

Independent Coin News



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Welcome to the September 2023 issue of Independent Coin News, an online magazine containing the latest Australian and international coin news.

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Front cover: 1897 Melbourne Mint proof half sovereign. Photograph courtesy of International Auction Galleries. See page 76. Back page: Silver Koi Coin. Photograph courtesy of Perth Mint. See page 32.

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

Off Centre Gold Error Coin Sells at Heritage

One of the highlights of the Heritage August Platinum Night auction was this 15% off centre United States 1904 Coronet \$20 (double eagle). This type of error occurs when a planchet is off centre and not engaged by the collar when the dies strike. Graded by PCGS as MS63 it sold for US\$132,000 on the 15th August. While similar errors in lower denominations are easily obtainable, they are rarely found in gold coinage.



1904 Coronet double eagle that sold recently at auction. Photograph courtesy of Heritage – ha.com.

Do we have similar errors on Australian gold? Yes, but they are rare too. While not commanding anything like the price of the double eagle, this 1890 Sydney Mint sovereign sold for about \$4600 at Nobles in 2012.



1890 Sydney Mint Jubilee sovereign struck approximately 10% off centre. Now graded as MS62 by PCGS. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

Errors or Varieties?

Is my coin an error or is it a variety? The usage of the words “error” and “variety” have differed over time and also from person to person. In this article we will examine the question of what makes two coins of the same date and denomination different from the point of view of where in the coin production the difference occurred.

Completely different design

Two coins of the same date and denomination can have completely different designs. This could arise because of a change of effigies for a given monarch (such as Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II). It could also be because of a change of design such as the 1939 halfpenny (which has both Commonwealth and kangaroo reverses). More recent examples include the multitude of commemorative coins in the decimal series, such as the 2007 \$1 with both mob of roos and APEC reverses.

A more complex case is the 1887 sovereign, which has both young head and jubilee obverses paired with the St George reverse, as well as a young head obverse paired with the shield reverse (fig 1).



Fig 1. 1887 Melbourne sovereigns, with three basic design pairings. The astute reader will also notice that a tassel has been added to St George’s helmet on the Jubilee issue. There are also obverse varieties of the Jubilee. Photographs courtesy of Drake Sterling.

Different hubs

Sometimes due to technical, aesthetic or other reasons, a slight change needs to be made to the rendering of the same basic design. Just a few examples of this are the English and Indian obverses on George V pennies, the kangaroo reverse penny dies prepared for Melbourne and Perth and low and high echidna 5c.

Die varieties from same hub

Even for dies based on the same hub there can be differences such as the addition of mintmarks or privy marks or differences in the appearance of the date (e.g. 1955 Perth narrow date and wide date pennies, 1922 penny date varieties and 1915 florin date varieties).

Die varieties due to a mistake in making the die

These can include mishubbing, where the second blow from the transfer punch is misaligned with the first blow, resulting in a doubling of part or all of the design on all coins struck by this die (e.g. 1962Y penny double nose queen). It can also be scoring or

other damage to the die before use. The 1966 wavy 2 20c appears to be a case of this.

Errors from damage to same die during use

These are coins struck with a die that has been damaged during use and includes errors (sometimes called varieties) such as die clashes, progressive die cracks, die chips and die fill.

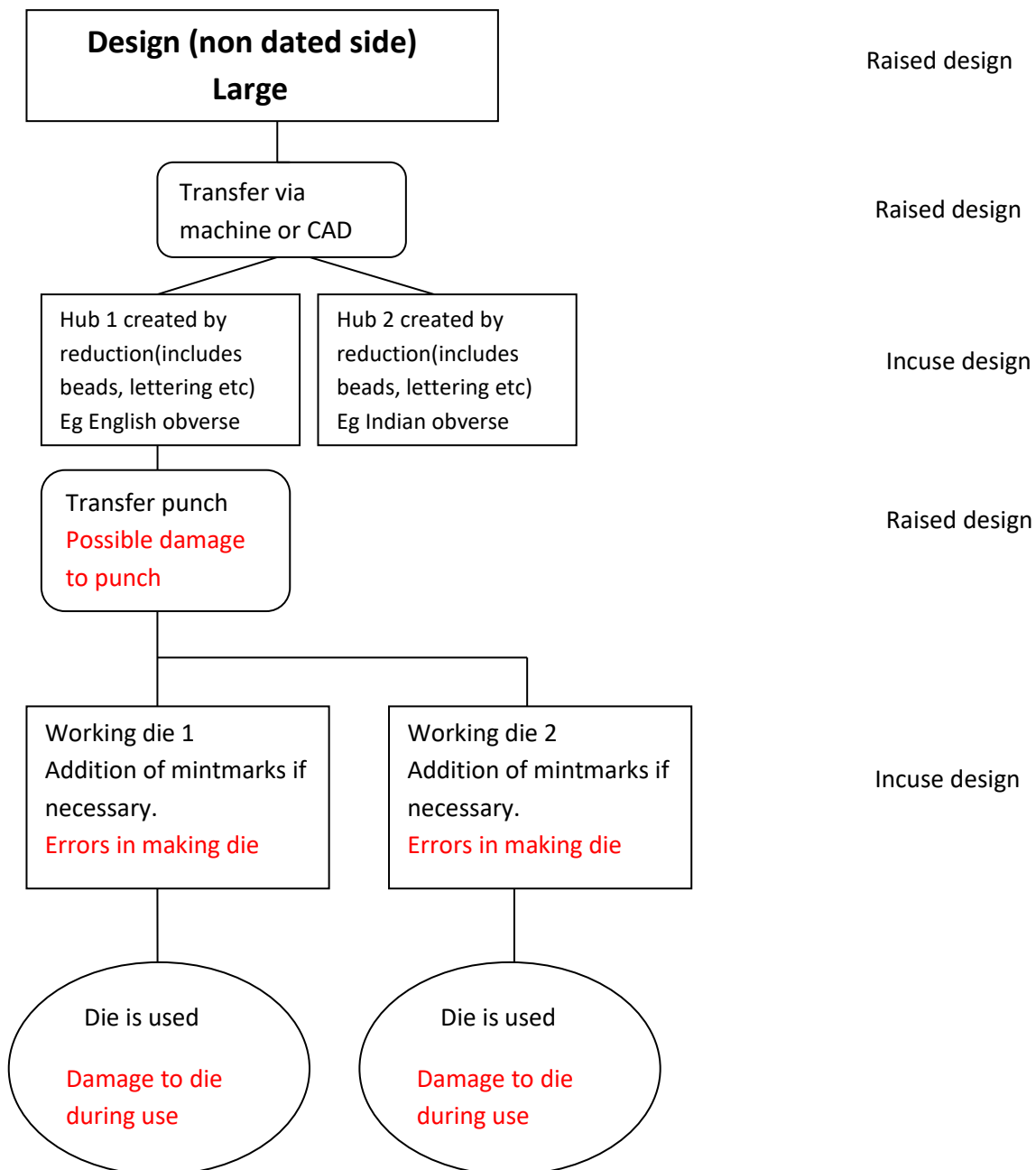
Errors occurring during strike

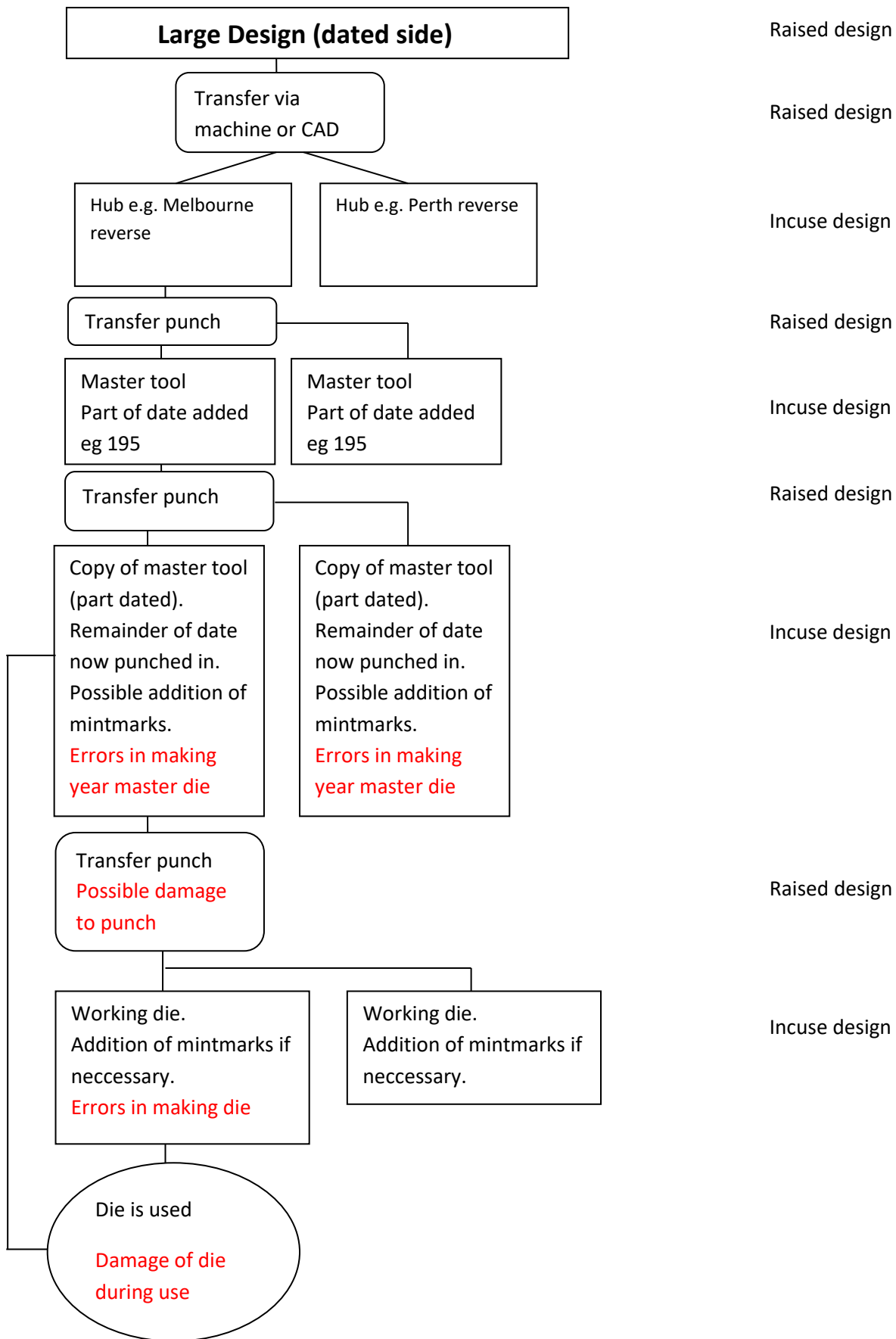
This includes those coins more clearly categorised as “errors” such as off centre

strikes, broadstrikes, wrong planchets, brockages, etc. There will be further discussion of these errors in future articles.

Steps Involved in Making A Coin

Diagrammatic representations of the steps involved in coin manufacture are shown on page 6 (non-dated side of the coin) and page 7 (dated side). It is important to realise that, unless deliberately erased, all features on the die or punch at one level of the diagram will be inherited by all lower levels.





The plaster (or original design of one side) will be much larger than a coin and generally not have the legend or date. In times past, the reduction punch (raised design) was made by a reduction machine although these days it is often created by a computer controlled engraving machine. The reduction punch is then pressed into softer steel to make the hub or master die. The steel is then hardened. (In all cases where we talk about transfer punches and dies being pressed, the pressing must be into a softer material which is subsequently hardened.) The hub (master die) is incuse and normally has the full legend, however if it is a hub (master die) of the dated side, it is unlikely to have the full date. There is a brief description of the process on the Royal Australian Mint website¹ and a more detailed description on the Washington University St Louis website².

The full procedure for making and using a die for the non-dated side of a coin is simpler than for the dated side, so we will examine that first.

a) Non Dated Side

A schematic diagram of the procedure for creating a die of the non-dated side of a coin is shown on page 6.

Hubbing (or Hobbing)

As described above, from the original design, we create a tool called the hub (or hob). As this is incuse and has all the features of a working die, it can in theory be used as such. In practice this is seldom done as dies can break after a relatively short time and the hub would then have to be replaced.

Over time, we may need to make a new hub. This can be for a variety of reasons such as wear and damage to the original hub, different tools being sent to different mints (such as the English and Indian obverses for

George V pennies (see table 1 at the end of this article for a full list of penny obverse hubs), a change of size in the effigy (such as on George V sovereigns), a change of the size of a commemorative design (2003 \$1 women's suffrage large and small reverse) or a change in the legend (the addition of D.F. to Elizabeth II predecimal obverses or removal of IND IMP from the George VI obverses).



Fig 2. George V sovereign large head (1911-1928) and small head (1929-1931) - same effigy design, but different size rendering, small changes in lettering size and rim beads. Photographs courtesy of Drake Sterling Numismatics.

The Transfer Punch

The hub is then used to create a raised relief tool called a transfer punch. If all goes to plan, this tool should be identical in appearance to one side of the final coin. Of course, any damage to this punch will be mirrored in all coins struck by the dies derived from this punch. Damage could potentially be in the form of gouges, chips or even parts of the design missing due to careless cleaning. It is believed that over enthusiastic cleaning of the original reverse 50c transfer punch caused the reeds behind the emu's head to be almost completely missing from it and all the working dies derived from it and thus all 1966 50c. For consistency, the reeds were removed (or should have been removed) from transfer punches used for later issues, although sometimes this did not occur. The consequence of this is the "normal" and "double bar" varieties (see fig 3).



Fig 3. 1979 "double bar" and "normal" 50c varieties. The double bar was originally part of the design but was accidentally removed due to over enthusiastic cleaning of a transfer punch. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

This could be referred to as a transfer punch variety, although given its genesis it is unclear as to whether the "normal" or "double bar" is the variety. The die alterations for the privy marks on the early decimal coins were also made by grinding off part of the design from a transfer punch. (In general, if we need to remove some detail, then part of a transfer punch is ground off. If we need to add a feature such as a mintmark, we punch it into an incuse design such as a die or hub).



Fig 4. Privy marks on 1966 2c (Canberra, Melbourne and Perth). These were a result of part of the design being deliberately removed from a transfer punch. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Creating a Working Die

Creating a working die requires one or more presses from the transfer punch, depending upon the size of the coin and the design. If all goes to plan this gives us a perfect die. That is not always the case.

Mistakes Due To Hubbing

One mistake, although extremely uncommon, is the metal of the die flowing outwards when the transfer punch is being applied. This can be due to excessive pressure or lack of a retainer. While there may be other Australian examples, the only Australian example I know of occurs on some 1954Y halfpennies (fig 5).



Fig 5. Mishubbing, spreading of the die during die manufacture on a 1954Y halfpenny. It is unclear whether this occurred on the first or second press of the transfer punch.

A more common, although still rare, example is hub doubling. If more than one strike is required, the second and/or subsequent strikes can be misaligned, giving a doubling of part of the design on the die and all coins struck by this die. *This is known as hub doubling* and the varieties are often called Doubled Die Obverse (DDO) or Doubled Die reverse (DDR) depending upon the side of the coin on which they occur. These are particularly prized by American variety collectors but less so by Australians (fig 6).



Fig 6. Doubling on the obverse of 1926 and 1955 halfpennies, particularly noticeable in the legend. This appears on all coins struck by these particular dies.

Other examples of hub doubling are the classic 1962Y double nose queen penny (although this may be an example of *hub tripling*³), 1922, 1943, 1953A (two different examples) and 1954Y halfpennies. These are more commonly seen on the obverse of Australian coins than on the reverse although the reason for this is not clear. We will talk more about hub doubling in another article.

Mintmarks and Privy Marks

If a mintmark or privy mark is required and it is not already on the master die, it will be hand punched onto each working die. Because of this, the mintmark is not always in exactly the same position and can differ in font depending upon the individual punch. The top two pictures in fig 7 show 1942 Bombay Mint pennies with the mintmarks in different positions, the bottom picture is of a coin struck by a die without the 'I' mintmark. Bombay did not have 'I' punches when the production of Australian pennies commenced thus the coins struck by the first few die pairs do not have mintmarks⁴.

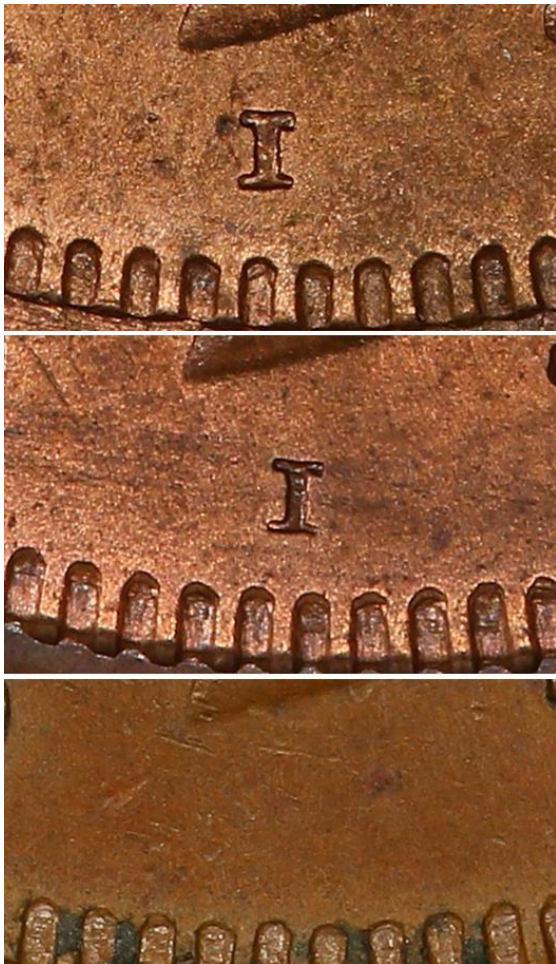


Fig 7. Different mintmark positions due to the 'I' being punched onto individual working dies on 1942 Bombay pennies and also the

mintmark missing. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

While differing positions of mintmarks are considered very minor varieties, coins without mintmarks due to the mintmark not being placed on the die are considered to be major varieties.

Damage to Die Before Die Usage

Once the die is created, it is still susceptible to damage even before being placed in a coin press. This damage may take the form of scratches or gouges, indents or other damage. Two examples of gouges are the 1939 penny with a dash after last A of AUSTRALIA (fig 8) and 1922 threepence with a bar through the shield (fig 9).



Fig 8. 1939 penny with dash after A of AUSTRALIA. This is most likely due to damage to the die before it was put in the press.



Fig 9. Bar through shield of a 1922 threepence. This is the result of a gouge in the die that most likely occurred during die manufacture, or at least before coins were produced with this die.

Another example of a die that was damaged before use is the 1966 wavy 2 twenty cent (fig 10). Tony Byrne, who was chief numismatist at the Royal Australian Mint at that time, told me their conclusion was that the wavy 2 die had been damaged by another die being placed on its side on top of the “wavy 2 die” before it as properly annealed.



Fig 10. Wavy 2 twenty cent, caused by damage to the die before it was used to strike coins. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The coins in figs 8, 9 and 10 could be described as “minor varieties caused by damage during die manufacture”. As such, we’d expect them to be collected by only specialist collectors and their sale value to be quite low. However, this is not true in all cases, as the 1966 wavy 2 twenty cent is highly prized by collectors and sells for hundreds of dollars even in low grade.

Die cracks can also occur when die is being created or later during die usage. It is difficult to differentiate between the two processes.

b) Dated Side

The difference between the manufacture of dated and non-dated dies is the need for a new dated master die to be made each year. This adds a number of additional steps that can be seen on the “dated” diagram of page 5.

Similarly to the non-dated side of the coin, different hubs have been used at different times. For example, there were nine different hubs used for the Australian penny series (see table 2). These reverse hubs (such as reverse H [Melbourne] and I [Perth] that are shown in fig 11) are relatively easy to identify.

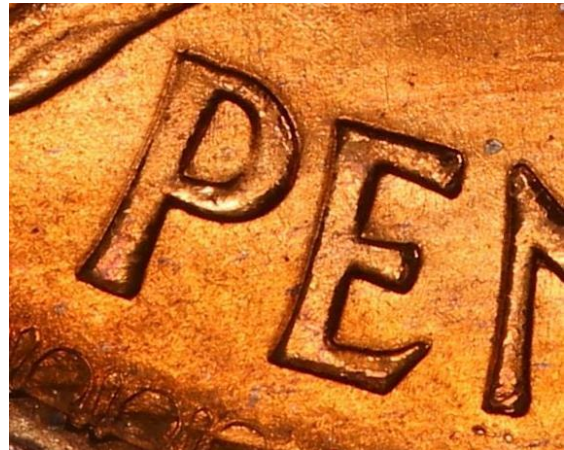


Fig 11. Coins struck from dies created from different penny hubs. Top: Melbourne reverse (reverse H): P pointing at thick denticle. Bottom: Perth reverse (reverse I): P pointing at thin denticle. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

A master tool may carry the full or just part of the date. The master tool for nineteen fifties Perth Mint copper was missing only the last digit (i.e. 195), whereas it is probable that the penny tools provided to the Melbourne Mint from London may have only had the first digit of the date.

The procedure for creating a dated master die is as follows. First, a transfer punch is used to create a copy of the master tool. If the new desired date requires removal of any digits, such as making a 1925 dated master die from a 1923 dated tool, the unwanted digits are ground off the transfer punch. This altered transfer punch is used to create a new (incuse) tool: in this case dated 192. A possible problem here is that too much, or too little of the previous date and surrounding design can be erased.

This mistake may have been made when the Melbourne Mint created the 1925 shilling master die from a pre-existing (and also unused) 1923 dated master die (although Jon Saxton has written about a different and also plausible mechanism which involves overhubbing of a partially made 1923 master die with a 1925 dated punch⁵). The 3 was not completely erased and the embellishment to the right of date partly removed as can be seen in fig 12. This occurs on all 1925 dated shillings, which is why they are usually catalogued as 1925/3 overdates.



Fig 12. 1925 dated shilling. Note part of underlying 3 is visible due to it not being completely erased from the 1923 dated transfer punch. Also the left part of the right hand embellishment is missing due to it being

accidentally erased at the same time.
Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Dated Master Die

We now have a master die that lacks part of the date. The remainder of the date is punched into the die to create a completed master die for that year. If everything goes to plan, this dated master die will be used to make a transfer punch. On occasion a new master die for the year is later required and the same process is followed. This can give us coins of the same date but with dates that look slightly different, as in the 1934 sixpences (narrow date and wide date) in fig 13. If derived from the same hub, coins with different looking dates are known as *date varieties*. If derived from different hubs they are known as *hub varieties* as the different hubs have precedence as they are earlier in the process (higher in the diagram on page 5).



Fig 13. 1934 sixpence date varieties. Narrow date (top), wide date (bottom). These arise from dies derived from different 1934 dated master dies. Notice how both the 3 and 4 are in different positions, suggesting that the partially dated master die was dated 19. This is not surprising as no sixpences had been produced since 1928 and the Melbourne Mint would have derived both dated masters from a 192 dated master die. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

If required, mint marks or privy marks (such as dots etc) may be added at this stage. If so, then the mint and privy marks will appear in the same position on all dies derived from this master. This has been normal since the early 1950s. As previously discussed, during the 1940s and earlier, mintmarks or privy marks were typically punched onto each working die.

Any accidental damage to the dated master die will also be found on all dies (and thus coins) derived from this die. One of the classic examples is the die chip on the 1959 business strike florins that results in the “emu’s egg” variety (fig 14, bottom photograph). As a rule of thumb, we can assume that if something unusual occurs on all issues of just that date, then the damage has occurred on the year’s master die or the transfer punch used to create it. If the unusual feature is that some part of the design is missing, a good assumption is that the damage occurs on the punch. On the other hand, if the unusual feature is “raised”, then the damage has occurred to the master die. It is interesting that for the 1959 florins a separate master die must have been made for the 1959 proof strikes as the proofs do not have the emu’s egg (fig 14).



Fig 14. Proof (top) 1959 florin (no emu’s egg). Business strike 1959 florin (emu’s egg). The emu’s egg occurs due to a die chip on the master die for the year. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

We could categorise these coins as a *damaged master die variety*. There can be some interest if more than one master die was involved in production of coins that year, but little if just one master die (such as for the 1959 florins) was used.

Transfer punch

The transfer punch is created from the dated master die and used to make the working dies. Possible damage to the transfer punch includes some of the fine detail chipping off. One example is the missing downstroke of the K in the designer’s initials (K G) on all 1946 shillings from both mints. This was the only time the Perth Mint struck Australian predecimal silver coins. Six dies were sourced from Melbourne and to create mintmarks, a hole was drilled before the S of SHILLING on each of those dies. As all dies were made by the same transfer punch, all have the damaged K (fig 15).



Fig 15. Damage to K of KG (designer’s initials) on 1946 Melbourne (top) and Perth (bottom) shillings due to damage to transfer punch used in manufacturing all dies used at both mints. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Making the Dated Working Die

We previously talked about creating the working die from one or more blows (or presses) from the transfer punch. We mentioned that the vast majority of misaligned hobbing occurs on the non dated side of Australian coins. There are cases where it occurs on the reverse, such as on the 1956 Perth penny in fig 16. The second and subsequent blows from the transfer punch were misaligned with the first blow. Often we see just part of the underlying legend. The reason is as follows. The amount of detail transferred to the working die from the first blow of the punch is critically dependent upon the exact shape of the working die. The face of the die is initially cone shaped (Holland⁶) and the first blow flattens the cone out a lot but does not impart outer detail to the die. After annealing and the second blow, almost all detail will be on the die. After more annealing, turning down the edges and a third blow, the die should show full detail.



Fig 16. Doubled Die reverse (DDR) on a 1956 Perth penny. Notice only the base of the underlying TRALIA is showing.

Most likely just two blows from the transfer punch would be needed for smaller coins such as a 2c. Fig 17 shows strong doubling, mainly in the legend, on a 1977 2c. Notice that the underlying legend and date is fully formed. Hub doubling is rare on Australian decimal coins.



Fig 17 The legends of a hub doubled 1977 2c.

Now, all this discussion has assumed that we have used the same transfer punch for each blow. This is normally the case, but one particular class of overdated coins is an important counterexample. (There are also other ways of making overdates, which is a topic for future discussion).

The date and a close up of the last two digits of a 1933/2 overdate penny are shown in fig 18. The first two blows were from a 1932 dated transfer punch which imprinted the top part of the date on the die, the final blow from a 1933 dated punch⁶. Six dies were produced from unfinished 1932 dated dies so not all 1933/2 overdate pennies look the same. On our example, the top part of the 2 can be clearly seen and careful examination shows the top of another 3 underlying the first 3 in the date. Despite having different origins, all overdates are considered to be a *separate date* rather than any type of variety or error.





Fig 18. Date and closeup of the '33' on a 1933/2 overdate penny.

Mintmarks and Die Identification Markers

As we mentioned when discussing the non-dated side of the coin, before the early 1950s, mintmarks or other identification marks were placed on the individual working dies. If a dot was required on a penny, then a hole was punched or pressed into the working die. Evidence of this can be seen on 1919 penny in fig 19. The reverse shows significant doubling due to mishubbing, but as the hole was punched afterwards, it does not show doubling. (Incidentally this particular coin also shows doubling on the obverse, which is exceptionally rare. Technically it is called 1919 dot below DDOR [Doubled Die Obverse Reverse]). Normally the exact position of the mintmark (such as an S or D or H or Dot After Penny) or die marker (such as dot below scroll or dot above scroll) are considered very minor varieties.

Damage to dated die before being put in the press

As discussed previously about the non-dated side of the coin, damage can occur to the individual die before any coins are struck from it, although it is sometimes difficult to tell whether it occurred at this time or after being used in the coin press. Coins produced from dies damaged at this stage are viewed as minor errors and described as "die damaged

before use". However, they can also be a useful aid in determining the authenticity of scarce or rare coins such as the 1920 double dot penny (fig 20).



Fig 19. 1919 dot below bottom scroll penny. The doubling in the scroll and PENNY is due to misaligned blows of the transfer punch. The dot is formed by punching a hole onto the already manufactured die, thus the dot is not doubled. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



Fig 20. Closeup of W in COMMONWEALTH on 1920 double dot penny. The two lines above the W were caused by damage to the working die before any coins were struck. All 1920 double dot pennies have these lines. As the bottom dot is subject to die fill, this characteristic is useful in determining whether a coin is a double dot or a dot above top scroll. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Damage To Die During Usage

This includes such as die cracks, die crack progression, die chips, die clashes and cuds. We describe these as types of “damaged die varieties” as there may be many coins struck with the die in the one state. While most of these are minor, they are not considered

particularly valuable unless really spectacular. All the same, there are a number of dedicated collectors who specialise in these coins. The huge rim cud on the threepence in fig 21 is certainly in the spectacular category.



Fig 21. 1961 threepence with enormous obverse rim cud.

Something Going Wrong As the Coin is Struck

Off centre strikes, off centre dies, wrong planchets, damaged planchets, brockages and missing collars are just a few of the problems that can occur as the coin is struck. These are all clearly identified as errors and are topics for future articles

Conclusions

A simple description of a coin as an error or variety does not accurately describe its importance. The level on the diagrams on pages 4 and 5 at which a coin differs from the “norm” to a large extent dictates the importance of the variety. For example the PCGS set registry penny set contains all the die pairing varieties, mintmarks, 1919 and 1920 dot varieties and one hub doubling example (the 1962Y double nose penny) and

the 5c set contains all the 5c die pairing varieties. While we may imagine the price of the varieties that differ at a higher level to be greater than that at a lower level, this is not always the case (example 1966 wavy 2 20c).

Further Reading

W.J.Mullett "Australian Coinage - An Account of Particular Coins" First edition 1991. ISBN 0 646 03399 9 contains a full account of the dies and tools used in the early years. It is worth reading if you are doing a detailed study of this period.

While the focus is United States coins and he mostly deals with error coins, Alan Herbert "Official Price Guide to Mint Errors" House of Collectibles 6th edition, 2002 is also recommended reading for his description of the minting process.

Obverse	Name	Years Used
1	English	1911-1915, 1919-1936
2	Indian	1916-1918, 1920-1922, 1924, 1927, 1929-1931
3	Melbourne	1938-1948
4	Bombay	1942-1943
5	Melbourne (no IND IMP)	1949-1952
6	Melbourne	1953
7	Perth	1953
8	Melbourne	1955-1956, 1958-1959, 1964
9	Perth	1955-1964

Table 1. Obverse hubs for Australian pennies. Numbering is from Jon Saxton's amendments⁷ to Paul Holland's original work⁸.

Reverse	Name	Years Used
A	London	1911, 1923-1931
B	Birmingham	1912-1915, 1919, 1921-1922, 1931-1936
C	Calcutta	1916-1918, 1920
D	Melbourne (higher relief)	1938-1952, 1964
E	Bombay (long denticles)	1942-1943
F	Bombay (short denticles)	1943
G	London	1951-1955, 1957
H	Melbourne (lower relief)	1953-1956, 1958-1959
I	Perth	1956-1964

Table 2. Obverse hubs for Australian pennies. Numbering is from Jon Saxton's amendments⁷ to Paul Holland's⁸ original work.

References

1. Royal Australian Mint <https://www.ramint.gov.au/bite-sized/the-minting-process>
2. Washington University St Louis <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/dictionarydetail/516070>
3. Jon Saxton 1962 pennies. Jon Saxton's website is no longer directly accessible but this can be found on the Wayback machine archive at <http://web.archive.org/web/20131110013200/http://www.triton.vg/P60-63.html>
4. Jon Saxton 1942 pennies. Jon Saxton's website is no longer directly accessible but this can be found on the Wayback machine archive at <http://web.archive.org/web/20141217104609/http://www.triton.vg/P42.html>.
5. Jon Saxton, "The 1925 Shilling", *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, Volume 14, 2003, pg 32.
6. Paul Holland, "The 1933/2 Overdate Penny", *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, Volume 13, 2002, pg 19.
7. Jon Saxton 1942 pennies. Jon Saxton's website is no longer directly accessible but this can be found on the Wayback machine archive at <http://web.archive.org/web/20150109130739/http://www.triton.vg/pennyObv.html> and <http://web.archive.org/web/20141012015237/http://www.triton.vg/pennyRev.html>.
8. Paul Holland "Variation of Die Types of Australian Pennies 1937-1964", *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, Volume 8, 1995, pg 1.
9. W.J.Mullett "Australian Coinage - An Account of Particular Coins" First edition 1991. ISBN 0 646 03399 9

The 1952 Pennies – A Quick Study

One of the old time collector favourites was the 1952 penny date varieties, a set that came to 5 coins if you included both Perth and Melbourne Mint pennies. However, just describing these coins as “date varieties” is taking a simplistic view of their origin and numismatic relevance.

The 1952 dated pennies were minted at both the mints in operation in Australia at the time, the Royal Mint branches in Melbourne and Perth. Production continued well into 1953 as the obverse dies for the new monarch were not yet ready. The Perth Mint was beginning to manufacture dated master dies for each year and this inexperience may have led to two of the “date varieties”.

Melbourne Mint coins. The Melbourne 1952 dated master die was prepared by punching a 2 onto a 195 dated copy of their overall reverse tool. The date is identical on all 1952 Melbourne pennies and quite distinctive (see fig 1).

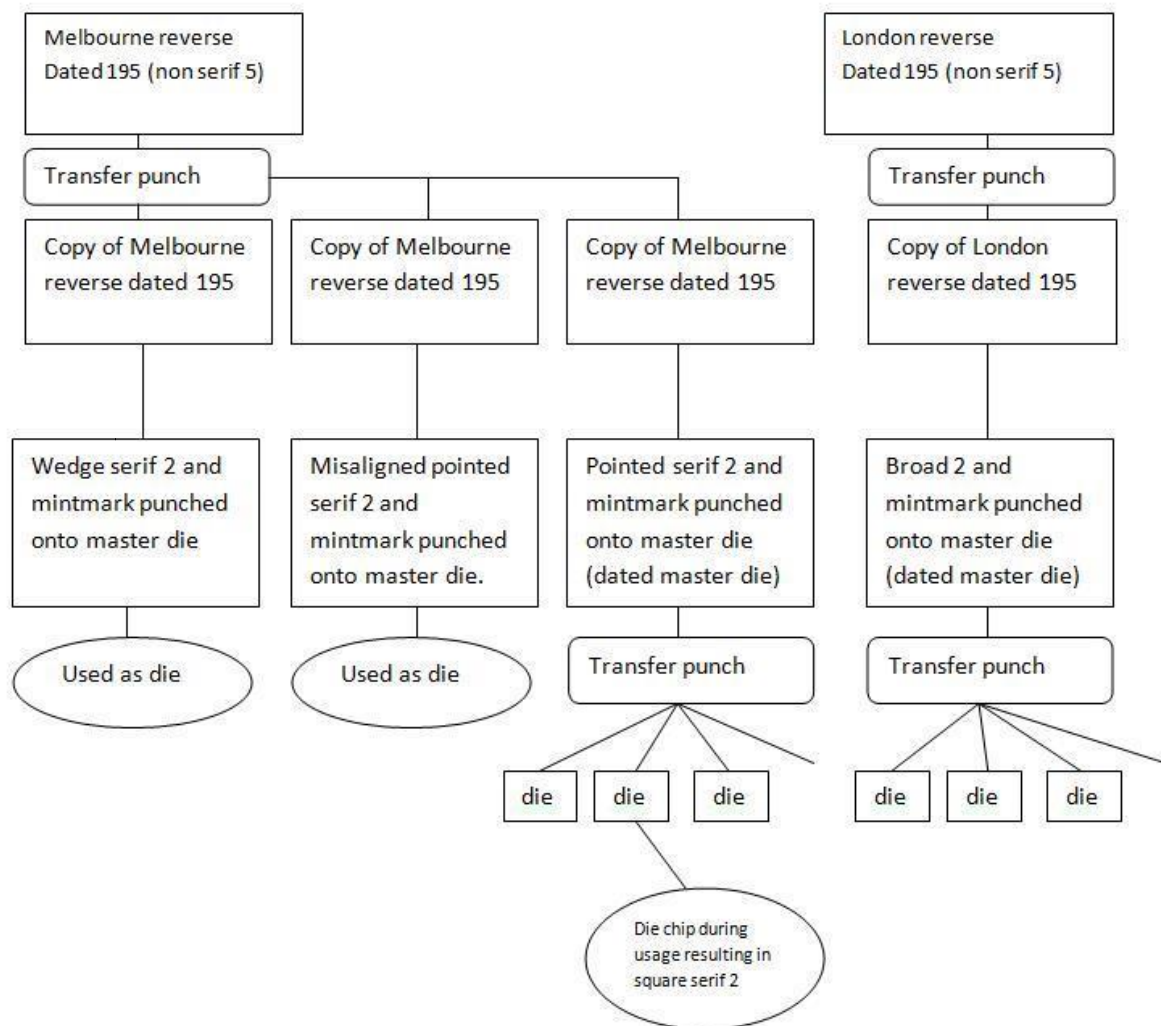


Diagram 1. Schematic of procedure used to make 1952 dated dies at the Perth Mint and origin of “date varieties”.



Fig 1. Date on a 1952 Melbourne penny. Note the serif on the 5 and the distinctive 2. There is no mintmark on the Melbourne Mint pennies.

Some 1952 Melbourne Mint pennies show a large blob connecting to the 9. This is due to a die chip on a normal working die and is considered to be a minor variety due to a damaged die.

Other coins show distinctive doubling of the date and some of the surrounding area. In all cases this is due to strike doubling so is considered to be an error, not a variety.

Perth Mint Coins

For a full description of the processes that were undergone at the Royal Mint and the Perth Mint I suggest you read Dr Paul Holland's excellent article in the Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia¹. What is written here is just a summary of that work.

A schematic (a condensed version of the diagrams we used in the last article) of what occurred at the Perth Mint is shown in diagram 1. The Perth Mint received two batches of tools from London. The first were based upon the "Melbourne" reverse, which had been used in Melbourne since 1938 (left hand part of the diagram), the second were based upon the "London" reverse, which had been first used for business strikes on the 1951PL pennies (right hand part of the diagram). These two reverse hubs can be readily identified by their denticle alignment (fig 2). The P of PENNY points at a wide denticle on the Melbourne reverse whereas it points at a thin denticle on the London reverse.



Fig 2. The dies used at the Perth Mint were based on two reverse hubs. Top: Melbourne reverse. Bottom: Perth reverse.

The exact order of the die production at the Perth Mint is unknown but is almost certainly as follows.

A transfer punch was made from the 195 dated Melbourne reverse master tool.

Wedge serif 2

This punch was used to create an incuse 195 dated tool. A mintmark and a 2 to complete the date were now punched onto this tool. This date was what we call the "wedge serif 2". In normal circumstances, this would now be used as a dated master die to manufacture a transfer punch and then dies would be made to strike coins. However this master die was deemed unsuitable, and it was used as a die to strike coins. This die was long lived as it produced roughly 1% of the total mintage of Perth Mint pennies dated 1952. The date and

mintmark of a wedge serif penny is shown in fig 3.



Fig 3. Wedge serif 2 date and mintmark. These coins were struck by a single long lived die.

Misaligned pointed 2

Why the wedge serif 2 was deemed unsuitable is unknown. Perhaps they just didn't like the shape of the 2. In any case, using the same method as for the wedge serif die, another attempt was made to make a dated master die. As can be seen in fig 4, the 2 was unfortunately misaligned.



Fig 4. Misaligned pointed serif 2, date and mintmark. Once again the result of a single die.

This also was deemed unsuitable and just used as a working die. This coin is reasonably scarce, but not all that hard to obtain as the "1952 date varieties" pennies were put aside in years gone by. This "date variety" is also known in some of the old catalogues as "pointed 2 tilted right".

Pointed serif 2

On the next attempt the Perth Mint succeeded in making a dated master die they deemed suitable for die manufacture. Dr Holland reports that as many as 22 pointed serif dies were manufactured¹. These account for 3 to 4% of the total mintage. A pointed serif penny can be seen in fig 5.



Fig 5. Pointed serif 2 date and mintmark position. These coins were created by up to 22 dies.

Square Serif 2

The square serif 2 is the result of a die chip on a pointed serif die. The chip is progressive with some coins exhibiting a part of the

square in lower relief, later die states with a full square such as in fig 6. Notice that the mint mark is in same position and the same shape as the pointed serif (fig 5) and there is significant die rusting that hints at the coin being struck by an aging die.



Fig 6. Square serif 2 date and mintmark. Note that the mintmark shape and position is the same as the pointed serif (fig 5).

Broad 2

During 1953 a new tool, a 1951 dated punch, were sent to Perth from London. This was based upon the hub that had been used for the 1951 PL pennies. Now, while Perth could have ground off the 1 and used this directly, doing so would risk damaging a difficult to replace tool. Instead they used the punch to create a 1951 dated die and then used that die to make a new 1951 punch from which they removed the final 1. After that everything processed to plan as just one



Fig 7. Broad 2 date and mintmark. Extremely common with many dies. The dies originated from the London reverse hub.

dated master die was used for the remainder (more than 90%) of the 1952 dated coins.

The “broad 2” can occasionally be found with minor reverse hub doubling. Paul Holland reports that there at least two types (i.e. working dies involved)¹. The 1952 Perth penny with the doubled die obverse is far more impressive, and easy to identify (fig 8). It is very hard to find as this occurs on just one die pair out of the close to the 300 die pairs used for the 1952 Perth pennies.



Fig 8. Obverse hub doubling on 1952A penny.

Conclusion

From this we can derive a hierarchy of the 1952 pennies as shown in diagram 2 below.

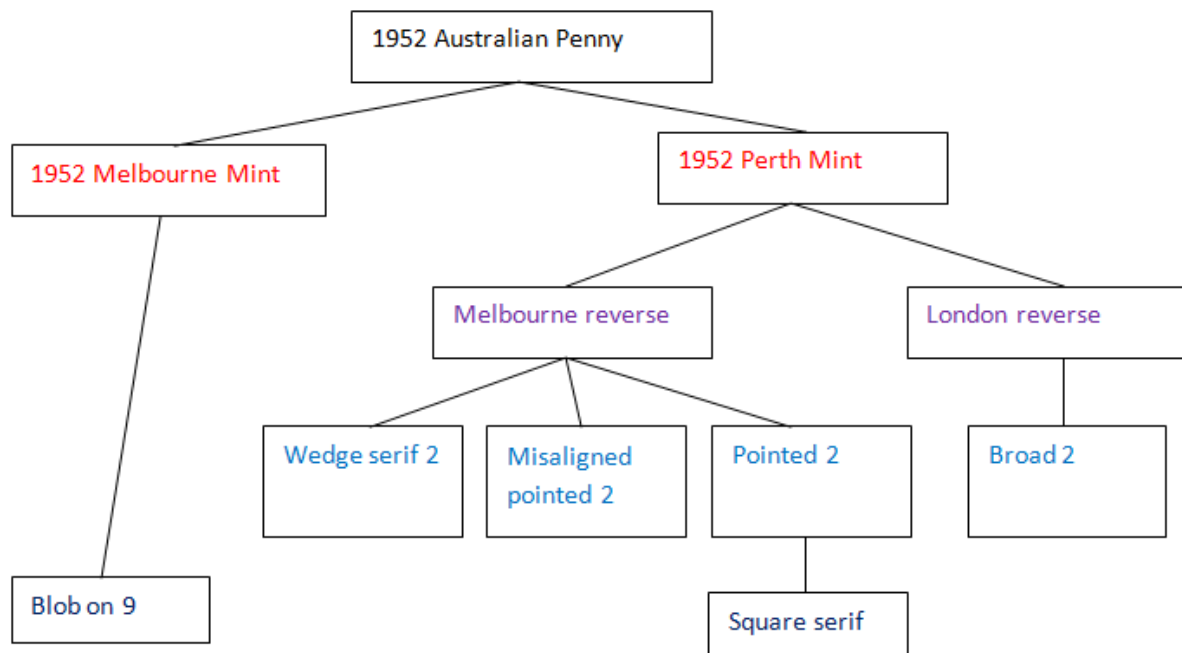


Diagram 2. Hierarchy of 1952 pennies.

The top level (black) is coin and date

2nd level (red) mint

3rd level (purple) obverse/reverse hubs aka die pairing

4th level (aqua) date variety punched onto master or working die

5th level (dark blue) variety due to die damaged during die run

This nicely matches the PCGS population report hierarchy of fig 9 (condensed to show just the entries with colour designation brown (BN)).

143318	1952 (m) 1D, RD	MSRD +
804396	1952 A. (p) 1D London Reverse DDO, BN	MSBN +
143628	1952 A. (p) 1D London Reverse, BN	MSBN +
☐ 598381	1952 A. (p) 1D Melbourne reverse, BN	MSBN +
Base	1952 A. (p) 1D Melbourne reverse, BN	MSBN +
598384	1952 A. (p) 1D Melbourne reverse Pointed serif 2, BN	MSBN +
598387	1952 A. (p) 1D Melbourne reverse Wedge serif 2, BN	MSBN +
598390	1952 A. (p) 1D Melbourne reverse Misaligned pointed 2, BN	MSBN +

Fig 9. PCGS population report (condensed) for 1952 pennies.

In the population report, the Perth issues are grouped by Melbourne and London reverse and the pointed serif, wedge 2 serif and misaligned pointed serif are all subcategories of the Melbourne reverse. The square serif is missing as it is due to a die chip, as is the Melbourne Mint “blob on 9”. The London reverse with DDO is mentioned in the population report although technically it should be a subcategory of the London reverse.

The PCGS set registry includes coins no lower than the level of the die pairings (those in purple in diagram 2). This is true in general for the entire PCGS penny set. In fig 10, we can see that the PCGS set for the “Australian pennies complete with varieties” includes the Melbourne Mint and London and Melbourne reverse 1952 pennies.

1951-PL (l) <input type="checkbox"/>
1952 (m) <input type="checkbox"/>
1952 A. (p) London Reverse <input type="checkbox"/>
1952 A. (p) Melbourne Reverse <input type="checkbox"/>
1953 (m) <input type="checkbox"/>
1953 (m) w/o Serif 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
1953 A. (p) <input type="checkbox"/>

Fig 10. Part of the PCGS set registry for the Australian penny set.

All photographs in this article and the two tables courtesy of PCGS.

References

1. Paul Holland “Date Numeral Varieties of 1952 Perth Mint Pennies”, Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia, Vol 11, 2000 pg 25. If you cannot obtain a hard copy, it can be downloaded or viewed online on the association’s website at <https://numismatics.org.au/>.

The Queen Elizabeth II Penny Date Varieties

While the 1952 date varieties are arguably the most interesting in the Australian penny set, there are several in the Queen Elizabeth II era that are also worth a close look.

1953 Melbourne Mint

The importance is not in the date being different, it is how it arose. The “long 5 different 3” variety, named as such to differentiate it from both the normal 1953 Melbourne and the 1953 Perth pennies, is based on reverse H whereas the more common variety is based on reverse D, which was the reverse of choice for the Melbourne Mint from 1955-1959 and the Perth Mint from 1956-1964. (The long 5 different 3 is unfortunately also now called the “missing serif 5”. This is a dangerous practice as it has caused people (even those at PCGS) to concentrate on just that numeral and ignore the rest of the date, and more importantly the mintmark – the 1953 Perth penny also has a non serif 5 and



Figure 1. 1953 pennies, reverse D (left) and reverse H (long 5 different 3) right.

has sometimes been misidentified as a 1953 Melbourne “non serif 5”). Reverse H has a flatter profile than the earlier reverse G, and while it has the same number of denticles, they are aligned differently. The uprights of the U in AUSTRALIA align with thick denticles on reverse D and are close to thin denticles on reverse H (fig 2). The long 5 different 3 is incidentally a very tough coin to find, possibly the result of a single die pair, and is certainly scarce in high grade.



Fig 2. Denticle alignment on “normal” (reverse D) and “long 5 different 3” (reverse H) 1953 pennies.

1957 Perth Mint

The 1957 Perth date varieties bear some similarity to the 1952 Perth. There are three distinct dates based upon two different reverse hubs. The thick 7 (the most common) and the thin 7 (the least

common) are both based on reverse H, the second Melbourne reverse which first appeared on the 1953 long 5 different 3. The dates are shown in fig 3. It is readily apparent that the first three digits of the date are identical in appearance and in the same positions for the thick 7 and thin 7 varieties. The 7 and the mintmark differ (see fig 4). The digits in the wide date (bottom of fig 3) are in different positions, which is unsurprising as the dated master die is derived from a completely different reverse hub.



Fig 3. "Date varieties" of 1957 penny. Top to bottom: Thick 7, thin 7 and wide date.



Fig 4. Mintmark position of thick 7 (top) and thin 7 varieties. The difference in the mintmark position is often easier to spot than the difference in the thickness of the 7.

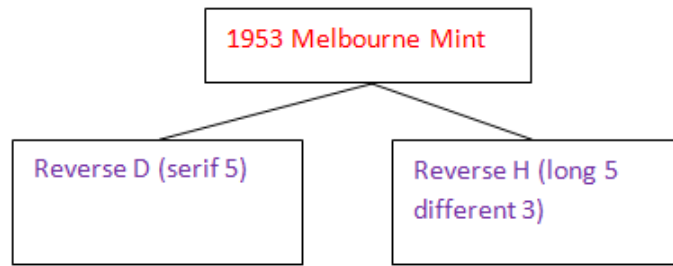
1955 Perth Mint

There were two obverses used, the Melbourne obverse and the Perth obverse (the latter is quite scarce). All the reverse dies are based on the London hub, however at some stage the first dated master die (believed to be the narrow date) was no longer deemed suitable and a second dated master die was produced. This has resulted in two date varieties based on the same hub, the narrow date and wide date (fig 5). The Melbourne obverse dies are found paired with both narrow and wide date reverse. The Perth obverse dies are associated only with the wide date reverse, at least for the business strikes. The proofs however have the Perth obverse paired with the narrow date reverse. This is also one way of authenticating a proof 1955 Perth penny.

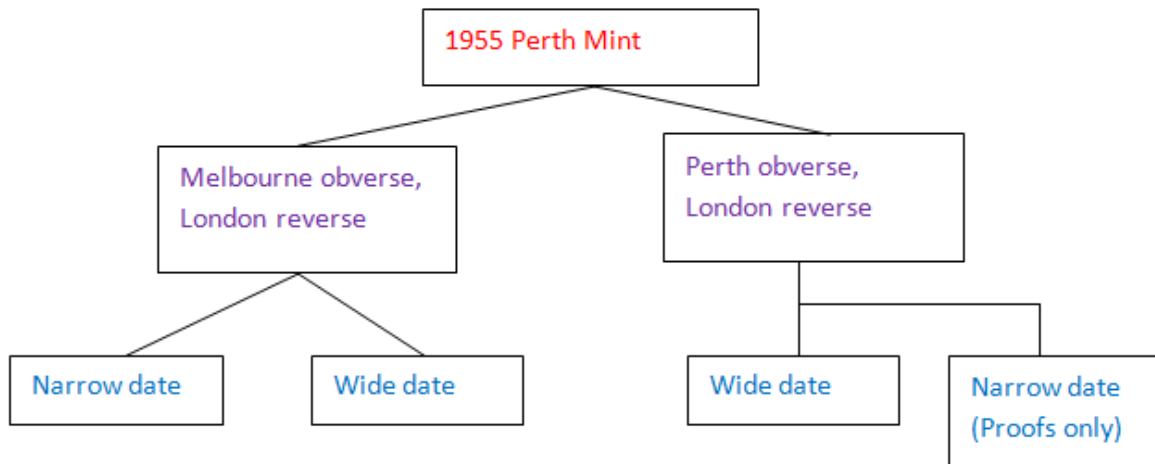


Fig 5. Narrow and wide date 1955 pennies.

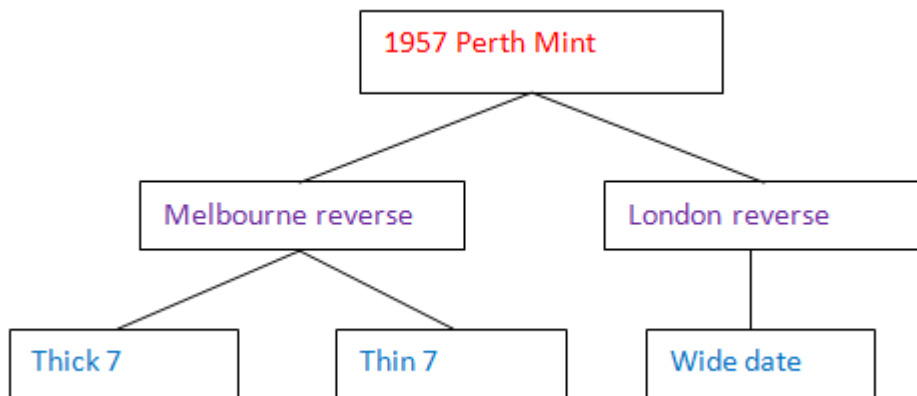
So what does this all actually mean? If we draw the same type of diagram we used when discussing the 1952 pennies (with red for the mint and date, purple for the obverse or reverse hub and aqua for the date variety that was punched onto master or working die), we can obtain a sense of the importance of these "date varieties".



1953 Melbourne Mint – the reverses are based on different hubs (so are considered die pairing varieties). The different forms of the date are just a side effect of the dated master die manufacturing process.



1955 Perth Mint. The date varieties are the result of two dated master dies being made from the same hub or undated master die and are thus considered to be of less importance. The principal interest in this date is in the obverse die varieties. Of course the unique combination of narrow date reverse and Perth obverse adds spice to the proofs.



1957 Perth Mint. The wide date coins are all based on the London reverse, the other two varieties are based on the Melbourne reverse. As before, the importance of the 1957Y wide date is that it is based on a different hub to the other two; i.e. it is not just a minor “date variety”.

It is interesting to compare our discussion with the PCGS population report. The 1953(m) and 1953(m) w/o serif (i.e. long 5 different 3) have separate entries as they are based on different hubs. The 1955 Perth penny with Melbourne obverse has a separate entry to that with the Perth obverse. The Melbourne obverse entry has two sub categories, wide 55 and narrow 55 as expected. There are two entries for the 1957 Perth pennies, corresponding to the Melbourne reverse and the London reverse (wide 7). It is most likely that PCGS have not been told about the thick and thin 7 varieties or possibly have never had a thin 7 sent to them as that entry is missing from the population report.

143332	1953 (m) 1D, RD
598566	1953 (m) 1D w/o Serif 5, BN
Base	1955 Y. (p) 1D Melbourne obverse, RB
598374	1955 Y. (p) 1D Melbourne obverse Wide 55, RB
598377	1955 Y. (p) 1D Melbourne obverse Narrow 55, RB
598572	1955 Y. (p) 1D Perth obverse, BN
403839	1957 Y. (p) 1D, RB
594153	1957 Y. (p) 1D Wide date, BN

Fig 6. Extract from PCGS population report for QEII pennies.

All photographs in this article except for the 1957 pennies are courtesy of PCGS.



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NGC to introduce a new slab hologram and QR code

The third party grading company, Numismatic Guaranty Company (NGC) has announced the changes they are making to their next generation of slabs. This is being done to make it more difficult for counterfeiters to duplicate their holder or to tamper with it.

The new holders have a new high security hologram, a QR code and a security code (unique to the individual holder). When the QR code is scanned, say by a phone, it takes the user straight to the NGC verification of the coin or other collectable just scanned. This enables comparison of the item in hand with the high resolution photographs in the NGC database. NGC state that as each QR code is unique, it would be almost impossible to counterfeit.

NGC also provides wide ranging counterfeit detection resources on their website and is the Official Grading Service of the Anti-Counterfeiting Educational Foundation (ACEF).

Some of the other changes are aesthetic, with the new holder more pleasing to the eye than the older generation NGC slabs.



New generation NGC holder encapsulating an 1839 British Una and the Lion proof £5. Photograph courtesy of NGC.

Source

“NGC Introduces New High-Security Hologram with Unique QR Codes” NCGC website.
<https://www.ngccoin.com/>

The Great Kentucky Hoard – A Gold Find



Photograph courtesy of NGC.

There is something about treasure hoards, especially when they are gold. Normally the coins in treasure hoards are environmentally damaged, however gold coins are often found in better shape as gold is not particularly reactive. Less often, these hoards contain numismatically important coins, but this is what happened with a buried hoard of 800 coins found in the US state of Kentucky.

These coins range from the tiny \$1 to the large double eagle \$20 and are dated from 1840 to 1863.

Valuables are often buried or hidden away during times of trouble and, while Kentucky was officially neutral in the American Civil War, it was still the scene of much conflict.

NGC was given the task of identifying and grading the coins from the hoard. One of the

most amazing finds was eighteen 1863 double eagles, one of the rarest dates in the Liberty \$20 series, most in mint state.



Photograph: GovMint.com/AFP/Getty Image

Of other interest were the varieties that were discovered in the hoard:

- An 1862 gold dollar with a doubled die obverse. This is a known but impressive variety.
- Eleven of the 1861 Gold Dollars had medallic alignment instead of the normal coin alignment (i.e. they had the same orientation as Australian coins).
- There were two coins with what was an unlisted variety of a re-punched date, the re-punch a little lower than the original date.

The hoard was sold through GovMint.com. It is now sold out as of mid August 2023.

Sources:

The Guardian: "Kentucky man finds 'hoard' of civil war gold coins worth millions in cornfield"

GovMint: <https://www.govmint.com/great-kentucky-hoard>

NGC:

<https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/11795/kentucky-hoard-civil-war-coins>

Recent Perth Mint Releases



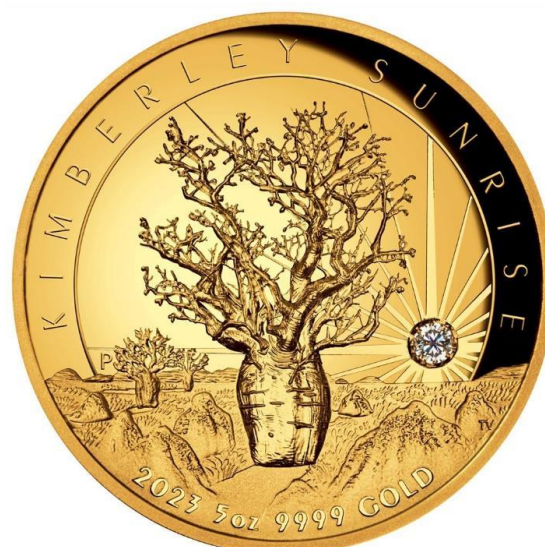
2023 \$2 **2oz yongka**. An antiqued coloured coin portraying an original painting of a kangaroo (known as a yongka to the local first nations people). This coin was designed by Indigenous artist Kevin Bynder. RRP \$249.



2023 5 oz proof gold **high relief wedge tailed eagle** with platinum gilding. Mintage of 50. RRP \$21,595. Also available as a 5 oz silver proof with gold gilding. RRP \$645.



2023 **2 oz silver proof high relief gilded kookaburra**. The coin comes in a presentation case and has a RRP of \$249.



2023 **5 oz proof Kimberley Sunrise high relief with diamond**. RRP \$28,880.



2023 Australian Koala bullion coins. These are available as both 1/10 oz gold and 1/10 oz platinum coins. The price depends upon the daily bullion price. On the 1st August at 11am WST this was \$381.82 and \$211.41 for the gold and platinum coins respectively.



2023 2 Kilo Silver Antiqued High Relief Koi Coin shows 3 koi fish swimming in a pebble lined stream with water lily flowers floating on the surface. While both koi fish and gold fish share a common ancestor, the Asian carp, they are now considered distinct species. The coin is pure (.9999) silver, has a face value of \$60, and a RRP of \$4695. The mintage is only 200. It was still available from the Perth Mint as of 13th August.

Chinese Myths and Legends

Dragon and Koi 2023 1oz Silver Coloured Coin.

Available as both red dragon and green dragon in a card. According to legend, a group of koi were swimming upriver and encountered a waterfall. Most turned back, but some persisted, and in spite of demons increasing the size of the waterfall, one koi eventually succeeded in reaching the top. As a reward the gods turned this koi into a golden dragon. Thus the koi are symbolic of perseverance through adversity¹. RRP was \$89 for each coin but they are sold out at the Perth Mint. They were selling for \$110+ on the secondary market in mid-August. The mintage was just \$1,000 of each coin.



Australian Kangaroo 2023 1oz Silver Proof High Relief Coloured Coin. This comes in a presentation case and has a RRP of \$125. The mintage is 5,000.

All coins feature the QEII memorial obverse and all the photographs in this article are courtesy of the Perth Mint.

References

1. See, for example, <https://pondinformer.com/koi-mythology/#:~:text=This%20feat%20drew%20recognition%20from,symbolic%20of%20perseverance%20through%20adversity.>

International Coin of the Year Winners

The Coin of the Year Award is conducted by World Coin News (Krause Publications). The winners in each of ten categories are chosen by a panel of judges and an overall winner is selected.

This year the **Best Silver Coin and best coin overall** was awarded to the Austrian 20 euro Black Hole Coin.



Translated from German into English, the lettering on the obverse reads row by row: Republic of Austria, Singularity, 15 solar masses, Cygnus X-1, event horizon, 20 euro. The reverse lettering is "Black Hole". Cygnus X-1 is a young black hole with material from its blue supergiant companion star feeding into the black hole's accretion disk. It was the first black hole to be confirmed. The coin had a convex obverse, the reverse concave and thus representing the gravitational well around any

massive object. This coin is second in the Austrian Mint's "Uncharted Universe" series. The image is courtesy of Coins Australia (<https://www.coinsaustralia.com.au/>).



The Austrian Mint also won the **Best Bimetallic Coin** Category with their 25-euro silver-niobium coin, "Extraterrestrial Life". Image is courtesy of Coins Australia.



The Royal Mint was adjudged the best coin in the **Best Contemporary Event** category with their cupronickel and colour printing 50 Pence "50 Years of Pride". Images courtesy of the Royal Mint.



The winner in the **Most Historically Significant** category was the French 10 euro silver coin commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Pasteur. Images courtesy of <https://numismag.com/>.



The winner in the **Best Crown** category was the Greek silver 10 euro coin "The Antikythera Mechanism". The Antikythera mechanism was discovered in 1901 and is an ancient Greek hand powered clockwork model (or orrery) used to predict eclipses and other astronomical events. The Antikythera mechanism is believed to have been made around 200-100 BC. Photographs courtesy of kyritiscoins.com.



In the **Best Circulating Coin** category, the winner was the Royal Australian Mint's \$2 honey bee coin, released to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the introduction of the honey bee to Australia. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



The winner in the **Best Gold Coin** category was the South Africa 50 Rand Gold Lion (the second in the Big 5 II series). Photographs courtesy of EMK (emk.com).



The Royal Australian Mint also won the **Most Artistic** category with the \$5 silver “Beauty, Rich and Rare – Great Barrier Reef” coin. Photograph courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.



The Royal Canadian Mint 5 ounce silver “Ghost Ship” won the **Most Innovative** category. It is described as “99.99% pure silver, with black light-activated colour

reveal”. In other words, the ghost ship shows up under blacklight (i.e. ultraviolet light) as seen in the right hand side of the image above. Photographs courtesy of the Royal Canadian Mint.



The **Most Inspirational** category was won by the Ukraine 10 Hryvnia silver “In Unity, Strength”. Photograph courtesy of Coins Catalog: <https://coinscatalog.net>.

These are all stunning coins. While some can now only be obtained through the secondary market, others are still readily available.

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Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

Seven coins celebrating the Australian women's soccer team, the Matildas, were released in July.



These coins were intended to be released through the tills at Woolworths supermarkets, however a disturbingly large number appeared in their original 25 coin bags on such internet sites as eBay and Facebook just before and just after the official release dates. Some collectors found them difficult to obtain from the stores.



The three \$2 have somewhat similar designs with coloured rings of dark green, light green and yellow. The four \$1 have representation of a goalie, a tackle, a header and a striker.

The 2023 \$5 Silver Coloured Proof Coin **desert scorpion** from the series "Australia's Most Dangerous". Previous releases in this series were the redback spider in 2020 and the great white shark in 2021. The coin contains one ounce of .999 silver.



The 2023 one ounce rough toothed dolphin is available with the same design in both .9999 silver and .9999 gold.

The silver coin has a face value of \$1 and the gold coin \$100. Both coins have the QEII memorial obverse and the face value.



The Twelve Apostles feature in a pair of proof coins, one silver and one gold domed with denominations of \$5 and 100 respectively. Both coins have limited mintages – the silver 7500 and the gold just 750. The RRP are \$140 and \$3750 respectively. These coins are part of the Beauty, Rich and Rare series. Last year’s coin depicting the Great Barrier Reef won the Most Artistic Coin for 2022 at the International Coin of the Year awards.



The Sydney Opera House is yet again celebrated with three coins for its 50th Anniversary. A 50c in aluminium bronze (RRP \$12.50, mintage 50,000), a selectively gold plated silver proof 50c (RRP \$110, mintage 5000) and a gold proof domed coin (RRP \$3700, mintage 750).



Australian Antarctic Territory – \$5 Humpback Whale Silver Coloured Proof Coin

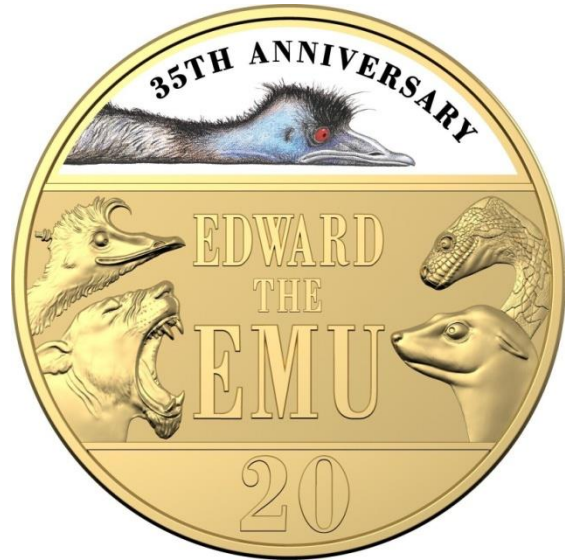
An attractive coin depicting a mother humpback whale and two calves. The mintage was 3,000 and RRP \$140.



2023 20c 35th Anniversary of Edward the Emu

Edward the Emu is a children’s character by Sheena Knowles. This is the third in a series continuing on from Animalia in 2021 and Diary of a Wombat in 2022.

The coin comes as a coloured 20c in a card, the same 20c in a special edition book and a gold-plated coloured 20c in a book. RRP are \$15, \$50 and \$85 respectively with mintages 20,000, 5000 and 3000 respectively.



All images except for the Matildas \$1 and \$2 coins courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.

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Doing a Submission Through a PCGS-Authorised Dealer

So you've decided to have some of your coins professionally graded by PCGS. You may do so by becoming a PCGS collector's club member¹ or you can use the services of a PCGS-authorized dealer². If this is your first time, we recommend the latter as doing so should reduce the chance of mistakes being made with submission forms, customs declarations, etc. In this article we will just discuss submissions through a dealer. In a future issue, we will look at doing a direct submission.

As you are giving someone else custody of your coins, we suggest that before you choose a dealer you ask other collectors what good or bad experiences they have had and choose based on reputation. The best dealer may not necessarily be the one that appears cheapest.

To find out the likely cost of your submission you will need to give full details, including the value of each coin, as the submission level (see next section below) is dependent upon the coin value and type of the coin. The cost of your submission should be quoted in Australian dollars, otherwise you are at the mercy of changing and sometimes exorbitant exchange rates. This quote should also include the Australian Goods and Services Tax (GST). Due to the GST, expect to be quoted at least 10% above the cost on the PCGS website, although if the dealer has a special rate with PCGS, your quote may be a little lower. There may be a discount also if your submission qualifies as a "bulk submission". (A bulk submission will have to consist of at least 100 decimal coins. There are other criteria which must be met. You can discuss this with your authorised dealer). Remember that if you are sending coins to PCGS with a view to make a profit, Independent Coin News recommends that you contact a taxation professional.

Submission Level

The submission level is determined by the value of the coins, the material of the coins and the age of the coins. Below are the submission levels most applicable to Australian collectors. All coins in a given submission must be of the same "submission level".

Modern Value

Coins must be dated 1965 or later, non-gold and have a maximum declared value of US\$300 (approximately AU\$450). Many of the Australian decimal coins qualify for this service.

Modern

Coins must be dated 1965 or later with a maximum declared value of US\$2500 (approximately AU\$3750). Scarcer Australian decimal coins such as 2000 \$1/10c mules and 1966 wavy 2 20c are in this category.

Economy

This submission level includes non-gold coins with a maximum declared value of US\$300 (approximately AU\$450). This is applicable to many of the later Australian predecimal coins, but excludes most of the early issues. None of the classic rarities qualify.

Regular

Coins must have a maximum declared value of US\$2500 (approximately AU\$3750). This includes non rare Australian gold (i.e. most dates except such rarities as 1921-M and 1920-S sovereigns and 1918-P half sovereigns) and most Australian predecimal coins.

Express

Coins have a maximum declared value of US\$10,000 (approximately AU\$15,000). This will include most 1923 halfpennies, 1922/1

threepences and low grade 1930 pennies. We suggest you decide whether to use this service level or higher based upon how much you think your coin is really worth.

Walkthrough

This has a maximum declared value of US\$100,000 (approximately AU\$150,000) and would include better grade business strike 1930 pennies (but not 1930 proofs).

Rarities

There is no value limit on this service. This would include such coins as proof 1930 pennies and 1920 Sydney sovereigns. Evidence of the coin’s provenance (pedigree) would almost certainly be required.

Paperwork

If you are at a show, a handwritten form that is photographed by each party is usually sufficient.

If not at a show and you are sending a small quantity of coins or banknotes, an email detailing the coins in the submission (along with contact details of course) will suffice.

If more than just a few items are being sent, a spreadsheet is a good idea. The reason for using a spreadsheet is twofold – you each have a copy of the submission details and the more professional dealers will have a program to generate a PCGS submission form from the spreadsheet, thus reducing the workload. Your dealer will give you a sample form in the format required, such as the Excel spreadsheet in table 1.

If you are sending a substantial quantity of coins, your PCGS-authorized dealer may send you the PCGS submission number so that you can help out by labelling the coins in the submission. I recommend you do this as the less work the dealer has to do, the less you will be charged. See the section on ‘Packaging the Coins’.

Line #	QTY	PCGS COIN NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE	DENOMINATION	VARIETY	MINT STATE	DECLARED VALUE
1	1			2018-C	\$2	Armistice		35
2	5			2019-C	\$2	100 Years of Repatriation		25
3	7			2019-C	\$2	Police Remembrance		45
4	25			2012	\$2	Remembrance Colored		250
5	6			2019	\$2	Wallabies		5
6	3			2019	50C	ASIO Silver	PR	75
7	5			2019	50C	The Ghan		35
8	4			2019	5C	Jodie Clark Effigy		5
9	4			2019	10C	Jodie Clark Effigy		5
10	4			2019	20C	Jodie Clark Effigy		5
11	1			2004	50C	Student Design. Pedigree: RAM Mint Master Collection		250

Table 1. Excel spreadsheet for a PCGS submission through a PCGS-authorized dealer.

Filling out the Form

Most of the fields are self explanatory.

PCGS Coin number is only used for mechanical error submissions. This is a topic for another day.

Country defaults to Australia and only needs to be included if the coins are from a different country.

The date and denomination are self explanatory, at least for decimal coins. The date must also include the mintmark, as in the above form. If you forget to put it in it is possible for PCGS to miss the mintmark on the coin as it is subtle on some decimals, particularly coloured \$2.

George V, MS	
PCGS #	DESCRIPTION
17001	1918-I (c) 1D, RB
17002	1918-I (c) 1D, RD
507208	1919 //, 1D Double dot, BN
143985	1919 //, (m) 1D Dot below, BN
143986	1919 //, (m) 1D Dot below, RB
143987	1919 //, (m) 1D Dot below, RD
17003	1919 (m) 1D No dots, BN
17004	1919 (m) 1D No dots, RB
17005	1919 (m) 1D No dots, RD
146902	1920 1D No dots, BN
146903	1920 1D No dots, RB
404194	1920 //, 1D Dot above & below, BN
404195	1920 //, 1D Dot above & below, RB

Fig 1. Part of the PCGS population report for Australian pennies. It is wise to use this so as to have identical 'Variety' names in your submission form or spreadsheet.

Variety. For predecimal coins we recommend you match the format with the PCGS population report. Suppose we are submitting some Australian pennies for grading. Fig 1 shows an extract from the PCGS population report. We'll ignore the colour designations (BN, RB, RD) as that is for PCGS to decide. Now if we were sending a 1919 double dot penny we would enter '1919' in the DATE field of the form in table 1, and 'Double dot' in the Variety field (don't worry about the .//., although you can include it if you like). Similarly a 1920 double dot would be included as '1920' in the DATE field with 'Dot above & below' as the Variety.

Pedigree a.k.a. provenance. The pedigree is usually included in the Variety section. As an example consider a coin from the RAM Mint Master Collection (such as in line 11), "2004 50C Student Design from the RAM Mint Master Collection". Now for PCGS to assign a pedigree, full documentation must be provided. This should include auction catalogues (with photographs sufficiently detailed that the coin can be identified) and/or documentation from the issuing authority such as the Royal Australian Mint. The actual certificate of authenticity for the coin referred to in this example can be seen in fig 2. Pedigrees are intended to indicate that a coin was part of a major auction, major collection or an important historical piece on its own. Just because, to take a hypothetical example, you buy some coins from someone who states he got them from someone working at such-and-such mint does not mean these coins can be submitted with a "Such-and-Such Mint Collection" pedigree. There must be genuine evidence supporting a pedigree.

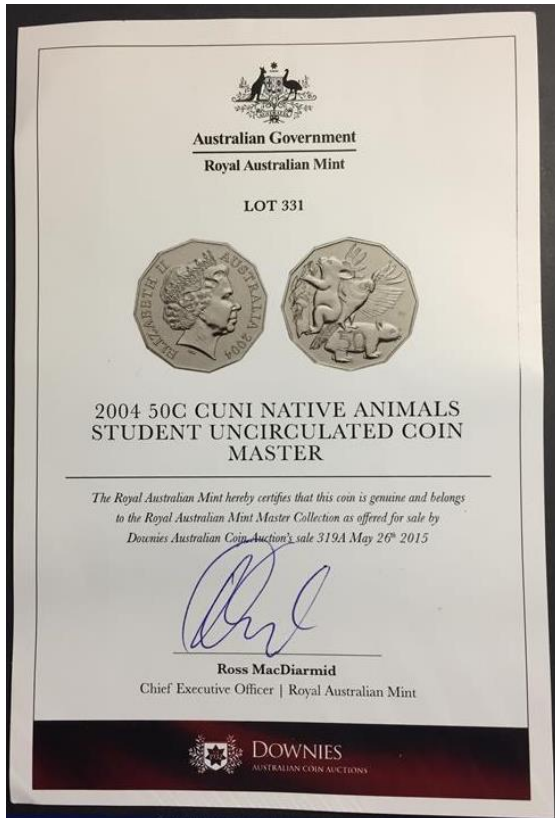


Fig 2. A genuine certificate of provenance from the Royal Australian Mint Master Collection auctioned by Downie's Australian Coin Auctions in 2015. This and often further paper work is required for PCGS to include the pedigree of a coin on the holder label.

Mint State. This is to indicate whether coins are mint state (MS) or proof (PR). This defaults to mint state, so can be left blank unless the coin is a proof.

Declared Value. This is in U.S. dollars. It is important for this value to be reasonable. The 'Declared Value' is used to determine the submission level (which determines the grading fee) and also it is used for insurance in the extremely unlikely event that something goes wrong. For example, if you have a \$500 coin and declared it to have a value of US\$15 and the coin was somehow damaged, PCGS would pay you out US\$15 as that was your declared value.

Fakes

Do not send PCGS coins that you know or suspect are forgeries. If you are using PCGS' services, you are working in partnership with them to get things correct. By sending a known or suspected forgery you are misleading PCGS. It is also against the PCGS rules for a PCGS-authorized Dealer to submit a known or suspected fake.

Packaging the Coins

Your coins must be put into Safflips (one coin per Safflip) and folded. Safflips can be purchased in bulk from a number of sources such as The Purple Penny.



Fig 3.(top) Coins in Safflips, folded in two. (bottom) Safflips then secured with rubber bands. If possible obtain the submission number and put sticky labels with order number and line number on the Safflips before

sending them to the dealer. Photographs courtesy of Drake Sterling.

Labels

These will be in the format of the submission number - line #. Example: If the submission number is 6598125, then the Saflip containing the 2018-C \$2 armistice (line # 1) will be labelled 6598125-1. Each of the 2019-C \$2 100 Years of Repatriation will be labelled 6598125-2, etc.

The more work you put into this, the cheaper it will be for you as your submitter will need to do less work.

Next send (or hand deliver) your submission to your authorised dealer. If your submission is large, your dealer will probably email you a hyperlink directly to the submission.

Asking the PCGS-authorized dealer for updates

Do not do this. No matter how eager you are, do not do this. Constant phone calls or emails

asking if the grades are ready are a source of irritation. When you give your submission to the dealer he will give you an indication of how long he thinks it will take for your grades to be available and your coins returned to Australia. PCGS-authorized dealers do not deliberately hide grades from submitters, so if the dealer has not advised you of your grades, then the grades are not yet available. No news means no grades.

You Have the Submission Number

If this is true and your dealer has sent you the hyperlink, then you can follow the status of your submission online.

In fig 4 you can see a screenshot of the 'Order Details' for a submission that was made early this year. I have superimposed the black mouse-over squares to give you an idea of the stages you will observe. It is best not to become excited until the 'Quality Check' status appears.

The screenshot shows the 'ORDER DETAILS' page for a submission. At the top, it says 'Submission 1118544, Order 22988868, 8 Items'. A progress bar indicates the status: 'DELIVERED'. A green checkmark icon is present, with 'Delivery confirmed' text. Two orange boxes above the bar say 'GRADES READY' and 'IMAGES READY'. Three black boxes with white text are superimposed on the progress bar: 'Received on 12/12/2022: Order processing and specification', 'Encapsulation: Grade finalization and encapsulation', and 'Order Shipped on 2/16/2023: Outbound order packaging and shipping'. Below the progress bar, a table lists items with columns for 'Line', 'Items', 'Serial', 'Grade', and 'Region'. Two items are visible, each with a 'TrueView' image of the coin and a 'Download' button.



Line	Items	Serial	Grade	Region	TrueView®
1	1	46542327	MS63	Australia	 Download <input type="checkbox"/>
2	1	46542328	MS66	Australia	 Download <input type="checkbox"/>

Fig 4. Order details from the PCGS website with the black square mouse overs for different stages superimposed. This is a good way to keep track of your submission. Your authorised dealer may send you a link to this page.

Arrived. This is rather self explanatory but it is useful to know when your package arrived at PCGS as packages can take a while to clear customs.

Received: Order has gone into the PCGS processing.

Grading: Authentication and Grading. The time your submission has this status can vary, depending upon the expertise required to authenticate your coin. Don't get too excited when your submission reaches this point as it can still be quite a while before completion.

Encapsulation: The grades are virtually all done and then the coins will be put in the capsules. By now you will see basic identification such as certificate numbers, dates and denominations. The actual grades of your coins may or may not yet be available. If they are not yet available, please do not ask your authorised dealers when the grades will be available.

Quality check. Holder check and label verification. At this point the grades will be available. It is important to check that the identification including variety attribution is correct. If not, immediately contact the PCGS-authorised dealer you used (or contact PCGS yourself if you sent the order yourself) to hold shipment until the problems are fixed. Remember that you may be a little more familiar with the coins and allow the odd mistake. It is much better to get a problem fixed before the coins are shipped rather than have to do another submission (a mechanical errors submission) to rectify any problems. Consider the process of submission, shipping,

grading and receiving your coins back to be a partnership, not a competition. Try to make things easy for other people. In other words, don't take out your frustrations on the authorised dealer, as the authorised dealer does not work for PCGS and is not responsible for errors made by PCGS (although the authorised dealer will definitely try to help you fix those errors).

Another thing to check, which is more applicable if you have not have access to the 'Order Details' of the submission, is the final PCGS certificate numbers. If we look back at our submission in table 1, there are 65 coins. We would normally expect those coins to have consecutive certificate numbers. We would ALWAYS expect the coins from a given line number to have successive numbers. For example, in table 1 the 25 coins from line 4 would be consecutive. If not, ask the dealer why not.

Order shipped. Your coins are on the way back. You are now eagerly awaiting the arrival of your precious coins. Unfortunately, they can take as long as a couple of weeks to clear customs, which is frustrating. Your dealer will tell you when he or she has received the coins.

In a future issue, we will go through the process of doing a direct submission.

References

- 1 Joining the PCGS Collectors Club: <https://www.pcg.com/join>
- 2 Criteria for becoming a PCGS authorised dealer: <https://www.pcg.com/becomedealer>

Imperial Bank of Persia Specimen Notes in WBNA June Auction

The June World Currency edition of the World Banknotes Auctions featured a group of rare specimen banknotes from the Imperial Bank of Persia, including the extremely rare 500 tomans (ND but believed to be 1919). Described by PCGS Currency as Gem New 66PPQ, this was from the second series, Pick #9-S, printer BWC (Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co). The note has the portrait of Naser al-Din (Shah of Qajar Persia from 1848 to 1896) on the front. None of the circulating banknotes survive, only the specimens, which lack the issue date. This note sold for US\$46,000.



Fig 1. Front of the Imperial Bank of Persia 500 tomans specimen banknote auctioned by World Banknote Auctions. Photograph courtesy of World Banknote Auctions, trimmed of the PCGS Currency holder. Apart from the denomination, all notes in this series have a similar design.

The Imperial Bank of Persia operated in Persia (now Iran) and issued banknotes between 1889 and 1929. Although British and (legally) run from London, it performed the roles of the state bank, introducing European methods to the Persian banking sector and issuing currency. Until then, monetary transfer in the country was mainly by gold and silver coins. The bank's monopoly was ended in Persia less than four years after the end of the Qajar dynasty when the Pahlavi dynasty introduced a state controlled central bank. The legacy of the bank is questionable due to allegations that it favoured British interests ahead of the country it was supposed to serve*.

* See for example Geoffrey Jones "Entrepreneurship and Multinationals" Edward Elgar Publishing 2013.

All notes in this series have a similar design but different colours and of course denominations. The other Imperial Bank of Persia notes, PMG (Paper Money Guaranty) graded, that sold at this action were:

- 3 Tomans (Specimen), P-2As PMG Choice Extremely Fine 45 which sold for US\$3450.
- 5 Tomans (Specimen), P-3s PMG Choice UNC 64 which sold for US\$3450.
- 10 Tomans (Specimen), P-4s PMG Choice UNC 64 which sold for US\$6612.
- 20 Tomans (Specimen), P-5s PMG Choice UNC 64 which sold for US\$8625.
- 50 Tomans (Specimen), P-7s PMG Choice Extremely Fine 45) which sold for US\$8050.
- 100 Tomans (Specimen), P-8s PMG Extremely Fine 40 "Printer's annotations; previously mounted", which sold for US\$11500.

Some of these banknotes are shown in fig 2.



Fig 2. 5, 10, 20 and 50 tomans Imperial Bank of Persia banknotes auctioned by World Banknote Auctions. Images courtesy of World Banknote Auctions.

Missing from this auction was the highest denomination banknote, the 1000 tomans. A 1000 tomans was sold at auction for US\$63,000 in November 2022 by Heritage, who stated that "This imposing Specimen features a serial number range of only 100 pieces, which indicates that a mere one bundle of notes was printed for this date (which is left blank on this Specimen but would have been applied to the issued banknote)" and mention that just two notes have been graded by PMG.

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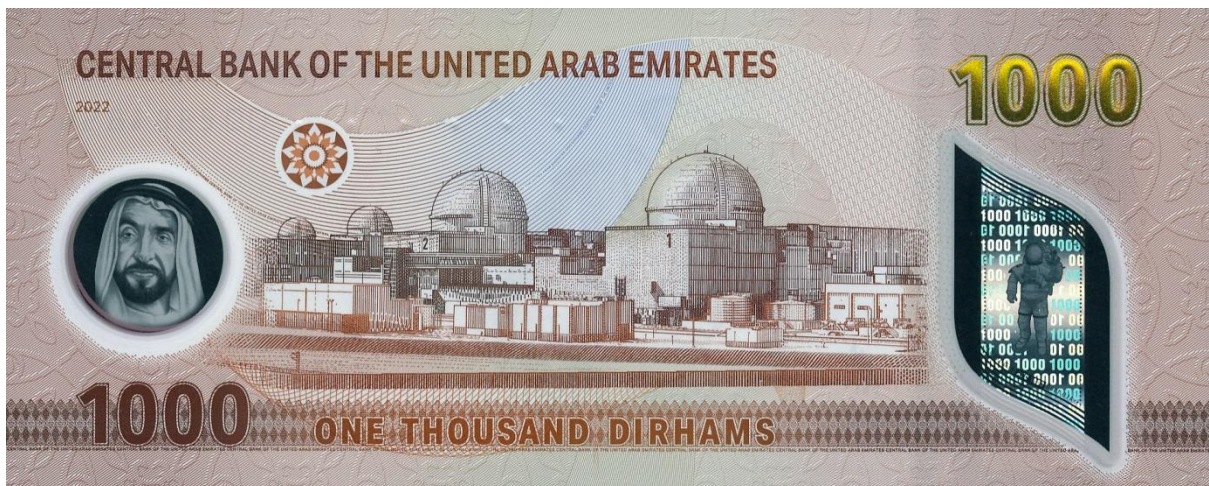


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United Arab Emirates Issues New High Denomination Banknote

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates has issued a new 1000 dirhams (about AU\$425) polymer banknote as part of its National Day celebrations. The banknote highlights the country's technological advancements and was released on the 10th April 2023.



Images courtesy of Arabian Business.

The obverse depicts the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (who was responsible for the vision of the UAE space program), next to a model of a US space shuttle symbolising the early discussions with NASA, and in the background, the Emirates Mars mission (the "Hope" probe was launched to Mars orbit to study the Martian atmosphere over a period of several years. It successfully entered Mars orbit on 9th February 2021 and has been gathering data since).

The reverse features the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in Abu Dhabi.

This banknote has the same colour features as its predecessor to aid identification and has large symbols in Braille to help the blind and visually impaired.

Security features include a Kinegram foil stripe (both sides of the banknote) that celebrates the UAE astronauts, the first of whom flew to the International Space station in 2019. (Kinegram is a leading

foil-based optical security device. It is used for banknotes and government documents). Additionally, the large 1000 on the back of the note changes colour from green to gold due to the use of SPARK Flow DIMENSIONS technology.

Sources and Further Reading

Arabian Business December 2, 2022 <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/money/uae-releases-new-aed1000-bank-note-as-part-of-national-day-celebration>

Banknote News <https://banknotenews.com/?p=38301>

Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates Media Release:
<https://www.centralbank.ae/media/tn4mqaby/cbuae-issues-a-new-banknote-of-aed1000-denomination-for-circulation-en.pdf>

Emirate Space Agency <http://www.emiratesmarsmission.ae/>

Polish Collector Banknotes 2023 and 2024

Each year the National Bank of Poland (Narodowy Bank Polski) issues a “collector” banknote, which while legal tender, is not intended to circulate. This is a similar principle to the non circulating legal tender (NCLT) coins sold by the Royal Australian Mint and the Perth Mint.

2023: Nicolaus Copernicus

This year’s collector banknote featured mediaeval astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543). Copernicus’ publication, just before his death in 1543, of “De revolutionibus orbium coelestium” (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres), which described an evidence based sun centred rather than earth centred universe, sparked what is now called the Copernican Revolution and led to the scientific renaissance.





Polish collector banknote for 2023 featuring Nicolaus Copernicus. Images courtesy of National Bank of Poland.

The banknote has a face value of 20 zloty, however sells for more than that on the National Bank of Poland website.

2024: Warsaw Uprising

The collector banknote for next year will be in remembrance of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. The Warsaw Uprising was a major operation in August and September 1944 by the Polish underground resistance to liberate Warsaw. This was supposed to coincide with the Soviet advance towards the city, however for political reasons (the resistance was mainly pro capitalist), the soviets stopped their advance just outside the city. The Germans were then able to put down the uprising after 63 days of heavy fighting.

The note will have a face value of 20 zloty with a printing run of 80,000 planned. It is expected to be available in July 2024.

Sources:

Narodowy Bank Polski (National Bank of Poland) <https://nbp.pl/en/coins-and-banknotes/>

National Bank of Poland Press release dealing with next year's coins and banknote, <https://static.nbp.pl/publikacje/numizmatyka/plan-2024-en.pdf>



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The Five Cent Varieties of Queen Elizabeth II

The 5 cent series has by far the largest number of varieties of circulating coinage in the decimal series. With the unfortunate passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last year, there are unlikely to be any future QEII issues thus we are able to detail the entire QEII set.

I first looked at the different 5c obverses and reverses in 2015¹ with a view to identifying the varieties and trying to obtain a rough idea of how scarce they are. I am indebted to Wayne Roberts who has since correctly pointed out that I missed the subtle change in the position of the legend that occurred between 1999 and 2000 and the difference between the 1966 Canberra and London obverses². The five cent obverses and reverses are listed in tables 1 and 2.

Since 2015 we have seen an obverse design to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Australia's decimal currency, a new portrait of Her Majesty by Jody Clark and five NCLT (non circulating legal tender) issues. The general designs are pictured in figs 1 and 2 and all obverse and reverses (including varieties) in tables 1 and 2. It is quite possible that more varieties will be identified in future.



Fig 1. Obverse designs of Queen Elizabeth II 5c. Machin, Maklouf, Ian Rank-Broadley, Ian Rank-Broadley 50 Years of Decimal Currency, Ian Rank-Broadley with denomination on the obverse, Mary Gillick, Jody Clark, Jody Clark – QEII Memorial respectively. Varieties exist for the Arnold Machin and Ian Rank-Broadley obverse. Photographs of all except the last effigy courtesy of PCGS.



Fig 2. Reverse designs used for Queen Elizabeth 5c. Standard echidna design (varieties exist), Bananas in pyjamas, Planetary coins Mercury, 50th anniversary of first landing on the moon. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

With the varieties a complete Queen Elizabeth II five cent set now involves 89 coins. I have left out the 2007 double headed 5c as, while it was certainly manufactured at the Royal Australian Mint, questions remain as to the circumstances of its genesis. If you like, feel free to add it to your set if you can obtain one.

Obverse	Dates	Designer	Comments
1*	1966-1984	Arnold Machin	Canberra: Two eyelashes
2	1966		London: One eyelash
3	1981	Arnold Machin	Winnipeg: different hair
4	1985-1998	Raphael Maklouf	
5	1999	Ian Rank-Broadley	wider ELIZABETH II, narrower IRB
6	2000-2001	Ian Rank-Broadley	Large Head, non serif IRB
7	2002-2019	Ian Rank-Broadley	Small Head, serif IRB
8	2016	Ian Rank-Broadley	50 Years of Decimal Currency Obverse
9	2017	Ian Rank-Broadley	Denomination on obverse [Planetary Coins Mercury]
10	2019-2023	Jodie Clark	
11	2019	Mary Gillick	NCLT in 6 coin different effigies set
12	2023	Jodie Clark	QEII Memorial Legend

Table 1. Obverses for Queen Elizabeth II 5c.

* Wayne Roberts has reported that there are some variations in Her Majesty's hair besides the obvious Winnipeg issue². This is an area for further work.

Reverse	Dates	Common Name	Comments
A	1966-1972	Low Echidna	
B	1966	Short Spine	Canberra 1966 privy mark
C	1972-1987	High Echidna	
D	1984, 1986-2016, 2019	Low Echidna or Small SD	
E	1991-1994	Large SD	
F	2007-	Tiny SD	Larger echidna with lower relief
G	2017	Bananas in Pyjamas	NCLT
H	2017	Planetary Coins Mercury	NCLT
I	2019	50 th Anniversary of Moon Landing	NCLT

Table 2. Reverses used for Queen Elizabeth II 5c.

The complete set with varieties is listed at the end of this article in table 3. First we'll discuss each of the varieties and how to identify them.

1966 London and Canberra. The Canberra privy mark was the result of grinding away the tip of the spine at the top of the echidna's shoulder on a transfer punch. All Canberra dies and all coins struck from these dies have the truncated spine. Neither variety is scarce and both can be found in the 1966 mint sets. The obverses are also different, but sometimes harder to spot due to die wear. The obverses for all Australian coins struck at the Royal Mint have just one eyelash on Her Majesty, those struck at the three mints in Australia have two.

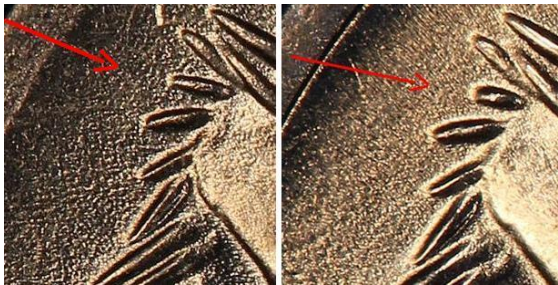


Fig 3. 1966 5c privy marks. London (full spine) and Canberra (truncated spine). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



Fig 4. 1966 5c obverse. London (one eyelash), Canberra (2 eyelashes). Try to ignore the heavy bag mark over HM's eyelid on the Canberra coin. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

1972 Low and high echidna.



Fig 5. 1972 Low and high echidna. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

The new reverse with the echidna displaced upwards was first used during 1972. While the echidna on each variety is almost exactly the same size, there is a much larger gap between the edge of the coin and the base of the echidna on the high echidna design. All 1972 mint set 5c are of the low echidna variety. After 1972 the original low echidna reverse was no longer used.

Winnipeg Mint, 1981.

The Royal Australian Mint outsourced some of its production during 1981. As a result, 5c were struck at the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra, the Royal Mint in Wales and the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg. Those struck in Canberra and Wales are indistinguishable, however the Winnipeg coins can be identified by their flat obverse fields and different hair at the nape of Her Majesty's neck (fig 6).

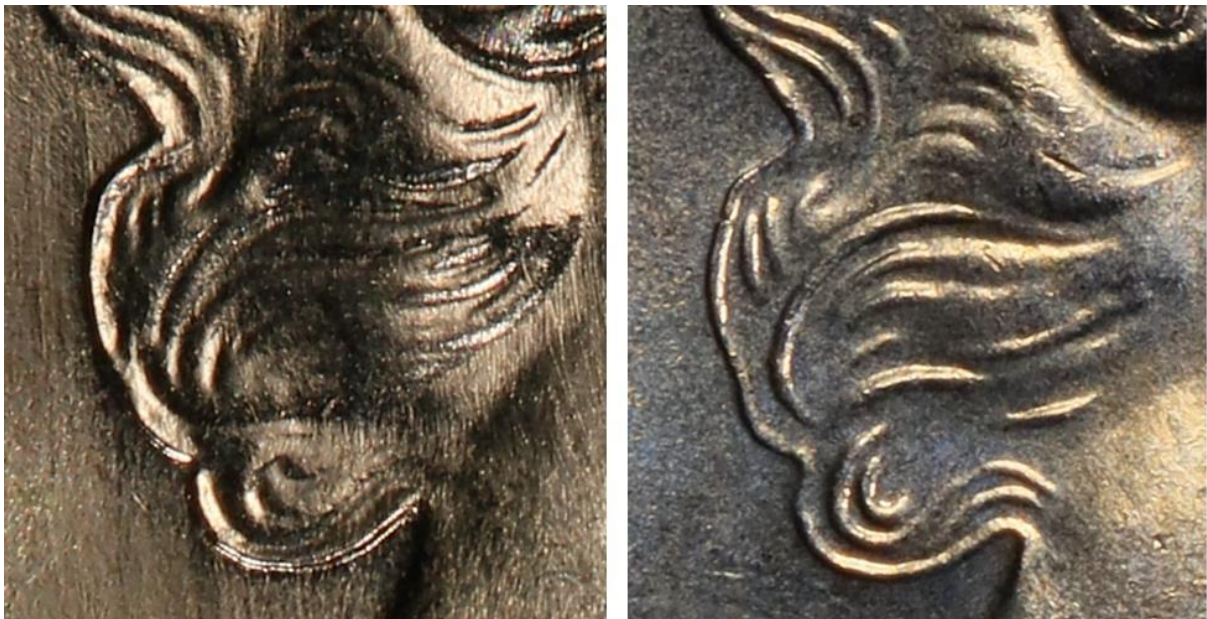


Fig 6. The base of Her Majesty's neck on Canberra (left) and Winnipeg (right) minted coins. The difference is easy to spot under even low magnification.

High and low echidna, 1984, 1986, 1987.

During 1984 a new reverse (reverse D) with a lower echidna (but a little different to the original low echidna of 1966-72) was first used. The 1984 low echidna is comparatively scarce but is obtainable in mint state. 1985 and 1986 were "mint set only" years, although some rolls exist as the coins deemed unsuitable for mint sets were added to the circulating coinage pool. The 1987 high echidna 5c is a scarce issue but more easily found in Sydney than elsewhere. It would be reasonable to consider it one of the key issues of a complete 5c set.

Comparison photographs of the high and low echidna varieties are shown in fig 7. As you can see the difference is readily apparent.



Fig 7. High echidna and low echidna. Both varieties exist for coins dated 1984, 1986, 1987.

Small and large SD, 1991-1994.

Short lived 1991-1994. Much smaller echidna, much larger designer's initials, shape considerably different. Can usually be picked straight off from large gap between rim and spines at 12 o'clock. (see figs 7 and 8)



Fig 8. Small SD (left) and large SD (right) varieties, 1991-1994. Besides the size of the designer's initials, there is considerable difference in the size of the echidna. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

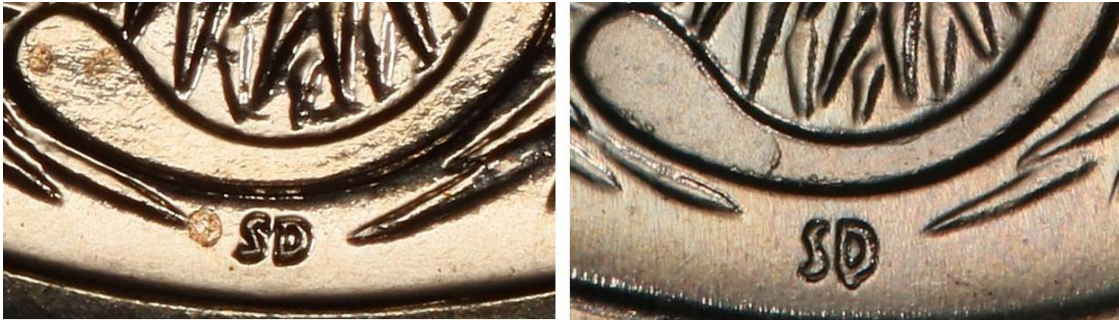


Fig 9. Closeup of the designer's initials on small and large SD varieties. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

2001 large head and small head

Various changes in size and placement of legend when IRB introduced. 2001 small change in head size, easy to pick from font. Mint sets mainly large head, circulation issues mainly small head.



Fig 10. 2001 5c large and small head. The size difference is not easy to spot, however the two may be readily identified by the different fonts of the designer's initials. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Small SD and Tiny SD, 2007-2016, 2019 Ian Rank Broadley.

Tiny set introduced 2007. Has been the primary business strike since with the small SD often, but not always, only available in mint sets. Tiny SD is really a misnomer, the echidna is huge with top spine almost touching the rim and relief appears lower. Designer's initials appears to have been reworked and is slightly larger since 2022.



Fig 11. Small SD and tiny SD reverse. These are easy to differentiate as the tiny SD is larger with spine almost going into the rim.

Keys Dates in the Complete Collection

Most issues are readily available from mint sets or rolls or just plain noodling but there are a handful that will require more effort to source.

2011 small SD: Only available in mint sets and scarce in mint sets. Perusal of dealers stock may be rewarding.

1987 high echidna: This is a business strike only and very scarce outside Sydney. This may be the toughest variety to find. You may reasonably expect to pay \$100+ for a circulated specimen.

1993 large SD: Business strike only but the odd roll has turned up so is available uncirculated.

1994 large SD: Scarce as a mint set coin and as a business strike. However the odd one does turn up in mint sets and when it does the coin is usually exceptionally high grade.

2023 QEII memorial obverse: So far only available in the 'Creatures of the Deep' lunch box from the Royal Australian Mint. The set sells for \$25, but as of early August there is a limit of one per customer. If you are a 5c collector I recommend you purchase this set as soon as possible. The advantage is that the other denominations in this set also feature the Memorial obverse.

1972 low echidna: harder than the high echidna but available in mint sets. Unfortunately the mint sets are normally PVS affected.

1984 low echidna: Business strike only but quite possibly rolls have survived as I have found them uncirculated examples in dealers stock books.

Date	Variety Name	Comments
1966		Royal Mint London
1966	Shortened Spine	Canberra Mint
1967-1971		
1972	Low Echidna	Mint sets plus circulation (~20%)
1972	High Echidna	Circulation only
1973-1980		
1981	Canberra & Wales	
1981	Winnipeg	Different Hair
1982-1983		
1984	High Echidna	Mint sets plus circulation
1984	Low Echidna	Circulation only (~5%)
1985		Mint set only
1986	High Echidna	Mint sets only (common)
1986	Low Echidna	Mint sets only (common)
1987	High Echidna	Circulation only (scarce)
1987	Low Echidna	Mint sets plus circulation
1988-1990		
1991	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation (~35%)
1991	Large SD	Circulation only (~65%)
1992	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation (~30%)
1992	Large SD	Circulation only (~70%)
1993	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation
1993	Large SD	Circulation only (~6%)
1994	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation
1994	Large SD	Mint sets (scarce) plus circulation (~1%)
1995-2000		
2001	Small Head	Circulation (common) plus mint sets (scarce)
2001	Large Head	Mint sets plus circulation (~1.5%)
2002-2006		
2007	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation
2007	Tiny SD	Circulation only (~20%)
2008	Small SD	Mint sets only
2008	Tiny SD	Mint sets plus circulation
2009	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation (~25%)
2009	Tiny SD	Circulation only
2010	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation (~35%)
2010	Tiny SD	Circulation only
2011	Small SD	Mint sets only (appear scarce)
2011	Tiny SD	Mint sets plus circulation
2012	Small SD	Mint sets only
2012	Tiny SD	Circulation only
2013	Small SD	Mint sets only
2013	Tiny SD	Circulation only
2014	Small SD	Mint sets plus circulation (~20%)

2014	Tiny SD	Circulation only
2015	Small SD	Probably mint sets only
2015	Tiny SD	Probably circulation only
2016	Small SD	Probably baby coin sets only
2016	Tiny SD	In Come the Dollars sets plus circulation
2016	50 years of decimal currency obverse, Tiny SD reverse	Mint sets plus circulation
2017	Echidna reverse, Tiny SD	
2017	Bananas in Pyjamas	Carded and PNCs
2017	Planetary Coins Mercury	Planetary Coins Set
2018		
2019	IRB obverse, Small SD reverse	Baby Sets
2019	IRB obverse, Tiny SD reverse	Mint Sets Plus Circulation
2019	Jody Clark obverse, Tiny SD reverse	Circulation Only
2019	50th Anniversary of Moon Landing	Mint Sets
2019	Mary Gillick obverse	6 coin different effigies set
2020		
2021	Echidna reverse (all tiny SD)	Mint sets plus circulation
2021	Wooden echidna	Wooden echidna
2022		
2023		Mint sets
2023	QEII memorial obverse	'Creatures of the Deep' from RAM
2023	Wooden echidna	Baby Sets only

Table 3. Queen Elizabeth II 5c Set, Complete with Varieties.

References

1. Peter Andrews "A Survey Of Australian Five Cent Die Varieties". Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine, October 2016.
2. Wayne Roberts in Coin Collecting Community Forum, November 2016.



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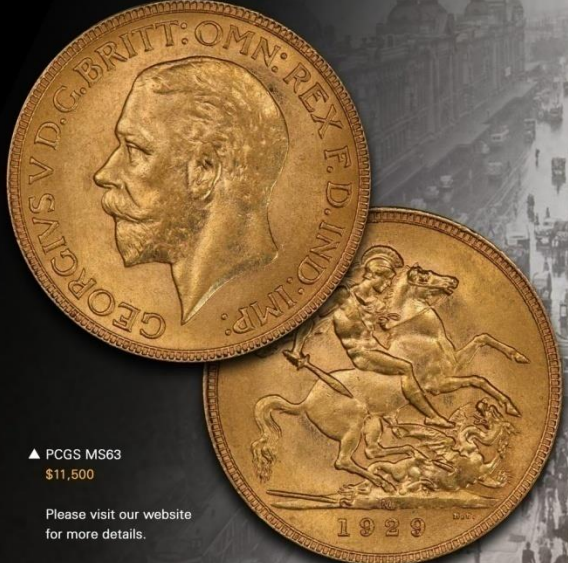
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September 2nd 9:00am – 2:00 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church
131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

September 3rd 9:00am — 1:00pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall
123 Kitchener St, Garran ACT
For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

September 24th

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Citizen Centre
9 Laurence Ringwood East Vic

September 30th, 9am-4pm

Wagga Stamp and Coin Market

ARCC Hall
131 Tarcutta St Wagga Wagga NSW

October 1st 9:00am — 1:00pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall
123 Kitchener St, Garran ACT

October 7th 9:00am – 2:00 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church
131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

October 7th October 8th

NSSA Expo (Numismatic Society of South Australia)

Torrens Parade Ground Hall
King William Road/Victoria Drive, Adelaide, SA

October 21st October 22nd 10am-4pm, 10am-3pm

Sydney Money Expo

Lower Sydney Town Hall
483 George Street, Sydney NSW

October 29th

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Citizen Centre
9 Laurence Ringwood East Vic

October 29th 9:30am – 4pm

Petersham Super Fair

Petersham Town Hall
107 Crystal Street, Petersham, NSW
<https://scdaa.com.au>

November 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Perth 2023 National Stamp Exhibition

3 Nelson Crescent
Gloucester Park
East Perth WA 6004

November 4th 9:00am – 2:00 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church
131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

November 5th 9:00am — 1:00pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall
123 Kitchener St, Garran.

November 11th 9am – 1pm

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Banknote and Stamp Fair

South Perth Community Centre, South Perth WA

November 25th-26th, 9am-4pm

Wagga Stamp and Coin Fair

Sturt Public School
White Avenue, Koorringal NSW

November 26th

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Citizen Centre
9 Laurence Ringwood East Vic

December 2nd 9:00am – 2:00 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church
131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

December 26th 9am – 1pm

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Banknote and Stamp Fair

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The Perth Money Expo, July 15th-16th 2023

For the first time the show was held during winter rather than in mid summer. It was comparatively quiet with fewer dealers than usual, neither mint attending and smaller crowds than normal for a Perth Money Expo. Despite the Perth Mint being unable to provide their normal show special silver coin there was a brisk trade at the “show special” stand on the first day.



The queue for the show PNCS on Saturday.



The 5c coin hunt is always popular for collectors young and not so young.



Some of Sterling & Currency's stock.



Jana Cummings of Edlins with some of the decimal coins they brought from Canberra.



Sasha Boyko having a lunch break before doing his youtube video from the show on Sunday.



Banknotes for sale from Collectable Banknotes Australia.



Enleigh Coins mint products and PNCs.



Pacific Rim Coins proof 1929 halfpenny and penny on display. Only 4 to 6 of each proof were made during the 1920s. It would be fair to consider them rare.



Sunday was fairly quiet.



A thumbs up from the organizer, Matt Thompson.



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Social Media by Mark Nemtsas

Several months ago I saw a collector post images of an Australian penny struck on a defective and incomplete planchet onto a well known Facebook coin group. The collector wasn't sure if the coin was a genuine error, and if it was, what it actually was. The error itself was spectacular and not dissimilar to the 1979 two cent struck on a scrap planchet as shown below.



A few well known coin identities correctly identified that the penny in question was indeed a genuine error and went on to explain how it had come about. Unfortunately those tiny voices were drowned out by the veritable chorus of comments bellowing "damage" and "PMD" and "I could make that with a grinder". I doubt the original poster of the interesting penny error knew which opinion to believe. To their credit they took the time to send images to a well known Australian coin collector who verified that the penny was indeed a genuine error. It's unfortunate that this even had to happen but it shows us that:

"Social media is wonderful because it gives everyone a voice and an opinion. Social media is terrible because it gives everyone a voice and an opinion."

The above is paraphrased from a video I made several weeks ago. In that video I said that the power of social media is undeniable but when concerning technical matters it is often nothing more than terrible. The internet empowers people to spend a few minutes reading or watching videos, form a bad opinion and then voice that opinion. Unfortunately the democratisation of many forms of social media can give that opinion the same weight as subject matter experts. In the case of the penny error mentioned earlier this was very much the case, with correct opinions being drowned out by arguments put forward by posters who clearly had no actual knowledge of even the basics of coin manufacturing.

".. the one thing people are most likely to be ignorant of is the extent of their own ignorance—where it starts, where it ends, and all the space it fills in-between"[1]

The above was said by David Dunning, a well known American psychologist and co-author of a paper

with Justin Kruger in 1999 called "*Unskilled and Unaware of It: How Difficulties in Recognizing One's Own Incompetence Lead to Inflated Self-Assessments*". In that paper they proposed a cognitive bias called "The Dunning-Kruger Effect".

One aspect of the Dunning-Kruger effect was measured by asking people of low ability in a particular subject area to self-assess what they knew about that subject then to objectively measure their actual knowledge. This was done across a wide range of subject areas and it was found that people with a low level ability in a particular subject consistently over-estimated their abilities in that area[2]. Subsequent studies conducted by others across have shown a similar bias present in a wide range of subject areas.

I propose that this aspect of the Dunning-Kruger effect is alive and well in coin groups on social media. Often new collectors with little knowledge of numismatics are those who express their opinions the loudest and many times those opinions are terribly wrong. How can this problem be addressed?

I am an advocate for strong moderation on technical coin groups on social media. If you're going to run a technical coin group on social media be prepared to delete misinformation and incorrect opinions. If you don't then your group reflects badly on yourself and is actually detracting from the hobby rather than adding to it.

If you've got a technical question about a coin, seek out subject matter experts and ask them directly rather than making general posts on social media. If you don't you'll be bombarded with answers and you won't know which ones are educated and which ones are delivered from a foundation of ignorance.

If you're a new collector, resist the temptation to offer up opinions on subjects you know little about. Remember "***the one thing people are most likely to be ignorant of is the extent of their own ignorance***". In other words, you don't even know what you don't know.

If you're a new collector, always seek to educate yourself. Seek out subject matter experts, read everything you can, subscribe to magazines, consult reputable websites, and never stop asking questions. No-one was born an expert and we all had to start somewhere.

References

[1] Dunning, David; (2011). "The Dunning–Kruger Effect: On Being Ignorant of One's Own Ignorance". *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*. Volume 44, Chapter 5. ISSN 0065-2601

[2] Schlösser, Thomas; Dunning, David; Johnson, Kerri L.; Kruger, Justin (1 December 2013). "How unaware are the unskilled? Empirical tests of the "signal extraction" counter-explanation for the Dunning–Kruger effect in self-evaluation of performance". *Journal of Economic Psychology*. 39: 85–100. ISSN 0167-4870.



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Downie's Australian Coin Auctions 349 Results

Including some after auction purchases, Downie's achieved a 95.4% clearance for this sale, auction 349 on the 15th-17th August 2023. The prices realised for the ancients, world coins and English and Scottish (hammered and milled) were particularly strong. All prices include the buyer's commission.

Australian predecimal coins and patterns Session



A trial 1921 type 12 kookaburra (square) penny. These were cupronickel trial pieces for a proposed change from the Australian bronze coinage, a change that never occurred. This coin sold for \$24,400.



A proof 1945 Perth Mint halfpenny with dot after PENNY, described as "very minor marks and spotting else full red aFDC and extremely rare". This sold for \$17,080.



Three "pattern" swan dollars in silver. This design by Andor Mészáros was selected as the best from an Australian Coin Review competition for a circulating \$1 coin. These sold for \$1708, \$2196 and \$2440, the last graded by NGC as PF64.



1868 Sydney Mint (type II) sovereign graded by NGC as MS61 sold for \$1464.



A young head St George sovereign PCGS graded as MS63 sold for \$1708.

Of the graded predecimal coins:



A 1935 Threepence in NGC MS65+ sold for \$427.

A 1919 Sixpence PCGS MS64 sold for \$1098.

A 1914 Shilling PCGS MS64 sold for \$976 and a 1954 Sixpence PCGS MS66 sold for \$73.



Australian decimal coins session



There were seven 2012 coloured red poppy coins pasted on RSL cards. These sold for \$317-\$342.

A 2015 Remembrance C mintmark graded by as PCGS MS69 sold for AU\$579.



There were three 2c (Makloun portrait) struck on 1c planchets. While this is one of the more common types of wrong planchet error in the decimal series, they still achieved prices of \$610 to \$671.



The prices for the \$2 rolls were in line with current market prices.

- * Two \$2 rolls described as “2012 Remembrance Day red Poppy in green Chubb wrapper” each sold for \$7320.
- * A 2014 \$2 Remembrance Day RAM roll sold for \$1342.
- * A 2014 \$2 Remembrance Day 25 coin bag (unknown origin) sold for \$1159.
- * Two 2015 \$2 Lest We Forget 25 coin bags (unknown origin) each sold for \$404880.
- * A 2015 \$2 Remembrance 25 coin bags (unknown origin) also sold for \$488.

Ancients Session

Good prices were achieved on a couple of really nice Roman denarii:



A Julius Caesar (49-48 BC) denarius sold for \$2440.



A Macrimus (217 218) denarius sold for \$610.

World Coins



A Great Britain Charles II (1600-1685) crown sold for \$1098.



A Great Britain James II (1685-1688) crown sold for \$1952.



A Great Britain George III 1819 crown sold for \$793.



A Russian 1897 15 rouble realized \$1830.



A Scotland David II (1329-1371) third coinage groat (four pence) sold for \$732.



A Scotland James II (1437-1460) second coinage groat (four pence) sold for \$1708.

Medallions



Two Matthey & Co Limited London 18ct gold stamp replicas of Sir Winston Churchill, 4 and 1/3 stamps, each weighing 0.643 troy ounces and dated November 1965 in a fitted case of issue sold for \$3416.

Banknotes Session



A Peoples Bank of China specimen banknote set was sold for \$14,030.



A \$10 error polymer banknote, Fraser-Evans grey Dobell, missing entire intaglio phase on

front and serials on the back with checker's mark and graded and choice uncirculated sold for \$1586.



An uncut \$20 Fraser-Evens full sheet of 40 notes prefixes ABR to ADK in official Note Printing Australia frame sold for \$2928. A \$10 sheet with matching serial numbers sold for \$1586.

A consecutive pair of uncirculated 1996 Fraser-Evens \$100 first prefix test notes (AN96) sold for \$2196. These are very difficult to source in high grade.



A Ten Shillings Coombs-Wilson Reserve Bank star note, good fine sold for \$915.

Downie's next Auction will be held on the 24th of October 2023.

Overheard at Universal Coins in Melbourne Circa 2001

I was looking through a small container of tiny Roman bronze coins on the counter that Peter August had priced at \$5 per coin. By that time Alan Flint had left the Reserve Bank and was doing some work for Peter.



Another Customer: Do you think these would make a good investment?

Alan Flint: Well they've taken two thousand years to get to five dollars.

Image courtesy of *cameleoncoins* on eBay.

Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



Hi Coin Cat,
I received back from PCGS a sovereign graded MS63, but when I looked closely at it, there appears to be a very large gash in the reverse. Why would PCGS grade a coin with such an issue rather than body-bag it?
Regds Harry.



Harry's sovereign with added coloured arrows.

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your email. While the mark just above the spear (arrow in black) may be a scratch or scrape of some type, the large area near the horse's tail (red arrow) is actually a planchet flaw (also called lamination flaw or error). This is due to some impurity being rolled into the blank. The normal processes follow and sometime after the coin is struck, the impurity falls off the coin, resulting in the hollow you see.

This would be why PCGS did not grade your coin as "UNC details – scratch". The mark near the spear would possibly lower the overall grade of the coin, but it is not severe enough to make the coin ungradable.

PCGS have a separate submission level for error coins. As that service is more expensive, my guess is that is why PCGS did not mention the planchet flaw in the description on the holder. I suspect that if you resubmitted your coin as an error coin, the planchet flaw would be attributed.

Similar planchet flaws are sometimes found on predecimal bronze but more often on silver coinage. This is the first one I have seen on a gold coin.

Regards
Coin Cat

If you have any questions for Coin Cat please feel free to send them to coincat@independentcoinnews.com.



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International Auction Galleries Signature Auction 98 Preview

The auction will be held from the 3rd to 6th October 2023 with bidding online from the 12th September. IAG were kind enough to send us an early preview with some high resolution photographs. Some of the highlights are:



The detail of the design, the delicate frosting and the beauty of the reflective fields make this is a work of art, not just a coin. The Melbourne Mint did not issue any half sovereigns for circulation in 1897 and only struck proofs. This is one of the very few they made. (A full size photograph of the reverse of this coin appears on the cover of this issue of Independent Coin News). This proof coin is one of many highlights of IAG Signature Auction 98 and has an estimate of \$60,000.



1916 halfpenny muled with Indian quarter anna obverse. Almost as rare as the proof half sovereign with estimates of 12 to 15 known. The mule halfpenny was not publicised until the 1960s although it is known that one example was found and held onto in the 1930s. The one up for auction is an evenly worn, problem free example and has an estimate of \$30,000.



A five shillings Cerutti Collins (1920) specimen banknote. "Specimen" is stamped under "AUSTRALIAN NOTE". These were never issued and are rare. This note has an estimate of \$50,000.



A gold swan (or goose) dollar. This is an extremely rare private issue with only a handful ever minted in gold and not all surviving. Designed by Andor Mészáros, (the reverse was originally intended for the twenty cent), this was winner of a competition by Australian Coin Review to design a circulating crown or \$1 coin. While silver "business strikes" and silver proof versions appear in the marketplace quite regularly, it has been years since an example in gold has been available.



A £5 Collins Allen, No Mosaic Type, colour trial Specimen with an estimate of \$70,000.



A Pre-Federation £1 Australian Bank of Commerce New South Wales superscribed by the Commonwealth Treasury.



A 1920 Kookaburra (square) Penny Type 7 with an estimate of \$34,000 and also a 1921 Kookaburra penny.



The cupronickel square pennies were struck at the Melbourne Mint from 1919 until 1921 with the intention of using these to replace the larger Australian pennies. For a variety of reasons the project was abandoned but some of the trial pieces still survive.

The auction also features:

- Three Adelaide pounds.
 - The highest graded 1920 penny English obverse dot above bottom scroll (see May issue, page 10).
 - The 1966 Burman “specimen” coins (see July issue, page 50).
- A high grade 1923 halfpenny.
 - Some pre 1955 Australian proofs including a beautiful 1934 halfpenny and penny.
 - An assortment of spectacular error coins , including wrong planchet errors and brockage errors.

Online bidding commences on the 12th of September.

The \$2 Market Report for August

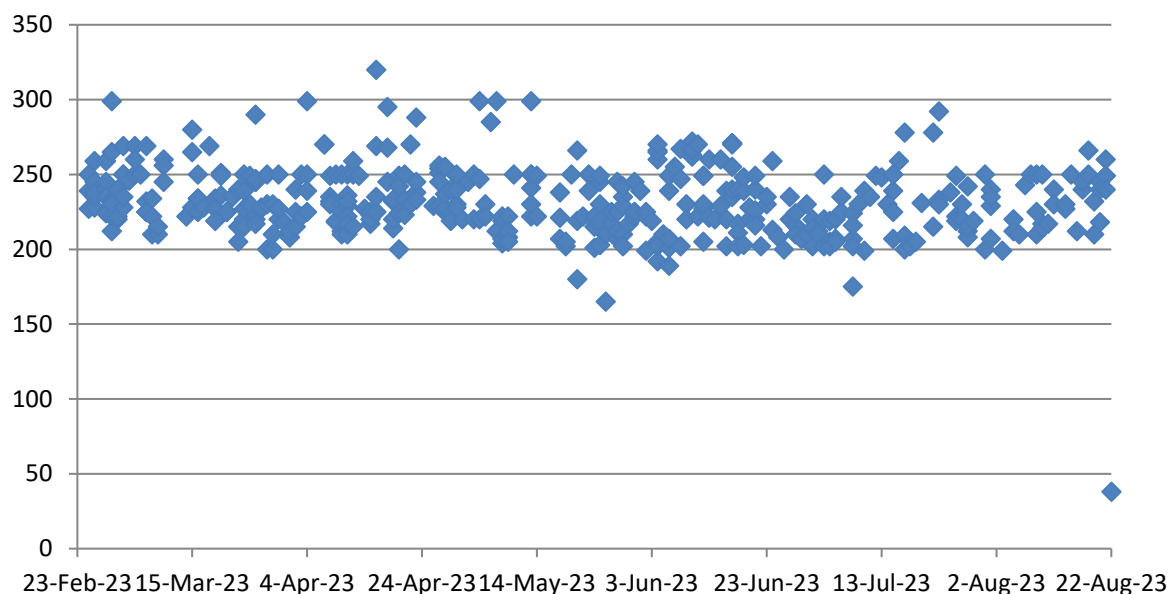
The total number of sales and number of listings for the recent two month period (23rd June to 22nd August) is given in table 1. On a monthly average, the Vietnam \$2 proof sales have dropped from 177 to 23, the Vietnam C mintmark sales from 681 to 192 and the 2022 C mintmark red poppy down to 56 from 80. The only issue to show an increase in sales was the 2013 coronation \$2, up from 11 per month to 33.

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

Coin	Number of Sales	Number of Listings
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	14	20
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	143	85
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	27	18
2013 \$2 Coronation	67	33
2022 \$2 C Mintmark Red Poppy	112	147
2023 \$2 Vietnam Proof	47	77
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	385	273

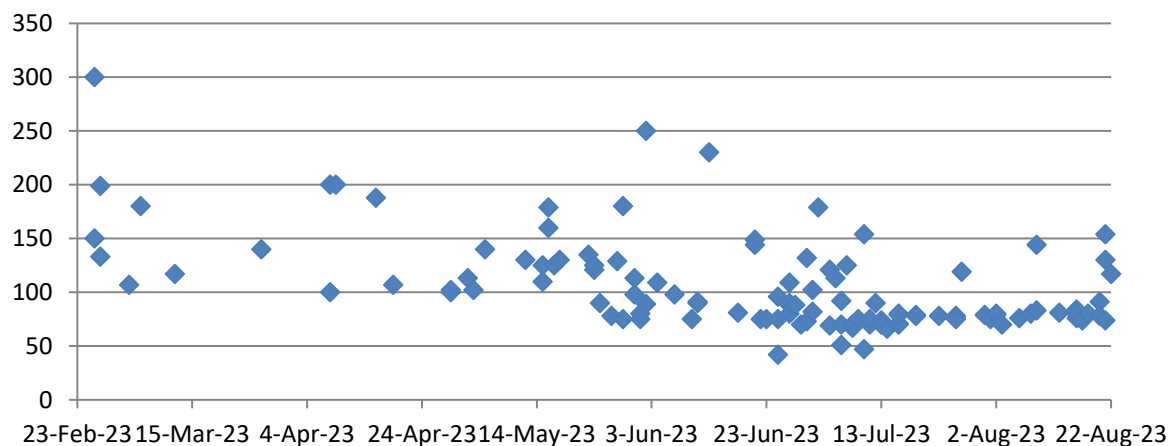
Table 1. Sales on eBay in the two months 23rd June to 22nd August and listings on the 22nd August. Note that the prices on some of the latter were somewhat optimistic.

2022 C Mintmark Red Poppy



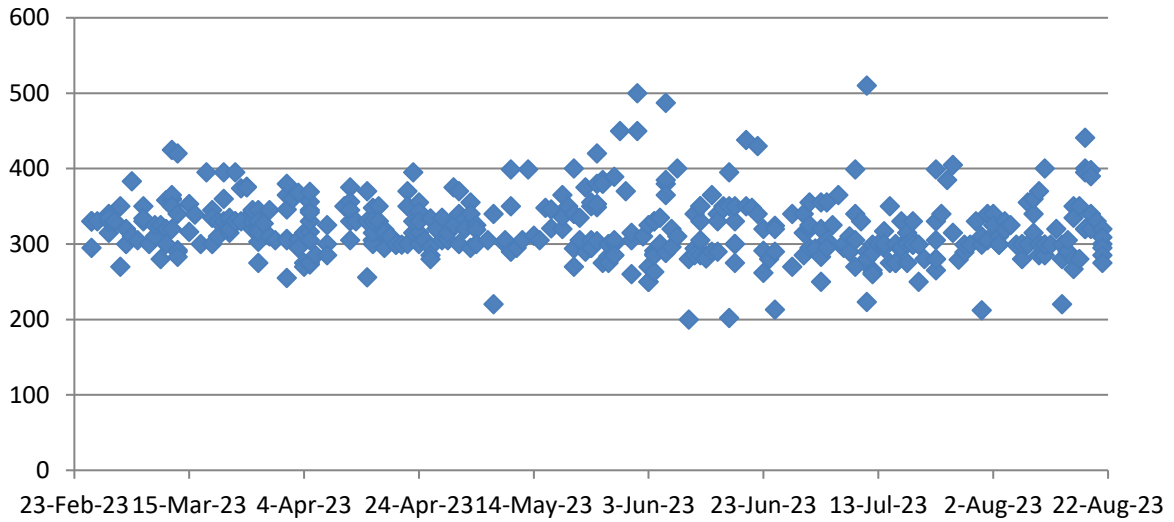
The data shows a slow upwards trend in sales price over the last two months with recent sales about the same as in late April. (The sale of \$38 on 21st August appears to be a real sale. I suspect that the seller made a mistake in his listing price.)

2013 \$2 Coronation



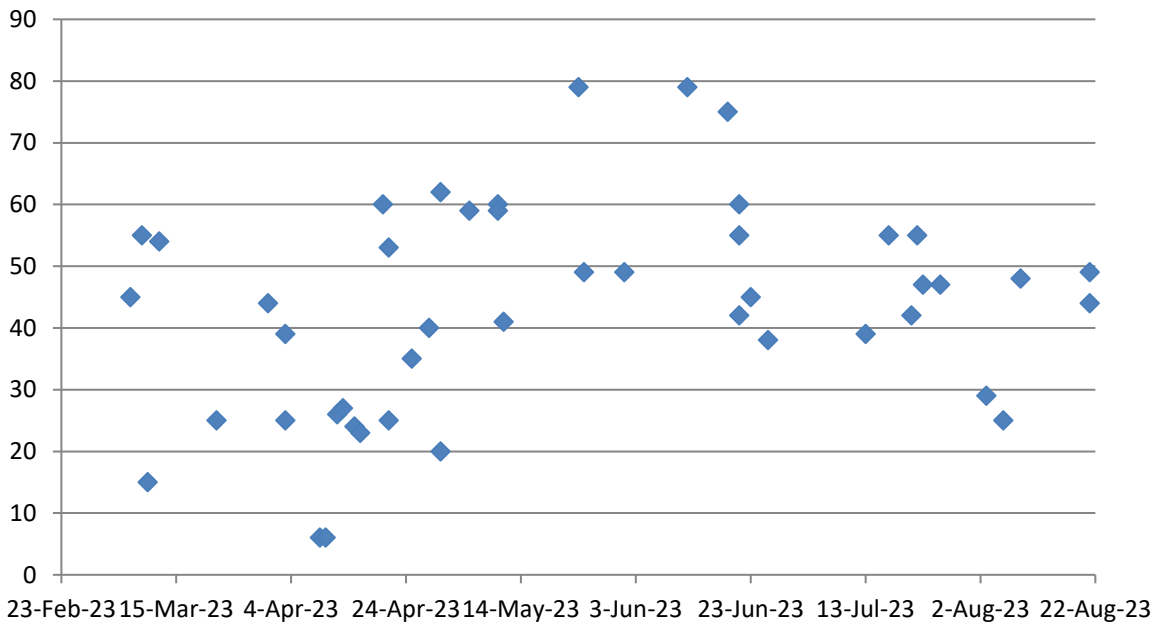
Data includes only those coins described in the listing as “uncirculated”. The number of sales was much higher in this two month period than the previous two months, and the average sale price slightly lower than the previous two months.

2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy



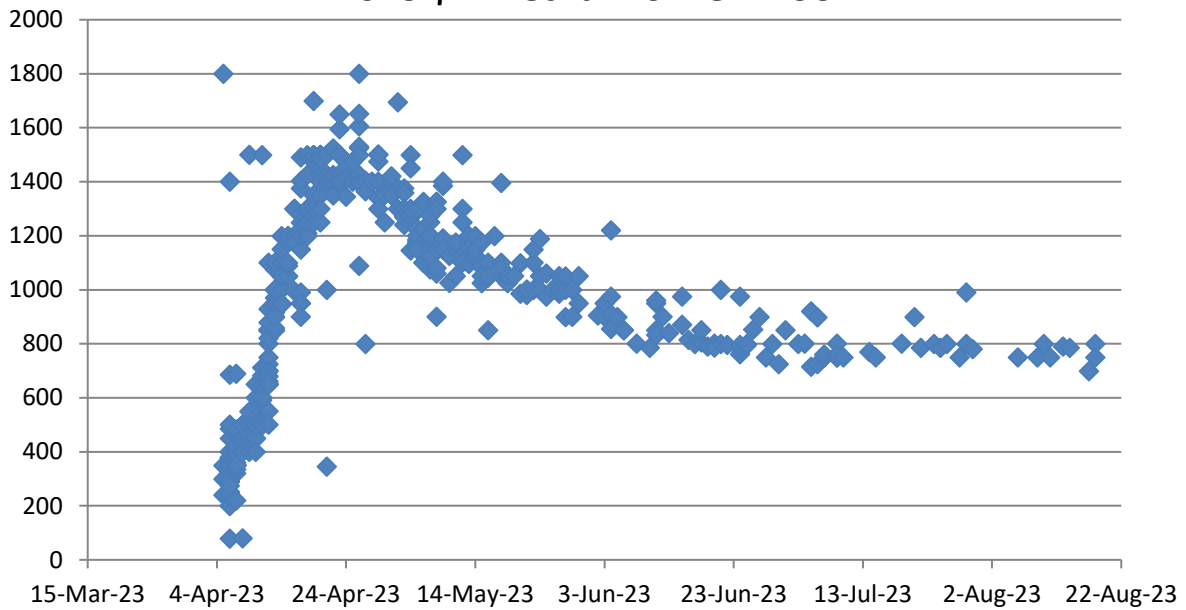
The data includes only uncirculated coins without die chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers' descriptions of coins as "uncirculated" are more reliable than that of coins such as the 2012 \$2 plain poppy and 2013 \$2 coronation. The data shows a slight downwards trend over the last six months.

2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy



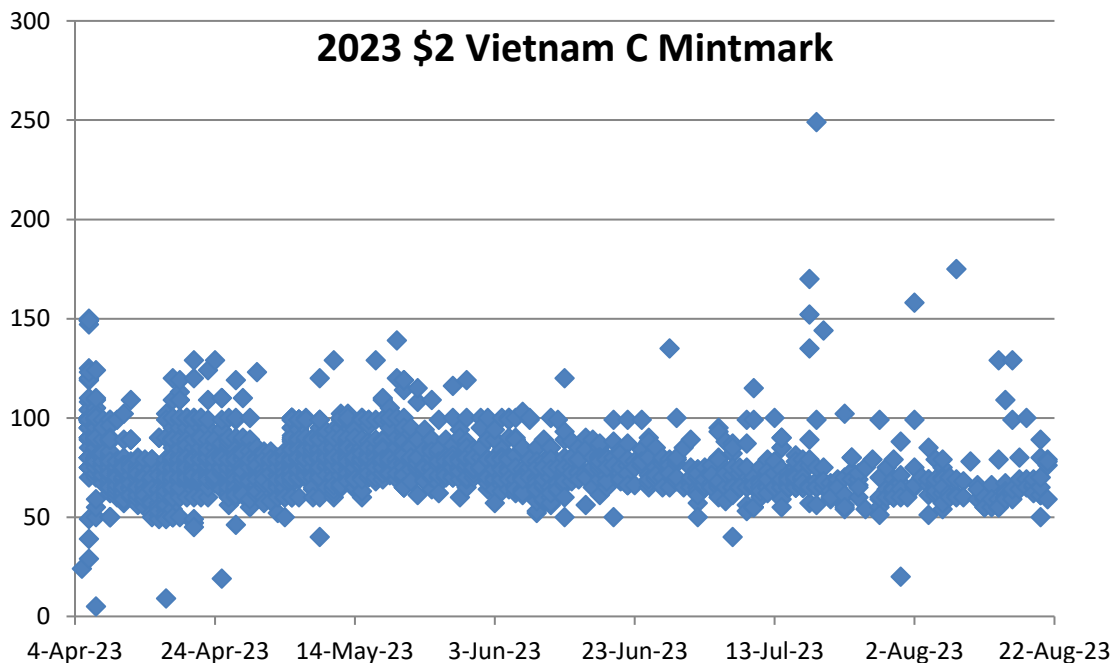
The data includes only those described as "uncirculated" with coins that are obviously polished removed from the data. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated given there were just 14 sales in the last two months. The average price in the last month appears to be higher than it was four months ago.

2023 \$2 Vietnam Silver Proof



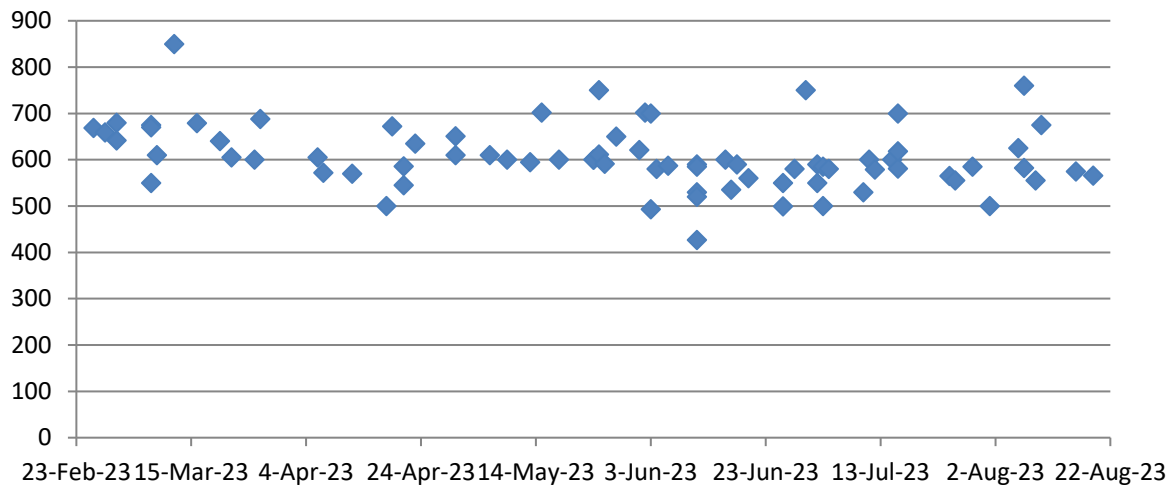
This coin was released on the 6th April. Note the presales. Given the large number of complaints reports of sellers dishonouring the early sales of the coin it is believed that very few were sold in the first week or so for under \$1000. Since the peak at around \$1,500 in late April we saw a steady decrease to around \$800 in mid June. Sales prices have been fairly steady at roughly \$750 in the last two months, although the sales rate has dropped dramatically.

2023 \$2 Vietnam C Mintmark



This issue was also released on the 6th April, and once again there were presales. While the number of sales is down to a third what it was in the previous 2 months, apart from a few outliers, recent sales have remained steady between \$50 and \$60.

2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy C Mintmark



While the number of sales has been comparatively small, we have seen a downward trend from the high 600s to high 500s over the last six months. This coin is probably the toughest of the C mintmark \$2.

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



Forthcoming Big Things \$1 Coin Release Through Australia Post



The ten circulating “Big Things” \$1 coins. Image courtesy of Australia Post Stamp Bulletin.

In September, Australia Post will be releasing the “Aussie Big Things” series of stamps and Royal Australian Mint \$1 coins through their retail outlets. These will be officially available only in change, individually in a card or in ten coin tubes.

As in previous issues, one in ten of the tubes will contain a coloured coin. This time it will be the Giant Murray cod in colour. The ten coin tube retails for \$29. The individual coins in a card retail for \$3 each.



Folder and “coloured” coin. Image courtesy of Australia Post Stamp Bulletin.

The ten coins are also available in proof sets.

- 10 coin silver proof set for \$495
- 10 coin aluminium bronze proof set for \$145

Additionally there are PNCs (postal numismatic covers) for each of the “Big Things” containing the coin and relevant stamp. The PNCs retail for \$18.95 each.

The coins available at participating Post Offices or can be ordered from the Australia Post website at <https://www.auspost.com.au/aussiebigthings>

This information was obtained from the Australia Post’s Stamp Bulletin 385 on 24th August and is believed to be correct as of this time.



Thank You

Special thanks to Mark Nemtsas for his thoughts on “Social Media”. Special thanks also to International Auction Gallery for sending some pictures of items from their next auction (including the one used on the cover) and Downie’s Australian Coin Auctions for pictures of items from their last auction.