

Volume 54 Number 3

August 2022

Perth Numismatic Journal



*Official publication of the
Perth Numismatic Society Inc*
www.pns.org.au

VICE-PATRON

Prof. John Melville-Jones, AM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2021-2022

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Prof. Walter Bloom |
| FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT | Mike Stark |
| SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT | Dick Pot |
| TREASURER | Jonathon de Hadleigh |
| ASSISTANT TREASURER | Sandy Shailes |
| SECRETARY | John McDonald |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | Sandra Vowles |
| MINUTES SECRETARY | Ray Peel |
| FELLOWSHIP OFFICER | Jim Selby |
| EVENTS COORDINATOR | Mike McAndrew |
| ORDINARY MEMBERS | John Godfrey |
| | Miles Goldingham |
| | Alan Peel |
| | Syd Pateman |
| JOURNAL EDITOR | John McDonald |
| JOURNAL SUB-EDITOR | Mike Beech-Jones |

OFFICERS

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| AUDITOR | Vignesh Raj |
| CATERING | Lucie Pot |
| PNS MEDALLION AWARD | |
| COMMITTEE CHAIR | Robin Hughes-d'Aeth |
| 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

TIVOLI RINK – AN EPISODE IN PERTH ROLLER SKATING

Walter R Bloom & Steven Sparkman

Roller-skating traces its origins to Europe from the 1730s to 1740s. Originally skates were used in theatre and musical productions. Wikipedia tells us that; *‘roller skating boomed in popularity from 1880 to 1910; roller skates were mass produced and skating rinks became popular with the general public in Europe, North and South America and Australia.’*

An interesting piece of Westraliana is an admission token for Tivoli Rink, made during the period 1915-1919. The token measures about 25.4 mm, weighs 7.8 gm, and is made of bronze. The reverse is plain apart from a circle of dots near the outer rim.



Admission Token for the Tivoli Rink

AUSTRAL HAY ST PERTH/TIVOLI/(scroll)/RINK

Roller skating was well patronised in Perth in the early 1900s. The Tivoli Rink was a roller skating rink located at 875 Hay Street, Perth, which is now occupied by the Cloisters Car Park, with a Vintage Cellars as well as an assortment of take-away food outlets at street level.

The site was a substantial property which extended from Hay Street through to St Georges Terrace. According to the www.cinematreasures.org website, this Hay Street address was originally the location of another roller skating rink (Star Skating Rink). However, in 1909, a Mr Charles Sudholz spent some £2,000 converting the rink into a four-thousand seat open air picture theatre. The theatre unsuccessfully introduced *auxetophonoscope* – an early attempt at synchronising both sound and image.

By early 1910, and continuing on for several years, the venue was converted back and forth from movie theatre to skating rink. Improvements to the site were made in 1912 when the building had a roof constructed. In 1913 the venue was rebranded Tivoli Theatre until its closure in 1915. In 1916 the Tivoli Rink was opened, and it appears to have remained in operation albeit under different management and ownership regimes until its final closure and company liquidation in 1930.

We can tell from a newspaper advertisement in 1922 that skating at the Tivoli Rink involved three sessions a day. Admission was 1s 1d and there was a *'full orchestra every evening'*. Newspaper stories talk about competition figure skating, fancy dress masquerade carnivals, and competitions from other rinks, all beneath *'hundreds of coloured lights!'*

'Estelle' wrote a column in *The Magpie*, SKATING (1923, May 11) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article256985014>

'Skating is fast becoming the popular Perth amusement, judging from the large crowds of eager people who assembled nightly at the Tivoli.'

The writers haven't yet identified 'Estelle' in this short-lived newspaper.

Post the Tivoli Rink, the site operated as Tivoli Garage, a used car sales business as well as a car park, and the property was finally developed to its existing form in 1971 with the construction of Mt Newman House as well as the Cloisters development.

However, some posts to the 'Lost Perth' facebook group make it clear that conversion to the Tivoli Garage did not spell the end of roller skating at the site.

'Does anyone remember, or have a photo of the Glideaway Roller Skating Rink? It was on the ground floor of the Tivoli Garage and went through from St George's Tce to Hay St. I used to go on Wednesday & Saturdays.'

(Sue Cayton in <https://www.facebook.com/LostPerth/posts/does-anyone-remember-or-have-a-photo-of-the-glideaway-roller-skating-rink-it-was/1328010623936655/>)

I started skating there in 1966 on Saturday afternoons, graduating to Friday nights, Saturday afternoon and night, then Sunday afternoon as well. My first set of skates were strap-on rubber wheeled things that we eventually bolted to football boots. As soon as money allowed, I got a pair of Hamaco skates with wooden wheels. Yes, there was mugs alley, poles in the middle and the shop in the corner. When the Tivoli closed to make way for Mt Newman House we moved to the top floor of the garage on the corner of Wellington and Milligan Streets. I kept skating there until 1972, picked it up again a few years later when the Glideaway had moved to a shabby garage space around the corner on Hay Street with a badly chipped concrete floor. Sadly, by the late 70s early 80s the Glideaway couldn't compete with the higher quality facilities of skating rinks that were cropping up across the city. A long journey from the days of only the Perth, Fremantle and Midland rinks.'

(Graeme Barrett in <https://www.facebook.com/LostPerth/posts/does-anyone-remember-or-have-a-photo-of-the-glideaway-roller-skating-rink-it-was/1328010623936655/>)

Note that in Leonora in 1911, David Barnes opened a Glideaway roller skating rink adjacent to the theatre and skating became a popular pastime in that country town.

(<https://www.leonora.wa.gov.au/mapping/trails/heritage-trail>)

Other Perth Rinks

There was also the Claremont Skating Rink which operated from 27 September 1910 for just over two years, and which is the subject of an article by the first author to be published later this year.

By the time the Star Skating Rink was morphing into the Tivoli Rink there were roller skating rinks in *inter alia* Fremantle and Claremont. Like the Star/Tivoli change from rink (often in winter) to picture theatre (in summer) the rink in Fremantle was also reconfigured.



This celluloid pin-back badge from the 1950s - *Skate for Fun* - was used at a skating rink in the Midland area.

Skating in Perth is still alive and well. A brief check on the web shows a variety of skating codes operating today in the Perth area.

The Sheridan Connection

The Miscellaneous Entertainments in The West Australian (Friday 27 April 1923) (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22636728>) include both the Tivoli Skating Rink and Sheridan's Salon de Danse at the Piccadilly Ballroom.

"Salon de Danse.—Sheridan's "Salon de Danse" cabaret will be opened at the Piccadilly ball room on Monday next, and will continue on Monday, Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the season. Patrons will be obliged to wear evening dress on Monday nights, but it will be optional on other evenings.

Tivoli Skating Rink.—Large attendances have been recorded at the Tivoli skating rink to such a degree that the management is talking of a "boom" in roller-skating. A masquerade carnival will be held at the rink next month.

The opening of Sheridan's *Salon de Danse* on 'Monday next' refers to 30 April 1923.



Advertising or Admission Token for the Piccadilly Palais
JAZZ BAND/PICCADILLY/PALAIS/OPENS/SAT MARCH 10

This is a bracteate token, 24.6 mm in diameter, weight 1.23 gm, made from a very thin magnetic material (steel?).

Note that 10 March fell on a Saturday in 1917, 1923, 1928 and 1934 which, with the above newspaper reference, indicates that the token can be dated to 1923.

It was Charles Sheridan, leader of the Sheridan's Band, who filled the order for the Tivoli Rink admission tokens when his badge and medal firm was known by the name of Austral (1915-1919) (then Sheridan's Austral (1920-192?)) Engraving Company. The early history of Charles Sheridan is quite interesting [1]:

'When Charles Sheridan arrived in Perth from Melbourne by ship in 1901, virtually penniless, he was able to get accommodation with friends from Bendigo. His first job was painting a fence. He knew nothing about painting, but his boss showed him how to mix the paint ingredients and how to use the brushes efficiently. It was his only job as an employee and the work must have been tough because he swore to himself never to work for someone else again. Charles also formed a small Chamber Quartet with fellow musicians from Bendigo. He also began an importing and indenting business. The types of goods he sold in Perth were mostly gentlemen's accessories such as cummerbunds and dickeys, as well as small parts and components for tailors and milliners, such as hat vents. In fact, he did his best to procure those items not readily available in Perth. One item he imported that was fashionable around Europe at the time was stiff collars made out of celluloid. This material was the wonder product of that era - the "plastic" of the turn of the century. Celluloid had other uses as labels for food trays, door signs and other places where metal was too expensive. Although the demand for chamber music was not large, together with his importing business, he had laid the foundation for a career in his new-found city.

By 1906 Charles was well established in Perth. He had transformed his chamber quartet into a dance orchestra (still mostly comprised of his musician friends from Victoria). The band was in high demand at social and formal functions. Charles went on to organise supper dances at the Piccadilly and Ambassador Theatres. In those days, this was a significant form of night-time entertainment. He rented an upstairs office in the Eagle Chambers on Hay Street in Perth's Central Business District from where he ran his importing business, practised with the band, and booked performances. The Charles Sheridan Orchestra made him well known around town and his talents were well appreciated for vice regal occasions.'

His grandson Chas Sheridan, who now runs Sheridan's Badges & Engraving, kindly gave the first-named author the following original obverse die for the Tivoli Rink token.



The die measures 26.0 mm in diameter at the striking surface. The reverse die was for a standard stock pattern.

The word 'Tivoli' has an interesting history, in this context named after the *Jardin de Tivoli* in Paris (which also gave inspiration for the *Tivoli Gardens* in Copenhagen), in turn from Italian Tivoli (a city in Lazio), from the Latin *Tibur*. The Tivoli Gardens are noted as the third-oldest entertainment venue in the world still operating, dating back to 1843.



Tivoli Gardens machine token, 25 øre
TIVOLI/25___25/G.KRABBE NIELSEN

This token is struck in bronze-clad steel, measures about 22.98 mm and weighs 3.29 gm. These also come in nickel-plated steel.

- [1] Walter R Bloom and Alf Campbell, *Dog Registration Discs in Western Australia*, Hesperian Press, 2020.

THE CARTWHEEL COINAGE

Raymond Palermo

At the end of the eighteenth century, the need for an English base metal currency was at breaking point. The problem of an adequate supply of small change to meet the demands of an expanding economy had been recognised since the time of Elizabeth I (1558–1603). This problem was partly solved by the introduction of the privately minted copper ‘Harington’ and ‘Lennox’ farthings in the reign of James I (1603–25), followed by Charles I’s (1645–49) ‘Richmond’, ‘Maltravers’ and ‘Rose’ issues. Further progress was made when Charles II issued a good quality regal copper coinage of halfpennies and farthings from 1672 onwards.

Under Charles II and his successors, James II (1685–88), and William and Mary (1688–94), tin was also used for the base metal coinage, but these coins corroded quickly when the tin and their copper plugs reacted.

For the next century, there was much variation to both the quality and output of the copper coinage. These fluctuations led to widespread counterfeiting. By the mid-eighteenth century, it was estimated that half of the copper coinage in circulation was not genuine. This problem was compounded in the closing years of the century when the Industrial Revolution began gaining momentum, leading to the issue of many privately struck tradesmen’s tokens. These pieces found wide circulation all over Britain. By the 1790’s, the problems of an inadequate regal copper coinage, widespread counterfeiting and a flood of trade tokens were imposing a massive burden on the British monetary system.

One person who was observing this sorry state was the industrialist, Matthew Boulton. From his factory near Birmingham, Boulton manufactured a variety of goods including buckles, buttons, jewellery and high-quality silverware. In 1768, he met the Scottish engineer, James Watt, who had improved the recently developed steam engine. For the next few years, the pair discussed the possibility of pooling their resources and talents. This finally occurred in 1774, following the tragic death of Watt’s wife.



Mathew Boulton

Medal possibly by Dumarest, c.1803

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group

In 1782, Boulton and Watt concluded that steam power could be adapted for striking coins. In 1786, Boulton and Watt, with the aid of the Swiss engraver Jean-Pierre Droz, who was recruited from the Paris Mint, outfitted their factory with steam-operated coin presses. Soon after this, Boulton secured a contract to strike coins in copper for the East India Company. This is how Boulton and Watt's 'Soho Mint' came to be. Before long, their mint was producing high quality coins for Bermuda and France, as well as many trade tokens.



The Soho Mint, c.1803

Matthew Boulton believed that a coin's intrinsic value should match its face value (less production costs) and that the quantity of a coin's issue should match its demand. These beliefs were also held by an eminent previous Master of the Mint, Sir Isaac Newton, who occupied this post from 1700 to 1727. With these beliefs in mind, Boulton made many appeals to the Government in order to secure a contract to mint Britain's copper coinage. An agreement with the Soho Mint was finally signed in July 1797 for the striking of one penny and two penny pieces.

The engraver responsible for the new coins was Conrad Heinrich Kuchler, an artist who had worked in Germany until being employed at the Soho Mint in around 1793. In keeping with Boulton's ideals, the weight of the coins equalled their intrinsic value. Thus, the two penny piece weighed two ounces and the penny half this, as copper was valued at around a penny per ounce. These coins were amongst the heaviest ever issued in Britain. Both denominations have the same designs. The obverse has a laureate portrait of the King, George III in rather shallow relief. The reverse features a restyled Britannia. She sits, facing left, on a rock, with an oval shield embossed with the Union Flag beside her. She is dressed in a flowing gown that clings to her body. For the first time, she is set amongst the waves of the sea. Also, for the first time, she holds a trident rather than a spear. She holds an olive spray as well. In the background, to the left, is a man-o'-war, sailing the high seas.



'Cartwheel' Penny

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group

The word 'SOHO' can be seen in small letters on a rock just below the shield, indicating where the coin was struck. The main legends are inscribed in incuse (sunken) letters on a raised rim. These measures were taken to increase the longevity of the coin as well as make counterfeiting difficult.

The obverse inscription reads, 'GEORGIUS III . D:G . REX.', while the reverse simply reads, 'BRITANNIA.' and has the date, 1797, at the bottom. The raised rims and heavy weights of these coins soon led to their popular nicknames, 'cartwheels'.

There are many interesting small variations to be found on the cartwheel coinage. These include differences to the wreath berries, leaves and hair on the obverse, and changes in the waves, rock, Britannia's drapery and her position relative to the sea. Different patterns of dots are often encountered on the King's drapery; these might have been used to identify the die.

Numerous variations to the ship are also encountered, again probably as a means to die identification. As many as one hundred such variations to the ship might have been used on the penny, but only about eighteen are associated with the twopenny piece. This is probably because the penny was struck in far greater quantities than its larger cousin. Peck (p.217) tells us that the contract of July 1797 provided for 20 tons of two pennies to be struck compared to a massive 480 tons of pennies. At least one further contract for the same quantities was signed and probably carried out in 1798, although all the coins bore the date of the previous year.

The two penny piece was not a universal success in monetary terms and was kept, to a large extent, as a curiosity piece. The public's interest in the twopenny is understandable. It was, after all, the first (and only) time that this denomination was struck in copper. Its sheer weight would also make it rather more attractive to keep rather than to spend, not to mention the potential damage to one's pockets!

The penny, however, saw much wider circulation. Because of this, many cartwheel pennies are found in very worn condition, whereas the two penny pieces are more frequently encountered in higher grades.

Boulton also struck patterns for 'cartwheel' halfpennies and farthings, dated 1797, but these denominations were not issued for circulation.

Copper experienced a sharp rise in price soon after the cartwheel coinage became established, thus making the issue uneconomical. Although the cartwheel two and one pennies were short-lived, the Soho Mint went on to coin (smaller) copper halfpennies and farthings in 1799, and pennies, halfpennies and farthings in 1806–07.

In 1800, the third Governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidley King, authorised Australia's first effective coinage when a variety of English and other world denominations were proclaimed to be used as money in the colonies. These issues included the cartwheel penny piece. Accordingly, 18,000 cartwheels were imported to the colony, with the penny being tariffed at two pence. Although not officially included in King's proclamation, cartwheel two penny pieces valued at four pence, were also circulated. These re-valuations were made to encourage settlers to keep the currency in the settlement. An assignment of copper halfpennies and farthings followed soon afterwards.

The cartwheel coinage of 1797 was important from a monetary viewpoint because it was the first example of a regal copper coinage that was difficult to counterfeit. Artistically, Kuchler's Britannia served as the prototype for the modern Britannia that would grace British coins up to decimalisation and beyond.

References

Peck C.W., *English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958*, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1978.

This is a modified version of an article that first appeared in September 2002 in Coin News, published by Token Publishing. Republished with their kind permission.



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

RELATIONSHIP OF THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE TO NUMISMATICS

Graeme J. Stephens

The order of the Golden Fleece was founded in 1430 in Bruges, in what is now Belgium, by Philip III (Philip the Good) Duke of Burgundy to celebrate his marriage to the Portuguese princess Isabella of Portugal, daughter of King John I of Portugal. It is the oldest of the great orders of chivalry of the Middle Ages.



*Philip the Good
of Burgundy*

It is still in existence today and many of the crowned heads and nobility of Europe are its members. It was instigated by Philip to bind together the prosperous and wealthy Burgundian domains united in his person that ran from Flanders to Switzerland.

Membership was originally limited to 24 knights, but was gradually increased to 51, plus the sovereign. Membership was denied to heretics and was an exclusively Roman Catholic award during the Reformation but this restriction was lifted during the 19th century. Non-royal members were not permitted to join any other order.

The Naming of the Order by Philip

The choice of the Golden Fleece as the title of the order caused some controversy, even at the time. This was because Jason of legendary Golden Fleece fame was, of course, a pagan figure with some human frailties. The Bishop of Chalon, however rescued the orders honour by identifying it with the fleece of Gideon which received the dew of Heaven.

The Split of the Order

With the absorption of the Burgundian lands into the Hapsburg Empire by the marriage of Mary of Burgundy, the last heiress of the title, to Maximillian I in 1477, the sovereignty of the order passed to the Hapsburgs.

The war of the Spanish Succession (1701-1704) then resulted in the division of the order into two separate branches under the patronage of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the Austrian Hapsburgs respectively. The two branches of the order have remained separate and intact since that time with each of the branches having its own sovereign. The current sovereign of the Austrian Order is Archduke Karl Hapsburg-Lothringen while the sovereign of the Spanish order is King Philip VI of Spain.

The order's members have typically been appointed from the ranks of sovereign European princes (sometimes Queens), nobles and political leaders as well as some prominent military leaders such as The Duke of Wellington.



The Duke of Wellington was the first protestant to be awarded the order and since then a number of non-Christian knights have been appointed, including King Bhumidol of Thailand, the Japanese Emperor and King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Queen Elizabeth II is also currently a member.

Duke of Wellington wearing the neckpiece of the Order

The Regalia of the Order

The original regalia of the Order consisted of a golden sheep fleece hanging from an intricate golden chain of intertwined links to represent the letter 'B' for Burgundy separated by links of a fire steel throwing off flames known as a '*pierre a foix*'. Over the centuries this original chain and the hanging fleece icon evolved into many more complex variations.



The principal change to the regalia was the addition of a section between the fleece and the chain with variations of the sovereign's coat of arms on which the order's motto was written, known as the '*briquet*', as well as a larger *pierre a foix* icon between the briquet and the fleece.

Of course, the two separate branches after 1704 produced their own unique versions of this regalia.

In the early 16th Century Charles V decreed that on ordinary occasions the order was to be worn simply with a red ribbon instead of a chain.

Another variation concerns the golden fleece icon itself. Two distinct end-point variations of this icon occur, the first shows the fleece as an apparently live, healthy sheep hanging from a sling, while the second shows a definite fleece (with the head still attached) hanging from the sling. Most examples however lie somewhere between these two extremes.



Variations in the fleece icon

In modern times, except for highly ceremonial occasions, the regalia is worn as a lapel hanging of the briquet, the *pierre a foix* and the fleece only, without the heavy chain or the ribbon as shown below.



A Meeting of the French Chapter in modern times

The Order's Relevance to Numismatics

The relevance of the Order to numismatics is that the Hapsburg Sovereigns and Princes who held the order and issued coinage were so proud of their membership of this prestigious order that many of them were shown on their coins wearing the order around their neck on the obverse, or showing the order by itself on the reverse, or in some cases, both. The following examples of Hapsburg Thalers, in chronological order, have the Golden Fleece prominently displayed. All coin images shown are of coins in my own collection.



Austrian Thaler of Archduke Ferdinand, 1564-1595
Order on the Reverse

Ferdinand was the second son of Holy Roman Emperor (HRE) Ferdinand I and younger brother of HRE Maximilian II, but never became HRE himself. He became Archduke of Tyrol and Further Austria and resided in Vienna.



Austria Hall Mint Thaler of Leopold V, 1632
Order on the Reverse

Nephew of Archduke Ferdinand (previous coin) Leopold V was Archduke of Further Austria, younger brother of HRE Ferdinand II, and Bishop of Passau and Strasbourg.



Austrian Thaler of Archduke Ferdinand Charles, 1654
Order Worn by Ferdinand Charles and on the Reverse

Son of Leopold V (previous coin) and Archduke of Further Austria, Ferdinand Charles loved music and had a most extravagant lifestyle, dying in Innsbruck in 1662 aged only 34 years.



Nurnberg Thaler of Charles VI, 1711
Order Worn by Charles

Third son of Leopold I, he was born in Vienna in 1685 and died in 1740. He was King of Bohemia and of Croatia and was elected as HRE in 1711. He was also an active claimant to the Spanish throne as Charles III. At the time of his death his only surviving children were two daughters, one of which was Maria Theresa of later fame.



Regensburg Thaler of Francis I, 1754
Order Worn by Francis

Francis was born in 1708 and died in 1765. His rise to power and to the office of HRE in 1745 was engineered by his powerful wife, and second cousin, Marie Theresa of Austria, daughter of HRE Charles VI, and Queen of Hungary and Bohemia.

They had sixteen children including Leopold II and Joseph II who both became HRE and Marie Antionette who was guillotined in Paris during the French Revolution.



Thaler of Joseph II of Austrian Netherlands, 1784

Order shown on Reverse without chain

Born in 1741, Joseph was the son of Marie Theresa of Austria, and became HRE in 1765. After her death in 1780 he became sole ruler of the Hapsburg Empire. He employed the young Mozart for a time as court musician in Vienna and those who have seen the film 'Amadeus' would remember him being played by Jeffrey Jones.

Many other Seventeenth and Eighteenth century Hapsburg thalers show the golden fleece icon but it is often very small and difficult to spot. A second detailed examination of some of these thalers sometimes reveals a small, well hidden, golden fleece.



MONEY DOESN'T STINK

John McDonald

The phrase '*money doesn't stink*' is often used to justify profits made from unsavoury or unethical activities. But its origins go back a very long way, at least to Roman times. In late AD 69 a man named Vespasian became emperor of Rome after a year or so of civil war had wreaked havoc on society and on the economy. According to the ancient Roman historian Suetonius:

'... the emptiness alike of the public treasury and the imperial exchequer forced Vespasian into heavy taxation and unethical business dealings; he himself had declared at his accession that 40,000 million sesterces were needed to put the commonwealth on its feet again.'

Forty billion sesterces were an immense sum. Vespasian was probably faced with the task of raising hundreds of billions of dollars in present day terms. So, for several years he had to take extreme measures, including very harsh taxation and debasement of the silver coinage, before gradually winding them back as the financial situation recovered.

As part of his economic recovery programme he introduced some unusual taxes, including a tax on urinals. Apparently, Vespasian's son Titus (the future emperor) found this particular tax distasteful, and Suetonius tells us that:

'Titus complained of the tax which Vespasian had imposed on urinals. Vespasian handed him a coin which had been part of the first day's proceeds: 'Does it smell bad my son?' he asked. 'No father.' 'That's odd: it comes straight from the urinal!''

This was probably the origin of the saying '*money doesn't stink*.'

If a charge was levied on the general public, then presumably the price for using a urinal would not have been high. Perhaps a small copper piece, comparable to the 'spend a penny' price levels of more recent times. But it is far more likely that the tax would have been imposed on those who collected the urine for industrial uses such as tanning leather, or fulling woollen cloth.

If so, the coin involved might have been a silver denarius like this one.



Denarius, Vespasian, AD 73, 19 mm, 3.02 gm

Obverse: IMP CAES VESP AVG CENS. Laureate bust right.

Reverse: PONTIF MAXIM. Vespasian seated on curule chair holding staff and branch.

References

Suetonius. *The Twelve Caesars*. Translated by Robert Graves. Penguin Classics, 1957.

vcoins.com. Vcoins Newsletter, *This Week in History - December 21, 69 AD. Pecunia non-olet.*

**We Buy & Sell Australian Coins & Banknotes
Specialising in Decimal Currency**

Mint and Proof Sets - Uncirculated Coins - Coin Rolls - PCGS Graded Coins - Accessories

info@australianspecialtycoins.com.au
www.australianspecialtycoins.com.au

Scan the QR code to visit our website, subscribe to our newsletter & join our facebook group with over 4,000 members

Australian Specialty Coins

ANDA

CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS FOR 2022

PNS meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except December, at John McGrath Hall, 97 Hensman St, South Perth.

Meeting dates for 2022 are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 31 August | Invited speaker. Tender Sale. |
| 28 September | Topic: New Zealand numismatics. No-reserve Tender Sale. |
| 26 October | Topic: South American numismatics. Donation Sale. |
| 30 November | Topic: African numismatics. Reserve Tender Sale. |

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

IMPERIAL
— **N** —
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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Adult | \$ 25 |
| Pensioner | \$ 20 |
| WA Country | \$ 20 |
| Associate | \$ 10 |
| Junior / Student | \$ 10 |
| Nomination Fee | \$ 10 |
| Fully Paid Life Membership | \$ 400 |

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| John Wheatley | 2004 |
| Prof 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 |
| Prof Walter Bloom | 1988-1991 |
| Jiri Just † | 1991-1994 |
| Colin Meikle | 1994-1997 |
| Haydn Powell † | 1997-2005 |
| Prof Walter Bloom | 2005- |

CALENDAR OF FAIRS

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Medal, Banknote & Stamp Fairs
(South Perth Community Centre):

- Saturday 13th August 2022
- Saturday 5th November 2022
- Tuesday 27th December 2022

Perth Stamp & Coin Show (South Perth Community Centre):

- Friday 30th September – Sunday 2nd October 2022
- Friday 24th – Sunday 26th March 2023

Mandurah Stamp Coin & Banknote Fair (Bortolo Pavilion, Mandurah):

- Sunday 13th November 2022.

Phoenix Auctions (Canning Town Hall, Cannington):

- Sunday 18th September 2022
- Sunday 4th December 2022

Collectibles Society of WA (South Perth Community Centre):

- Saturday 29th – Sunday 30th October 2022

For updates and further details please refer to the Perth Numismatic Society website: <http://www.pns.org.au/events/>



Dr JOHN R. GODFREY
Numismatist

coinausjohn.com

 [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/coinausjohn)

COIN AUS JOHN
Australian Coins & Banknotes

0408 919 072

 johngodfrey@westnet.com.au

 coinausjohn

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

2022 Auctions

**20th February, 26th June
& 13th November**



We are Australia's largest general military auction house, selling medals, badges, edged weapons, uniforms, ordnance, headgear, guns & items of historical significance.

Catalogues will be available 3 weeks before the auction. Please contact us if you would like to consign your items for sale. Please contact us for further details.

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

