



*Bickels*

# COIN

AND

**MEDAL  
NEWS**



**Sir Harry Smith  
Medal** by S.E. EDWARDS

**Coins Re-examined**  
by TOP U.S.A. EXPERT



# Bickels Coin & Medal News

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**EDITOR:** Peter Brown**LAYOUT:** P.M. Breytenbach**CONTENTS**

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## EDITORIAL

### A NEW LOOK AT THE HOBBY

Dr. V. Clain-Stefanelli, the Curator of Numismatics, United States National Museum (Smithsonian Institution), is a deep-thinking man who sees numismatics in its perspective.

His article, "Numismatics Re-examined", published in this issue of Bickels Coin and Medal News, is one of the most profound pieces of clear thinking about coins and coin collecting we have ever read. Although a man of great learning, Dr. Clain-Stefanelli has not buried his ideas in a welter of obscure, high-brow thinking. His reasoning and views are crystal clear.

To South Africans who are slowly treading the field of numismatic learning, Dr. Clain-Stefanelli offers a sound piece of advice.

Discussing the rebirth of the quest for knowledge during the Renaissance, he remarks ".... and in the eighteen hundreds the field of numismatics became so vast that no one

man could encompass it in its entirety."

This means that more than 200 years ago, the numismatists of that time found the scope of learning so huge that it was impossible for one person to satisfactorily grasp it all. How much more this problem has been compounded by the hundreds of coins which have been issued since then!

Only too frequently we hear the plaintive cry: "What must we collect. There's so much we don't know where to start." The Curator of Numismatics goes on to suggest how the true numismatics scholar should delve into the history of all forms of money. He touches on the development and use of coins and the use of scientific apparatus for determining the age of metal. But for us, his message is clear enough: Concentrate on one field of study.

In the Republic it is natural for collectors to concentrate on Kruger and

## letters



Regarding the New Zealand "mule", it is estimated that 100,000 of the faulty coins could have been minted as this was the approximate amount for the life of a die.

On comparison of the obverse sides of the New Zealand two cent piece and a five cent piece from the Bahamas, it can be observed that the Queen's head is identical on both. The legend "Elizabeth II" is the same and in the same position. However, the principal difference is in the date. The New Zealand two cent piece bears 1967 under the Queen's neck whereas on the Bahama five cent piece, the date is found on the reverse.

Four of these "mule" pieces were reported on the initial day of issue (10th July). The reverse side of the Bahama five cent piece bears a pineapple whereas the New Zealand two cent piece carries a branch of the Kowhai in bloom. One other significant difference between the two obverses is that the one of the Bahamas carries a circle of tiny beading just inside the rim. Also the two cent piece is made of bronze while the Bahama five cent piece is of cupro-nickel.

The Royal Mint of London has apologised for the error and will undertake to replace the coins. The New Zealand Treasury has so far retrieved 58,000 pieces and will probably get more.

E.G. Cosgrave – Editor  
Australian Coin World

Union material. But let us become more ambitious. Let us collect the coins of the Early Cape. There is plenty of literature to use as a guide. We would like to see more complete collections and not so many "hotch potches" which form the bases of so many collections.

A numismatist should make it his aim to collect thoroughly and intelligently the field in which he is interested and then to learn as much as possible about it.



# CREDIT SQUEEZE

## MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO PRICE OF TOP COINS

Despite the credit squeeze, it seems that rare coins are still attracting buyers who are prepared to pay high prices for a certain type of material. We have taken at random some of the coins offered and list the prices realized.

1.	S.A. CROWN 1962 UNC .. .. .	R 16.00
2.	1923 PROOF LONG SET MAPPIN & WEB BOX S.A. .. .. .	R 550.00
3.	1936 PROOF SHORT SET S.A. .. .. .	R 954.00
4.	1947 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 95.00
5.	1948 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 102.00
6.	1949 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 114.00
7.	1950 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 180.00
8.	1951 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 45.00
9.	1952 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 40.00
10.	1954 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 65.00
11.	1956 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 65.00
12.	1958 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 110.00
13.	1960 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 50.00
14.	1961 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 30.00
15.	1962 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 40.00
16.	1962 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 26.00
17.	1963 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 18.00
18.	1964 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 18.00
19.	1965 S.A. PROOF SHORT SET .. .. .	R 18.00
19.	1937 BRITISH PROOF GEORGE VI 15 COINS INCLUDING MAUNDY MONEY .. .. .	R 92.00
20.	KRUGER Z.A.R. VELD POND E.F. .. .. .	R 410.00
21.	AUTHENTIC SAMMY MARKS GOLD TICKEY UNC .. .. .	R1,230.00
22.	1892 KRUGER 10/- D/S UNC .. .. .	R 132.00

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## KRUGERRANDS NEARLY SOLD OUT

One of the most incredible numismatic successes of recent years has been the response by South Africans to the sale of Krugerrand one-ounce gold pieces.

Within hours of the South African Mint announcing that 10,000 of the heavy gold coins would be available to the public, there was a flood of letters, telegrams and telephone calls.

The Mint reported that at least 5,000 letters were received by the end of the first week. The response has been "fantastic", said a Mint official. The entire allotment would probably be sold by the end of September.

The official pointed out that the Mint's regular customers had not been told of the issue. Regular customers must apply and wait their turn like everyone else.

At the moment about 500 Krugerrands are being posted daily. The Mint staff was required to work one Saturday. They despatched more than 1,700 during that day.

It is expected that all the orders will be processed by the first week of October.

## Start on President Swart Coins

The plaster cast of former State President Swart's head has been completed for next year's coinage. The cast was shown to him at his Winburg farm last month for his approval. Mr. Swart's head will appear on all denomination except the silver R1. No decision has been taken about the R1, but it is expected that Van Riebeeck's head could be used again.



Die Casteel De Goedehoop-dekorasie is die hoogste toekenning wat 'n Suid-Afrikaner kan verower. As gevolg van 'n regulasie wat bepaal dat monsters van die dekorasie, sy lint of balkie of miniatuur daarvan aan bona fide-museums beskikbaar gestel mag word, het die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese en Opelugmuseum, Boomstraat, Pretoria, in sy versameling die bogenoemde dekorasie, tesame met tien ander dekorasies en medaljes wat ingestel is op 6 April 1952 tydens die viering van die driehonderdjarige bestaan van die blanke beskawing aan die Kaap.

Die Casteel De Goedehoop-dekorasie is gelykstaande aan die Victoria-kruis wat aan Britse onderdane vir buitengewone heldemoed toegeken word. Dit is 'n goue dekorasie met vyf hoeke en stel die grondplan van die Casteel De Goede Hoop voor met die grag daaromheen, wat die eerste groot vesting of fort vir beskerming en selfverdediging in Suid-Afrika was.

Op die voorsy verskyn 'n reliefbeeld van Jan van Riebeeck se aankoms in sy vlagskip, die Drommedaris, in Tafelbaai op 6 April 1652, met Tafelberg in die agtergrond. Die ontwerp is omring met 'n krans van proteas en blare. Op die keersy van die dekorasie verskyn ook in relief, die Uniewapen onder die Koninklike Naamsyfer.

Die Casteel De Goedehoop-dekorasie word aan 'n 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " bree gewaterde groen neklint gedra by formele geleenthede en moet voorrang geniet bo alle dekorasies en medaljes. Indien net die lint gedra word, word 'n goue miniatuur replika van die dekorasie in die middel van die lint op die linkerbors gedra.

In die Staatskoerant (Nr. 5311; Julie 1954) word verklaar dat: ... . die Regering van die Unie van Suid-Afrika begerig is om erkenning te verleen vir buitengewone dade van heldemoed in tyd van oorlog deur lede, afgesien van rang, van die Unieverdedigingsmag, of enige Hulpdiens ingestel vir die doeleindes van die Unieverdedigingsmag of ander gewapende magte wat toegevoeg

is of diens doen by, of dienste bewys aan die Unie-verdedigingsmag en wie se Regering instemmig tot die toekenning van die dekorasie, kragtens die bepalinge van hierdie bevelskrif te kenne gegee het".

Om te verseker dat lede van die Verdedigingsmag die dekorasie na waarde sal skat, is streng reëls vir die kwalifikasie en toekenning daarvan gemaak. Die Regulasies kan egter gewysig word na gelang die amptenaar wat belas is met die uitvoerende gesag daarvan, dit nodig mag vind.

Hierdie dekorasie is egter nog aan geen persoon toegeken nie, aangesien Suid-Afrika sedert 1952 nog nie in 'n oorlog betrokke was nie.

'n Toekenning word eers aanbeveel deur 'n eenheidsbevelvoerder en ten minste twee ooggetuies moet omstandighede van die heldedaad kan staaf daarna kan 'n aanbeveling deur die betrokke ministers van die Kabinet geskied.

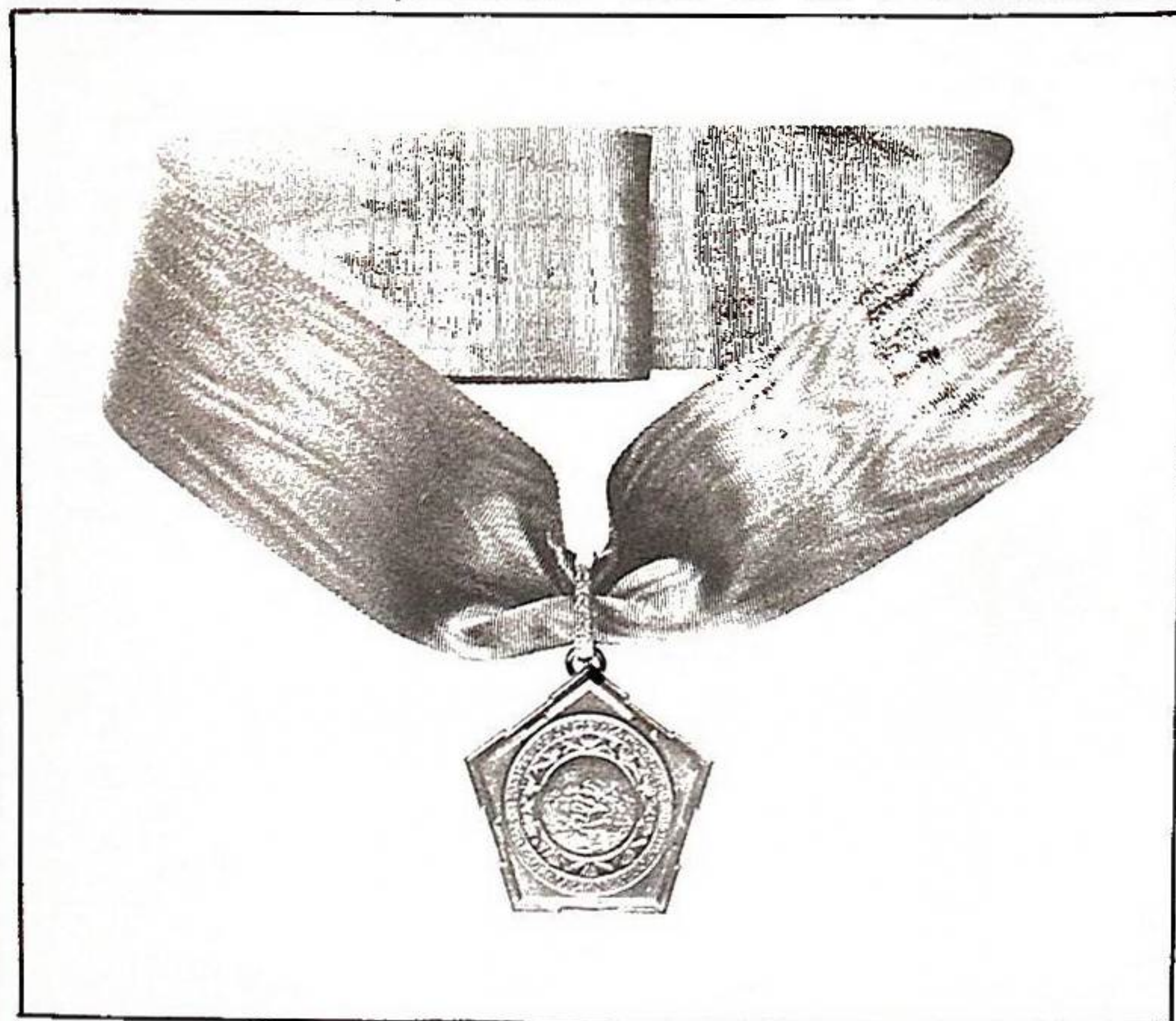
Indien 'n aanbeveling gemaak word vir toekenning aan 'n persoon wat krygsgevangene is of as vermis aangegee is, kan enige toekenning wat goedgekeur word, nie bekend gemaak word nie alvorens die persoon nie

# casteel de goedehoop — dekorasie

Deur  
Matthy Esterhuysen,  
van die  
Nasionale  
Kultuurhistoriese  
en Opelugmuseum

meer 'n krygsgevangene of vermis is nie.

Die toekenning kan ook na die dood van die persoon wat daarvoor kwalifiseer het aan 'n naasbestaande of





# VERSAMELBARE MUNTE WORD SKAARSER

DEUR  
AMATEUR  
VERSAMELAAR

Die faktor wat die amateur versamelaar in die jongste tyd die meeste pla is natuurlik die feit dat munte skaarser word en dus al duurder. Tot dusver het ons amateurs ons daarin verheug dat ons versamel terwille van die plesier en ontspanning wat dit bied en dit was 'n prestasie om 'n skaars munt of 'n besonder mooi munt in die hande te kry in ons kleingeld of as ons 'n sak geld by die Bank gekoop het. Maar daardie dae is seker nou verby. In meer as 'n jaar het ek net 'n enkele trippens en een sjieling in my kleingeld gekry en dis darem bietjie skraal om 'n amateur aan die gang te hou. Maar moenie glo ek is minder entoesiasies nie! Ek was verplig om my visier so 'n bietjie laer te stel en tevrede te wees met swakker toestand in die munte wat ek as versamelbaar beskou. Ek moes vir myself erken dat daar sekere munte is wat onbereikbaar is omdat hulle museumstukke is.

Verstaan my mooi asseblief. Ek was besonder gelukkig dat ek in 3 jaar se tyd al die koper munte behalwe die kwartpennies van 1930, 1933, 1934 en 1936 en al die silwer behalwe die ou tipe 1925 trippens en

die 1931 reeks, in die hande kon kry. Daar is 'n hele paar versamelaars wat dit ook reggekry het voor die swaar dae gekom het. Ek bewonder egter die man of vrou wat dit nou aandurf. Maar die versamelywer is nog net so sterk as ooit tevore en hoewel dit al moeiliker word trek ek darem al by 68 Rhodesiese munte en is ek nog vol moed.

En nou het Bickels 'n album op die mark geplaas wat net die ware jakob is vir die versamelaar wat besef dat hy nie alles sal kan kry nie. Dis die sogenaamde T.V., of Tipe-Variasie, album waarin plek voorsien is vir elke tipe van elke denominasie vanaf Krugermunte tot die verwagte munte van 1968 met Staatspresident Swart se kop daarop. Daar is plek vir 6 verskillende oortjies, 7 halfpennies en halfsente, 13 pennies en sente en so aan tot by die silwer Rand stukke.

Die gedagte agter so 'n album is dat daar net een van elke tipe nodig is om 'n verteenwoordigende versameling bymekaar te bring. En moenie dink dis 'n beginners album nie want daar is somer moeilike gaatjies wat volgemaak moet word soos die dubbel disselboom ZAR kroon van

1892, die halfkroon van 1948 tot 1950 en die 1900 ZAR pennie. Dit het my weer opnuut geprikkel toe ek besef dat ek wat myself as 'n veteraan beskou het nie eers hierdie gaatjies kon vul nie.

Wat my verder van die T.V. album opgeval het is die deeglike beplanning en navorsing wat daarvoor nodig was. Dit is alleen 'n deskundige wat soiets kan aanpak en uitvoer.

Lesers sal onthou dat ek 'n paar maande gelede melding gemaak het van die behoefte wat bestaan het vir 'n goedkoop en eenvoudige manier om munte te bewaar wat veral binne bereik van kinders is en twee sulke albums het ook nou die lig gesien. Die eerste het plek vir klein en middelslag munte en die tweede een vir kleiner munte soos kwartpennies, trippense en sikspense. Meeste van ons het met die klein muntstukkie begin en dit is 'n uiters geskikte manier om 'n stel kwartpennies of trippense te bewaar wat altyd rondskuif in die sakkies van die groter albums.

Daar is baie versamelaars wat reeds die bekende algemene album of die jaarstel album in gebruik het wat 'n ekstra stel trippense moet huisves en hier is nou 'n goedkoop en aantreklike oplossing.

Vervolg van bladsy 4

wettige erfgenaam of ander bloedverwant oorhandig word. 'n Ontvanger van hierdie dekorasie sal op geen spesiale voorregte kan aanspraak maak nie, maar het wel die reg om die letters „CGH” agter sy naam te skryf. Elke persoon aan wie die toekenning gemaak word se naam sal in die Staatskoerant gepubliseer word en in 'n register aangeteken word.

'n Houer van die Casteel De Goede-hoop-dekorasie sal die toekenning verbeur indien hy ooit veroordeel word weens hoogverraad, rebellie of muitery en skuldig bevind word met

'n vonnis van gevangenisstraf vir 'n tydperk van ses maande sonder 'n keuse van boete. 'n Toekenning kan ook verbeur word as hy as gevolg van 'n oortreding gekasseer word en met oneer ontslaan word.

Indien 'n persoon vir die tweede keer kwalifiseer vir die toekenning van die Casteel De Goede-hoop-dekorasie, sal 'n goue balkie met 'n geemboeserde kasteeltjie in die middel daarvan, uitgereik word. Vir elke balkie word 'n miniatuur replika van die dekorasie op die lint gedra. 'n Balkie kan ook na die dood uitgereik word.

As hierdie dekorasie dalk verlore raak en die eienaar kan bewys lewer dat dit nie deur nalatigheid of agtelosigheid gebeur het nie, kan 'n skriftelike aansoek vir vervanging op Staatskoste daarvoor gemaak word, so nie kan die eienaar self die koste daaraan verbonde, dra.

Hierdie dekorasie mag ook nie verpand of verkoop word nie of selfs op enige ander manier as slegs by wyse van bemaking uit die besit van die eienaar aan iemand anders of aan 'n inrigting oorgedra word nie.

Elke dekorasie sal vergesel wees van 'n toekenningsertifikaat.



# THE WORLD'S FIRST PALLADIUM SETS made by TONGA

The world's first Palladium proof sets have recently been issued by the Government of Tonga to mark the coronation of his Majesty, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV who has succeeded the famous Queen Salote.

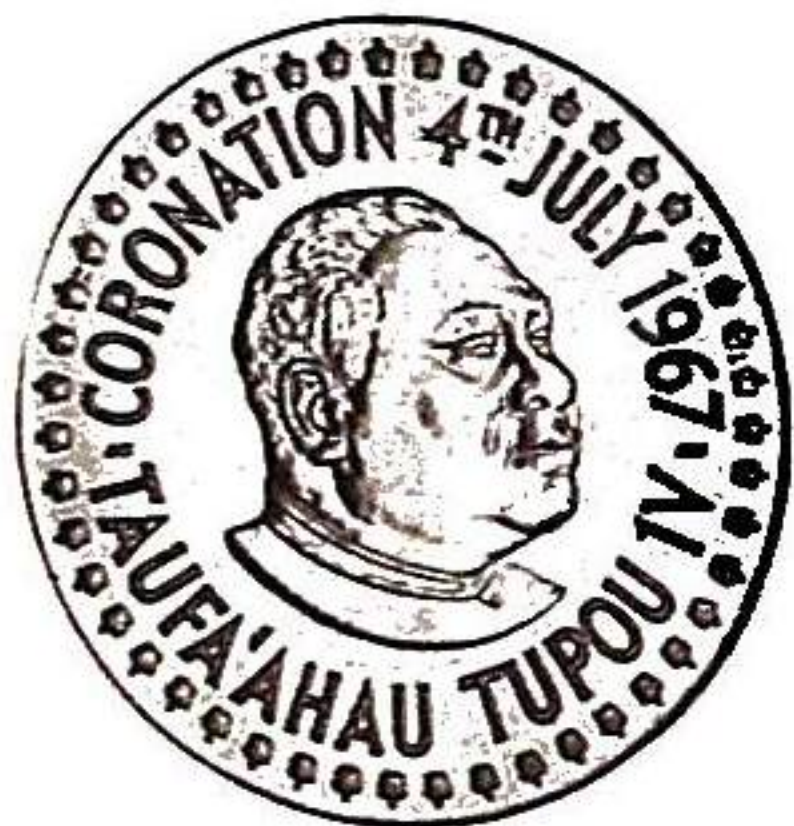
According to the official pamphlet issued by the Tonga Government, no Palladium coins have ever been struck before. The Tongan Treasury have placed seven commemorative coins into circulation. They are: Four in Cupro-nickel (20 seniti, 50 seniti, 1 Pa'anga and 2 Pa'anga) and three in Palladium; 1 Hau, ½ Hau, ¼ Hau. The "Hau" (signifying "Sovereign" in Tongan) weighs exactly one thousand Imperial Grains and is equal in value to 100 Pa'anga. Making it the largest, heaviest, intrinsically most valuable (at time of issuance) piece of actual money produced in over 175 years.

Palladium is one of the "splendid

six" rare "platinum metals"; (Palladium, Platinum, Ruthenium, Osmium, Rhodium, Iridium) all costing considerably more than the price of Gold. Until now only Platinum had ever been utilized for coinage. Between 1828 and 1845 Russia produced, between three denominations, almost 1½ million Platinum coins: Palladium like Gold and Platinum is completely impervious to all atmospheric conditions. Like the Gold and Platinum coins of the past the Palladium coins of Tonga will retain their lustre and value.

The reverses of these coins were designed by Staff Artists in the Government Service. The Obverses were created jointly by the English Artists, Mr. Maurice Meers and Mr. Ernest Hyde whose initials appear amidst the peripheral crowns. Produced and struck by the Royal Mint, at Tower Hill, London to the following specifications and quantities.

DENOMINATION	DIAMETER (inches)	Weight (Imperial Grains)	Composition	Quantity Minted
HAU (equivalent to 100 Pa'anga)	1.8898	1000.0	980 Grains Palladium 20 Grains Ruthenium	1500
½ HAU (equivalent to 50 Pa'anga)	1.3386	500.0	490 Grains Palladium 10 Grains Ruthenium	1650
¼ HAU (equivalent to 25 Pa'anga)	1.0236	250.0	245 Grains Palladium 5 Grains Ruthenium	1700



OBVERSE:  
HAU PALLADIUM

REVERSE:  
HAU PALLADIUM



½ HAU PALLADIUM



¼ HAU PALLADIUM



Every coin in this series bears an incused edge inscription reading "HISTORICALLY THE FIRST PALLADIUM COINAGE". They are legal tender for any amount and exchangeable on demand for any other coins or banknotes in circulation. No Proofs of any kind exist in the Palladium series and upon the completion of the Minting in the quantities specified every vestige of the Coronation Inscription, Dates and Crowns were completely obliterated to make impossible the re-striking at any time of any Coronation Coins.

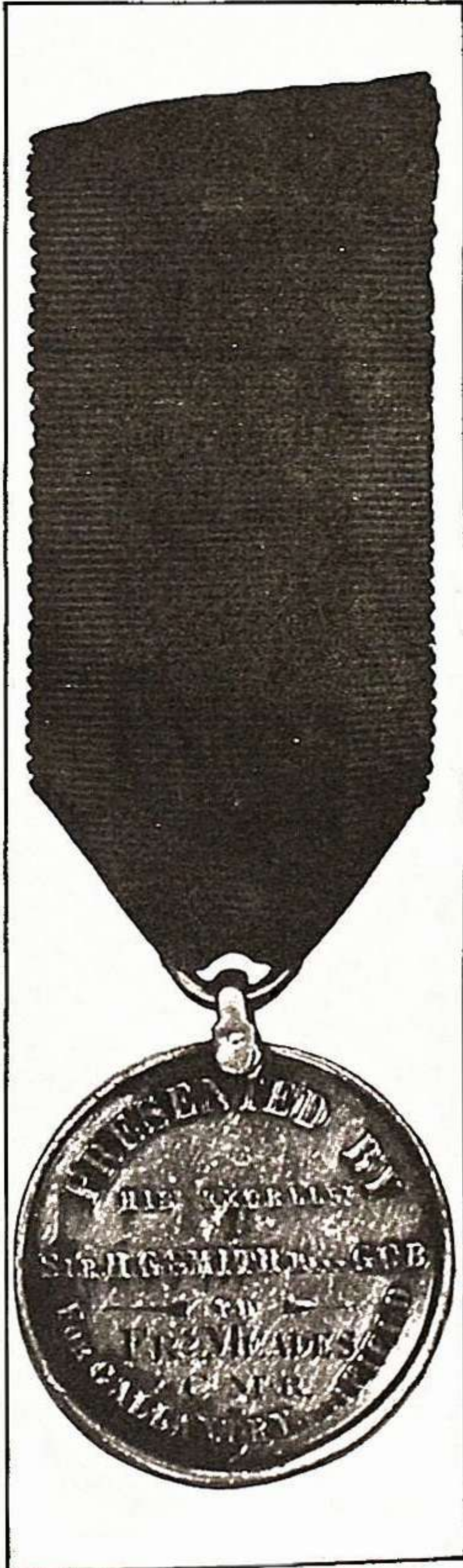
Munte van die Bybel deur Dr. A.C.J. Smit, sal as gevolg van gebrek aan ruimte in hierdie maand se uitgawe, volgende maand vervolg word.



# THE Sir Harry Smith Medal

by S.E. EDWARDS

Pictures kindly supplied by The Africana Museum, Johannesburg.



Medals are not everybody's cup of tea. They are so romantic: They are works of art and records of heroism. Take the rare Sir Harry Smith Medal of 1851. It was issued by Sir Harry Smith (who was Governor of the Cape and Commander-in-Chief) to members of the escort which accompanied him when he ran the gauntlet from Fort Cox to Kingwilliamstown during the Eighth Kaffir War.

It is circular and made of silver, probably in Cape Town. On the obverse there is a heraldic lion and 1851 in the exergue; on the reverse "His Excellency Sir H.G. Smith Bart G.C.B. to ... For Gallantry in the Field."

The Africana Museum's catalogue of "Military Medals of South African Interest" compiled by Miss Anna Smith, and published in 1957 says: It is not surprising that this medal is much sought after; it is the first military medal awarded in South Africa; its history is still to a certain extent wrapped in mystery; it is extremely rare — most authorities (on what grounds — as there is no medal roll — is not known) record the fact that only some 30 medals were awarded; it was issued unofficially by that very colourful figure, Sir Harry Smith; and finally, it was probably made at the Cape, and consequently also interests the collector of Cape Silver.

Sir Harry Smith certainly was a colourful, not to mention a romantic, figure. He took part in battles in the Argentine in 1806/7, at Coruna in 1808/9, all the great Peninsula battles such as Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Torres Vedras, Vittoria, from 1809 to 1813; then the capture of Washington in the U.S.A. in 1814 and finally the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. There followed

numerous adventures in the Kaffir Wars in South Africa and the brush with the Boers at Boomplaats. He was Governor of the Cape from 1848 to 1852.

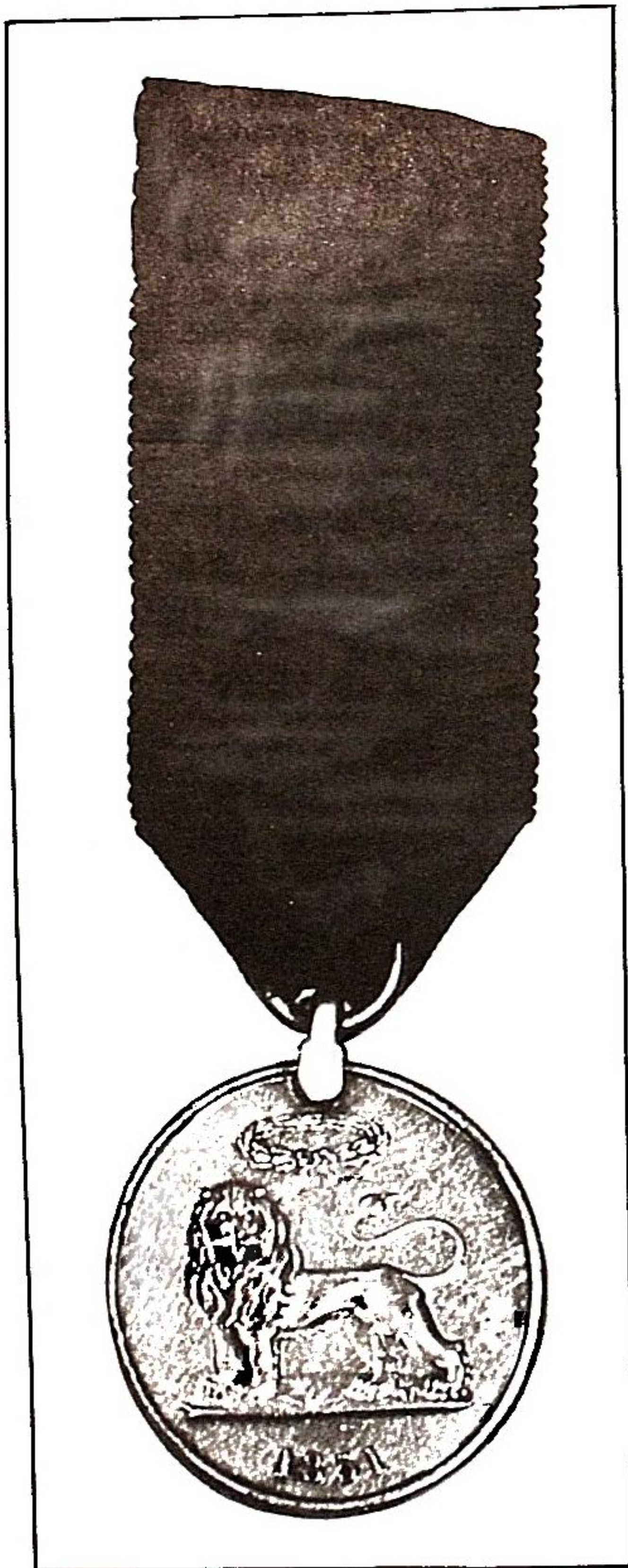
Every schoolboy in South Africa knows that Harrismith is a town in the Free State and that Ladysmith is a town in Natal, which figured prominently in the Boer War. How many South Africans know that Lady Smith was nee Juana Maria de Los Dolores de Leon? And how many people know the extraordinarily romantic manner in which Harry Smith met his future wife in The Peninsula War? I quote from Sir Harry Smith's autobiography describing the sack of Badajoz:-

"Now comes a scene of horror I would willingly bury in oblivion. The atrocities committed by our soldiers on the poor innocent and defenceless inhabitants of the city (Badajoz), no words suffice to depict. Civilized man, when let loose and the bonds of morality relaxed, is a far greater beast than the savage, more refined in his cruelty, more fiend-like in every act; and oh, too truly did our heretofore noble soldiers disgrace themselves, though the officers exerted themselves to the utmost to repress it, many who escaped the enemy being wounded in their merciful attempts! Yet this scene of debauchery, however cruel to many, to me has been the solace and the whole happiness of my life. A poor defenceless maiden of thirteen years was thrown upon my generous nature through her sister, as described so ably in Johnny Kincaid's book ("Random Shots by a Rifleman") of which this is an extract:-

"I was conversing with a friend at the door of my tent, when we observed two ladies coming from the city, who made directly towards us; they seemed both young, and when they came near, the elder of the two threw back her mantilla to address us, showing a remarkably handsome figure with fine features . . . .

"She at once addressed us in that confident, heroic manner so characteristic of the high-bred Spanish





maiden, told us who they were – the last of an ancient and honourable house .....

“But yesterday she and her young sister were able to live in affluence and in a handsome house; to-day they knew not where to lay their heads, where to get a change of raiment or a morsel of bread. Her house, she said, was a wreck; and

to show the indignities to which they had been subjected, she pointed to where the blood was trickling down their necks, caused by the wrenching of their ear-rings through the flesh by the hands of worse than savages, who would not take the trouble to unclasp them!

“For herself, she said, she cared not; but for the agitated and almost unconscious maiden by her side, whom she had but lately received from the hands of her conventual instructresses, she was in despair; and that, in the rapine and ruin which was at that moment desolating the city, she saw no security for her but the seemingly indelicate one she had adopted – of coming to the camp and throwing themselves upon the protection of any British officer who would afford it. Nor was it made in vain. Nor could it be abused, for she stood by the side of an angel! A being more transcendently lovely I had never before seen – one more amiable I have never yet known!

“Fourteen summers had not yet passed over her youthful countenance, which was of a delicate freshness – more English than Spanish; her face, though not perhaps rigidly beautiful, was nevertheless so remarkably handsome, and so irresistibly attractive, surmounting a figure cast in nature’s fairest mould, that to look at her was to love her; and I did love her, But I never told her my love, and in the meantime another and more impudent fellow stepped in and won her!”

Sir Harry Smith continues “I confess myself to be the “more impudent fellow”!”

They were married almost immediately and I believe I am right in saying that Juana Maria de Los Dolores de Leon (the future Lady Smith) was given away by the Iron Duke himself.

So the next time you speed past Harrismith and Ladysmith in your hurry to get to Durban, spare a thought to the sack of Badajos and the frightened little girl of thirteen seeking shelter in the British lines.



*Dr. Clain-Stefanelli, the Curator of Numismatics, Smithsonian Institution, delivered this address recently at the annual meeting of the Canadian Numismatic Association. He sent a copy of his speech to Bickels Coin and Medal News immediately after it was delivered for publication. We have pleasure in publishing Dr. Clain-Stefanelli's address in full knowing that even though it was intended for numismatists thousands of miles from South Africa, everything which he says is applicable to numismatics in the Republic.*

*Editor*

I very much appreciate the opportunity to address this dinner meeting of the Canadian Numismatic Association. It is, indeed, most befitting that on the occasion of the Centenary of Confederation, the annual convention of the Canadian Numismatic Association is being held in their Capital City, which was also the place where the Association was founded in 1950.

It seems to me that we should take advantage of this meeting, held on such a significant historical occasion, to re-examine the present achievements of numismatics and attempt to outline some of its possible developments and future programs. This reappraisal presents the opportunity to raise some points which I believe are of particular interest to all of us.

Before entering, however, into a discussion of strictly numismatic problems, may I describe for a moment the work and scope of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington on the staff of which I serve as Curator of the Division of Numismatics. No doubt you may have heard that tourist guides like to refer to our Institution as "the Nation's attic"; we prefer instead to describe it as "the Magnet on the Mall." In fact, the Smithsonian's recently inaugurated Museum of History and Technology, for example, has welcomed more than 5,000,000 visitors in the past year. On the 2nd of July of this year 51,705 persons visited our building on just that one particular day. More than 12,500,000 people

# coins re-examined

by V. CLAIN-STEFANELLI

Curator of Numismatics, United States National Museum, (Smithsonian Institution) Washington.

were counted in all the Smithsonian's principal buildings — there are six of them in the Mall area alone — during the last year; and since we are mentioning statistics, I might add that there are over 2,500 employees on the staff of the Smithsonian at the present time.

Ever since this Institution was officially established by an Act of Congress in 1846, it has constantly sought to increase and diffuse knowledge among men — the purpose for which James Smithson, of England, willed his fortune to the United States in 1829. The Smithsonian is continually striving to fulfill this goal through its various bureaus, museums, and research activities which span and attempt to enlighten almost every aspect of human knowledge. Few people are aware of the scope of the Institution's work and I would feel remiss not to mention at least its Museum of Natural History; the National Zoological Park; the Office of oceanography and Limnology; the Oceanographic Sorting Center; the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama; the Radiation Biology Laboratory; the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and the National Air and Space Museum. Activities in the fields of history, art, and the humanities in general are developed in the

Museum of History and Technology, the Freer Gallery of Art; the National Collection of Fine Arts; the National Portrait Gallery; the National Gallery of Art; and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts now being built. The Hirshhorn Museum of Modern Art should be built soon. Also under consideration is a National Armed Forces Museum.

Among other Smithsonian activities are its International Exchange Service, the Science Information Exchange (which includes the humanities and hence numismatics); the Office of International Activities which administers, for example, the foreign currency programme; the Office of Education and Training; the Smithsonian Press, and others. The recently passed Museum Act is administered by the Director of the United States National Museum.

I hope you will forgive this digression from our main topic which is dedicated to a reappraisal of numismatics, but I have too often met with people who are unaware of the universal character of the Smithsonian's work and interests. This universality is combined with an often daring forward look which is of immense importance for any human activity since it helps to prevent the stifling application of shackles to our spirit and, in turn, to progress in general.



Through it we may avoid the commonplace and instead open new frontiers.

But, while setting new horizons for future progress we must draw — in order to be constructive — on the experience of past generations. It is, therefore, necessary that we stop from time to time to survey some of the knowledge gained and to reassess our achievements while planning and setting new goals for the future.

Coins, of course, are part of the large motion of money and it would be an exercise in futility to try to demonstrate here how important money often was and still is.

The practical Romans referred to money as the "nervus rerum gerendarum," which I usually translate as "the driving power — of history."

Essentially, however, coins are more than that: They are actually official, historical, and artistic monuments that bring us into direct, palpable contact, with remote cultures of the past; with the people that produced them and used them.

From the time of its invention in the seventh century B.C. to the present day, coinage was mostly an official product. Coins bear witness, by the simple fact of their existence, to a political organization of some kind.

In some instances, coins confirm and sometimes add information to our knowledge from literary sources.

When we come to regal coinages, we find that sometimes whole series of rulers are recorded by their coins alone. Coins formed the basic evidence on which it has been possible to construct certain phases of the history of the Greek kingdoms of Bactria and Northwest India. At the same time they show how lasting an influence resulted from Alexander's expedition to that country.

Good metal travels far, and the routes taken by coins may serve to map currents of trade, though we should be careful not to regard them necessarily as indicating direct relations between the countries concerned.

Large finds in India of Roman coins of the Early Empire, show, for instance, the importance of the trade with that country.

Trade relations are evidenced frequently by imitations of certain dominant or widely accepted coins.

Coins also reflect the general movement of art. Greek coins are signposts on the road along which Greek art travelled, revealing, for instance, local schools of art which, in the scarcity of monumental vestiges, would otherwise have remained unknown to us.

The importance of coins as official documents for the early history of religion and mythology cannot be over-estimated. The simple fact that the arms or badges of the issuing authorities were adopted as coin designs is evidence — often the only evidence extant — of certain local cults, and largely due to the evidence provided by coins, we have a fairly adequate knowledge of the distribution of cults throughout the Greek world.

Later, in the Roman period, we can follow the expansion of Oriental cults in the Roman Empire and also the gradual adoption of Christianity as the official religion.

Of all antiquities and material witnesses of the historical development of human society during the last 2,600 years, coins are the smallest; yet, as a class, the most authoritative in record and widest in range.

The study of the meaning and the essence of money and coins has preoccupied some of the best minds since ancient times. Medieval mysticism prevented a more empirical thinking until the Renaissance brought back to life through historical and philological research the luminous world of the ancients. With Gutenberg's invention, books containing pictures became available and gained popularity, and from the fifteen hundreds on, we have an evergrowing number of publications on coins. Because of the proliferation of numismatic literature, the publication of bibliographies became necessary as early as the 17th cen-

tury, and in the eighteenth century the field of numismatics had become so vast that no one man could encompass it in its entirety.

Studied in universities since the seventeenth century, numismatics was often considered to be a branch of archaeology or an ancillary discipline of history. Gradually, numismatics widened its scope, even if full awareness of the developments taking place may often have been lacking. During our century, the pace of these developments quickened and numismatics changed from a science which virtually restricted itself to metallic forms of currency, to a science concerned with the meaning and background of all forms of money, including primitive media of exchange, money substitutes, and documents of value. Considering this fundamental recognition, it becomes clear that our foremost duty is the search into the history of all forms of money, attempting to explain their origin, evolution, and extrinsic appearance as well as their intrinsic qualities, relations to economics, to social and cultural history, as well as history of art. Parallel with this, we must search into the various aspects and developments of medallic art, the study of medals forming an integral part of numismatics.

In this context the curious as such holds little interest, for we must devote our primary attention to historical, artistic, technical, and related elements.

Also, we must keep in mind that the function of the document or object is what is basically important and not its appearance. Thus all forms of financial documents, regardless of their extrinsic characteristics, fall within the scope of numismatics and are of keen interest to this science. Various kinds of stamps, for instance, are documents significantly illustrating financial history and cannot be ignored by the informed numismatist and financial historian.

Hence it is necessary (and for us as numismatists I should say it becomes our duty) to assemble and preserve the documentation that



should enable us to study and to comprehend better the development of money and of media of payment in their broad historical and economical context. True comprehension of these phenomena is only possible based on primary "numismatic" source material. It always should be kept in mind that monetary questions cannot be isolated from the rest of the economy. Modern instances of regression to more "primitive" forms of monetary exchanges in times of need or economical stress, provide case studies of enormous practical meaning. Thus it is necessary to assemble documentary material to foster the study of monetary history in all of its complexities.

When thinking about future developments, we should consider, for example, that in 1966, the amount of metallic currency in circulation in Canada did not exceed \$327,711,573. Compared with 2 billion 723 million dollars in paper currency. The corresponding amounts in the United States for the same year were 3½ billion dollars in coins versus 41 billion dollars in paper currency. These amounts are, in turn, dwarfed by the sums of money transferred by the intermediary of checks. The total amount cashed in 1966 by Canadian banks against current and savings accounts was 515½ billion dollars. In the United States, the Federal Reserve Banks alone handled in 1965 about 492 million Government checks for nearly 135 billion dollars. They also handled 4 billion 601 million other checks amounting to about 1 trillion 631 billion dollars. A multiple of this amount was transferred during the same period by other banks. This gives us a better perspective of the relatively limited role played by hard currency in modern monetary transactions. The ever increasing use of checking accounts will lead to ever-more automation in banking, a necessary development in our modern credit-based economy. It is our mission to follow these developments and to preserve historical records typifying this evolution while it is in progress and while documentary material is relatively easy to obtain. What might

be obvious to us today should be documented for the enlightenment of future generations.

In an aside directed to the numerous collectors and numismatists interested in coins only, I should like to add that I do not suggest that coins will cease to fulfill a practical function within the foreseeable future. On the contrary, if we take into consideration just the rapidly increasing use of coin operated machines and devices, we must forecast increasing demands for coins. We do not know of any practical substitutes in such instances.

Research into the application to numismatics of scientific methods of investigation, particularly physics, will be intensified and developed further. The application of optical interferometry in surface examination is an example of recent work done in this field by us, at the Smithsonian. Perfecting methods of trace analysis and mass-spectrography may become useful in metal dating; isotope ratios may give indications for the provenience of some metals used in coinage. These examples are mentioned to show some of the new horizons in this particular area of research.

Of importance for the future development of numismatics in a general sense is the fact that today it reaches all levels of society. The steadily expanding number of temporary and permanent exhibits dedicated to coins, paper currencies, tokens and medals is an important factor in bringing numismatics to the attention of the general public. The significance from the same point of view of widely circulated journals and periodicals and the interest shown in numismatics by mass media of communications can not be overemphasized.

Overdue is a more even spread of opportunities for numismatic research throughout the entire vast expanse of the American continent. It is the duty of this generation of numismatists to work for the establishment of adequate reference libraries in appropriately selected cities to serve various parts of our

continent. The establishment of museums and of meaningful numismatic displays spread over the entire continent is another necessary step.

State historical societies, universities, and banking institutions should be particularly interested and lend their assistance.

In the same context it will be necessary to develop a museum and exhibit philosophy that should result in the assemblage of reference collections and files of an authoritative character for a particular region and in truly educational displays. These exhibits should illustrate the history of money and banking as pertaining to a particular state, province, or area, while general exhibits should be designed to add meaning to the main historical display. Displays showing coins, medals, and paper currencies as artistic documents should also be given full consideration.

The training of professional numismatists and curators of numismatics will be of first importance since it should assure proper preservation, display, study and interpretation of the materials entrusted to their care. Requirements for better facilities in numismatic training at a higher educational level will certainly result from an intensified overall numismatic programme.

This may be taken by some as an ambitious dream. It should become instead a preliminary blueprint for a numismatic programme. We should consider that the southern part of Western Germany alone registers sufficient interest in numismatics to support numismatic cabinets and libraries in a total of four cities (Munich, Nuremberg, Frankfurt/Main, and Cologne). Also, that the Hermitage in Leningrad deems it necessary to increase further its professional numismatic staff already consisting of 15 specialists working in five different sections.

A projection for the future which envisions the establishment of numismatic centers in regions adequately spaced from coast to coast should not seem attempting the impossible.



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1876	1d	1949	VF-	-.40	1916	2/-	1950	F	-.65					
1877	1d	1950	F +	-.35	1917	2/-	1950	F	1-00	10 HELLER				
1878	1d	1951	F	-.15	1918	2/-	1951	F	-.60	1935	1909J	VF	4-50	
1879	1d	1951	VF	-.30	1919	2/-	1951	VF-	1-40					
1880	1d	1952	F +	-.25	1920	2/-	1952	F	-.95	20 HELLER Brass				
1881	1d	1952	VF-	-.30	1921	5/-	1953	EF	R7-50	1936	1916	F	10-00	
1882	1d	1955	VF	-.35	<b>RHODESIAN PROOF SETS</b>							Lg.Cr.		
1883	3d	1944	F	-.70	1922	1955 Short set in official case of issue			PROOF R130-00					
1884	3d	1944	VF-	-.95						$\frac{1}{4}$ RUPIE				
1885	3d	1947	VF-	-.80	1923	1964 Short set in official case of issue			PROOF R 67-50	1937	1898	VG	2-50	
1886	3d	1948	F +	-.70						1938	1898	F	5-00	
1887	3d	1948	VF	1-00	1924	1966 Gold 5, 1 and 10/- in individual cases			PROOF R289-00	1939	1901	F	5-00	
1888	3d	1949	F +	.40						1940	1912J	VF	7-50	
1889	3d	1949	VF	-.70	<b>GERMAN EAST AFRICA</b>						1941	1913J	VF	7-50
1890	3d	1951	F-	-.20	<b>1 HELLER</b>						<b>1 RUPIE</b>			
1891	3d	1951	VF	-.70	1925	1904A	F	R 1-00		1942	1904A	F	7-00	
1892	3d	1952	F	-.25	1926	1904A	VF	1-75		1943	1907J	VF	8-50	
1893	6d	1947	F-	-.45	1927	1905J	F	1-25		1944	1910J	VG	2-50	
1894	6d	1947	F	-.75	1928	1905J	VF	2-00		1945	1910J	F	5-00	
1895	6d	1947	VF	1-25	1929	1907J	VF	1-40		1946	1911J	VF	8-50	
1896	6d	1948	F	-.40	1930	1908J	VF	1-40		1947	1913J	F	7-00	
1897	6d	1948	VF	-.95	<b>5 HELLER</b>						1948	1914J	VF	11-50
1898	6d	1949	F	-.50	1931	1908J	VF	8-00		<b>2 RUPIE</b>				
1899	6d	1951	F +	-.30		Lg.Cu.				1949	1893	F	R 62-50	
1900	6d	1952	VF-	-.45	1932	1913A	VF	7-75		1950	1894	F-	R 48-50	
1901	6d	1963	UNC	12-50		Sm.Nickel					Rim dents			
1902	1/-	1947	F +	1-00						1951	1894	F	R 68-50	
1903	1/-	1948	F	1-00						<b>15 RUPIE</b>				
1904	1/-	1949	VG	-.20						1952	1915 Gold			
1905	1/-	1949	F +	-.75							Tabora Pond			
1906	1/-	1950	VF-	1-00							Short curl	EF	R135-00	
1907	1/-	1950	VF+	1-75										
1908	1/-	1951	F +	-.60										
1909	1/-	1952	F +	-.50										
1910	2/-	1947	F	-.65										

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