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NEW ZEALAND'S 1935 WAITANGI CROWN CAPTURES A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN HISTORY

Andrew Crellin

The New Zealand 1935 Proof Crown, often referred to as the 'Waitangi Crown', holds a unique place in numismatic history. This rare and sought-after coin commemorates the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, a landmark document that shaped the course of New Zealand's history. Struck in silver and with a limited mintage of just 1,128, the Waitangi Crown is a prized possession for collectors and acts as a fascinating window into the country's past.

In this article, we'll delve into the historical context surrounding the coin's creation, explore its design and specifications, and discuss its rarity, value and appeal to both coin enthusiasts and history buffs.

A Pact Forged in 1840: The Treaty of Waitangi and its Enduring Legacy



The Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, February 6th, 1840.

Marcus King, 1938.

Image Source: Ref: G-821-2 Alexander Turnbull Library.

The New Zealand 1935 Proof Crown commemorates not just any historical event, but a pivotal moment in the nation's foundation – the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. This treaty, signed on February 6th, 1840, between representatives of the British Crown and over 500 Māori chiefs, established a unique relationship between the indigenous Māori people and the British settlers.

The treaty aimed to ensure British sovereignty over New Zealand while guaranteeing Māori ownership and control over their lands, forests, and other possessions. In return, Māori were granted the rights and privileges of British subjects. However, differing interpretations of the treaty's Māori and English versions, particularly regarding sovereignty and land rights, have led to ongoing debate and efforts towards reconciliation.

What sets the Treaty of Waitangi apart from agreements in other colonised regions is its explicit recognition of indigenous rights and sovereignty. Unlike many instances where colonisation led to the dispossession and marginalisation of indigenous populations, the Treaty of Waitangi sought to establish a partnership between Māori and the British Crown. While the reality of its implementation has been complex and fraught with challenges, the treaty remains a foundational document in New Zealand's history and a symbol of the ongoing dialogue between Māori and the Crown.

The 1935 Proof Crown, struck to commemorate the 95th anniversary of this significant treaty, serves as a tangible reminder of this historic agreement and its enduring impact on New Zealand society. It symbolises the nation's commitment to acknowledging its past and working towards a future built on mutual respect and understanding.

A Closer Look: Design and Specifications of the 1935 Proof Crown

The 1935 Proof Crown Waitangi has a diameter of 39mm and was struck in silver of 50.00% purity.

Its design, steeped in symbolism and historical significance, resulted from a collaborative (and contentious) process involving several artists and numismatic experts.

Obverse Design

The obverse of the coin features the effigy of King George V, who reigned over the British Empire and its Dominions, including New Zealand, from 1910 until his death in 1936. The inscription surrounding the portrait reads 'GEORGE V KING EMPEROR'.

Reverse Design

The design of the 1935 Proof Waitangi Crown's reverse evolved before arriving at the final version we know today.

Initially, the New Zealand authorities, including the coin's advocate Allan Sutherland, favoured a design by James Berry that depicted a group of Māori chiefs signing the treaty. However, this design was deemed too intricate for a coin by the Royal Mint's Standing Committee.

The Committee then suggested a simplified design featuring just two figures: Lieutenant-Governor Hobson and Māori chief Tāmāti Wāka Nene.

Artist Percy Metcalfe was brought in, and he created a model inspired by Art Deco and Egyptian Revival styles. This design underwent several revisions based on feedback from New Zealand officials, including then Minister of Finance Gordon Coates, who critiqued everything from the position of Hobson's leg to the size of Nene's hands and the accuracy of his cloak.



*New Zealand 1935 Waitangi
Crown - Obverse*



*New Zealand 1935 Waitangi
Crown - Reverse*

Metcalf adjusted the design, removing Nene's cloak in one iteration and modifying the figures' stances and proportions. The size of the crown motif above them was also a point of contention. Ultimately, after numerous back-and-forths and at least four different iterations, the final design was approved, though Metcalfe himself was reportedly not completely satisfied with the outcome.

One of the two known specimens of the rejected pattern coin is on permanent display at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand in Wellington. The other example is in private hands, if I recall correctly. It was first offered for sale via Noble Numismatics in November 1994, when it had an estimate of A\$40,000 - more than a Very Fine Holey Dollar that was in the same sale. I understand it was lost in transit when shipped to the (Japanese) buyer after the sale. Only in researching this article did I see that this pattern was more recently offered for sale via Heritage Auctions in March 2021 for a hammer price of US\$72,000. Presumably someone found it after all!

The final version of the reverse depicts the historic handshake between Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson, representing the British Crown, and Tāmāti Wāka Nene, a prominent Māori chief of the Ngāpuhi iwi (tribe). This handshake symbolises the agreement reached at Waitangi in 1840. Above the figures, a crown is positioned between the two heads, signifying the newly established British sovereignty over New Zealand. The inscription surrounding the men reads 'NEW ZEALAND CROWN + 1935' with 'WAITANGI' prominently displayed in the exergue, a recessed area at the base of the coin's design.

Designers

The initial designs for the coin were created by James Berry, a renowned New Zealand commercial artist who also designed stamps and medals. However, the final design was executed by Percy Metcalfe, a prominent British medallist and coin designer. Metcalfe's design, with its Art Deco influences, captures the solemnity and significance of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Proof vs. Circulation Strikes

The 1935 Crown Waitangi was struck in two versions: proof and circulation. The proof coins were produced using specially prepared dies and planchets, which resulted in a mirror-like finish and exceptionally sharp details.

In contrast, the Uncirculated strikes exhibit a finish similar to coins struck for circulation.

Mintage Figures

The mintage of the 1935 Proof Crown Waitangi was remarkably low, with only 1,128 coins produced. Arriving at a precise mintage figure for both types (proof and ‘ordinary’) is vexing, as different terms are used throughout the numismatic discussion of the coin - the terms ‘specimen’ and ‘proof’ are used interchangeably, while ‘Uncirculated’ coins are referred to as ‘ordinary’. To complicate matters further, this coin was issued singly as well as in sets.

The accepted breakdown of the mintage by strike is 660 for the Uncirculated version and 468 for the proof.

Working back from the known total of 1,128 coins, the table below shows a breakdown by type and date. This breakdown has been compiled from mintage figures supplied by Martin Purdy of Upper Hutt, New Zealand, based on research by Dr Michael Humble published in the New Zealand Numismatic Journal, Number 70, 1992.

1935 Waitangi Crown order and despatch dates and quantities

Order Date	April 1935	October 1935	December 1935	February 1936	Total
Proof sets (box)	250			19	269
Proof sets (leather case)	95				95
Loose proofs				104	104
Uncirculated coins	600	10	50		660
Totals	945	10	50	123	1128

Delivery Date	November 1935	November 1935	After Dec. 1935	March 1936	Total
Proof sets (box)	145	105		19	269
Proof sets (leather case)		95			95
Loose proofs				104	104
Uncirculated coins	30	580	50		660
Totals	175	780	50	123	1128

Rarity and Value

The 1935 Proof Crown Waitangi is considered a rare coin due to its limited mintage and low survival rate. As mentioned earlier, only 1,128 coins were struck and many would have been lost, damaged or melted down over time. The coin's rarity is a significant factor driving its value among collectors.

Professional coin grading is essential for determining the value of a 1935 Proof Waitangi Crown. Independent grading services, such as PCGS and NGC, assess the condition of coins and assign them a numerical grade, which reflects their quality and preservation. Higher-graded coins command higher prices in the market. PCGS has graded just 20 Uncirculated examples and 110 proof examples.

The value of a 1935 Proof Waitangi Crown can vary significantly depending on its condition or grade. Coins in excellent condition, with minimal signs of wear or damage, can fetch prices well into many thousands of dollars. Notable auction records for this coin demonstrate its potential as a valuable investment.

Conclusion

The New Zealand 1935 Proof Crown Waitangi is a numismatic treasure that expresses a pivotal moment in New Zealand's history. Its rarity, historical significance and aesthetic appeal make it a prized possession for collectors and a fascinating object for history enthusiasts. Whether as a connection to the Treaty of Waitangi or its status as a rare and valuable coin, the 1935 Proof Waitangi Crown is a testament to New Zealand's rich numismatic heritage.

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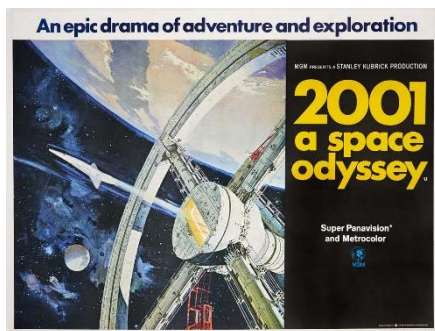
SCIENCE FICTION AND RUPEES

Robert Russell

A few years ago my wife and I were on a trip to Sri Lanka and of course I went for a look around the antique shops, chasing coins or any interesting odds and ends. I didn't find anything in the shops, but I mentioned that I was interested in coins. Later, we were having a look around the old port when a man came over with some coins, he was probably contacted by an antique shop. I looked through them and most were copies except for a clump of Indian Presidency silver rupees (Australian proclamation coins). After negotiations I bought them and started a journey of research which led me to the famous science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke and the discovery of a shipwreck.



Clarke was probably most famous for writing the book and then the screenplay for the Stanley Kubrick film *2001: A Space Odyssey*.



But as well as being a very successful author of science fiction Clarke was a keen scuba diver who moved to Sri Lanka in 1956 in order to pursue that interest. He lived there for over 50 years until his death in 2008.

In 1961, he was one of a group of divers who discovered the wreck of a Muslim trading ship that had sunk in 1703 with a cargo that included thousands of silver Rupees minted by Shah Aurangzeb, the last great Mughal Emperor of India, who ruled from 1658 to 1707.

The wreck was located on the Great Basses Reef which is exposed to rough seas, making diving difficult and only possible in favourable conditions, so it took about 2 years to recover most of the coins and other artifacts. Ultimately, well over 5,000 coins were retrieved as single pieces or in clumps weighing 25 to 30 pounds each.

I am sure that my coins came from that wreck, possibly through the hands of Arthur C Clarke himself.



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FIRST AND LAST COINAGE

Jonathon de Hadleigh

1909 can be seen as the last year of British coinage use in Australia as 1910 saw the introduction of Australia's first domestic coinage. However, British coinage did not just stop circulating. At first the new Australian and old British sterling coins were valued at par and both were equally convertible to a gold sovereign. An Australian bronze coinage was not produced until 1911, a coronation year, when a full set of distinctively Australian bronze and silver denominations was issued.

However, Australian gold coins retained the established British designs except for mint marks which denoted Sydney, Melbourne or Perth as their places of origin. These sovereigns, at the top of the denomination tree, reflected the stability and value of an established world currency. As a pound 'sterling' they became legal tender throughout an empire where 'the sun never set' just as British sterling had been for almost one hundred years. Of course, the sun had shone brightest in Australia with the discovery of payable deposits of gold in 1851, initially at Bathurst (NSW) then at Clunes, Ballarat and Bendigo (Victoria). Major deposits at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia came later, in 1892-1893.

But, back to the silver coinage. The new Australian coins had the same value as their British counterparts and circulated side by side with them.



British florin, 1909



Australian florin, 1910



Images courtesy of Noble Numismatics

However, they were not given legal tender status outside Australia, unlike the sovereigns, or for that matter any sovereign struck at a mint outside Britain but within the British Empire.

The world changed with the advent of World War I in late 1914. When Australian servicemen arrived in Britain any coins they had taken with them could have passed into circulation, although they would probably soon have been removed as novelty keepsakes by the British public. By the war's end, different aspects had emerged, with huge war debts to be paid, followed by the global medical disaster of the Spanish Flu and then the rising price of silver.

The price of silver had been low since 1873 when it had dropped suddenly. This had caused an economic crisis which led to the abandonment of bimetallism and the adoption of the gold standard in many countries. But for the British Empire, dominions, protectorates and so on this was hardly felt since they had all been on the gold standard since 1816. However, India did suffer. Although offered, it declined to go onto the gold standard, preferring silver coinage with the rupee at its head.

To put the situation in simple terms, this is what occurred in 1873: The Royal Mint price of 5s 2d per troy ounce of silver had been set in 1601. When the price rose above that level, as it did through the late 18th century and the Napoleonic wars, the mint could not afford to strike silver coins, it was not that London could not be bothered to strike silver for the colonies as popular belief had it. This created the circumstances where improvised coinages like the holey dollar and dump were needed. However, when the Napoleonic wars ended in 1815 the price of silver dropped, enabling the royal mint to resume striking silver coinage. At the same time the British government chose to go on to the gold standard, making the sovereign the economic basis of the coinage. The weight and purity of the silver coins remained as they had been, but from then on they became convertible to gold at face value whatever their silver content might have become.

India became an exception. A rupee contained a rupee's worth of silver and was valued at 2 shillings sterling. When the new British florin was produced in 1849 they were on a par. All was well until 1873 when the price of silver fell and the rupee's value dropped on the world market. It became worth only 1s 4d sterling while the florin was still convertible to gold at its face value of 2s even though its silver value had fallen. Hence the notion of a token coinage, whereby a country's coins did not need to have their full face value in contained metal. This led to several countries adopting the gold standard to save their silver coinages and prevent economic crises.

This situation continued through the 19th century, but came to an end around 1920 when the price of silver rose so that a British shilling contained more than a shilling's worth of silver. The British government had war debts to pay, so they acted swiftly. Their sterling standard of silver of 92.5% was abandoned and a new standard of 50% was adopted.

However, the high silver price did not last long enough to force a change to Australian silver coins which continued to be on the sterling standard. So, the two coinages were no longer interchangeable and exchange rates became necessary. In spite of the deterioration of their silver coins, the British currency remained strong and a 20% difference crept in between the Australian pound and the British pound, still known as 'sterling'. British silver coins were then taken out of circulation in Australia and shipped to New Zealand which continued to use British 'sterling' until their national coinage was introduced in 1933.

So, it was in 1920 that a truly independent Australian pound began, with an exchange rate against the pound 'sterling'.

Whatever one thinks, our national coinage had strong links through history to the British pound sterling which was truly a world trade currency for around a hundred years starting in 1816. Legislation in 1825 established sterling throughout the British world, which for a time worked well enough although local trade factors sometimes created the need to account in dollars or rupees. In its early years Australia was influenced by both those currencies, but due to its strong links with Britain the pound sterling came out on top.

When Australia introduced its own dollars in 1966 it retained, and still largely does to this day, the sizes of the pre-decimal coins, maintaining some historical link as far back as 1816.

Today, our Australian coins have a face value well in excess of the intrinsic value of the non-precious metals they are made from. Our paper currency has been converted to polymer, in which Australia was an innovator. While other countries, including Britain, have reduced the sizes of their coins Australia has not, but they remain a token coinage subsidiary to polymer promissory notes issued by the government of the day.

But fortunately, we can spend this money to collect the currency of our nation's past, right back to the Proclamation coinage of 1800 (if we have enough polymer notes) and, despite the rising price of silver, the coins of our ancestors are still available at reasonable cost. It is only when we start looking for uncirculated and higher-grade examples that prices can become prohibitive for many collectors. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why decimal coins have become so popular in Australia, with choice high grade pieces available for a fraction of the cost of pre-decimal coins of similar grade.

This begs the question to what extent we, as collectors, tend to focus on grade, perhaps overlooking other factors like history and consequently forgetting that a mixed currency was used for a time here in Australia.

I will leave you with this thought: If one were to collect a first and last type set of silver coins struck for Australia (that is 1909 British and 1910 Australian) which would cost the most? Perhaps the British because of the extra half crown. However, the balance would tip if you included the sovereigns because there were three for Australia and only one for Britain.

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THE SILVER CHAIN OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Part I – The Founders

Walter R. Bloom

Many readers will be familiar with or at least aware of Silver Chain District Nursing, with its in-house health care and affinity with flowers.



Perhaps you have seen the building in Osborn Park or one of the Silver Chain cars parked outside a house, or even been the recipient of one of its services?



<https://communitycarereview.com.au/2024/10/09/silverchain-celebrates-130-years-of-care/>

In 1894, Dr Allan Campbell, Edith Noble (who learnt from Florence Nightingale) and Reverend B.C. Stephenson established the District Trained Nursing Society (now known as RDNS Silverchain) to provide nursing care for vulnerable people in South Australia. Starting with one district nurse, the service grew quickly within six months to five nurses, and by 1895 the first nursing branch in Gawler opened.

<https://silverchain.org.au/about-us/pioneering-health-care-at-home>

But few would realise that our Silver Chain started as a Children's Club in the *Western Mail* in Western Australia in 1905, the State with no children's hospital and the worst infant mortality rate in the country.

NEWS AND NOTES. (1898, July 29). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), p. 4:

In today's issue of the WESTERN MAIL a new feature is introduced in the shape of a children's column, wherein "Aunt Mary" chats pleasantly to the juveniles on passing events, as well as about interesting doings of the past. She promises competitions in which children may take part and invites them to correspond with her. In all respects the column promises to be a complete success.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3207338>

And so commenced the Silver Chain, a Children's Club, but not named as such until 1905.

CHILDREN'S CORNER (1905, June 3). *Western Mail* (Perth, WA: 1885 - 1954), p. 69:

First I must tell you the name we have decided to give our league. It is to be christened "THE SILVER CHAIN."

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article33516048>

A month later this was renamed The Silver Chain League.

A detailed history of Silver Chain (WA) can be found in the book 'A Chain of Care: a History of the Silver Chain Nursing Association' (Chetkovitch & Gare, 2005) which says that:

*... It was as a children's club in the pages of the newspaper the 'Western Mail' that **Silver Chain** ... first was born. ... Two years later the Silver Chain League was raising funds to pay for nurses to visit the poor and ill in their homes.*

A chain of care: a history of the Silver Chain Nursing Association, 1905-2005/Jean Chetkovich and Deborah Gare

The main Founder – Mrs Muriel Jean Eliot Chase (1880 – 1936)

In the State Library of Western Australia there is a photograph (c 1930) of Mrs Muriel Jean Eliot Chase, described as the Founder of The Silver Chain League.



<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/175515875?keyword=%22Silver%20Chain%20League%22>

The on-line Australian Dictionary of Biography has a detailed biography of Mrs Chase, including:

The State-wide organization known today as the Silver Chain District Nursing Association had its genesis in Aunt Mary's Children's Corner, through which Mrs Chase enrolled her young readers as silver links in a chain of service. By 1904 she had raised sufficient money to appoint a district nurse (Sister S. L. Copley); she was succeeded after one year by Sister Frances Cherry, who served the organization and helped supervise its initial expansion until her death in 1941. These two pioneer nurses

visited their patients first by bicycle and then by horse and buggy, their work being financed by the Silver Chain....

... Muriel Chase was born in Geraldton and died in West Perth. She was the Social Editress of The West Australian, where she wrote under the name 'Adrienne' and continually stressed the need for more social welfare services in the rapidly expanding Western Australian community. By 1904, she had raised sufficient money to appoint a district nurse (Sister S. L. Copley). A year later Mrs Chase was succeeded by Sister Frances Cherry. One of the Silver Chain Cottage Homes in North Perth bears her name.

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/chase-muriel-jean-eliot-5565>

The ADB writer obviously didn't realise that Sister Copley only stayed in Perth less than a year and that Sister Cherry would never have used a bicycle! Mrs Chase' contribution also includes the origin of the name 'Silverchain' that the national organisation shares today.

The first District Nurse – Miss Sarah Louise (Louie) Copley (1876 – 1953)

CORRESPONDENCE (1907, July 27). *Western Mail* (Perth, WA: 1885 - 1954), p. 41:

CORRESPONDENCE. Letter from Our Silver Chain District Nurse. 'Woodlynn,' Black Rock, July 10. Dear Aunt Mary, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour, dated the 3rd inst., and in reply I wish to inform you that I am willing to accept the position therein offered on the condition referred to. I expect to leave Adelaide by the P. and O. steamer Macedonia on July 25. Forwarding my photograph later. I am, yours faithfully, S. LOUIE.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/37812447#>

Looking at the Friday 26 July 1907 Welcome Letter below, it is apparent that the "condition referred to" is organiser of the Perth District Nursing Society, and furthermore because of illness, that Sister Louie stayed less than a year. Bicycling around during a Perth summer would have been difficult for anyone.

Black Rock is a coastal hamlet in South Australia north of Wallaroo and Kadina and 150km north-west of Adelaide). Tracking down details of Louie Copley has proved difficult, but some clues can be found using TROVE and South Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages. The main difficulty was resolved once it became apparent that Louie was a nickname.



This looks to be a studio photograph taken when Copley first became a nurse in South Australia.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/37813467>

Nurse Copley left for Western Australia in July 1907.

CONCERNING PEOPLE (1907, July 26). *The Register* (Adelaide, SA: 1901 - 1929), p.5:

Friday 26 July 1907 Nurse Louie Copley left by Macedonia on Thursday to enter in her new duties as organiser of the Perth District Nursing Society.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/56528982?searchTerm=Louie%20Copley>

After her return to South Australia records indicate that she became an Inspector in connection with the Childrens Welfare and Public Relief Board and a war nurse.

NURSE COPLEY'S WELCOME LETTER (1909, September 25). *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), p.42:

NURSE COPLEY'S WELCOME LETTER. Dear Links. - Just a little letter. I have so long promised to write. I hardly know how to address you. I feel I must say "my links." Although so far away, I often think of you, and am still interested in you and your unselfish efforts to help the Silver Chain work. The editor very kindly sends me the "Western Mail," so I am able to read what you are doing for the work I so love. I am very pleased to see the Chain is still lengthening -there are so many new links - but there cannot be too many to help Nurse Cherry, whom, I am sure, you all love. Now she has a horse and trap, she is able to do so much more work in a day than I could with the bicycle. I know Nurse must feel proud of her willing helpers. I still feel proud to think I was once your nurse. It is grand to know so much good is being done, for one so often feels one's efforts are feeble. But we must not forget it is God who helps us when we feel most weak, and gives us strength to go forward, and, as long as we put our trust in Him, we shall be able to overcome all difficulties. "Little, but Great," is your motto. Little efforts so often receive very great reward. It is the little kindly acts that one appreciates when ill; even a few flowers sent, or a sympathetic letter helps the suffering ones to forget their pain and trouble - you know there is someone who is willing to share your burden - and in consequence one feels better, and is better, because one's burden is lightened by a kindly act. I am sure the poor, sick people of Western Australia must feel very grateful to you links and, with your little efforts, Nurse Cherry is cheered and helped to do her part. I always look forward for the "Western Mail," to see what you have been doing, and shall always have an interest in the Silver Chain. Now I am quite well again, I am going to ask Aunt Mary if she will have me for an associate link. We have had a lot of rain, and the place is looking lovely and green. Hoping you are all well, with all good wishes for future success, and fondest remembrance, - From your old Nurse, LOUIE COPLEY. Gawler, South Australia, September 9, 1909.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/37401232?searchTerm=Louie%20Copley>

Superintendent Nurse Frances Cherry (1872 – 1941)

In 1908, Nurse Copley was replaced by Nurse Frances Cherry who remained in the position for over 35 years. On 8 March 2021, she was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame.

Pioneer women who shaped Western Australia in its early years through their hard work, passion and dedication were inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame this evening at Government House. Their hard work, passion and dedication laid a foundation for women in the State to aspire, achieve and flourish, which is also demonstrated year in, year out with the Hall of Fame inductees. This diverse range of inspirational women who forged their own pathways, standing true to their calling, made a fundamental difference to those who followed. Nurse Frances Cherry was a pioneer District Nurse in WA, when in 1908 she became one of the founders, with Mrs. Muriel Chase and Sister S L Copley, of Silver Chain. Her appointment as District Nurse came after two years nursing in Kalgoorlie where she went to help fight the typhoid epidemic. In 1918, she became Superintendent of Nurses, with four nurses working under her, but continued with her own rounds. Spending over 35 years in arduous solitary work, in pony and trap; visiting patients from Perth to Fremantle, and beyond.

<https://govhouse.wa.gov.au/2021/03/states-women-pioneers-inducted-into-wa-womens-hall-of-fame-on-iwd2021/>

Cherry's appointment as District Nurse came after two years nursing in Kalgoorlie where she went to help fight the typhoid epidemic.

Nurse Cherry's journey was extraordinary. From nursing the son of Lord Tennyson in South Australia to pioneering district nursing in Western Australia, Nurse Cherry's dedication and compassion were unparalleled. She braved the challenges of early 20th century health care, travelling by pony and trap to reach clients' homes in remote areas.

<https://silverchain.org.au/news/celebrating-nurse-cherrys-legacy>

Cherry's death on 4th July 1941 is listed by the Metropolitan Cemetery Board (WA) under her married name Frances Drew.



Studio, Photo.

THE SILVER CHAIN NURSES AND SOME RECENT PATIENTS PERTH 1910

Nurse Cherry, the General District Nurse of the Silver Chain, is shown sitting in the trap, while beside the wheel stands Nurse Tait, "Our Mothers' Nurse."

Image supplied by the State Library of Western Australia

Muriel Chase was born in Western Australia, Louie Copley and Frances Cherry in South Australia. Louie Copley died in South Australia.

Fundraising

The appointments of Copley and Cherry were only made possible by extensive fundraising, and for the decades that followed the continuation of the nursing services required constant public appeals. These took a variety of forms, with two noted here.

Button Days in the late 1920s

The Great Depression was well and truly under way with the Wall Street Crash in 1929. In the late 1920s, unemployment was already high and so it is remarkable that fundraisers were on the streets selling celluloid tin buttons for a shilling each, a significant sum at that time. The following were made by Sheridan's of Perth during the period 1927 – 1929 and all have the common theme of raising funds for the sick and needy.



The last-shown is from an April 1929 Charity Carnival and would have just been one of many items sold at the time (think of rides, food and competitions as offered in the Perth Royal Show, but with all proceeds going to the Silver Chain).

Bookmarks

These come from a later period (1950s) with the National Flower Days having a variety of merchandise available for sale, with four examples shown below.

National Flower Day Buttons

Two such buttons are shown at the beginning of this article. Part II will be a comprehensive catalogue of these Appeal Buttons, with all the flowers identified in detail.

Membership Badges

The third button is in fact for membership and this with an earlier version will also be discussed in detail in Part II.



POLITICAL INFLUENCES ON DESIRABLE SOUTH AFRICAN CURRENCY

Tony Petzer

A brief history

The desire to shorten the spice route to the East was a challenge until 1488 when Bartolomeu Dias rounded the Cape of Good hope, Southern Africa, (later to become South Africa). Vasco da Gama continued the search and found the route to India. It was at the time that Christopher Columbus searched westward with the same objective in mind.

The long journey into the unknown came with many challenges, an unpredictable ocean, illness, lack of fresh supplies and unfriendly, warring tribes. To combat some of these difficulties the Dutch East India company established a supply station at “The Cape of Good Hope” later to be known as Cape Town. In 1652, Johan van Riebeeck became the first Governor of the settlement/colony.

Dutch, French, and German employees, later to be known as *Afrikaners*, were unhappy with the governance of the settlement/colony and having to sell their produce to the company. So, they started migrating inland, claiming land from the indigenous tribes. This resulted in several wars between the two groups.

In the meantime, the British had taken over the colony, much to the dismay of the Afrikaners who did not want to live under the rule of the British. So once again they moved further inland and started looking for a route to the towns along the Moçambique coast to trade their goods.

In 1867 - 1871, diamonds were discovered in the Kimberley region of South Africa which started the “Kimberley Diamond Rush”. This presented a few financial, monetary, and political challenges because several States had been created in the area that is now known as South Africa, namely: Cape Colony, Griqualand West, and the Afrikaans Republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The argument ended with the Cape Colony governing the entire area.

Not long afterwards, in 1884, gold was discovered in the Transvaal Republic.

Paul Kruger was the President of the South African Republic or Transvaal from 1883 to 1900. It was in this period that the second Anglo-Boer war took place.

In the period 1900 to 1923, WW1 took place and the world experienced a global recession. 1923 saw South Africa breaking away from the UK and becoming the Union of South Africa and it remained so until 1961 when the Republic of South Africa was inaugurated. It also switched to a decimal currency, namely rands and cents. The change in this year was tremendous because money was also no longer supported by gold and people could deal in and retain this metal.

However, prior to this, in 1924, the entrepreneur, champion for the British Empire and governor of the Cape, Cecil John Rhodes introduced what he called a “Hut tax” so that he could create cheap labour from the local population to use in mining and industry. This was the origin of the conflict (apartheid) between whites and Africans in South Africa. Once again, there came a period of global turbulence and South Africa’s development made it one of the world’s financial powers.

In 1965, a newly designed currency was introduced and became known as the “New Series”. With the release of Nelson Mandela in 1991, and a change in government from white South Africans to Africans in 1994, came the introduction of a further newly designed currency.

With all the changes in currencies came differences in the metals used. Politics was the main influencing factor and even today it is constantly affecting the South African financial environment.

Rare coins

Listed below are a few rare coins emanating from the tumultuous history detailed in the previous section:

Griqua Town coinage (1817 – 1818)

Copper Quarter "Pence"



Copper Half "Pence"



Silver Five "Pence"



Silver Five "Pence"

Images from Wikipedia

A few pattern pieces are reported to be in existence, for example, five and ten “pence” struck in copper and a half “penny” struck in lead as well as copper gilt.

Gold Burger Pond (1874)

There are two varieties of Burger Ponds, the coarse and fine beard.



Burger Pond, Coarse Beard.

142 specimens of coarse beard were struck by Heaton and Sons, the Birmingham mint. The '8' in the date appears to be double-struck.



Burger Pond, Fine Beard.

695 specimens of fine beard were struck, also by Heaton and Sons, the Birmingham mint. The '8' in the date appears to be single-struck.

The Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek coinage (1892 to 1902)



1892 Long Set

These coins were designed by the Berlin Mint designer, Otto Shultz. The first dies were rejected by President Kruger so production and circulation of the coinage only commenced at the end of 1892, beginning of 1893.

This is for me the most interesting period for South African history and coinage. The second Anglo-Boer war commenced in 1899 and continued until 1902. During this period there were a few coins produced that today fetch high values because of their scarcity: Prior to the war ending and Britain taking control of the South African mint two incidents occurred which produced highly desirable coins.

Gold Sammy Marks ‘tickey’ (3 pence)



The Sammy Marks tickey is amongst the most sought after and rarest South African gold coins. Of the original 215 minted, only 32 are known to be graded. A beautiful gold coin, very popular among coin collectors, the Sammy Marks tickey was never circulated. Sammy Marks was a businessman, trader and mining tycoon who befriended President Paul Kruger, who allowed him to use the mint for one day for services rendered. Using gold from his own mine he minted the tickeys as gifts for friends and family.

1898 gold Kruger Pond (pound)

During the war, the 1899 Kruger Pond dies were intercepted by the British *en route* from Germany, so the Transvaal Mint used the 1898 dies and stamped a “9” on below the bust. They found that the “9” was too large and only one coin was minted, which was presented to the American Consul in Pretoria.



1898 'single 9' gold Kruger Pond



1898 'double 9' gold Kruger Pond

Using the 1898 die the mint then stamped “99” on only 130 coins.

Cape of Good Hope notes (Late 1820s)



Cape of Good Hope five-shilling note

The Cape of Good Hope issued notes in rixdollars, shillings, and stivers during Dutch rule. Because they were not very durable and prone to damage and soiling, they were regularly reprinted and old notes were withdrawn and destroyed

The 1923 long set



In 1923, these were the first coins minted by the South African mint. That was also the year that South Africa became a Union.

Only 655 proof sets and 719 currency gold sovereigns were produced, because of the low amount of gold that was stocked that year.

1926 South African farthings

The number of 1926 South African farthings minted is not known. Rumour has it that the Governor of the Reserve bank had two minted for a friend because the coin case had been made to accommodate the coin but it was never included. However, it has been suggested that there were 16 proof coins minted. This is the rarest coin minted in the South African series.



1928 South African farthing

Note that the image above is of the 1928 issue because I was unable to find a 1926 image.

1959 silver 5 shillings (crown)*1959 5 shillings*

Only 2,989 of the 1959 crown were minted.

In 1961, when the Republic of South Africa was proclaimed, the country formally adopted a decimal system, with coins being converted to their decimal equivalent. Prior to decimalisation, 5 shilling (crowns) commenced in 1947 and stopped in 1964. The crowns from 1947 to 1950 were made with 80% silver and those minted from 1951 to 1964 contained 50% silver.

Gold Kruger rands (1oz, 1/2oz, 1/4oz and 1/10oz)

In 1971, gold trading began when the US abandoned the gold standard. However, the South African mint had begun producing gold Kruger rands in 1966 and they became globally desired because of the purity of their metal content. In July 1990, sanctions were applied to South African gold coins because of the racist political policy of apartheid. The international market could no longer purchase the gold Kruger rands so to meet the demand for gold coins, other countries started producing similar coins.

1965 long set

The number of 1965 South African long coin sets made is not known.



In 1965, the Smith government of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) made a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI), which caused a political crisis for the British Labour government and a demand for money on the South African mint.

The new series of coinage introduced in South Africa continued until just prior to the country's independence in 1994. The denominations were split into two languages (English and Afrikaans) up to 1969. In 1970, both languages appeared on each coin.

Three desirable coins emanated from the 1965 series and they are: 1 rand (Afrikaans legend) in silver, 50 cents (English legend), and 1 cent (Afrikaans legend).



1 rand Afrikaans, 1965 (mintage: 120)



50 cent English, 1965 (mintage: 50)



***1 cent Afrikaans proof, 1965
(proof mintage 185, total mintage: 1031)***

The story behind two of the three coins above is that the 50 cent English was never issued because of a cracked die, however the minted ones disappeared. The late Mr. Peter Bowles, a renowned expert on South African numismatics, told me that the 1 cent Afrikaans proof coin had been stained and therefore was identified in this manner.

Conclusion

In conclusion other interesting specimens can be found amongst the country's coinage, for instance specially minted coins, error coins and limited-edition coins and sets.

CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS

PNS meetings are held at 7.00pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except December, at John McGrath Hall, 97 Hensman St, South Perth.

Meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:

30 th April	Topic: 19th Century tokens. Tender Sale
28 th May	Topic: Unusual-shaped coins. Tender Sale
25 th June	Topic: My favourite coin/banknote. Tender Sale

Dates for the rest of the year will be provided later.

Refer to the Perth Numismatic Society Inc. website for updates:

<https://www.pns.org.au/meetings/>

Members or guests who are willing to be a speaker at one of the meetings are asked to contact the president (president@pns.org.au).



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Prof Walter Bloom	1988-1991
Jiri Just †	1991-1994
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Haydn Powell †	1997-2005
Prof Walter Bloom	2005-2024
Sandy Shailes	2024-

CALENDAR OF FAIRS

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

- Saturday 10th May 2025
- Saturday 9th August 2025
- Saturday 25th October 2025
- Saturday 27th December 2025

Perth Money Expo (South Perth Community Centre):

- Saturday 21st – Sunday 22nd June 2025

JB Military Antiques auctions (2/135 Russell St, Morley):

- Sunday 8th June 2025
- Sunday 21st September 2025
- Sunday 30th November 2025 (internet only auction)

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

- Sunday 13th April 2025
- Sunday 9th November 2025

Refer to the Perth Numismatic Society Inc. website for updates:

<https://www.pns.org.au/events/>



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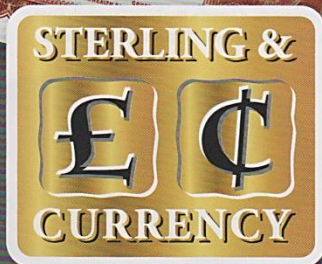
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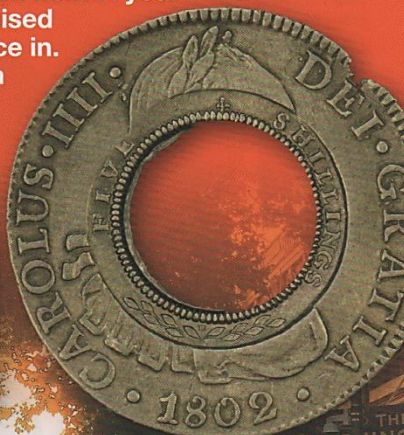


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