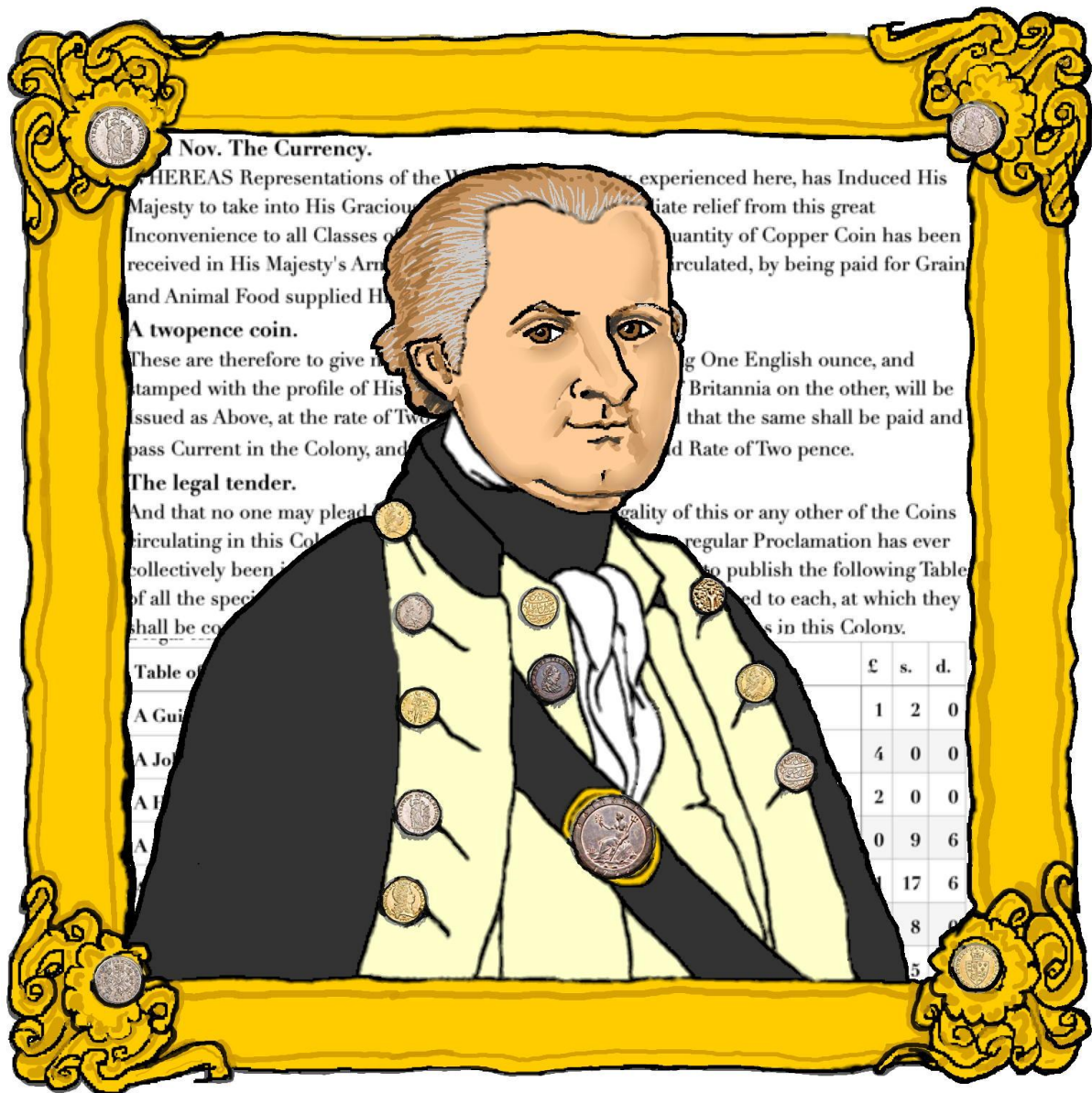


# Independent Coin News



Vol. 2 No. 4

July 2024



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

In this issue we look at Proclamation coins, missing mintmarks on coins, and an article by John Belcher about rotated dies on pre decimal silver coins. We also have the usual features such as auction previews and highlights, reports on coin shows, new releases from the Perth Mint and the Royal Australian Mint, the \$2 Market Report and of course Coin Cat's answers to emails. For the new collectors we continue our series of coin definitions — in this issue we discuss the difference between numismatic and marketing terms. Once again we had a good response to our list of coin clubs and numismatic associations in the last issue. If any of the details in that list still require updating, please let us know. Additionally if you'd like an upcoming coin show to be added to our list please email [editor@independentcoinnews.com](mailto:editor@independentcoinnews.com).

Some exciting news is that Australian Specialty Coins are offering a 10% discount until the end of August for readers of Independent Coin News. The details are given in 'News in Brief' on page 79.

Dr Peter Andrews, editor, July 2024.

**Cover:** Governor King and the Proclamation by Bronwyn Halls.

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.

## Table of Contents

Proclamation Coins .....	3
PCGS Recognises Two Varieties of 1957 Proof Penny .....	15
Rare Islamic Gold Solidus Sells for £168,000 at Morton & Eden .....	16
The Japanese Ceramic 1 Sen of 1945.....	17
Coin Cat Answers Your Emails.....	20
Missing Mintmarks.....	21
Recent Perth Mint Releases .....	31
Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases .....	34
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Receives IBNS Banknote of the Year Award .....	37
PCGS Respond to Banknote Grading Query.....	39
Rotated Dies on Pre-Decimal Coins – Gold and Silver .....	42
New Generation Polymer Banknotes Update.....	48
Error Coins at Status International Auction .....	48
Numismatic and Marketing Definitions .....	51
Upcoming Coin Fairs, Coin Shows and Numismatic Events .....	58
Numismatic Associations .....	59
Photographs from the Petersham Coin Show 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 .....	62
Downie’s Australian Coin Auctions Sale 352.....	64
International Auction Galleries Online Sale 21 Results .....	69
The \$2 Market Report for June .....	72
News in Brief .....	77



## Proclamation Coins

In the early years of the New South Wales penal colony there was a serious shortage of coinage. None had been provided by the British government to meet the needs of the colony and because of this, a vast array of coins from different countries circulated with no fixed exchange rate. To address this problem, Governor King's Proclamation of the 19th November 1800 specified fixed exchange rates of some of the most common coins in use. This proclamation is reproduced below.

### 19th Nov. The Currency.

*WHEREAS Representations of the Want of small money, experienced here, has Induced His Majesty to take into His Gracious Consideration the Immediate relief from this great Inconvenience to all Classes of His Subjects in this Colony, a Quantity of Copper Coin has been received in His Majesty's Armed Vessel 'Porpoise', and will be circulated, by being paid for Grain and Animal Food supplied His Majesty's Stores.*

### A twopence coin.

*These are therefore to give notice, that a Copper Coin, weighing One English ounce, and stamped with the profile of His Majesty on the one side, and of Britannia on the other, will be Issued as Above, at the rate of Two pence for each Copper; and that the same shall be paid and pass Current in the Colony, and is to Circulate at the Aforesaid Rate of Two pence.*

### The legal tender.

*And that no one may plead Ignorance of the Rate or Legality of this or any other of the Coins circulating in this Colony, of which it does not appear that any regular Proclamation has ever collectively been issued, I have judged it most expedient herewith to publish the following Table of all the specie legally circulating in this Colony, with the Rates Affixed to each, at which they shall be considered, and be a legal tender in all payments or transactions in this Colony.*

<b>Table of specie</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>s.</b>	<b>d.</b>
A Guinea	1	2	0
A Johanna	4	0	0
A Half-Johanna	2	0	0
A Ducat	0	9	6
A Gold Mohur	1	17	6
A Pagoda	0	8	0
A Spanish dollar	0	5	0
A Rupee	0	2	6
A Dutch guilder	0	2	0
An English Shilling	0	1	1
A Copper coin of One Ounce	0	0	2

### 1800, 19th Nov.

*When a sufficient quantity of Copper Coin is received in the Colony, of which notice will be given, no private Notes or Cards will be allowed to Circulate.*

### Copper coin for small amounts only.

*This Supply of Copper having been sent to relieve the Inconvenience of persons requiring to make small payments, no persons are to Collect the same for the purpose of making large payments, nor shall it be deemed a legal tender to offer the same in payment for any sum exceeding five pounds.*

### Coin to be kept in colony.

*And it is hereby declared that the Exportation or Importation, except from His Majesty's Treasury, of any sum in Copper exceeding five pounds shall be punished by a Fine of treble the value, and forfeiture of the sum exported or imported.*

*Given under my hand, at Government House, Sydney, November 19th, 1800.*

*PHILIP GIDLEY KING.*

These coins are keenly collected in Australia and are considered "Proclamation Coins". We'll have a quick look at each of the coins and discuss whether similar coins can also be considered Proclamation coins.

## Guinea

The guinea was normally valued at £1/1/- (one pound and one shilling). While there were earlier types as far back as 1663, there were six different obverses and three different reverses used for the George III guineas. The most common types at the time of the proclamation were the shield and “spade” guineas (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The obverse of both bears the effigy of the king and the legend GEORGIVS III DEI GRATIA, the reverse a crowned shield bearing the arms of England and Scotland (top left), France (top right), Ireland (bottom left) and Hanover (bottom right). The reverse legend is a very much abbreviated form of “King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire”<sup>1</sup>.



Figure 1. British shield guinea. 1786 was the last year of issue of this type. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 2. British “spade” guinea. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



The guinea had a weight of 8.4 grams, with a gold purity a tad under 22 carat (according to the 1773 assay). The actual gold weight was 7.7 grams (compared with 7.32 grams for a sovereign). The last guineas were produced in 1814 making way for the large scale use of the sovereign from 1817 onwards.

Recent sales prices (Status International June 2024) include a 1779 shield guinea in VG for \$900 and a 1788 spade guinea (with some evidence of edge mount, else about very fine) for \$1100. At the higher end of the scale in recent times, Drake Sterling sold a 1791 spade in AU58 for \$1450 and a slightly higher grade one in MS62 for \$2250.

### **Johanna**

The “Johanna” (Figure 3) is a large gold Brazilian 12,800 Reis coin of weight 28.68 gm of 22 carat purity (AGW 26.3 gm or .8456 oz). These coins were produced at three different mints from 1727–1733, all during the reign of João V. These mints were Minas Gerais (M mintmark), Rio de Janeiro (R mintmark) and Bahia (B mintmark).



*Figure 3. Brazil 1727-M 12,800 Reis. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*

The obverse legend “JOANNES V D G PORT ET ALG REX” translates to “João V, by the Grace of God, King of Portugal and Algarves.” The term “Johanna” is derived from the obverse legend. There are several reverse varieties due to small changes in the shape and design of the shield<sup>2</sup>.

Prices: Due partly to the gold content and the high price of gold these are not a cheap coin. In the recent Downie’s auction a 1731-M in VF sold for \$5856.

### **Half Johanna**

The 6,400 reis, or half Johanna, (Figure 4) was minted for far longer than its larger counterpart, during the 18<sup>th</sup> century over the reign of three monarchs, (João V, Joseph I and Maria I).



Figure 4. 1793 6,400 Reis of Maria I. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

### Gold Mohur

The mohur, a gold coin equal to 15 silver rupees, was minted in various places, mainly Persia and the Indian princely states.

The coin most commonly encountered is the British East India Company , Bengal presidency AH1202//19 mohur. All are dated the same year irrespective of when the coins were struck. Hijri 1202 corresponds to 1787–1788.



Figure 5. British East India Company Gold Mohur, Bengal presidency AH1202//19. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

To quote Colonial Coins and Medals<sup>3</sup>



*“The obverse Persian legend has an English translation of “Defender of the religion of Muhammad, Shah ‘Alam Emperor, Shadow of the divine favour, put his stamp on the seven climes, anno hegirae 1202”. The reverse Persian legend has an English translation of “Struck at Murshidabad in the 19th year of his reign of tranquil prosperity”.*

While the gold mohur is explicitly mentioned in Governor King’s Proclamation, it is commonly accepted that the fractional coins such as half and quarter mohur are part of an extended set as they were also used. The mohur had a value of £1 17 shillings and 6 pence, so the half mohur would have been 18 shillings and 9 pence and the quarter mohur 9 shillings and 4 ½ pence.



*Figure 6. Quarter Mohur (left) and half Mohur (right). Photographs courtesy of Colonial Coins and medals and Thompson’s Coins respectively.*

In lower grades these coins trade for little more than bullion, and as usual, higher grade examples attract a substantial premium.

### **Pagoda**

The pagoda mentioned in the Proclamation is that from the Madras Presidency, struck by the British East India Company. Weight is around 3.4 grams, gold content roughly 83%<sup>4</sup>. There are two types, the normal pagoda (Figure 7) and the star pagoda (Figure 8).



*Figure 7. Madras Presidency pagoda. Vishnu flanked by consorts Sridevi and Budevi, granulated reverse. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.*



*Figure 8. Madras Presidency star pagoda. Vishnu alone, cross of beads either side, granulated reverse incorporating a star. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.*

These coins were hammered, often on uneven blanks, with the result that they can sometimes be found with cracked planchets<sup>4</sup>.

The pagoda traded at about 3.5 rupees each (compared with 15 rupees for the mohur).

As to prices, Eric Eigner of Drake Sterling sold mint state examples of each of these designs a few years ago (the two coins pictured): the first Vishnu alone, star reverse for \$850 and the second Vishnu with consorts for \$650. The increase in the gold price since then would substantially increase their value in today's market.



*Figure 9. Mysore Pagoda. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.*

There are other types of pagoda which would be considered to be proclamation coins such as the Mysore (1761–1782) pagoda in Figure 9. These are far less common than those from the Madras Presidency.

### **Spanish dollar**

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish silver 8 reales (Figure 10) was virtually an international currency. Eventually some 8 reales would become host coins for the 1813 holey dollar and dump. In 1791 Governor King had set the exchange rate for a Spanish dollar<sup>5</sup> to 5 shillings, at which they remained in the 1800 proclamation. The 8 reales coin was often cut into halves or quarters (where the expression “pieces of eight” comes from) to make change, although there were lower



denomination Spanish silver coins (4 and 2 reales). Examples are normally reasonably inexpensive (of the order of a few hundred dollars), but as usual high grade specimens will be harder to obtain and nowhere near as cheap.



Figure 10. 1801-FM Mexico Mint 8 reales. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny.

## Rupee



Figure 11. British East India Company Rupee, Bengal presidency AH1202//19. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

The rupee was an Indian silver coin . The one pictured (Figure 11) is a better grade Bengal Presidency rupee, the inscriptions almost identical to the mohur in Figure 5. With a diameter of 21 mm and a



weight of 11.3 grams, the rupee was valued at 2 shillings 6 pence. Better grade rupees can usually be sourced for two to three hundred dollars.

### Dutch Guilder

While the guilder (or gulden in Dutch) was the Dutch unit of currency from the 15<sup>th</sup> century until adoption of the Euro in 2002, the guilder of Governor King's Proclamation was a large silver coin valued at 2 shillings (Figure 12). The guilder came in fractional denominations and also in multiple denominations. These all had a similar design, with the denomination to the left of the shield on the reverse.



Figure 12. 1786 Dutch Guilder. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

In lower grade these coins sell for little above bullion value, up to a few hundred dollars for higher grade examples.

### Ducat

The ducat referred to in the Proclamation was a gold coin used in the Netherlands with a weight of 3.5 grams, purity of .986 gold, and .1109 oz AGW. Two ducat coins also existed.

The obverse has a Dutch knight facing to the right, adorned in studded armour and plumed helmet wielding a sword and a bunch of seven arrows, which represent the seven provinces of the Netherlands. The obverse legend can be translated as “Small things thrive/come to be through unity, Holland”<sup>5</sup>.

The reverse has the legend inside a square panels framed by an ornate mantel — the legend translates as “Money of the federated provinces of Belgium in accordance with the law of the realm”<sup>6</sup>.

(In 1830 the southern provinces declared independence, becoming the nation of Belgium).





Figure 13. Dutch ducat. Photograph courtesy of Colonial Coins and Medals.

A ducat (1781 described as good very fine) sold at Status International recently for around \$600. The example photographed in Figure 13 is currently available from Colonial Coins and Medals for \$950.

### British shilling

The British shilling was set at 1 pence above face value, i.e. 13 pence. The last shilling release before 1800 had been in 1787. The 1787 shilling has varieties, the best known being “with hearts” and “without hearts”. Figure 14 shows the 1787 “with hearts” variety.



Figure 14. 1787 British shilling “with hearts” variety. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The reason for the “varieties” is interesting. The reverse of the shilling shows the arms of Kingdom of England and Wales (facing north), France (facing east), Ireland (facing south) and the house of



Hanover (facing west). In figure 15 we show the reverse of a “with hearts” and a “without hearts” shilling.



Figure 15. Reverse of 1787 British shillings “with hearts” (left) and “without hearts” (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS. The difference occurs in the House of Hanover (facing west).



Figure 16. Arms of the House of Hanover (with hearts) and without hearts. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Figure 16 shows a close up of the arms of the House of Hanover (rotated 90 degrees for easy viewing). In this we can clearly see the difference. While generally referred to as varieties, Manville and Gaspar argue that it is better characterised as a mistake as the hearts are part of the arms of the house of Hanover in the official shield and were accidentally omitted from the early issues. This mistake was fixed by hand engraving the hearts onto the working dies<sup>7</sup>.



Figure 17. 1787 British sixpence (with hearts). Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

While not explicitly mentioned, it is usually assumed that the smaller denomination British silver coins were covered by the proclamation. Similar to the shilling, the sixpence was last minted in 1787 (Figure 17). It is also available in “with hearts” and “without hearts” varieties, for the same reason as the shilling. The sixpence would presumably have had a value of 6 1/2d and the threepence 3 1/4d (Figure 18). I do

not know what the groat (4d) would have been valued at as there was no one-third penny.





Figure 18. 1786 threepence and groat (fourpence). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

### Copper coin of 1 ounce



Figure 19. 1797 "Cartwheel" penny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The only one ounce copper coin was the 1797 "cartwheel penny" (Figure 19), struck on Boulton's steam press. It had a value in the Proclamation of two pence. The next pennies were struck in 1806–1808 and of lower weight (about 18.9 grams) so cannot be considered proclamation coins. The two ounce coin, the 1797 twopence had a similar design to the penny (Figure 20) and would have traded at 4 pence. In spite of the similarity of the design of the penny and the twopence, you can tell the difference just from photographs — for example, just look at where the flowers and trident are compared with the legend.

The penny had a weight of 28.35 grams, diameter of 36 mm and a thickness of 3 mm; the twopence a weight of 56.7 grams, diameter of 41 mm and thickness of 5 mm.

These coins were much used; low grade examples are sometimes so worn that even the legend has disappeared. They can sell for as little as copper content up to a hundreds of dollars for uncirculated examples.

On the day after proclamation, boxes of 1799 dated halfpennies and farthings arrived in the colony. The weight of a halfpenny was 12.6 grams, that of a farthing 6.3 grams. These were 1/11<sup>th</sup> less

weight than would be expected if the standard weight of a penny was 1 ounce. In spite of this, these coins also circulated at twice face value<sup>8</sup>.



Figure 20. 1797 “Cartwheel” twopence. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

## Conclusion

We have had a quick look at the coins of Governor King’s 1800 Proclamation and given a rough indication of the prices you would expect to pay for each.

## References

1. Wikipedia article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea\\_\(coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea_(coin))
2. Johanna shields, <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces36123.html>  
<https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces117197.html>
3. <https://colonialcoins.com.au/shop/acp3m-6/>
4. Australian Coin Collecting Blog, “Proclamation Coin Indian Gold Pagoda”  
<https://www.australian-coins.com/blog/2008/12/proclamation-coin-indian-gold-pagoda.html>
5. NSW State Archives. Digest of proclamations, government and general orders, 1791–1821 as reported by Andrew Crellin, “What is a Proclamation Coin?”, *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, Vol 17 2005, pg 60.
6. This is from a description on Colonial Coins and Medals’ website: <https://colonialcoins.com.au/shop/acp2-19/>
7. H.E. MANVILLE AND P.P. GASPAR, “1787 SHILLING — A TRANSITION IN MINTING TECHNIQUE”, *British Numismatic Journal* 2004.  
[https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/2004\\_BNJ\\_74\\_9.pdf](https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/2004_BNJ_74_9.pdf)
8. <https://topendcoins.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Proclamation-Coins.pdf>



## PCGS Recognises Two Varieties of 1957 Proof Penny

It is well known that there are two types of 1957 Perth proof penny, one with the brilliant appearance of the earlier (1955 and 1956) commercial proofs and the other with the matte fields and polished relief of the later (1958–1963)) proofs. Recently PCGS have “recognised” the two varieties by including that information on the inserts in the holders, and of course, on the population report (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Matte and brilliant 1957 Perth proof pennies. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

For those unfamiliar with these proofs, the matte proofs have a more polished relief with sandblasted fields (quite like the modern “reverse proofs”), whereas the “brilliant” proofs have polished surfaces much the same as the Melbourne Mint proofs (Figure 2). Perth Mint records indicate<sup>1</sup> that the 1957 matte proofs were manufactured in 1959 and that the mintage was just 470.



Figure 2. Close ups of the brilliant proof (left) and matte proof (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

### References

1. Paul M. Holland, “Perth Mint proof Coins 1955-1963”, Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia, Volume 16, 2005, pg 3.



## Rare Islamic Gold Solidus Sells for £168,000 at Morton & Eden



*The gold solidus sold at auction. Photograph courtesy of Morton & Eden.*

Described as an Arab-Byzantine style coin, this Islamic solidus sold for £168,000 at Morton & Eden in London on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The coin measures 20 millimeters in diameter and weighs 4.27 grams. The coin was issued around AH72–74 (AD691–694) by Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan, the ruler of the Umayyad Caliphate, and was the first such gold coin of his reign. The Umayyad Caliphate eventually grew to encompass the Middle East, Arabia, Persia, North Africa and Spain but at the time this coin was struck it comprised the Middle East, Egypt as far south as Aswan and west to Libya, and with the capital in Damascus (Syria). In the early years of the Arab conquests coinage still had a Byzantine flavour. This particular solidus retained the Byzantine style obverse (in this case thought to be the Byzantine emperor Heraclius flanked by his sons); the reverse however is believed to be the first to bear the words of the Shahada (“In the name of Allah there is no God but Allah. He is unique. Mohammed is the Messenger of Allah”) in Kufic around the rim; the centre of the design is a vertical shaft leading up to a globe, the shaft set on four steps with the letters B and I to each side.



*Standing solidus of Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan. Photograph courtesy of Ashmolean Museum Oxford.*



This type of design was short lived. On the previous page we see the “Standing solidus” of around 785AD. The obverse Byzantine design has been replaced by one showing the caliph in robes wielding a sword and the Shahada has been moved from the reverse to the obverse.



*Inscriptive solidus of Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan. Photograph courtesy of Classical Numismatics Group.*

A few years later the transformation of the coinage was complete when figural coinage was abolished. After this, virtually all Islamic currency displayed just inscriptions; mainly holy texts. The above coin dates from around AD696-697.

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## **The Japanese Ceramic 1 Sen of 1945**

At the Melbourne Coin Expo in February a lady by the name of Katie showed me what at first appeared to be something like a small button, but it is, as she explained, a porcelain 1945 Japanese 1 sen trial piece.



To quote:

“With metal scarce, the Japanese Government looked for alternatives and made these porcelain coins in three denominations. These coins are deemed uncirculating as never officially released as the War ended.”

“To me the coin has an historical significance as to what currency was being used during WW2. I have an interest in WW2 numismatics in both coins/notes/medals and ephemera. Japan was not the first country to use /produce a non-metal coin. The obverse features a kanji (Japanese lettering) with Mt Fuji in the clouds. The reverse is the flower of the national Sakura plant surrounded by 3 kanji (translated: great Japan.) I was always hesitant in getting a coin graded, and when the opportunity came to physically hand over a coin rather than post, I decided to use this coin.”

“Knowing that the coin has been graded also gives peace of mind to the protection of the coin when slabbed.”

There were three denominations produced: 1 sen, 5 sen and 10 sen.

While often called “ceramic”, strictly speaking these coins were actually a clay mix baked at high temperature. According to Numista<sup>1</sup> the 1 sen were made by Kyowashinkou Porcelain Co. in Kyoto and also by Seto Co., with a composition of 60% Sankansaka clay, 15% granite, 15% red clay and 10% other materials. The colour ranges from dark brown to red, depending upon the baking temperature. It is believed that some of the 1 sen were “unofficially” released in the last few days of the war as they are much easier to source than the higher denominations. The 1 sen has a weight of 0.8 grams, a diameter of 15 mm and a thickness of 2.4 mm.

A large number were produced. According to “Stork”<sup>2</sup>; Kyoto produced 3 million coins (1 and 10 sen), Seto 2 million (1 and 5 sen) and Arita 1 million of just the 1 sen. The bulk of the mintage was destroyed without being issued.



*5 sen and 10 sen. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.*

#### References and Suggested Reading

1. <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces13996.html>
2. “Japanese Porcelain Coins” by Stork, <https://www.cointalk.com/threads/japanese-porcelain-coins.380362>. There is much more detail in this online “article” and it is well worth perusing.



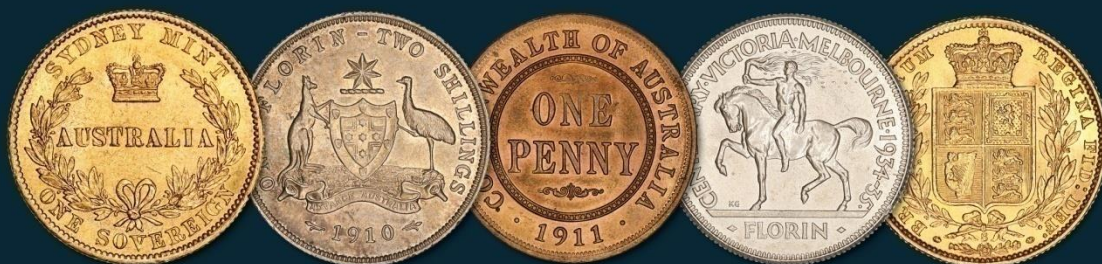


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## Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



Dear Coin Cat,

*I am concerned by a practice whereby the original owner of a PCGS graded coin, with that coin recorded in the owner's PCGS inventory, fails to remove that coin from the inventory when the coin is sold. In my experience, this often occurs unknowingly. Usually once the original owner is notified by PCGS, the original owner promptly releases the coin from the inventory. The purchaser is then able to add the coin to their inventory.*

*Somewhat less frequently, I have observed a situation where a PCGS graded coin has been sold to a dealer, without the coin being removed from the inventory. The dealer has then on-sold the coin to a purchaser who has been unable to add it to their inventory. When the dealer has been asked to arrange for the release of the coin, they have disavowed any responsibility. Further, when the original owner positively*

*denies release of the coin, the unwitting purchaser is then required by PCGS to prove ownership.*

*In my view, this is quite unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the dealer. Given that it is a readily straightforward procedure to release a coin from a PCGS inventory, should e.g. members of ANDA be required to ensure that when purchasing a PCGS graded coin, they have complete "title" to the coin?*

*Does Coin Cat have a view on this practice?*

*Paul Whenman*

Dear Paul,

I know this can be frustrating.

If the coin is up for auction, you can determine if it is in someone's inventory by doing a certificate verification on the PCGS website. This of course assumes you know the certificate number. Of the major auction houses, International Auction Galleries currently list the certificate number and I believe that Downie's will in future. If you do not know the certificate number you can always ask the auctioneer. If it turns out that the coin is in a registry set I suggest you ask the auctioneer if the vendor will release it. Years ago there was one person who decided to sell his collection and put his coins through a number of Numisbid auctions. Whatever their reasoning, this person was unfortunately notorious for ignoring removal requests. Eventually it was mentioned to the proprietor of Numisbid that people would not bid on items that were still in a registry set. Not surprisingly the vendor was quick to act when faced with a loss of proceeds. Of course if the coin is not in the PCGS inventory of the vendor, or the coin is part of a deceased estate, then I'm afraid you will have to prove ownership to PCGS by sending dated photographs of the coin.

If the coin is in a dealer's stock you can offer to buy the coin if it is removed from the former owner's inventory. In this case it would become the dealer's responsibility to send the photographs to PCGS.

Regards,

Coin Cat

**If you have any questions for Coin Cat please send an email to**

**[coincat@independentcoinnews.com](mailto:coincat@independentcoinnews.com)**



## Missing Mintmarks



Figure 1. 1959 Penny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

We have a 1959 penny. It has no mintmark so it must be a Melbourne Mint penny, mustn't it? Well, not necessarily. The coin in Figure 1 was designated by PCGS as a 1959 Melbourne Mint penny. As a matter of fact, it is a Perth Mint penny with the mintmark missing due to die fill. Die fill occurs when material fills the recessed lettering, numerals or in this case, dot in the die. Coins struck by dies in this state are completely or partly missing the letters, numerals or dots.



Figure 2. Reverse of 1959 Perth penny (left). Missing mintmark penny (middle) and Melbourne penny (right).

While a more experienced collector will note that with the weak strike and poorly defined ear on Her majesty, the coin looks more like a Perth strike than a Melbourne one, to prove this is a 1959 Perth and not a Melbourne penny requires a little knowledge and some degree of experience. (I wouldn't cast aspersions on PCGS' expertise in getting this one wrong as the majority of Australian collectors and the majority of dealers would have doubtless made the same mistake.) Let's have a look at the reverse of the coin, in the region of the date and the (missing) mintmark. Figure 2 shows a Perth penny and a Melbourne penny with our missing mintmark penny in the middle. Firstly, notice how the date differs on the Perth and Melbourne pennies: for example the 1 is much shorter on the Melbourne penny. The alignment of PENNY with the rim beads differs on the two coins – the

Y on the Perth penny is between a thin and a thick denticle; the Y on the Melbourne coin aligns with a thin denticle. Notice how the date and alignment on the middle missing mintmark coin are identical to the Perth penny.



Figure 3. Obverse of 1959 Perth penny (left), “missing mintmark” penny (middle), Melbourne penny (right).

Figure 3 shows a close up of LIZ in ELIZABETH on the obverse. The “I” is roughly midway between the round beads on the Perth penny and aligns with a bead on the Melbourne penny. Once again our “missing mintmark” coin shares the characteristics of a Perth Mint penny.

So this coin was definitely minted in Perth. The question remains: is the mintmark missing because it was never on the die or is it missing due to die fill? To answer this we have to look at how the dies are manufactured. In the early days of the Perth Mint mintmarks were added by punching a hole on the working dies but by the 1950s this procedure had changed. The mintmark was now put on the master die (or dies) for the year, so that all dies that used that particular master die had a mintmark in the same spot and all coins struck by those dies should also have the same mintmark in the same spot. Thus the only possible explanation for the missing mintmark is die fill.

There were many years in which Australian coin were minted at two or more mints. What are the other dates and denominations that could cause confusion due to filled dies?

### Queen Elizabeth II Pennies

The obverse and reverse hubs (master dies) used for the Elizabeth II pennies are given in Tables 1 and 2. The obverse and reverse numbering is that of Dr Paul Holland modified by Jon Saxton, and is effectively a standard<sup>1</sup>.

Obverse	Characteristics	Mint	Dates
6	I of GRATIA between beads	Melbourne	1953
7	I of GRATIA aligned with a bead	Perth	1953
8 (Melbourne obverse)	I of GRATIA aligned with a bead, I of ELIZABETH aligned with a bead	Melbourne	1955 – 1964
		Perth	Most 1955, Some 1956
9 (Perth obverse)	I of GRATIA between bead, I of ELIZABETH between rim beads	Perth	Some 1955, most 1956, all 1957 – 1964

Table 1. Obverse hubs used for Queen Elizabeth II pennies.



Reverse	Characteristics	Mint	Dates
D (Melbourne higher relief))	P in PENNY aligns with thick denticle, L and I in AUSTRALIA with thin	Melbourne	Most 1953, 1964
G (London)	P in PENNY aligns with thin denticle, L in AUSTRALIA with thick	Perth	1953, 1955, 1957 (wide date only)
H (Melbourne lower relief)	Lower relief — P in PENNY aligns with thin denticle	Melbourne	1953 (long 5 different 3 only), 1955 – 1959
I (Perth lower relief)	Lower relief — P in PENNY aligns with thick denticle	Perth	1956, most 1957, 1958 – 1964

*Table 2. Reverse hubs used for Queen Elizabeth II pennies.*

For all QEII issues the difference between the Melbourne and Perth Mint pennies can be determined by careful examination of the obverse and reverse dies. However just the reverse die is sufficient as for each year the two mints used dies based on different reverse hubs.

Apart from the 1959 missing mintmark, which appears to be a recent discovery, I can recall only one other Queen Elizabeth II penny known to have a missing mintmark “variety”. This occurs on the 1957 penny and is listed in the Renniks variety book as “rare”. For the same reason as for the 1959 penny, it is safe to assume that this variety occurred through die fill. As for its rarity, I have only ever seen one example of the “missing mintmark” 1957 penny. There were three reverse master dies used by the Perth Mint in 1957 but I cannot recall whether the coin was a thick 7, thin 7 or wide date variety.

### George VI Pennies

The George VI pennies are an interesting series for our present discussion as there are several filled die missing mintmarks and one genuine missing mintmark. Four mints were used in the years 1938 to 1952: Melbourne, Perth, Bombay and the Royal Mint London (although it is believed that some of the work was subcontracted out to the Heaton Mint in Birmingham). The obverse and reverse used are given in Tables 3 and 4.

Obverse	Description	Mint	Dates
3 (Melbourne)	upstroke of R in BR aligned with denticle, short denticles	Melbourne, Perth	1938–1948
4 (Bombay)	upstroke of R in BR between denticles, long denticles	Bombay	1942–1943
5 (Melbourne no IND IMP)	IND IMP removed from legend	Melbourne, Perth	1949–1952

*Table 3. Obverse hubs used for George VI pennies.*

Reverse	Description	Mint	Dates
D (Melbourne)	P in PENNY aligns with thick denticle, L and I in AUSTRALIA with thin	Melbourne	1938– 1952
E (Bombay long denticles)	quite different reverse with lower profile	Bombay	1942, some 1943
F (Bombay short denticles)	quite different reverse with lower profile	Bombay	most 1943
G (London)	P of PENNY aligns with thin denticle	London	1951
		Perth	most 1952

*Table 4. Reverse hubs used for George VI pennies.*

In reality, it should not be possible to confuse coins struck in Bombay with those from other mints as the reverse design is so different (Figure 4). All you need do is look at the kangaroo. The difference between Melbourne and London reverse pennies is a little more subtle but a denticle alignment check will tell the difference.



*Figure 4. Melbourne and Bombay Mint pennies.*

Some of the more interesting “missing mintmark coins” are listed below.

#### 1942 Bombay

This is a genuine missing mintmark. When Bombay produced the first obverse dies in 1942 they lacked an ‘I’ punch, so the coins struck by the first few dies lacked the mintmark. These are comparatively scarce and very scarce in high grade (Figure 5).



*Figure 5. 1942 Bombay pennies with I mintmark (top), missing I mintmark (bottom). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.*

1943 Bombay pennies can be found with barely visible or no apparent mintmark. Given that Bombay did have an I punch in 1943, and that we see a die progression where the I cavity on the die gradually fills, we can assume that this is a case of die fill.

Well known examples of a missing dot (mintmark) after the Y of PENNY occur on the 1945 penny and the 1942 penny (Figure 6). Both are easily explained and identified. The 1942 penny was minted in Perth and Bombay. As just discussed, the reverses of these coins are quite different.

#### 1942 Perth

As no 1942 pennies were minted in Melbourne, any coin without the mintmark must be due to the mintmark





Figure 6. 1942 Perth penny with missing mintmark. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.



Figure 7. Proof 1945 Melbourne penny. Exceptionally rare with just 4 coins minted. This particular coin was sold for \$150,000 in 2021. Photograph courtesy of Coinworks.

never being on the die or missing due to die fill. In Figure 6 we can see a 1942 penny without the apparent mintmark. A key point to note is that this coin was struck by a very old die. As well as the mintmark missing, the lettering around the rim is very weak and the coin shows strong ghosting (ghosting is caused by the dies hammering each other through the planchets when the coins are being struck – this builds up over time and the damage only becomes apparent on old dies). All 1942 Perth “missing mintmark” pennies have this appearance so it is virtually certain they are all due to die fill.

#### 1945 Perth

Another Perth Mint coin sometimes found with a missing mintmark is the 1945. Sometimes the person finding one can become overexcited because the catalogues list the 1945 Melbourne penny as exceptionally rare. Indeed it is: Melbourne just made 4 proof coins that year (Figure 7) and no circulation issues. Of those 4 coins, two remain in Museum Victoria and two are owned by private collectors. Given that the location of all the Melbourne pennies are known, any missing mintmark 1945 penny must be a Perth Mint coin.

#### 1950 Perth

These have been reported but are to a certain extent problematical: both Melbourne and Perth minted pennies in 1950 and the dies were based on the same obverse and reverse hubs.

#### 1941 Perth

Once again we have a case where the same obverse and reverse hubs were responsible for all the dies used in Melbourne and Perth, so we cannot be 100% certain which mint produced a particular coin if we cannot see a mintmark. In Figure 8 we see a lovely high grade 1941 penny. There is no trace of a dot between the designer’s initials (KG) or a dot after the Y of PENNY. So is this a Melbourne or Perth Mint coin?

Firstly, while showing less wear, the reverse bears a striking resemblance to the 1942 missing mintmark penny of Figure 6 with the ghosting and some weakness of the lettering near the rim. Secondly, the colour is more what you would expect of a Perth than of a Melbourne Mint penny. A Melbourne Mint penny in this grade (MS64) normally (but not always) has a lot more of the orange “mint red” (Figure 9). These two features hint, but do not prove, that the penny was minted in Perth.



Figure 8. 1941 Penny with no apparent mintmark but probably Perth Mint. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 9. 1941 Melbourne Mint penny.

### 1951 PL

One of the rarest “missing mintmark” pennies is the 1951PL. While 1951 pennies were minted in Melbourne (and did not have a mintmark), the reverse of the London and Melbourne issues differ (Table 4). This appears to be a die fill, as coins can be found with the PL weak and also with just one of the letters of the mintmark missing.

### **George V Pennies**

Weak or missing mintmarks have been found on the two Heaton Mint issues — 1912 and 1915. As 1912 pennies were only struck at the Heaton Mint, the die filled mintmark is not a real problem. A filled H on a 1915 Heaton Mint penny however makes the coin indistinguishable from a 1915 London penny.

From 1916–1918 all Australian bronze coins were struck at the Royal Mint Calcutta with the mintmark being a small I under the bottom scroll. 1916 pennies are known (although scarce) with a





missing mintmark (Figure 10). However as they can be found with the mintmark scarcely visible, it is most likely that the mintmark is missing due to die fill.

*Figure 10 (left). 1916 Penny missing the I Mintmark. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.*

#### 1920 Pennies

While not really intended as mintmarks, the dots on the 1920 pennies are used to identify varieties, some of which are particularly rare and valuable. Due to the small size of the dots, they are often subject to die fill.

#### 1920 Dot Below Bottom Scroll, English Obverse



*Figure 11. 1920 Penny dot below bottom scroll with English obverse; die crack through IND (left), material stuck to reverse die causing the dot to be filled (above). Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*

There are just two die pairs known for this variety. The first die pair (Figure 11) is identified by a die crack through IN of IND on the obverse. At some stage during the production run some material has stuck to the die, resulting in a depression to the left and below the scroll and partially or completely filling the dot below the scroll. This is the reason some old catalogues incorrectly include a 1920 no dot English obverse penny.



The second die pair does not have this die crack and rarely is found with die fill. There is a small defect on His Majesty's collar (Figure 12) and later die state coins also have a small chip at the top of the E of PENNY. It is on those later die state coins that the dot disappears due to die fill.

*Figure 12 (left). Tiny die flaw on HM's collar on the second die pair of the 1920 dot below, English obverse penny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*

### 1920 Double Dot

These coins were produced by just a single die pair. The dots are strong and show moats, at least for early die states (Figure 13, left). As the production run progressed the lower dot suffered die fill, which is why some 1920 double dot have been misidentified as a 'dot above top scroll'. Fortunately there is an easy way to correctly identifying this variety. The double dot has a die flaw above the W in COMMONWEALTH (Figure 13, right). The dot above top scroll does not have this 'feature'.



*Figure 13. Dot below bottom scroll and dot above top scroll on a 1920 double dot penny. The dot below the scroll disappears due to die fill on later die state pennies (left). Die flaw at the top of the W in COMMONWEALTH on 1920 double dot penny (right). This can be used to identify the double dot. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*

### 1920 Dot Below Bottom Scroll

The dot below variety (Indian obverse) comprises the bulk of the mintage. The dots are usually tiny and subject to die fill. Given their high catalogue value in medium to high grade, it would seem important to correctly identify the “true” no dot pennies. Most apparent ‘no dot’ pennies appear to be filled die ‘dot belows’<sup>2</sup>. Indeed Paul Holland has hypothesised that all 1920 dated dies were intended to have a dot, the position dependent upon the origin of the hub<sup>3</sup>. Correct identification is still a subject of ongoing research.



## Halfpennies

### Calcutta and Bombay Mint Halfpennies



Similarly to the missing 'I' mint mark on the pennies, the mintmark on the halfpennies can be missing. Given that other surrounding areas are also missing, there can be little doubt that the 1916 halfpenny in Figure 14 has been subject to die fill.

I have seen weak, partially filled, 'I' mintmarks on 1943 Bombay Mint halfpennies as well, but have not seen any with the mint mark completely missing.

*Figure 14 (left). 1916 halfpenny with the I (and most of the second 1 in the date) missing due to die fill.*

### 1951 Perth Halfpennies



*Figure 15. Date of "dot" halfpenny (top) and "no dot" halfpenny (bottom). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.*

The initial halfpenny dies dated 1951 used by the Perth Mint were sourced from the Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint. As was normal for Perth issues, these dies had a dot after HALFPENNY as a mintmark. Later in 1951, further halfpenny dies were obtained directly from the Royal Mint. These were left without a mintmark, so while most 1951 Perth halfpennies have a mintmark, some (roughly 10%) do not. At the same time new obverse dies were received from London, so the Perth Mint 1951 halfpennies can have either of two obverses or two reverses. One of these combinations is comparatively scarce, with just one die pair (obverse 4 paired with "no dot" reverse) used and a mintage of roughly 126,000<sup>4</sup>. Unfortunately some of the reverse dies with the mintmark were subject to die fill which has led people to incorrectly identify the scarce obverse 4, no dot die combination. However, owing to the different origins of the master dies, the dates on the "no dot" and "dot" halfpennies differ (Figure 15), thus we do know if the mint mark has been subject to die fill.

### Elizabeth II

No half pennies were minted from 1956–1958 inclusive, all 1959 were minted in Melbourne and all other dates minted only in Perth. As a result there cannot be any confusion about the mint that produced a particular coin. By this time the mint mark was put on each dated master die, so any

missing mint mark can only be due to die fill. This is uncommon for Elizabeth II halfpennies but the odd example does appear (Figure 16).



*Figure 16. 1953 halfpenny missing dot after AUSTRALIA and 1961 halfpenny missing dot after HALF PENNY. Photographs courtesy of Gary Tate.*

### **Other Denominations**

Mintmarks (an H below the date) were used at the Heaton Mint in Birmingham for 1914 and 1915 florins and 1915 shillings. S and D mintmarks denoting San Francisco and Denver were used on silver coins from 1942–1944. I do not know of any cases of die fill of these mint marks.

### **Conclusions**

We have looked at how missing mint marks can cause confusion as to the origin of a coin. We have seen how in some cases knowledge of the dies used at the particular mints can help identify the origin. Apart from some 1942 Bombay pennies, the missing mint marks we have examined all appear to be due to die fill.

This is not to say that coins with missing mintmarks due to die fill are worthless. Far from it — 1957 and 1951PL pennies with missing mint marks sell for many hundreds of dollars even though they can only have been caused by die fill.

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## Recent Perth Mint Releases

### Gold Coins



#### 2024 Kangaroo Proof Four Coin Set in Gold

This is the classic Perth Mint bounding red kangaroo design. The set contains proof coins of 1 oz, ½ oz, ¼ oz and 1/10 oz of .9999 gold. This is available from the Perth Mint for \$9,990.



#### The Perth Mint 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary sovereign

in proof is struck in the traditional 22 carat (91.67%) gold. This is available from the Perth Mint for \$1295.



#### Australian Wedge-tailed Eagle 10th

Anniversary 2024 1 ounce gold proof in high relief. Designed by US coin sculptor John M. Mercanti this is a one ounce .9999 pure gold

coin. Still available for \$5,299 from the Perth Mint as of 28<sup>th</sup> June.



The Australian Kookaburra available as a 2 ounce (\$10,549) and a 5 ounce (\$24,999) proof gold coin in high relief and a ¼ ounce proof (\$1365). Struck in .9999 gold, the coin depicts a kookaburra in flight with a snake in its talons.

### Silver Coins



**The Australian kookaburra** is also available as a gilded 2 ounce .9999 silver proof coin in high relief for \$268.99. The 5 ounce non-gilded version appears to be sold out.





**The Perth Mint's 125th Anniversary 2024 1 ounce silver typeset Collection** includes coins with proof, gilded, coloured and bullion finishes. This set comes in an attractive case. Unfortunately it appears to be sold out as of late June.



### 2 kg Antiqued Silver Honey Bee



This spectacular 2 kilo silver coin struck in high relief with an antiqued finish pays homage to one of Earth's most remarkable

insects. The coin is struck in .9999 silver with each coin individually edge numbered. It sells for \$5299.

### Future Releases

- 125th Anniversary Quarter and Double Sovereign Gold Proof
- 125th Anniversary Sovereign 2024 Gold Proof Three-Coin and Five Coin Set
- 125th Anniversary Australia Sovereign 2024 Gold Two-Coin Set
- Australian Kangaroo 2024 1oz Silver Proof High Relief Coloured Coin
- Australian Brumby 2024 1oz Gold Proof Coin
- Australian Swan 2024 1oz Silver Proof Coin
- Australian Swan 2024 1oz Gold Proof High Relief Coin
- Australian Kangaroo 2024 2oz Silver Reverse Gilded Coin
- Australian Koala 2024 1oz Gold Proof High Relief Coin

All photographs are courtesy of the Perth Mint.



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## Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

All the coins released by the Royal Australian Mint in this period have the Charles III obverse, as will all future releases. The Mint is also distributing new products through a variety of sources, some through their EQL ballot, some through dealers, some through their website and also some through private companies. *Not all issues are released through the dealer network so it would be wise to check with your local dealer **before the release date** whether they will have the particular issue you are interested in, rather than calling them at a busy time.*

### Tooth Fairy \$2 Coins



The Royal Australian Mint once again released aluminium bronze \$2 “tooth fairy” coins in

two types of packaging – in a card (\$20) and in a tooth fairy kit (\$30).

### Olympic and Paralympic Coins



Silver proof coins with \$5 face value were sold for the olympic (left) and paralympic (right) games. The former is a domed coin selling for \$150, the latter a “selectively gold plated” coin selling for \$170. As of late June, these are both listed as “unavailable” on the RAM website. It is possible they will become available at a later date.



The two corresponding coloured aluminium bronze \$1 coins were sold at \$20 each. As of late June, the Olympic \$1 was still available from the RAM but the paralympic coin was not.

### Mint Sets and Proof Sets





The long awaited mint (uncirculated) and proof sets made their appearance. All coins feature the standard reverse with, of course, the Dan Thorn effigy of His Majesty. The Recommended Retail Price for the mint sets is \$40 and the proof sets \$150. Both sets are of effectively unlimited mintage; i.e. if more are required, more will be made.

**Baby Set**



The baby set was released at the same time. The Royal Australian Mint has once again used the “baby set” reverses for this set. These are becoming a highly collectable series. The RRP was \$55.

**Bluey Coins**

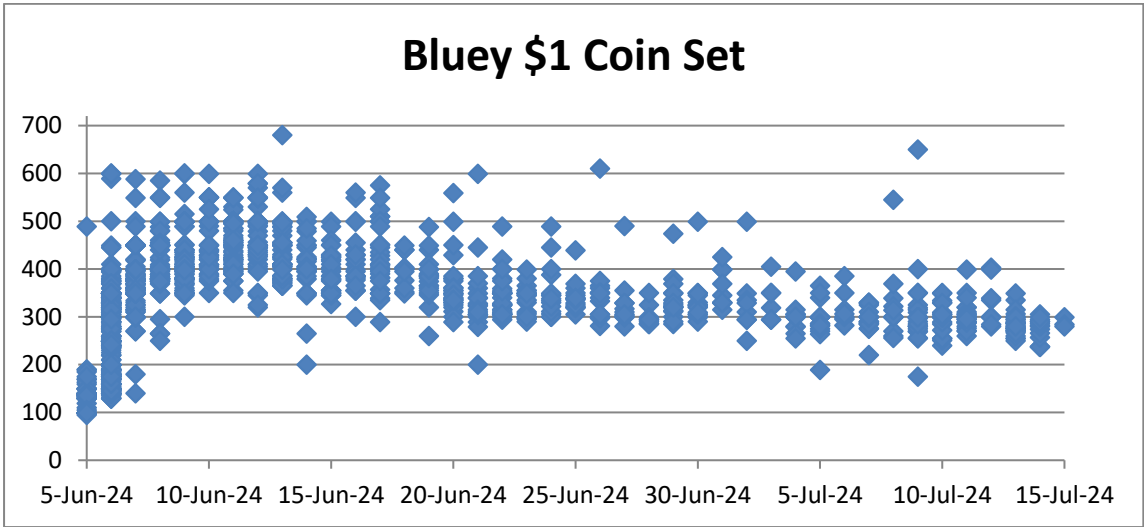


Bluey is a children’s cartoon featuring a blue cattle dog and appeals to far more than just normal coin collectors (if there is such a beast). These were released in cards in early June; each coin could be bought individually or as a three coin set. The three coin set had a RRP of \$55, a price quickly exceeded on the secondary market (with more than 1200 sales) as can be seen from a graph of realised prices on eBay (at the end of this article).

**Future Releases**

These include

- 2024 Six-Coin Gold Proof Year Set
- 2024 Six-Coin Fine Silver Proof
- 2024 50c Coloured Frosted Uncirculated Coin – 2024 NAIDOC Week
- Australian Dolphin Series – Hourglass Dolphin (in both silver and gold)
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- Some more “Bluey” coins



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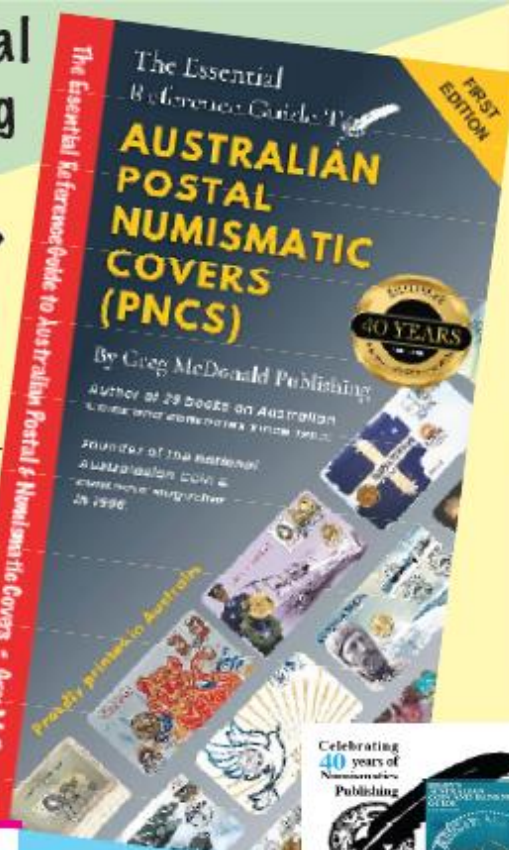
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## Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Receives IBNS Banknote of the Year Award

The International Banknote Society has named the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank \$2 banknote featuring the cricketer Sir Vivian Richards as their 'Banknote of the Year' for 2023. The front of this colourful note shows local cricket star Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, with the 40th Anniversary bank logo, turtles, and fish. The back of the banknote features fish, coral, turtles, and a map of the islands.



The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) is the monetary authority for Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as two overseas territories of the United Kingdom: Anguilla and Montserrat. The security features include an aqua-blue tinted holographic foil. The photographs of the banknote are courtesy of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

### Sources:

International Banknote Society;

[https://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=138&Itemid=51](https://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=138&Itemid=51)



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## PCGS Respond to Banknote Grading Query

Recently a banknote collector was surprised by the low grades he received from PCGS for three of his banknotes, two of which he had bought as uncirculated and one as about uncirculated.

PCGS were good enough to respond when the owner asked why the grades were given.

Photographs of the banknotes and PCGS' response on each of them are shown below.



1960 10 pound (R63) graded AU50 for a light tri-fold (three faint vertical folds as if the note had been inside of a wallet) and PPQ was withheld due to a little yellow foxing at upper right.



1933 1 pound (R28) has two vertical folds mostly (but not entirely) pressed out. Pressed notes (in general) are not eligible for PPQ.



1933 5 pound (R44a) has four verticals, some remnant horizontal at right and both upper corners for Choice VF 35. Again, pressed, which removes some original paper crispness as well as both plate and o/p embossing for no PPQ.

As a point of interest PPQ stand for Premium Paper Quality. Banknotes with this designation would command a premium when sold.

What conclusions do we draw from the PCGS response?

1. It is unwise to grade a banknote from a picture. Just looking at the PCGS photographs I could not see the folds described. A photograph is taken with the camera at 90 degrees to the surface of the note. Folds, even those pressed out, are best viewed by looking along the surface of the note.
2. Look very carefully for pressed out folds before buying an ungraded note. In fact look for signs of the note being pressed and/or washed. This removes crispness from the paper.
3. Look for any slight rounding (foxing) of the corners.
4. Although it was not an issue in this case, check that the borders of the banknote have not been trimmed.

Finally we must also remark that different countries and even different companies use different grading standards. This is something we will examine more closely in a future issue.



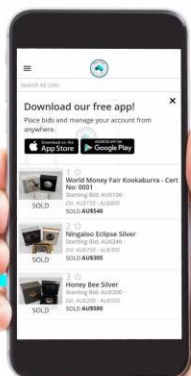


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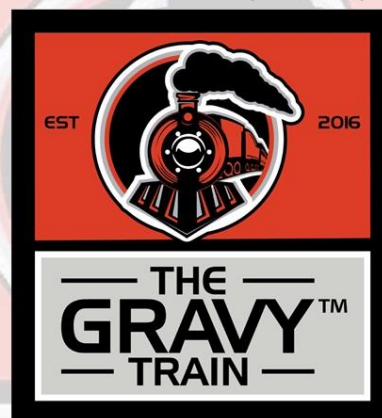


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## Rotated Dies on Pre-Decimal Coins – Gold and Silver



Figure 1. 1866 Sydney Mint sovereign rotated at 80 degrees. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

As outlined in a previous article on rotated (or upset) dies on decimal coins, an upset emerges when the coin dies (hammer and anvil) are not aligned correctly with each other during striking. Normally this occurs due to either

- **Die misalignment** at the time of setup in a fixed position, known as **Stable Rotation**, or
- **Machinery malfunction** or failure, where one die becomes loose and rotates. This is known as **Dynamic Rotation**.

Rotated dies occur on pre-decimal coins for the same reasons, but in some denominations they have a propensity to occur more often than others. These will be discussed further in this article.

When the term pre-decimal coin is used people automatically think of the silver coins of crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences and threepences from 1910 to 1963/64 and the bronze pennies and halfpennies from 1911-1964.

The orientation of the obverse and reverse designs on a coin can be done in two ways, known as **medal alignment** or **coin alignment**. A coin is in **medal alignment** if you hold the coin upright, then rotate it about the vertical axis and the design is still upright. A coin is in **coin alignment** if the design remains upright when you rotate it about the horizontal axis.

All Australian pre-decimal silver and bronze coins should be in medal alignment.

### Australian Sovereigns

Pre-decimal coins in Australia go back over 60 years further to 1853 when approval was granted for the minting of gold sovereigns and half sovereigns. These were produced from 1855 to 1926 at the Sydney Mint, 1871 to 1921 in Melbourne and 1899 to 1931 in Perth. Not all of these coins were produced in medal alignment. Up until 1887 all sovereigns and half sovereigns were in coin alignment. This alignment changed when the effigy was changed from young head to Jubilee. The result is that 1887 dated coins with the young



head obverse are in coin alignment whereas those with the Jubilee obverse are in medal alignment.

One would initially assume that being a gold coin utmost care and attention would be given to its manufacture. This was certainly the case in the design of the coin itself, but perhaps not always in the care and maintenance of the dies. Given the large production numbers of each issue, usually at least 1 million of each year at each mint, it is perhaps not surprising that rotated dies sometimes occurred.

The first example (Figure 1 at the start of this article) is an 1866 Sydney Mint sovereign, featuring Queen Victoria (young head) with a wreath of banksia leaves on the obverse and a wreath with the words Australia on the reverse. It is rotated 80 degrees and is exceptionally rare.

A better known but perhaps more controversial example is the 1872M Shield sovereign displaying a full 180 degree rotation (Figure 2). This particular coin from the Melbourne Mint should have been in coin alignment but appears in very limited numbers in medal alignment. One unconfirmed report was that these coins were produced as presentation coins for dignitaries attending the opening of the Melbourne Mint in 1872, with 50 being struck. Eric Eigner of Drake Sterling Numismatics is sceptical of this, having conducted extensive research and citing the apparent wear and general poor condition of the dies used in minting the coins. I direct readers to Eric's article listed at the conclusion of this discussion<sup>1</sup>. It then appears that the 1872M Sovereign upset is a legitimate error and is considered very rare.



Figure 2. 1872M shield sovereign in medal alignment. Photo Courtesy of PCGS.

### Crowns

Crowns were minted for only two years, in 1937 with a production of 1 million and in 1938 with only 100,000 minted. During my research I have not been able to identify any that have rotational/upset errors, but to identify one would be the find of a lifetime.

### Florins

From 1910 until 1915 Australian Florins were minted at the London and Birmingham Mints in the UK and I am unaware of any rotated/upset florins from this period, a testament perhaps to their quality control. From 1916 until production ceased in 1963 florins were minted almost exclusively at the Melbourne Mint, with the exception being 1942–1944 when some were produced by the San Francisco Mint. In total over 250 million florins were minted but there are only a few years for which rotated coins are known. Unusually, commemorative florins make an appearance but only with minimal rotations as per Table 1.



Figure 3. 1918 Florin Upset 270 degrees CCW- Photo Courtesy of Dr Peter Andrews.

Year	Description	Degree of Rotation
1918	Melbourne Mint	Rotations up to 270 degrees CCW (Figure 3)
1921	Melbourne Mint	30 degree rotation
1927	Canberra Commemorative	20 –30 degrees Clockwise &CCW
1943S	San Francisco USA	Rotations up to 80 degrees (Figure 4)
1946	Melbourne Mint	30 or 330 degree rotations
1953	Melbourne Mint	Known rotations of 80 & 170 degrees (Figure 5)
1954	Royal Visit Commemorative	20-30 degree Clockwise & CCW

*Table 1. Table of known florin rotated dies.*



*Figure 4. 1943 florin upset at 80 degrees. Photograph courtesy of Mark Nemtsas of The Purple Penny.*



*Figure 5. 1953 florin upset at 170 degrees CCW. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.*

## Shilling

The Australian shilling was struck in the UK from 1910 until 1915 with no known upsets from this period. Subsequent mintings occurred in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth (1946 only) and San Francisco (1942–1944) with a combined total of nearly 270 million coins.

Rotations can be found on some 1916 shillings — the very first issued in Melbourne. While there have been unconfirmed reports of rotations of up to 270 degrees (3 o'clock), they are more commonly found at 330

degrees (1 o'clock) as both specimen and business strikes (Figure 6).



*Figure 6. 1916 shilling 330 degrees CCW upset. This one is a business strike.*

There are very few other shillings which I have been able to determine as legitimate rotations, one being the 1921 (Sydney mint) with a rotation to 330 degrees (1 o'clock). An upset 1921 shilling is popular both for being a low mintage coin and also a rotation error. Another example of a rotated shilling occurs on the 1954, with a similar rotation of 330 degrees CCW which a fellow collector recently brought to my attention (Figure 7).



*Figure 7. 1954 shilling 330 degrees CCW upset. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.*

## Sixpence



Sixpences were struck in Melbourne, Sydney, San Francisco and Denver. Over 325 million coins were produced but there is no discernible increase in the number of years in which rotated/ upset dies appear. In fact my research has only found 4 out of the 48 issues of which one might find an upset/rotated coin of 30 degrees or more: the 1921, 1922 & 1943D (Denver) all of which are 30 degrees and the 1950 which has rotations up to and exceeding 90 degrees (Figure 8 and Figure 9).



*Figure 8. 1950 sixpence 100 degrees upset. Photograph courtesy of "The Purple Penny".*



*Figure 9. 1950 sixpence 90 degrees upset. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.*

## Threepence

Minting of the threepence followed an almost identical pattern to the sixpence in regard to which mints produced the coin but the mintage occurred in far greater numbers: over 610 million coins were produced. I have been able to confirm only three years — 1918, 1919 and 1922 — with upsets, but the late Ian McConnelly in an article from 2004 stated that he had amassed a collection of "around the clock" threepences of various years all dated prior to 1949<sup>2</sup>. What dates these were

is currently unknown, as is the final resting place of this collection.



*Figure 10. 1919 threepence 300 degrees upset.*



*Figure 11. 1922 threepence 315 degrees upset. This issue can be found at greater angles. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.*

## Summary

There are at best a handful of issues known for upsets in any of the Australian gold and silver denominations. This presents the collector an opportunity to own very scarce or rare coins. It is probably worthwhile to revisit that album collection of crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences and threepences to determine if you have one of the upsets or perhaps one that has not been identified.

While coins with a rotation up to 15 degrees are considered to be within tolerance, for the purpose of these articles I have expanded this limit to 30 degrees before I have accepted a coin as an upset/rotated error. A number of sellers take liberties when describing the rotation of the coin, normally rounding the upset to the next highest clock position, whether it be 1, 2 or 11, 10 o'clock etc. It is incumbent on the collector to satisfy

themselves that the coin rotation is as described and rounding has not occurred.



Figure 12. 1943-D sixpence upset at 22 degrees. Photograph courtesy of Sovereign Numismatics.

The coin in Figure 12 is a mint state graded sixpence and was offered for sale by a reputable dealer who at no time indicated any rotational error. Investigation indicated 22

degrees and unfortunately did not meet my criteria nor that of PCGS (remembering that they do not classify anything under 45 degrees as a rotated error). NGC grade rotations over 20 degrees so it may have been an option to have this coin graded by them.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Eric Eigner for his expertise and knowledge on Gold Sovereigns and to Gary Tate for his contribution of photographs and helpful suggestions.

### References

1. Eric Eigner, "PCGS-graded Sovereign from 1872-M with medallie die alignment" <https://www.drakesterling.com/news/post/pcgs-graded-sovereign-from-1872-m-with-medallie-die-alignment>
2. Ian McConnelly, "The Magic of (Upset) Coins", Australasian Coin & Banknote Magazine, April 2004.

### Further Reading

Renniks Australian Pre-Decimal Coin Varieties







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## New Generation Polymer Banknotes Update

In the May 2023 issue of Independent Coin News we compiled a list of first and last prefix next generation banknotes, their printing runs and whether or not they had been issued. An updated list is available below. Thanks to Marcus Condello of Collectable Banknotes Australia for the update and to Andrew Sharpe for pointing out that the 2019 \$100 was missing from the original list.

Note	Signatories	First Prefix	Last Prefix	Printing Run (million)	Status
2016 \$5	Stevens/Fraser	AA	EJ	219	issued
2018 \$5	Lowe/Fraser	AA	EJ	33.5	issued
2019 \$5	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EJ	11.7	issued
2020 \$5	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EJ	13.5	issued
2021 \$5	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EJ	42.4	issued
2017 \$10	Lowe/Fraser	AA	EA	242	issued
2019 \$20	Lowe/Fraser	AA	EA	8.5	issued
2019 \$20	Lowe/Gaetjens	AA	EA	147	issued
2020 \$20	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	95	issued
2021 \$20	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	15.6	not yet issued
2018 \$50	Lowe/Fraser	AA	IB	562	issued
2020 \$50	Lowe/Gaetjens	AA	EA	241	issued
2020 \$50	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	65	issued
2021 \$50	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	237	issued
2023 \$50	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	64	not yet issued
2023 \$50	Bullock/Kennedy	AA	EA	48	not yet issued
2019 \$100	Lowe/ Gaetjens	AA	EA	7.5	issued
2020 \$100	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	244	issued
2021 \$100	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	65	issued
2023 \$100	Lowe/Kennedy	AA	EA	65	not yet issued

*Banknotes, signatories, first and last prefixes for next generation polymer issues. This information has been sourced from the Reserve Bank website and the printing run derived from their data.*

## Error Coins at Status International Auction

Status International had their yearly coin and banknote auction on the 3<sup>rd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Last year this auction contained a large selection of error coins. The same was true this year.



Full brockages are always popular and the 5 cent brockage sold for \$1821. (In spite of the auction description this is actually an obverse brockage as the obverse is the side upon which the brockage appears).





Of interest was another 10c 1995 struck on a brass or aluminium bronze planchet (23mm, 4.97g) for a Car Lovers The Ultimate Carwash token. One was sold previously in Status Sale 381. This appears to have been passed in at \$2000.



These two double head 5 cents sold for \$4979 and \$5100 respectively. Both coins have different dates on each side. It is really not possible that this could happen by accident so we would have to describe these two coins as “mint sport”.



Last year Status sold a 1994 5c struck with a \$2 collar. This year they offered a similar example, but dated 1993. In spite of its rarity, surprisingly it is listed as “unsold at \$1500” on the Status website.



This is what I felt to be the pick of this section, although not technically an error coin — a Makleouf effigy 2c trial strike, partially dated and on a larger planchet. It sold for \$4372.



A coin described as “50c 1992 on a 'PNG 50t' 7 sided planchet 13.67g. Appears to be a man made error. gVF. PNG coin (13.55g) included for comparison.” It sold for \$243.



Of the many wrong planchet errors, one of the most interesting was a 50 cent (1985–1998) proof struck on a proof 10 cent planchet. It sold for \$3400.



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## Numismatic and Marketing Definitions

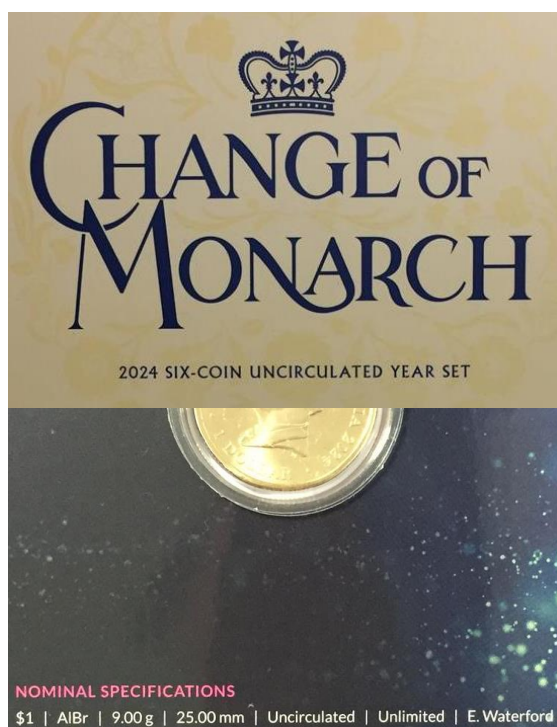


Figure 1. Packaging of two recent Royal Australian Mint releases showing their description of the coins as "uncirculated".

Terms used by numismatists and those you see on mint packaging often differ and this can lead to confusion among collectors — new collectors in particular. In Figure 1 we can see the packaging of the Royal Australian Mint 2024 “Mint” set and the 2024 \$1 “Out of this World” M counter stamp coin. While these are described as “uncirculated”, the actual grade given by a numismatist for each of these coins could well differ. Thus “uncirculated” has a different meaning depending upon the context.

Some common terms are given in Table 1 (“Numismatic”) and Table 2 (“Marketing”).

### Numismatic Terms

#### Uncirculated

This term is used to describe a coin that has no apparent detail missing due to wear, although the coin may not have full detail owing to weakness of strike and may have marks due to contact with other coins. There are different degrees of

uncirculated.

Numismatic Term	Definition
Uncirculated	No wear from circulation.
Gem Uncirculated	No wear; minimal contact marks, strong strike, good eye appeal.
Proof	Struck multiple times with polished dies on a polished planchet.
Gilt Proof	As in proof but struck on a gold plated planchet.
Specimen Proof	Struck multiple times with new dies on a polished planchet.
Specimen	Struck multiple times with new dies on a non polished planchet.

Table 1. Some numismatic terms.

Under the old adjectival system, coins would be described as uncirculated, choice uncirculated and gem uncirculated. In the more modern method, the Sheldon system, uncirculated grades are MS60 to MS70 (where MS stands for “mint state”). We will discuss this further in a future article.

#### Gem Uncirculated

This is a superior uncirculated coin. It will show minimal contact marks (bagmarks), have clearer fields and be more appealing to the collector. It is however not perfect. For example PCGS would grade a gem uncirculated coin as MS65 whereas a perfect coin is MS70.

#### Proof

Proof coins are initially manufactured to show the quality of coin the mint was capable of producing. Early examples were intended as “proof of record” coins, with few coins minted and the majority

destined for museums. While some proofs were made for the general public in 1934 and 1938, the commercial proof series ran from 1955 to 1963. Commercial proof coins were produced by the Royal Australian Mint in 1966 and from 1969 onwards (however none were made in 1967 and 1968, possibly because no 50 cent coins were made in those years). The decimal proof coins have polished fields, heavily frosted reliefs which are caused by sandblasting the dies (while protecting the fields of course), whereas most of the pre decimal proof coins have polished fields and reliefs (Figure 2).



*Figure 2. 1956 proof sixpence and 1966 proof 5 cent. Both were struck multiple times by polished dies on a polished planchet, the difference being that the 5 cent has a frosted relief. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.*

### Gilt Proof



*Figure 3. Gilt proof 1806 British halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of Heritage (ha.com).*

A gilt proof is a proof struck on a copper or silver planchet that is gold coated. Some of the best examples occur on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century British copper coins. Figure 3 shows the obverse of an 1806 gilt proof halfpenny, graded as PR66 cameo, that was auctioned by Heritage in 2010 and described as “a superb coin having deeply reflective mirrors and fully intact, thick gold coating over the copper surfaces, rippling with the classic orange-peel effect. Full proof impression, producing high visual appeal and all the detail of the engraving”<sup>1</sup>. Most modern gilt proofs are what you would call “selectively gold plated” (see below) but some gilt proofs and gilt “business strikes” are still issued, such as the 2020 Money Fair M mint mark 50 cent.



## Specimen and Specimen Proof

A coin struck multiple times by new dies on a carefully selected planchet is normally called a “specimen” coin. The coin must be exceptionally well struck but may have some tiny faults due to the dies not being quite perfect. A specimen proof coin is one where the coin is struck multiple times by new dies on a polished planchet. These coins were never intended to be commercial and were primarily struck for archival purposes, swapped with other institutions<sup>2</sup>, or gifted to individuals. Because the dies were not polished they were often later used for the business strike issues. For example, the same die fault (that acts as a die identification marker) as occurs on the 1930 specimen-proof pennies can be found on some of the business strike coins.



Figure 4. Specimen 1922 Perth Mint penny (left), specimen-proof 1926 penny (right). Note that fields of the specimen are not particularly reflective. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

While technically coins such as the 1926 above are technically specimen-proofs they are often referred to as proofs. The mint set decimal coins, 1969 “Yarralumla” and 1970 Captain Cook 50 cent coins are not specimens as they were not intended for archival or presentation purposes.

## Marketing Terms

Some of the terms used by the mints in marketing modern products are given in Table 2.

Marketing Term	Definition
Uncirculated	Struck specifically for sale to collectors (usually at a premium). The numismatic grade can vary from uncirculated to perfect.
Proof (decimal)	Struck multiple times with polished dies and sandblasted (frosted) high points on a polished planchet.
Gem Uncirculated	As in proof but without frosting (wedding sets).
Coloured	
Uncirculated	As in uncirculated but partly coloured.
Reverse Proof	As in proof, except the design is polished and the fields are frosted.
Selectively Plated Proof (or Gilded proof)	Proof with the relief (wholly or partially) plated in a different metal.
Antique Finish	Silver struck by brushed unpolished dies to give the coin an “old” look.
Piedfort	Can be “uncirculated” or “proof” but struck on a double thickness planchet.
High Relief	A raised design that gives a three dimensional feel to a coin.
Domed	A coin where the centre of one side is deepened and the other side elevated.

Table 2. Some ‘marketing’ terms.

## Uncirculated

In this context “uncirculated” refers to the finish on the coin, not the grade of the coin.

## Proof

A proof is a coin struck multiple times by polished dies with a frosted relief on a polished planchet. This differs from the numismatic use of the term in that a numismatist does not require the frosted relief (Figure 2).



Figure 5. "Wedding set" 2005 20 cent.

## Gem Uncirculated

From 2002–2009 the Royal Australian Mint issued special “Wedding Sets” (Figure 5), intended as presents for the bride and groom. The coins in these sets were described (on the packaging) as “gem uncirculated”. The planchets were beautifully polished and the dies also polished, and I was told by one of the RAM staff that they had been struck four times (which is the same number of strikes used to produce the proof coins in the yearly proof sets)<sup>3</sup>. While I have seen these described as “prooflike” or “specimens”, I believe that numismatically, the coins qualify as proofs. (After 2009, the Royal Australian Mint continued to sell “wedding sets”, but these contained normal proof coins rather than the prooflike 2002-2009 coins.)

## Coloured Uncirculated



Figure 6. Eternal Flame \$2 (colour from paint die) and 2009 Rosella (pad printed).

These coins may have had paint added by a paint die (coloured \$2 coins), been pad printed (\$1 coloured series such as the 2011 Air Series in Figure 6) or have had the colour added by some other mechanism.



## Reverse Proof Coins

A reverse proof is a modern term for a proof coin which has frosted fields and a polished relief, such as the 2023 United States Morgan dollar in Figure 7. I find these types of proof quite attractive as the high points of the coin have better detail than the frosted relief proofs. While there may be others, the only old-time equivalent I can think of is the “matte” Perth bronze proofs from 1957 to 1963.



*Figure 7. 2023 San Francisco reverse proof Morgan dollar (left) and 1957 Perth Mint proof penny (right). The photograph of the penny is courtesy of PCGS.*

## Selectively Plated (or Gilded)

This is a coin (normally a proof) where the high points have been plated with a different metal (this is usually gold over silver; if silver over gold the Perth Mint refer to the coin as “reverse gilded”). As in the reverse proof coins, the contrast can lead to a spectacular coin such as the recent Perth Mint issue (left) in Figure 8.



*Figure 8. Selectively plated or gilded 2 oz silver 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary coin (left), obverse of antique finish silver honey bee (right). Both photographs courtesy of the Perth Mint.*

### **Antique Finish**

On an antique finish coin, the struck coins appear to have been brushed with an antiquing solution to give the coin an “old look” (right hand coin in Figure 8 on the previous page). This means that individual coins have different patterns of brush marks<sup>4</sup>.

### **Piedfort**

This is a coin struck on a thicker planchet than normal (usually twice the thickness and hence twice the weight). The coin may be a proof strike, but not always.

### **High Relief**

High relief coins are self explanatory; coins like this can have virtually a three dimensional appearance. Figure 9 shows two different black swan designs: the Meszaros design (left) and the recent Perth Mint high relief gold swan (right). High relief designs are generally more intricate than those with a lower relief. Additionally the coins require more processing as multiple strikes are needed to get the metal to flow completely into the deep recesses of the dies. This is why new issue coins or tokens with low relief designs are usually cheaper (or at least should be cheaper) than those with high relief designs.



*Figure 9. Normal relief and high relief designs. Meszaros 1967 “swan dollar” token in gold (left), 2024 Perth Mint gold swan (right). Photographs courtesy of International Auction Galleries and the Perth Mint respectively.*

While high relief coins are a recent innovation in Australia, there are much older international examples. In the United States, the original design of the St Gaudens \$20 in 1907 was for an ultra high relief coin. Some trial pieces were struck, but as around 7 or 8 strikes were required to produce each coin a lower relief design was eventually used for the business strikes.

### **Domed Coins**

Domed coins are coins where the centre of one side is deeper and the other side elevated. An example is shown in Figure 10.





Figure 10. 2014 "Orion" domed coin from the Royal Australian Mint. Photograph courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.

## References

1. <https://coins.ha.com/itm/great-britain/great-britain-george-iii-gilt-proof-penny-1806-/a/3008-21773.s#>
2. Andrew Crellin, "Australia's Silver Proof and Specimen Coins of King George VI - An Extended Hiatus", 2023, <https://www.sterlingcurrency.com.au/blog/news-research/commonwealth-coins/australias-silver-proof-and-specimen-coins-of-king/>
3. Verbal statement from a staff member at the Royal Australian Mint. Public servants are servants are reticent about their names appearing in print.
4. Kathryn Harris, private communication.

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5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Vic

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131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 4 pm

### **Petersham Super Fair**

Petersham Town Hall

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<https://scdaa.com.au>

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## New South Wales

Australian Numismatic Society NSW

Postal Address: PO Box 830, Manly, NSW 1655

Email: [mattkenlloy@hotmail.com](mailto:mattkenlloy@hotmail.com)

Website: <https://www.the-ans.com/>

Telephone: (02) 9223 4578

Meetings: 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month. For venue please check the website.

Australian Society for Ancient Numismatics

Telephone: Colin Pitchfork, (02) 9223 4578

Email: [colin@noble.com.au](mailto:colin@noble.com.au)

Meetings: Monthly at Noble Numismatics; please contact Colin Pitchfork for details.

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club

Postal Address: PO Box 9156, BATHURST NSW 2795

Telephone: (02) 6331 5404 (Business hours)

Email: [amcrae@lisp.com.au](mailto:amcrae@lisp.com.au)

Meetings: 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at Old Eglinton Fireshed in Park Street, Eglinton.

Coffs Harbour Stamp and Coin Club

Postal Address: 182 Linden Ave, Boambee NSW 2450

Telephone: (02) 6690 0168

Email: [sheryl.ellem@bigpond.com](mailto:sheryl.ellem@bigpond.com)

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Park Beach Bowling Club, 60 Ocean Parade, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

IBNS (Sydney Chapter)

Postal Address: The Secretary, IBNS Sydney Chapter, PO Box 191, MAROUBRA NSW 2035.

Email (secretary): [info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz](mailto:info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz)

Meetings: second Sunday of the month at 11 am; Great Northern Hotel Cnr Mowbray Road and Pacific Hwy Chatswood. For information regarding meetings telephone Tony James on 0401 884 314

Illawarra Numismatic Association

Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 468, Fairy Meadow, NSW 2519.

Email: [illawarranumismatics@gmail.com](mailto:illawarranumismatics@gmail.com)

Meetings: 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Wollongong RSL Bowling Club, The Avenue, Figtree.

Maitland and District Coin Club

Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 185, East Maitland, NSW 2323.

Email: [maitlandclub@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandclub@gmail.com)

Meetings: 7.15pm on the second Monday of the month at the Baptist Church Hall on the corner of Anderson Drive and Christie Rd, Tarro.

The Metropolitan Coin Club of Sydney

Postal Address: P.O Box 3216 Asquith NSW 2077.

Telephone: 0431 483 914

Email: [metccsyd@gmail.com](mailto:metccsyd@gmail.com)

Meetings at Epping 1st Sunday of month (except January & September)

Mudgee Coin, Note & Stamp Club Inc.

Postal Address: Unit 1, 7 Liston Street, Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448.

Telephone: (02) 6569 4328

Email: [MudgeeCNSC@gmail.com](mailto:MudgeeCNSC@gmail.com)

Meetings: Meets on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10:30am (to 12noon), including Public holidays and January at the Mudgee Soldiers Club, 99 Mortimer Street, Mudgee NSW

Nambucca Heads Stamp and Coin Club

Postal Address: 39 White Cedars Road, Kains Flat, MUDGEES NSW 2850

Telephone: Elizabeth (02) 6373 5324

Email (secretary): [lizzie20649@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzie20649@hotmail.com)

Meetings: Meets on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10:30am (to 12noon), including Public holidays and January.

Newcastle Numismatic Society

Postal Address: PO Box 71, Broadmeadow, NSW 2292.

Email (secretary): [nnsclub@gmail.com](mailto:nnsclub@gmail.com)

Meetings: 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, at Adamstown Community Hall, 153A Brunner Road Adamstown 2289.

Secretary: Ross Southern

Orange Coin and Stamp Club Inc

Postal Address: PO Box 324, Orange, NSW 2800.

Telephone: Norm Binns(Publicity Officer) (02) 63623754

Email (secretary): [normanbinns@bigpond.com](mailto:normanbinns@bigpond.com)

Meetings: 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month (except December) at the Orange Community Information Centre, 79-81 Kite Street, Orange, NSW. Meetings are best accessed via the back entrance of the Information Centre, from the Woolworth's carpark southern end. The carpark is behind the shops on the southern side of Summer St (the main street) between Anson and Sale Streets.

Sapphire Coast Stamp & Coin Club

About: An amalgamation of the Bega Philatelic & Numismatic Society and the Imlay Stamp & Coin Collectors Society

Telephone: (John) (02) 6495 7308

Email: [brsinclair@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brsinclair@optusnet.com.au)

Meetings: Pambula Court House, Corner Toalla and Monaro Streets, Pambula NSW 2549. During daylight saving months: 7.00pm on the second Thursday (February, March, April, October

and November). During non-daylight saving months: 2.00pm on the third Saturday (May, June, July, August, September)

#### **Queensland**

Australian Numismatic Society Queensland Branch  
Postal Address: PO Box 78, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006.  
Email: gerald.doyle@bigpond.com  
Website: <https://www.the-ans.com/>  
Meetings: 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Meeting Room 1, Bulimba Library, Corner Oxford St & Riding Road, Bulimba, Brisbane.

Gold Coast Stamp and Coin Club  
Contact: Russell Boylan Phone: 0417 987 441  
Email: pelew3@gmail.com  
Meetings: 2nd Saturday of every month at noon at the Helensvale Community Centre, 31 Discovery Drive, Helensvale 4212.

Queensland Numismatic Society Inc  
Postal Address: PO Box 431, Lutwyche, Qld 4030.  
Email: sapyx@optusnet.com.au  
Meetings: 7.00pm on the first Friday of the month, Metropolitan Grange Library, 79 Evelyn Street, the Grange.

Redcliffe Numismatic Society Inc  
Website: <https://www.rns.org.au/>  
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 12, Margate QLD 4019.  
Telephone: (07) 3396 6855  
Email: info@rns.org.au  
Meetings: 7.30pm on first Tuesday of each month except January at Level 2, Moreton Bay Integrated Care Centre, 106 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe.

Redland Bay Coin and Stamp Club  
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 3275, Birkdale QLD 4159.  
Telephone: (07) 3207 2518  
Email: margck5@bigpond.net.au  
Meetings: 7.00pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at Cleveland Uniting Church, 36 Passage St, Cleveland (small hall on Queen St). Visitors are very welcome.

Rockhampton Coin Club  
Postal Address: PO Box 4079, Rockhampton, QLD 4700  
Telephone: Gary 0428 575 526  
Email: grmuz52@bigpond.net.au  
Meetings: 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month (except January) at the Frenchville Sports Club, 105 Clifton Street, North Rockhampton.

#### **South Australia**

Numismatic Society of South Australia Inc  
Website: <https://www.sanumismatics.org.au>  
Postal Address: PO Box 2183, Kent Town, SA 5071.  
Telephone: 0417 212 906  
Email: secretary@sanumismatics.org.au  
Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at 7.45pm at SAPHIL House, 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.

Yorke Peninsula Collectables Club  
Postal Address: PO Box 178, Bute, SA 5560.  
Meetings: 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month (except for January) at Kadina Senior Citizens Club, Taylor St, Kadina.

#### **Tasmania**

Tasmanian Numismatic Society Inc  
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 12, Claremont, Tasmania 7011.  
Email (Secretary): misteeth@gmail.com  
Meetings: 6:30pm on the last Tuesday of each month at the 'CIVIC CLUB', 134 Davey Street, Hobart.

#### **Victoria**

Numismatic Association of Victoria Inc.  
Postal Address: PO Box 288, Flinders Land, VIC 8009.  
Email: info@navic.org.au  
Website: <https://www.navic.org.au>  
Social Media: Facebook and Twitter (@Numisvic)  
Meetings: 7.45pm on the third Friday of the month Feb-Nov, second Friday in December) at Kensington Town Hall, 30-34 Bellair St, Kensington.

Bairnsdale and District Stamp and Coin Club  
Postal Address: PO Box 252, Bairnsdale, VIC 3875.  
Telephone: (03) 5152 5053  
Email: seb86@bigpond.com  
Meetings: 7.45pm on the third Thursday of the month at Secondary College Conference Room, McKean St, Bairnsdale.

Bendigo Coin & Collectables Club Inc.  
Website: <https://www.bendigocoinclub.com>  
Postal Address: PO Box 589, Bendigo, VIC 3552.  
Telephone: 0411 796 730  
Email: secretary@bendigocoinclub.com  
Meetings: 7.30pm every second Friday night at the Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet Street, Quarry Hill.

Geelong Numismatic Society  
Website: <https://www.geelongns.com>  
Postal Address: PO Box 225, Newcombe, VIC 3219.  
Email: geelongns@gmail.com  
Meetings: 7pm at the Belmont Uniting Church Hall, 42 Thompson St, Belmont on the following Fridays - 22nd March, 19th April, 24th May, 28th June, 26th July, 23rd August, 27th September, 25th October, 22nd November.

IBNS (Melbourne Chapter)  
Website:  
[https://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=41:australia-melbourne&catid=10:the-ibns-chapters&Itemid=46](https://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41:australia-melbourne&catid=10:the-ibns-chapters&Itemid=46)  
Postal Address: PO Box 325 Yarraville, VIC 3013.  
Telephone: Ian Yarde (Secretary) 0404 813 973  
Email: melbourne-chapter@theIBNS.org  
Meetings: 7.30pm normally on the third Thursday of the month (except January) at Level 16, 379 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000. Please wait at ground level for the door to be opened and telephone the Secretary if you are late and there is nobody at the door. As meeting dates and venues can vary from time to time, visitors from country, interstate or overseas are advised to check with the Secretary for any changes.

Melbourne Numismatic Society Inc  
Website: <https://www.melbcoin.altervista.org>  
Email: info@melbcoin.org.au



Meetings: 8 pm on the second Thursday of the month (except January) at Nunawading Community Hub, 96–106 Springvale Road, Nunawading.

#### Morwell Numismatic Society

Website: <https://www.navic.org.au/morwell-numismatic-society/>

Postal Address (Secretary): PO Box 432, Moe, Vic 3825.

Email: [greycats2@bigpond.com](mailto:greycats2@bigpond.com)

Meetings: 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at the Christian Community Church, 5-7 McDonald St, Morwell.

#### Sale & District Stamp & Coin Club

Website: <https://www.navic.org.au/numismatic-links/numismatic-societies/sale-district-stamp-coin-club/>

Postal Address: PO Box 788, Sale, Vic 3850.

Telephone: (03) 5144 7815

Meetings: 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at Gwen Webb Activity Centre, Market Street, Sale.

#### Western Australia

##### Peel Region Numismatic Group

Website: <https://www.peelnumis.org/>

Postal Address: PO Box 1285 MANDURAH WA 6210

Telephone: 0415 967 109 or 0410 000 617

Email: [prng@southwest.com.au](mailto:prng@southwest.com.au)

Meetings: 6pm on the second Wednesday of the month (except January) Falcon Library, Meeting Room 2, Corner of Cobblers Rd & Flavia St, FALCON WA.

##### Perth Numismatic Society Inc

Website: <https://www.pns.org.au/>

Postal Address: PO Box 8419, South Perth WA 6951

Telephone: 0417 930 854

Email: [secretary@pns.org.au](mailto:secretary@pns.org.au)

Meetings: 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month (except December), John McGrath Hall, 97 Hensman St, South Perth WA 6151.

#### IBNS (Perth Chapter)

Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 207, SOUTH PERTH, WA 6951.

Telephone: 0414 361 693

Email: [gurkha2@bigpond.com](mailto:gurkha2@bigpond.com)

Meetings: 09:30am on the first Sunday of the month except January, at Philately House, Unit 18, Wellington Fair, 200 Wellington Street, East Perth.

#### South-West Coin Club

Website: <http://www.southwestdistrictcoinclub.com/>

Postal Address: PO Box 728, Bunbury, WA 6231.

Telephone: (08) 9726 0665

Email: [info@southwestdistrictcoinclub.com](mailto:info@southwestdistrictcoinclub.com)

Meetings: 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month except January, at Settlers Hall, 20A Marine Drive, Leschenault.

#### Western Australian Roman Coin Study Group

Telephone: Walter Bloom, 0417 930 854

Email: [w.bloom@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:w.bloom@murdoch.edu.au)

Meetings: Monthly to six-weekly; please contact Walter Bloom for details.

**Important Note:** The information here was derived from the list of societies on the Numismatic Society of Australia website. Some details were updated after an online check and response to emails we sent. As many clubs do not have a website published or their website is no longer active, we recommend that potential new members check via telephone or email before attending their first meeting. If any changes need to be made to this list, please send an email to [editor@independentcoinnews.com](mailto:editor@independentcoinnews.com)



### Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove Ringwood East Vic.

Last Sunday of each month except December

Contact T. Gordon 0412 092917

## Photographs from the Petersham Coin Show 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The Petersham Coin Show was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June at the normal location: the Petersham Town Hall in Sydney.



The Petersham Coin Show is regularly held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday), so normally 4 times a year. The show is run by the Stamp & Coin Dealers Association of Australasia (SCDAA) which was established in 1970. While Sydney based, it is now attended by a number of interstate dealers. Including the locals, there were 25 dealers at the show.

From all reports it was quite busy and most of the dealers happy with the day. Here are a few photographs taken by Robbie Colborne of Ensleigh Coins. We thank you for taking the time to take some snaps for us.

**The next Petersham Coin Fair is on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 9:30 am.**





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## Downie's Australian Coin Auctions Sale 352

Downie's Australian Coin Auctions number 352 was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and more than 95% of the 2798 lots were sold. A few of the more interesting results are given below.

### Dumps

There were three 1813 New South Wales dumps in the auction, in vastly differing condition.



The best example, ex Rare Coin Company (where it was sold for \$125,000) is of the most common type (A/1) and has traces of the host coin, which is not so common. This coin sold for \$13,420.



A coin in much lower grade, also a type A/1, sold for \$4392.



The third coin, probably also a type A/1 but so worn it is difficult to be certain, sold for \$1586.

### Tokens



A World War I Liverpool Internment Camp aluminium threepence sold for \$1342. The WWI tokens are much scarcer than those used during WWII.

### Medals



A Western Australian 1914 Sydney Emden medal in silver sold for \$1830.

### Error Coins



A bullseye error (paint applied to wrong side) on a 2019 Police Remembrance \$2 sold for \$4148, vastly higher than the original estimate of \$2440.





Wrong planchet errors continue to be popular. A 1974 20c struck on a 10c blank or planchet sold for \$2684.

### Fantasy Pieces



Of the "fantasy pieces", a naturally toned milled edge "swan dollar" by Andor Meszaros in the original case of issue sold for \$2318.

### Proclamation Coins

This auction contained the largest compilation of proclamation coins in quite some time.



A Bengal Presidency Mohur AH 1202/19 (KM103) sold for \$2074.



A Brazil John V Johanna 1731M in VF realised \$5856.

### Australian Gold Coins



A 1926 Perth sovereign graded by PCGS as MS62 achieved \$1952. 1926 is considered the key date for Perth sovereigns.

### Banknotes



A 2015 Stevens Fraser \$5 first prefix BA15 in unc sold for \$1586. This is one of the key notes to the polymer series, with some found in RBA old-new generation polymer pair sets, but none released into circulation.

### Ancient Coins



An Ancient Greek Thessalian League (40-4BC) Stater (6.17gms) obverse with the head of Zeus, reverse Athena Itonia brandishing spear and holding shield (S2233) in gVF sold for \$518.



A Roman Republic L Marcius Censorinus (82BC) Denarius (3.5gms), obverse head of Apollo right, reverse the satyr Marsyas walking with wine-skin over shoulder (S281), gVF sold for \$518.

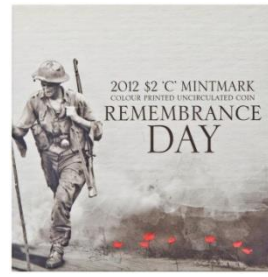


An Imperial Roman Pertinax Denarius (3.60 gms), obverse laureate head of Pertinax, reverse Laetitia holding wreath and sceptre (S6041) a little edge roughness else VF with a decent portrait of this rare emperor achieved \$1037. Pertinax was Roman emperor for just three months in 193 AD.

### Decimal Coins



A 2015 Red Poppy \$1 on original card, sold for \$1342.



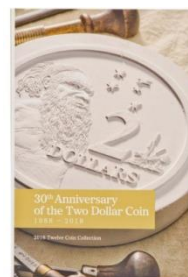
There were two 2012 C mintmark Remembrance Red Poppy \$2. Each sold for \$579.



The four non C mintmark 2012 red poppy \$2 (each with RSL card) averaged \$292.



The three 2013 C mintmark coronation \$2 lots averaged \$561.



A 2018 12 coin \$2 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary set was sold for \$915.



Consignments are now closed for Downie's auction 353 which will be from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August and the catalogue is under preparation. Downie's were kind enough to send pictures of some of the items in the auction — a \$1,000 Chartered Bank of Hong Kong banknote, a 1930 penny, a 1798 spade guinea and a consecutive pair of uncirculated last prefix 1996 \$50 banknotes.







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## International Auction Galleries Online Sale 21 Results

IAG's online sale 21 was held in mid June 2024. While the overall results were mixed, there were quite a few highlights, particularly among the predecimal coins.

### Banknotes



A Collins Allen 10 shillings circulation issue with red serial numbers (R1c) with a pinhole and creases flattened out else aVF sold for \$8540.



A consecutive pair of Riddle Sheehan 10 shillings notes described as "Lovely original fresh notes with a centre bend and flick from bank handling, crisp paper with raised ink" sold for \$2440.



An about uncirculated Riddle-Heathershaw £10 with centre bend flattened sold for \$6344.

### Predecimal Coins

As in previous auctions the third party graded coins outperformed the "raw" coins. For the PCGS graded coins, International Auction Galleries provide the PCGS certificate number so that potential bidders can do an online lookup of photographs of the coin on the PCGS website.



A 1934 proof halfpenny graded as PR64RB by PCGS sold for \$8052 with some spirited bidding.



Normally predecimal bronze coins struggle to sell when classified as brown. This 1928 halfpenny was an exception as the even



virtually mark free surfaces and PCGS grade of M65BN attest. With 13 bids it sold for \$756.



A 1939 Kangaroo reverse halfpenny graded as PCGS MS64RB sold for \$1647.



An extremely fine 1942 Bombay penny without the I mintmark (graded as PCGS AU55) sold for \$244. This is an example of a genuine missing mintmark as the Bombay Mint did not have an 'I' stamp available for use on the first few dies produced.



A tougher date 1948 Perth Mint penny in MS62RB sold for \$549. This is tough as an uncirculated coin.



A 1959 penny in MS65RB sold for \$840 with 15 bids on an estimate of \$1024.



A 1939 sixpence in PCGS MS64 sold for \$439.



A 1916 shilling in MS65 sold for \$951.



A 1935 shilling in MS65 sold for \$927.



A 1932 florin in AU55 (EF) sold for \$1708.



## Decimal Coins



2012 \$2 Remembrance red poppy: 3 coins in 4 lots averaged \$252 each.



A 2013 C mintmark Coronation \$2 sold for \$244.

## Proclamation Coins



A cartwheel penny described as gEF with traces of mint red sold for \$488.

All photographs are courtesy of International Auction Galleries. **The next auction run by International Auction Galleries will be their 100th auction, in September,** and the catalogue is under preparation. Some of the lots are shown below.



## The \$2 Market Report for June



With the addition of sales from the last two months, we have data for more than a full year of some releases. In those cases we have restricted the graphs to just the last 12 months.

In the last two months we have seen a slight pickup in sales price of the 2022 C mintmark red poppy, the 2023 C mintmark Vietnam and the 2013 coronation. It will be interesting to see if these trends continue.

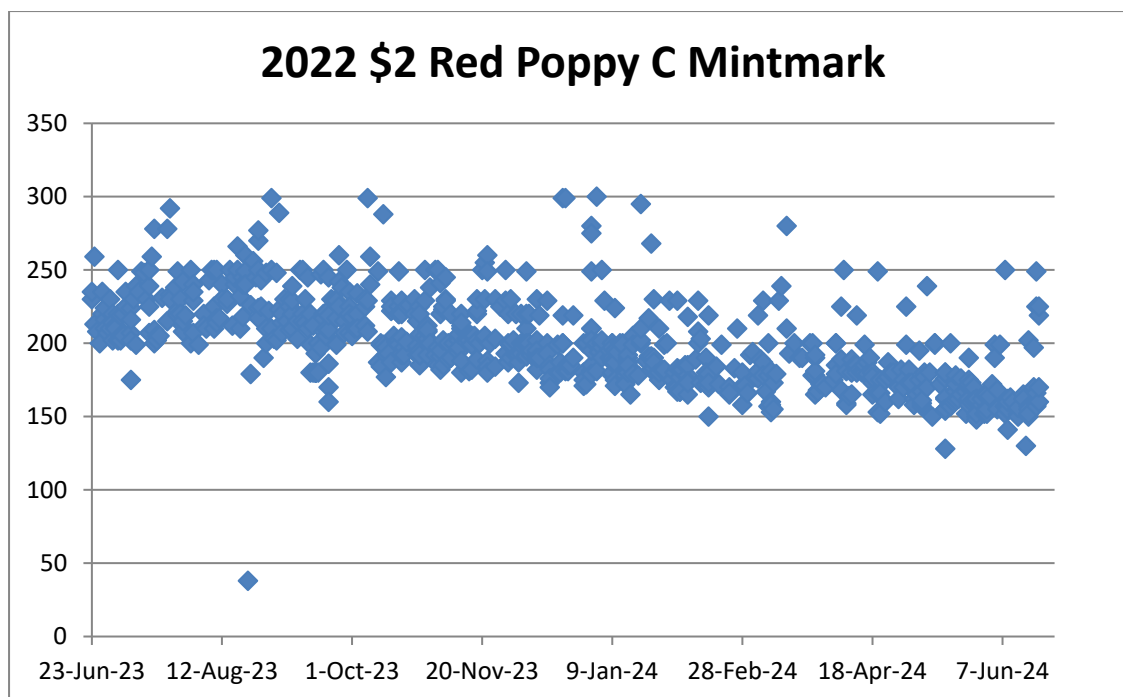
The total number of sales and number of listings for the recent two month period (23<sup>rd</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> June) is given in Table 1. Comparing this two month period with the previous two months, the number of sales has decreased for all but the three 2012 coins. The number of listings has remained reasonably steady, although with slight increases to the 2023 Vietnam aluminium bronze and the 2013 coronation.

Coin	Number of Sales	Number of Listings
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	11	29
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	95	79
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	25	33
2013 \$2 Coronation	22	65
2022 \$2 Red Poppy C Mintmark	132	126
2023 \$2 Vietnam Proof	8	21
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	64	294
2023 \$2 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Set	97	310

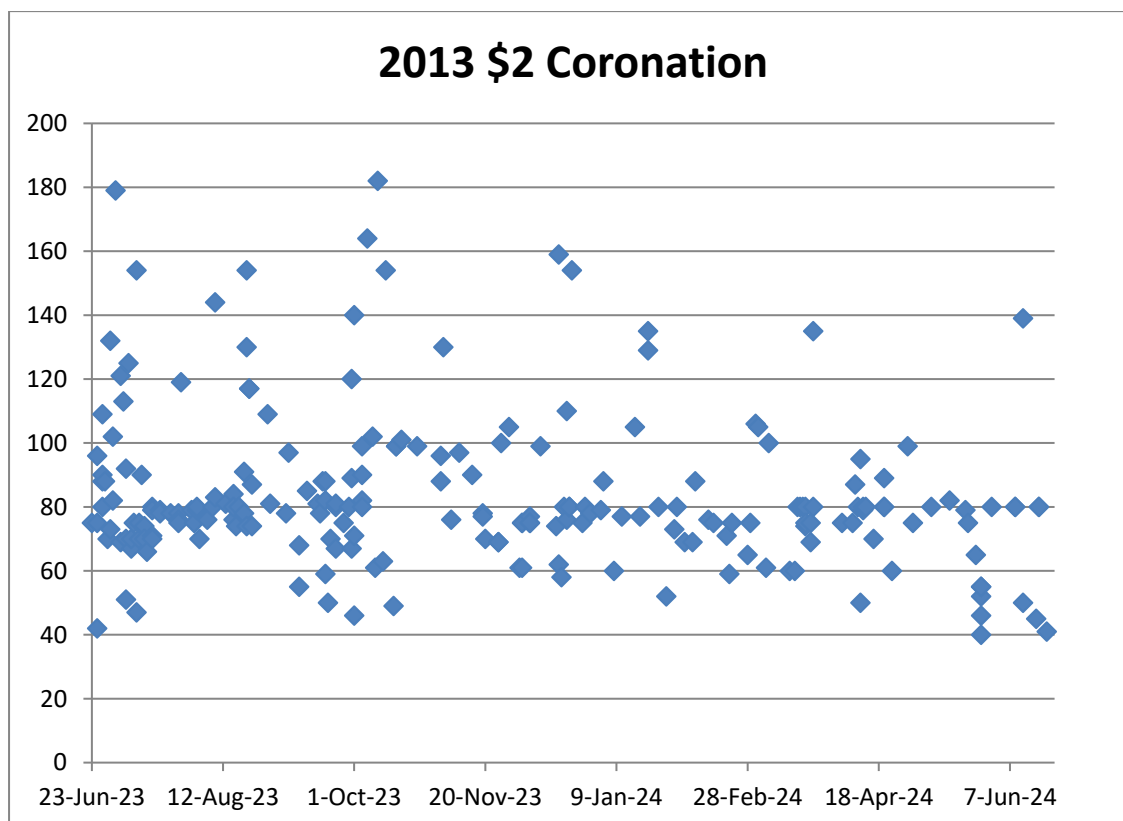
*Table 1. Sales on eBay in the two months 23rd April to 22nd June, and listings on the 22nd June. Note that although the asking prices on some of the listings are somewhat optimistic they have still been included in the "Number of Listings".*

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 that appear to have been achieved by shill bidding were also removed. PCGS graded coins were not included, nor were listings that included multiple items and bulk lots.



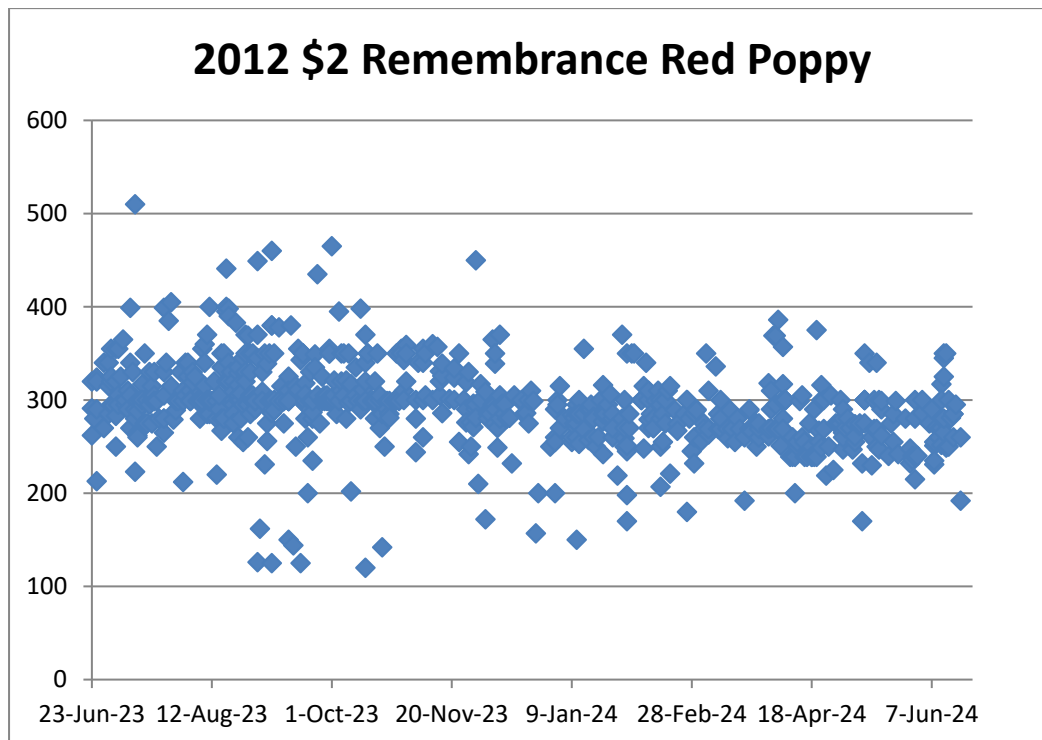


The number of sales was up by about 30% compared to the previous two months. After a slight increase in April, prices have once again continued to decline with (apart from a few outliers) prices averaging \$160. This is of course still far in excess of the \$15 issue price.

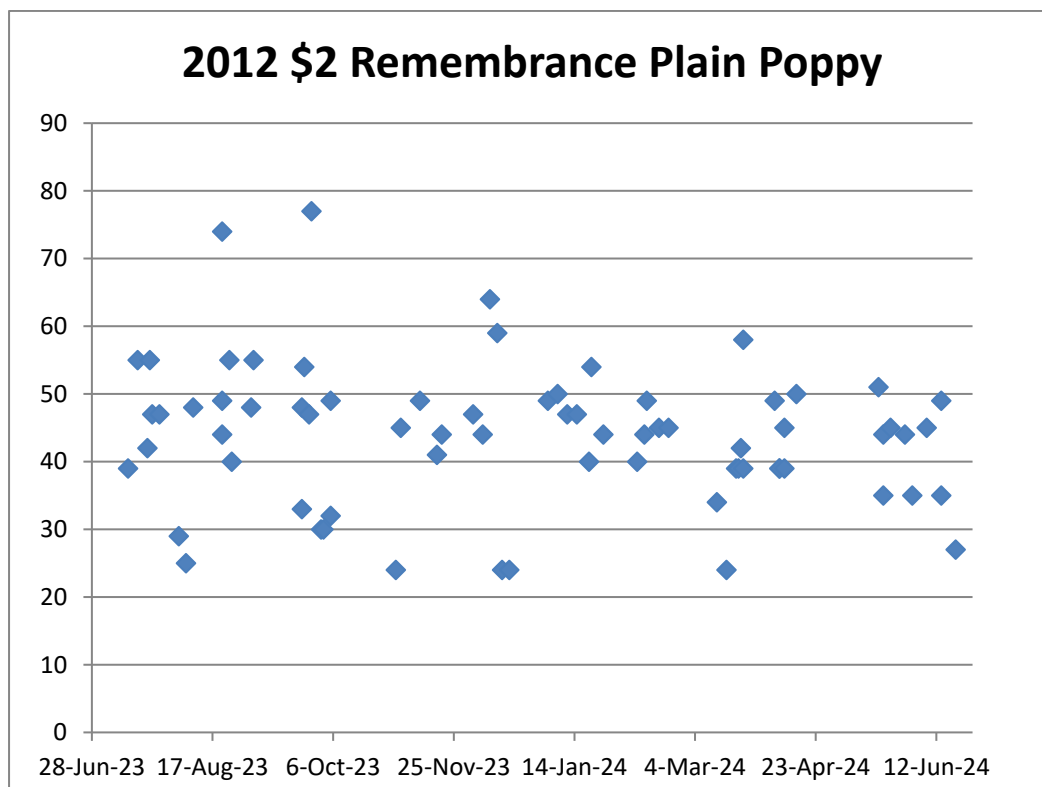


The data includes only those coins described in the listing as “uncirculated”. Examination of individual sales shows that the price realised is heavily dependent upon the quality of the image of

the coin being sold. With just 22 sales in the last two months and prices ranging from \$40 to \$140 it is difficult to see a definite trend, although the average is down to around \$70 per coin.

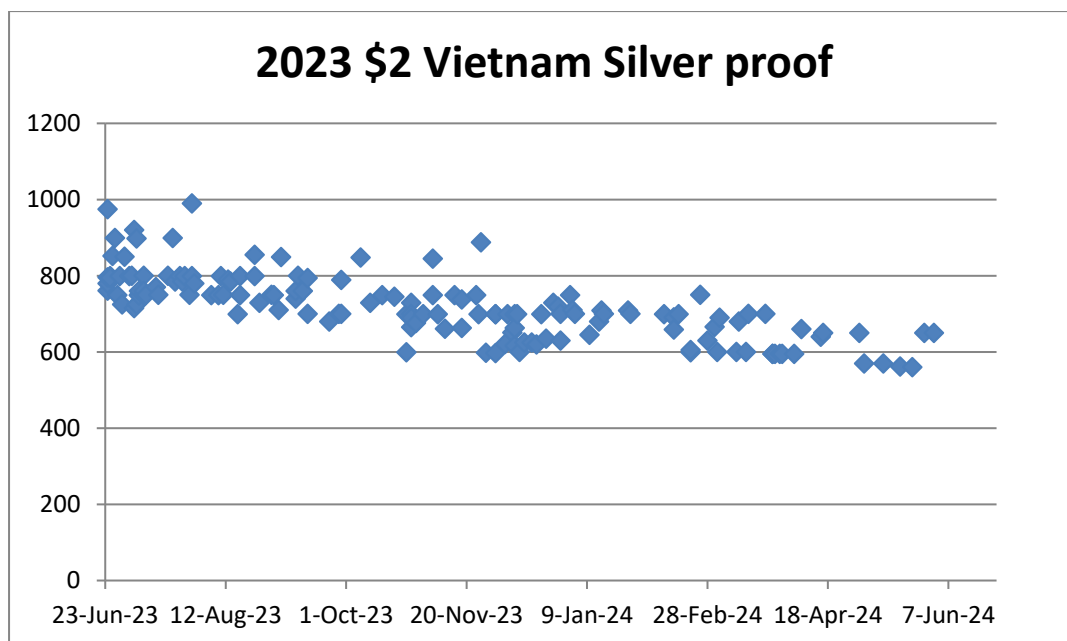


The data includes only uncirculated coins without paint chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers' descriptions of coins as "uncirculated" are more reliable than those of coins such as the 2012 \$2 Plain Poppy and 2013 \$2 Coronation. Average prices, number of listings and number of sales matched the previous two months. Recent prices average around \$260 to \$270.

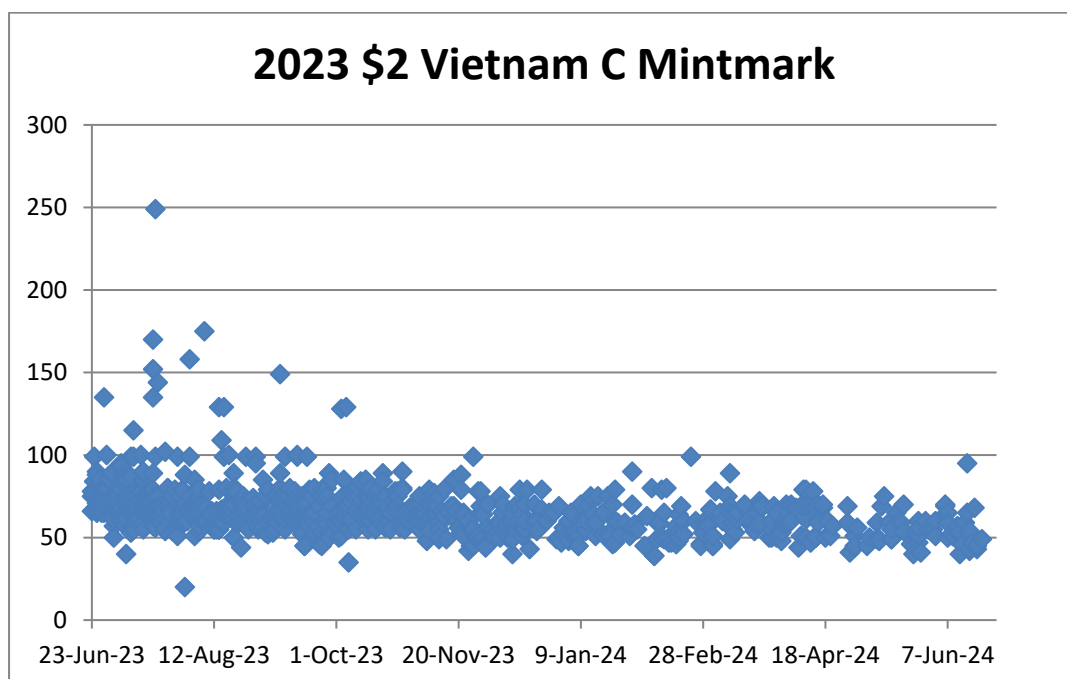




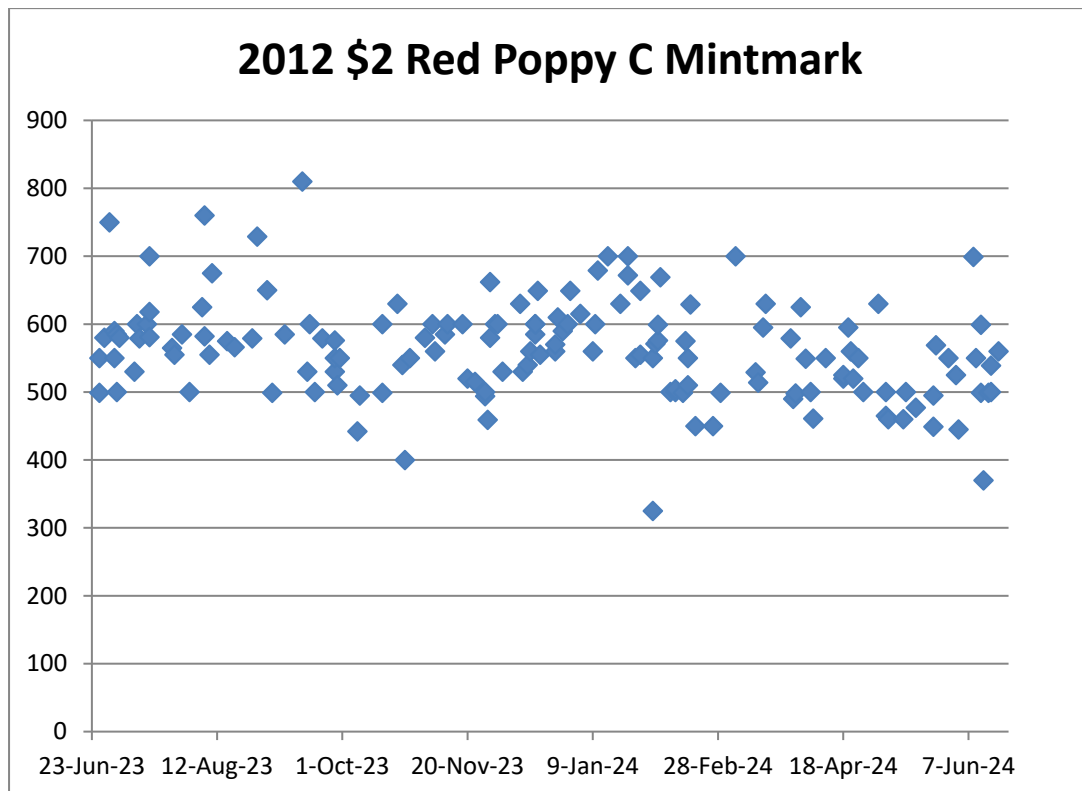
The data includes only those described as “uncirculated”, with coins that are obviously polished removed. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated and there were just 11 sales in the last two months. The average price in the last two month period appears to be similar to the previous two months. As the Plain Poppy is much scarcer in uncirculated than the Red Poppy, the current price of under \$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.



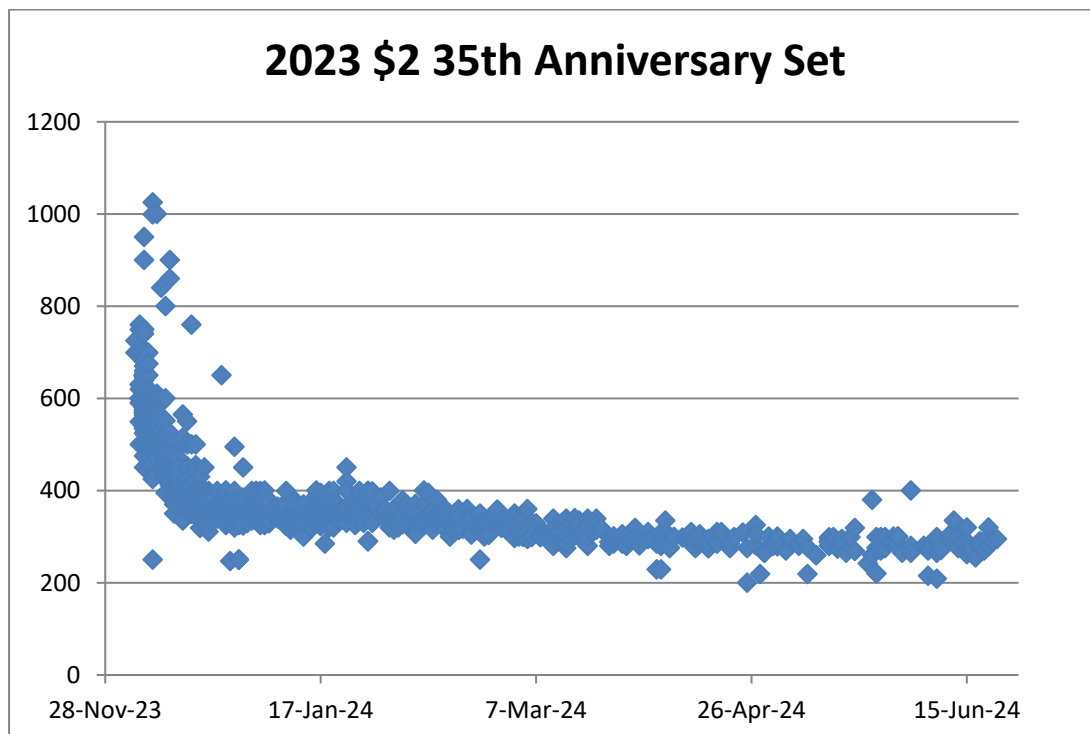
Since the peak at around \$1,500 in late April we saw a rapid decrease to around \$800 in mid June, followed by a steady decrease to around \$600 at the current time. As there were just 8 eBay sales in the last two months, interest in this issue may be waning.



This coin is still readily available, but the number of sales was down significantly in the last two months and the average price is around \$50 compared with \$80 a year ago.



Once again, prices have gone down slightly over the last two months and are now slightly lower than they were twelve months ago. This coin is probably the toughest of the C mintmark \$2.





The most recent release failed to achieve the heights of some of its predecessors. Part of the reason could be the high issue price (\$235), and the Royal Australian Mint suspending sales and using EQL for the remainder of the sets. All the same, “fear of missing out” (FOMO) ruled for a week or so. Since then the average sales price has slowly decreased to a little under \$300 on eBay, although there does appear to have been a slight upturn in the last few weeks. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues.

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. If buying for your own collection, it may be worthwhile being patient if you fail to procure the issue on release day.

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## News in Brief

### Royal Mint to Halt Foreign Coin Production

At one stage the Royal Mint was producing coins and coinage blanks for 80 countries. Since then the amount of foreign coinage produced each year has decreased.

As of the end of this year the Royal Mint will cease production of all coinage for countries other than the United Kingdom. It was reported by Numismatic News that the decline of the use of cash was one of the factors influencing their decision and that they expected to expand into other areas. *“Our expertise in coin making has enabled our growth into areas such as precious metals investment and luxury jewelry.”* The 200 or so employees affected by this decision will be offered jobs at the Royal Mint’s gold reclamation plant (which mainly reclaims gold from electronics) on the premises at Llantrisant in Wales. The Royal Mint last made Australian coins in 1981.

Source: Numismatic News;  
<https://www.numismaticnews.net/world-coins/british-mint-to-halt-foreign-coin-production#:~:text=The%20British%20Royal%20Mint%20will,It%20for%20use%20in%20Bordeaux.>

### New Coin Shop Opens in Melbourne

Matt Thompson of Thompson’s Coins & Collectables has opened a coin shop in the outer Melbourne suburb of Boronia.



The shop is located at Shop 8, the Boronia Mall, 50 Dorset Square, Boronia. Mark says that “After over a decade of learning and growing in this wonderful industry, I’m delighted to continue the journey in my very own store where I can support collectors at all levels and spread the joy of the greatest hobby in the world, collecting!”

Their website is up and running at <https://thompsoncoins.com/>

### Swan Dollar Tokens to be Released

2024 dated reproductions of the 1967 Andor Meszaros swan dollar tokens will be released in September.



These tokens are to celebrate 60 years of the Australian Coin Review. The Australian Coin Review was first published in 1964

and continued until 2002 when it was incorporated into Australasian Coin & Banknote Magazine. The name “Australian Coin Review” was resurrected when Australasian Coin & Banknote Magazine came under new ownership in 2022–2023.

There will be 10 in gold at \$5950, 1500 in silver at \$195 and 750 in proof silver at \$295 which match the original 1967 tokens. What does not match the original token is the maximum of 10,000 crown sized pieces that will be struck in aluminium bronze (or AlZnBr – it is unclear from the website) at \$49 each. Given the reasonably large production run, the weight of the tokens and the problems the RAM have had with the heavy bagmarking and discoloured planchets of aluminium bronze coins such as \$2 recently, it will be interesting to see the quality of the \$49 tokens.

The small print on the advertising material states “actual design may vary”. Given this statement and the fact that these tokens were sold as “preorder” and not available until September, it may well be that the Royal Australian Mint is yet to strike them or that the packaging is not yet ready. According to the Imperial Coins website all but the base metal token are sold out.

*The photograph of 1967 gold swan token is courtesy of International Auction galleries.*

## Uncirculated PE94 \$20 Banknote Sold



PE94 is the last prefix of the first polymer \$20 issue and is considered a scarce banknote in any grade. Recently a note graded by PCGS as 63PPQ was sold to a keen Western Australian collector by a Tasmanian dealer for an undisclosed amount. I asked polymer banknote dealer Marcus Condello of Collectable Banknotes Australia whether he'd ever seen an uncirculated PE94 \$20 and he told me that at a PCGS grade of 63 the note may have very minor handling marks but the best he had ever seen was about extremely fine.

The most recent Renniks catalogue prices the note as \$1750 in fine, \$2750 in very fine, \$3750 in extremely fine, \$4750 in about uncirculated and “NSR” in uncirculated.

*Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*

## RAM Coin Swaps are Back



*Line up for the coin swap in Rundle Mall Adelaide. Photograph courtesy of Cameron Roberts.*



The Royal Australian Mint recommenced their coin swaps at the money expos late last year. Recently they have extended these to various locations around the country. At a “coin swap” people (some of whom are collectors) can obtain (via cash) at face value sachets of fairly recent coins such as coloured \$2 coins or Charles III \$1. These have been popular with long queues of collectors and people with suitcases and backpacks.



*Aleksandra Stokic signing the sachets, and the sachets. Photographs courtesy of Peter Johnson.*

Peter Johnson reports that at a coin swap in Canberra, Aleksandra Stokic, the designer of the Honeybee and Fire Fighter \$2 coins, was kind enough to sign some of the sachets, giving a real thrill to the collectors.

The Royal Australian Mint usually releases details on Coin Swaps with short notice. One way of finding out events is through the Royal Australian Mint’s facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalAustralianMint>

Independent Coin news advises that if you are purchasing releases such as these sachets for reselling purposes that you contact a tax accountant as there will be taxation implications.

### **Royal Australian Mint Coin Shop to Reopen**

It has been reported that the Museum, Coin Shop & Exhibitions will reopen at the Royal Australian Mint on the 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### **\$1 Coin with C Counter stamp on Wrong Side**



A collector has reported a 2024 Out of this World dollar with the C counter stamp on the obverse, just in front of His Majesty’s eyes. Dollars with counter stamps in the wrong place are rare and this may be the first example of a coin with counter stamp on the wrong side.

### **Discount Offer from Australian Specialty Coins**

Australian Specialty Coins are kindly offering a 10% discount on their website to all readers of Independent Coin News.

<https://www.australianspecialtycoins.com.au/discount/ICNTENOFF>

At checkout, customers need only enter the discount code below when going through checkout.

Discount code: ICNTENOFF

The discount code is active and expires at the end of August 2024.

# *Pirate Guide to Collecting Australian Coins*

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


This book contains over 125 pages featuring details of all Australian decimal coins that have gone into circulation from 1966 to the end of 2023, with:

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

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## Thank You

Thank you to John Belcher for contributing the article on the rotated dies on pre-decimal silver. Thanks also to those who performed the peer reviews on articles: Gregg Gibbons on the Proclamation Coins, Mark Nemtsas on the Missing Mintmarks and Kathryn Harris on the Numismatic and marketing terms. Once again Downie's and International Auction Galleries have been extremely helpful in sending previews on future auctions.

Of course an extra special thanks to Bronwyn Halls for the cover.