

Volume 52 Number 1

March 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



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

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ENGRAVER: ERNEST AUBREY AUSTIN

Walter R Bloom

This article is part of an on-going study of medal and badge makers in Western Australia. While there were several such firms over a period of 150 years, the main two, Cumpston's and Sheridan's, were in fierce competition for more than 70 years, starting in 1916. Richard Stanley Cumpston had in fact commenced a decade earlier, while Charles Sheridan only in 1913. It is remarkable that Ernest Austin would have started as an apprentice with Cumpston, went out on his own, and then was 'rescued' by Sheridan.

Ernest Aubrey Austin was born on 23 June 1890 in Hawthorn, Victoria and died on 13 May 1965 in Heidelberg, Victoria. (<http://mepnab.net.au.net/a/austin.html>). His father was William Drewery Austin (b. 12 Apr 1865, d. 11 May 1942 aged 77 in Victoria), who married the widow Priscilla Lambert *née* Smith c.1888 (she had wed Albert Lambert on 10 October 1885). They went to WA, where Priscilla died in 1908 aged 39, and William wed Eva Henshaw in 1910. The other children from the first marriage were Charles Edward Austin (b 3 October 1892) and Doris Evelyn Austin (b 15 February 1902, wed Arthur Costello), both born in Western Australia.

From c.1906 to 1912, Ernest Aubrey Austin was associated with Cumpston and Mason Engraving Works where he started as a 16 year old apprentice. An advertisement on page 8 of *The West Australian* of October 26, 1905 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25526717>) could have been the position obtained by Ernest Austin.

**BOY, smart, with a taste for drawing, to
learn the engraving. Apply Cumpston and
Mason, 450 Hay-st.**

Austin was married around the end of his employment with Cumpston and Mason.

The website "Australia Marriages, 1810-1980," (database, *FamilySearch*, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XTZD-MRK>) provides us with this information:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Ernest Aubrey Austin</i>
<i>Birth Date</i>	<i>1890</i>
<i>Age</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Spouse's Name</i>	<i>Ethel May Chapman</i>
<i>Spouse's Birth Date</i>	<i>1887</i>
<i>Spouse's Age</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Marriage Date</i>	<i>03 Jul 1912</i>
<i>Marriage Place</i>	<i>Victoria Park, Western Australia, Australia</i>
<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Wm. Drewery</i>
<i>Mother's Name</i>	<i>Priscilla Smith</i>
<i>Spouse's Father's Name</i>	<i>Alf. Warbuton</i>
<i>Spouse's Mother's Name</i>	<i>Kate Mcardle</i>
<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Single</i>
<i>Spouse's Marital Status</i>	<i>Single</i>

It would appear he fell on hard times because of a gambling addiction. The following excerpt from a history of the Sheridan's Engraving Co shows the effort to save Austin from his debts:

'In 1913, Charles Sheridan helped the husband of Jessie's best friend to repay a large gambling debt (Jessie Stott was Charles Sheridan's wife, the best friend Ethyl May Chapman.). His name was Ernest Austin, a jeweller by trade. The repayment of Mr. Austin's debt is locked in Sheridan's history as the start of the Company that still exists today. Rather than give the man any more cash, a small workshop was set up behind the Florence Street residence for Ernest to work off his error in judgement. Before long he was employing additional staff to help Mr Austin fulfil a contract for thousands of hat ventilators (small rivet holes in the felt to stop perspiration by the wearer).'

A notice in the City Edition of the *Perth Truth* of July 12, 1913 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article207420242>) advertised the business.

ENGRAVING

'Mr. Ernest Austin, who for seven years has been associated with Mr. R. S. Cumpston's engraving works, has launched out in business on his own account. He has taken premises at 765 Hay-street (opposite Metters), and is prepared to execute engraving work of every description at the lowest possible prices, and with a guarantee of the best of 'material and workmanship. A specialty is made of memorial brasses.'

Note that Sheridan's opened at 846 Hay St, around 1924. A week later an ~~the~~ advertisement in the same paper featured the name of his new business (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article207420476>).

ATTENTION!
CAST YOUR EYE OVER THIS.
IT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL INTEREST YOU.
AUSTIN'S ENGRAVING WORKS,
765 HAY-STREET, PERTH
(Opposite Metters).

Having had seven years' experience with R. S. Cumpston, Mr.-Ernest Austin is in the favorable position of knowing your requirements. All manner of engraving work executed with despatch, and at the lowest possible price, while at the same time guaranteeing the best of workmanship. Ring Central 2225. We will do the rest.

The Metter's Queen Buildings were at 762 and 764 Hay St.

A subsequent advertisement in the *Truth* of July 26, 1913 listed some of the items that the business manufactured (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article207420532>).

*Burnishing Brands, Steel Punches, Stencils (zinc, copper or brass), Memorial Brasses (a speciality). Raised Letter Plates. Art Hammered Work. Brass Name Plates. Embossing Presses. **Medals** (note: my emphasis). Press Work, Inscription Engraving.*

The first advertisement that didn't mention 765 Hay St (Opposite Metters) was in *The West Australian* of June 1, 1915 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26943917>).

WANTED smart Boy, assist workshop; apply early. Austin Engraving Co., opp. Underwood College.

Underwood Business College moved to 766-770 Hay St at the end of 1914, next door to the Metters Buildings, so presumably Austin had moved as well?



The above appeal medalet, struck in aluminium, was for Western Australia Day (also the first national Australia Day) on 30 July 1915, marked;

-FOR-
THE WOUNDED
SUBIACO 1915.

Subiaco was one of 35 localities in Western Australia that signed up to the State's effort to help sick and wounded soldiers, beginning with the Western Australia Day celebrations. The medalet measures 23.9mm × 22.8mm. Note the signature on the Reverse:

AUSTIN & Co –
PERTH

According to a Perth City Council notice in the 29 September, 1915 issue of *The West Australian* (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28569271>), Austin also won a lucrative contract to supply the Perth City Council with 900 dog registration discs and 900 cart plates for 1915.

'Dog Discs - It is recommended that the tender of the Austin Engraving Company to supply 900 dog discs at 13s. 6d. per 100, and 900 cart plates at 11s. 6d. per 100, be accepted, subject to the approval of the finance committee'.



These were rather crudely engraved compared with the Cumpston's dog registration discs of the same year, also struck in brass.



Austin also won the 1915 cart and dog registration disc contracts for the Woodanilling Road Board (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210383474>). While an example is not yet available, the following is an issued version for a Roads Board Dog License produced by Austin.



Both Austin's Engraving Co and R S Cumpston submitted quotations 'of engraving' to the Wagin Municipal Council (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article203572974>).

And finally, there is reference to Austin winning a contract with the Postal and Telegraph Department for date stamps in conjunction with the Melbourne engraving firm Roessler & Co. This appeared in the Perth *Sunday Times* of July 18, 1915, under the heading P. AND T. DEPARTMENT (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57791934>).

'Postal Tenders Accepted - ...date stamps, Austin Engraving Co., Roessler and Co'.

In view of Austin's enlistment in the AIF on 26 July 1915, this must have been a joint tender? Anyway, it seems that Austin's sole business venture was very short-lived because of his gambling addiction, in fact just two years!

Oct. 1, 1915.]

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, W.A.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership heretofore subsisting between Ernest Aubrey Austin and Charles Sheridan, carrying on business as Engravers at 765 Hay Street, Perth, under the style or firm of "The Austin Engraving Company," has been dissolved as from the 1st day of August, One thousand nine hundred and fifteen, so far as concerns the said Ernest Aubrey Austin, who retires from the said firm. All debts due to and owing by the said firm will be received and paid respectively by Charles Sheridan, who will continue to carry on the said business under the style or firm of "The Austin Engraving Company."

Dated the 22nd day of September, 1915.

ERNEST AUBREY AUSTIN,
CHARLES SHERIDAN.

*Inserted by Penny & Hill, 19 Howard Street, Perth, Solicitors
for Charles Sheridan.*

As detailed in the Dissolution of Partnership, the firm's name continued, see for example on Page 5 of *The West Australian* of 16 March, 1916, (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26974275>). But by this time, Sheridan's Austral Engraving Company had already been established.

Ernest Aubrey Austin of 34 Ruslip St, Leederville enlisted first on 30 April 1915 in Perth. His occupation was shown as *Engraver* (in later records, *Master Engraver*), and his Religion *Church of England*. Austin had previously served 4¼ years in the WA Infantry Regiment E C (Militia) and was discharged on request. He described himself as having served as an apprentice for 5 years for R S Cumpston.

The Attestation Paper is stamped *Unfit*; he had varicocele in the left testicle. He enlisted again successfully (presumably the second medical examination wasn't as thorough) on 26 July 1915 (his address now given as 30 Ruby St, Leederville) as a Private (Service Number: 8557) in the 23rd Depot, and on 1 September as a gunner in the Field Artillery Brigade 6, Brigade Ammunition Column. Austin trained at Blackboy Hill and then transferred to Victoria to complete his training. His wife was to receive at least 80% of his salary.

The Unit embarked on 22 November 1915 from Melbourne, Victoria on board *HMAT A34 Persic*. The Nominal Roll shows Austin as a Corporal in the Australian Flying Corps. He returned to Australia on 6 May 1919 on the P & O ship *RMS Kaiser-i-Hind (Empress of India)* and was discharged on 1 August 1919. Austin was issued with the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, see:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1998537/>
https://honouringanzacs.net.au/search-anzacs.php?anzactype=1&search_text=Melbourne,%20VIC,%20Australia

Ernest Austin returned to Western Australia in June 1919, but left the following month for Melbourne *via* Adelaide. He wrote to his wife saying that he had contracted a venereal disease, which the Court subsequently found unlikely, but nevertheless granted her a divorce even though the separation had been less than the statutory three years. This was reported in the DIVORCE COURT section of *The Daily News* of 7 December, 1921 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article83114729>):

'On the grounds of desertion and misconduct Ethel May Austin obtained a divorce to-day from her husband, Ernest Aubrey Austin, an engraver, supposed to be now residing in Victoria. The parties were married in Victoria Park in 1912'.

The grounds of the divorce appear in some detail in the 17 December, 1921 edition of the *Perth Truth*, under the heading FULL OF REGRETS (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210050440>). From the wife's testimony it appears that Austin obtained employment in Victoria quite quickly, but there is little detail of this readily accessible. There were no children from the marriage.

Austin married Blanche Evelyn Hildebrand in 1923; she died age 68 in 1957 in Heidelberg and he then married Winifred Evelyn Meadows in 1958, who outlived him.

Ernest Aubrey Austin and Walter Moss Sweeney founded Essanay Manufacturing Co Pty Ltd in 1928. This was reported in the Finance, Commerce, Stocks and Shares section of the Melbourne *Herald* on 3 July, 1930 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article242815920>).

'Essanay Manufacturing Co. Pty. Ltd., radio and wireless manufacturers. Registered office, Wells Place, South Melbourne. Capital, £20,000 in £1 shares. Subscribers: Ernest Aubrey Austin and Walter Moss Sweeney'.

The company ended up being taken over by Radio Corp.

Austin visited Perth at the end of 1931 to open up a branch in Perth, and visited again in early 1937, on both occasions described as the Managing Director of the company. In 1947 Ernest Aubrey Austin applied for a Certificate of Incorporation for Metallic Bellows Pty Ltd., as recorded on page 17 of the 25 February, 1947 edition of the Melbourne *Argus* (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22410931>).

It seems that Austin was very entrepreneurial, with his interests extending way past his original trade as a die engraver.

Ernest Aubrey Austin died age 74 on 13 May 1965 in Heidelberg, Victoria.

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

MEDIEVAL FARTHINGS AND THE CONSTANT SHORTAGE OF SMALL CHANGE

Jonathon de Hadleigh

The first round, silver farthings regularly struck were in the reign of king Henry III (1216-1272).



Henry III, round silver farthing (0.26 gm)

Image source: Trustees of the British Museum, item 1870.0402.34

By the time of Edward I (1272-1307) the farthing was well established and seen in circulation, typically weighing 6 ½ grains (0.42 grams) of fine silver (925).



Edward I, round silver farthing (0.37 gm)

Image source: Trustees of the British Museum, item E.2388

The farthing was a very important denomination in everyday commerce. The 13th century “Assize of Bread” set it as the price for a standard loaf. It was the toll for a laden horse crossing Holborn Bridge, the price for a half gallon of best ale, the cost of 2 red herrings or 2 ½ eggs, although of course one would have had to buy 5 eggs for a halfpenny. However, there were not enough of them in the commercial centres of England, the large towns in particular.

In London the shortage of small change was met by the issue of lead tokens. In subsequent centuries these would be joined by tokens of tin, brass and even leather.



A lead token farthing, late 15th century

However, a different solution developed in the north of England where Scots money circulated, particularly in towns like Berwick and Carlisle. After 1355 Scots silver coin was of inferior quality compared with English coin. Up to then the coins passed on a one for one basis, but they began to diverge and by 1373 a proclamation was issued as far south as London that the Scots groat (4 pence) was allowed currency in England for 3 pence sterling. By 1389, Scots coin was so reduced in silver that it passed at only half its nominal value, with a Scots penny circulating at a halfpence sterling and a Scots halfpenny equivalent to a farthing. Scots coin continued to depreciate and by the 16th century Scots billon coins were filling the gap as small change. These may be the “brass” coins referred to in manuscripts of the time.

The Scots also issued a copper coinage long before England did. The copper twopence of James VI (1597 issue) was worth surprisingly little in England, as by then 12 Scots shillings were needed to equal one shilling sterling, so that the Scots twopence was only valued at 1/6 of an English penny.

In the south, the Royal Mint had issued halfpence and farthings of debased silver in 1335, but these had been taken out of circulation in about 1351 and turned into groats, half groats and pennies of a new standard weight. The penny of Edward I had been 22 grains (1.43 grams) and the Edward III penny of 1351 was 20 grains (1.30 grams)

In 1382, the Lord Mayor of London, John Combarton, known as Northampton, had £80 worth of farthings struck at the Royal Mint in the Tower. That amounted to some 76,000 pieces, which would be considered a low mintage today and now these Richard II coins are scarce.

On 10th May bakers, brewers, hosteliers and hucksters were ordered to come to the Guildhall to obtain as many farthings as they needed. From that time no excuse would be would be accepted for not giving change when required. Unfortunately, we have no idea how long the benefit lasted or which of the three types of farthings issued for Richard II were involved.



Richard II silver farthing, 1377-1379

0.29 gm

Image source: Classical Numismatic Group (www.cngcoins.com)

Henry VI (1422-1461 and 1470-1471) ordered that one sixth of coined silver should be as halfpence and farthings. Judging by surviving coins, most of that silver became halfpence and we are told by petitions of 1423 and 1445 that there was still a lack of small change. So, once again, coins were broken and many examples from the period have been recovered from the river Thames. Incidentally, the breaking of coins was still mentioned in the time of Elizabeth, particularly in the West Country.



Henry VI silver farthing, 1430-1431

0.24 gm

Image source: Classical Numismatic Group (www.cngcoins.com)

Scots billon coins circulated mainly in the north of England rather than in London, which was the largest city in Europe at the time, and where most commercial activity occurred. So, it is not strange to hear of cut coins, lead tokens and foreign coins circulating there. All were banned in 1415.

Throughout the medieval period there were constant proclamations against “galley halfpence” (Venetian soldo) as Venetian galleys came to London year after year to trade. The Venetian soldini was still being mentioned and periodically banned up to the time of Henry VIII, as were lead tokens.

In 1423 another form of foreign currency was prohibited, being groat sized (c.22 mm) coins of French or Portuguese origin containing little silver. They were known as “blanks”, and in Europe as “white money”. “Black money” was the predominantly copper billon coinage that soon turned that colour.

Casual finds in London show that these coins were circulating there throughout the 16th century. They are mentioned in Shakespeare and in medieval manuscripts. The only change was their equivalent denomination as inflation affected the various coins of Europe while English money remained more stable. So, a farthing remained silver until the debasements by Henry VIII in the 1530’s.

The last fine silver farthing to be struck was under Edward VI in 1551 as part of his fine coinage, with a portcullis obverse and a cross and pellets on the reverse. These coins are very rare.



Edward VI, silver farthing, 1550-1553

0.19 gm

Image source: Trustees of the British Museum, item GHB.474

Prior to the fine issue was Edward’s third issue of base coinage, starting in 1550. This issue had a halfpenny (obverse rose, reverse shield) which was used as a farthing from that date and on into the reign of Elizabeth I, being officially removed from circulation around the time of Elizabeth’s third issue in 1561, when a three farthing coin was struck to provide change for farthing purchases.

Base metal tokens continued to flourish as small change. Christopher Bumstead wrote in 1559 of:

"... vintners, mercers, chandlers, tipplers and others do coin in their houses several tokens of lead and do cause them to go instead of pence, halfpence and farthings".

In 1599 a Thomas Platter of Basel was in London and wrote of:

"The lead and copper tokens of which four or six went to a halfpenny".

This is one of the only mentions of part farthings.

The year 1574 saw a report from Richard Martin, warden of the Royal Mint, which mentioned the tokens and speaks of coining farthings in base alloy so that a farthing would weigh 6 grains troy (0.39 grams). But the queen would not hear of it. Another proposal was to make farthings in copper:

"They might be faithfully made of one pennyweight the piece" (24 grains or 1.56 grams).

This seems to have been Martin's preferred option, but another option was to coin pledges for halfpence and farthings in copper of 24 grains and 12 grains (0.78 grams) in weight. A proclamation was approved for the latter option but never published.

Patterns for the halfpence were struck in silver and do exist, but no farthings have been found.



Elizabeth I, silver pattern halfpenny, 1601

1.00 gm

Image source: Trustees of the British Museum, item 1844, 0425.2693

The failure of this project might have prompted the Queen to issue a licence to the City of Bristol to coin farthing tokens of copper in 1577. These were square, with a ship obverse and the letters C B (Civitas Bristol) on the reverse.



Bristol copper farthing token, undated

Image source: Rare coins and tokens (<http://rarecoinsandtokens.co.uk>)

These did circulate within the city and for about 10 miles around. They are only occasionally seen in auctions, but the later round Bristol tokens, which are dated, are quite common.

By 1611 Sir Roger Cotton urged James I to:

“... restrain retailers of victuals and small wares from using their own tokens, for in and around London there are above three thousand who, one with another, cast yearly five pounds apiece of leaden tokens, whereof the tenth remaineth not to them at years end, and when they renew their store that amounteth to above 15,000 L” (‘L’ being a symbol for pounds sterling which later became the more familiar £).

This and other complaints led to the King granting a licence to Lord Harrington in 1613 to produce farthing tokens in copper. Later, the licence passed to the Duke of Lennox, and under Charles I to the Duchess of Richmond and lastly to Lord Maltravers. These tokens are plentiful, collectible in their own right, and have their own guide published by Galata Press.

The copper farthing was first issued as a regal coin in 1672 and its story continued until its last issue in 1956. It was destined to remain a copper and later bronze coin, apart from a brief sojourn in tin from 1684 to 1687.

COMMODUS, HERCULES OF THE ROMANS

John McDonald

In AD 161 Faustina Junior, wife of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, bore twin sons named Antoninus and Commodus. The two infants are depicted on the following coin. The reverse legend refers to the 'happy new age' created by the arrival of the two imperial children.



Faustina Junior, Denarius

Rome mint, AD 161. 18 mm, 3.2 gm

Obverse: FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, Diademed, draped bust right.

Reverse: SAECVLI FELICIT, two infants seated on a throne.

Sadly, Antoninus died at the tender age of four, but Commodus lived to become Emperor. It might have been better for the Romans if it had been the other way around.

Commodus ruled jointly with his father Marcus Aurelius from AD 177 until March 180, when Aurelius died. Commodus then ruled alone until New Year's Eve AD 192, at which time he was assassinated.

As his reign progressed, he showed increasing signs of mental instability and megalomania. In his last two years, among other peculiar things, he renamed Rome '*Commodiana*' and adopted a total of twelve personal names so that he could rename all the months of the year after himself. The ancient Roman writer Cassius Dio lists the sequence in order from January to December as:

Amazonius, Invictus, Felix, Pius, Lucius, Aelius, Aurelius, Commodus, Augustus, Hercules, Romanus, and Exsuperatorius.

He also liked to present himself dressed as the god Hercules, erecting numerous statues that showed him wearing a lion-skin headdress and carrying a club, both traditional attributes of that god.



Commodus as Hercules

Image source: Capitoline Museum, Rome

During the last year of his reign he issued coins in gold, silver and bronze on which he declared himself to be the living reincarnation of the god as the 'Hercules of the Romans' (HERCVLI ROMANO). These coins are generally scarce, with the following two examples being typical. They provide clear evidence of the deranged state of mind into which Commodus had descended.



Commodus, Denarius

Rome mint, AD 192. 17 mm, 3.4 gm.

Obverse: L AEL AVREL COMM AVG P FEL, head right wearing lion skin headdress.

Reverse: HERCVLI ROMANO AVG, club between bow & quiver of arrows, all vertical.

The bow, club and quiver of arrows were all traditional attributes of Hercules, particularly the club.



Commodus, Denarius

Rome mint, AD 192. 17 mm, 3.0 gm.

Obverse: L AEL AVREL COMM AVG P FEL, head right wearing lion skin headdress.

Reverse: HER-CVL RO-MAN AV-GV in 3 lines divided by vertical club, all within a wreath.

Eventually, even some of his most intimate associates decided that Commodus could no longer be tolerated and an assassination was planned. Among the plotters were the Praetorian Prefect (head of the Emperor's personal guard), his chamberlain and even his mistress. On the last night of the year, 31 December 192, he was strangled by an athlete who was his personal wrestling partner.



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

COUNTERMARKED PHILIPPINES COINAGE UNDER SPANISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT

Graeme Stephens

The Philippines, like Ceylon, suffered from centuries of colonial domination.

Initially the Spanish colonised the Philippines in 1571 and administered the islands through a Spanish Governor reporting to the Viceroyalty of New Spain in Mexico. This continued until 1821 when administration was transferred directly to Madrid.

At the end of the Spanish American War in 1898, the Philippines became a dependency of the US with a firm timetable to total independence, which was achieved in 1945, immediately after the second world war.

During the Spanish colonial period Spanish home coinage was used. A small output of unique Philippines coinage was minted in Manila, but by and large most of the coinage used was regular Spanish coinage from the Spanish mints in Peru, Bolivia and Mexico.

When Spain lost its South American territories in 1828, and could no longer mint coinage in South America, they decided to continue to use the coinage of the now independent countries of Peru, Bolivia and Mexico by countermarking them in the Philippines, and making them legal tender for their original face value.

This was done on various coin denominations but principally on 8 real pieces. The practice extended from 1832 to 1837, when Spain finally recognised all of its former South American territories as being independent nations, and the practice of countermarking their coins was discontinued.

The countermarks for the period 1832-1834 were F 7 for Ferdinand VII and from 1834-1837 were Y II for Isabella II.

I have a good example of each purchased in Manila.



Ferdinand VII Countermark on Bolivian 8 Reale of 1833



Isabella II Countermark on Worn Peruvian 8 Reale of 1835



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	Invited speaker. Robert Russell: <i>Arthur C Clark [of 2001 Space Odyssey], his shipwreck treasure recovery story and a clump of Australian proclamation rupees found off Sri Lanka.</i> Tender Sale
29 April	Short talks. No-reserve tender Sale
27 May	Invited Speaker. John McDonald: <i>The Rebel British Empire of the 3rd Century, history revealed by coins.</i> Tender Sale
24 June	Invited speaker. Michael Read: <i>A fake or Not.</i> No-reserve tender Sale
29 July	Annual General Meeting. Tender Sale
26 August	Invited speaker. Graeme Stephens: <i>Some medallions from Charles I to Edward VII.</i> No-reserve tender Sale
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

More details of invited speakers and other matters will be provided as they become available.

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 16th May 2020

Saturday 15th August 2020

Saturday 7th November 2020

Saturday 26th December 2020

South West District Coin Club / Bunbury & Districts Stamp Club

Coins, Banknotes, Stamps & Collectables Day:

Saturday 2nd May 2020

Peel Region Numismatic Group / Mandurah Philatelic Society Fair:

Sunday 19th April 2020

Sunday 9th November 2020

Perth Stamp & Coin Show:

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th July 2020

Phoenix Auctions:

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Sunday 14th June 2020

Sunday 20th September 2020

Sunday 6th December 2020

Antique and Collectors Fair, Midland:

Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd May

Militaria Swapmeet (Cannington):






Sunday 5th April 2020

Sunday 21st June 2020

Annual Militaria Fair (Cannington):

Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th September 2020

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



COINS, BANKNOTES, STAMPS & COLLECTABLES DAY

SATURDAY 02 MAY 2020 - 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

SOUTH WEST ITALIAN CLUB

**20 White Street
East Bunbury WA 6230**

Dealers will be selling, buying & appraising your coins, banknotes, stamps & other collectables

ENTRY: Gold Coin Donation
Children under 12 with Adult - FREE

Light Food & Refreshments available



ENQUIRIES: (08) 9726 0665 * 0414 586 102 * 0412 785 992

E-mail: info@southwestdistrictcoinclub.com

Web: www.southwestdistrictcoinclub.com



BUNBURY & DISTRICTS
Australia
STAMP CLUB



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

