

Volume 56 Number 2

May 2024

# Perth Numismatic Journal



*Official publication of the  
Perth Numismatic Society Inc*  
[www.pns.org.au](http://www.pns.org.au)

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Registered Australia Post, Publ. PP 634775/0045, Cat B

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## CAN YOU PROFIT FROM COLLECTING COINS?

**John Melville-Jones**

This is a complicated subject. In the first place, there is the question of how a coin is acquired, and the way in which it is sold later. If someone buys it from another individual without having to borrow any money, then its cost to the buyer is simple to calculate, even if a small amount has to be added to cover postage, and if the coin is later sold to another individual at a higher price, there will be a clear nominal profit. On the other hand, if a coin is bought from a dealer, a proportion of what dealers call the 'retail' price will consist of the dealer's commission, which might be as high as 20%, because the dealer will have some costs to manage, including storing and insuring it. Because of this, it might be a few years before the coin can be sold at the same price, even to another individual collector. Again, if some sort of a loan is required for an expensive coin, this can make a calculation a little more complicated. Finally, if a coin is bought or sold at an auction, the auction business will make a charge each time, perhaps about 15%. Therefore, my conclusion is that unless a collector can recognise that a coin which is for sale is greatly undervalued, it will be a very long time before a profit can be made, and of course there may perhaps also be some costs involved with storing it securely and insuring it.

This matches my own experience. In 1974 a colleague of mine who was a great expert in the history of Alexander the Great was about to retire. It was suggested to me that it would be a nice farewell present to give him a coin of Alexander the Great. So, I bought a lifetime tetradrachm of Alexander from a Sydney dealer for \$450 – the 'retail price'. Unfortunately for me, my colleagues changed their minds, and decided not to give him this present, so I was, as the saying goes, 'left holding the baby.' Last year I asked the same dealer what the value of the coin would be now, and was told that the 'retail price' (i.e. the price that a dealer would sell it for, not what it would be bought for) was \$600.

At first sight this seems like a profit, but of course a dealer would not buy it for \$600. And if you factor in the rate of inflation in Australia between 1974 and today, almost 1,000%, even a sale between individual collectors for this coin of Alexander the Great would not show a profit unless the coin was held for much longer than that.

There will, of course, be exceptions, where a profit can be made for various reasons. For example, if a coin is extremely rare, like the Australian 1930 penny, which in 1964 was listed on one dealer's site (in 'Fine' condition) at \$50, its price can zoom upwards, and today the same coin would fetch at least \$25,000.

I know of one Roman coin that has certainly made a clear profit for anyone who has held it for a long time. Brutus, one of the assassins of Julius Caesar, later issued a denarius with his portrait on the obverse, and the words BRVT IMP(erator), 'Brutus commander' and L(ucius) PLAET(orius) CEST(ianus), the name of the person who had arranged for the coin to be struck. The reverse shows a dagger (the symbolism is obvious), the 'cap of liberty' that a Roman freedman would wear, which symbolised the reason for the assassination, the suspicion that Julius Caesar intended to make himself a king, and the legend EID(ibus) MAR(tiis) (on the Ides, the fifteenth of March), commemorating the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. In 1970 I could have purchased a VF specimen of this coin for about £500. One has just been sold at auction for \$US7,200. This is not surprising, because there are many more collectors now than in 1970, and most of the few specimens of this coin that survive are in museums.



Then there is another kind of situation. There are two kinds of collector. Some can be described as 'magpie' collectors, who buy all sorts of coins simply because they are attracted to them, so if the whole collection is sold, even after many years, some coins may fetch better prices than others, but there will be no profit from the whole collection.

On the other hand, some collectors restrict their purchases to one particular group of coins. If collections of this kind are sent to be auctioned together, this can attract more interest, and lead to higher prices. But there is no way

of being certain that there will be a profit, unless the collection has been held for a very long time. And then there is the possibility of a capital gains tax.

I can think of two ways of almost certainly making a profit, although they require spending many hours of work. The first is to keep visiting stores that display 'collectables' and auctions of household effects, and look for any coins or medals that might be going for what you are sure is a lower price than the normal one. This will cost a little money for travelling, even if you don't buy anything, but it might be an interesting way of spending your time.

The other is something that I learned about from personal experience. Many years ago I was visiting the Claremont branch of my bank, and I saw someone whom I recognised as a member of the Perth Numismatic Society. He was tipping a bag of Australian coins into a coin receiver. I greeted him, assuming that what he was doing was banking the takings from a business, but it turned out that he would regularly buy a large number of coins from the bank, and would then examine every one under magnification, looking for the very rare exceptional one, maybe one with a rotated die, a wider date than usual or a mule. He could sell these for much more than the face value of the coin.

Looking at the value of coins, I am reminded of something that I was told about 1970, when I first started going occasionally to meetings of the Perth Numismatic Society. One of its members was a Jew, and it seemed that he collected only gold coins, and rare postage stamps. Although nowadays Jews are usually very safe in Australia (although recently there have been many problems because of the war between Israel and Hamas), his racial history made him feel that if ever things seemed to be changing, and he and his family had to flee from this country in a hurry, this easily portable wealth would provide them with the means to re-establish themselves somewhere else. So, the question of making a profit was not foremost in his mind.

In sum, although most coins will usually hold their value or increase in value once the cost of purchase is allowed for, it would be exceptional for them to provide a genuine profit for their owners. For this reason, collectors should not focus on profit, but on loving the coins that they collect, and the interest that they can add to their lives, something that is without price.

My thanks go to the person who reviewed this article and made some useful suggestions.

## WILL THE CHARLES III DOLLAR MAKE A PROFIT?

**Jonathon de Hadleigh**

There has been much talk recently about the new King Charles III dollar coins recently released by the Royal Australian Mint, accompanied by a plethora of offerings on eBay and at coin fairs putting them before collectors and the public in general. There seems to have been no marketing campaign by anyone in particular and investment potential is a matter of self confidence, but with a mass of sellers and with hoarding going on are these coins likely to be a good investment?

To answer this question, you need to indulge in a little market research and also think about how many collectors there might be in the future who will be keen to own a circulation strike? Will they want more than one specimen? How many of the coins currently being locked away will come onto the market in five or ten years time? The answers to all these questions are very speculative, but we can turn to history to get some insight.

The first '*Mob of Roos*' dollar was issued 40 years ago, in 1984. So, what would an uncirculated specimen cost today? A circulation issue in uncirculated grade is about \$5, and in an uncirculated packet about \$12. An uncirculated roll can be had for \$79.95 plus postage (less than \$5 each). A proof strike in its box can be had retail for between \$15 and \$35, so a dealer might buy one from you for \$5 to \$10, maybe a bit more if they can sell it on quickly. All these are currently offered on eBay.

Taking inflation into account, a 1984 dollar is equivalent to about \$4 today, so the uncirculated coins have made almost no real gain after 40 years, even if they were obtained at mere face value. If any sort of premium was paid, they have made a loss in real terms.

Now, let us turn our attention back to the present. Offerings on eBay average \$5 for an 'uncirculated' 2023 Charles III dollar coin. A roll can be had for \$79.95 including postage, but there are some people asking \$95 to \$150!

So, what might the future hold for the buyers of these dollar coins?

The fact that uncirculated first issue dollar coins from 40 years ago are available for the same price as these new coins does not bode well for Charles III dollars as an investment, and who might want to buy them in the future? If we do not see more young people taking up the hobby, there will be a shrinking market of increasingly older collectors who will already have their specimens and require no more. This suggests a future glut of uncirculated, first date of issue, Charles III dollars, leading to low prices.

The future might prove to be disappointing for people wanting to sell their 2023 Charles III dollars, perhaps contributing to already declining interest in coin collecting. Of course, this prediction might turn out to be wrong and more young people might become interested in the hobby. However, in our numismatic society I see little encouragement for young people to get involved, apart from *'I shall leave my collection to my grandchildren'*.

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## THE BIRTH OF A STABLE ENGLISH GOLD COINAGE

**Raymond Palermo**

The English economy was in ruin by the time the Hundred Years War had been temporarily halted with the signing of the Truce of Malestroit in January 1344. The English king, Edward III, had borrowed heavily both from bankers at home and abroad to finance the expensive war – and was unable to repay his debts! To compound the situation, the good English silver from the reigns of Edward’s predecessors, Edward I and Edward II, had been draining from the local economy to the Continent. The prosperous European states such as Flanders had also been using gold coins to carry out their international transactions. England did not have a gold currency, and was being left behind. Edward III was keen to revive the previously lucrative wool trade with Flanders, and thus stimulate the English economy. To achieve his goal, Edward, in January 1344, authorised two Florentine goldsmiths, George Kirkyn and Lotte Nicholyn (their Anglicised names), to implement an English gold coinage.

The new coinage consisted of three denominations: the florin, the half florin and the quarter florin. The florin weighed 108 grains (7.00 gm) and was tariffed at 72 pence. It was also called a double leopard, presumably because of the crowned leopard’s head on either side of the King on the obverse. The King is enthroned beneath a Gothic canopy composed of three arches. The field is decorated with many fleurs-de-lys. The legend, as with most obverse legends (with variations) of Edward III’s gold coinage reads “EDWAR D GRA REX ANGL Z FRANC DNS HIB” or “Edward, by the Grace of God, King of England and France, Lord of Ireland”. The reverse has an elaborate cross, the ends of which are crowned. This arrangement is enclosed in a quatrefoil, whose spandrels each contain a leopard. The legend, reads “IHC TRANSIENS PER MEDIVM ILLORVM IBAT” – “Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went his way” (Luke iv, 30). Due to the failure of this coinage (see below), most pieces were melted down, so many that only two have survived to this day. The florin’s halves and quarters are also extremely rare, and well out of the reach of most collectors.

The half florin is also known as the leopard. Its obverse has a lion serjant on a royal banner. The reverse is similar to that on the double leopard, but with

a different legend “DOMINE NE IN FVRORE TVO ARGVAS ME” or “O, Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger” (Psalm 6,1).

The smallest gold denomination, the quarter florin, is also called the helm, after the helmet (on a fleured field) that makes up the obverse design. The reverse has a cross of a simpler design, without a quatrefoil, and the legend “EXALTABITVR IN GLORIA” – “His horn shall be exalted with honour” (Psalm 112, 9).

The designs of these coins are all magnificent examples of Gothic art. But their aesthetic qualities could not save their fate. These coins were overvalued for their weights compared to their equivalent values in silver pennies. Overseas merchants were reluctant to accept the new gold coins, and so the drain on silver continued. The King took action. In July 1344, he proclaimed that the new gold currency should only be accepted by those willing to take it. The next month, it was demonetised. As noted above, most of the coins were melted down, leaving precious few specimens today.

In the same month that the leopard issue met its demise, a contract was signed by the mint master, Perceval de Porche of Lucca, which reformed the coinage. This reform included the issue of a revamped gold coinage, with new designs and weights.

The main new gold issue was called the “noble”, supposedly so-named after the noble quality of the metal from which it was struck. The noble was more realistically tarified at six shillings and eight pence, and weighed nearly 137 grains (8.88 gm). The obverse has the crowned figure of the King facing us in a ship, crowned and armed with a sword. He also holds a shield decorated with English lions quartered with French lys. It has been widely interpreted that the nautical design might be an allusion to Edward’s naval victory over the French at Sluys in 1340. The reverse has another cruciform design, the short ends of the cross having lys at the ends, with the letter “L” in the cross’s centre. Lions with crowns above are located in the angles. The whole arrangement is enclosed within an eight-arched tressure. The legend is the same as that of the double leopard.

No half nobles of the first issue exist, though examples of subsequent coinages are obtainable, though rare. These are similar in design to the noble, but have the letter “E” in the centre of the cross, like all of Edward’s gold

coins from London struck after the initial issue. The reverse legend, “DOMINE NE...”, is the same as that on the leopard.



***Edward III, noble, London mint, 1363-1369***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

Quarter nobles were also struck for the first noble issue. The obverse has the royal arms within a six-arched tressure. The reverse is similar in design to its larger counterparts, with the “EXALTABITVR...” legend of the half leopard.

Whereas the leopard coinage failed because it was overvalued, the new noble issue was at risk of failing for the opposite reason. The noble and its fractions were worth more in their weight of precious metal than their face value. The solution was to reduce the weights of the coins while retaining their same face values. This took place twice over the next seven years. In 1346, the noble was decreased in weight to 128.6 grains (8.33 gm). This was followed by a further reduction in 1351, when the weight was set at 108 grains (7.00 gm). Once this final adjustment was made, trade using the gold coinage increased dramatically. The English capture of Calais and the resulting boom of the wool trade with the Low Countries, not to mention the emergence of a wealthier middle class in England all helped to strengthen the economy. This growth in prosperity would, however, be brought to a sudden halt by the Black Death of 1349.

Despite the ravages of the plague, Edward III’s gold coinage endured. It marked the beginning of what would be a largely uninterrupted issue of gold currency that has continued to this day.

This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in *Coin News* of May 2003, published by Token Publishing. Republished with their kind permission.

## ENGLISH DARK AGE MONEY

### Jonathon de Hadleigh

The 'Dark Ages' is a broad historical term generally referring to the period from the fall of the Roman empire to the beginnings of the Renaissance in Europe. In England it can be roughly equated to the Anglo-Saxon period from about AD 600 to 1066.

The Anglo-Saxon coinage of England is both romantic and other worldly and it connects England to Viking Scandinavia. This period of European and Scadinavian history introduces us to an alternative alphabet and the culture of 'viking', which actually means 'to go travelling'. That is not as romantic as the bloodthirsty, rape and pillage idea some of us would have gained at school, and that some people reenact. But, for those of us who like to read and study, this period is quite fascinating and the coinage beautiful, unusual, varied, sometimes difficult to read, and expensive to buy. Nevertheless, the coins lead us into another world of unfamiliar names of kings and moneyers.

More than four hundred years saw various coin types from small 'sceatta' in silver to 'styca' in base silver and copper, and then to silver pennies. But it all began with small gold 'thrymsa'.



*Anglo-Saxon, thrymsa, c. 620-645*

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

From about AD 620 to 675 we encounter gold thrymsa, typically about 15 mm in diameter, known as 'Crondal' types after a hoard of 101 coins found in 1828. They copied old Roman and Continental prototypes and were Anglo-Saxon shillings.

The silver coins that followed them were ‘*denarii*’, ‘*deniers*’ of the Merovingian Franks, or Anglo-Saxon pennies, which are known as ‘*sceatta*’ or ‘*sceats*’, names derived from an early Germanic word meaning treasure or wealth. The modern German equivalent is ‘*schatz*’.

The gold coins of this early period might cost you around \$2,000 to more than \$10,000 so they are not for the faint hearted, and might anger your partner if you have to take out another mortgage on the house. However, silver sceats are much more modestly priced, being generally under about \$200 and sometimes less than \$100.

The silver coinage continued into 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, turning into base silver during the early 9<sup>th</sup> century, and finally becoming copper alloy from about AD 830. The later sceats diverged from the coinage of southern England and were issued by archbishops of York and kings of Northumbria. The various types display dots, crosses, animals, heads, names, or patterns of circles and dots. The copper coins are the least expensive to collect and take the collector to circa AD 867.



*Anglo-Saxon, sceat, c. 710*

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

Meanwhile, the various kingdoms of southern England began to issue silver pennies on broad, thin planchets, bearing moneyers’ names, kings’ names, crosses, dots, patterns and even portraits. The portraits may seem crude at first glance, but having been made using nothing more than a series of punches they are quite technical in their execution. The letters too are well made, so reading inscriptions becomes much easier.

Sadly, it is not so easy to acquire the coins themselves due to low survival numbers and the need for deep pockets. Luckily, the Spink catalogue today has excellent photographs.

The pennies are placed into the Anglo-Saxon middle period, circa AD 780 to 973. Pennies weighing about 20 grains (1.3 gm) were introduced by Offa, king of Mercia (757-796) and were derived from deniers struck in France by Peppin in 755 and continued by his son Charlemagne.



*Anglo-Saxon, penny, Offa, c. 780-792*

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

The penny continued on to our own time, but in England it was almost the sole denomination struck for five centuries, the only exceptions being some very rare gold coins and rare halfpennies.

Under Alfred the Great (871-899) the penny increased in weight to about 24 grains (1.55 gm). This became a 'pennyweight' in the Troy weight system, with 20 of them making a Troy ounce, which gold is still measured in to this day.



*Anglo-Saxon, penny, Alfred the Great, c.875-880*

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

Pennies from this period come at all manner of prices with many kings' names; Wilfred, Ceolnoth, Aethelred and Pegmund to name but a few, with Offa and Alfred being more well known, one for a dyke to keep out the Welsh and the other for burning some cakes.

The coinage of kings of Mercia and East Anglia were joined by Anglo-Viking coinages in the period 885-954. Some of these coins turn up quite often, such as the St Edmund memorial coins. Edmund was the last king of East Anglia who was murdered by Danes in 869 but later regarded by them as a saint. These are relatively common due to the large Cuerdale hoard of more than 7,000 Viking coins found in 1840 and are catalogued at about \$320 in fine condition. However, most Anglo-Viking coins are not common and those of Jorvick (York) bring prices over \$1,000 for very fine specimens. However, that pales into insignificance when confronted by coins of the kings of Wessex (786-924) where four figures incessantly appear in catalogues for fine examples and we can see five figures for very fine specimens.



***Anglo-Viking, St Edmunds memorial coinage, c.895-918***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

Kings of all England first appear circa 924-939 with Aethelstan who issued pennies on broad flans of about 24 mm and, yes, catalogue prices just as broad. However, the style of the coins did not change and nor did it for the rest of the period up to 1066. But, king Eadgar (959-975) introduced a reformed coinage on which the royal portrait became a regular feature, with cruciform patterns on the reverse and the names of mints as well as moneyers. In all, some 70 places are recorded as having struck coins in this period, known as the Late Anglo-Saxon Coinage.



***Kings of all England, penny, Eadgar, c.973-975, London mint***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))



This period also included such kings as Edward the Martyr (975-978), Aethelred II known as ‘the unready’ (978-1016) and Cnut (1016-1035) who is remembered for not holding back the waves as the tide came in.



***Kings of all England, penny, Cnut, c.1029-1035/6, Ipswich mint***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))

The coins of this late period are more plentiful due largely to the discovery of hoards, especially those of king Cnut. However, the question remains: Why are the majority of Anglo-Saxon coins so rare?

It is due to the exchequer repeatedly calling in old coins to be demonetised and made into new ones. In England there was a monetary economy, so it was prudent to pass in old coins and use the new. Whereas Viking culture valued coins only on the weight of silver in them, so it mattered little if a coin had been demonetised elsewhere, it was still useable in commerce.

The Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Viking era came to an end in 1066, but the style of coinage and the administration did not. The coinage system was long established and well run, so William I (1066-1087), known as ‘The Conqueror’, maintained the old mint system. However, his coins show a facing bust, whereas busts had previously been in profile. Coins of the Norman kings, which range from prolific to rare, lose some of the romantic feel of Anglo-Saxon coins.



***Norman kings, penny, William I, c.1083-1086, London mint***

Image courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group ([www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com))



The period of the Norman kings was marked by civil war under king Steven (1135-1154), so it is often known as ‘the anarchy’. Coins of this period are keenly collected by people with deep pockets eager to acquire rarities, even though they are sometimes poorly struck.

The ascension of the Plantagenet kings with Henry II (1154-1189) marked an end to hostilities. Very poorly struck coins with cross-crosslets reverses are known as Tealby coinage after a large hoard found in 1807. These coins are therefore plentiful enough to be relatively inexpensive, but they are keenly collected which is driving prices upwards. They are also the end of the crude style that marked the Anglo-Saxon period. Subsequent issues are of a fine style, well struck and have a ‘medieval feel’ about them.

This has been a fast and furious look at some 500 years of interesting, if somewhat baffling, English coinage. However, if you spend some time and effort in study it proves to be very rewarding as you come to understand it and the times in which it was struck.

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## PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, UNCLE TOM AND A FAMILY TRAGEDY

Walter R Bloom

The first Perth Children's Hospital was constructed following years of fundraising up until its gazetted opening on 30 June 1909 (actually the following month), and the fundraising continued, but in strong competition with other causes with the huge shortages arising from a raging WWI.

One of the prime movers in 1909 for the funding of the Children's Hospital was Harry (Henry) Boan of Boan's Department Store fame, but fundraising wasn't just restricted to donations by the rich and from street collections, but also from children via newspaper columns like that of "Uncle Tom":

John-street, North Perth.

Dear Uncle Tom,—I want you to have me for one of your nephews. I cannot write by myself, but Ethel is guiding my hand. I am four years old, and will be five on March 1.—I remain, yours ever.

PERCY VARIAN, aged 4.

xxxx

Dear Percy,—I accept you as a nephew. You are only a little boy, but you are old enough to help those who need it. Will you save up some of your pennies for the Children's Hospital so that some poor little sick child may have a chance to get better. I will see you one day I hope.—Uncle Tom.

*1909, January 30. The Daily News, p.10*

Once donations were lodged then the child earned a medal. The medal was issued with a ribbon. It also came in sterling silver for officials. The dies and collars were supplied by Chas Moore & Co, but it isn't known which firm cut the dies.

**LIZZETTA SMITH.**

P.S.—I forgot to tell you that Silas and I got a medal for collecting money for the Children's Hospital.—  
L.S.

Dear Lizzetta,—I have paid your 1s. 0d. to the credit of the Children's Hospital Sunshine Ward Fund, if that meets with your approval. You had a round of travel and pleasure at Christmas. I was pleased that we were able to give the orphan children some Christmas cheer. To-night all the orphans in the Midland Junction district will be entertained by the Sunshine League. You will see that the programme is a splendid one.—  
Uncle Tom.

*1909, January 23. The Daily News, p.10*



*White Metal, 1909, 32mm*



*Sterling silver, 1910 (unholed), 32mm*

And the medals and badges continued:



*White Metal, 1910, issued with ribbon, 32mm*



*Celluloid button - coated tin page (missing pin), 1911*



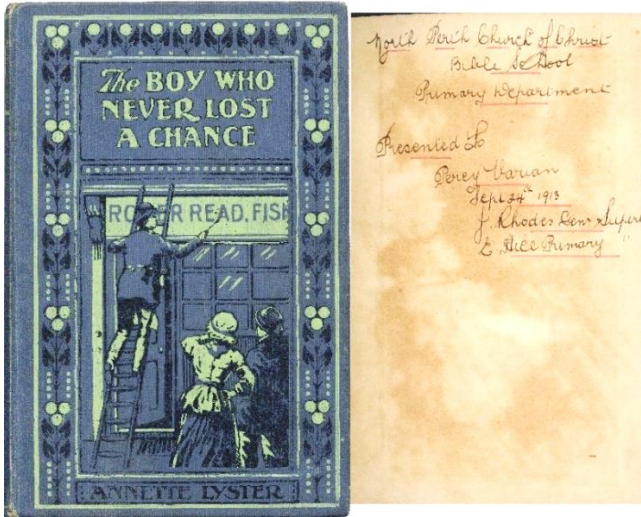
*Celluloid-button - coated tin page (missing pin), 1919*

Not all the children who contributed had a long and happy life. This was the case for Percy Varian (mentioned above) who showed considerable talent as a youngster, but who took one too many a chance as a driver.

The above letter to Uncle Tom indicates that Edward Percival Woodville Varian was born on 1 March 1904. He died on 14 August 1932 aged 28.



Percy showed great promise at the tender age of nine when he won a book at the North Perth Church of Christ Bible School (24 September 1913),



*North Perth Church of Christ  
Bible School  
Primary Department  
Presented to  
Percy Norman  
Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1913  
of Rhodes Row Upper  
& Hill Primary*

**The Religious Tract Society, St Paul's Churchyard, London**

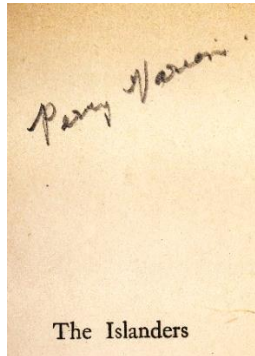
and he repeated the honour with another book at Sunday School on 31(sic) June 1917:



Sunday School  
Presented to  
Percy Norman  
being Special Prize  
for Efficiency  
in the Intermediate Class  
for the year ending  
June 30<sup>th</sup> 1917  
Presented by  
Theodora Wilson  
Secretary

**Blackie and Son, London, Glasgow and Bombay**

This latter book also features Percy's signature.



But in the previous year, tragedy struck the family when his older sister Ethel (the letter writer in 1909) died on 24 October 1916 in a boating accident in Bunbury:

## **Boating Disaster At Bunbury.**

### **Five Fatalities.**

A disaster occurred in Bunbury harbour on Tuesday morning, when a boat with twelve persons aboard, delegates to a Church of Christ conference, capsized, and five of them were drowned.

The victims were:

Mr. and Mrs. Ekstrom, of Collie.

Mrs. G. O. Burchill, of North Perth.

Mr. H. J. Banks, (organising secretary of the Associated Churches of Christ.

Miss Ethel Varian, of North Perth.

*1916, October 27, The South-Western News (Busselton, WA), p4.*

On 9 June 1926, Percy was fined 10 shillings for riding a motorcycle on Chatsworth Rd, Highgate without lights. This would have been a fortune in those years between WWI and the Great Depression. His next reported encounter with a vehicle was not so “lucky”:

## **CAR OVERTURNS**

### **FATALITY AT TOODYAY ROAD.**

Toodyay, Aug. 15.

A motor car, conveying four men, a boy and several whippets from Perth to Toodyay for the opening meeting of the Toodyay Whippet Club yesterday morning, swerved off the road near a swamp two miles from Toodyay. The car turned completely over and came to rest on its wheels, facing the opposite direction to that in which it was travelling. The four passengers were thrown clear and miraculously escaped, but the driver, Edward Percival Varian (28), single, of Leederville, sustained severe internal injuries. He was conveyed to the Toodyay Hospital, where he died five hours later.

The other occupants of the car, which was badly smashed, were L. W. Kent, W. V. Kent, R. Hull and M. Pattinger.

*1932, August 16, Kalgoorlie Miner, p5.*

In Family Notices (*The West Australian* 1932, August 16):

*VARIAN – On August 14, 1932, at Toodyay as the result of an accident, Edward Percival Woodville Varian, beloved friend of Mr and Mrs W Barber and fiancé of June Barber.*

While Harry Boan, Charles Moore and other businessmen figured prominently in the establishment and funding for the Children’s Hospital, nothing much is written about the little-known people like Percy Varian who only appears here because of two prize books from the early 1900s featuring an inscription and bookplate respectively.

## 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 2024 are as follows:

- 31 January      Speaker: Robert Russell, *Provincial UK banknotes and the Australia connection*. Tender Sale.
- 28 February    Topic: Coin Grading. Tender Sale.
- 27 March        Topic: Singapore Numismatics. Tender Sale.
- 25 April**        Speaker: Walter Bloom, *Some Makers Plates from WA*.  
Tender Sale.  
**Please note that this is a Thursday and Anzac Day.**
- 29 May          Topic: Banknote Grading. Tender Sale.
- 26 June         Topic: Numismatic items made from unusual materials.  
Tender Sale.
- 31 July         Topic: Famous People on Numismatic items. Tender Sale.
- 28 August**      **Annual General Meeting**. Topic: Numismatic errors and forgeries. Tender Sale.
- 25 September   Topic: Fiji numismatics. Tender Sale.
- 30 October      Topic: New Zealand numismatics. Donation Sale.
- 27 November    Topic: Papua New Guinea numismatics. Tender Sale.

Refer to the Perth Numismatic Society Inc. website for updates:  
(<https://www.pns.org.au/meetings/>)



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

John Wheatley	2004
Prof Walter Bloom	2013
Joe Brizzi	2022
Rowley Butters	2022
Sandra Vowles	2022

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Brian Siggs †	1965-1968
Edward Rintoul †	1968-1969
Edward Gibbs †	1969-1970
Clive Stronach †	1970-1971
Karl Hawelka †	1971-1978
Haydn Powell †	1978-1988
Prof Walter Bloom	1988-1991
Jiri Just †	1991-1994
Colin Meikle	1994-1997
Haydn Powell †	1997-2005
Prof Walter Bloom	2005-

  
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## CALENDAR OF FAIRS

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

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Perth Money Expo (South Perth Community Centre):

- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Militaria Swap Meet (Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds):

- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Broomhill Antiques & Collectables Fair (Broomhill Town Hall):

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Mandurah Antique & Collectors Fair (City of Mandurah Seniors Centre):

- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Pinjarra Civic Centre)

Antique & Collectible Fair (South Perth Community Centre):

- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Peel Region Stamp, Coin & Banknote Fair (Bortolo Pavilion):

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### REMINDER.

### PNS MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE.

Please contact the Membership Secretary for methods of payment.

# RAINBOW RARITIES

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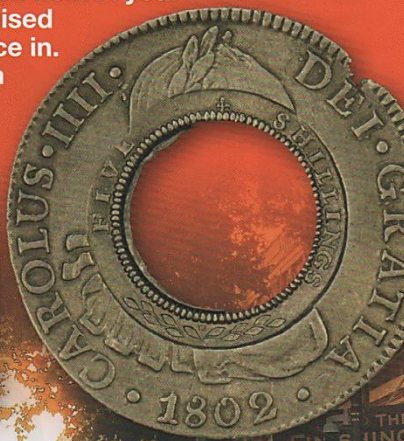
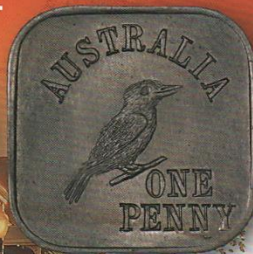
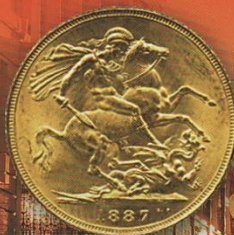


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