

Independent Coin News



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Welcome to the January 2024 issue of Independent Coin News, an online magazine containing the latest Australian and international coin news.

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This document was prepared in the lands of the Wurrundjeri people. We acknowledge them as the traditional owners of the land and pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Collecting Coin Rolls and Coin Bags

Introduction

Coin rolls – what are they? Why do people collect them? What is important in a coin roll? What is the safest type of roll to buy? Do people prefer coin rolls or coin sachets? We'll examine these and other questions in this article.

What are coin rolls?

A coin roll (also known as a coin wrap) consists of a stack of a set number of coins in a tube. While this tube is normally made of paper, occasionally plastic is used. Until the early twentieth century rolls could only be created by hand and the end flaps would be folded, but since then coin rolling machines that wrap the coins and crimp the ends of the rolls have been developed (see Figure 1).



Fig 1. Royal Australian Mint 1c rolls from the 1970s and 1980s with ends crimped (top), 1995 50c Weary Dunlop Reserve Bank hand rolled with ends folded (bottom). Photographs courtesy of the Purple Penny.

A roll is used to easily deliver a set amount of coins of a particular denomination. For this

purpose the paper for decimal coins was normally colour coded by denomination (red for the now obsolete 1c and 2c, blue for 5c, purple for 10c, green for 20c and orange for 50c). This practice appears to have ceased, however the same colour system is used for the small bags of change (sachets) that are now often used in place of rolls. The number of coins of a particular denomination in a roll follows the standards set out in table 1 (next page). Notice how the “roll value” was maintained during the transition from predecimal to decimal currency.

Coin rolls are nothing new. There are stories that during the shift to decimal currency unopened rolls of Queen Victoria bronze coins were found deep in bank vaults.

Sovereigns

It may come as a surprise to some, but sovereigns can be found in rolls. While they were generally transported from their mints of origin to banks or between banks in large 1000 coin bags, they were also distributed in smaller quantities via rolls.

Figure 2 shows a fifty coin roll of 1894 Melbourne sovereigns. These were sourced from a Swiss bank and are believed to have been put into the roll just after World War II. While uncirculated and brilliant, the coins are sadly heavily bagmarked and only grade MS61 to MS62. It is probable that the low grade is largely due to the coins having been moved around from location to location in bags before being rolled. (Heavy bagmarks are quite common for sovereigns. Gold is soft, the coins are heavy, they were jiggled around in bags during transportation and when they impact one another they leave many noticeable marks. For most issues it is tough to find sovereigns in as high a grade as MS63).

Predecimal	Quantity	Roll Value	Decimal	Quantity	Roll Value	Decimal Colour Code
Halfpenny	60	2/6d				
Penny	60	5/-	1c	50	50c	Red
Threepence	40	10/-	2c	50	\$1	Red
Sixpence	40	£1	5c	40	\$2	Blue
Shilling	40	£2	10c	40	\$4	Purple
Florin	20	£2	20c	20	\$4	Green
			50c	20	\$10	Orange
			\$1	20	\$20	(Yellow)
			\$2	25	\$50	(Red)

Table 1. Predecimal and decimal "standard" rolls.



Figure 2. 1894 Melbourne Mint sovereign roll. Photographs courtesy of Drake Sterling.

Australian Predecimal Coinage

Coins were transported from the mints in bags. Some of the bags that were used still exist, such as the bag used to transport 1944 threepences from the San Francisco mint in Figure 3.

Coins were hand rolled by banks and by private individuals. Rolls issued by the banks to customers were in distinctive paper (Figure 4) while those rolled by private individuals were generally in plain paper, although sometimes labelled with the date of the coins. Date labelled rolls, particularly bronze, are not necessarily rolls of uncirculated coins, so caution is advised before purchasing rolls of this type.



Figure 3. Mint bag used to transport threepences minted in San Francisco to Australia in 1944. 16,000 threepences have a

face value of £200. The weight of the bag when full would have been about 22 kg. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny.



Figure 4. Penny, threepence and sixpence rolls issued by various banks. Photographs courtesy of Notable Change Numismatics (<https://www.noteablechange.com.au>).

As you'd expect, the quantity of coins in each roll, at least those issued by banks, was standard because these coins were issued to retail outlets and not collectors. Indeed the first collector rolls were not issued until 1988.

Decimal Coinage

The RAM issued rolls labelled with the denomination and roll value for all denominations except the 50c for most years from 1966 until 1988 and the 50c from 1973 until 1988 (Figure 4).



Figure 4. 1981 1c Royal Australian Mint rolls. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny.

Despite striking Australian decimal coins at various times, rolls were not issued by the Perth Mint, Melbourne Mint, Royal Mint or the Royal Canadian Mint. However these

coins can be found in Reserve Bank and other rolls issued by various banks (Figure 5).



Figure 5. 1981 1c Reserve Bank roll. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny.

1988 Bicentenary Rolls

In 1988 the Royal Australian Mint released the commemorative 50c and \$1 in special rolls (Figure 6). This was really seen as a once off.



Figure 6. 1988 Bicentenary \$1 and 50c rolls as issued by the Royal Australian Mint. Photographs courtesy of the Purple Penny.

2007-2011 Collector Rolls

It wasn't until 2007 that the RAM issued special collector rolls that were specific to the particular issue, such as the 2007 APEC and 2010 Girl Guides dollars in Figure 7. These sold at a premium. This series lasted until 2011 (a full list is given in Table 2). The coin quality is consistent with coins chosen randomly from a production run.



Figure 7. 2007 APEC and 2010 Centenary of Girl Guiding \$1 rolls as issued by the Royal Australian Mint.

Date and Denomination	Variety
1988 50C	Bicentenary
1988 \$1	Bicentenary
2007 \$1	APEC
2008 \$1	Centenary of Scouts
2009 \$1	Centenary of Aged Pension
2010 \$1	Centenary of Girl Guiding
2011 \$1	CHOGM
2010 50C	Australia Day
2010 20C	Taxation
2011 20C	Royal Wedding
2011 20C	Women's Day
2011 20C	Volunteers

Table 2. 1988 – 2011 Collector rolls issued by the Royal Australian Mint.

2014 Onwards: Collector rolls in generic Royal Australian Mint paper

Rolls specifically designed for the collector were again issued in 2014 (at a premium naturally). 2014 \$1 with the standard (mob of roos) reverse were issued in rolls labelled “One Dollar \$20” in red, and \$2 with the (green) remembrance reverse in rolls labelled “Two Dollar Coins \$50” in black. These rolls were all heads–tails (i.e. at one end of the roll you could see the obverse of a coin, at the other end you could see the reverse).

In 2015 the Royal Australian Mint changed to brown paper, labelled in black lettering “Royal Australian Mint”, with the denomination, the total face value of the roll and the Australian Coat of Arms. Once again these were all heads-tails. In order to put together these rolls, coins are fed into the rolling machine from a large hopper. As the orientation of each coin (heads or tails up) is random, half of these rolls will be heads–tails, a quarter will be heads–heads and a quarter tails–tails. As only the heads–tails rolls were sold to collectors, half of the rolls in the official RAM paper should have been discarded. Unfortunately that was not always the case as in 2020 collector rolls from 2018, 2019 and 2020 began appearing in jumbo bags (large bags of rolls or coin bags used for ease of transport to banks – e.g. a \$2 jumbo bag contains 40 25-coin cachets). This naturally did not delight the collectors who had paid a premium for their “collector rolls”. The RAM explained that the “reject rolls” were sent to security companies and that it was the security companies who were expected to break the coins out of the rolls and reroll or bag them¹. I doubt many collectors were placated by this press release. However future roll releases incorporated a hologram seal, so any collector roll from 2021 onwards (as well as the 2020 \$2 Fire Fighters) must have a hologram seal to be considered an “authentic collector product”. Photographs of these rolls with and without the hologram seal can be seen in Figure 8.



Figure 8. RAM rolls since 2015. With hologram (top), without hologram (bottom).

A complete list of the 2014 RAM roll series (as of December 2023) is listed in Table 3 below. There have been four complete denomination sets. The 2019 set with the new Jodie Clark effigy was released in a box, the other sets were loose.

Date and Denomination	Variety	Type of Paper
2014 \$1	Mob of Roos	Red Writing \$20
2014 \$2	Remembrance (green)	Black Writing \$50
2015 \$2	Lest We Forget (red)	RAM logo
2015 \$2	Remembrance Day (orange)	RAM logo
2016 5c – \$2 Set	50 Years of Decimal Currency obv.	RAM logo
2017 \$2	Remembrance (Rosemary)	RAM logo
2017 \$2	Lest We Forget (Mosaic)	RAM logo
2017 5c – \$2 Set	Standard Reverse	RAM logo
2017 50c	MABO	RAM logo
2018 \$2	Armistice Centenary	RAM logo
2018 \$2	INVICTUS Games	RAM logo
2018 \$2	Eternal Flame	RAM logo
2014–2018 \$1 Set	100 Years of ANZAC	RAM logo
2019 \$2	Police Remembrance	RAM logo
2019 \$2	Repatriation	RAM logo
2019 5c – \$2 Set	Standard Reverse, Jodie Clark obv.	RAM logo
2020 \$2	WWII Anniversary	RAM logo
2020 \$1	QANTAS Centenary	RAM logo
2020 \$2	Fire Fighters	RAM logo and hologram seal
2021 \$2	Aboriginal Flag	RAM logo and hologram seal
2021 \$2	Indigenous	RAM logo and hologram seal
2021 \$2	Ambulance Services	RAM logo and hologram seal
2022 \$2	Frontline Workers	RAM logo and hologram seal
2022 \$2	Peacekeeping	RAM logo and hologram seal
2022 \$2	Honey bee	RAM logo and hologram seal

Table 3. Collector rolls from 2014 onwards. This list is current as of December 2023.

2023 \$1 Charles III Rolls

The long awaited first coins with the obverse of the new monarch were released into circulation in early December 2023. As of December 15th, all the rolls sighted are brown paper with the legend "One Dollar Coins \$20". Although not (yet) an official Royal Australian Mint roll, I'd imagine that most roll collectors would add this to their collections.

Special Reserve Bank Rolls

These rolls were made by hand at the Reserve Bank in Melbourne using coins sourced from jumbo bags delivered to the bank. The bottom roll in Figure 1 is one of these rolls. Notice how the ends of the roll were flaps (sometimes closed with sticky tape) rather than being crimped. The rolls exist for just four issues:

- 1991 50c 25th Anniversary of Decimal Currency
- 1994 50c Year of the Family
- 1995 50c Weary Dunlop (these come in both blue and green paper)
- 1995 20c United Nations

Other Reserve Bank Rolls

Most twentieth century coin issues can be found in generic Reserve Bank rolls. Of particular interest are those coins that were not issued as Royal Australian Mint rolls.

1966 Melbourne and Perth Mint 1c and 2c.

1967 and 1968 (Melbourne Mint) 1c.

1967 and 1968 (Perth Mint) 2c.

1981 50c Royal Wedding

These were shipped from the Royal Mint in cloth bags and not rolled until they arrived in Australia, which is a large reason why the coins are normally found heavily bagmarked.

1981 5c and 1981 20c minted in Winnipeg

Both issues were also presumably sent in bags of some sort and rolled in Australia. These coins come in other bank rolls than Reserve Bank rolls.

All 50c before 1973

Coins were shipped from the RAM to the banks in bags and rolled by the banks before 1973.

Security Company and other rolls

Nowadays coins are shipped in large bags (also known as jumbo bags) from the Royal Australian Mint to security companies for distribution to the banks and other retail customers. Currently the coins are bagged into standard size sachets at the mint (see Figure 9) although in the past the coins were delivered loose (this incidentally is one reason it is extremely difficult to find a 2000 Royal Visit 50c in MS65 or better). We'll talk more about these sachets later. The security company may forward the entire jumbo bag to the bank, break open the sachets and issue their own sachets or

make their own rolls such as those in Figure 10. Until about 2016 the RAM sachets were colour coded; now they are just clear bags. Security company sachets are generally colour coded.

Coin rolls at security companies contain the coins that were in the hopper at the time so there is no guarantee that all the coins in a particular coin roll will match the two end coins. Also there is no guarantee that the coins were rolled at the time of release, as the roll may have been made at the request of a private individual some years later.



Figure 9. A jumbo bag of 2015 dated 5c from the Royal Australian Mint (left). Two 5c sachets (right) colour coded (top) and clear (bottom).



Figure 10. Security company rolls – 2009 20c (Chubb), 2007 20c (Armaguard), 2010 \$1 Girl Guiding (Chubb).

Coin Sachets – An Alternative to Rolls

As mentioned earlier, commercial coin sachets follow the standard colour codes (Table 1). It is not possible to differentiate commercial coin sachets from the earlier RAM sachets as both were colour coded. The more recent RAM sachets are clear rather than colour coded.

Collector Coin Sachets

Since 2013, the Royal Australian Mint has on occasion issued collector sachets with the coat of arms and labelled “Royal Australian Mint”, similar to the collector rolls (Figure 11). A list of the sachets containing five \$2 coins is given in table 4. In 2020 the RAM also made available at coin swaps a \$1 QANTAS sachet

containing ten coins. Additionally, all six denominations with the 2019 Jodie Clark designed portrait were released at coin swaps in standard size sachets (as in table 1) but with the official RAM packaging seen on the other collector sachets.



Figure 11. RAM collector sachet of 5 2019 \$2 Police Remembrance coins.

Date and Denomination	Variety
2013 \$2	Coronation
2015 \$2	Remembrance Flanders Field (Orange)
2015 \$2	Lest We Forget (Red)
2017 \$2	Remembrance Rosemary
2017 \$2	Lest We Forget Mosaic
2018 \$2	100 Years of Armistice
2018 \$2	Eternal Flame
2018 \$2	INVICTUS Games
2019 \$2	Police Remembrance
2019 \$2	Centenary of Repatriation
2020 \$2	75th Anniversary of end of World War II
2021 \$2	Indigenous Military Service

Table 4. \$2 five coin sachets issued by the Royal Australian Mint (current as of December 2023).

Why Collect Rolls?

The traditional answer is “this way you get a roll’s worth of uncirculated coins”. Is this correct?

Well, this is not true in all cases.

Early (non collector) RAM rolls very rarely have coins of mixed dates, but it can happen. Just after the dies with the old date had been used up and dies with the new date have started to be used, there was a mixture of old and new date coins in the coin hopper from which the coins for the rolls are sourced. (Remember that the primary intent was to provide coins for commerce, not collectors.) I once found what I thought to be a 1973 1c RAM roll to contain a mixture of 1973 and 1972 1c.

Collector RAM rolls are guaranteed, provided the roll has not been tampered with. The end of a roll can be opened, the coins replaced and the end roll carefully closed without disturbing the hologram. Tools to crimp the ‘disturbed’ end of the roll are readily available.

Other coin rolling services have the same problems with respect to potential tampering. Coins are selected by an individual or at random and sent to the rolling company, put into a hopper, rolled and returned to the individual. At any time in this process the coins could have been cherry picked. It is unlikely that high grade coins worthy of PCGS slabs would be included in rolls such as these. Such concerns are shared by major auction houses such as Downie’s Australian Coin Auctions. This statement has been part of their terms and conditions for quite some time².

Decimal Mint Rolls/Bags

Please note that all non-RAM rolls in this sale are sold “as is” and are not subject to return or refund as per Australian Coin Auctions Terms and Conditions

Another point to consider is the condition of the roll. If the roll has become wet at any stage the coins will most likely suffer water damage. If the roll is stained or the paper

looks crinkly, the roll may have this problem. I have found verdigris on coins in rolls.

Roll tightness is also important. Coins in loose rolls can rotate as the roll is moved from location to location. These coins may exhibit “roll rubbing” where the high points have been ground down by contact with adjacent coins. The bright spot on the kangaroo’s haunch of the 1962 florin in Figure 12 is a result of minor roll rubbing. In more severe cases, the highest points on the coins can be flat and shiny. While technically uncirculated, they are far less desirable to collectors and any rolls which feel loose are best to avoid.



Figure 12. Roll rub on haunch of kangaroo due to coins rotating in a loose roll.

Quality of Coins in a Roll

We discussed how to find better quality coins in rolls and bags in the September 2023 issue³. In short, we want a roll or bag with the least handling. The best sources are early RAM rolls, official collector rolls from the Royal Australian Mint, and sachets that have come straight from the RAM (such as those with the RAM logo and the clear sachets from

about 2016 onwards). Security rolls and sachets are less desirable as more processes have been followed to them, and other rolls are even worse due to the above plus potential cherry picking. If the reason you collect rolls is to break them open at some stage and sell the coins, you may be liable to pay tax on your profits. Independent Coin News recommends that you consult a taxation professional before embarking on such a venture.

Why Collect Sachets?

Whether collecting the five coin sachets from the RAM or the commercial RAM or security company sachets, the big advantage they have over rolls is that you can see at a glance whether all the coins are of the same issue, and if you look closely you can see whether they are uncirculated or not. The disadvantage is that they must be stored carefully to avoid the coins banging against each other in the sachet.

Finally, people do have different reasons for collecting what they do. I asked Paul Whenman why he collected rolls and he responded that initially he did so because it was the only way he could find some of the decimal varieties and it just grew from there⁴.

References

1. “A statement from the Royal Australian Mint in regard to rolled circulating coins”, 14th August 2020, <https://www.ramint.gov.au/news-media/news/statement-royal-australian-mint-regard-rolled-circulating-coins>
2. Downie’s Australian Coin Auctions, Auction 350, Spring 2023, pg 29.
3. Independent Coin News, “Submitting a Roll or Bag of Coins to PCGS”, July 2023, pg 5.
4. Paul Whenman, private communication.

A Quick Look at Brockages

Brockages are one of the most desirable error coins in Australian numismatics and often fetch high prices at public auction. We'll have a quick look at the cause of a brockage, different types of brockage and how to determine if a brockage is genuine.



Figure 1. A 5c obverse brockage. The echidna and '5' on the left is mirror imaged and incuse.

When a coin sticks to a die after a strike, the stuck coin (known as a die cap) will act as a die on subsequent strikes. Thus the next planchet to enter the coin press will be struck by a normal die with normal incuse relief and a mirror image die with raised relief. Coins subsequently struck will have one side with normal appearance and the other side will be a mirror image of the first side and have an incuse relief. This coin is known as a **brockage**. A five cent brockage is shown in Figure 1. This is called an obverse brockage as it is the obverse die that is the die cap.

With each strike of the dies, a die cap slowly expands outwards and eventually wraps around the die shaft as the die cap is not constrained by a collar. Brockages that occur with little or no expansion of the die cap are known as early die state brockages. The 5c in Figure 1 is one of those. The threepence in Figure 2 is a medium state brockage: the design details are still readily visible but expansion has occurred and the rim has completely disappeared.



Figure 2. Both sides of a medium die state brockage of a 1962 threepence. Photographs courtesy of Gary Tate.

Eventually the die cap will become so distorted that very little or none of the initial detail is still visible. This is known as a late side state brockage. On the brockage side of the two cent in Figure 3 you can only just see the outline of an overly large incuse image of Her Majesty.



Figure 3. Late die state reverse brockage on a 1966 2c.

As the metal in the die cap flows down the side of the die the metal covering the die begins to thin. Eventually the die cap will be so thin that coins will show details of the original die struck through the now very thin die cap. The 1952 threepence in Figure 4 is an example of this. This is described as a “struck through – capped die” error.



Figure 4. Struck through capped die error. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

As it cannot be determined whether the die cap was originally a brockage or just an unstruck planchet, brockage is never included in the description of a coin in this state. The strike on the

'normal' side of a brockage is always very strong and on occasion there are rim extrusions where the metal was forced up between the die and the collar. The reason for this is that the extra thickness of the die cap causes the distance between the cap and the other die to be considerably less than the machinery is set for and thus the strike will be much stronger than normal. (This is one of the indications of whether a brockage is genuine or a "shed job" – look for the strength of the strike.)

The Die Cap

What of the die cap? As we've indicated, it flows around the shaft of the die, eventually becoming like a thimble. The inside has a distended design, the outside is featureless or perhaps has a grossly distended design depending upon at which stage the mint staff stopped the machinery and removed the offending die cap. A sixpence reverse die cap is pictured in Figure 5. The side on the right was facing the planchet, so sixpences struck with this die just before it was removed from the press would have had a normal reverse and no detail on the obverse.



Figure 5. Sixpence reverse die cap. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Partial Brockages

If a coin that was struck off centre becomes stuck to the die, the die cap covers only part of the die. Subsequent coins will be normal, apart from the inverted incuse image caused by the die cap. One such coin is the Guatemala 1888 25 cents in Figure 6. This coin has what is described as a 30% reverse brockage. Notice how the incuse part on the left perfectly matches the other side (this coin is in "coin alignment", the same as United States coins and the opposite of Australian coins since 1887). This means that a 70% off centre strike has stuck to the die and we are clearly witnessing an early state of the die cap as there is little, if any, expansion of the cap.

The die cap of a partial brockage expands the same way as that of a full brockage but can be quite uneven in its spread across the face of the die. The Australian two cent in Figure 7 was struck by a later state off centre die cap. Notice how the incuse detail has expanded and the die cap expansion is somewhat irregular.



Figure 6. Guatemala 1888 25 cents with 30% reverse brockage. This is an early state brockage. Image courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 7. Partial brockage due to a later die state off centre die cap. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny. Notice the expansion of what we can see of the '2' due to the expansion of the die cap.

A partial brockage can be confused with an “indent error” and indeed can be indistinguishable from one. An indent error occurs when two planchets are fed into the press at the same time (so the coin causing the indent is blank) or one planchet has failed to exit the press when a second planchet is struck (this results in an indent with features on the second coin; the first coin is double struck). An indent where part of the previous coin has left an impression is shown in Figure 8. Generally you can tell the difference between a partial brockage and an indent as the detail on the brockage will be position matched (Figure 6 and Figure 7) whereas the detail on an indent will not (Figure 8). Naturally this identification cannot be used when there is no apparent detail, as it could be caused by either a late state die cap or an unstruck planchet. The 1967 1c in Figure 9 is one such example.



Figure 8. Indent on a sixpence. DEI of DEI GRATIA is visible at 12 o'clock on the reverse which is part of the legend normally only seen at 6 o'clock on the obverse. The previous coin had not quite cleared the press when this planchet entered and was struck over the edge of the previous coin. Indents are one off occurrences whereas partial brockages should create multiple error coins. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.



Figure 9. 1967 one cent indent error (probably) although a late state partial brockage cannot be ruled out.

This was a simple view of indent errors as there are other types such as multi denominational indents, indents caused by coin fragments and elliptical indents. These are a topic for another day.

Counterbrockages

The final and arguably the most spectacular type of brockage is a counterbrockage. It is also the rarest and I cannot recall seeing an example on an Australian coin.

This is what occurs: A coin sticks to a die, becoming a die cap. Some coins are struck and the die cap creeps around the die shaft, stretching out the design. Now a newly minted brockage coin sticks to the other die (this is incuse, mirror imaged and stretched whereas a normal die would be incuse,

mirror imaged and NOT stretched) and the original die cap comes loose. The next coin is struck by the new die cap, and the freshly revealed normal die. So we have a coin that has one side with a stretched design and the other side normal such as the Canadian one cent in Figure 10.



Figure 10. Canadian one cent counterbrockage. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



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Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



Coin Cat received an excellent email from Neal, which has forced a reappraisal of the origins of some shilling error coins.

Dear Coin Cat,

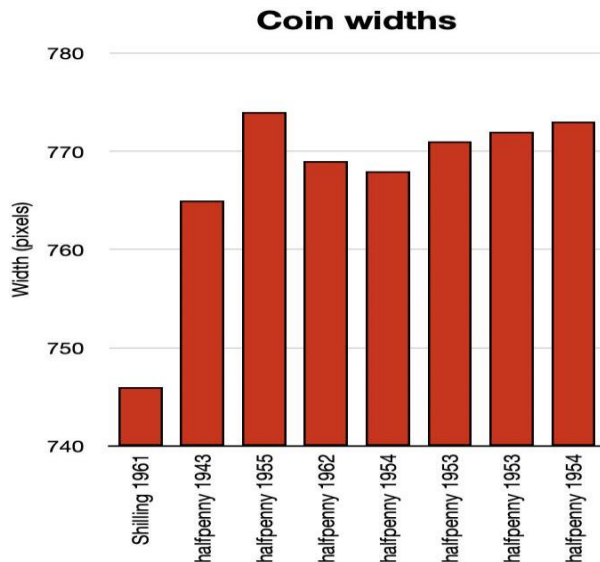
Another great issue. Noted Peter Andrews mentioned shillings struck in halfpenny collars in the Mule article. Is there any reference for this error or a list of dates involved, rarity, telltale markers, auction sales or hints on this error. Until today I had no inkling that this error even existed so I want to start looking through my collection.

Regards, Neal

The shillings concerned were all dated 1961. An example is shown below. They were identified as being struck by halfpenny collars because the rims appeared square and they were apparently the same size as a



halfpenny. Of course one wonders why a halfpenny collar was easily accessible at the Melbourne Mint in 1961 as the last halfpennies minted there had been dated 1959, but mint sport does occur. I photographed the shilling and a halfpenny together and drew lines on the photograph to show that the coins were the same size. However the shilling looked just a little smaller. In order to check this, the shilling and seven halfpennies were photographed by the same camera (well, iPhone 6 camera actually) in the same position, one after another. The photographs were then cropped square around each coin and the width of the coin measured in pixels (the height was less reliable due to shadowing caused by the position of the camera and the light source). The results are given below and are accurate to +/- 3 pixels.



Coin	Width (pixels)
shilling 1961	746
halfpenny 1943	765
halfpenny 1955	774
halfpenny 1962	769
halfpenny 1954	768
halfpenny 1953	771
halfpenny 1953	772
halfpenny 1954	773

Rather than prove that the coins were struck with a shilling collar, this has done the opposite. The size of the shilling is clearly smaller than that of all seven halfpennies. I am no longer confident that the 1961 shilling was struck with a halfpenny collar. It is more likely to be a beautifully even broadstrike that due to the strike pressure has expanded to be just a little smaller than a halfpenny.

Regards
Coin Cat

If you have any questions for Coin Cat please send an email to coincat@independentcoinnews.com



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Recent Perth Mint Releases

For 2024 dated the coins the Perth Mint is using a new 'P125' rather than 'P' mintmark as 2024 is the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Perth Mint.

2024 Year of the Dragon Coins



Year of the Dragon 1 ounce silver coloured coin (in card). This was available in two different designs, one predominately yellow, the other red. Recommended retail price was \$95. A proof version of the yellow coin was also issued at \$130. These coins were all out of stock on the Perth Mint website as of 1st December.



Half ounce, one ounce and two ounce silver Year of the Dragon proof coins in a set. The one ounce coin is also available individually. The set was \$445, the individual one ounce coin \$130.



Year of the Dragon 1 ounce silver trio

This is a set of three one ounce silver Year of the Dragon coins. The three coins have proof, coloured and gilded finishes. The first two coins were also available individually and in other sets. The gilded coin was also available individually for \$115. The release price of the set was \$355.

Other Releases



2023 Wedge-tailed Eagle 1.5 ounce bi-metal proof gilded coin. The coin is silver with a gold centrepiece and gold gilding of the eagle's wings and contains 0.75 ounces of silver and 0.75 ounces of gold. RRP was \$3995.



2023 Koala 1 ounce Silver Coloured Coin, released specifically for the Perth 2023 National Stamp and Coin Exhibition in November. This coin came in a card.



Mythical Creatures Basilisk 1oz Platinum Proof Coin in the mythical creatures series.

This coin has the same design as the gold coin previously released. The basilisk is a mythical beast that, although small, is known for its venom, noxious breath and gaze – any of which would kill. The coin has a retail price of \$2,999 and as of the 13th December was listed as still available on the Perth Mint website.

All of these coins have the QEII memorial obverse.

All photographs courtesy of the Perth Mint.

A promotional banner for Numis Bid. It features a collage of various Australian coins, including a 1927 one-dollar coin and a 1927 five-dollar coin. The text "NUMIS BID" is prominently displayed in a stylized, metallic font. Below it, the text "Australia's rare coin marketplace" and the website "numisbid.com.au" are written in a white, sans-serif font.

Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

There were fewer releases from the Royal Australian Mint in the last two months than in the September–October time period. While a number of bullion coins were released, we also saw the first Charles III coins enter circulation.



Port Phillip Patterns –Four Coin Gold Set of four 1/4 ounce gold coin. RRP \$3950.



Elizabeth Regina – a final commemoration coin for Her Late Majesty with the reverse showing all her portraits as had been used on Australian coins. This was released as a fine silver proof for \$135 and as a cupronickel issue in a card for \$15.



35th anniversary of the \$2 coin. A 14 coin set with a repeat of 14 previously used coloured reverses and the QEII memorial obverse. This had a mintage of 35,000 and retailed for \$235. We will discuss the allocation and the Royal Australian Mint’s plans for future releases in a separate article.



2024 Tiger Snake gold and silver one ounce bullion coins. These coins are part of the “Australia’s Most Dangerous” series and have the QEII memorial obverse. The price for each is dependent upon the gold or silver price on the day.



Mini Money 2023 \$5 Emu. A truly tiny 1/2g Frosted Uncirculated Gold Coin with the QEII memorial obverse. These were available for \$100.



2024 Koala (bullion) series. Released as a \$100 one ounce gold coin, \$1 one ounce silver coin and a \$5 one ounce silver coin with high relief. The coins have the QEII memorial obverse with the denomination on the obverse.



2023 \$1 with Charles III obverse. As the Royal Australian Mint stated in October, these coins began appearing in tills in the first week of December. Initially rolls of these coins were selling for two to three times face value on eBay, now much less. Photograph courtesy of Roman Belousov of everycoinonline.

Future Releases

From the Currency Determination we can see that theme of the ‘mintmark dollar’ for 2024 is Out of this World – Australia in Space. C mintmark, S, M, B and envelope privy marks, S, M, B, A, P, C and map counter stamps and also a non counter stamp/privy mark issue. The obverse effigy will be that of Charles III.

For the first time in years the **mint set, baby set and proof sets** were not ready by Christmas (see front cover of this issue). There is no word yet on release dates but I did hear a rumour that February or March is likely.

The 1934 Melbourne Sovereign

By Eric Eigner

Reproduced with permission of the author, this article originally appeared in the September 2016 issue of the Coin News magazine.

Across almost every Australian coin series, there are unanswered numismatic questions. Whether the questions arose from poor record keeping, botchy die punching, bad policy, experimentation, or something else altogether, the result is often a mystery that leaves numismatists and collectors scratching their heads for years to come.

The Australian gold series is not immune from mystery, so it was with curiosity that I answered a call from an English collector who claimed to have information about a 1934 Melbourne mint sovereign. Every sovereign collector knows that Australia stopped minting sovereigns in 1931, while the very last currency-issue sovereigns were struck in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1932. News of a supposed 1934 sovereign—one struck in Melbourne, no less—therefore piqued my interest, and I arranged to meet the English collector at the Millennium Hotel during London’s Coinex Coin Show last year.



Sovereigns from the Melbourne Mint always bear an "M" mintmark.

As a coin dealer, you are used to expecting certain things: A grandfather’s collection is usually never in as great a condition as the grandchildren, who wish to sell, claim. If a non-collector has a “1930 penny” for sale, it is more likely to be British than Australian. And if I happen to have a Proof Canberra Florin on my website for sale, I will receive calls from collectors who also claim to have

one—but, upon inspection, their coins are inevitably not proof at all, but are instead low-grade and worn. You develop a certain scepticism whenever something is offered to you, no matter how flatteringly the coins are described. So it was with that mindset that I ordered a £4 cup of percolated coffee and waited for the collector to arrive.

I didn't have to wait long, and in ten minutes the collector and I were knee-deep in conversation. The collector had unfurled a bundle of documents from his satchel and flattened them on the coffee table between us. The documents, he explained, came from the National Archives in Kew, and provided evidence for the manufacture of reverse sovereign dies bearing the date 1934 and the mintmark "M". So was it possible, he posed, that sovereigns dated 1934 were minted?



Firstly, I want to summarise the content of the documents.

Page 1, 5th January 1934: A letter from the Royal Mint Melbourne to the Royal Mint London requesting that three sovereign dies dated 1934 be manufactured and shipped to Melbourne.

Page 2, 16th February 1934: A short telegram from London to Melbourne asking only "For what reason are sovereign reverse dies requisitioned."

Page 3, 19th February 1934: Melbourne's response to London's telegram: "Coinage sovereigns requested for centenary." This,

of course, refers to Victoria and Melbourne's centenaries in 1934 and 1935.

Page 4, 16th February 1934: This note from the Superintendent of the Royal Mint London summarises the previous letters and telegrams, noting that Melbourne had requested reverse sovereign dies. Noteworthy is the reference that the dies be "suitably marked" for use at the Melbourne Mint. Presumably, this is a reference to the "M" mintmark on all Melbourne-minted sovereigns.

Pages 5 and 6, 20th February 1934: Two separate letters written by the Deputy Master of the Melbourne Mint, Hugh Douglas McCay, providing background to the request to procure 1934 sovereign dies. McCay states that the mint had received a request from the solicitor of the organisers of the Centenary People's Fair to strike sovereigns dated 1934. The sovereigns, he states, are intended to be given away "with cake", and will be issued to the public with a "certificate". McCay expresses his reluctance to strike sovereigns, and explains that he had advised the solicitor that a minimum order of 1,000 ounces of gold would be required. (This suggests that the hypothetical 1934 sovereign would have a mintage of 4,248 pieces as a minimum.) Despite his reluctance to strike sovereigns, McCay laments that the law states that sovereigns must be "coined when demanded... and it appears to [McCay] that the Mint has no option but must strike the coins."

Page 7, 26th March 1934: A friendly letter from London states that the 1934 sovereigns would “have special value, since... they will be the only gold coins struck [by the Royal Mint or any of its branches]”. The author then jokes that he “would not mind a piece of cake if you can guarantee that it contains a sovereign!”

Pages 8 and 9, 22nd March 1934: The Royal Mint confirms via letter that “4 reverse sovereign dies for 1934” were shipped to the Royal Mint Melbourne. There is also a bill to the Royal Mint Melbourne for £3/6/6, the cost of the four dies.

Page 10, 26th April 1934: This final letter is a confirmation that the Royal Mint Melbourne received the four reverse dies.

So, asked the collector, were the 1934 sovereigns ever minted? And what happened to the dies? He had hoped that I, as an Australian, might have knowledge or information that was not available to him, but unfortunately I was as uninformed as he was.

We parted company, and I promised to investigate this mystery further upon returning to Australia. I was curious myself as to how the potential production of sovereigns might have gone unnoticed. If there were records for the production of sovereigns in 1934—even if the coins were subsequently destroyed—collectors would know about it, so my conclusion was that no coins were ever minted. However, if this were the case, what happened to the dies? Further research was certainly warranted.



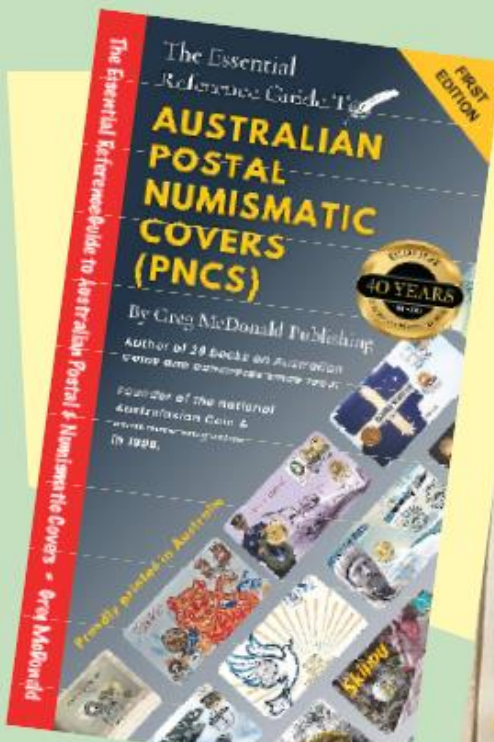
Like the proposed 1934 Melbourne sovereign, the 1934-35 Centennial Florin was issued to commemorate the founding of Victoria.

I contacted several authorities, including the Melbourne Museum (which had acquired some of the artefacts from the Melbourne Mint) and the Royal Australian Mint (to where any coining equipment, including dies, would have been sent when the Melbourne Mint was closed). All leads were dead ends, and after several weeks I was no closer to resolving the mystery. Finally, a numismatist colleague suggested that I contact John Sharples, a former Curator of the Numismatics at the Museum of Victoria, Melbourne. Mr Sharples was kind enough to reply to my inquiry and explained that the mint had indeed received four sovereign reverse dies in the half-year up to 30 June 1934, according to Melbourne Mint records.

The records did not clarify the date or details of the reverse dies, but as this corroborates with the mint records from London, it is straightforward to conclude that these four dies were in fact the 1934 sovereign dies. Mr Sharples continued that another mint report dated 3 January 1935 indicated that four sovereign reverse dies were destroyed in December 1934. Again, although the report did not clarify the details of the dies destroyed—only that they were reverse sovereign dies—it stands to

reason that the four dies destroyed were the four dies shipped from London only seven months earlier: the 1934 sovereign dies.

So, what started off as a coffee in a London hotel and ended with an exchange with a former Curator of Numismatics from Melbourne led to some interesting discoveries. It solved the riddle of the fate of the unused 1934 sovereign dies, and provided an insight into the inner workings of the mints from early last century. Had the coins been minted, they would have been the very last of the pre-modern sovereigns made anywhere in the empire. And had the dies survived, they would have made a fascinating exhibit at the Royal Australian Mint and a nice pair to the 1932 Perth Mint sovereign dies on display at the Perth Mint.



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2021 Lowe Kennedy \$5 Issued

The first 2021 dated \$5 polymer banknotes have started appearing in circulation. These all bear the Lowe/Kennedy signature combination. As of December 23rd, neither the first (AA) or the last (EJ) prefixes have been reported. The Reserve Bank printed some 42.4 million of these banknotes.



Suspect Cameroon Year of the Dragon Banknote Reported

Banknote News¹ are viewing with suspicion and urge collectors to be cautious of a supposed Cameroon Year of the Dragon collectable banknote that was announced in a “press release” allegedly from the Cameroon Ministry of Finance. Banknote News points out that there is no press release on the Ministry of Finance website², key features of the banknote are misidentified, the “press release” was more than a month after the supposed release date and the reported print run of 10,000 is too low to be viable. Their view is that the “banknote” is more likely a private fantasy issue. The photographs below are courtesy of Banknote News.



References:

1. Banknote News article: <https://banknotenews.com/?p=42350>
2. Cameroon Ministry of Finance: <https://minfi.gov.cm/en/news/>

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Contemporary Forgeries in Silver 1926–1931

Introduction

While most of the contemporary forgeries of Australian predecimal silver were low quality silver coated lead pieces, there were some made from silver of sufficiently high quality that they were difficult to detect. The best of these forgeries are of the 1928 shilling and the 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1931 series of florins. For both series we'll first discuss the characteristics to look for and then talk about likely origins and possible forgers. But first, why make your own coin with the same silver content as a genuine one? The answer to this is purely based upon the silver price. Just after World War I the silver price was so high that Australia considered debasing the silver coins from the standard sterling (.925) to Q metal (.500) as Britain had done. This was abandoned when the silver price dropped. By 1932 the silver value was only about 25% to 30% of face value. Thus forging a shilling would, apart from setup costs, net a profit of roughly 9 pence.

The 1928 shillings

Reverse:



Figure 1. Fake 1928 shilling left, genuine (although higher grade) coin right. This is one of the highest grade examples of the forgeries. Photograph of genuine coin courtesy of PCGS.

On this coin rendering of the denticles is poor, particularly 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock, but since that is not seen on all better grade examples we can assume that it is a strike characteristic, i.e. the coins were struck not cast. However the denticle alignment on all examples I have seen is perfect. The die used to create these coins was almost certainly derived from a genuine 1928 shilling. It is quite possible that much of the missing detail on the emu of this particular coin was due to the detail never having been on the die rather than wear. Figures 2 and 3 show some significant differences between the genuine article and the forgery. Of particular interest, as it shows up on even severely worn examples, is the larger of the two blobs on the emu's leg.

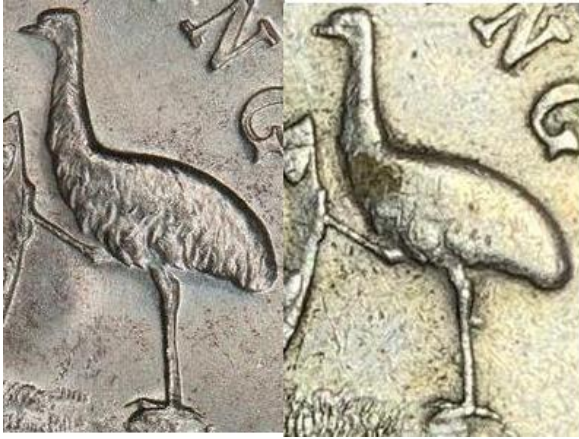


Figure 2. Left (genuine), right (forgery). Large blob extending back on emu's leg – this is visible even on particularly worn pieces. If the coin has been worn smooth this may be the only way to identify the coin as a forgery. Also small blob lower down extending forward, this may not be visible on worn pieces.



Figure 3. Top genuine, bottom forgery. Poor rendering of the grass left hand side of the shield on the forgery.

Obverse

It is extremely difficult to tell the difference between the obverse of a forgery and a genuine 1928 shilling (see Figure 4), and if the coin is low grade, not possible at all.



Figure 4. Obverse of genuine and contemporary forgery 1928 shilling. At first glance it looks real.



Figure 5(a) Forgery. Note lack of detail in the robes (less noticeable on particularly worn examples).

It is only on a high grade example that you can see a lack of detail in areas such as the robe (Figure 5). Additionally the lack of wear on the His Majesty's shoulder hints that this coin has

not had very much wear at all. While the centre diamond is only just visible one suspects that even when freshly minted there was not much more detail on the obverse of the coin.



Figure 5(b) Genuine. Note clarity of the fine details.

History

At the time banks were required to report how much currency they had in stock. According to a contemporary account¹, in early 1932 Treasury were concerned that there was significantly too much silver in banks. It was soon discovered that the problem coin was the shilling. There were far more in bank vaults that could possibly be circulating, which implied the existence of a large number of forgeries of sufficiently high silver content that the mechanical coin-testers were not rejecting them. The banks were asked to report any large transactions of shillings to a special task force set up by the New South Wales police. It took months but eventually it was reported that a respected Chinese rug seller had on a number of occasions deposited quantities of shillings. Undercover detective Frank Fahy was assigned to the case (full details of his surveillance can be found in Kelly's book "The Shadow") and it was suspected he and two of his colleagues were importing fake shillings that originated in China. When a ship docked they would enter the ship, pick up a heavy briefcase of shillings and gradually deposit the shillings through banks², which was not consistent with their testimony. According to the Sydney Morning Herald Law Report on the 25th November 1932² "*Kwong Yung Tseng stated in evidence that he had bought Australian coins from money changers in Hongkong. He had collected the money over a period of three months and paid £570. He made a profit of 8 per cent., which went towards payment of his passage money. He did not inspect the coins before he arrived In Australia*". While they were never convicted, Kwong Chi Tseng, Kwong Yung Tseng and Pow Yung Tseng were deported.

So what fake coins were they importing?

Were these the 1928 shillings with the blob on the emu's leg?

In an interview in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1946 a Mr Walton who had been a government analyst in the 1930s stated that *“The matter was brought to the attention of the analytical branch; it was discovered that the coins deviated little in weight from the real article, their alloy approximated that of genuine Australian currency, and they had obviously been stamped out by a very efficient machine.”*

“The coins were all shillings dated 1928 and it is believed they minted in a town called Swatow in China; Three Chinese were charged with uttering, and it was proved one came from that town”.

Other sources suggest that some 1925 dated shillings were also involved³.

XRF (assay) tests of some shillings including genuine and those believed to be forgeries were performed by Mark Nemtsas. This is an abbreviated table as Mark took data at two points on the obverse and two points on the reverse. The four XRF results were within 0.5% silver for each coin. We have only included the data for the first test on side 1. Sterling silver is rated at 92.5% however it is normal for XRF tests to give results of 1 to 2% higher for Australian predecimal silver. It is interesting that two of the three counterfeits are consistent with sterling silver but one is

substantially lower. It is suspected that the forgers used whatever silver they had available.

Shilling	Mass (g)	Ag (%)
Genuine 1928 1	5.51	93.8
Genuine 1928 2	5.56	92.9
Genuine 1928 3	5.52	93.4
Genuine 1928 4	5.5	93
Counterfeit 1928 1	5.63	93.6
Counterfeit 1928 2	5.19	87.5
Counterfeit 1928 3	5.64	94.7
1918m	5.44	94.2
1920m	5.54	94.6
1925	5.48	93.4

How Many?

There is a problem with consistency.

1. In the chapter “The International Coining Ring” in “The Shadow” the author states that *‘Bank officials had begun to wonder at the growing piles of shillings in their strong-rooms, but there was no spate of **detectable** forgeries to arouse their suspicions.... Returns showed that the strong rooms of the various banks held a larger amount of silver than allowed for in Treasury statistics.... They found that the unaccountable increase was in shilling pieces’⁴.*

Issue	Mintage
1924 shilling	673,000
1925/3 shilling	1,449,000
1926 shilling	2,352,000
1927 shilling	1,416,000
1928 shilling	664,000
1931 shilling	1,000,000
Total 1924 to 1931	7,554,000

What isn’t known is how many extra shillings were in the vaults. From 1924 to 1931, some 7.5 million shillings were minted (see table to the left). This may give us a rough idea of how many coins were circulating. Some of the early dates on this table would have been withdrawn from circulation by 1932 (sterling

silver wears very fast) but also some of the pre-1924 shillings would still have been used. So for arguments sake, let’s say there were 7.5 million shillings in circulation. Would an increase of 1% in the number of coins be noticeable? Probably not. An increase of 10%? Probably. One percent is

75,000 coins, ten percent 750,000, so presumably hundreds of thousands of fake coins would be required to make Treasury suspicious.

2. According to the reports, the perpetrators carried the coins from the docked ship in a heavy briefcase. Let's say you can carry 1000 coins (or £50 face value). This would weigh 5.7 kg, which is heavy but could be done. According to "The Shadow" many thousands of pounds worth of shillings were imported. £1,000 is 20,000 coins, so if just £3,000 worth were imported, this would come to 60,000 coins and would require 60 trips to ships in dock. Given they were seen to have taken just one trip in several weeks, it would have taken years for them to import that much silver (or of course they had other ways of getting the coins into the country). The 1928 shilling mintage is about 664,000 so using these numbers, 1/10th of the total mintage would be bogus coins. In the twenty odd years since I heard about these coins, I have only found half a dozen to a dozen of the coins with the blob on the emu's leg. This is orders of magnitude less than you'd expect if the reports are correct. Another possibility is that if the blob on the emu's leg is a die chip that developed during production, then only a few of the fakes have this flaw. Given some of the fakes have several percent less silver than the genuine articles, assay testing of a large number of 1928 shillings may be worthwhile.

However, even if the three importers had been responsible for importing 60,000 fake shillings, this is under 1% of the total number of shillings in circulation at the time. An increase of such a small amount appears to be too low for Treasury to become suspicious, and the accuracy of the "too many shillings" reasoning given for the surveillance of the Chinese merchants must be questioned.

The 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1931 Florins

This is a group of four dates with the same (unknown) origin. Coins of each date share a common obverse. At first glance the coins look authentic and they were successful enough that four different (and correct) dates were produced and the perpetrators may not have been caught. However on close examination the legends are comparatively crude, denticle alignment is incorrect, dates are slightly askew and there are other minor problems.

We'll have a look at a 1927 florin of unusually high grade and compare with a genuine coin.

1927 florin obverse



Figure 6 (previous page). Obverse of a genuine 1927 florin (left) and contemporary forgery (right).

To an experienced collector the forgery just doesn't look authentic, the rim is too low, the band too low given the elevation of the centre diamond and the lettering crude in places. Of course this is a high grade example we are looking at. The more wear the coin has, the more the problems areas are worn away. Closer examination shows that the alignment of the denticles with the legend differs between the two coins, which is a problem that does not go away with wear. Probably the easiest difference to detect is that the lower dot on the colon after P of IMP is below the level of the base of the P on the forgery but it is above on the genuine coin (Figure 7). Another place worth examining is the lettering of BRITT and the alignment of the letter 'l'. The lettering is crude on the forgery and the l is between denticles. On the genuine coin, the lettering is good and the l is aligned with a denticle (Figure 8). Figure 9 shows the band of the crown. On the forgery, the centre diamond is more pronounced and larger than on the genuine coin.



Figure 7 (genuine left, forgery right). IMP: crude and dot after P misaligned. On worn examples this is still easily detectable. Just look for the bottom dot below the base of the P.



Figure 8. Genuine left, forgery right. Lettering on the forgery is crude and alignment with denticles differs to the genuine coin.



Figure 9. Band and gems including centre diamond are crude. Of course this is only noticeable on an example such as this that has little wear.

1927 florin reverse



Again the rim is lower than on a genuine coin, the lettering a little crude in places and the denticle alignment differs from a genuine coin.



The emu's foot is poorly defined on the fake (left). The emu is slightly smaller but this is not normally noticeable to the naked eye. There appears to be no problem with the kangaroo.



The base of the lettering is far less indented on the forgery and the denticle alignment also differs. In the date, the 1 and 9 are much more upright in the fake. This is relatively easy to spot even on worn coins and is the true for all four coins in the series.

Origin

These have been referred to as Manders and Twible forgeries although it is now considered unlikely to be the work of Roy Manders (his real name was not revealed in "The Shadow" as *'after serving his sentence he has avoided any further trouble with the law'*⁵) and Arthur Twible.

Firstly the forged florins were die struck and there is strong evidence that the coins of Manders and Twible were cast. There is a photograph of their equipment including moulds on a plate between pages 120 and 121 of "The Shadow". Additionally a court report in the Sydney Morning Herald on the 14th September 1928 states⁶: *"On three charges of making and uttering counterfeit florins, and of making **seven moulds** for the preparation of such counterfeits, Arthur Twibble, 68 years, and Joseph Perry, 19 years, were yesterday committed for trial. Bail was allowed, Twibble in £300 and Perry in £150...When a visit was paid to Twibble's room, in City-road, two leather bags were found. These contained 24 florins, some copper coins, **a couple of moulds**, antimony, a tin of fat, a pair of goggles, pliers, a file, plaster of Paris, bluestone, and a brush."*

Secondly, the coins are dated 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1931. Twible (whatever the spelling) was still in gaol in 1932.

David Briggs⁷ has reported that Louis Somme and Harold Williams had struck more than 47,000 florins before being caught in 1932. The combined mintage of the 1926 florins comes to just under 9 million⁸, so they would have been responsible for 0.5% of the 1926–1931 florins. While I have never done any surveys this percentage, while perhaps a little low, is believable.

Rarity

The forged florins are much easier to find than the forged shillings. Of the florins, those dated 1926 appear the scarcest, with 1927 the most common.

Conclusions

The shilling was derived from a genuine 1928 shilling that has some wear. The number of apparently forged 1928 shillings that we find is far less than what we would expect. The florins are far cruder than the shillings and it is highly unlikely they derive from the same source.

The photographs of all the genuine coins in this article are courtesy of PCGS.

Further Reading

Coin Curiosity has summaries of a number of interesting topics including this one:

<https://www.coincuriosity.com/view/manders-and-twible-counterfeit-florins.html>

The Australian Coin Collecting Blog has interesting information about the 1928 shillings – far more than I knew when I started writing this article: <https://www.australian-coins.com/collecting-coins/counterfeit-australian-1928-silver-shillings/>

The late Jon Saxton had a complete set of the “Manders and Twible” florins and detailed comparisons between the genuine and the forgeries:

<http://cpmarchives.classiccmp.org/cpm/mirrors/www.triton.vg/Manders.html>

And of course, for a little about coin forging and much more about police undercover work: Vince Kelly “The Shadow”, Angus and Robertson, 1954.

References

1. Vince Kelly “The Shadow”, Angus and Robertson, 1954 pg 42.
 2. Sydney Morning Herald, Friday 25th November 1932, pg 7. “LAW REPORT, THREE CHINESE CHARGED”.
 3. The Labor Daily says that “the majority of the bad coins bear 1928 date. Others are marked 1925.” (The Labor Daily, 17 August 1932, Page 6 ‘Part of Worldwide Gang, So Police Claim’)
 4. Vince Kelly “The Shadow”, Angus and Robertson, 1954 pg 43.
 5. Vince Kelly “The Shadow”, Angus and Robertson, 1954 pg 53.
 6. Sydney Morning Herald Friday 14 September 1928. “COUNTERFEITING CHARGES. POLICE STORY OF DISCOVERY IN CAVE”.
 7. David Briggs, “Australian Florins 1909 - 1963 Advanced Level, 2019”, pg 181.
 8. Greg McDonald, “A Pocket Guide to Australian Coins and Banknotes”, 22nd edition, pg 102.
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Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Obverse and reverse of 1861 Confederate half dollar restrike. Notice flattened obverse. Image composed of two joined photographs courtesy of Heritage (ha.com).

There were only four original pieces struck by the New Orleans mint using the standard half dollar obverse of the United States coinage and the newly designed Confederate States of America reverse. Of those four, two are in museums and two in private hands.

The Scott CSA half dollar restrikes are attributed to JW Scott of New York who purchased the original reverse Confederate die in 1879 and had the rust cleaned off it. He then planed down the reverse of some original 1861 U.S. half dollars and struck these with the confederate die. Because he had no obverse die and apparently used a flat piece of wood in place of it, this resulted in a flattening of the obverse design as you can see in the specimen up for auction at Heritage. While he bought 500 1861 half dollars to use for the restrikes, it is likely that no more than 100 to 150 of these exist today¹.

The coin auctioned by Heritage, graded as MS61 by PCGS with a CAC sticker, sold for US\$10,200.



JW Scott also used the Confederate reverse die and his own obverse die (photograph to the left) to strike some 500 tokens. These too are highly collectable. David Lawrence sold this particular token, graded by PCGS as MS64 with CAC verification, for US\$6,500 in late 2020. Photograph courtesy of David Lawrence Rare Coins.

References

1. Stacks Bowers:
<https://auctions.stacksbowers.com/lots/view/3-2YOC3/1861-confederate-half-dollar-jw-scott-restrike-breen-8002-ms-61-ngc>



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2023 \$100 Perth Mint Kangaroo Mule Found



The Perth Mint trial strikes for the 2023 1 ounce gold kangaroo used the same Jodie Clark effigy of Elizabeth II as had been used in 2022 and preceding years. The production run used the memorial obverse as shown below.



Lawrence Chard, of Chards Coin and Bullion in Blackpool, United Kingdom discovered a “mule” with the old obverse in a tube of the gold coins. After he reported his discovery, Coin World contacted Neil Vance, General Manager of Minted Products at the Perth Mint who said *“Prior to Queen Elizabeth II’s passing, the Perth Mint struck a small number of Kangaroo coins with the approved obverse of the time. After Her Majesty’s passing, we submitted a new Kangaroo design with the Memorial Obverse and released these coins. One of the original trial strikes, which is a formally approved coin, made its way into circulation.”*

Although the Perth Mint suggested they replace Mr Chard’s coin with one having the correct obverse, he declined to take them up on their kind offer.

Source:

Coin World, November 4th 2023, “2023 trial \$100 coin found outside of Perth Mint”:

<https://www.coinworld.com/news/world-coins/2023-trial-100-coin-found-outside-of-perth-mint>

All photographs courtesy of the Perth Mint.

Rare DMPL United States Morgan Dollars at Regency Auctions

Some rare Carson City Morgan dollars classified as deep mirror proof like (DMPL) sold at the Regency Auction by Legend Rare Coin Auctions in December 2023.

- 1879-CC MS65 DMPL sold for \$US76,375
- 1879-CC Capped Die MS64 DMPL sold for \$US67,562
- 1881-CC MS66 DMPL sold for \$US6,168
- 1882-CC MS66 DMPL sold for \$US5,875
- 1885-CC MS66 DMPL sold for \$US13,512
- 1891-CC MS64 DMPL sold for \$US4,817
- 1892-CC MS65 DMPL sold for \$US85,187
- 1893-CC MS64 DMPL sold for \$US79,312

DMPL coins are scarce. For example, as of 28th December 2023, PCGS has graded 6951 1879-CC Morgan dollars, of which just 64 were classified as DMPL. However coins classified as DMPL are much more desirable than the “standard” coins and sell for much more, so while the proportion of coins PCGS have graded as DMPL is about 1%, the true proportion must be much lower.



Figure 1. 1893 Carson City Morgan dollar graded by PCGS as MS64 DMPL. Photograph courtesy of Regency.

When are coins classified as DMPL? At first glance these coins look like the modern proofs with frosted highlights created by sandblasting the high points of the die.

The United States dies of that period were polished (basined) with fine powder and then used on normal planchets and struck just once. Depending upon the degree of polishing, the first coins struck by the new dies had polished fields with a cameo appearance. As the mirror surfaces on the dies quickly deteriorate with use, after a short time both the cameo appearance and the reflectivity of the fields is reduced. Those coins with less cameo but considerable reflectivity are classified as “prooflike” (PL).

The DMPL coins differ from contemporary proofs in that the proofs were struck on polished planchets and also struck multiple times, thus the surfaces are even more reflective and generally the detail on the coin is better. Proof Morgan dollars can be found as CAM (cameo) and DCAM (deep cameo) and a much greater proportion of the proofs show the cameo effect. Proof mintages of Philadelphia Mint Morgans were typically 600–800, with those struck by the branch mints much scarcer on the few occasions they were struck. Morgan dollar proofs are much more common than early Australian proofs.

(If purchasing PL or DMPL Morgan dollars I strongly recommend coins that have been third party graded by one of the recognised grading services. My experience of buying coins from a non recognised grader was that the “DMPL” coin was returned by PCGS as “cleaned” and the “PL” coin as “MS63” but not prooflike). Prooflike and deep mirror prooflike coins can be very attractive, however due to their prooflike nature bagmarks and hairlines are quite visible and can detract from the appearance of the coin.

How to Determine if a Coin is Prooflike or DMPL

Whether a coin makes the PL or DMPL rating is determined by the reflectivity of the fields which can actually be measured. The methods are fairly standard. This is the procedure² from thedrucecrafts.com.

Place a light source above a ruler. Place the coin on its edge at the start of the ruler. Now at an angle of about 45° look at the coin and see how much of the ruler you can see reflected. If it is less than two inches the coin receives no special designation. If it is two to four inches, the coin is prooflike. If you can see six to eight inches the coin is DMPL. Between four and six inches the designation depends upon how strong the cameo effect is. If it is very strong the coin is DMPL; if weaker, it is prooflike. I tried that out with a few coins from my personal collection. The coin PCGS graded as DMPL reflected out to 4 inches but has superb cameo, so I guess it just barely scraped in to the DMPL designation. The coin graded as prooflike was visible to 3 inches which is consistent with its designation.

Interestingly, the auction catalogue describes the 1879-CC Morgan dollar thus: “*LRCA is proud to be able to offer this amazing DMPL example of a date where so few have been graded. It is HIGH END and has full 8" + mirrors.*”

Prooflike and Cameo Australian Coins

So how does this compare with Australian coins? While we sometimes refer to the early strikes of some issues as prooflike (the 1954 sixpence is one such example), very few qualify for that tag by the strict definition used by PCGS and NGC. Indeed only three sixpences – two dated 1936 and one 1962 – and a handful of veil head sovereigns have so far been graded as prooflike (Figure 2). I do not know of any that are deep mirror prooflike.

As far as proofs are concerned, modern Australian proofs have a deliberately frosted design so are almost always rated as DCAM. The silver coins in the commercial proof series from 1955 to 1963 were struck by polished dies on polished planchets, however I have never seen any with a cameo appearance. Some of the Queen Victoria gold proofs (including the 1897-M half sovereign recently

auctioned by International Auction Galleries) and a few of the early predecimal proofs such as the 1934 threepence in Figure 3 have a cameo appearance.



Figure 2. Prooflike 1936 sixpence graded by PCGS as MS64PL. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 3. 1934 proof threepence graded by PCGS as PR68 CAM (cameo). Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

References:

1. Regency Auction 62. <https://legendauctions.hibid.com/catalog/499934/regency-auction-62>
2. <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/dmpl-morgan-dollars-768449>

Upcoming Coin Fairs, Coin Shows and Numismatic Events

January 6th 9am – 2pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

January 28th

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Citizen Centre

9 Laurence Ringwood East Vic

February 3rd 9am – 2pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

February 3rd 9am – 2pm

Moonee Ponds Coin Fair

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Vic

February 4th 9am – 1pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran.

For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

February 11th-12th, 10am – 4pm, 10am – 3pm

Melbourne Money Expo

Malvern Town Hall

1251 High Street, Malvern, Victoria

February 25th

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Citizen Centre

9 Laurence Ringwood East Vic

March 2nd 9am – 2pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

March 2nd 9 am – 2pm

Moonee Ponds Coin Fair

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Vic

March 3rd 9am – 1pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran.

Friday 8 March 2024 1pm – 5pm

Saturday 9 March 2024 10am - 4pm

Sunday 10 March 2024 10am - 3pm

Perth Stamp & Coin Show

South Perth Community Centre, South Perth WA

March 30th, 9am – 4pm

Wagga Stamp and Coin Market

ARCC Hall

131 Tarcutta St Wagga Wagga NSW

March 31st

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Citizen Centre

9 Laurence Ringwood East Vic

March 31st 9:30am – 4pm

Petersham Super Fair

Petersham Town Hall

107 Crystal Street, Petersham, NSW

<https://scdaa.com.au>

If you have a show that you would like added to the list or there are any changes that need to be made, please send an email to editor@independentcoinnews.com

The Petersham Super Fair 31st October 2023

While some have said the show at the Petersham Town Hall was quieter than normal in terms of number of collectors (possibly because the Sydney Money fair had been hosted at the Sydney Town Hall the previous weekend), many dealers were happy with their takings. Paul Whenman was kind enough to provide Independent Coin News with some photographs.



Left to right, top to bottom. Robbie Colborne (Ensligh Coins) and Eric Eiger (Drake Sterling), looking from the back to the entry of the show, Andrew Crellin (Sterling & Currency), Kathryn Harris and Mark Nemtsas (visiting from the Purple Penny).

The next Petersham Coin Fair is on March 31st 2024.



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Charles III Effigy on Canadian Coins

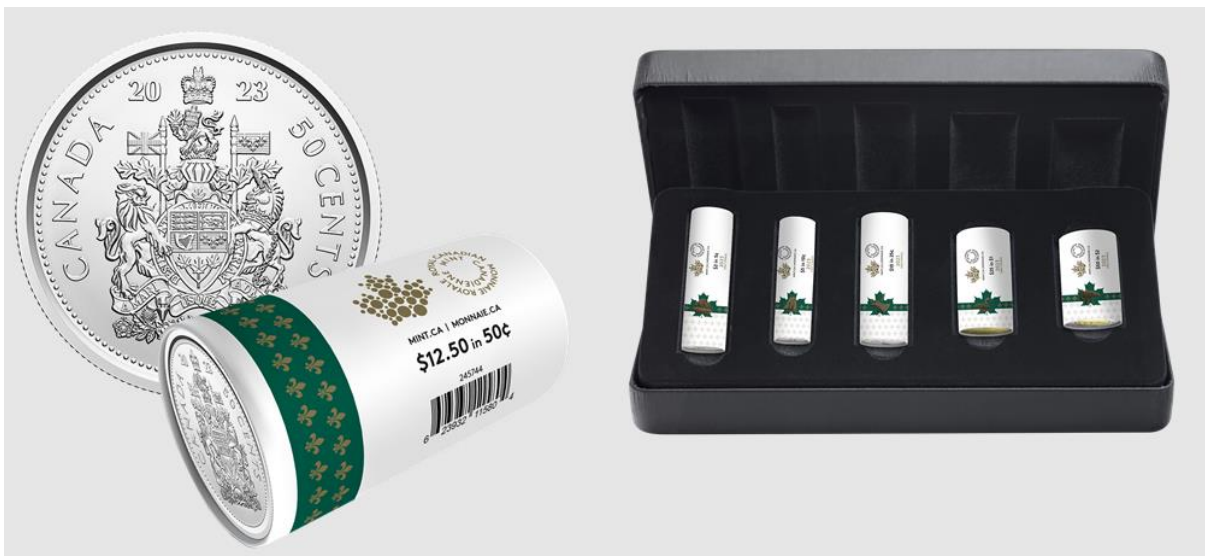
The Royal Canadian Mint has revealed the Charles III effigy to be used on their coinage. The Royal Canadian Mint chose the portrait designed by artist Steven Rosati from Montreal over those submitted by a large field of designers. He is the third Canadian artist to have designed a royal effigy for Canada. Since 1990 the Royal Canadian Mint has used local artists to design the portraits on their coins.



It was planned to put a small number of coins of all denominations into circulation in December and there was a report on the *Coin Community Forum* that, besides being available at coin swaps, some had been found in change.

The Royal Canadian Mint have also released some 2023 dated sets and rolls:

- *The 2023 Classic Uncirculated Set – First Strikes*
- *The 2023 Special Wrap Roll Collection – First Strikes*
- *The 2023 50-Cent Special Wrap Circulation Roll*



The coin rolls (wrap rolls) were sold out on the Royal Canadian Mint website as of 24th December. The uncirculated sets (containing the six circulating denominations) can be pre-ordered but will not be shipped until sometime in January.

All photographs courtesy of the Royal Canadian Mint.



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 QLD, 4218 Australia



International Auction Galleries Signature Auction 99 Preview

This is just an early preview of the March auction. We'll have a more detailed report on the auction lots in the March 2024 issue.



A high grade 1813 dump. For the benefit of younger collectors unfamiliar with this coin, in order to cover a shortage of currency and dissuade merchants from taking silver coinage out of the colonies, Spanish dollars imported by Governor Macquarie had the centre stamped out of them. The outer ring was struck into what is called a holey dollar with a face value of 5 shillings, the inner circle into a 'dump' with a value of 15 shillings, one quarter that of the holey dollar. This coin up for auction in March is one of the highest grade examples.



The 1930 penny is one of the "classic rarities" and one of the most desirable predecimal coins. The 1930 penny is normally found in low grade but this coin, despite the reverse planchet flaw, is one of the best examples.



One of the great decimal rarities is the “scalloped 20c”. A small number, probably no more than ten or so, of the 1981 20c struck at the Royal Mint in Wales were struck on Hong Kong \$2 planchets that somehow became mixed in with the Australian 20c planchets. This coin is beautifully centred, unusually well struck and certainly one of the nicest examples that exist.



Among the other items in the auction are a good selection of pre 1955 proofs, some of which had mintages as low as a dozen or so; Adelaide pounds; Melbourne Centenary florins; cupronickel ‘square’ penny and halfpenny trials, plus specimen and unissued banknotes



The auction will be online at <https://www.iagauctions.com> in late February 2024.

All photographs are courtesy of International Auction Galleries.

The RAM \$2 35th Anniversary Set Release



A 14 coin set of \$2 with recycled reverse designs, but with the QEII memorial obverse and bearing the date 2023, was made available to the public on the 7th December 2023 at an issue price of \$235.

The set was released through the shop and via the phone at the Royal Australian Mint and made available to RAM authorised distributors.

Notification wasn't made until only a few days

before the release, possibly to temper demand and possibly to reduce the number of people camping out overnight at the RAM. If the latter hypothesis is correct, it was not particularly successful as the queue extended a long way.



In the photograph to the left, the RAM building can be seen in the distance. Peter Johnson of Tumut said *"I actually went to the mint on release day ... woke up at 1:30 am and drove through the bush and arrived there at 4 am. The line-up was horrendous and I think I was maybe 600th in line. I was just going to go home but persisted. RAM staff handed out 400 blue raffle tickets for those in the queue to avoid the people who just thought they could go into line up with family... a lot of these ***** just left empty chairs and they were removed by RAM staff. I eventually got served at 10:05 am for a set."* Apparently queue jumping has been a problem and it is encouraging to see the RAM taking a tough stance against it.

It was almost impossible to get through by phone to the RAM call centre, and late in the afternoon the RAM suspended all sales.

Many coin dealers reported large queues outside their establishments. There was a substantial queue outside The Purple Penny in Adelaide (photograph below), including some who had camped there since the previous evening – very soon after The Purple Penny advised that they would have some sets available over the counter.



The RAM's response

Late in the afternoon of the release day the Royal Australian Mint issued a statement. I've reproduced part of it here. *"Sales of the 35th Anniversary of the Two Dollar Coin Uncirculated Fourteen-Coin Collection have now concluded. They will no longer be available for purchase from the Royal Australian Mint onsite coin shop and call centre..... The implementation of EQL will mitigate ongoing problems such as website crashing, slow loading times, competing with bots and guarantees secure personal and payment details for customers.... The implementation of EQL will mitigate ongoing problems such as website crashing, slow loading times, competing with bots and*

guarantees secure personal and payment details for customers. Our aim is to ensure the coin release ballot solution gives all Australians equal opportunity to access our highly sought after collectible coins."

Wynyard coins in Sydney actually used the EQL system for this release and apparently it went smoothly.

How EQL works

The main features:

1. One entry per person, duplicate entries are removed.
2. There is security verification process to weed out bots and others.

These have apparently been very effective in obviating problems in releases of other products than coins. EQL understandably does not give details about how they solve 1 and 2 — and with good reason as those who create the bots can read.

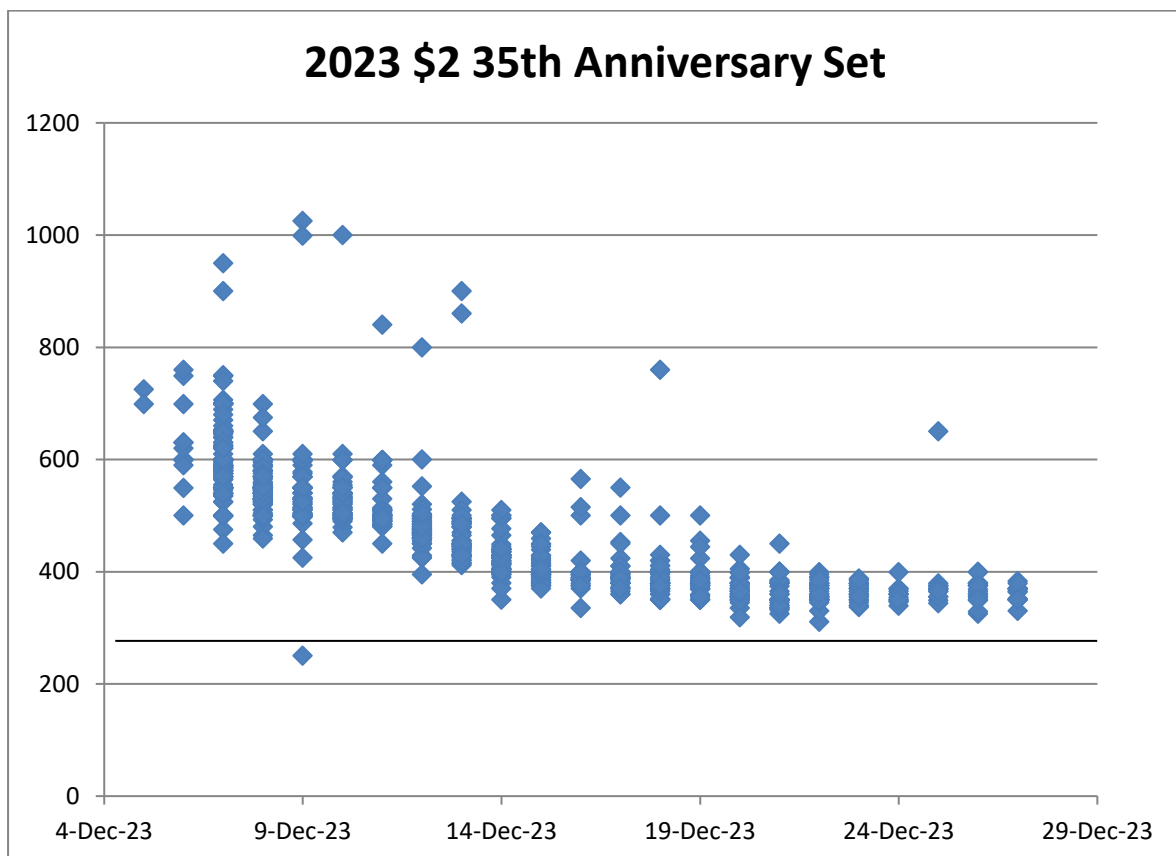
For a particular retailer you are given a particular EQLizer Score. This effectively determines how many entries you have in a ballot.

Suppose that sometime in 2024 the RAM issues a release of a 2024 C mintmark coin and imagine we have two keen collectors Jacinta and Lily. When the ballot opens each registers their interest. Last time there was a RAM ballot Jacinta was lucky and was able to purchase a coin, so her EQLizer Score is 1. Lily on the other had hasn't received anything the last two times she has entered. As her EQLizer

Score goes up by one each time she is unsuccessful, her EQLizer Score is now 3. Each person receives a quantity of random generated numbers equal to her EQLizer Score and uses the best (lowest) of these numbers. Jacinta (EQLizer = 1) will receive one random number. If it is 126 her “best” is 126. Lily (EQLizer = 3) receives three random numbers. If they are 43, 187 and 59; her “best” is 43. Suppose there was only 50 of the release product available, the system searches out the lowest 50 numbers. As Lily has one of the lowest numbers she receives an offer for the 2024 C mintmark coin and her EQLizer Score is now reset to 1 for the next RAM release. Jacinta missed out this time so her EQLizer Score is incremented from 1 to 2. This ensures fairness over time.

The 35th Anniversary Set on the Secondary Market

With secondary market prices for some recent releases being an order of magnitude or more than the release price, it was interesting to plot the sale price over time for eBay sales of this set. We saw early sales at about 2 ½ times the \$235 issue price but these prices dropped quickly and as of 27th December are in the range of \$320 to \$380.



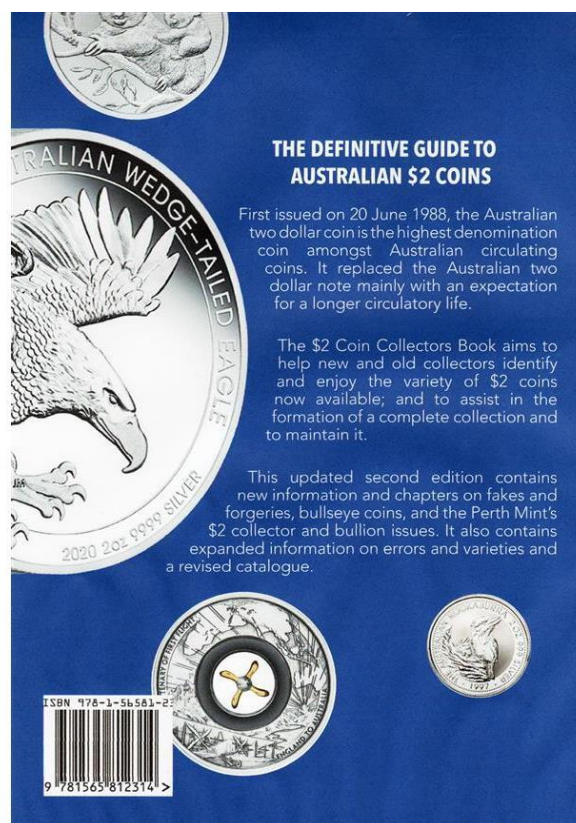
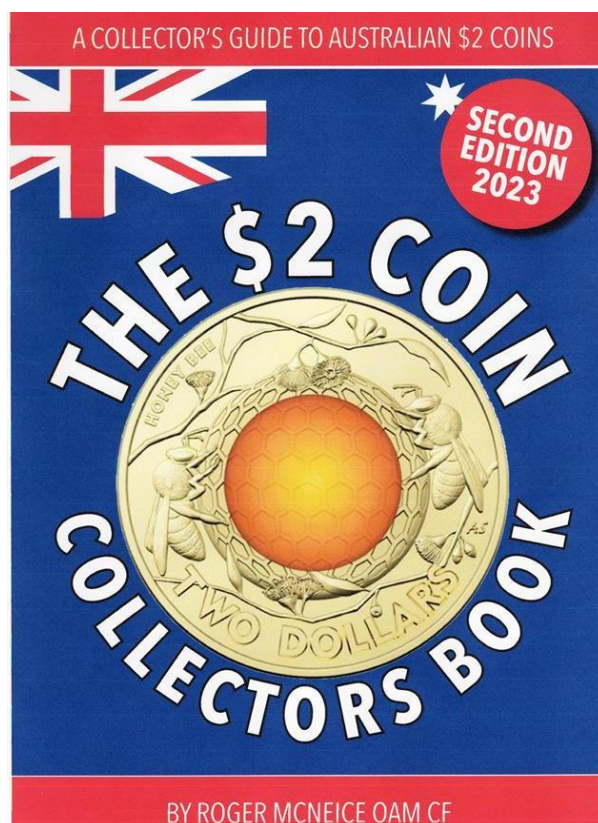
eBay sales prices for the 14 coin set until 27th December. The black horizontal line indicates issue price.

Further Reading

How EQL works:

<https://www.eql.com/faqs>

<https://www.eql.com/media/how-the-eqlizer-score-works>



Updated and expanded to include

1. A large chapter on all the Perth Mint \$2 gold and silver issues- all illustrated with mintage figures.
2. A completely revised chapter on errors to include fakes, counterfeits, how to identify fake bullseye coins, test coins and more.
3. A large chapter on society and dealer sources.
4. A new chapter on Memorial Coins.
5. An expanded chapter on PNCs with estimates of value.
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Price:

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Hard Cover: \$39.50 plus \$12.50 postage.

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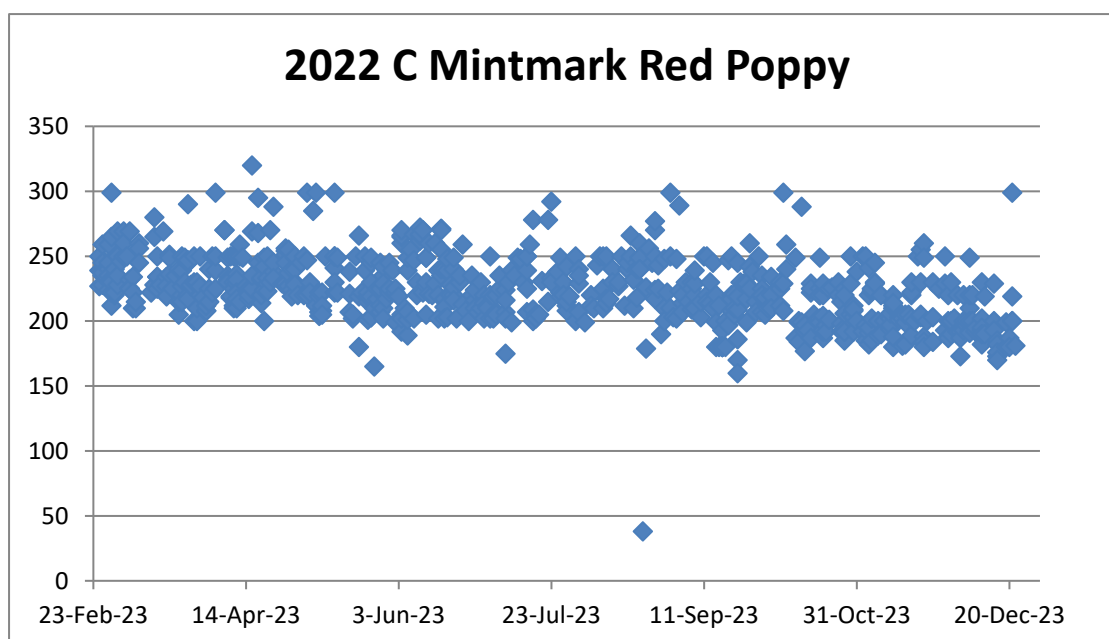
The \$2 Market Report for December

The total number of sales and number of listings for the recent two month period (23rd October to 22nd December) is given in table 1. Comparing this two month period with the previous two months, the Vietnam \$2 proof sales increased from 21 to 34 but the Vietnam C mintmark sales dropped significantly from 237 to 152. There was a 50% increase in sales of the 2022 C mintmark red poppy over the previous time period, however the average sales price has continued to drop.

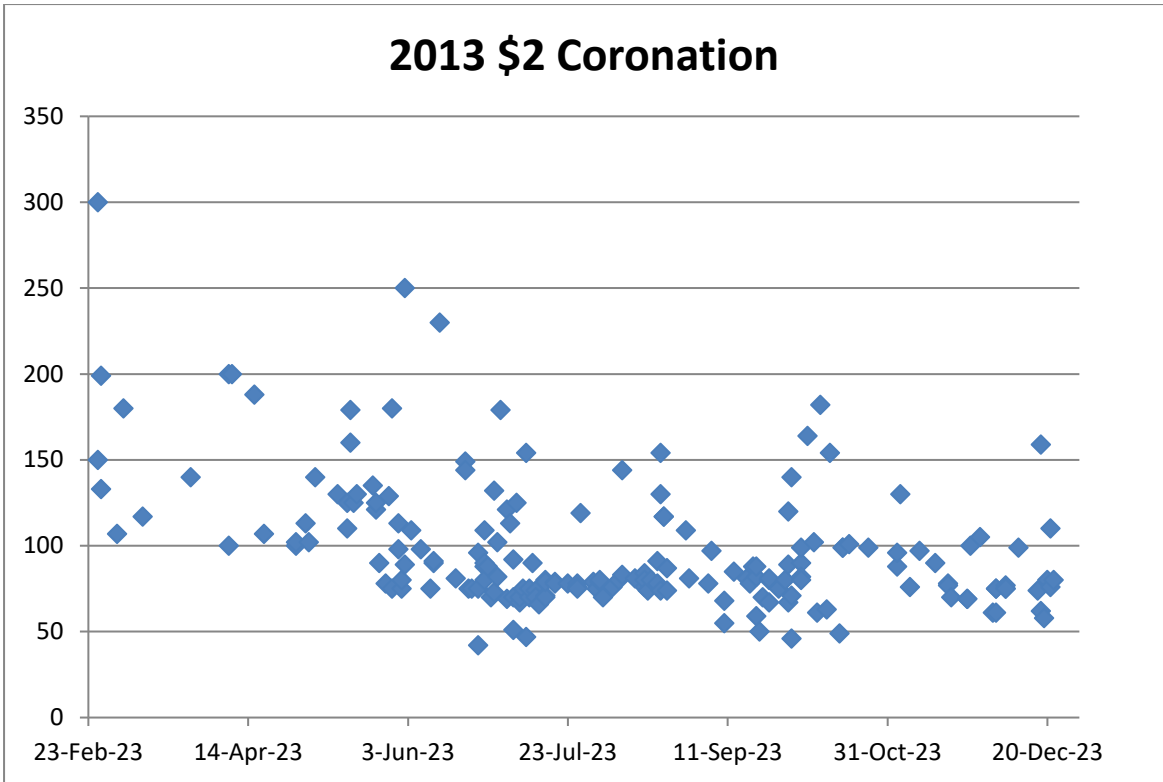
The data used in these reports was extracted from eBay “sold” listings, both auction and buy it now. Data for the business strike issues (2012 remembrance plain poppy and 2013 coronation) and the NCLT 2012 remembrance red poppy was extracted manually so as not to include circulated and damaged coins. For the other issues it was possible to extract the data via a program, although some data checking was still required. As there is no guarantee that all the eBay sales were honoured, the data for those that we suspected (from the seller’s feedback) had been dishonoured was removed. Sales of PCGS graded coins were not included, neither were listings that included multiple items and bulk lots.

Coin	Number of Sales	Number of Listings
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	12	49
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	96	87
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	30	21
2013 \$2 Coronation	30	47
2022 \$2 C Mintmark Red Poppy	220	165
2023 \$2 Vietnam Proof	34	53
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	152	280

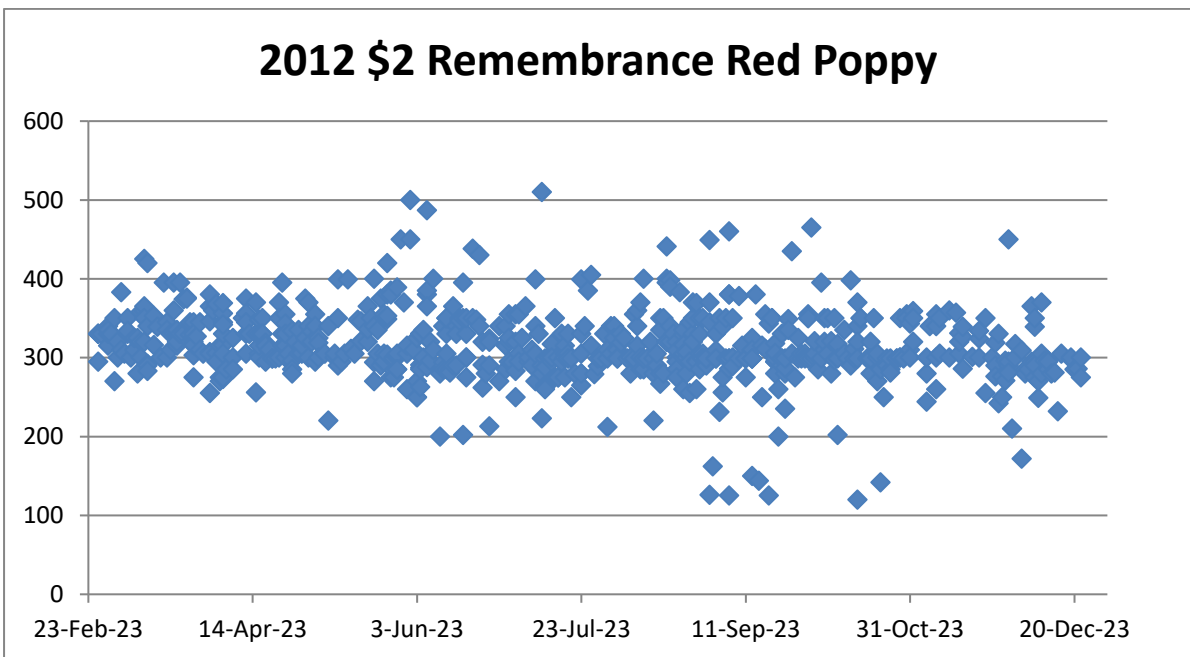
Table 1. Sales on eBay in the two months 23rd October to 22nd December and listings on the 22nd December. Note that the asking prices on some of the latter are somewhat optimistic.



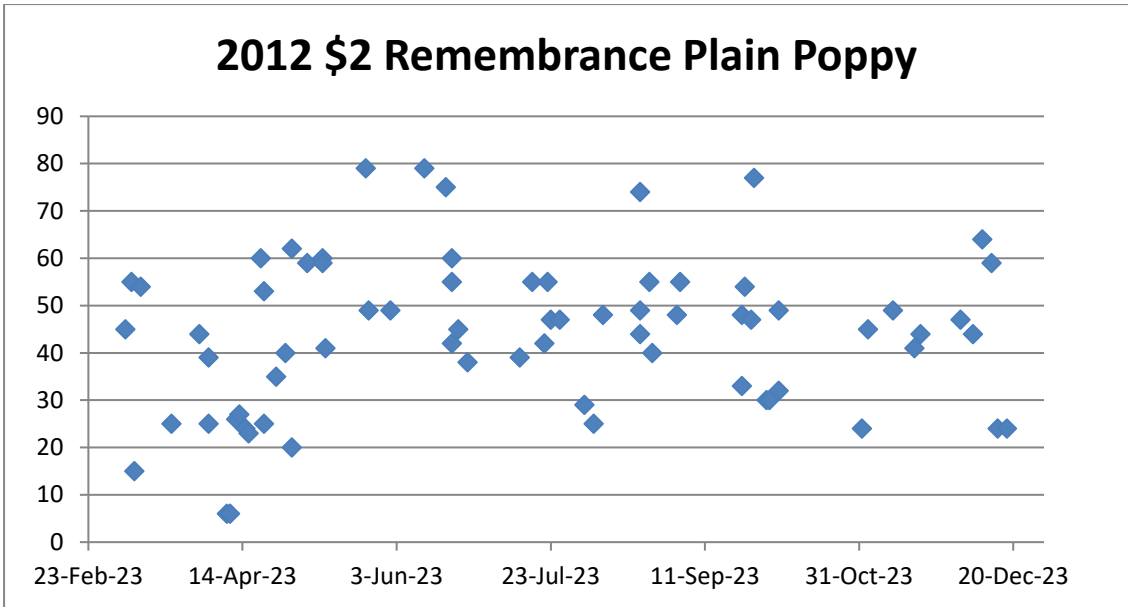
The average prices have dropped, particularly in the last month, with many sales now below \$200. Average sale price is now about 30% lower than in late February.



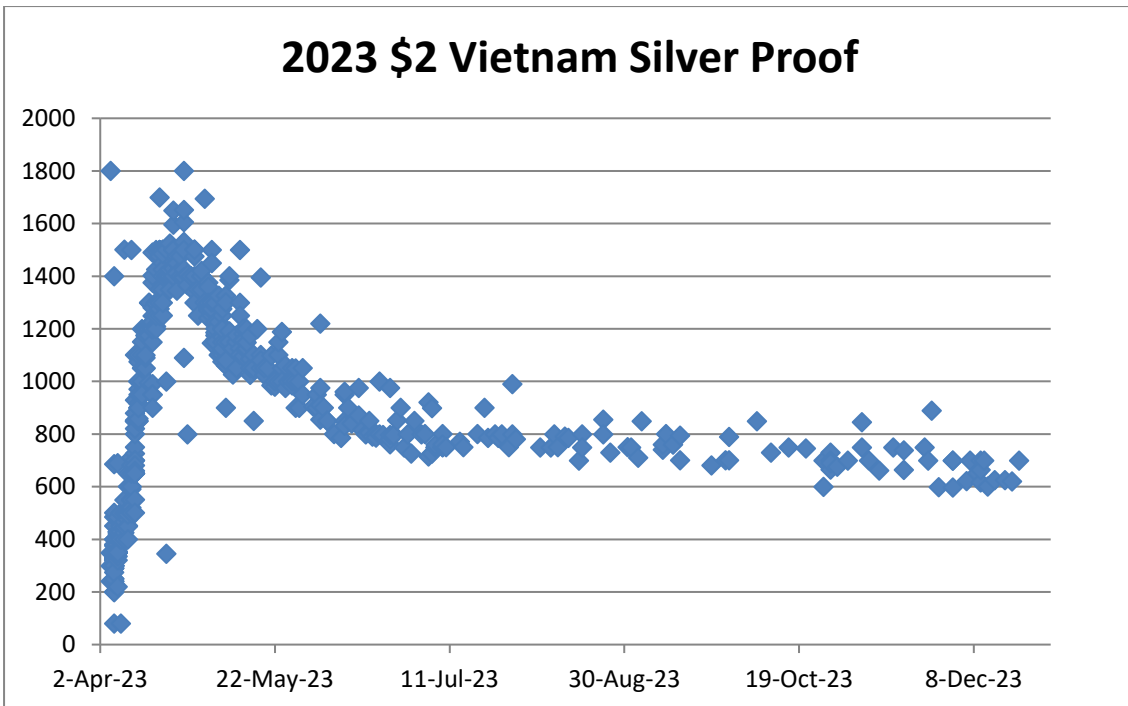
Data includes only those coins described in the listing as “uncirculated”. The number of sales once again decreased significantly in this two month period compared with the previous two months. The average is similar to six months ago. Examination of individual sales shows that the price realised is heavily dependent upon the quality of the image of the coin being sold.



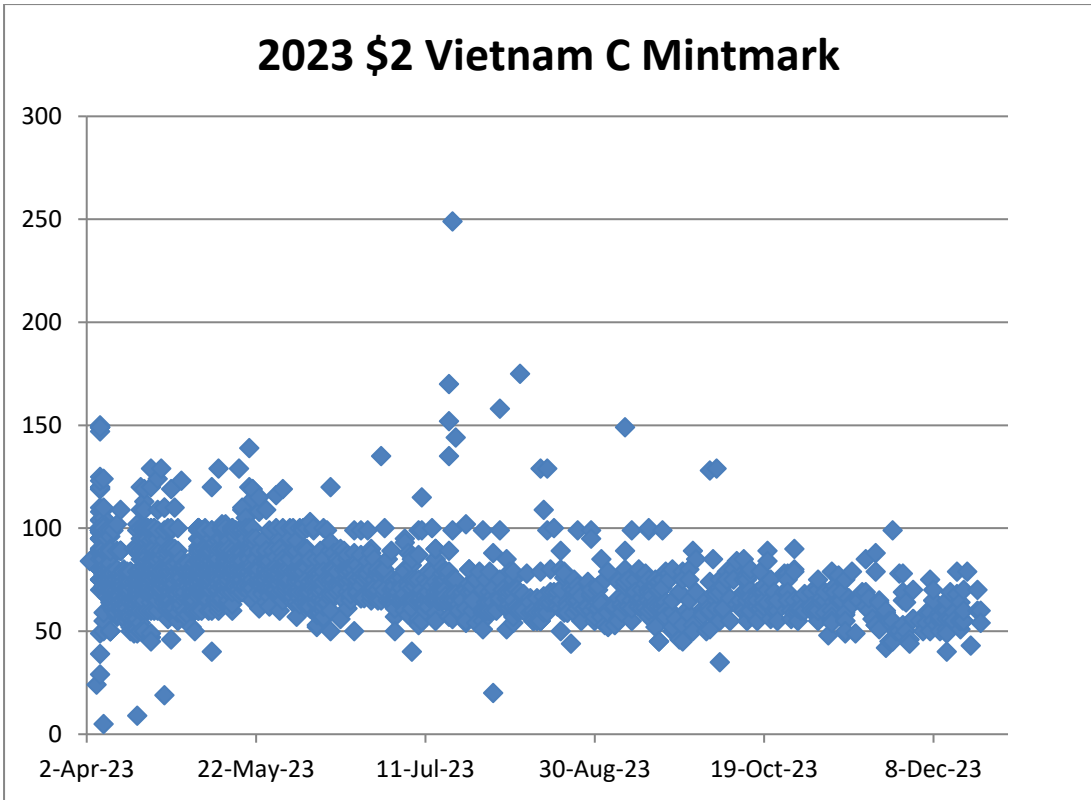
The data includes only uncirculated coins without die chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers’ descriptions of coins as “uncirculated” are more reliable than that of coins such as the 2012 \$2 plain poppy and 2013 \$2 coronation. The downwards trend on sales price has continued; with a drop of close to 20% since February.



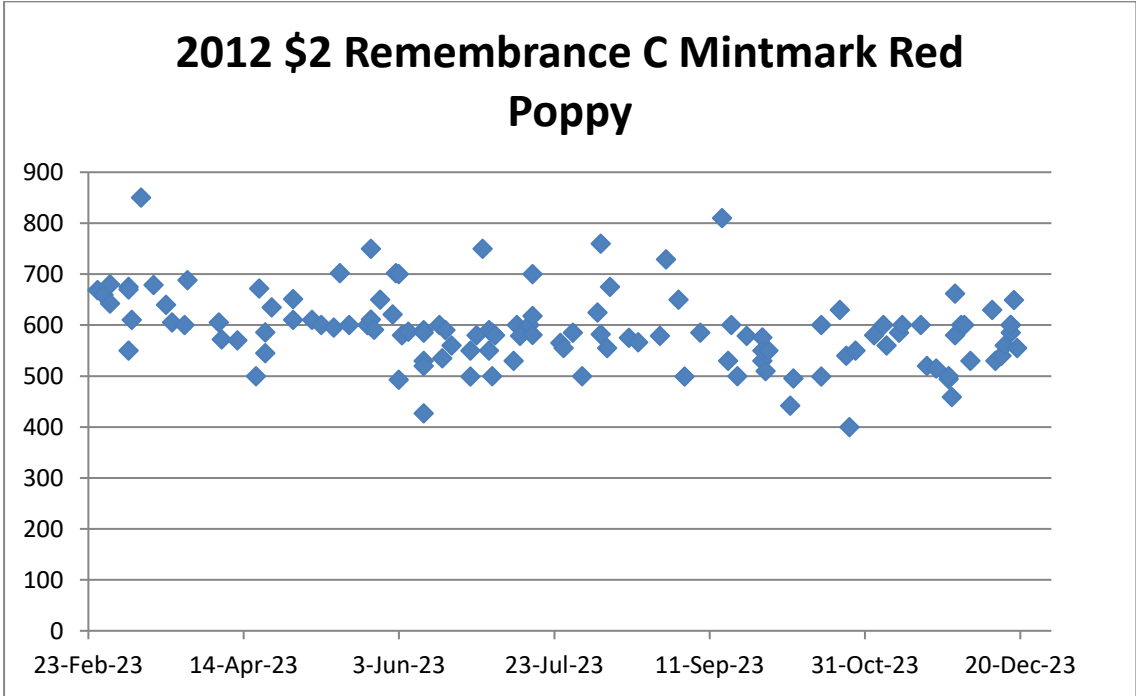
The data includes only those described as “uncirculated” with coins that are obviously polished removed. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated given there were just 12 sales in the last two months. The average price in the last month appears to be similar to two months ago and higher than it was in February. As the plain poppy is much scarcer in uncirculated than the red poppy, the current price of roughly \$50 is anomalously low compared with that of the coloured version. It is noticeable however that the sales price of these coins in cards such as those made by Downie’s are much higher (typically \$150+) than those sold loose.



Since the peak at around \$1,500 in late April we saw a steady decrease to around \$800 in mid June. Sales prices continued to decrease in the last two months. Given that the number of listings is much the same as two months ago, the chances are that these trends will continue.



There are plenty to go around but so far we have only seen a gradual price drop in the last six months despite the apparent oversupply. Recent sales have been steady at around \$50 to \$60 with little change in the last two months.



We have seen a slight increase in sales prices over the last two months, however prices have dropped from the high \$600s to the mid \$500s since February. This coin is probably the toughest of the C mintmark \$2.

Past sales results and the current trend are no guarantee of future returns. If you plan on buying coins purely for investment purposes, Independent Coin News suggests you first consult a financial adviser.

News in Brief

The End of Star Notes in the United States

The last Australian star replacement banknotes were issued in 1972. The United States has continued to issue star notes, but this may only continue for a few more years according to Coin News¹. Currently new straps (bundles of banknotes) contain 100 notes with serial numbers from 01 to 00 and star notes replacing any notes that were deemed defective in some way. Bundles produced by the new machinery purchased by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will not contain consecutive serial numbers.

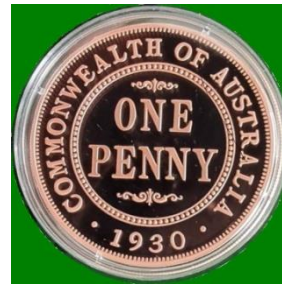
Reference:

1. <https://www.coinworld.com/news/paper-money/are-star-notes-becoming-an-endangered-species>

Downie's Australian Coin Auctions February 2024

Unfortunately auction lot photographs were not yet available for inclusion in this issue of Independent Coin News. Tony Gordon, Manager of the auction department said that the next auction is large with over 4000 lots; it includes an almost complete collection of PCGS Australian predecimal coins, some spectacular world silver and an impressive world banknote consignment. We'll have our usual report of the auction highlights in the March 2024 issue.

Replica 1930 Penny sells for \$13,400 at Grays



A Macquarie Mint 1930 penny replica sold at Grays for \$11,005 plus 22% commission on the 3rd December. It was described as “1930

PENNY COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Issued by the Macquarie Mint and comes with all of the Original Paperwork

Accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity, (This Piece Comes with the Internationally Recognised BidSafe Authentication and Verification Number: 7216928-20)

Condition: Uncirculated (SN:7216928-20) (306357-22)”.

Not including the 22% commission, there was one bid at \$9,800, one at \$11,000 and two at \$11,005, all by different bidders. Four people must have thought this to be an original Australian penny from 1930. This is surprising as the specifications are quite clear.

Specifications

Original Year of Issue: 1930

Quality: Proof-like

Weight: 28.27g

Metal: Copper finished in rose gold

Diameter: 40mm

Reference: <https://www.grays.com/lot/0022-2556363/artworks-and-antiques/1930-penny-commemorative-coin>

Rare 1920 Penny Forgery

The 1920 penny with a dot above the bottom scroll and an English obverse is one of the rarest penny varieties with perhaps only a few tens of coins known; even low grade examples sell for many thousands of dollars.

Unfortunately this has now made it the target for fraudsters, as was reported in a post on the "Australian Coin Forum"

(<https://www.australian-coins.net/>). A forum member reported receiving a coin from an eBay sale where a false dot had been added above the bottom scroll. This dot was clearly the wrong size and the coin had a tiny chip at the top of the E in PENNY (one of the die markers for a 1920 dot below scroll English obverse) and of course lacked a known die identification marker only found on the rare variety, a gouge through the D of F.D on the obverse (pictured below).



Gouge through D of F.D. Die identification marker of the rare 1920 penny with a dot above the bottom scroll and an English obverse.

Pirate Guide to Collecting Australian Coins

Available in both Paperback and Digital (e-Book).

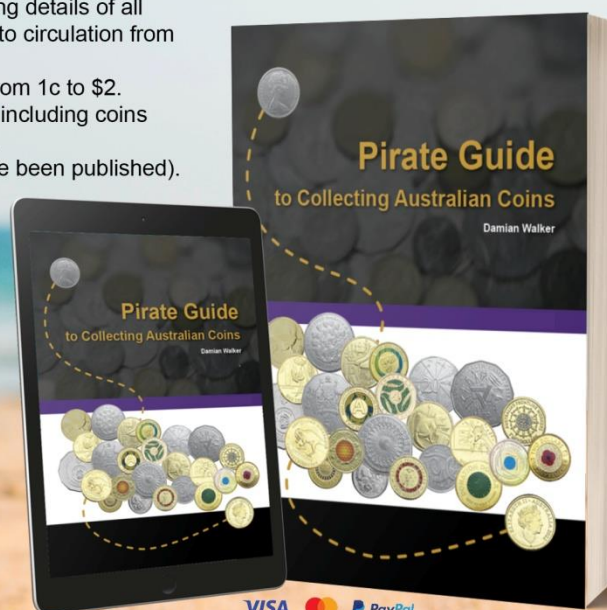
This book contains over 120 pages featuring details of all Australian decimal coins that have gone into circulation from 1966, with:

- A chapter for each coin denomination, from 1c to \$2.
- Large high-quality photos of every coin, including coins released through retail coin promotions.
- Coin mintage details (where figures have been published).
- Errors to look for and how to verify them.
- Information on storing your coins.

Available from coin dealers,
select bookstores and online at:
www.AustraliaCoins.com.au

Australia Coins

www.AustraliaCoins.com.au
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Thank You

I'd like to give special thanks to Mark Nemtsas and Kathryn Harris for discussions about the fake 1928 shillings and peer reviewing the article on the "Contemporary Forgeries 1926 – 1931", International Auction Galleries for providing high quality photographs for the sneak preview of items in their February auction, Paul Whenman for his report on the Petersham Coin Show and Eric Eigner for his article on "The 1934 Sovereign". Thanks also to Gary Tate for all the photographs of brockages, indents and die caps he sent me. Unfortunately I was unable to use all of them. Of course, special thanks to Bronwyn Halls for once again producing the front cover.

