

Volume 52 Number 3

August 2020

Perth Numismatic Journal



*Official publication of the
Perth Numismatic Society Inc*

VICE-PATRON

Prof. John Melville-Jones

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2019-2020

PRESIDENT	Prof. Walter Bloom
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Ben Selentin
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	Dick Pot
TREASURER	Alan Peel
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Sandy Shailes
SECRETARY	Prof. Walter Bloom
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Sandra Vowles
MINUTES SECRETARY	Ray Peel
FELLOWSHIP OFFICER	Jim Selby
EVENTS COORDINATOR	Prof. Walter Bloom
ORDINARY MEMBERS	Jim Hidden
	Jonathan de Hadleigh
	Miles Goldingham
	Tom Kemeny
JOURNAL EDITOR	John McDonald
JOURNAL SUB-EDITOR	Mike Beech-Jones

OFFICERS

AUDITOR	Vignesh Raj
CATERING	Lucie Pot
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Tom Kemeny
WEBMASTER	Prof. Walter Bloom

WAnumismatica website
designer & sponsor
www.wanumismatica.org.au

Mark Nemtsas,
The Purple Penny

Printed by Uniprint

First Floor, Commercial Building, Guild Village (Hackett Drive entrance 2),
The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, Western Australia 6009



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: www.wanumismatica.org.au
Designer & sponsor: Mark Nemtsas, The Purple Penny

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH PENNY

PART I - FROM OFFA TO EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

John Wheatley

Introduction

The history of the simple English penny is not just a reflection of the social and economic history of England; it is about the metals used to produce those coins (gold, silver, copper and bronze) and about the richness of the designs and craftsmanship. One must remember that these coins were produced in times that were often violent and turbulent, in times of prosperity, great poverty and war and in times when life was exceedingly cheap, when a king or queen could order your execution or that of your family, or of whole villages or towns, in the blink of an eye.

Origin of the Penny

The origin of the penny probably emanates from Roman times. It is thought by many that the abbreviation for penny of 'd' stands for the Roman coin the denarius.



Denarius of Tiberius (the 'Tribute Penny')

Image courtesy of Sovereign Rarities Ltd.

After the collapse of the Roman Empire the silver denarius reappeared in the form of the sceattas and stycas of the Anglo-Saxons about AD 680. The French King Peppin the Short issued the new silver denier around 755. The first penny was struck about AD 765 by Heaberht, a king of Kent.

The name 'penny' may have been derived from Penda, King of Mercia who lived in the 7th century. Various other theories abound, none of them convincing, so the truth of the penny's origins may never be known.

Offa, King of Mercia, 784-796

Offa produced pennies which are renowned for their design and craftsmanship. King Offa also issued coins in the name of his wife Queen Cynethryth. Portraits of Offa and his queen appear on some of these coins whereas others show his name and title as Offa Rex in two lines with an ornament above.



Portrait Coin of Offa, Canterbury Mint, Moneyer Ealred

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



Portrait Coin of Cynethryth, Canterbury Mint, Moneyer Eoba

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



***Archbishops of Canterbury, Aethelheard with Offa of Mercia as Overlord,
Canterbury Mint,***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

A small number of gold coins were minted in Offa's reign, the first of which was struck at Canterbury between 787 and 792 by a moneyer named Pendred.

The obverse bore a diademed right facing bust of Offa, on the Roman Imperial model, whilst the reverse featured a standing figure, facing right, holding a spear in the right hand and resting the left hand on a bow stretching to the ground. Both sides show the name of Pendred.



***Gold Penny of Offa (The Pendred), Canterbury Mint,
Moneyer Pendred***

Image courtesy of Christopher Pendred

Other gold pennies were struck by Coenwulf (gold mancus), Edward the Elder, Aethelred II, Edward the Confessor, and Henry III.

There is an excellent paper by Gareth Williams and Michael Cowell on analysing the gold mancus of Coenwulf and other comparable gold coins in the British Museum collection.

Offa was no angel. He cruelly murdered young King Aethelberht II of East Anglia. Little is known about Aethelberht who reigned circa 779. In 794 it is said that he reluctantly agreed to marry Offa's daughter, Eadburh, and journeyed to visit her at Offa's villa at Sutton Walls in Hertfordshire. Offa's queen persuaded Offa to have their guest killed, so Aethelberht was seized, bound and beheaded.¹



***Unique Silver Penny of Aethelberht II, Canterbury Mint (perhaps),
Moneyer Lul***

Image courtesy of Dix Noonan & Webb

A copy of a gold dinar of the Caliph Al-Mansur, dated in the year of Hegira 157 (AD 774), can be found in the British Museum. As none of Offa's moneyers could read Arabic, they copied the inscription onto the reverse of this coin, but got it upside down. Between the lines of Arabic text, they inserted the words, 'OFFA REX'. The obverse simply repeated the original Arabic inscription.

Coenwulf, King of Mercia, 796-821

Coenwulf's coinage followed the general silver format established under Offa.

His first silver penny, minted in London was without a portrait. His name appeared in three lines on the obverse, hence it is known as the Three Line Type. On the reverse are the letters 'I B. B. A' in the angles of a three-lined tribrach Moline.



***Coenwulf Silver Penny, Three Line Type, London Mint,
Moneyer Ibba***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group LLC

A later design of Coenwulf's penny had a different obverse with the inscription COENVVL REX with the letter 'M' in the centre. The reverse shows ED EL MOD in the angles of a tribrach Moline. This penny is known as the Tribrach Type.



***Coenwulf Silver Penny, Tribrach Type, Canterbury Mint,
Moneyer Aethelmoth***

Image courtesy of Dix Noonan & Webb

Around 810 – 812 a portrait silver penny was introduced.



***Coenwulf Silver Penny, Portrait Type, Canterbury Mint,
Moneyer Deormod***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group LLC

In 2001 an amateur metal detectorist found a wonderful gold portrait coin of Coenwulf on the banks of the river Ivel at Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. This was one of only eight known gold coins of the mid to late Saxon period, seven of which are owned by the British Museum. This coin, known as ‘Mancus’ was valued at about 30 silver pennies.



Unique Coenwulf Gold Mancus, London Mint, Moneyer Unknown

Image courtesy of Allan Davisson, original owner of the coin

Obverse: a diademed bust of Coenwulf similar in design to a Roman Emperor, with the legend COENVVLF REX M (Coenwulf, King of the Mercians.)

Reverse: legend DE VICO LVNDONIAE (from the WIC (trading place) of London) around a rosette developed from a cross over a cross moline, no inner circles, initial cross of four wedges with centre pellet on both sides.²

For a fascinating story on the discovery of the coin, its acquisition by Allan Davisson, a noted American specialist in British Hammered coins, in Spink’s London Coinex Sale of October 6, 2004 (Lot 493), and its subsequent sale to the British Museum for a much higher figure, I refer you to an article:

‘National Treasure – The Coenwulf Coin: A Significant Find from the Old WIC of London’ by Leon Worden, contained in Coinage Magazine, January 2006, which can also be found on the internet.³

Although Anglo-Saxons used gold coins when they first arrived in Britain, nearly all English coinage was silver from the late 600’s until the mid 1200’s:

‘The common man never saw any of it as each piece of gold represented many months of work. Wealthy merchants and nobles used this money for imports and hoarding. There were also donations to the church, part of which found its way to the papacy in Rome’⁴.

Alfred the Great, 871-899

Alfred’s silver pennies can be divided into two groups: types with portraits and types without portraits. The main types with portraits are: Lunette type, Cross and Lozenge type, Two Emperors type and London Monogram type.

The main types without portrait are: Geometrical-Quatrefoil type and Horizontal Two-line type.



Lunettes Type, Canterbury Mint, Moneyer Tirwulf
Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



Cross & Lozenge Type, Winchester Style, Moneyer Heahstan,
Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



***London Monogram Type (with portrait), London Mint,
Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC***



***Horizontal Two-line Type, Uncertain Mint,
Moneyer Beorhthelm,
Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC***

The portrait style was continued with the Two Emperors type, showing two emperors on thrones on the reverse. The two Emperors type is represented by specimens in the name of both Alfred and Ceolwulf, one of which styles Alfred as REX ANGLO(RUM), king of the Anglo Saxons.



***Silver Penny, Two Emperors Type, London Mint (probably),
Moneyer Beagtan, Watlington Catalogue No. 59
Image courtesy of Ashmolean Museum Oxford***

This design was copied from the fourth century Roman gold solidus of Magnus Maximus, the last Roman coin struck in Britain.



***Gold Solidus of Magnus Maximus, Struck at London,
Image courtesy of Baldwin's of St. James***

This reverse design was further copied by the Post-Crondall gold thrymsa.



***Anglo-Saxon, Pale Gold Phase, circa 650-675. Pale Gold Thrymsa,
'Two Emperors' (type 11.t.v)
Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC***

Ceolwulf II, King of Mercia, 874-c.880

If I had written this article twenty years ago, I would not have included any coinage of this ruler. Thanks to the finding of the Watlington Hoard in October 2015 by metal detectorist James Mather, it was revealed that two kings who ruled different parts of England, Ceolwulf II, King of Mercia and Alfred, King of Wessex, were once close allies.

*'The hoard contained 13 examples of an extremely rare coin type known as the 'Two Emperors' penny which show King Alfred the Great of Wessex and King Ceolwulf II of Mercia enthroned next to each other under a winged Victory or an angel. Only two examples of these pennies were known before the discovery of the hoard and both were struck in the same year. The coins in the Watlington Hoard were struck in different mints over several years. This is exciting news because it establishes that Alfred and Ceolwulf II were allies who worked closely together, at least on issuing currency for years.'*⁵

It is a revelation since the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, a history commissioned by Alfred the Great, dismisses the King of Mercia as ‘*an unwise king’s thane*’ who was placed on the throne of Mercia by the Vikings as a puppet.

‘Despite this monetary alliance, the relationship between Alfred and Ceolwulf II quickly soured as Alfred moved to annex the kingdom of Mercia around 880, and the shadowy Ceolwulf disappears from history records altogether (perhaps having been invited for a refreshing cliff – top walk.) The fact that the coin types represented within the hoard have so far proved rare may indicate that Alfred deliberately melted them down following his takeover of Mercia, perhaps wanting to erase all reminders of Ceolwulf and their (now embarrassing) former relationship.’⁶



***Ceolwulf II Silver Penny, Two Emperors Type, London Mint,
Moneyer Hereferth, Watlington Catalogue No. 5
Image courtesy of Ashmolean Museum Oxford***

Three types of penny have been found which were used in Ceolwulf II’s name. Most were minted at London and were of the Cross & Lozenge Type.



***Ceolwulf II Silver Penny, Cross and Lozenge Type, London Mint,
Moneyer Leofweald
Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC***

Edward the Elder, 899-924 (son of Alfred the Great)

The early silver pennies of Edward the Elder were largely a continuation of those that occurred during the latter part of Alfred’s reign.

The horizontal or two-lined type had the King's name on the obverse and his title surrounding a circle within which is a small cross. The reverse featured the moneyer's name in two lines. A more conventional silver penny had a diademed bust of the King on the obverse while the reverse showed the moneyer's name in two lines.



***Edward the Elder, Bust Diademed Type, probably Chester Mint,
Moneyer Dudig***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

There are several interesting reverses on Edward's conventional silver penny being: a floral design with name across the field, a bird holding a twig in its beak, the hand of Providence, a church or gate design, and a tower which may be a reliquary.



***Edward the Elder, Flower Type, Danish East Anglia Mint,
Moneyer Heremod***

Image courtesy of Arthur Bryant Coins



***Edward the Elder, Floral Design Type, probably Chester Mint,
Moneyer Boga***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



Edward the Elder, Minster Type (Saxon Church), probably Chester Mint, Moneyer Wulfgar

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

Aethelstan, 924-939 (alternatively known as Athelstan)

On the death of his father Edward the Elder in 924, Aethelstan succeeded to a kingdom that comprised the whole of England except Northumbria.

Within three years he took control of Northumbria and could proclaim himself in charters and on his coins, as King of the whole of Britain (Rex Totius Britanniae).

I consider that Aethelstan's reign and his numismatic significance are very much undervalued. According to Blunt, the numismatic significance is:

*'for the first time, the names of mints are found in quantity on the coins – hitherto their appearance has been both limited in number and spasmodic in time – and because the decrees issued by Athelstan at Grateley are the earliest to survive containing clauses dealing with coinage.'*⁷

The Grateley code included a provision that there was to be only one coinage across the king's dominion.

*'Two main types of coin which were to be the dominant forms throughout the tenth century were established during Aethelstan's reign. These were the circumscription and Crowned Bust types, which existed alongside the Horizontal / Two-Line type.'*⁸

The earliest coins of Aethelstan, the Horizontal / Two – Lined type, followed that of his father Edward the Elder.



***Aethelstan Silver Penny, Horizontal / Two-line Type, Unknown Mint,
Moneyer Winele***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

A small number of early diademed bust types with the reverse similar to that of the Horizontal / Two – Lined type were also produced.⁹ In York, after Aethelstan's defeat of the City of York in 927, a variation of the Horizontal / Two – Lined type was issued with a tower or church above a straight horizontal line dividing the field, annulets to left and right.



***Aethelstan Silver Penny, Tower or Church Gate type, York Mint, Moneyer
Wyltsig***

Image courtesy of Spink Auctions

The Circumscription Type penny, also issued in Aethelstan's reign had a small cross on both sides; with the cross on the reverse including pellets in the angles. Both the obverse and reverse also featured circumscription legends in small lettering which allowed the legends to be longer. The reverse included the mint name and the moneyer.



***Aethelstan Silver Penny, Circumscription Type, York Mint,
Moneyer Regnald***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

In the early 930s a new coinage, the ‘crowned bust type’, was issued with the king shown for the first time wearing a crown with three stalks. The reverse followed the circumscription design but did not always contain the name of the mint.



***Aethelstan Silver Penny, Crowned Bust Type, Norwich Mint,
Moneyer Eadgar***

Image courtesy of Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectables.

There is a variation of the ‘Crowned Bust’ type where a helmet appears to be substituted for a crown on the obverse. According to Blunt: ‘*the king is wearing a crown over what appears to be a helmet.*’¹⁰ Perhaps this type was issued by a region that was reluctant to issue coins with a crowned bust of the king.¹¹



***Aethelstan Silver Penny, ‘Helmeted’ Bust Type, North-Eastern II Mint,
Moneyer Folcred***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

Eadmund, Eadred, Eadwig and Eadgar (pre-reform), 939-978

The coinage of these Anglo-Saxon kings reveals that there was a continuation of the earlier type of coins during their reigns (e.g. the circumscription, and horizontal and crowned bust types).

In 973 Eadgar introduced a new coinage. This had a small diademed bust on the obverse within a circle and the legend + EADGAR REX ANGLOR whilst the reverse contained the name of the moneyer and the mint surrounding a circle within which was a small cross. Both the weight and fineness were increased with some variation across the country and to quote Dr Graham Bennett:

‘... this uniformity of the coinage was the first time that such a system had been put in place and reflects the authority which the king was able to exercise near the end of his reign.’¹²



***Eadgar Silver Penny, Reform Small Cross Type, Lewes Mint,
Moneyer Theodger***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

Aethelred II, 978-1016

The portrait bust / small cross types continued under Aethelred II ('The Unready') but later became more varied and elaborate, with motifs such as the hand of providence, a hand giving benediction and double-lined crosses of various lengths. A striking and extremely rare penny was the Agnus Dei type. This penny features the Lamb of God on the obverse and the Holy Dove flying upwards on the reverse.



***Aethelred II Silver Penny, First Hand Type, Ipswich Mint,
Moneyer Leoric***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



***Aethelred II, Benediction Hand Type, Canterbury Mint,
Moneyer Leofstan***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC



Aethelred II, Agnus Dei Type, Leicester Mint, Moneyer Aethelwig

Image courtesy of Baldwin's of St James Auction 43

Edward the Confessor, 1042-1066

There were ten main types issued during Edward The Confessor's reign. The first five types show the king's head without a beard. These types are known as the PACX, Radiate Small Cross, Trefoil-Quadrilateral, Small Flan and Expanding Cross types.



Edward the Confessor, Silver Penny, PACX Type, London Mint, Moneyer Eadwold

Image courtesy of Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd

On the sixth type, (the Pointed Helmet type), Edward is shown with a beard and wearing a conical helmet.



Edward the Confessor, Silver Penny, Pointed Helmet Type, Winchester Mint, Moneyer Lifinc

Image courtesy of Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd

The seventh type, (the Sovereign Eagles type) shows the King enthroned, and holding a long sceptre and orb, with the reverse bearing a cross with eagles in each angle of the cross.



***Edward the Confessor, Silver Penny, Sovereign/Eagles Type,
Wallingford Mint, Moneyer Brand,***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, LLC

The last three types are the Hammer Cross, the Crowned Facing Bust and the Pyramids type with a crowned bust to right and a short cross on the reverse with a wedge or pyramid in each angle.



***Edward the Confessor, Silver Penny, Pyramids Type,
Moneyer Edric of Hereford,***

Image courtesy of Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd

The British Museum holds a gold penny from Edward the Confessor. The coin was minted in Warwick by the moneyer Lifinc. The coin is very similar to the Expanding Cross type of Edward, struck in silver. There are two differences on the reverse of this gold coin. In the third quarter, there is an added pellet and the point in the centre of the whole design has the appearance of a star.



Edward the Confessor, Gold Penny, Warwick Mint, Moneyer Lifinc

Image courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum.

Acknowledgements

To Steve Hill of Sovereign Rarities Ltd for the provision of several images and for his help and assistance throughout. To Allan Davisson for his help and assistance in providing me with magnificent images of the Coenwulf gold mancus that he once owned, and to David Guest from Classical Numismatic Group, LLC for his help in providing me with numerous images from the Dr Andrew Wayne Collection of Anglo – Saxon and early Norman coins together with copies of the auction catalogues relating to the sale of that collection.

References

Bennett Dr. G., *Wessex and Alfred The Great*, Coin News, March 2019.

Bennett Dr. G., *Edward The Elder 899 – 924*, Coin News, July 2019.

Bennett Dr. G., *Aethelstan and his coinage 924-39*, Coin News, April 2020.

Bennett Dr. G., *Eadmund, Eadred, Eadwig and Edgar : Four Anglo – Saxon Kings*, Coin News, May 2020.

Bennett Dr. G., *The English Coinage from Edgar to Aethelred*, Coin News, June 2020.

Blunt, C., Lyon, C. And Stewart, I., *Coinage in Tenth Century England*, Oxford 1989.

Mackay J., *The Penny and its Origins, Part 1*, Coin Monthly, October 1980.
Coins of England & The United Kingdom, 47th Edition – Standard Catalogue of British Coins, Spink London, 2012.

Martin W.T., *The Penny Story*, Coin Monthly, January 1980.

Wikipedia, *History of the English Penny (1485-1603)*.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History-of-the-English-penny-\(1485-1603\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History-of-the-English-penny-(1485-1603))

Williams G. & Cowell M., *Analysis of a Gold Mancus of Coenwulf of Mercia and Other Comparable Coins*, British Museum Technical Research Bulletin (3) (31-36), 2009.

Endnotes

¹ Wikipedia – Aethelberht II of East Anglia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AEthelberht_II_of_East_Anglia (at pages 2 and 3).

² Description of reverse of gold mancus, Spink Auction, October 6, 2004, lot 493

³ <https://scvhistory.com/scvhistory/signal/coins/worden-coinage0106a.htm>

⁴ English gold penny didn't last long. Posted on July 6, 2017 by R.W.

<https://www.numismaticnews.net/article/english-gold-penny-didn't-last-long>.

⁵ The History Blog – Ashmoleum secures Alfred the Great hoard

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/45827> (at page 2).

⁶ Viking Metal: December 2016, Sunday, 11 December 2016 Tribute or wages? The fascinating coins of the Watlington hoard – part 2.

<https://vikingmetal.org.blogspot.com/2016/12/> (at page 3).

⁷ The Coinage of Athelstan 924-939. A Survey by Blunt, C.E.

www.Britishnumos.org, pdfs'1974_BNJ_42_6 (PDF)

⁸ Aethelstan and his Coinage 924-939, by Dr. Graham Bennett, contained in Coin News, April 2020 at pages 41 - 43

⁹ Aethelstan and his Coinage 924-939, by Dr. Graham Bennett op. cit.

¹⁰ The Coinage of Athelstan 924-939, a Survey by Blunt, C.E. op. cit.

¹¹ Aethelstan and his Coinage 924-939, by Dr Graham Bennett op. cit.

¹² The English Coinage from Edgar to Aethelred by Dr Graham Bennett contained in Coin News, June 2020 at page 41.

IMPERIAL NUMISMATICS

THE BEST SELECTION OF WORLD,
ANCIENT AND AUSTRALIAN COINS

email: imperialnumismatics@gmail.com

phone: 0424 349 143

web: imperialnumismatics.com.au



1892 Double Shaft 5 Shillings PCGS MS63

EARLY PACKARD CAR ON THE “AUTO DOLLAR” OF CHINA’S KWEICHOW PROVINCE

Graeme Stephens

This is a counterfeit copy of the famous 10 Cash “Auto Dollar” which Kweichow (now known as Guizhou) Province in China issued in 1928, which featured an early Packard sedan.



The coin was commissioned by the warlord Zhou Xicheng who was an automobile fanatic. He reportedly had this car imported from the USA, taken to pieces, and then carried on foot through rugged terrain to be reassembled in Kweichow. At this stage this was the only car in the province – a province that had no roads. This was not a problem for Zhou Xicheng who ordered the construction of Kweichow’s first road capable of taking a car.

To commemorate the event Zhou wanted a suitable coin struck. His advisers told him that having his own image on the coin would result in his early death so he chose the image of his car instead. But it was also reported that on his first celebratory drive on his new road he left his armed escort mounted on horses well behind, only to be ambushed by the forces of a rival warlord, who gunned him down at the side of the road mafia style as he fled his car.

The genuine coin weighs 25.8 grams and is quite rare. This counterfeit copy weighs only 19.81grams. Original copies in good condition go for about US\$ 40,000.

AN ABDICATION FOLLIS OF DIOCLETIAN

John McDonald

Being a Roman emperor was extremely dangerous. Out of around 50 men who were officially acknowledged as emperor in the first 300 years of the Roman Empire, only 14 died a natural death. Most came to a violent and bloody end, usually by the sword, and the overwhelming majority of them were killed by fellow Romans. Only three died at the hands of Rome's enemies.

In AD 284 a man of humble origins from Dalmatia named Diocles was the commander of the ruling emperor Numerian's household cavalry. Numerian was travelling with his army when he was found dead in mysterious circumstances. Diocles personally executed the army commander who was accused of being responsible and was then acclaimed as the new emperor by the legions.

Diocles latinised his name to Diocletianus (generally known to us as Diocletian) and went on to rule the Roman Empire with considerable success for more than 20 years. But his rule was particularly notable for the way in which it ended. He was the only Roman emperor to voluntarily relinquish power and live out the remainder of his life in peaceful retirement as a private citizen, albeit a highly honoured one.



Diocletian, on a coin struck in AD 296-298

Not long after taking power, in AD 285, Diocletian invited a military colleague we know as Maximian to join him. They divided responsibility between them, with Diocletian ruling the eastern regions of the empire and Maximian ruling the west.

In AD 304, following an illness and worn down after carrying the burden of ruling for 20 years, Diocletian decided that he and Maximian should abdicate in favour of their respective deputies called Galerius and Constantius Chlorus. But Maximian didn't want to give up power and had to be pushed into it by Diocletian. Eventually he acquiesced, but only on condition that he could keep his imperial rank until he had also reached the 20th anniversary of his accession. So, it wasn't until the 1st May AD 305 that Diocletian and Maximian simultaneously abdicated and went into retirement.

Special coins were issued to commemorate this very unusual event. They were mainly large copper coins (about 27mm) which originally had a thin superficial film of silver, although this has long since worn off most surviving examples. We know these coins as a '*Follis*' or '*Nummus*', but we don't know what the Romans themselves called them.



Abdikation Follis of Diocletian

Aquilaea Mint, AD 305, 27 mm, 10.2 gm

- Obverse:*** D N DIOCLETIANO FELISSIMO SEN AVG
Laureate bust in ornate consular robes, right, holding olive branch in right hand and mappa in left hand.
- Reverse:*** PROVIDENTIA DEORVM QVIES AVGG
S F in field, AQP in exergue.
Providentia (left) & Quies standing, facing.

The bust on the obverse showed the retiring emperor in full imperial regalia. The legend included the unusual titles FELISSIMO SEN AVG (an abbreviated version of FELISSIMO SENIORIS AVGVSTVS or '*fortunate and successful senior emperor*').

The two minor female deities on the reverse, Providentia and Quies, personified provision for the future and tranquillity respectively. The legend could be loosely translated as '*May the gods provide a peaceful rest for the two emperors.*'

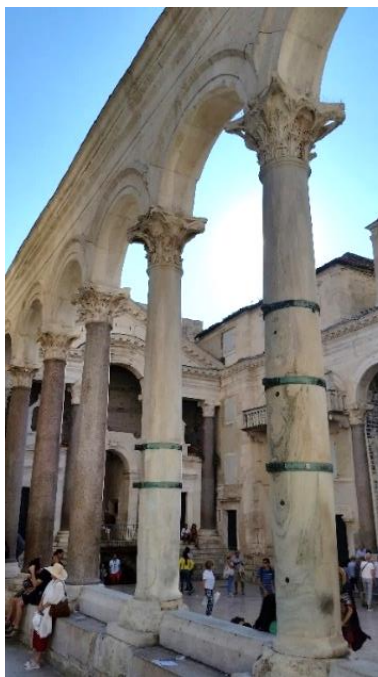
Diocletian retired to an enormous and luxurious palace that he had built at Saloniae on the Dalmatian coast, now the city of Split in Croatia.

Apart from one or two brief public reappearances when he was asked to help resolve political crises, Diocletian remained in retirement at Split until his death sometime between AD 311 and AD 316, when he was probably in his mid-sixties. He is said to have spent much of his time peacefully tending his vegetable garden, with a particular fondness for growing cabbages.

Maximian, on the other hand, never really wanted to surrender power and made two unsuccessful bids to reclaim the role of emperor.

In AD 310, after his second attempt was defeated, Maximian either committed suicide or was executed on the orders of his son-in-law Constantine, who was later to become the emperor known to history as 'Constantine The Great'.





Parts of Diocletian's Palace, Split, Croatia

Images courtesy of K Whitby



Always Buying Coins & Notes

Sterling & Currency is a rare coin and note dealership in Fremantle run by Andrew Crellin. We have thousands of clients across Australia and the world that are constantly looking for new material.

We specialise in historic & rare coins & notes – we conduct detailed research on the items we handle and take pride in the way we present them.

If you have a large or complex collection that you're considering exiting, we have the expertise, resources and experience to support you.

Contact us via phone or email to discuss your collection.

Shop 22; 35 William Street
FREMANTLE; WA; 6160

Ph: 08 6468 2467

www.sterlingcurrency.com.au

THREE QUAINT HAMMERED SILVER COINS FROM BUNDI, INDIA

Graeme Stephens

These are a silver rupee, a half rupee and a quarter rupee produced in the Indian princely state of Bundi in north west India. They are described as hammered coinage with the legend GEORGE V EMPEROR on the obverse in English surrounding a primitive katar (an ancient Indian weapon) and the regnal year on the reverse in the local script.

The three coins were minted during the reign in Bundi of H. H. Maharao Raja Ishwari Singh (1927-1947). The Raja was very pro-British and was made an honorary Aide-de-Camp to George VI in 1946.

The two aspects which make these coins oddities are the very primitive style of the engraver when he writes the English legend and the fact that in all three cases the die design has been too large for the coin flan. This results in about 50% of the legend disappearing off the flan.

They were minted before George V died in 1936 and the result is quite eye catching and even humorous.



CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS FOR 2020

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 2020 are as follows:

29 January	Short talks. Tender Sale.
26 February	Short talks. No-reserve tender Sale
25 March	Cancelled.
29 April	Cancelled.
27 May	Cancelled.
24 June	Cancelled
29 July	Cancelled
26 August	Annual General Meeting. Invited speaker. Graeme Stephens: <i>Some medallions from Charles I to Edward VII.</i>
23 September	Invited speaker. Ed Robinson: <i>Commonwealth medals.</i> Tender Sale
28 October	Short talks. No-reserve tender Sale
25 November	Invited speaker. Jonathon de Hadleigh: <i>TBA.</i> Tender Sale

NOTE: The meetings listed above may or may not proceed, depending on restrictions that might be imposed if there are any further Covid19 outbreaks. Please monitor the PNS website for further information.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Adult	\$15
Pensioner	\$10
WA Country	\$10
Associate	\$7
Junior	\$7
Nomination Fee	\$5
Fully Paid Life Membership	\$250

Subscriptions at the above rates are due and payable in advance on 1st March each year and shall be paid within three months after which time the membership will lapse.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Frank Gare	1977
John Wheatley	2004
Dr Walter Bloom	2013

PAST PRESIDENTS

Brian Siggs †	1965-1968
Edward Rintoul †	1968-1969
Edward Gibbs †	1969-1970
Clive Stronach †	1970-1971
Karl Hawelka †	1971-1978
Haydn Powell †	1978-1988
Dr Walter Bloom	1988-1991
Jiri Just †	1991-1994
Colin Meikle	1994-1997
Haydn Powell †	1997-2005
Dr Walter Bloom	2005-

CALENDAR OF FAIRS

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Medal and Banknote Fairs:

Saturday 7th November 2020

Saturday 26th December 2020

Peel Region Numismatic Group / Mandurah Philatelic Society Fair:

Sunday 9th November 2020

Perth Stamp & Coin Show:

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th September 2020

Phoenix Auctions:

Sunday 27th September 2020

Sunday 6th December 2020

Militaria Swapmeet (Cannington):

Annual Militaria Fair (Cannington):

Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th September 2020

Cannington Antiques & Collectors Fairs:

Sunday 20th September 2020

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

NOTE: The Fairs listed were scheduled prior to restrictions imposed as a result of the corona virus outbreak. At this stage we do not know which of them will proceed on the dates indicated.

RAINBOW RARITIES

**Buying & Selling: Coins,
Banknotes, Badges,
Old Postcards & Stamps**

Contact D. POT

**PO Box 189 – Kelmscott 6991 WA
Phone: 08 6396 2373 or 0407 211 980**



**e-mail: dirk@rainbowrarities.com
website: www.rainbowrarities.com**



JB Military Antiques

**~ Auction dates 3rd May & 11th October 2020 ~
Medals, edged weapons, uniforms, badges, guns,
headgear & more. Consignments taken from single
pieces to entire collections.**

www.jbmilitaryantiques.com.au Tel: 08 9276 5113

PHOENIX AUCTIONS W.A.

**West Australia's Premier
Coin Dealer & Auctioneer**

**Buying Coins, Banknotes & Medals
or Consign to Auction**

**High Grade Roman & Early English
Especially Required**

Best Prices Guaranteed

Contact Mike on **08 9455 7197** or **0439 522049**

or post to PO Box 245, Thornlie, WA 6988



Home Visits can be Arranged

