal Crest and the full stop is outside the bracket after the words 'Rhodesian Forces'. In the word 'Civil' the first 'i' has no dot and in the bottom left hand corner of the notes a tall capital 'I' is used in the word 'Mafeking'.

The second variety shows none of these features but in the word 'BRANCH' there is a small capital 'A'.²⁷

Before the lower denomination notes could be issued they were required to be signed by Captain H. Greener, the Chief Paymaster, by rubber stamp and to be impressed with the embossed one penny revenue surcharge stamp of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.²⁸ Both John Ineson and Dr. R.M. Pelteret are of the opinion that this latter stamp was merely added '*to make the Mafeking 'good fors' authentic to the populous.*'

Although some sources state that the embossing of the revenue stamp and signature were added when the notes were placed in circulation, John Ineson originally possessed a booklet containing 40 uncirculated notes each carrying a number, signature and surcharge. Some notes appear in each denomination where the surcharge does not appear to have been applied.²⁹ One can imagine that mistakes were easy to make in such difficult and dangerous times.

Ten Shilling Note

As previously stated, by March 1900 it became necessary to issue notes of a higher denomination. Colonel Baden Powell drew a design on copper later etched out with acid. The first design for the one pound note showed a soldier behind a Maxim gun on the left and another soldier behind a Nordenfelt (multi barrel-organ gun) on the right. A good reproduction was unable to be obtained because enough pressure could not be exerted upon the plate.

The local watchmaker C. Riesle was then asked to engrave a woodcut (made from a croquet mallet cut in half). Two different essays of the one pound note were prepared using these engravings but neither was adopted. However, with modifications, they were used for the ten-shilling note.³⁰

*'Seven thousand ten shilling notes were issued and were printed by Messrs. Townshend & Son in green ink on white paper and dated March 1900. The sketch of the soldier and gun on the right- hand side incorporates the engraver's Initials 'C.R.' Two varieties of these notes exist, one with the letter 'd' omitted in the word 'commanding' while in the other the spelling is corrected.'*³¹

According to Ineson a total of 1040 out of the 7,000 notes issued were redeemed.

Before the ten shilling notes were issued they were to be numbered on both the left and the right side, co-signed by the Chief Paymaster, Captain H. Greener, and the manager of the local branch of the Standard Bank, Mr. R. Urry, by facsimile block and then embossed with the Bechuanaland Protectorate revenue stamp.



Image source: Mals Banknotes

One Pound Note

Colonel Baden Powell designed a different one pound note showing the Union Flag flying above the defenders, the 'Wolf' Gun with shells and a Mafeking woman holding a baby. On the left of the design is the bearded form of one of the loyal Dutch burghers, while on the opposite side is a member of the Town Guard.

The drawing and the printed wording were mounted in a frame and the whole set photographed, then printed by Mr. E.J. Ross, a resident of Mafeking for 12 years, on ordinary notepaper by the Ferro-prussiate process. These notes were produced in a similar way to the Mafeking stamps which were issued in April and May 1900.³²

The pound notes were printed at the rate of approximately 20 per day. They were hand numbered at the top on both the left and right sides and hand signed (as distinct from the facsimile signatures on the other notes) by Captain H. Greener and Mr. R. Urry. A total of 683 notes were printed over the period of two months.³³



Image source: Dix Noonan & Webb

Not everything went smoothly and one day the pound notes were printed in error on paper showing the red embossed monogram of the Bechuanaland Border Police. Edward Ross' diary refers to this.

*'Of course, everything did not work smoothly; for instance, one morning Greener sent me a batch of paper, and only in the light could it be seen that he had got hold of some old B.B.P. notepaper with their crest at the top. Naturally, this could not be used and so a fresh batch had to be made next evening'*³⁴



E J Ross Making One Pound Notes

Image source: J Ineson, 1999

Quantity of Notes Issued and Redeemed

A register (now in the Mafeking Museum) recorded the number of all the notes that had been issued and redeemed. Out of 5,228 pounds 7 shillings of notes issued, only 651 pounds 15 shillings had been cashed or redeemed. Full details of the notes issued and the notes redeemed can be found on pages 48 and 51 of Ineson's book '*Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902.*'

Edward Ross wryly noted; '*This note business is going to be a good thing for the Government as I am sure they will be worth much more than face value as curios after the siege, and people are collecting as many as they can get hold of now, to make money afterwards, and as I have made 620 that means about 600 pounds clear profit for the Imperial Exchequer! And that's how the one pound note was made.*'³⁵

Mafeking Siege Stamps and Cadet Corps

At Baden Powell's instigation, his Chief Staff Officer, Major Lord Edward Cecil, assembled all boys aged 9 years or older and formed them into a cadet corps. These boys commenced delivering military orders and messages to and from the Forts, keeping lookout, acting as orderlies and delivering civilian mail to the scattered civilian population.³⁶ When the civilian mail delivery was taken over by the boys of the new cadet corps, men were released to fight on the front lines.

Fees charged for postage were three pence for a letter carried between the outposts and the town and one penny prepaid within the town. This revenue paid for supplies, donkeys and bicycles to transport the boys and the mail.³⁷

The boys wore a khaki uniform and hat not dissimilar to the later Boy Scouts headwear. Boys who were appointed messengers were given a despatch pouch. None of the boys were armed.³⁸ Baden Powell saw in the cadet force the possibility of a public serving force elsewhere. He taught the group the woodwork, camping and hiking skills that he later brought to Scouting.

Commemorative Medals

There were many commemorative medals struck to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking and its hero Colonel Robert Baden-Powell. At least two of these medals were struck by Stokes & Sons of Melbourne. The first of the Stokes medals is known as the Transvaal War Relief of Mafeking, Australia. On the obverse is a portrait of Colonel Baden-Powell, whilst on the reverse is a portrait of Lord Roberts, the head of the British armed forces in South Africa.

The second of the medals is known as the ‘Relief of Mafeking’.



Relief of Mafeking Medal

Image source: Downies

Endnotes

¹ The Siege of Mafeking- The Boer War:

<http://www.britishbattles.com/great-boer-war/mafeking.htm>

² WIKIPEDIA. Siege of Mafeking.

³ ‘With the Flag To Pretoria’ by H.H. Wilson, Volume 2, Chapter 25, The Relief of Mafeking at page 597.

⁴ Boer War Salver – Relief of Mafeking.

<http://www.leopardantiques.com/object/stock/detail/516>

^{5,6} Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 by John Ineson – Mafeking Soup Tickets at page 52.

⁷ Plaatje, Mafeking Diary, page 125

⁸ WIKIPEDIA – Siege of Mafeking

⁹⁻¹⁷ Paper currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 by J. Ineson at pages 52-58

^{18,19} The Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slips edited by Colin Walker

²⁰⁻²⁸ Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, at pages 34-38

²⁹ Mafeking ‘Good Fors’ and 1d Revenue surcharge’ by Dr. RM Pelteret.

www.Pelteret.co.za

³⁰⁻³³ Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 op. cit., pages 38-45

^{34,35} Edward Ross Diary of the Siege of Mafeking, October 1899 to May 1900. Edited by Brian P Willan.

^{36,38} Collecting Stamps and Coins – Mafeking Siege Stamps Newsletter 135, March 30 2008.

<http://www.allnationsstampsandcoins.com/newsletters/news135.html>

References

Willan B. P. (Ed.), 1980, *Edward Ross, Diary of the Siege of Mafeking, October 1899 to May 1900*, Van Riebeeck Society.

Drooglever R. (Ed.), 2009, *Inside Mafeking- The Diary of Captain Herbert Greener*, Token Publishing.

Walker C. (Ed.), 2008, *The Mafeking Mail Siege Slips*, Pen2Print.

Flower-Smith M and Yorke E., 2000, *Mafeking, The Story of a Siege*, Covos-Day Books.

Ineson J., 1999, *Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1900*, Spink and Son Ltd.

Hessler G., 1982, *Colonel Baden-Powell and the Siege Notes of Mafeking*, The Numismatist, May 1982, Volume 95, Number 5, pages 1167-1177.

La Salle C. and Woodland S., 2013, *The notes of the Siege of Mafeking*, Moneta, February 2013, pages 72-80, Ottawa Numismatic Society.

Ineson J. P., 1967, *Mafeking Siege Notes*, IBNS Journal, Volume 07, Issue 2.

Philipson F., 1963, *The Mafeking Saga*, IBNS Journal, Volume 03, Issue 1.

Cowlin J., 2015, *Food Tickets Issued during the Mafeking Siege of 1899-1900*, IBNS Journal, Volume 54, Issue 2.

Acknowledgements

I would like to record a special thanks to my good friend April Jenkins of Margaret River who not only was able to supply me with helpful comments on the subject but also kindly gifted to me two superb editions of the Graphic Newspaper Nos 259 and 261, which contained excellent articles on the Siege of Mafeking and Colonel Baden-Powell.

THE MELBOURNE MINT - NATURAL GATEWAY TO AUSTRALIA'S GOLDFIELDS

Andrew Crellin



The Emblem of the Melbourne Mint

Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_Mint#/media/File:Royal_Mint_Melbourne.jpg

Although a mint was not established in Victoria until 1872, as early as the 1850's the Victorian Government and business community lobbied the various decision makers in London for the first overseas branch of the Royal Mint to be located in Melbourne. Although historians have recorded rivalry between New South Wales and Victoria before this issue arose, the location of Australia's first official mint was a further cause for competition between the two colonies for several decades.

In some respects, the Victorians were perhaps justified in believing that Melbourne would have been a far more appropriate location than Sydney – the volume of gold exported from the Victorian goldfields between 1851 and 1865 was close to five times that exported from New South Wales.¹ Furthermore, Melbourne was regarded by many as 'the natural gateway to Australia's goldfields'.²

While Sydney faces the Pacific Ocean and the United States, Melbourne was located directly in line with the main shipping route from Europe to Australia and was considered by some to be around 1,000 miles closer to Europe than Sydney. Its relative proximity to the Victorian goldfields and ease of access to the Murray–Darling river system were further advantages.

One of the key initial reasons that Sydney was chosen rather than Melbourne was that the British Colonial Secretary, Earl Henry Grey, had already given tacit approval to the establishment of a mint in Sydney on 20 February 1852.

Although gold had been discovered at Mount Alexander, Bendigo and Ballarat in July, August and October of 1851 respectively, this news had not reached London until around the time of Grey's approval. Certainly, the richness of the Victorian goldfields was not known in London for some months after that. The first official petition for a mint at Melbourne was not sent by Governor La Trobe until 27 July 1852, and did not arrive in London until October of that year – nearly 8 months after the initial decision in favour of Sydney had been made.

The position adopted by the British Treasury when they received Victoria's request was that the undertaking made by Earl Grey to New South Wales was to be honoured, and that the question of a second mint in Melbourne would be addressed only when the success (or otherwise) of the Sydney Mint had been determined.

First Dies Lost in a Shipwreck Off the Coast of Ceylon

As the question of the purity of Australian gold had been resolved by 1866, along with plans for complete uniformity among all sovereigns struck within the British Empire, the relevant decision makers in London would have been satisfied that the operation of a branch of the Royal Mint on the opposite side of the world did not pose a significant risk to the reputation of the Empire's coinage, nor would its operation be a drain on Britain's resources.

A second petition was made in 1865 by Victoria for a mint in Melbourne, and the *Victorian Mint Act* was passed on 6 September 1867.

Several key staff involved in the establishment of the Sydney Mint were seconded to perform the same duties in Melbourne, with the balance of the staff arriving from London in January 1872.

The opening ceremony took place on 12 June 1872, with the first coins being struck by Governor Sir John Manners-Sutton and his wife.



Governor of Victoria, Sir John Manners-Sutton

Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Manners-Sutton,_3rd_Viscount_Canterbury#/media/File:3rdViscountCanterbury.jpg

The early months of the Melbourne Mint were fraught with difficulties, not least of which was the complete loss of an important batch of dies in a shipwreck off the coast of Ceylon in November 1871.

The Royal Engineer in charge of the establishment of the Melbourne Mint, Colonel Ward, had actually requested that dies dated 1870 and 1871 be sent. His request for dies dated 1870 was declined by the Royal Mint and, as most of his staff would not be in Melbourne until January 1872, the dies dated 1871 would be redundant.

Ward made a further request for 1872 dated dies, and it was these that went down with the *Rangoon* in the Port of Galle in November 1871. In order to minimise the impact of a similar unforeseen event, the next batch of dies was split into two separate parcels, which arrived in April and May 1872.



1872 Melbourne 'Shield' Sovereign

Image source: Museums Victoria.

<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/71172>

The efficiency of the Melbourne Mint's coin production in the early days left much to be desired – half sovereigns were not being produced at all, and the number of sovereigns that the mint was obtaining per pair of dies was far below what was necessary. This inefficiency led to a marked shortage of dies towards the end of the year, and there was some concern that at the rate the existing stock of dies were being destroyed, and given the length of time it took for replacements to be obtained from London, the Melbourne Mint might run out of dies altogether.

Danish Jeweller Julius Hogarth Experimented with the Production of the Melbourne Mint's First Dies

In an attempt to make the most of the mint's scarce resources until further dies arrived from London, Colonel Ward engaged the services of a die engraver in Melbourne by the name of Julius Hogarth.

Hogarth was a Danish jeweller who had arrived in Sydney in 1852 with a Norwegian named Conrad Erichsen. Together, the two men established a jewellery business that gained some repute, producing some of the most expensive and keenly sought-after jewellery and sculpture in Australia at that time.

Their exceptional technical skills and creativity saw them emerge among the first artisans in Australia to incorporate local flora and fauna in decorative artworks. They are also well known among numismatists for the small number of silver threepence tokens they issued between 1858 and 1860, which remain eminently collectable today.



Hogarth & Erichsen Threepence

Image source: Museums Victoria

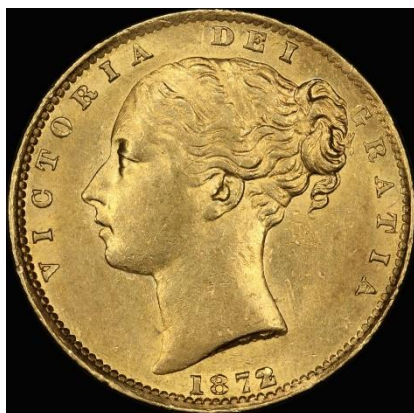
<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/2041>

Unfortunately, their business skills did not match their technical skills and in 1860 Hogarth and Erichsen were bankrupt.

Julius Hogarth had travelled to Melbourne in 1866 with the specific aim of gaining employment at the new branch mint, and Ward's commission required him to experiment with the production of dies.

Such a task requires highly specialised skills, and it is probably hardly surprising that, despite his acknowledged talents, Hogarth regarded his work in producing dies as '*a failure altogether*'.

He came up with the idea of altering the dates of existing dies so that they could be used if they were required. The result of this work remains evident for collectors today. Essentially, Hogarth added a number '2' to the date of 60 obverse dies, and although his work significantly increased the number of coins the Melbourne Mint was able to produce during 1872, it cannot be regarded as impeccable since the number '1' can still be seen under the '2' on many 1872 Shield sovereigns.



1871/2 Overdate Melbourne Sovereign

Image source: Sterling & Currency

The additional replacement dies ordered by Ward in July 1872 arrived in Melbourne in October, thus allowing the Melbourne Mint to move forward without further impediment. Julius Hogarth went on to obtain full-time employment as a medal engraver with the medal producers Stokes and Martin, the business that acquired much of the equipment of the failed Kangaroo Office. Many medals and tokens engraved by Hogarth for Stokes remain available to collectors today.

By the time of its closure in 1931, the Melbourne Mint had gone on to produce the highest number of sovereigns issued by any branch of the Royal Mint – a clear reflection of the richness of the goldfields of Bendigo and Ballarat.



Examples of the Melbourne Mintmark on Sovereigns

Image source: Sterling & Currency

It was at these same goldfields that the notorious Eureka Stockade took place back in 1854, an event that was influential in shaping the collective Australian psyche.



The Battle of the Eureka Stockade, J. B. Henderson (1854)

Image source: State Library of NSW

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/collection-items/eureka-stockade-riot-ballarat-1854-j-b-henderson>

The wealth of the Victorian goldfields, often when spent as gold sovereigns from the Melbourne Mint, for ever transformed the architecture, society and culture of Australia.

References

1. Brian Fitzpatrick, 1949. *The British Empire in Australia*. p 109.
2. McCalman, Cook and Reeves (Editors), *Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia*. p 52.

President Walter Bloom and Management Committee Member John Godfrey



Celebrating John Godfrey's birthday in the South Perth Civic Centre car park at our 5th August 2017 fair.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first issue of the PNS Journal to be printed in colour. Hopefully, it won't be the last.

We have made the move to colour so that the pictures used to illustrate articles will be clearer and give a more natural and accurate representation of the coins, banknotes or other things they depict.

So, from now on we will be encouraging contributors to profusely illustrate their articles with high resolution colour photographs or scanned images.

Remember the old adage: *'a picture is worth a thousand words'*.

TREASURERS REPORT, 2016/2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

Revenue Highlights

- \$4,000 was transferred from the Investment account to the operating account, mainly for a specific project on digitising old minute books.
- \$631.17 was received in interest from funds in the Investment account.
- \$1,855 was received from annual membership renewals and new members.
- A profit of \$272.87 was made from a total of five coin fairs held during the year.
- \$556.40 was made from world coins sold at the ANDA Fair.
- \$600 was received from ANDA to run the Perth Money Convention held at Domain Stadium in February 2017.

Expenses

- The cost of printing, postage, envelopes and ink cartridges for the Journal was \$2,582.44.
- Public Liability and Leisure Insurance costs were \$1,160.00
- Scanning of minute books was \$680.00.
- Hall Hire and storage rental at the Collins Street Centre was \$1,521.50.
- Purchase of world coins for the ANDA fair was \$567.00

Other Matters

- Please remember to sign the Attendance Book on arrival at meetings.
- Assets on hand include a projector & screen, PA system, signs, old computer printer and dozens of unsold PNS anniversary medallions.
- Gross profit for the year (Income less Expenses) was \$84.80

Attendance Statistics

- Members who signed the book totalled 372, well under last year's total of 402. Non- members and visitors for the same period totalled 14.

Alan Peel,
Treasurer, 26/07/2017

CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS FOR 2017

PNS meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except December, at The Collins Street Centre, corner of Collins Street and Shaftsbury Street, South Perth.

Meeting dates for 2017 are as follows:

January 25	Short talks.
February 22	Meeting.
March 29	Invited speaker, Bob Forbes. <i>Trends in Canadian Numismatics</i> .
April 26	Invited speaker, John Wheatley. <i>The Siege Banknotes of Mafeking from the Anglo Boer War</i> .
May 31	Short talks.
June 28	Quiz.
July 26	Annual General Meeting.
August 30	Short talks.
September 27	Invited speaker, John Melville-Jones. <i>Deification or Damnation; the fates of some Roman emperors</i> .
October 25	Meeting.
November 29	Meeting.

CALENDAR OF FAIRS

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Medal and Banknote Fairs:

Saturday 4th November 2017

Saturday 30th December 2017

Peel Region Numismatic Group / Mandurah Philatelic Society Fair:

Sunday 12th November 2017

Phoenix Auctions:

Sunday 3rd September 2017

Sunday 26th November 2017

Cannington Antique and Collectors Fair

Sunday 17th September 2017

Claremont Antique and Collectors Fair:

Saturday 11th – Sunday 12th November 2017

JB Military Antiques Auction

Sunday 24th September 2017

Militaria Swapmeet (Cannington):

Sunday 19th November 2017

Annual Militaria Fair (Cannington):

Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th September 2017

For more details see: <http://www.pns.org.au/events/>