

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COIN & STAMP CLUB FOR 29th SEPTEMBER 2026

#286



The Club's annual auction in progress on 5th September 2026

Our web-site is <https://orangecoinsandstamps.org/>

The current Club meeting is on this Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 7.30pm.

Straight after that normal monthly meeting the Club will hold its annual general meeting. This should only take 20-25 minutes.

All positions are up for election.

This notice is formal notice of the annual general meeting.

Our next Mini-fair is on Saturday morning 3rd October 2026, from 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre in Sale St.

The next night monthly meeting after this September one is on Tuesday 27th October 2026.

The Club normally meets on the last Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm. at the Orange Cultural Centre (see photo).

Our mini-fairs are on the first Saturday of each month (except January, from 9 to 12ish. There are mini-fairs on Saturday

mornings the 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December.

Our 2-day, 2025 Spring Fair will be held at the Orange High School Hall on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November, 2026



Our meetings and the monthly fair are held in the Orange Cultural Centre building Sale St, Orange. It's the building that used to be a school. It's on the right hand side as you enter the Woolworths Car Park.

ONCE AGAIN THE CLUB'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON THIS TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2026

Our 2026 annual general meeting is held straight after the September Monthly Meeting on Tuesday night 29th September. That one starts at 7.30pm. The following annual general meeting usually only lasts about 20-25 minutes.

All positions are up for election.

The current treasurer has indicated that he will not re-stand.

For the September 29th monthly meeting we are only encouraging small numbers of auction lots and shorter talks.

THIS NOTICE IS FORMAL NOTICE OF THAT MEETING.

At the end of the annual general meeting, your 2026-2027 membership fee of \$15 becomes due.

THE CLUB'S 2-DAY SPRING FAIR IS ON 14th & 15th NOVEMBER 2026

Our 2-day 2026 Spring Fair will be held at the Orange High School Hall on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November. There is a \$2 entry charge, but accompanied kids are free.

Dealers come from around the State and the A.C.T. to buy and sell coins, stamps, banknotes and silver bullion.

It's a great chance for the general public to get your collectables valued.

DATES FOR 2026

Orange Coin & Stamp Club monthly meeting, followed by our **Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday night, 29th September 2026. 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 3rd October 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Toowoomba Stamp Club's 2026 Stamp Fair. Saturday 10th October 2026, 9-3.30, at the TIBA Hall, 10 Annand Street, Toowoomba, Qld

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's monthly meeting, 27th October 2026, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Caloundra Stamp Fair, 31st October 2026, Kawana Community Hall, Buddina, Qld. 8'30-3.30.

Campbelltown Club's Fisher's Ghost Stamp Fair, Sunday 1st November 2026. Campbelltown Civic Hall Corner of Queen St and Broughton St Sunday 1st November from 9:30 am Auctions at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 7th November 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's 2-day Spring Fair at the Orange High School Hall. Dates are Saturday & Sunday, 14th & 15th November 2026.

Wagga Club's 2-day Stamp & Coin Fair, Saturday 21st November (9 to 5) and Sunday 22nd November 2026 (9 to 3). At the Sturt Primary School, White Avenue, Koorungal. Enquiries to mobile 0488 081 943.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club's monthly meeting, 24th November 2026, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange. It's the last meeting in 2026.

Petersham Town Hall Stamp & Coin Dealers Market, Sunday 29th November 2026. 107 Crystal Street, Petersham NSW

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 7th December 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre, Sale St, Orange

OUR EXPO 2026 COIN & STAMP DEALERS - PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THEM IN 2026

- **M.R. Roberts' Wynyard Coins**, 3 Barrack St Sydney 2000; Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710 Their e-mail address is sales@wynyardcoins.com
- **Orange Stamps & Coins** (Howard Lyons), PO Box 9288, Orange, 2800; Mobile 0427 107 554 Phone/fax (02) 6362 2368, E-mail: - howard.lyons@bigpond.com Buying and Selling – Stamps, Coins, Banknotes, Accessories, etc.
- **Phil & Win Morehouse**, Bankstown. NSW 2200 Ph: (02)9707 4087, New e-mail is: - phillipmorehouse401@gmail.com
- **Top End Coins:** Les Robinson, P.O. Box 381, Nelson Bay. 2315 Phone: 0455 660 email: topendcoins@gmail.com
- **Peter Neville Stamps.** Orange. Phone 0400754209 peternevillestamps@gmail.com or www.ebay.com/str/stampsorangens
- **Larry's Bullion** (Glenn Deveigne), silver bullion bought and sold; phone 0458262302, stillafriend2025@gmail.com
- **Roman Strausov, Canberra ACT** Phone 0424 907 2132 Email: - roman.strausov@SBLinternational.net Selling Coins, etc.
- **Pacific Rim Coins.** Level 3, 1 Central Ave., Lane Cove, 2066. (02) [9418 6593](tel:94186593)

TURN YOUR STAMPS INTO CASH! GET SOME PAGES READY FOR THE CLUB'S EXCHANGE BOOK

Colin needs members' stamp pages for the next stamp circuit book

Colin can be contacted direct at Email: ptilinopus1@bigpond.com Ph: 63690634.

ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB

Items for this newsletter are always required. You do not have to be a member of the Orange Club. They need to be posted to the Editor, Derek Dolstra, who is also the secretary at the Club's postal address: -PO Box 9113, ORANGE 2800 or better still e-mailed in Word format (pictures as jpg files) to: - ddolstra@bigpond.net.au or Phone 02 63 614 872.

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Derek Dolstra, secretary & newsletter, Phone 02 63 614 872 & e-mail at ddolstra@bigpond.net.au Also PO Box 9113, Orange NSW 2800

Rob Willis, president rwillis@bigpond.com Phone 04 393 89606

Peter Neville, vice-president Phone 04 0075 4209 or at peternevillestamps@gmail.com

Howard Lyons, treasurer Phone/fax (02) 6362 2368, E-mail: -howard.lyons@bigpond.com Michael Burrough, digital publicity officer at michael,burrough@gmail.com

FROM CAIRNS IN QUEENSLAND

Our correspondent in Cairns, Queensland, Murray Lawson, has e-mailed to ask that we make it known to our readers in the southern states, "That the remnants of the Cairns Club welcomes visitors from other clubs, especially if they bring interesting items

to talk about. Cairns' Tourist Season is in full swing, and most southerners like to thaw out from time to time, and where better to do that than right here in Sunny Cairns. Ask them to phone me on (07)40332211 for meeting details. Much obliged and let me know if there is anything you wish to know about us up here in God's country.”

PHILAS NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 IS OUT

PHILAS News #210 for September 2026 is out now. It's 28 pages and is best accessed on the PHILAS website. Just enter PHILAS News on a google and you are there.

PHILAS SERVICES FOR CLUBS are listed in the PHILAS News: - Philas services have been disrupted by our move to new premises. When we re-open, we will resume making stamp collections available to clubs for display at meetings.

As has been noted in previous communications, in 2026 Philas are seeking to scan pages from well performed exhibits to enlarge the range of material available to clubs. A full list of the currently available collections is on our website.

The Philas Library is a specialist philatelic library containing over 6000 books, journals and catalogues. It is currently closed, although re-establishing it operationally is one of the key focuses for the first half of 2026. This will allow members of clubs to borrow items, undertake research, or

learn more about the philately they are interested in. Most books will be available for borrowing, for up to one month, by members of affiliated societies. Country members can arrange to borrow items through their society secretary.

Much of the Library has been built up from donations and the many donors are warmly thanked for their contributions to the hobby. Please remember that PHILAS services are provided by volunteers.

PHILAS now is at Ground Floor, 2 City View Rd, Pennant Hills NSW 2120,

Emails: office office@philas.org.au ;
auction auction@philas.org.au
Philas News editor editor@philas.org.au
Website Coordinator
webmaster@philas.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9264 8301
Website: www.philas.org.au



3 Barrack St Sydney 2000

Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710
remains the same. Their e-mail address is
sales@wynyardcoins.com



**Fisher's Ghost Stamp
Fair Campbelltown
Civic Hall Corner of
Queen St and
Broughton St Sunday
1st November from
9:30 am Auctions at
11:30 am and 1:30
pm \$5.00 minimum
reserves**



Everyone is welcome to come to the
**Orange Coin & Stamp Club
Inc.'s**

2025 Spring Fair

Saturday 14th November, 2025

From 9am to 3pm

Sunday 15th November, 2025

9am to 2pm

**At the Orange High School Hall,
Cnr Summer and Woodward Streets, Orange**

(Off-street parking available, turn left opposite
United Petrol Station in Woodward St, just prior to the traffic lights.)

**NSW & ACT dealers will be offering a range of Australian & World stamps,
coins, banknotes & accessories. They also come to Orange to buy.**



MUDGEE COIN, NOTE
AND STAMP CLUB INC.

PRESENTS

Coin, Note & Stamp Annual Fair

9 - 1 pm

New members welcome

Saturday, 7th November 2026

Adults \$2 Entry

The Auditorium,

Raffle Dealers

Club Mudgee

Coin & Stamp Displays

99 Mortimer Street, Mudgee

For Further Information Contact; Alex Papworth

0478766762 MudgeeCNSC@gmail.com



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Alexander Papworth advises that the Mudgee Club still have tables at no charge available for any dealers or displays.

Secretary

Alexandra Papworth

0478766762



TOOWOOMBA STAMP CLUB

2026

ANNUAL STAMP FAIR

Toowoomba Stamp Club Inc.



SALE BY TENDER
(NO RESERVES)

BARGAIN TABLE

DEALERS

CLUB BOOKS

RAFFLES

REFRESHMENTS





TIBA HALL
10 ANNAND ST
TOOWOOMBA CBD

9.00AM – 3.30PM

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2026

THE CLUB'S ANNUAL AUCTION WAS HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER

There is always a small Club auction at our night meetings, but larger and more valuable lots come up for auction in September of each year.



Viewing of Club auction lots on 5th September 2026 was from 9am up to the time of the auction at midday.



Peter Neville in action as the Club's auctioneer on 5th September. There were 111 philatelic lots and 71 numismatic lots. It was over in just over an

hour. Almost all the philatelic lots sold and a good percentage of the numismatic ones

As well as Club members from around the Central West, we had bidders from Sydney and Canberra.



View from the front of the room at auction on 5th September with Tony Read as recorder. Kevin Capnerhurst is assisting on the right.



Quite a few of the lots auctioned were from deceased estates

SOME AUSTRALIAN BADGES FROM WORLD WAR I and WORLD WAR II

At the August Club meeting Tony Read brought along a number of badges with World War I and II associations.



The first badge Tony Read passed around at the August meeting was a **Female Relatives Badge**. It is commonly known as the “*To the Women of Australia*” badge.

It was officially issued by the Commonwealth of Australia in World War I and World War II. It was designed to recognize, and honour wives, mothers and nearest relatives of Australian service members who were deployed overseas on active service.

It featured a crowned wreath surrounding a map of Australia with the inscription: - TO THE WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA”.

The one Tony showed had a “DUTY DONE” bar. For World War I badges it included a blue enamel scroll reading “FOR DUTY DONE”.

Another small, suspended metal bar was attached to the bottom of the badge. The bar held a small brass or silver star. Each star represented one child or relative serving on active duty abroad. Tony’s one had one brass star.

The Department of Defence ceased issuing these after the conclusion of World War II.

The second badge passed around was a silver **War Widows’ Guild** “Kookaburra” badge.

Mrs. Jessie Vasey, OBE CBE (1897-1966) was the Guild’s founder. The Guild was established on 22nd November 1945.



Mrs. Jessie Vasey remained national president until 1966.



War Widows' Guild, 32½mm-diameter, sterling silver badge. This one was dated 1951. It was pressed in England.

After much deliberation it was decided that the badge should feature a kookaburra. She ascribed it as being an industrious and cheerful bird who mated for life. It was fearless in defending its young and its territory. The kookaburra had a call like laughter that might bring the bereaved widows back to good humour. She also ascribed it to being a typical Australian symbol.

The kookaburra was also the mascot for the 7th Division of the 2nd A.I.F. Her husband Major-General Vasey had commanded that Division.

Mrs. Vasey knew the Hungarian sculptor, Andor Meszaros, who lived in Melbourne. She asked him to design a badge featuring an Australian bird.

The finished badge was made of sterling silver in England, and depicted a kookaburra alighting onto a branch of gum leaves. It was distributed to members from 1949. Sometime later, as membership increased, smaller badges were made out of base metal as the price of sterling silver had become prohibitive. The Guild had adopted the kookaburra badge design as its logo.



The back of a cast copper alloy Kookaburra-design War Widows Guild badge.



Tony-Read's cast copper alloy War Widow's Guild R3697 badge from the (?) 1980's. Silver was no longer used. The maker was shown as "Pyramid" with a Sydney phone number

Tony Read next passed around an **Australia, The Empire for our Allies** badge: -



This badge had design similarities with the A.I.F. Rising Sun badge, only it was sold to civilians to demonstrate their support for the A.I.F. in World War 1.



"Sweet-hearts" brooch for "Mother"

Tony next showed a “sweet-hearts” brooch made from mother-of-pearl. This was typical of the hand-carved brooches made for Australian soldiers stationed abroad in the Middle East during World War I.

Most show a version of the A.I.F.'s *Rising Sun* insignia. They commonly showed the letters "A.I.F.", or specific inscriptions like "Mother", carved directly into or mounted on the pearlescent shell. Here gold filigree is set into the mother-of-pearl. A.I.F. sent or brought these custom tokens home to show affection, pride, and remembrance for their mothers, wives, or girlfriends. They were private purchases. It was probably made in Jerusalem.



Next were two sterling silver, filigree *sweet-heart* brooches. These showed stylised versions of the *Rising Sun* insignia. They were produced by silversmiths working in Jerusalem during World War I. In the latter stages of that War, and up to 1919, the A.I.F. had headquarters in Jerusalem. It was a city with a long tradition of producing fine silver filigree jewellery. These craftsmen also produced brooches with *Light Horse* motifs.



This 3cm one, above, though was not in what Tony passed around. The silver filigree work was very fine



Reverse



Obverse

Then Tony next passed around these 2 matching pendants, shown above. They show photos of a World War I serviceman, and presumably his wife, the numeral “75”, a piece of artillery, and the French flag. The hat suggests an Australian soldier.

Derek Dolstra suggested, at first, that it was a reference to an Australian 75th Field Battery, but there was no such unit. Tony Read made the better suggestion it referred to a 75mm Field Gun: -



These fired 3 inch shells. A number were captured from the Ottoman forces and put into use by the A.I.F. They were sometimes mounted on trucks and used as a sort of anti-aircraft gun.



Lastly, Tony Read showed a 5.5cm x 2.5cm, sterling silver filigree, “PALESTINE” badge.

This, again, had been a ‘private purchase’ by an Australian soldier in Jerusalem - to be mailed home to families as a souvenir.

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One of the two trestle rows of members’ displays at our 2026 Orange Expo held in March 20026

CLONCURRY IN WORLD WAR II: THE R.A.A.F. 23rd INLAND AIRCRAFT FUEL DEPOT

Covers are always interesting, because, almost always, there is a story behind them.

The censored World War II cover, shown below, cost just 50c. A little research was able to uncover the story of the Cloncurry airfield being a major aircraft refuelling depot between Brisbane and Darwin.

CLONCURRY TYPE 4t(i) DATE-STAMP

Dell & Price (2017) recorded use of a 4t(i) date-stamp at Cloncurry from 16 FEB 36 to 20 MY 54. They gave it a “C” rarity rating.



1943, CENSORED, R.A.A.F. CONCESSION RATE, AIR MAIL COVER POSTED TO VAUCLUSE, N.S.W.

The censored, R.A.A.F. Concession Rate, airmail cover, above, was posted from Cloncurry to Vaocluse in Sydney on 8th January 1943.

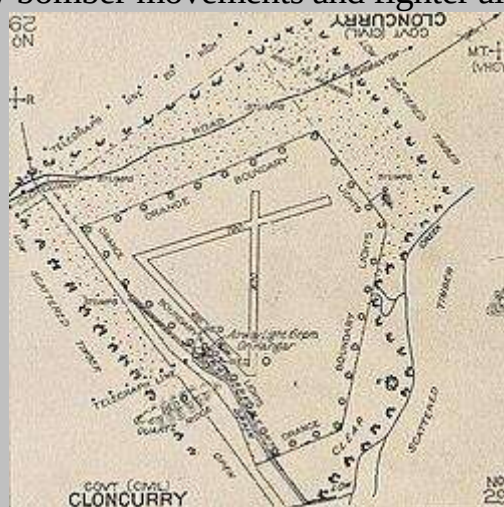
It shows two impressions of the Type 4T(i), 30mm-diameter (arcs 11mm, 10mm), “CLONCURRY / 5-P-8JA43 / QLD.” date-stamp cancelling a horizontal strip of five x 1d maroon *Queen Elizabeth* (perf 15 x 14) stamps of 10th December 1941. Plus it shows an impression of the RAAF Censor 466 hand-stamp.

The cover is likely to have been posted from a member of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 23 Inland Aviation Fuel Depot Unit.

THE R.A.A.F. 23rd INLAND AIRCRAFT FUEL DEPOT AT CLONCURRY

1941 saw the increasing threat of a war with s the threat of war with Japan. Military planners suddenly became aware of the strategic importance of Cloncurry as an outback railway centre and a key aerodrome on the inland air route between Brisbane and Darwin.

The existing civilian aerodrome had its roots in the early days of QANTAS. It was decided to extend and developed it to RAAF requirements as a refuelling base and a staging field for heavy bomber movements and fighter aircraft in transit.



Cloncurry Aerodrome in 1939

The Queensland Main Roads Commission assisted in the development of a low hill close to the railway on the southern edge of Cloncurry, as a site for bulk fuel storage depot for the R.A.A.F.

Four large steel storage tanks were built. The hill was excavated for construction of the tanks. Reinforced concrete bases were poured and the steel plated tanks were assembled by contractors to oil company specifications. Upon completion of the bottom row of plates the base and steelwork were water tested. The rest of the plates were then assembled, welded and tested. After the steel sides were in place, protective concrete sidewalls were poured to protect against bomb damage.

Concrete roofs were installed, supported on internal steel cased concrete columns, and finally the sides of the tanks were covered with earth and rock.

Aviation fuel was railed from Townsville for storage in the underground tanks, and from there it was pumped into 44-gallon drums for transfer to the aerodrome. Construction of these four large tanks at Cloncurry was commenced in the latter half of 1942, although the progress was hampered by the lack of available workers in the town.

The work was jointly undertaken by the Main Roads Commission and a private contractor working for the Shell Company. Construction was completed about April 1943, when the directorate of the Allied Works Council received a request for additions to the guard house at RAAF IAFD, Cloncurry. The tanks were heavily camouflaged during the war.

Cloncurry was also where women and children fleeing from the Japanese invasion of Java were landed by KNLM C-37's in mid-1942. Townsville was considered to be in too much danger from Japanese bombing raids.

In this 'busy' period in 1942, with the Battle of the Coral Sea raging, the Japanese push through the East Indies and New Guinea, and Australia under serious threat of invasion, the 107 & 108 Radar Station Units were in place at Cloncurry, but only from 1st June 1942 & 11th September 1942.

Despite the four large fuel storage tanks not being complete, in mid-1942 the Cloncurry airfield was used as a temporary base American 19th Bombardment Group (with B-17 Flying Fortresses, and the 28th, 30th & 93rd Bombardment Squadrons (all from 28th March to 5th May 1942). These all flew B-17 Flying Fortresses. Their fuel was handled in 44-gallon drums that arrived by rail.

As the war moved north, these U.S.A.A.F. units located north to forward bases. After September 1942, most of the business of the Cloncurry airfield was to do with refuelling aircraft travelling between the Eastern State capitals, North Queensland and Darwin.

The running and administration of the airfield was done by the R.A.A.F, #30 Operational Base Unit.

But the huge job of aircraft refuelling at Cloncurry was undertaken by the Royal Australian Air Force #23 Inland Aviation Fuel Depot Unit. They provided most of the R.A.A.F. personnel.

Known locally as *Shell Hill*, the R.A.A.F. 23rd Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (IAFD), Cloncurry, derived its name from the Shell Oil Company, which managed the existing civilian depot.

The wartime underground storage tanks still survive, although the reinforced concrete pump house and a nearby underground air raid shelter were recently demolished during expansion of facilities by the current operator of the depot, the British Petroleum Company.



Re-fuelling of C-47 'Flamin Mammie II' at Cloncurry VH-CGG on 6 Feb 1944

Downgrading of the operation of the Cloncurry IAFD installations commenced in February 1944 as the frontline moved north to the Pacific islands.

Other Inland Aircraft Fuel Depots were constructed for the R.A.A.F. in Queensland between 1942 and 1943. They provided bulk storage for aircraft fuel. They also stored drums of tetraethyl lead additive to boost the fuels octane rating. They were all built alongside railway lines. That allowed fuel to be delivered by train.

The depots were all inland as Queensland's North Coast line was assessed as too vulnerable to Japanese air attack or artillery bombardment from a warship. Queensland's six depots were: - #7 AIDF Toowoomba, #8 AIDF at Gayndah, #9 AIDF at Charters Towers, #21 AIDF at Yarraman, #22 AIDF at Roma and #23 AIDF at Cloncurry.

HANDA CROSSES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Colin Richardson gave a talk to the August Club meeting, showing three Handa crosses that he acquired in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire).



A large Handa cross

A copper "Handa", often referred to as a Katanga Cross, is an X-shaped copper, and sometimes brass, ingot that served as a form of currency. They were used in the Katanga region of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) as a sign of wealth, a bride price, and they were traded for goods.



Another large Handa cross (croisette), 0.92kg, 24cm diameter

Handa crosses also served as a badge of dignity and power. They were awarded for a show of bravery.

They had four, roughly equal arms, each flaring slightly towards their ends.

There were three sizes: large, medium and small.



10cm, copper Katanga cross



These small Katanga crosses have masses that range for 10.38 to 12.88 grams. They are from the period 1300 to 1700. These early crosses mostly had an “H” shape.

The first crosses (croisettes) appeared in the 13th Century from the tombs of Southern Katanga. Some were also found in the ruins of Great Zimbabwe (1100 to 1450AD). The first Europeans to report about these crosses were the Portuguese. They had come into contact with the Lunda peoples of Katanga around 1650. In the 18th century they reported that crosses were no longer being used as a means of payment. They were replaced by shells and glass beads.

Colin Richardson noted their reappearance in the period from the 1850's to the 1920's. That was when copper mining & smelting in the rich Katanga field was carried out on a large scale and copper became easily available. The crosses, Colin added, are now only made for tourists. These often have a slot at the centre.



Clay mould for a Katanga cross

During their period of peak use, a single Katanga cross could buy about 10 kilograms of flour, 5 or 6 chickens, or 6 axes. Ten crosses could buy a gun. They held value because copper had an intrinsic value and the Handa could be easily stored.

In 1960, amid political shifts, Katanga declared secession and adopted the Katanga Cross as a national symbol, featured on its flag and coins. Despite the reunification with the Congo in 1963, the Katanga Cross endures as a historical and cultural icon.



The flag of the 1960's breakaway State of Katanga featured three crosses

BRITISH AND OTHER EARLY CURRENCIES IN EAST AFRICA – PART 1.

Geoff Edwards gave a talk to the July 2026 Club meeting on the early currencies of East Africa. He continued his talk at the August 2026 meeting. It was illustrated from his collection of early East African coins.



East Africa today. Brown indicates Swahili language spoken

Geoff Edwards said that traders from Arabia (mostly Yemen), the Persian Gulf region of Iran (especially Shiraz), and west India probably visited the East African coast, including the island of Zanzibar as early as the 1st century AD. Further trade developed the Islamic invasions southwards from present day Saudi Arabia from the 7th Century onwards. During the middle Ages, they were followed by Somalis with the emergence of Islam.

Trade developed in things like gum Arabic, slaves, cloth, tortoise-shell, copper, gold and ivory. The trade used an array of bullion and coins.

In this early period, aside from Zanzibar, no coastal settlements or ports were developed. Zanzibar developed when its islands became a base for traders voyaging between the African Great Lakes to the west, and the Somali Peninsula, the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and the Indian subcontinent to the north and northeast.. Traders began to settle in small numbers on Zanzibar in the late 11th or 12th century.

Things changed following Vasco da Gama's visit in 1498. It marked the beginning of European influence.

The Portuguese first settled first in Mozambique at Sofala. It was established as the first permanent Portuguese settlement on the East Africa coast in 1505. Commander Pêro de Anaia built *Fort São Caetano* to control the very lucrative regional gold trade.



Fort Jesus de Mombaca

Later the Portuguese moved up the coast and established a fort at Mombasa, in what is now Kenya. It was called Fort Jesus (Portuguese: *Forte Jesus de Mombaça*). It was built between 1593 and 1596 on Mombasa Island by order of King Felipe II of Spain. He also reigned as King Filipe I of Portugal. Fort Jesus which guarded the port of Mombasa was the only fort

maintained by the Portuguese on the Swahili coast. It is recognised as the first successful attempt by a Western power to establish influence over the Indian Ocean trade.

Unfortunately, *Fort Jesus* was captured and recaptured at least nine times between 1631, when the Portuguese lost it to Sultan Yusuf ibn al-Hasan of Mombasa. After the Portuguese recaptured it from the Sultan in 1632, they refurbished it and built more fortifications, subsequently making it harder for the fort to fall. The fort was subject to an epic two-year siege from 1696 to 1698 by the Omani Arabs, led by Saif bin Sultan. The capture of the fort marked the end of Portuguese presence on the coast.

The Portuguese fell back on the further, but safer, colony of Goa in India.

Quite a few coins have been found at Fort Jesus during archaeological excavations that began following its declaration as a historical monument in 1958. They were curated and are now housed inside the Fort Jesus Museum.

A list of coins found included: -

- Nuremburg brass tokens of Charles II (possibly a checker token)
- Spanish 3 Reale copper coins
- East India Company coins
- Zanzibar coins
- Egyptian coins
- East African Protectorate coins
- Indian coins 36 annas & 1 rupee

Some of the Indian coins were of the type used as Proclamation coins in early New South Wales.

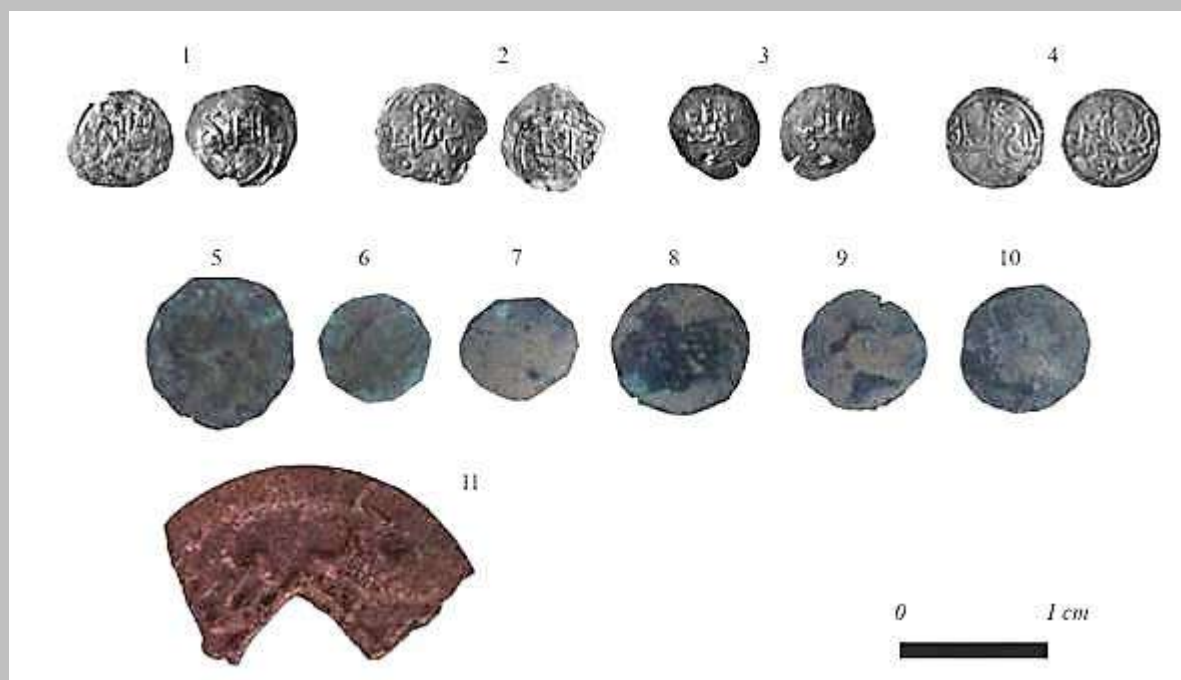
Interestingly, in 1944 an Australian Air Force member dug up some coins from a beach on the Wessel islands in the Northern Territory. They were kept in a tin for decades until eventually identified. Four were minted by the Dutch East India Company, but five were from the Kilwa, a port city-state in modern day Tanzania.

Kilwa started minting copper coins in the 11th century to the 14th Century, which featured Arabic inscriptions naming local rulers. But only two others had previously been found outside its borders: one at Great Zimbabwe, and another in Oman, both of which had significant trade links with Kilwa.

Kilwa refers to Kilwa Kisiwani, a historic island off the coast of southern Tanzania that was the centre of the powerful Kilwa Sultanate. Between the 13th and 16th Centuries, it was one of the richest and most influential trading cities on the Swahili Coast, controlling Indian Ocean trade in gold, ivory, and ceramics with Arabia, Persia, India, and China.



The Kilwa coins found at Wessel Island



These early Silver coins were found at Unguja Ukuu, Zanzibar, Tanzania. All were issued by local rulers in the 11th century, except the large coin at the bottom (No. 11), which is a 12th-century Chinese coin.

Portugal was the first European power to gain control of Zanzibar, and kept it for nearly 200 years. In 1698, Zanzibar fell under the control of the Sultanate of Oman, which developed an economy of trade and cash crops, and an Arab elite that ruled over the Bantu general population. Plantations were developed to grow spices; hence, the moniker of the Spice Islands (a name also used for the Dutch colony the Moluccas, now part of Indonesia). Another major trade good was ivory, the tusks of elephants that were killed on the Tanganyika mainland.

Accounts from the 17th and 18th centuries indicate that African travellers, especially those from Zanzibar, cultivated commercial, political, and matrimonial alliances across the Indian Ocean world, thus creating African networks that facilitated their international movement.

One particularly early traveller was Mwinyi Ahmed (Bwana Kibai), an important 18th-century Swahili nobleman who played a central role in the brief expulsion of both the Omanis and Portuguese from the East African coast between 1724 and 1730.

Mwinyi Ahmed initially served as the governor of Mombasa (Kenya) under the Omanis after the latter had forced the Portuguese out of Fort Jesus in 1698, but he later fell out of favour with his suzerains. Hoping to expel the Omanis from the coast, Mwinyi Ahmed travelled to Pate (in Kenya), and then to Barawa (Somalia), from where he took a ship to Surat (India) in 1724, where he met the Portuguese and offered to form an alliance against the Omanis by presenting himself as an envoy of Pate.



Mwinyi Ahmed and son

Mwinyi Ahmed then moved to Goa in 1725, where he stayed with another Swahili resident in India, Bwana Dau of Faza, because he had been discredited by the ruler of Pate, who informed the Portuguese governor of Goa that Mwinyi Ahmed wasn't an envoy of Pate. It wasn't until late 1727 that Mwinyi Ahmed and Bwana Dau returned to Mombasa with a Portuguese fleet, having convinced the new governor of Portuguese Goa, whose forces proceeded to reoccupy Fort Jesus.

Trade after about 1780 also used Maria Theresa silver thaler coins, as well as coins from Persia

Britain finally became interested in the African East Coast following the opening of the Suez Canal in 1867. Britain and Germany got caught in a scramble for a piece of East Africa. Both wanted territory there.

One of their areas of interest was the land in the Sultanate of Zanzibar and in the interior of Eastern Africa.

Hoping to resolve their conflicting interests in 1886 Germany and Britain signed a treaty in which they agreed upon what lands they would exclusively pursue. Germany would lay claim to the coast of present-day Tanzania and Britain retained access to the area in which Kenya and Uganda lie.

The Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC) was a commercial association founded to develop African trade in the areas controlled by the British Empire. The company was incorporated in London on 18 April 1888 and granted a royal charter by Queen Victoria on 6 September 1888.

Mombasa and its harbour were central to British operations. Their office in Shimoni, 50km south of Mombasa. It granted immunity of prosecution to British subjects and allowed them the right to raise taxes, impose custom duties, administer justice, make treaties and otherwise act as the government of the area.

A few British coins started to be used in trade, but there was never enough because of the general shortage on any sort of coinage in the U.K. They relied heavily on Indian coinage. For that reason, early on, the Imperial The British East Africa Company decided to mint their own coins. These coins, circulated after 1888. They were originally for use in Mombasa. They featured denominations like the 1888 Mombasa Silver Rupee and the 1888 Copper Pice. These rare colonial coins were struck at the Heaton Mint in Birmingham under the authority of the Imperial British East Africa Company.

The Company produced 4 silver coins including a $\frac{1}{4}$ rupee, a $\frac{1}{2}$ rupee, a 1 rupee and a 2 anna coin. . The 1 rupee, of which 95,000 were minted, remained in use until 1910. 16 annas equalled 1 rupee.



Mombasa silver rupee of 1888



Mombasa 2 anna



*Mombasa 1 pice copper coin
25mm, 1 paisa copper coin (1/64th of a rupee) were also minted*

The company also began organising the construction of a railway connecting the east coast region of Mombasa to Lake Victoria. Previously this western area had had only been visited by a handful of missionaries. The Company started building the railway but lacked the funds to finish it.

However, the company faced more significant financial difficulties, particularly when it became involved with the kingdoms of Buganda and Bunyoro. Arguments led to a civil war breaking out. This was the undoing of the Company. These financial problems led to the British government taking control in 1895, forming the East Africa Protectorate in the area that is now Kenya. The company surrendered its charter to the British government for a payment of £250,000.

The British East Africa Company's coins stayed in circulation until 1909-1910. In 1907, a new 1 cent coin was made from aluminium. Also, a 10 cent coin made of cupro-nickel (a mix of copper and nickel) was introduced. The next year, in 1908, a very small 1/2 cent coin, also made of aluminium, was added.



1c aluminium coin of 1908. They were demonetised in 1910 because they corroded.

By 1909, cupro-nickel replaced aluminium for making coins. Finally, in 1913, a 5 cent coin made of cupro-nickel was released.

Paper money, called banknotes, was also used. The government of the East Africa Protectorate started printing these notes in 1906, though the first ones were dated 1905.



These banknotes came in different values: 5, 10, 20, 40, 100, and 500 rupees. Just before the rupee was replaced, the East African Currency Board printed 1 rupee notes in 1920.



British East Africa 1c cupro-nickel coin of 1910



The Florin were the new currency of the British colonies and protectorates of East Africa. This currency was introduced in 1921. The East African shilling was divided into 100 cents. It replaced the East African rupee at par. The florin was equivalent to 2 shillings sterling.

The short-lived florin had been introduced because of increasing silver prices after World War I. At that time, the Indian rupee was the currency of the British East African states. The rupee, being a silver coin, rose in value against sterling. When it reached the value of two shillings, the authorities decided to replace it with the florin. But that, in turn, was quickly replaced with the East African shilling.



The East African florin had been introduced to Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda in 1921. Replacing the short-lived East African florin at a rate of 2 shillings to 1 florin. From the florin thence came the East African shilling. The currency remained pegged to one shilling sterling and was subdivided into 100 cents. The shilling was only 25% silver,

The East African shilling was the sterling unit of account in British-controlled areas of East Africa from 1921 until 1969. It was issued by the East African Currency Board.



Lower value coins were minted in copper and usually had a centre hole

To be continued.....