

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

Vol. 5 No. 2.

February, 1957.

NEWSLETTER.EDITORIAL :

What a pity that the mundane job of earning one's bread and butter should interfere with one's numismatics! But that's the way it is and we can only say thank you to all our members for their patience and forbearance, and for the many letters of enquiry, encouragement and support which have been received for this Newsletter - which last appeared we hate to think when!! Sorry! Your Editor can only plead pressure of work and lack of literary support!

May we take this opportunity of wishing all our members everywhere, a very happy and prosperous New Year. May 1957 see good hunting for those little pieces of metal we love so much.

PATRONAGE :

It is with very great pleasure that we record that the Hon. J.F.T. Naude, Minister of Finance, has been graciously pleased to extend his patronage to the Society. We are very conscious of the honour thus done us, and we are proud that we can claim to have been under the patronage of the Head of the Union's Treasury ever since our inauguration.

MEETINGS :

With the usual December break, monthly meetings have continued to be held regularly at members' homes - and the "faithful" have continued to enjoy and benefit by them. As usual, the Annual General Meeting was held in August, and the following were elected to the chief posts on the Executive :-

President :	Lt. Col. J.L. Knobel
Chairman :	Mr. J. Mc A. Day
Hon. Sec./Treas :	Mr. W. Bergman (since resigned)
Hon. Editor :	Dr. F.K. Mitchell (Under protest!! Editor).

HON. SECRETARY/TREASURER :

Unfortunately, shortly after the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Bergman was transferred to Port Elizabeth and had to resign his office. We were very sorry to lose his excellent and efficient services, but Mr. M.G. Hibbard has stepped into the breach and is carrying on the tradition.

SOUTH AFRICAN COINAGE - 1955.

We are indebted to the Director of the South African Mint for the following figures for production of South African coin during 1955 (figures for 1956 have not yet reached us).

1955	Specimens	"Selected" Crowns	Circulation Pieces	Total number of pieces
£1	900	-	-	900
10/-	900	-	-	900
5/-	2,850	2,230	40,000	45,080
2/6	2,850		3,863,497	3,866,347
2/-	2,850		3,744,778	3,747,628
1/-	2,850		2,206,108	2,208,958
6d.	2,850		1,969,036	1,971,886
3d.	2,850		4,719,891	4,722,741
1d.	2,850		6,504,911	6,507,701
½d.	2,850		3,771,399	3,774,249
¼d.	2,850		11,795,598	11,798,448

TOTAL : 38,644,898 pieces, face value £1,136,724. 4. 6½d.

The Specimen sets produced were as follows :-

11 coin sets £1 to ¼d.	-	600
2 coin sets £1 and £½	-	300
9 coin sets 5/- to ¼d.	-	2250

COMMENT :

It will be seen that all denominations were struck in fairly large numbers - with the exception of the crown. Considerably more crowns were struck than in 1954, but the figure is still only about half the number struck in the previous scarce year, 1950.

1956 SPECIMEN SETS :

The following figures of 1956 specimen set production were obtained from the Mint, but we cannot yet be certain that these were the final figures for the year :-

11 coin sets £1 to ¼d.	-	350
2 coin sets £1 and £½	-	158
9 coin sets 5/- to ¼d.	-	1350

Editor.

TRIP TO EUROPE - 1956 : Dr. F.K. Mitchell.

So many of our members have written in to ask me for a "numismatic" report of my trip to Europe last year, that I feel I have no option but to put some of my impressions on paper. I went over on a "busman's holiday" - a Travelling Fellowship in Public Health from the World Health Organisation - and was really kept pretty busy. However, of course I did manage to fit in a little numismatics too, though not nearly as much as I would have liked.

First of all, our friends the London dealers - Spink's, Seaby's, Baldwin's. They were all very kind to me and I was left with the conviction that they knew their stuff and were all out to help us, and that their integrity was beyond question. Where they fell down - as much to their regret as my own - was in the matter of stock, particularly of South African items. They all reported that the demand had been so great and sustained since the war that the available sources of supply were quite inadequate. I had hoped to improve my collection of George V South African silver quite a bit - but no luck - apart from an odd piece here and there, they just couldn't help me. Kruger gold and crowns were conspicuous by their absence, and when I asked for "middle year" Kruger silver in E.F. state, I might have been asking for the moon!!

War medals to South African units, too, were few and far between, but here I did have a little luck and was very appreciative of the privilege of being allowed to look through their medal drawers to my heart's content. A Saturday morning at Baldwins is a particularly pleasant experience - it is almost like an informal meeting of a numismatic club. All sorts of well-known collectors drop in for a chat, a cup of tea and possibly a little browse around. I was pleased to learn that South African collectors have a pretty good reputation for paying up - the only little grumble was that we were sometimes rather dilatory about acknowledging receipt of parcels which had been sent out.

While he has no numismatic "shop", I did meet Mr. G.E. Hearn and spent a couple of interesting hours with him over a coffee pot. He's a young man who is obviously determined to make a go of his dealing. He is particularly interested in our South African series and there's no doubt that he does get hold of some nice South African items - but at a price!

Mr. French, manager of Glendinings, the Auctioneers who run regular coin and medal sales, is another great friend of collectors. I was fortunately able to attend one of his sales - and what an interesting experience in efficiency and integrity it was! The lots were knocked down at an incredible rate, but there was no question that anyone present had ample opportunity to make the highest bid if he wanted to.

While in Holland, I spent a few very pleasant hours in Amsterdam with Mr. Jacques Schulman, and Mr. Forrer who has joined him. I have always felt that the natural direction of extension of South African collecting is towards the "Early Cape Dutch" series, and here Mr. Schulman's well-established business can be of very great assistance. I came away with a lot more knowledge, and quite a few nice pieces to add to my Early Cape Collection.

So much for the dealers - what of the collections? Here I must admit that most of my limited available time was spent on Military medals rather than coins. The British Museum

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was very disappointing - everything packed away following the blitz and awaiting the erection of a new wing. But I did see the Gold £5, £2, £1 and £½ of Elizabeth II - milled edge coins dated 1953, of which I understand two sets only were struck to mark the new reign. Also among the couple of dozen coins on display was a British penny of 1933 - one of only four struck (two for foundation stones, one for Royal Mint Museum). In The Hague I had a brief look at a few of the lovely pieces of the early Dutch series in the "Koninklike Kabinet" and in Copenhagen I spent a whole afternoon studying the large collection displayed in the Royal Danish Museum. Then in far away Belgrade I wandered into the Museum and spent an interesting hour struggling to remember my school-boy French, and discussing their collection with a delightful old chap who is "Keeper of the Coins". The Belgrade Museum has a most interesting collection demonstrating the numismatic history of Yugoslavia right back to Roman times, when the Romans struck a number of special coins for their territory there.

War medals of course were my major interest, and here I found some grand exhibits. The United Services Museum in London is well worth a visit, particularly if you can secure admission to the Woolsey Room, where the Whittaker Collection is housed. The Tower of London is a wonderful Military Museum, particularly of arms and armour, but in the room which houses the Crown Jewels there is a representative collection of Orders and Decorations - I first embarrassed and then won the friendship of one of the guardians of the Jewels by pointing out to him that his tailor had put his ribbons on back-to-front!! Thereafter I was awarded "special treatment" and could hardly drag myself away as closing time approached. Edinburgh Castle, dominating feature of what is so obviously a Capital City, has much to offer anyone interested in military history. To stand in the War Memorial Chapel within the Castle is a most moving experience - one can see in one's mind's eye the many famous Scottish regiments marching past with swaying kilts and skirling pipes. And upstairs there is a truly magnificent collection of Decorations and War medals won by Scotland's sons. Back in London, the Imperial War Museum took me right back to Italy in 1944-45 - the planes and tanks and guns, and especially the dreaded German "88", made me feel again that tingle up my spine! There they have a most interesting collection of Military Badges of the British Commonwealth and a small selection of medals.

But pride of place in the memories of my trip must be given to the magnificent Victoria Cross Centenary Exhibition at Marlborough House. Unfortunately I was not able to see the wonderful Centenary Parade of living recipients of the "Cross", but I was fortunately able to return to London before the Exhibition closed. What a wonderful show it was!! I counted 195 Crosses - there may have been a few more. And most of them were accompanied by other decorations or medals earned by the recipients, so it is easy to understand what a medal feast it was! But it was more than that, for the decorations and medals were only a small part of the Exhibition, which was profusely illustrated by photographs, paintings, uniforms, colours and a wide variety of personal relics. Of course it was quite impossible to take it all in, but I have the Catalogue and the hours have a way of slipping by as I page through it. My visit to Marlborough House will remain one of the inspiring memories of my life.

One institution which I wish was nearer Cape Town is the Public Records Office - the central British Archives in London. I spent a couple of days delving there and could easily have spent a couple of months, had I had the time. I paged through ten large volumes of medal rolls of South African units - from the C.M.R. in 1835-53 to the South African War. And what a wealth of information is there for the extracting!! What I did manage to record in my notebook will be material for many a future paragraph in the Newsletter. The War Office Library, too, contains much valuable material, and was deserving of much more time than I could give it.

My one big regret was that I had so little time or opportunity for making contact with our fellow collectors in Britain. I did manage to make the personal acquaintance of a few of my many pen-friends, but the majority will have to wait until my next visit. I had a stimulating day at Eastbury with that expert on South African Military History, Major Tylden; I met and talked to collectors in London, Birmingham, Worcester, Edinburgh and Belfast; but I made no great impression on the list of addresses I took with me. So I'm going again just as soon as I can manage it - and no "Busman's Holiday" next time!!

SOME SOUTH AFRICAN "GEMS" : Dr. F.K. Mitchell.

While in London, I was privileged to see one very small packet of coins which form part of the private collection of Mr. Royle Baldwin - partner in the well-known London firm of numismatic dealers, A.H. Baldwin & Sons. Mr. Baldwin, with his wife, spent a few years in South Africa before the war and thus has a special interest in our own section of numismatics. I had no scale, calipers or camera, so cannot describe these pieces as thoroughly as they deserve, but as several of them were quite new to me, I felt their existence ought to be placed on permanent record. In agreeing to a short write-up, Mr. Baldwin asked me to make it clear that they are part of his private collection, and are NOT FOR SALE!!

- (1) Burgers pond, 1874, in bronze or copper. Coarse beard but "8" in date not double struck. Mr. Baldwin says the reverse die used was not quite "finished" and this would appear to be a trial striking from a partially completed die.
- (2) Z.A.R. half-crown, 1892, plain edge trial striking in red copper.
- (3) Z.A.R. Proof penny, 1892. This coin is in brilliant state and has a perfect mirror-like surface on the flan. It is of normal diameter and obviously a proof.
- (4) Z.A.R. Sixpence, 1897, trial striking in copper. Plain edge. Double thickness flan.
- (5) Z.A.R. Sixpence, 1897, in GOLD. Brilliant proof pattern. The head on the obverse is slightly different from the normal and on the reverse the figure "6" and the figures of the date are larger.
(Ex Ferrari and Virgil Brand collections.)
- (6) Raised rim blank half-pond. (Mr. Baldwin once owned two!).

- (7) Blank "Veld" Pond. This is no ordinary blank pond - apart from the absence of obverse and reverse inscriptions, this piece has all the characteristics of the "Z.A.R. Een Pond" of 1902.
- (8) A set of five plain edge blank ponde, acquired from a former British Commissioner of Police in Pretoria.
- (9) Z.A.R. "99" Overstruck Pond, complete with pedigree.
- (10) Z.A.R. 1892 Single shaft Pond in almost E.F. state.
- (11) O.F.S. Pattern kroon, 1887, Silver ("ESSAY" and "LIC" removed).
- (12) Transvaal : Burgers Pattern kroon or £5, 1874, gilt, plain edge : no stop after date.
- (13) Transvaal : Burgers Pattern 2/6 or £2, gilt.
- (14) Transvaal : Burgers Pattern 2/6, silver, milled edge : no stop after date.
- (15) Transvaal : Burgers Pattern Penny in aluminium.
- (16) Transvaal : Pattern penny 1874 : Very thick flan.
- (17) Griqua ½d and ¼d, both in brilliant copper gilt : Fine diagonal milling : trial strikings. (Ex Murdock, Ferrari and Virgil Brand collections).
- (18) Two varieties of Durban Club 6d.
- (19) Delagoa Bay Railway medal, 1895 in bronze, wheel without flange; F.D.C., in original box.
- (20) Octagonal 6d token in pewter, C.I.S., Elandsfontein.
- (21) Token 2/- "Griqualand West Diamond Mining Co. Ltd."
- (22) Large Gold Medal for the South African Exhibition, Port Elizabeth, 1885 - struck by A. Fischer & Co., Port Elizabeth.
- (23) Beautiful large gold medal awarded to Herschel, Astronomer at the Cape, by the South African Literary and Scientific Institution in 1838. Herschel had rendered valuable service as President of the Institution. Obverse : A beautiful representation of a Secretary bird fighting a snake, with Table Mountain in the background. Reverse : Presentation inscription.

QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL - TOWN GUARDS ETC. (Dr. F.K. Mitchell)

A study of Volumes 1/W.O.100/280 to Vol.7/W.O.100/286 at the Public Record Office, London, revealed the medal rolls for the following 231 Local Units, including 110 Town Guards. As there seems to be some doubt as to which Town Guards qualified for the Q.S.A. Medal, and as some of these units I had not previously seen recorded, I thought this list might be of interest.

I TOWN GUARDS.

(N.B. An "*" after the name indicates that medals were awarded to members of a D.M.T. unit (District Mounted Troops), as well as to the Town Guard of that name).

Aberdeen *	Knysna *
Adelaide *	Kokstad
Alexandria *	Komgha *
Alice	Kuruman
Alicedale	Ladybrand
Aliwal North *	Lady Grey
Barberton	Ladysmith *
Barkly East	Laingsburg *
Barkly West	Mafeking *
Beaufort West *	Malmesbury *
Bedford *	Maraisburg
Bethulie	Middelburg *
Bluecliff & Glenconnor	Middleton
Boshof	Molteno
Brandfort	Montagu *
Britstown	Mossel Bay *
Burgersdorp *	Naauwpoort *
Cala	Namaqualand
Campbell	Newcastle
Carnarvon *	Oudtshoorn *
Cathcart *	Paarl *
Ceres	Pearston
Clanwilliam	Petrusville
Colesberg *	Pietersburg
Cookhouse	Piquetberg *
Cradock	Port Elizabeth *
Cyphergat	Port Nolloth
Danielskuil	Potchefstroom
Darling	Prieska
De Aar	Prince Albert *
Dordrecht	Prince Albert Road *
Douglas	Queenstown *
Dundee	Richmond
Durban Road	Riversdale *
Edenburg	Robertson *
Fauresmith	Rosmead
Fort Beaufort *	Sandflats *
Fraserberg *	Somerset East *
Fraserberg Road *	Springbokfontein
George	Steynsburg
Graaff Reinet *	Steytlerville *
Grahamstown	Sutherland *
Hanover	Swellendam *
Hopetown	Tarkastad
Humansdorp *	Touws River
Indwe *	Uitenhage *
Jagersfontein	Upington
Jamestown	Victoria West
Jansenville *	Vryburg
Kimberley	Warrenton *
Keimoes	Wellington *
Kenhardt	Willowmore *
King Williams Town *	Windsorton & Wedburg *
Klerksdorp	Worcester *
Klipdam	Zeerust

II DISTRICT MOUNTED TROOPS.

In the case of the following, medals were awarded to a "D.M.T." but not to a Town Guard :-

Albany	Krom River
Caledon	Matjesfontein
Christiana	Modder River
East London	Mosita Squadron
Elsies River Troop	Peddie
Green River	Sir Lowry's Pass
Hay	Stellenbosch
Hex River	Stutterheim
Hopefield	Uniondale
HouwHoek	Victoria East

III OTHER LOCAL UNITS.

Baca Contingent & Baca Reserve Contingent
 Cala Mtd. Nat. Levies & Xalanga Border Scouts
 Camperdown & District Rifle Association
 Cape Infantry (Formerly permanent Duty Company of C.P. Regt.)
 Clanwilliam Convoy Guard
 Dundee Rifle Association
 Elliot Border Scouts
 Glen Grey Native Levy
 Griquatown Defence Corps
 Harrismith Volunteer Lt. Horse
 Howick Rifle Association
 Vallentin's Heidelberg Vols.
 Herbert Mounted Rifles
 Herschel Mounted Volunteers
 Highlands Rifle Association
 Humansdorp Garrison C.D.F.
 Karkloof Rifle Association
 Colonial Defence Force, Kei Rd.
 King Williamstown DMT Keiskama Hoek Squadron
 " " " Berlin Troop
 Koffyfontein Defence Force
 Kruisfontein Native Scouts
 Kuruman Def. Force
 Lidgetton Rifle Association
 Mafeking Railway Vols.
 Mafeking Cadet Corps
 Malmesbury Defence (Local)
 Malmesbury Police Force
 Malton District Rif. Assoc.
 Melmoth Rifle Asscn.
 Mtshwate (or Mlshwale?) Rifle Asscn.
 New Hanover Rifle Asscn.
 Nottingham Rd. Rifle Asscn.
 O'okiep Volunteers (attached to Namaqualand T.G. Battalion)
 Oudtshoorn Volunteer Rifles
 Pretoria Volunteer Guard (Mounted Section)
 Qumbu Native Reserves
 Stockenstrom Dist. Mounted Corps
 Swellendam Railway Guard
 Tembu Levies
 Tsomo Mounted Rifle Club
 Tsolo Native Contingent
 Umlaas Road Rifle Asscn.
 Umzinkulu Reserves
 Upper Tugela Rifle Asscn.
 Victoria West D. M. Police
 Victoria West Mounted Scouts

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III OTHER LOCAL UNITS (Cont'd.)

Warhburg Rifle Assocn.
 Weston Rifle Assocn.
 Wilgefontein Rifle Assocn.
 Willowmore Railway Contingent
 Winterberg Mtd. Rifles
 Wodehouse Yeomanry

TOTAL :	Town Guards	110
	D.M.T.	68
	Other	53.

The following brief notes based on notes or documents on or attached to the medal rolls may be of interest.

- (1) Non-European (i.e. Native and Coloured) members of these local units were not given the medal.
- (2) Of the 110 Town Guards mentioned, only the following were awarded a bar :-

Mafeking T.G.	-	Defence of Mafeking
Kimberley T.G.	-	Defence of Kimberley
Ladysmith T.G.	-	Defence of Ladysmith
Dundee T.G.	-	Talana.

In many cases, bars were applied for, especially "Colony" bars, but these applications were disallowed. In one case I found the following note : "Authority for erasure of clasps 68/SA/6349". In a few cases bars were actually issued, but seem to have been recovered, except in the case of Pietersburg T.G. where the 12 recipients received bars "Transvaal" "South Africa 1902" and, in two cases, "South Africa 1901". In 1905 instructions were issued for the recovery of these bars, but apparently at that stage the recipients could not be traced.

- (3) There was a Concordia T.G. (near O'okiep) and the unit was mobilized, but a note in the Roll reads as follows :-
 "Concordia T.G. : Surrendered to the enemy 4/4/1902 and are not to receive the medal."

- (4) A note on the Mafeking T.G. roll indicates that 493 medals and 493 "Defence of Mafeking" clasps were awarded to this unit. A few further names appear on supplementary rolls. The Mafeking Cadet Corps and some of the Mafeking Railway Vols. received the D.O.M. bar, but Mafeking D.M.T. did not.

- (5) The Clanwilliam Convoy Guard received the bar "Cape Colony".

- (6) It would appear that almost all the rest of the 231 units mentioned received the medal without bar.

REVIEW : RIBBONS AND MEDALS : by Capt. H. Taprell Darling,
D.S.O. R.N.
in Association with Mr. L.F. Guille.

We've had a long wait for the new Edition of "Taffrail's" well-known book - but it has been well worth waiting for!! Published at last, and available from any of the London

dealers /...

dealers for 21/- plus 1/- postage, this book is "just what the Doctor ordered" as a vade-mecum for medal collectors. The book has been extensively revised, and brought right up to date - it now includes even the new South African decorations gazetted in July 1954! It covers not only Britain and the Commonwealth but also about thirty foreign countries, from the U.S.A. to the U.S.S.R.

The author has set out to cover an enormous field within the compass of one small book, and obviously the notes have had to be brief, and some details have had to be omitted. But over six hundred ribbons are reproduced in colour, and many of the Orders and Medals are excellently illustrated by line drawings in the margin of the text. All in all, it is almost incredible that so much information has been made to fit between the two covers.

From the point of view of a South African Medal Collector, there are a few omissions or inaccuracies which I regret. While the colours in the ribbon chart are fairly true, the South African medals seem to have been unlucky. The S.A.G.S. has light yellow stripes instead of orange, the yellow stripes of the Cape G.S. and B.S.A. Co.'s medals are almost pink, and the gold stripes in the Africa Service Medal are left to the imagination.

I feel the following might have been mentioned :-

- (a) Sir Harry Smith's Medal for Gallantry. (Surely more "official" than some, such as the Kimberley Star and the Cape Copper Co.'s medal, which have been thought worthy of inclusion).
- (b) No. 87 : The fact that the B.S.A. Co.'s medal for Mashonaland 1890 has a bar, but no campaign name or date on the medal itself.
- (c) No. 96 : The Queen's South Africa Medal in bronze.
- (d) No. 110 : The British War Medal (1914-19) in bronze.
- (e) No. 112 : The South African bilingual Victory Medal.
- (f) No. 99 : The Cape Copper Co.'s Medal in silver. The bronze medal was awarded in fair numbers, but there was also a silver version of the medal, of which a very few were awarded to officers. Incidentally, the ribbon description is wrong. It was not "dark copper coloured, watered, with a green stripe down the centre". I know one of the London dealers has been selling ribbon which answers that description, but the original ribbon was a lightish chocolate brown, un-watered, with a green stripe.
- (g) No. 124 : The badge for a "King's Commendation" to members of the Union Defence Force was a "protea" flower, in bronze, worn on the ribbon of the Africa Service Medal.
- (h) No. 136 : The Southern Rhodesia Service Medal was not awarded in much the same way as the Australia and New Zealand Service medals. It is a comparatively rare medal because it was not awarded to recipients of any of the other stars or medals of the 1939-45 war.

- (i) No. 163 : I am pleased to see that the Cape of Good Hope and Natal L.S.G.C. Medals are mentioned. But they did not have the same ribbon. The central stripe of the Cape medal was Orange, that of Natal, Yellow. It is a pity that the Cape and Natal D.C.M. and M.S.M. are not mentioned in the same way (Nos. 42 & 168).
- (j) No. 41 : It might be mentioned that South Africans have never been eligible for the G.C. and G.M. Instead, the "Woltemade Medal" in gold, or silver, as the case may be, is awarded.
- (k) No. 256 : The inscription on the S. A. Police medal used to be in High Dutch "voor trouwe dienst" as compared with the present Afrikaans "vir troue diens". An almost identical medal, with the same ribbon, is given to the prison service, and again the inscription can be found in High Dutch and, on later awards, in Afrikaans.

These few omissions do not, however, detract in any way from the value of this excellent book. It is a "must" for anyone interested in war medals and is certainly very good value for its comparatively modest price. Congratulations, Capt. Darling, and thank you for a most welcome and useful addition to our Library.

F.K. Mitchell.

CORRIGENDA.

In "Thoughts on a decimalized currency for South Africa" by E. Heinrich (Newsletter Vol. 5 No. 1, July 1956) in the table on page 5 the Diameter of the 5 Reichsmark piece of 1923-32 is given as "26 mm". This should read "36 mm."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Wanted to Buy or Exchange :

German East Africa One Rupee, 1894, 1909A, and 1/2 rupee 1906A. J.C. Piek, 14 Cambridge Rd., Observatory, Cape.

Exchange : Kruger silver - all dates - offered for military medals to South Africans : Dr. Mitchell, Box 1073, Cape Town.

Wanted to Sell : Z.A.R. £100 note, 1900 : 25/- post free. Lt.Col. J.L. Knobel, Box 776, Cape Town.

Editor's Postscript.

It seems to me that this number is spoilt by too much uniformity in style. What is needed is a variety of authors - and that's where you come in, chaps. What about a little bit of help with the next number?

Late postscript. 14th March, 1957 :

Editor:

Dr. F.K. Mitchell,
P. O. Box 1073,
C A P E T O W N.

It is with very great regret that we have learnt today of the death of our second patron, the Hon. N.C. Havenga, former Minister of Finance. He was a great South African, and was always interested in the affairs of the Society.