



"Coins" in the denominations of 1, 3, 7, 15, 30 and 75 Ducals were issued in 1982 and 1985 and a further series in 1990 and 2000, the 2000 series being designated a Millennium Series. They somewhat resemble enamelled badges without pins, with protective clear domed tops.

The Royal Bank of Avram and The Duke of Avram are separate entities, with the bank having its own charter, rules, regulations, letters patent and its own directors. The Duke does not, and never has, owned the bank. From time to time the directors have honoured The Duke by perpetuating his armorial bearings (all of which have been granted under Royal Charter and Letters Patent) on the bank's coinage. "Avram" is listed in the Macquarie Dictionary as "a unit of currency issued as a note by the Royal Bank of Avram", the validity of the coins has remained unchallenged by the Commonwealth Government and they are listed in the three editions of "Unusual World Coins" by Colin R. Bruce II (U.S.A.).

The Government was not amused by the idea of someone issuing their own private banknotes and the Prince's historic house was raided by Federal Police in March, 1985, by "breaking down the door while he was in the shower". The action was instituted by the then Treasurer, Paul Keating, and authorised by Cabinet in writing. Cabinet minutes were later produced in court.

With warrants, (which The Duke alleges were later proved illegal in court), Federal police removed large amounts of cash in various currencies for alleged evidentiary purposes, some of which has never been returned including the Royal Charter and Letters Patent etc., even though there is a Court Order to that effect.

The six charges relating to violating banking and currency acts and issuing false currency were heard and "thrown

out of court" in December, 1986, with the ruling "no case to answer" in each case. The Commonwealth appealed to higher courts, but still did not win. The total legal costs for The Duke were \$175, but The Commonwealth of Australia estimates it cost the Federal Government (and thus taxpayers) \$20 million. Taxpayers were not amused!

The final "insult to injury" is that the Royal Bank of Avram abbreviates to "R.B.A." – the same as that of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Later, he (as His Grace, the Most Noble, the Duke of Avram, John) was to become an elected member of State parliament as Member for Lyons on the West Coast of Tasmania (encompassing 64% of the area of the State) with a campaign promise to push for sustained tourist growth and balanced industrial

growth, and was Shadow Minister for Construction. However, party politics intervened and he lost his seat before the next election. Currently, he is a serving councillor for the Sorell Council which covers his present location and some of the area of Lyons, as Deputy Mayor John, The Duke of Avram.

The Duke believes that some of the only positive things to come out of the court actions were:

- 1 A change to legislation in the Bills of Exchange Act, 1909.
- 2 Changes to banking laws and a change to the way banking is conducted in Australia (freeing up of the subsidiary banks etc.).
- 3 A ruling that the Avram had an exchange value of One Avram to US \$10. (The ducal is 1/100 of one avram).

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