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

PERTH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Inc PO BOX 259, FREMANTLE WA 6959

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WATSON & GUTMANN ADVERTISING TOKEN

Steven Sparkman

A very early Western Australian advertising token which appears from time to time at public numismatic auctions was distributed by the Perth company Watson and Gutmann in the early twentieth century. The token advertises the Watson and Gutmann business on the obverse and has a 1904-1925 calendar on the reverse. It is 38 mm in diameter and is made of aluminium.



Watson & Gutman Token, circa 1904

The Watson and Gutmann token is similar to at least one other issued by an Australian advertiser for the company of W.W. Campbell & Co. Ltd, wholesale furniture warehousemen of 249 Clarence St. Sydney. Of identical size and also made of aluminium, the Campbell token's calendar is for the years 1907 to 1927.

The Western Australian token advertises:

WITH WATSON & GUTMANN'S COMPLIMENTS PERTH WE COMMUNICATE WITH "HOBART"

The obverse image of a jockey with whip extended riding a horse at full gallop provides the only clue as to the nature of the Watson and Gutmann business.

Research indicates that the principals were nimble opportunists and entrepreneurs who variously described themselves as 'commission agents, bookmakers and turf accountants' while operating their business in Perth.

Watson and Gutmann were licensed to operate as bookmakers on race courses in Western Australia. They also operated as commission agents, and in addition, were licensed by George Adams of Tattersall's in Hobart for his sweepstakes, and for taking bets for major races and race doubles.

Their very early advertising pitch was:

'We COMMUNICATE with HOBART, Tasmania by EVERY STEAMER.'



Watson & Gutmann's Office, Barrack Street, Perth, 1906 Image source: 'Sunday Times', 23 December, 1906. Trove, https://trove.nla.gov.au/

From time to time they had difficulties with the law with regards to operating as bookmakers from their premises (which was illegal) and they also drew the wrath of the Postmaster-General's Department (PMG), which declined delivery of their mail from time to time because of the nature of their business. Perhaps the deliberate blurring of their legal activities with their illegal activities gives rise to the cryptic 'we communicate with "Hobart"' on their token. Charles ('Charley') Watson was an Englishman who first made his appearance as a bookmaker at Flemington in the spring of 1886. The Sunday Times of 24th December 1905 reported that:

"...both he and his clerk wore naval uniform, which well suited their dapper little figures, and, together with their suave and gentlemanly demeanour and business like methods, caused them such extensive patronage that before long they were compelled to forsake the hill for the paddock."

Watson was instrumental in the establishment of Tattersall's Club in Melbourne, which he ran for ten years, before making his bookmaking debut in Western Australia at the Perth Cup meeting of 1896. Shortly afterwards, Watson established a permanent bookmaking operation with a prominent '*turfite*' (to use the vernacular of the day), 'Harry' (Thomas Henry) Haines. Haines died in 1900 and soon after Albert ('Bert') William Gutmann joined the Watson partnership.

Bert Gutmann was born in 1870 and commenced work as a sixteen year old as a 'buttons' (messenger boy) at the Victoria Club, Melbourne. Watson took a shine to the boy and a friendship developed which culminated a number of years later in Gutmann relocating to Perth after Haines' death to commence the Watson and Gutmann partnership.

Watson and Gutmann were accomplished businessmen who were adept at promoting their business. The National Library of Australia's 'Trove' website shows over 11,000 newspaper listings, primarily in the period 1900 to 1914. Most of those listings involve advertising (over 9,000) and invariably the Watson and Gutmann newspaper advertisements were in a very prominent position. The business was also active in donating trophies for athletics, cycling, boxing, billiards and rowing as well as donating money for a variety of local charitable causes.

Throughout their active years in Western Australia the partnership operated a racing stable where they imported and raced a number of horses with considerable success. Consequently, their business thrived and by about the time of WW1, Gutmann had moved to Calcutta with £30,000 of the partnership's money to continue with his bookmaking on the subcontinent.

Gutmann excelled in India; repaid the stake money and later dissolved the partnership. Eventually he built his bank to over £250,000. By this time, he was also speculating in jute and rubber.

After the war he relocated his headquarters to London. With his wealth, Gutmann changed his name to Goodman, acquired an honorary title (Colonel), and was elected as the Conservative member for Islington North in the general election of 1931. When he died in office on 22nd August 1937, Bert Gutmann, the former 'button' of a Melbourne betting club, and bookmaker of Perth and Calcutta, was now the late Colonel A. W. Goodman, MP.

Charley Watson's post-Perth life was more difficult to follow. He appears to have relocated to London after WW1 and from all accounts died there in the mid 1920's, reportedly a very wealthy man.

The bland 'we communicate with "Hobart"' on the advertising token conveyed very little of the colour of the principals involved in the running of this Perth business in the very early twentieth century.

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT 2019 ONE DOLLAR COINS

Walter R Bloom

The Royal Australian Mint has recently released 1 dollar coins dated 2019. For details see:

https://www.ramint.gov.au/publications/royal-australian-mint-challengesaussies-find-specially-marked-1-coins-golden-ticket

To quote from the RAM website:

'The nation's first ever coin hunt, Australia's Dollar Discovery, launches today as a fun way to encourage the public, and families in particular, to engage with coin collecting.

"At a time of growing 'intangibility', the Royal Australian Mint (the Mint) is delighted to launch a program to encourage a whole new generation of collectors both young and old, who will not only collect these coins but also be reminded of the value of a dollar," says Ross MacDiarmid, CEO of the Royal Australian Mint.

According to a poll of 1,000 people commissioned by the Royal Australian Mint, most Australians agree that saving pocket money and collecting coins helps develop patience, persistence and financial literacy, particularly for children. The poll also found that nearly half of today's adults have nostalgic memories of saving coins in their piggy banks and six in 10 now give kids coins to save or collect as a hobby.

Australia's Dollar Discovery will encourage more families and children to collect, with three million \$1 coins marked with the letters A, U and S being released into circulation, providing an opportunity for people to begin their own collections.

"The need to collect is as old as humanity and transcends time and culture. Australia's Dollar Discovery is a nationwide treasure hunt that we hope encourages Australians of all ages and from every state and territory to check their change for these special coins," says Ross MacDiarmid. Families who collect one of each coin can enter for their chance to win one of eight trips to Canberra where they will stay at Jamala Wildlife Lodge at the National Zoo and Aquarium and get the rare opportunity to mint their very own one kilogram pure silver coin. Winners will be announced on the 35th anniversary of the \$1 coin, 14 May 2019, and the coins are also marked with the number 35.



The coins were released in sealed bags of 20 single dollar coins, each containing some 2019 coins and the remainder dated 2018. The mintage of 1 million for each of the three privy marks is relatively low. A survey of 40 such bags gave the following distribution:

BAG	Α	U	S	SUBTOTALS
1	4	2	6	12
2	3	2	4	9
3	5	4	3	12
4	4	6	2	12
5	9	2	2	13
6	6	4	2	12
7	3	3	5	11
8	7	4	3	14
9	8	3	1	12
10	2	6	3	11
11	7	3	5	15
12	8	3	2	13
13	3	3	4	10
14	7	4	1	12
15	6	6	1	13
16	3	8	2	13
17	6	3	6	15
18	6	4	5	15
19	4	6	4	14
20	6	7	2	15

21	5	6	2	13
22	7	2	4	13
23	6	3	2	11
24	6	6	5	17
25	5	3	1	9
26	1	5	0	6
27	2	4	1	7
28	5	1	0	6
29	5	1	3	9
30	7	5	4	16
31	7	0	0	7
32	7	4	2	13
33	4	6	3	13
34	7	3	1	11
35	5	5	4	14
36	2	7	6	15
37	3	6	5	14
38	8	3	0	11
39	5	4	2	11
40	2	4	2	8
TOTALS	206	161	110	477

So out of a total of 800 one dollar coins sampled, 477 were dated 2019, with almost twice as many 'A' privy marked coins as those with the 'S'.

By the way, the RAM has a great marketing opportunity; it could sell the following sets into the United States, capitalising on the American love of our iconic marsupial.



AUSTRALIA'S NEXT GENERATION \$50 NOTE NOW IN CIRCULATION - A TRUE BLACK SWAN EVENT

Andrew Crellin

One of the biggest business books of the past decade was surely "*The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*", written by Nassim Taleb and published in 2007. Taleb's book focuses on the impact that rare and unpredictable events have, as well as the human tendency to retrospectively find simplistic explanations for these events (named by Taleb as "*Black Swan Theory*").

As the release of Australia's NGB \$50 note into circulation on October 10th 2018 had been meticulously planned and even publicised, it definitely would not be classified by Taleb as a "Black Swan event". However, as there are several black swans featured in the designs on either side, we may be able to classify the launch as a black swan event on that technicality.

The table below lists the main characteristics of each of Australia's NGB notes. You can see that there are two black swans listed as visible on the \$50.

Security Features	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$50.00
Top Right Rolling Colour	Flying Eastern Spinebill & Prickly Moses Wattle	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo & Bramble Wattle	Black Swan
Bottom Left Security Feature In Clear Window	Federation Star	Pen Nib	Open Book
Top-To-Bottom Window Feature	3D Federation Star	3D Pen Nib	3d Book
Top-To-Bottom Window Feature	Flying Eastern Spinebill & Prickly Moses Wattle	Flying Cockatoo Colourful B Swan	
Top-To-Bottom Window Feature	Colourful Eastern Spinebill	Colourful Sulphur- Crested Cockatoo	Flying Black Swan
Top-To-Bottom Window Feature	Reversing 5 in Federation Pavillion	Reversing 10 in Homestead	Raukkan Church

Security Features	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$50.00	
Flowers Either Side of Clear Window	Prickly Moses Wattle	Bramble Wattle	Acacia Humifusa	
Tactile Feature	1 Raised Dot	2 Raised Dots	4 Raised Dots	
Release Date	September 1st 2016	September 20th 2017	October 10th 2018	

There is a third black swan in the designs however, one that only becomes visible when the note is placed under ultra-violet light.



I believe that the muted public reception of the NGB \$50 note is due to the design and colour continuity between the 1st Generation \$50 note and the NGB \$50 - compare the two together (following page) and you'll see that they are very similar.

I believe that the improvement in printing technology has allowed the lines in the intaglio print to be applied much more finely than on previous designs, as is plainly evident when comparing the two portraits of Edith Cowan.

As the \$50 note is the denomination seen in circulation more than any other, this in turn means that the 1st prefixes will be much rarer relative to all of the other prefixes printed for this denomination during 2018.

Due to the sheer number of notes required to replace those in circulation, my understanding is that up to 3 different sheets will be used - 2 more than were used for either the NGB \$5 or the NGB \$10.



A Distinct Western Australian Theme

Us sandgropers here in Western Australia often complain that we are overlooked in the general scheme of things, for example when it comes to the distribution of the GST. Whether such complaints are valid or not is of course quite another thing.

However, the NGB \$50 note has a distinct West Aussie theme to it:

- Edith Cowan was Western Australian born and bred;
- The black swan is featured on Western Australia's State coat of arms;
- King Edward Memorial Hospital is featured on the top left of the front of the note;
- The wattle used within the designs of this note (Acacia Humifusa) is native to the Kimberley region of the far north of WA; and
- An outline of the seating plan for the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia can be seen on the right hand side of the front of the note when under ultra violet light.



SOME BIZARRE COIN FINDS IN AUSTRALIA

Coins found by chance, located by metal detectorists or unearthed in archaeological excavations often throw light on the history of a site. They can put specific dates into the record or even reveal previously unknown aspects of its history. However, some coins turn up in such bizarre locations that they defy any simple explanation. These strange finds sometimes just serve to warn us that, no matter how intriguing they might be, we shouldn't put too much significance on them or speculate too wildly about why and how they might have got there.

The following information about a few Australian examples was reported in the media at various times and generated some public interest.

Wessel Islands, 2018 & 1944

In July last year, ABC radio in Darwin (*http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-10/suspected-kilwa-coin-discovered-off-arnhem-land-coast/9959250*) and some Northern Territory newspapers reported the discovery of a strange coin on a beach at Elcho Island (one of the Wessel Islands) off the coast of Arnhem Land. The coin has been tentatively identified as a medieval, Islamic piece from the East African island of Kilwa, close to the coast of modern-day Tanzania, some 10,000 kilometres away from Elcho Island. Kilwa was the site of an Islamic sultanate that was founded around AD 1000 and reached its peak in the 15th century.

The recent find seems to be linked to a total of 9 coins that an RAAF serviceman found scattered on a beach on the Wessel Islands in 1944. Although those finds are well attested, their precise discovery location remains unclear. In 1985 those coins were donated to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum), Sydney, where they remain. They consist of two unrelated sub-groups whose only connection is probably accidental loss in the same locality.

According to a Sydney Mint Museum label written by curator, Major H.P. (Pat) Boland, in about 1982 and reproduced on the Powerhouse Museum's website (*https://collection.maas.museum/object/305381*):

'The first of these sub-groups contains five coins from the Kilwa Sultanate in East Africa in the vicinity of Tanzania. These coins cannot be dated exactly as they do not bear dates. The chronology and dating of the Kilwa Sultans is still a matter for debate and dates suggested here are at best tentative. These Sultans are represented: Sulaiman ibn al-Hasan (2); Ali ibn al-Hasan (2); al-Hasan ibn Sulaiman (1). The date span suggested by current research is from about AD 1294 to about AD 1308.'

The second group consisted of 4 coins of the Dutch East Indies Company dating from the 17^{th} and 18^{th} Centuries.



Probable Kilwa Coin Found on Elcho Island Image source: Powerhouse Museum https://collection.maas.museum/object/305390#&gid=1&pid=2

The museum's comments conclude that:

'While it is possible that these coins represent a Kilwa trading expedition as they were renowned as sailors, it is more likely however, that they are connected with Portuguese explorations in the 16th Century, east of the Grand Meridian, which divided the world into spheres of Spanish and Portuguese influence'...... 'The Portuguese sacked Kilwa in AD 1505 and probably conscripted these experienced sailors for service in their ships. By AD 1519/20 the Portuguese had established a major trading post and fort in Ambon, to the near north of Australia. Theoretically, any move east of this line would have been an invasion of the Spanish sphere of influence inviting dire consequences back in Europe. Any explorations would thus be conducted in the greatest secrecy, so that we can only guess the extent of Portuguese explorations of Australia. It is believed that they were extensive and may have covered the whole east coast of the continent.' Whether or not that is actually the connection between a beach off Arnhem Land and some medieval coins from far distant Africa is anyone's guess. It seems unlikely that they were left by a Kilwa expedition as early as the 14th or 15th Century. Sailors, mainly fishermen, from nearby Indonesian islands have long been visitors to our northern coastline and could at any stage have brought with them as curiosities some old coins from Portuguese or Dutch colonial outposts like Ambon. But if the newly found coin does prove to be similar to the 1944 finds it will be intriguing, and among the oldest foreign artefacts found in Australia.

Far North Queensland, circa 1910-1912

In June 2018, a report on ABC Far North (*http://www.abc.net.au/news/* 2018-06-02/far-north-queenslands-egyptian-coin-mystery/9708318) revived the story of an ancient Egyptian bronze coin that was supposedly unearthed near Kuranda, inland from Cairns, in Far North Queensland some time shortly before the First World War. It was recently donated to the Cairns museum.



The Egyptian coin donated to the Cairns Museum (image source: www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-02/far-north-queenslands-egyptiancoin-mystery/9708318)

In part, the ABC report said:

'The bronze coin — about the same size as a 50 cent piece — was minted during the reign of Ptolemy IV, between 221 and 204 BC. More than two millennia later it was found about seven centimetres underground in the depths of the far north Queensland rainforest.

The man who found it, Andrew Henderson ...one day in 1912 (Ed. Some other sources say 1910) ... was building a fence line and as he was digging a hole for a fence post his shovel hit something metallic. He reached into the hole and pulled out this coin."

When he got into his late 70s ... he gave the coin to his neighbour's 10-yearold son, a guy called Hank Gilmore. Earlier this year Mr Gilmore offered the coin and its story to the Cairns Museum, sparking an investigation into how it found its way across the world'.

This coin has spawned some wild fantasies about visits to Australia by ancient Egyptians, while some have suggested that it was a souvenir lost in the 19th century by a miner on his way to the goldfields further inland. But perhaps, many decades after the event, an old man's recollection of exactly when he dug it up was simply faulty. Many coins like this would have been brought back to Australia as souvenirs by soldiers who were stationed in Egypt during World War I. Or maybe the whole story is unreliable. After all, it was based entirely on hearsay and the details could have become quite confused over the course of 100 years or so.

Fremantle, 1835

On Saturday 24 January 1835, on page 431, The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal contained the following report (*http://trove.nla.gov.au/ newspaper/article/641088/452*):

'A Roman Copper Coin, or token, bearing the name of "Antoninus Augustus" has been recently placed in our hands, said to have been found on Arthur's Head, at Fremantle, which two or three laboring men who were present are ready to attest on oath.

The finding of such a curiosity in the situation we have described, will afford amusement for the speculative; for our own part, the most rational conclusion appears to be, that it has been dropped there by accident, or, without reflecting in the slightest degree upon the present possessor of this ancient curiosity, the contiguity of the place where it was found to the Jail, may lead to a rational solution of the mystery. Be it as it may, the coin is in fine preservation, and the head is a noble specimen of die engraving. It is now in the possession of Rurkenshaw Cox, a laborer, at Perth.' In fact, the legend ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS was not used on coins of Antoninus Pius, but those of the later Roman emperor generally known as Caracalla (AD 198-217). That detail apart, it seems that a Roman coin really was unearthed in Fremantle over 180 years ago. It was undoubtedly quite a curiosity at the time, but it certainly doesn't mean that Romans set foot on our shores some 1,800 years ago.

NEW BREXIT 50 PENCE COIN?

One of our members recently spotted this on the internet



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CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS FOR 2019

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 2019 are as follows:

January 30	Short talks. No-reserve tender sale.
February 27	Invited speaker, Tender sale.
March 27	Invited speaker (Claire Rowson, From fabrication to
	conservation: Unlocking cultural and industrial heritage
	collections at the Perth Mint). No-reserve Tender Sale.
April 24	Meeting. Tender Sale.
May 29	Short talks. No-reserve tender sale.
June 26	Quiz. Tender Sale.
July 31	Annual General Meeting. No-reserve tender sale.
August 28	Invited speaker (Professor John Melville-Jones, The Pazzi
-	conspiracy: a commemorative medal), Tender Sale.
September 25	Invited speaker (John Wheatley, Australian Superscribed
_	Banknotes 1910-1914 including the One Pound Emergency
	Issues of 1914-1915). No-reserve tender sale.
October 30	Meeting. Tender Sale.
NI 1 07	

November 27 Meeting. No-reserve tender sale.

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.

CALENDAR OF FAIRS

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Medal and Banknote Fairs: Saturday 16th February 2019 Saturday 18th May 2019 Saturday 10th August 2019 Saturday 12th October 2019 Saturday 28th December 2019 Bunbury 2019 One Frame National Stamp, Coin, Banknote & Postcard Show: Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st July 2019 Perth Money Expo Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th February 2019 Perth Stamp & Coin Show: Friday 29th – Sunday 31st March 2019 Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd November 2019 **Phoenix Auctions:** Sunday 17th March 2019 Sunday 23rd June 2019 Sunday 22nd September 2019 Sunday 1st December 2019 Cannington Antique and Collectors Fair: Sunday 10th March 2019 Sunday 30th June 2019 Sunday 8th September 2019 Antique and Collectors Fair (Midland): Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th May 2019 Militaria Swapmeet (Cannington): Sunday 7th April 2019 Sunday 16th June 2019 Sunday 17th November 2019 Annual Militaria Fair (Cannington): Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th September 2019 JB Military Antiques Specialist Militaria Auction Sunday 28th April 2019 Sunday 6th October 2019

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



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