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DANCE-HALL FIGURE DIES

Walter R Bloom

This rather dramatic title is taken from page 43 of *The Western Australian* (Monday 19th March 1979) and refers to Edson Richard Banks, a central figure in Perth's entertainment industry. Reproducing the report:

'A prominent figure in Perth's pre-war entertainment world died at his daughter's Darlington home on Saturday. He was Edson R (Ted) Banks (88). Mr Banks was the first manager of the Temple Court, Perth's biggest dance hall in the 1930s. Temple Court is now known as the Embassy. He was associated with a number of dance halls including the Pirate's Den in Hay Street, the Blue Room in William Street and the Carlton lunchtime dancers, where the Capri Cinema is today. He also operated the Silver Dollar during the war years. This dance hall, on the corner of Hay and Milligan Streets, catered for American servicemen stationed in Perth. Mr Banks established Perth's first ice-skating rink in the old Luxor theatre in 1949. This is now the Canterbury Court ballroom. He was also associated with river dances on the SS Emerald, which with the Zephyr was one of Perth's two major pleasure cruises operating to Garden Island and Rottnest before the World War. The SS Emerald was owned by the Tilley brothers, members of the leading Fremantle shipping family. Mr Banks married Miss Belle Tilley, who died 10 years ago. He left three daughters.'



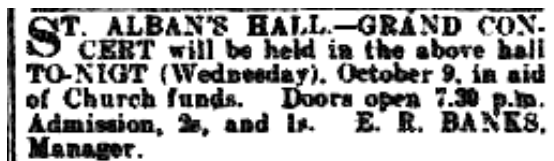
Edson Richard Banks was born in Perth on 20th October 1890 to Annie Ledger and Frederick Banks, and died on 17th March 1979.

Banks first married Ruby Georgina Skinner (1892-1924) on 28th December 1915 at St Albans Church, Highgate Hill, with whom he had two daughters, Thelma Ruby and Edna Dorothy, and then Isabel Tilley (1904-1969) on 29th January 1930 at St Johns Church, Fremantle with whom he had one daughter, Joy Isabel.

The following photograph most likely shows Isabel's parents, at which time Banks was 39.



The enterprise 'ER Banks' first appeared in 1907 in connection with concerts:



Advertising. (1907, October 9). *The West Australian* p. 1.

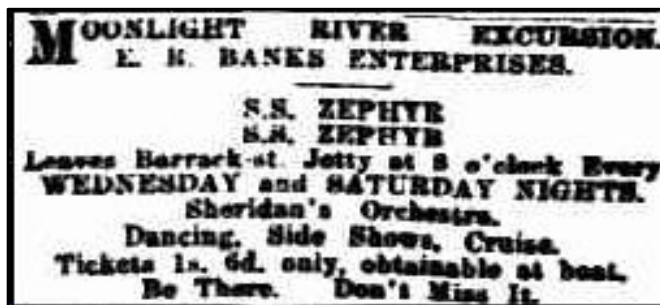
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25714877>

and in connection with fancy dress balls in 1909.

The following medalet was struck by Austral Stamping Company (which became Sheridan's) and refers to Dances and River Cruises. It is 25.7mm in diameter and made of bronze.



'E R Banks Enterprises' first appeared in *Trove* in December 1920 and went through to September 1926. His river cruises were advertised between 1921 and 1922:



Advertising (1921, November 22). *The West Australian*, p. 2.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28008845>.



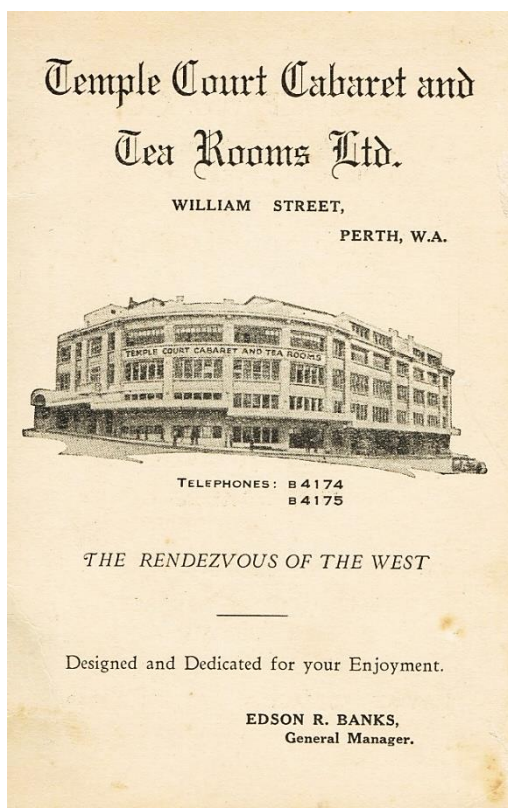
This would date the medalet to 1921.

Note that the music was provided by Sheridan's Orchestra, under the direction of Charles Sheridan who produced the medalet.

The photograph on the left looks to have been taken in 1928, which was about a year before Banks' second marriage.

It was soon after (22nd December 1928) that Banks established the Temple Court Cabaret

The following booklet is held at the Museum of Perth.



Finally, we have that:

‘On 22 September 1949, a prospectus was written to introduce the first ice rink to Western Australia; the first ice skating rink built in Western Australia was the Perth Ice Palais. It was located on Beaufort Street, Northbridge inside the remodeled Tivoli Theatre; the rink was being built by Ice Palais Ltd. and Bruce Carrol was the chairman of directors, who stated that even with the completion date of the rink being weeks away there were already plans by Perth sporting clubs to make ice hockey teams. The rink surface was much smaller than other rinks in Australia at only 29m (95 feet) long and 26m (85 feet)

wide. Though private skating lessons first began at 9:00am 12 December 1949, the rink was officially opened at 8:00pm 14 December 1949 by, then, Perth mayor Mr. J. Totterdell; the first manager of the rink was Edson R. Banks. The first competitive ice sport conducted by the Ice Palais Pty LTD was ice basketball ... The first game of ice basketball in Perth was between two women's teams, the Wildcats and the Bulldogs on 22 May 1950. The men played ice basketball for the first time in the Perth Ice Palais on 13 June 1950 in a game between the Western Dodgers and the Collegians.’

([https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Western Australian Ice Hockey Association#History](https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Western_Australian_Ice_Hockey_Association#History))

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The photographs have been borrowed from *ancestry.com* where family trees for Banks and his two wives can be found.

In 1857 the Islands were declared part of the British Dominions. In 1886 Queen Victoria granted all the islands to George Clunies-Ross (grandson of John Clunies-Ross) and his heirs, with a reservation that the Crown could resume land for public purposes and to conduct cable communications. George was to receive a windfall with the discovery of phosphate on Christmas Island – a mineral resource in huge demand for fertilizer. In 1891 the British Colonial Office conferred joint tenancy of Christmas Island on George and his friend and geologist John Murray, who had initially discovered the phosphate.

In 1888 the revenue from the phosphate enabled George to lay the foundations for a substantial mansion on Home Island. Two shiploads of white enamel-faced bricks were imported from Glasgow and the internal walls were panelled in teak. The building was named Oceania House.



Oceania House in the Early Days

In 1901 a submarine telegraph cable connected Cocos with Britain and Australia and a cable station was established on Direction Island.

It was at the cable station that most widely known event in the history of Cocos took place. This was the defeat of the German cruiser Emden by HMAS Sydney during World War I. On the morning of 9th November, 1914, a party from the raider landed on Direction Island with the object of wrecking the cable and wireless installations. Before the destruction was complete, the Sydney, in response to an SOS sent from the Island, arrived on the scene.

In the engagement that followed, the Emden was set afire and forced to beach on North Keeling Island.

After World War I, copra prices soared and the then current king, John Sidney Clunies-Ross built new houses for all his labourers. John Sidney was unmarried when he took control in 1910 and subsequently formed a relationship with a local girl with whom he had three children.

In 1925, at the age of 56 years, he married Rose Nash, a 22 year-old cashier at his favourite restaurant. In 1928 Rose returned to London to give birth to the son and heir, John Cecil Clunies-Ross.

In 1937, GW Webb, the District Officer, on Christmas Island, reported as follows upon the then conditions on Cocos:

“Ross’ house, stores and office were at the southern end of Home Island. The kampong was to the north of them, with the workshops, boathouse, copra drying and storage sheds on the other side of the kampong from the house. Each family had a small rent-free house standing in its own fenced-in garden of about one eighth acre. Houses and furniture were made by Ross’ carpenters. Drinking and domestic water came from public wells, neither filtered nor boiled, but pleasant enough to taste. Oceania House and the two bungalows near it had a water-borne sewerage system, but this did not extend to the kampong. Calls of nature were answered on the beach by the lagoon or on the ocean side of the island. Lighting was mainly with coconut oil lamps, though a few houses had paraffin oil lamps.

There were two bicycles, but no motor vehicles. At the moorings were 4 motor launches, 3 sailing vessels and 50 or 60 small sailing vessels.

Work was compulsory for all males between the ages of 14 to 60 and unmarried females between 13 and 60. Working hours were 6.30 to 8.00 am, 9am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm, five and one half days a week. Work was allotted according to capacity, younger and weaker islanders being given light work and only the stronger given the heavier tasks. Women were not bound to work after marriage but were allowed to continue to work if they wished.

Woman usually worked at splitting and drying coconuts. Wages varied according to skill from a minimum of three Cocos rupees per week for unskilled labour to 8.4 rupees for headmen and skilled craftsmen. The rupee had an exchange rate of one shilling eight pence sterling.

There was no school. There were 2 public tennis courts and a grass football field. Each ward had its own mosque with its own imam. The imams performed all marriages and taught some islanders to read the Koran in Jawi. All the islanders were Mohammedans but not very strict ones.

At the annual Hari Raya feast, "Tuan" Ross provided the guests with a limited amount of alcohol which they enjoyed contrary to Islamic instruction. The meat for the feast came from a flock of about 150 sheep that Ross managed to establish on Home Island"

Webb also reported that real crime did not exist.

Webb advised; *"From all that I saw and heard, I am quite convinced that the Islanders form a happy and peaceful community, quite contented with their lot; any suggestion of cruelty or exploitation strikes me as ridiculous."*

The importance of the cable station led to enemy attacks on Cocos in World War II. In 1942 shells from a Japanese warship badly damaged the station and subsequently there were intermittent aircraft raids, but no landing was attempted. For most of the war Allied troops were stationed on the islands that were under military administration between 1944 and 1946.

During the latter stages of World War II Cocos became an important air link in the Indian Ocean. It was used by flying boats as a base between Australia and Ceylon after the fall of Singapore and an airstrip was constructed on West Island in 1944. Cocos then became a vital link in the air service between Australia and South Africa. It was the significance of Cocos as an airbase that prompted the Australian Government to effect its transfer to Australian administration in 1955. Cocos remained an important staging point for international flights between Australia and South Africa until 1967, following the introduction of long range jet aircraft.

Until the middle of the 20th Century letters and other written messages were exchanged between the Cocos islanders and passing ships by a method known as "barrel mail" or "tin can mail." The system was introduced in the early 1900s and used primarily by workers tending the cable & wireless station. Sea captains on the way from Britain to Sydney would slow as they passed the station and drop a barrel with mail sealed in a tin can for protection, food and reading material. The workers would paddle out to retrieve it.

In April 1954 Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip visited Cocos and the Queen was honoured by a garden party held in her honour in the grounds of Oceania House on Home Island.

On 23rd November 1955, the islands became a Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia by virtue of an order-in council by the Queen and by a Commonwealth Act.

Conclusion

The Clunies-Ross family ruled Cocos for more than 150 years before a government report in 1972 that is widely believed to have been the beginning of the end of the old colonial way. The Department of Territories report by senior official Alan Kerr found relations between the Cocos Malays and the Clunies-Ross family were becoming a little strained:

“The people I met, especially the staff of (the Clunies-Ross family Home) Oceania House, appeared very servile. I must say that I could not help but liken the situation to what I imagine life would be like for slaves on the estate of a benevolent slave owner in Southern America.”

Ten months later, the report was leaked to the Daily Telegraph in Sydney and the front-page headline, “Life of slavery on island” caused newspaper frenzy with many reporters descending upon Cocos.

In the main the reports were favourable and remarked on John Clunies-Ross’ diffident manner, his public school accent, the knife in his belt and his bare feet. They reported that while Australian currency was used on West Island, the people of Home Island were paid the equivalent of \$3.00 per week. At that time the average weekly wage for males in Australia was \$93.00 per week. The more careful reports mentioned the compensating effects of social welfare, the subsidization of food prices, free housing, full employment, the virtual absence of crime and the fact that the Clunies-Ross estate was running at a loss.

In 1978 the Australian Government under Malcolm Fraser negotiated the purchase of the Islands from John Clunies-Ross for \$6.25 million, with the family retaining Oceania House and five surrounding hectares.

When the Australian Labour Party came to power in 1983, under Bob Hawke, the bureaucrats in Canberra under the leadership of the then Minister for Territories, Tom Uren, determined to remove Clunies-Ross from the islands. Their attempt to compulsorily acquire Oceania House was thwarted by the High Court, however on Clunies-Ross' eventual bankruptcy (caused in part by the Australian Government banning Government agencies from using the Clunies-Ross shipping company to ship cargo to Cocos) the property was purchased by the Australian Government and subsequently on sold.

After his bankruptcy John Cecil Clunies-Ross left Cocos and settled in Perth Western Australia. His son, John George Ross and his family remain on West Island.

On 10th December 1992 the State of Western Australia was authorized by statute to exercise jurisdiction and powers relating to Christmas Island and Cocos-Keeling Islands.

Today although the Cocos Malay people have better education, housing, wages and food, unemployment is very high. Locals suggest that 60-70% of Cocos-Malays are unemployed and are in receipt of welfare payments. There are health issues such as heart disease and obesity. It costs Australia about \$46,000.00 per head to deliver services to Cocos. That includes flying in all necessities, including dentists, opticians and medical specialists.¹ There are questions as to whether such expenditure is viable in the long term. Global warming also causes a threat as the islands are from 1 to 4 meters above sea level, and if sea levels continue to rise, the islands could disappear.

Oceania House is currently on the market for sale and Cocos has been chosen by the Australian government to host a forward operating base for an advanced spy plane.

Banknotes

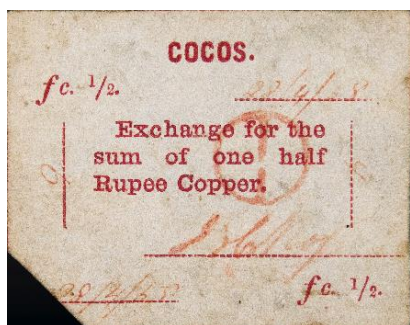
From 1826 until 1858 there were two circulating currencies on Cocos: Indian Rupees and Ceylon Rupees. Later the Clunies-Ross family introduced their own currency for payment for his workers known as Rupee Copper.

John Pettit wrote an excellent article on the history and the various issues of the banknotes of Cocos. I have reproduced his list of the various issues of these banknotes in the annexure.

John's article, written in December 1989 remains the best guide to the series, however please note item 4 of my General Observations regarding the First Three Issues of Notes.

Notes of the First Issue Dated 1858 - 1872

The first of these uniface notes, crudely printed on small, thick pieces of sheepskin, all hand-signed by John George Clunies-Ross ("Ross II") and denominated in rupee copper were issued in 1858. The Standard Catalogue of World Paper money states that the issue did not commence until 1887–1888, whilst the Banknote Book: Keeling–Cocos Islands states the date as 1879. These reference dates are incorrect.



*½ Rupee Note, First Issue,
Dated 28/4/1858*

Image courtesy of Alan McKinnon

The notes were used to pay workers and were only exchangeable at the Clunies-Ross store. Since most trade was done with Batavia, the Cocos Rupee was based on the Dutch Guilder, but also had a fixed sterling value of 1/8 penny.

Why issue sheepskin notes instead of metal coins? Apparently, Ross II refused to issue a metal currency on the grounds that besides not being wanted, it would lead to gambling, immorality and other crime or vice from which Cocos was free.

It is not known whether the sheepskin notes were made in England or on Cocos. I can only assume that they were made on Cocos from the flock of sheep established by Ross II on Home Island.

Notes of the Second Issue Dated 1879 - 1888



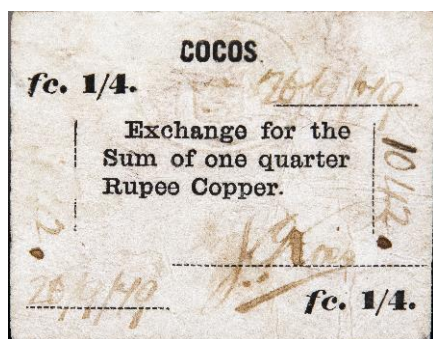
In 1872 Ross II died, with his eldest son George Clunies-Ross ("Ross III") assuming leadership (photograph at left).

He continued the issuance of sheepskin notes, with new series in 1879 and 1888, and a number of transition years in between with various types occurring in the same year.

The Third Issue of Notes Dated 1888

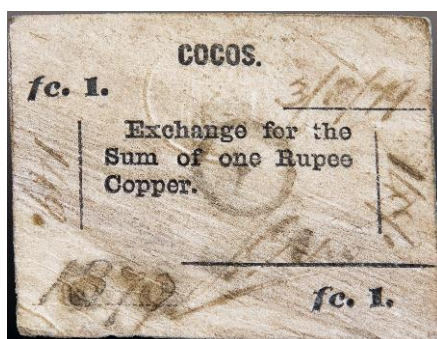
The third issue was slightly larger than the first two issues and has a serif typeface.

Although the stated purpose of the notes “*was to prevent people buying drugs, firearms and other deleterious materials from ships which called at the island*”, they provided substantial commercial advantages for the Clunies-Ross family.



*1/4 Rupee Note, Second Issue,
Dated 26/9/1879*

Image courtesy of Alan McKinnon



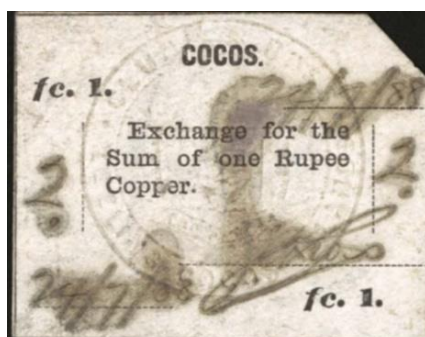
*1 Rupee Note, Second Issue,
Dated 3/10/1879*

Image courtesy of Alan McKinnon



*1/4 Rupee Note, Third Issue,
Dated 17/9/1880
(note serif typeface)*

Image courtesy of Alan McKinnon



*1 Rupee Note, Third Issue,
Dated 24/7/1888,*

Image courtesy of Lyn Knight
Currency Auctions

The sheepskin notes, though durable, were hand signed, dated and numbered, and the ink tended to run. To alleviate problems caused by the tropical climate, some notes were printed in red. Counterfeiting was prevented by hand signing and including serial numbers on the notes.

General Observations Regarding the First Three Issues of Notes

1. All of the notes in the first three series are headed “Cocos” without a coat of arms. Notes in the first series do not have a seal. Notes in the second and third series contain either a small oval or large circular seal.
2. Some of the notes have the denomination printed or hand signed on the reverse.
3. Some of the notes have been clipped to indicate the denomination for the benefit of the illiterate workers (i.e. the 1 rupee once in the right hand corner, the ½ rupee twice in the top right hand corner and the bottom left hand corner and the ¼ rupee on all corners).
4. The signature of Ross II on the first series notes is J.C.Ross. As Ross II died in 1872 you would have expected that the notes of the second, third and fourth series (1879 – 1888) would bear the signature of George Clunies-Ross which is G. Clunies-Ross, yet these notes still bear the signature of J.C.Ross. Perhaps an employee, who mistakenly continued signing using the old signature, signed those notes. If any readers have any other theories or explanations, please contact the writer.



***2 Rupee Note in Red,
Third Issue, Dated 24/7/1888***
Image Spink & Son, London

5. At least two notes in the third series being the ½ rupee dated 24/7/88 and the 2 rupees dated 24/7/88 were printed in red.

6. Most of the notes have ink erosion and stains across the face due to the very humid climate, the absorbent nature of sheepskin and the fact that ink easily runs on that surface.

Notes of the Fourth Issue Dated 1888

These notes, all dated 1888 were larger in size than the three preceding issues (Approx. 75 x 62 mm.) and had two major differences. They were headed “Keeling Cocos Islands” and bore a coat of arms at the top with the motto “Pro Patria” (for my country). The shield in the coat of arms is quartered. Fields 1 and 4 contain a standing bird similar to a duck looking to the right; fields 2 and 3 have a fish. In the centre of the shield the letter “Z” is displayed. The shield is between two palm trees and stands on a piece of soil. There is a crest but it is indecipherable. George Clunies-Ross, had designed the coat of arms for Cocos.²



1/2 Rupee Note, Fourth Issue, Dated 4/8/1888

Image courtesy of Alan McKinnon



1 Rupee Note, Fourth Issue, Dated 1/8/1888

Image courtesy of Spink & Son, London



Complete Set Of Notes, Fourth Issue
Image courtesy of Lyn Knight Currency Auctions

Notes of the Fifth Issue Dated 1897

These notes all dated 1897 were similar in design to the fourth issue, but much smaller (approx. 55 x 45 mm.), were without a seal and were printed for the first time on paper instead of sheepskin. For the first time, the notes were hand signed G. Clunies–Ross (George Clunies–Ross).

*2 Rupee Note, Fifth Issue*

Image courtesy of Alan McKinnon

Notes of the Sixth Issue Dated 1902

The sixth and final issue of notes, all dated 1902, were similar to the fifth issue. They were without a seal and bore the facsimile signature of G. Clunies–Ross.

Both the fifth and sixth issue of notes have “Y/E1823” in the top right-hand corner directly underneath “COCOS” in the coat of arms.

Perhaps these relate to the birth year of John George Clunies-Ross in 1823. If any of our readers has any other plausible explanation I would like to hear from them.

I presume that printers from London produced the notes of the fifth and sixth issues.



Near Complete Set Of Notes, Fifth Issue
Image courtesy of Lyn Knight Currency Auctions



Complete Set Of Notes, Sixth Issue

Image courtesy of Downies Australian Coin Auctions

Collecting the Series

All issued banknotes of the Cocos Keeling are rare. The most frequently encountered are the $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 rupee issues. Higher values are seldom encountered – they would have seen little use with native wages in the 1880's which were fixed at from two to two and one half rupees per week. A quantity of unissued (unnumbered) notes of the 1902 series is on the market and the value is not great.

One question that has puzzled collectors is the meaning of the abbreviation “fc” before the denomination. The correct explanation is that the letter “f” is in fact “r”; hence the initials stand for rupees and cents or rupee copper.

Annexure

Details of the known information regarding the banknotes are listed in the following table. Note that 'PICK' refers to the 1986 edition of *Standard Catalogue of World Paper Money*, by Albert Pick.

1st Issue. 1858-72 small size notes (approx. 55 x 40 mm) printed on sheepskin. Headed "Cocos" without coat of arms. Signed by J.G.C. Ross (John George Clunies-Ross). Without seal.	
PICK	As PS 101, 1/4 Rupee Black known dates; 1869 (unissued)
	As PS 102, 1/2 Rupee, Red; known dates; 28/4/1858, 1869 (latter unissued)
	As PS 103, 1 Rupee
	As PS 104, 2 Rupees
	Not listed, 3 Rupees
	Not listed, 4 Rupees
2nd Issue. 1872-88 Similar to previous issue but signed by G.C. Ross (George Clunies-Ross). With small oval or large circular seal.	
PICK	As PS101, 1/4 Rupee, Black, known dates: 26/9/79-24/7/88
	As PS102, 1/2 Rupee
	As PS103, 1 Rupee, Black, known dates: 3/10/79-24/7/88
	As PS104, 2 Rupees, known dates: 24/7/88
	Not listed, 3 Rupees
	Not listed, 4 Rupees
3rd Issue. Similar to previous issue, but medium size (approx 65 x52 mm) and with serif typeface. Signed by G.C. Ross.	
PICK	As PS101, 1/4 Rupee, Black, known dates: 17/9/80-24/7/88.
	As PS102, 1/2 Rupee, Red, known dates: 24/7/88.
	As PS103, 1 Rupee.
	As PS104, 2 Rupees, Red, known dates: 24/7/88
	Not listed, 3 Rupees
	Not listed, 4 Rupees
4th Issue. 1888. Large size notes (approx. 75 x 62 mm), printed on sheepskin. Headed "KEELING COCOS ISLANDS" with coat of arms. Signed by G.C. Ross.	
PICK	PS 111, 1/4 Rupee, Black known dates: 1/8/88-4/8/88
	PS 112, 1/2 Rupee, known dates: 25/1/88
	PS 113, 1 Rupee, black known dates: 20/1/88-1/8/88
	PS 114, 2 Rupees, known dates: 15/1/88
	PS 115, 3 Rupees, known dates: 10/1/88
	PS 116, 5 Rupees, known dates: 12/1/88-1/8/88
5th Issue. 1897 similar to previous design but smaller format (approx. 55 x 45mm) and printed on paper. Hand signed by G. Clunies-Ross (George Clunies-Ross). Without seal.	
PICK	PS 117, 1/4 Rupee. Black/red , 1897
	PS 118, 1/2 Rupee, Black/red, 1897
	PS 119, 1 Rupee, Black/red, 1897
	PS 120, 2 Rupees, Black/red, 1897
	PS 121, 3 Rupees, Black/red, 1897
	PS 122, 5 Rupees, Black/red, 1897
6th Issue. 1902 Similar to previous issue but with new date, and facsimile signature of G. Clunies-Ross. Without seal.	
PICK	PS 123, 1/10 Rupee, Black/red, 1902
	PS 124, 1/4 Rupee, Black/red, 1902
	PS 125, 1/2 Rupee, Black/red, 1902
	PS 126, 1 Rupee, Black/red, 1902
	PS 127, 2 Rupee, Black/red, 1902
	PS 128, 5 Rupees, Black/red, 1902

Acknowledgements

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End Notes

¹ The Sydney Morning Herald, Traveller, Lost Horizons, March 24, 2014 at page 3 <http://www.smh.com.au/travel/activity/surfing-and-diving/lost-horizons-20120419-1x9hk.html>

² The Clunies – Ross Cocos Chronicle at page 119.

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THE NEGLECTED JETTON

Jonathon de Hadleigh

The jetton, a useful tool of the past, is now sadly neglected by collectors.

When accounting practices changed in the mid 18th century the old jettons used on accounting tables and cloths became redundant. They may have been used as gaming pieces for a short time, but their place was soon taken by specific pieces for that purpose. For example, we often see the guinea design gaming token, among others of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The counting jetton has a long history, going back to the 13th century. Taking a journey backwards through time, the 17th century saw these pieces with a thin brass fabric and a variety of designs, some mimicking coins of the time. In the 15th and 16th centuries the planchets were thicker and sometimes more copper than brass. Generally, jettons of the 16th century bore various allegorical themes, whereas those of the 15th century copied coin designs. The 14th century examples were similar, copying coin designs on thick or thin brass flans and mostly made in two places, France and Germany. The “new” German manufacturers, located mainly at Nurnburg, would eventually take over production and become so successful that they continued to the end of the 19th century.

During the 14th century French jettons had their high point. These jettons were struck in many of the French mints and even used coin dies. The French jetton drove the English production of the 13th century out of business. The English jettons also used coin dies and, at almost the same size as pennies of the time, were required to be pierced at the centre so there was no confusion in the marketplace.



13th – 14th Century English Jettons (obverses)

They were well struck and designed pieces, some even struck especially for aristocratic families, others more “stock” for merchants.

In the 15th century the city of Tournais, in France, produced most jettons, with coin designs that became cruder as time passed.



15th Century Tournais Stock Jettons (obverses)

Then the competition from Nurnburg drove prices down with stock designs that were well struck, but on thinner flans and therefore cheaper. This drove the Tournais jetton out of the market and the French jetton’s history came to an end.



15th Century Tournais (left) & Nurnburg (right) Jettons (obverses)

Throughout time, some silver jettons were struck for presentation or special requests. Several examples survive from the 16th century, and the individual pieces are about the size and weight of a then current sixpence.

Before and after jettons were made, coins were used on accounting tables and these can often be found today. They are invariably worn on one side, the portrait or obverse worn smooth, whereas the reverse shows very slight wear.

The jetton takes its name from the French verb “*jetons*”, to throw, as the pieces were “thrown” or cast onto a table or cloth to compute accounts. This transferred to English as “to jettison”. We also still have the English phrase “to cast the accounts”.

These pieces are all that remain of the accounting practices of centuries past. A common name still in use that links us to this past is “the shop counter”, where at one time one end would be used for accounting. But tabletops were changed or planed smooth for a new use and only a handful of counting cloths now remain in German museums.

Jettons are inexpensive pieces that make an interesting addition to a collection of coins, and have distinct time periods that create natural collecting categories. There are several books on the subject, which is where one can spend big money. But then, all numismatic books are expensive, being so well illustrated. The books are well worth reading and a few hours on the internet would also be worthwhile. Happy studies!

Lastly, the counting cloth was green in colour, which came to be associated with money. Hence green ink was used on banknotes, especially in North America in the 19th century. The ink being created first in Canada and then refined in the USA to deter counterfeiting.



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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.
23 September	Invited speaker. Graeme Stephens: <i>Some medallions from Charles I to Edward VII</i> . Tender sale.
28 October	Invited speaker. Jonathon de Hadleigh: <i>An introduction to mediaeval coins</i> . No-reserve tender Sale.
25 November	Invited speaker. Ed Robinson: <i>Commonwealth medals</i> . Tender Sale

NOTE: Some details may change if there is another COVID19 outbreak. Please monitor the PNS website for further information.

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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

Monday 28th December 2020

Peel Region Numismatic Group / Mandurah Philatelic Society Fair:

Sunday 9th November 2020

Phoenix Auctions:

Sunday 6th December 2020

Cannington Antiques & Collectors Fairs:

Friday 1st January 2021

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

NOTE: The fairs listed 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.



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