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Managing Editor's Letter

I am delighted with the range and quality of articles in this volume of the Journal. They demonstrate how collectors and scholars are expanding our knowledge of numismatics and using this information to suggest new understandings of the past.

There are four superb articles on ancient numismatics. Talia Knowles' piece is on an unpublished tetradrachm of Alexander 1 of Macedon. She uses die-linking to place the coin chronologically and as a basis for putting the king's minting activity in its historical context. Talia is doing her PhD on Northern Greek coinages at Macquarie University and this research promises much. Her supervisor is A/Prof Kenneth Sheedy who has contributed an article on four acquisitions by the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS) from *poleis* (city-states) in ancient Sicily. Each coin reveals an interesting story. Past ACANS scholar Dr Clare Rowan is now a Research Fellow in numismatics at the University of Warwick; she has teamed up with three of her students (Matthew Ellams, Emily Morgan and Bradley Waters) to provide a fascinating set of case studies into Roman provincial coinage. In each example, the coins had a different purpose. The studies demonstrate the potential of numismatics to tease out contemporary understandings of power and iconography. Finally it is with pleasure that we include an article by the eminent European numismatists, Jean-Albert Chevillon and Prof Pere Pau Ripollès, on six new post-archaic coins from ancient Emporion in the north-east Iberian Peninsula. This follows their recent lead article in the *Numismatic Chronicle* (vol. 173, 2013, pp. 1-21). The coins incorporate design elements from types first employed at Sardis (Asia Minor) at the opposite end of the Mediterranean from where its settlers emigrated, as well as other parts of the Greek world. They provide a good example of how ancient people used coinage for propaganda. In this case the monetary images were simultaneously recognisable, evocative of origins, and demonstrated membership of the Greek cultural world by people at its very extremity.

There are also four excellent and varied articles on Australian numismatics. We lead with Peter Lane's research into the rare and scarcely known 'forget-me-not' pennies over-stamped on legal currency with messages to loved ones by soldiers departing from Adelaide in World War 1. Max Everest-Phillips takes us off to the world of rowing just before the Second World War. His lavishly illustrated article is based around an Art Deco medal awarded to the Australian war hero and author Richard Hillary for an Oxbridge event on the French Riviera. It makes fascinating reading, (as does Max's recently published book – *Neville Chamberlain and the Art of Appeasement*). Dr Michael Hermes

and his collective of 'Past Masters' – Peter Lane, Nenad Lonc and Dr Ian McIntosh – have contributed the most controversial article, on an eighteenth century Chinese cash coin found on a remote island east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. How and when did it get there? Their hypothesis proposes association with the Macassan trade. Barrie Newman has provided a detailed article on the history of the firm of medallists, Allan J Olson Pty Ltd. This is based on Barrie's long personal relationship with the company and interviews with key personnel. It constitutes an invaluable record.

In sadness and respect, we include an obituary to Leonard (Terry) Pepperell who passed away on 18 December 2013. Frank Robinson and Monica de Knecht write movingly about this talented doyen of Australian numismatics who will be greatly missed.

I encourage collectors and scholars alike to contribute articles on new material and/or research for consideration for publication in the journal. The editorial team will work with you from the moment you submit a draft or even an idea. The editing and refereeing process may seem a little daunting, but invariably with wonderful results.

Finally some thanks. I must begin with the President, Professor Walter Bloom, for his untiring preparedness to help and be a sounding board. Likewise the editorial board and production team, especially Barrie Newman and John O'Connor, and all the referees who sadly must remain anonymous, but who contribute selflessly of their time and expertise.

Regards,

Dr Gil Davis
Managing Editor
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