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## A TENUOUS NUMISMATIC CONNECTION BETWEEN SUBIACO AND ADELAIDE VIA HAMBURG

Walter R Bloom

The discussion of the position of British Royalty in everyday Australian activities, recently re-emerging with the decision to revamp the Australian \$5 note without Charles' portrait, is not new. In 1906 the Subiaco Municipal Council was faced with the stark choice in naming a new park (SUBIACO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. (1906, July 26). *The West Australian*, p. 9.)

**A New Park.—Cr. Seryante moved that the park bounded by Hamilton-street, Axon-street...Subiaco-road, and Mueller-road should be named Mueller Park. In respect of the same park Cr. White moved that it should be named Prince's Park. It was decided to name the place Mueller Park.**

Mueller Park is a park in Subiaco, Western Australia, situated next to Bob Hawke College, between Perth Modern School and Subiaco Oval. It originally comprised the land area which included Subiaco Oval and in the early 1900s housed tennis, croquet, bowls, cricket and football clubs. The park is named after German-Australian botanist Ferdinand von Mueller who described several hundred species of Australian flora and who participated in and promoted the exploration of Australia in the mid-nineteenth century.

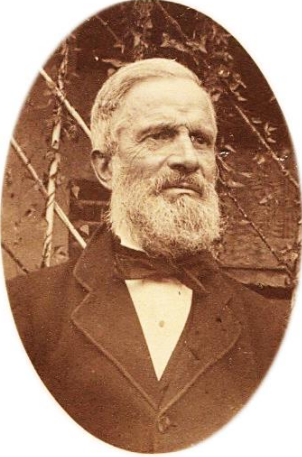
**Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener, KG, KP, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, PC (24 June 1850 – 5 June 1916)**



In December 1916, the park was renamed Kitchener Park in response to war-time sensitivities.

Present day Roberts Road and Winthrop Avenue (Nedlands) were renamed from Mueller Road and Ferdinand Street respectively at the same time. In 1981, the park was renamed back to its original name when the two-tier stand redevelopment of Subiaco Oval was completed. (Wikipedia)

### Heinrich (Henry) Heuzenroeder (1820–1898)



For a numismatic connection we need to switch to the famous South Australian numismatist Heinrich (Henry) Heuzenroeder who was born in Duderstadt, Hannover (then part of Prussia). His home was a five-storey 17<sup>th</sup> century building at Untermarktstrasse 15. His father was a town senator and musician, and his mother was Baroness Teresa von Sothen. Heinrich

Heuzenroeder studied at Göttingen and later in Bremen. In the 1840s, the firm of Heuzenröder & Mayer had their business premises in Bremer Bazaar, St Wilhady Platz.

Heuzenroeder immigrated 15<sup>th</sup> December 1847 on *Hermann Von Beckerath*. He died around November 1898 in Collinswood, South Australia.

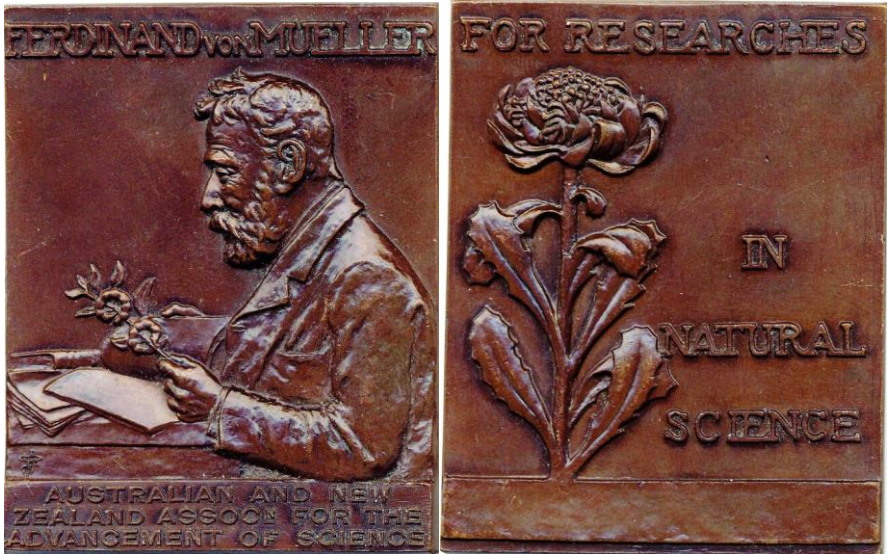


The barque *Hermann von Beckerath*, 580 tons, Captain Kahle, departed Bremen on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1847 with 290 passengers, via Rio de Janeiro and Cape of Good Hope, arriving at Port Adelaide 15<sup>th</sup> December 1847

Ferdinand von Mueller and Heinrich Heuzenroeder appear to have become close friends during the voyage to Australia, a friendship that lasted all of their lives. Shortly after arriving in Adelaide, Heinrich Heuzenroeder and Mueller worked for several years for Heinrich's brother Moritz in his pharmacy in Rundle Street.

Heuzenroeder developed an interest in flora, and over the years supplied Mueller and the South Australian Institute with seeds. In 1852, Heuzenroeder, like many South Australian men, tried his luck on the Victorian goldfields for a brief period. He returned to the Rundle Street shop and purchased it from Moritz, remaining there until he retired.

### **Baron Sir Ferdinand Jakob Heinrich von Mueller (1825–1896)**



A rare plaque of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) shows Ferdinand von Mueller. This piece came from the Amor archives.

Baron Sir Ferdinand Jacob Heinrich von Mueller, was a German-Australian physician, geographer, and most notably, a botanist.

Von Mueller was appointed government botanist for the then colony of Victoria (Australia) by Governor Charles La Trobe in 1853, and later director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. He also founded the National Herbarium of Victoria. Von Mueller named many Australian plants. (Wikipedia)

### **The Heuzenroeder collection**

The largest private coin collection in South Australia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was that of Heinrich Heuzenroeder. In 1887, the bulk of his collection was sold to William Austin Horn, a mining magnate. In 1890, Horn donated the collection to the South Australian Institute. This private collection of some 10,000 pieces represents a third of the present-day South Australian Collection.

### **William Austin Horn (1841–1922)**



Horn was an Australian mining magnate, pastoralist, politician, author, sculptor and philanthropist. Somewhat eccentric, in 1892 he was the donor of a copy of Antonio Canova's Venus, Adelaide's then controversial first public statue, which is still on display on North Terrace, Adelaide.

Horn also built Wairoa, Aldgate, known for its magnificent gardens and captured in a watercolour by William Tibbits. (Wikipedia)

### **Heuzenroeder's correspondence with Berlin**

In 1857, Heuzenroeder described his Adelaide Assay Office Ingot and Adelaide pound:

*'Minting in the more valuable metals took place in Adelaide in 1852. The Government produced ingots in secret which I'll describe ... Because of its high value, this emergency money quickly found its way into the melting pot, and was followed in the same year with a 1 pound gold coin and already a die for the 5 pound piece. These quickly came to an end when their use was sabotaged by the importing of English gold and silver coins.'*



*Adelaide Assay Office Ingot*



*1852 Adelaide pound*

*(Images courtesy of Noble Numismatics)*

This paper formed part of a talk given to the Joint Melbourne Humboldt Kolleg (Australian Association of Humboldt Fellows) / Royal Society of Victoria Symposium held in Melbourne in 2014.

**Bibliography**

Peter Lane (ed. Walter R Bloom), *The Coin Cabinet: a cultural history of the Art Gallery of South Australia’s numismatic collection*, Art gallery of South Australia, 2017. ISBN 978-1-921668-31-9

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## COIN GRADING

**Jonathon de Hadleigh**

For collectors during the Nineteenth century it was not so much the grade of a coin that mattered, but its type. Just to find ‘*a specimen of*’ a certain coinage was enough to place it into one’s collection. As the world changed and travel became easier more coins must have become available, and in the case of British coins, with 1,000 years of material to collect, naturally one would have come across coins in various states of preservation.

*The Coins of Great Britain*, first published in 1883 (although I have a third edition of 1898) makes for an interesting read. I quote a small portion of the introduction:

*‘The late Mr Hawkins (author of Silver Coins of England, 1876) considered it extremely difficult to give an accurate idea of the market value of coins because the value is affected by a variety of circumstances; for example, by the rarity of the piece, the demand for it amongst collectors at the moment when offered for sale, and especially by its state of preservation.’*

Numismatic terms and abbreviations followed, and mentioned *obv*, *rev*, *mm*, *weight* and finally:

*‘NB. When the bust on a coin is stated to be looking to the right or to the left, it is understood that it is looking to the spectator’s right or left, not to the heraldic dexter or sinister. This is mentioned to prevent mistakes, there being no fixed rule.’* So, now you all understand!

There was no further discussion in this book of the condition of a coin other than that quoted above. So then, was it arbitrary and up to the dealer to make a judgement? And how many steps were there between a coin almost as struck and one that had seen a lot of circulation?

This Victorian book gave an insight into each reign numismatically rather than a history of the monarch. I will give one illustration. The section on Elizabeth the First began with:

*'Almost immediately after her accession Elizabeth ordered a gold currency of two standards, viz sovereigns, angels and half angels of the old standard (23 carats 3 ½ grains fine to ½ grain alloy) ....'*

There followed a listing of the coins themselves in a prose-like paragraph form. A shilling was priced at 2s 6d to 5s, one 'extra fine' £1 13s. Milled 7s 6d to 15s, 'extra fine' £1, £2 6s and 'finest known' £10 5s and £15 10s. The values were from auction prices realised at the time. The terms 'extra fine' and 'finest known' are known to us today. The prices quoted indicated that the 'finest known' examples were out of reach for the average person, as they still are today. The price of 2s 6d for an Elizabeth the First shilling, when the average labourer's wage was 5s a week, seems similar to the price of \$200 to \$500 seen on eBay today.

I have a *Seabys Standard Catalogue of British Coins, parts 1 and 2*, 14<sup>th</sup> edition, 1975. In it we find on page 4, clearly defined:

*'Condition of a Coin.*

- FDC Fleur de coin. Mint state, unused, flawless, without any weaknesses, scratches or marks.*
- UNC Uncirculated. A coin in mint condition as issued by the Royal Mint, but, owing to modern mass production methods of manufacturing, not necessarily perfect.*
- EF Extremely fine. A coin that shows little sign of having been in circulation, but which may exhibit slight surface marks on very close inspection.*
- VF Very fine. Only slight traces of wear on the raised surfaces; a coin that has had only slight circulation.*
- F Fine. Considerable signs of wear on the raised surfaces, or design weak through faulty striking.*
- Fair A coin that is worn, but which has the inscriptions and main features of the design still distinguishable, or a piece that is very weakly struck.*
- Poor A very worn coin, of no value as a collector's piece, unless extremely rare.*

This was the grading system I entered the hobby with. However, I soon started collecting American coins and encountered *The Red Book*.

My original 1975 copy was lost when I came to Australia, but I now have a 1984 edition. It has a grading system, that starts with 'proof'. In the UK, Seabys mentioned proof but in the section '*Some Numismatic Terms*' explained that:

*'Proof. Specially struck coin from new dies with a mirror-like or matte surface (in this country. "proof" is not a term used to describe the state of preservation).'*

The US catalogue (sorry - 'catalog'), under '*Condition of Coins; Essential Elements of the ANA Grading System*', set out:

*Proof. A specially made coin distinguished by sharpness of detail and usually with a brilliant mirror-like surface. Proof refers to the method of manufacture and is not a condition, but normally the term implies perfect mint state unless otherwise noted and graded as below.*

*Mint State. The terms mint state (MS) and uncirculated (UNC) are interchangeably used to describe coins showing no trace of wear. Such coins may vary to some degree because of blemishes, toning or slight imperfections as described in the following subdivisions.*

*Perfect Uncirculated (MS70). Perfect new condition showing no trace of wear. The finest quality possible, with no evidence of scratches, handling or contact with other coins. Very few regular issue coins are ever found in this condition.*

*Choice Uncirculated (MS65). An above average uncirculated coin which may be brilliant or lightly toned and has very few contact marks on the surface or rim. MS 67 or MS 63 indicate a slightly higher or lower grade of preservation.*

*Choice about Uncirculated (AU55) ....*

*About Uncirculated (AU50) ....*

*Choice Extremely Fine (EF45) ....*

*Extremely Fine (EF40) ....*

*Choice Very Fine (VF30) ....*

*Very Fine (VF20) ....*

*Fine (F12) ....*

*Very Good (VG8) ....*

*Good (G4) ....*

*About Good (AG3) ....*

Needless to say, I didn't need to write out all the descriptions for you in full. However, I will say that my 1975 Red Book did not have so many grades and no numbers. UNC, EF, VF, F, VG, G and AG were all I had to go on when I started an American coin collection. The numbers in the later American Numismatic Association system are those of the Sheldon scale, named after Dr William H Sheldon, who in 1949 devised a 0-70 numeric scale of coin grades. Well intentioned, and originally consisting of:

1=basal state, 2=fair, 3=very fair, 4-5-6=good, 7-8-9=very good, 12-15=fine, 20-30=very fine, 40=extremely fine, 50=about uncirculated, 60-70=mint state.

From the 1970's an adapted version, as shown in the ANA system above, was used for US coins.

It makes you wonder who this scale was devised for. Was it for collectors? Was it to try to standardise dealers? Or, was it an academic exercise to standardise grading within the American Numismatic Association? Whatever it was, it joins all the other grading systems in being characterised by two words; arbitrary and ambiguous.

Later, I also turned to Canadian coins, where I encountered the *Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins, Tokens and Paper Money*. Descriptions of coin grading occur throughout the book, describing the wear on the effigy of each monarch. However, the terminology was similar to that used in the United States, with BU, UNC, EF, VF, F, VG and G.

Then I came to Australia and was soon introduced to the new, emerging, numbering system from the US. But, could Australian coins be graded with a sideways look and a combination of the British and Canadian systems? Well, No! Suddenly I was engulfed by: How many pearls? Eight, six, four? And then there's that centre diamond! If it all sounds confusing, but strangely familiar, I am not surprised.

Now the world has moved towards a simple system like the ANA one, with intermediate grade numbers. So, the earlier British system had to find things like a plus symbol (eg 'VF+') or an 'about / almost' (eg 'aEF'). These intermediate categories like 'plus' or 'almost' persist in the marketplace because they are so useful.

The standard catalogue for English coins became *Coins of England*, published by Spink. It is lucky that both Seaby and Spink begin with 'S', as the old Seaby numbers simply became Spink numbers. Hammered coinage is graded fine, very fine or extremely fine, whereas milled coinage retains the old system, with Proof now listed as a grade, Fleur-de-coin (generally applied to proofs), then uncirculated, extremely fine, very fine, fine, fair and poor.

With some collectors confused and investors just plain unsure what was best to invest in, enter the independent coin grading companies ('*We will take the worry out of grading so you can buy with confidence*'). As they took hold, mints around the world issued new proof sets each year and went on marketing drives to provide collectors with what they wanted; a collectable investment for the future of guaranteed grade. Safe and confident, you could acquire the best grade of coin.

If one has a Victorian shilling or crown for sale it might be graded VF or possibly VF+, but when it goes on sale in a dealer's tray it becomes almost EF because it sells better that way, which is only human and logical. The grading companies claim that you can have confidence in the grade that you are buying, which attracts a premium. But coins have been sent to them more than once and come back with a higher grade, so it really does rely on the human element looking at the coin.

The internet has brought the world of numismatics much closer together. Now one can buy and sell on Ebay. Both reputable dealers and part timers can deal to a world market of collectors. When searching for a particular coin one may encounter grading systems from foreign countries. Some of these are summarised in Table 1. Although there is some controversy here regarding the translations and just how they relate to the Sheldon scale numbers.

To finish, nearly twenty years ago, in the *US Coinage* magazine, I saw a dealer selling proof quality coins to collector investors. The marketing was brilliant. He claimed to have found or sorted out the best. He called these '*cameo proof*' coins, possibly from the first eight to ten strikes. Only those first few strikes could be classed as '*cameo proofs*'. I had no idea I could get a coin better than proof! Perhaps it is possible to get a '*proof MS70*', but I cannot wait to see the number 75 appear on a slab!

**Table 1:**  
**Approximate Relationships Between Some International Coin Grading Categories**

AUSTRALIA	Good	Very Good	Fine	Very Fine	Extremely Fine	About Uncirculated	Uncirculated	Brilliant Uncirculated
<i>Approximate Design Remaining</i>	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%	95% + Some Lustre	99-100% + Lustre	99-100% + Full Lustre
Approximate Sheldon Scale	≈4	≈8	≈12	≈20	≈40	≈50	≈55-60	≈63-65
America	G	VG	F	VF	EF	AU	MS	MS
U.K.	G	VG	F	VF	EF	EF/UNC	UNC	UNC
France	TBC (Tres Bien Conservée)	B (Beau)	TB (Tres Beau)	TTB (Tres Tres Beau)	SUP (Superbe)	<i>Not Used</i>	SPL (Splendide)	FDC (Fleur de Coin)
Germany	GE (VI) (Gering Enthalten)	SGE (V) (Sehr Gut Enthalten)	S (IV) (Schön)	SS (III) (Sehr Schön)	VZ(II) (Vorzüglich)	<i>Not Used</i>	STGL (I) (Stempelglanz)	PP (Polierte Platte)
Spain	RC	BC	BC+	MBC	EBC	<i>Not Used</i>	SC	FDC
Italy	M	B (Bello)	MB (Molto Bello)	BB (Bellissimo)	SPL (Splendido)	<i>Not Used</i>	SPL/FDC	FDC (Fior di Conio)
Netherlands	G	Z.g. (Zeer Goed)	Fr. (Fraai)	Z.f. (Zeer Fraai)	Pr. (Prachtig)	<i>Not Used</i>	FDC (Fleur de Coin)	FDC+ (Fleur de Coin +)

*Note: Due to space limitations, 'Proof' and most intermediate grade categories have been omitted from this table.*

## ORLO-SMITH & CO

### John McDonald

I saw my first Roman coin when I was a schoolboy in regional Victoria, and I immediately became intrigued by those pieces of ancient history you can hold in your hand.

Then, in the late 1950's I regularly visited grandparents who lived on the roof of a ten-story office building in Collins Street, right in the centre of Melbourne. As I roamed the city centre I discovered a tiny shop on the street level of the T & G building, a few blocks further up Collins Street, that sold stamps and coins. It was the shop of Orlo-Smith & Co.

My limited amounts of pocket money were just enough to let me occasionally rummage through their 'junk' box for cheap ancient coins like this one.



*Centenionalis, Constantine the Great, AD 324-325  
Purchased from Orlo-Smith & Co, c. 1958-59*

Recently, quite by chance, when roaming the internet, I came across a copper medal awarded to an S. Orlo-Smith at the Fourth Australian & New Zealand Philatelic Congress in 1928. The Museum Victoria description included the statement that it was:

*'... won by S. Orlo Smith who later ran a stamp dealership in Collins Street.'*

This was obviously the Orlo-Smith who had established the shop where I purchased some coins over 60 years ago, and it prompted me to find out a little more about him.



***Medal - Fourth Australian & New Zealand Philatelic Congress Prize,  
Australia, 1928, 38 mm, 28.63 gm***

*Image source: Museum Victoria*

Stephen Orlo-Smith (apparently known to some people as Stanley or Stan) was a very prominent philatelist and stamp dealer in Melbourne. He seems to have been born in London in about 1880 and arrived in Melbourne in 1907 where he soon established a dealership under the business name of Orlo-Smith & Co, which began operating in 1910 from premises in Collins Street, although not at the address where I later found them.

Initially, he was in partnership with a Paul Weisz, but it seems that the partners fell out and the arrangement was legally dissolved at the beginning of 1922, after which Orlo-Smith became the sole proprietor. Apparently, Weisz was a shady character because in 1923 it was reported that he had:

*'... left Australia with a large quantity of stamps and that his name had been expunged from membership of the Philatelic Society, and that other societies had been warned about him.'*

(The Argus (Melbourne, Vic.), Friday 27 July 1923, page 7)

In 1923, Orlo-Smith himself came under a cloud when he was charged with fraud. He was accused of applying previously used and doctored duty stamps to some legal documents, but was acquitted.



Orlo-Smith was very active in philatelic circles and at some time prior to 1921 he was president of the Philatelic Society of Victoria. He was particularly well known for publishing the *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*, from 1926 onwards.

In 1930 he negotiated the sale to King George V of the Purves collection of Australian Commonwealth stamps, reputedly the best of its type in the world at the time.

Orlo-Smith operated from a number of different premises in the city centre of Melbourne until his death in 1946.



(The Age (Melbourne, Vic.), 21 March 1946, Page 4)

Orlo-Smith & Co, continued to operate after the death of its founder but it did not move to the premises where I found it, at 149 Collins Street, until the mid 1950's. That also seems to have been the time when it first began to deal in coins. Prior to then, its advertising only mentioned stamps and it seems that S. Orlo-Smith himself had remained dedicated solely to stamp dealing for his whole life.





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The Reserve Bank of Australia provides the following information about what constitutes 'legal tender' in Australia.

*Australian banknotes are a legal tender throughout Australia (this is provided in section 36(1) of the Reserve Bank Act (1959).*

*A payment of coins is a legal tender throughout Australia if it is made in Australian coins, but this is subject to some restrictions about how much can be paid in coin. According to the Currency Act 1965 (section 16) coins are legal tender for payment of amounts which are limited as follows:*

- *not exceeding 20c if 1c and/or 2c coins are offered (these coins have been withdrawn from circulation, but are still legal tender);*
- *not exceeding \$5 if any combination of 5c, 10c, 20c and 50c coins are offered; and*
- *not exceeding 10 times the face value of the coin if \$1 or \$2 coins are offered.*

*For example, if someone wants to pay a merchant with five cent coins, they can only pay up to \$5 worth of five cent coins and any more than that will not be considered legal tender.*

## CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS

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 2023 are as follows:

- 29 March            Topic: Coin grading. Tender sale.
- 26 April            Topic: Banknote grading, Tender sale.
- 31 May             Topic: Historical medal grading, Tender sale.
- 28 June            Topic: Numismatic items with unusual denominations.  
Quiz: \$1 entrance, half money collected to winner, half to PNS. Tender sale.
- 26 July            Annual General Meeting, Topic: Famous people on numismatic items. Tender sale.
- 30 August          Topic: Numismatic errors and forgeries. Tender sale.
- 27 September     Topic: English numismatics. Tender sale.
- 25 October        Topic: Irish numismatics. Donation sale.
- 29 November      Topic: Scottish numismatics. Tender sale

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

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Rowley Butters	2022
Sandra Vowles	2022

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Haydn Powell †	1978-1988
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Prof Walter Bloom	2005-



## CALENDAR OF FAIRS

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

- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Phoenix Auctions (Canning Town Hall, Cannington):

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Collectibles Society of WA (South Perth Community Centre):

- To be advised

Militaria Swap Meet (Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds):

- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Perth Money Expo (South Perth Community Centre):

- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Annual Historic Arms & Militaria Fair (Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds):

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

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