

*Bird Notes.**The Australian Silver Coinage, 2/-, 1/-, 6d., 3d.*

Dr. A. M. Morgan noticed many years ago that the Emu, the "sinister" supporter of the shield of arms, shows a hind toe on each foot. He suggests that the scientific name should be *Dromaius novae-hollandiae monetae*, and its habitat as Australia, Papua, the Territory of New Guinea, Nauru, Norfolk, and Lord Howe Islands!

Mr. J. Hunt Deacon, Keeper of Coins and Medals at the S.A. Museum, has advised me that animals represented heraldically quite often are not drawn anatomically correct, although they are described in heraldic terms as "proper." In Fox-Davies' "Book of Public Arms" it is stated that the Australian Arms were approved by Royal Warrant of May 7th, 1908, and, although a new coat of arms was approved by Royal Warrant of September 19th, 1912, the chief type of the reverse of the Australian silver coins follows the 1908 warrant.

The sinister supporter in the 1908 arms has its right foot placed against the top part of the side, but in the 1912 arms the bird is standing with its breast against the side.

On looking at the drawing in the above book it would appear that the three-toed foot of the Emu was so drawn as to have deceived the designer of the coin dies that one was a hind toe.

Bird Notes.

It may be of interest to state that in the 1912 coat of arms there are two badges of the States represented by birds—South Australia, “the fourth of the third, on a perch wreathed vert and gules, an Australian Piping Shrike displayed also proper.” (The bird is a White-backed Magpie, and its tail is given 10 feathers, whereas it should be 12.) Western Australia, “the fifth also or a Swan naiant to the sinister sable.” (A Black Swan swimming.)