

Independent Coin News



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

In this issue we look at the two cent coin, coin thefts, embargoes and FOMO (fear of missing out), the International Coin of the Year Awards, and we have the final of John Belcher's articles about rotated dies. Included also are the usual features such as auction previews and highlights, new releases from the Perth Mint and the Royal Australian Mint, the \$2 Market Report and of course Coin Cat's answers to emails. We continue our series for new coin collectors — in this issue we discuss how to tell if a coin is uncirculated.

If any of the details in the list of coin clubs and numismatic societies require updating, please let us know. Additionally, if you'd like an upcoming coin show to be added to our list please email editor@independentcoinnews.com.

Dr Peter Andrews, editor, September 2024.

Cover: The Coin Swap by Bronwyn Halls.

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

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The Two Cent Coin



Figure 1. The frill necked lizard designed by Stuart Devlin.

Thirty five years since the 2 cent coin was last issued for circulation, we have a look back at the series.

From the years 1966 to 1989 more than 2.4 billion two cent coins were minted. However, by 1990 the coin had a purchasing power only one fifteenth that it had had in 1966 and was no longer economical to produce. The treasurer Mr Paul Keating announced the end of production of both the 1 cent and 2 cent in his budget speech on the 21st August 1990. While the coin remains legal tender (the only coins ever to be demonetised in Australia were the 1813 holey dollar and dump), it will now normally only be accepted by banks. Many of the 1 cent and 2 cent coins withdrawn from circulation were melted down and used in producing the bronze medals for the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The standard reverse features the iconic Stuart Devlin representation of the frill necked lizard (Figure 1) and was used on all business strike issues.



Figure 2. Obverse designs used on the two cent.

Four obverses were used on the two cent (Figure 2). The first portrait designed by Arnold Machin was used for all 2 cent coins from 1966 until 1984 inclusive, as well as the proof silver issue from the 2006 set. The obverse of the two cent from 1985 until 1991 featured the portrait designed by Raphael Maklouf. The Ian Rank Bradley designed portrait appeared on the 2006, 2016, 2017 “kangaroos reverse” and 2017 planetary set Venus special issues. The portrait on the Venus coin was smaller as the obverse legend contained the denomination (Figure 2). There were no special issues that used the final Jodie Clark Queen Elizabeth II effigy.

Specifications

The nominal specifications for the bronze two cent are:

Mass: 5.2 grams.

Composition: 97% copper, 2.5% zinc, 0.5% tin.

Diameter: 21.59 mm.

The Non-proof Bronze Coins

Table 1 lists the bronze non-proof 2 cent (current as of August 2024), including the privy marks, varieties, as well as mintage (where known).

Date	Mint	Privy mark	Variety	Release	Mintage
1966	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	145 million
1966	Melbourne	Melbourne		Circulation only	66 million
1966	Perth	Perth		Circulation only	217 million
1966	Perth	Perth	missing SD	Circulation only	
1967	Perth	Perth		Circulation only	73 million
1968	Perth	Perth		Circulation only	16 million
1968	Perth	Perth	missing SD	Circulation only	
1969	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	12 million
1970	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	39 million
1971	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	60 million
1972	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	77 million
1973	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	94 million
1973	Perth	Perth		Circulation only	
1974	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	177 million
1974	Perth	Perth		Circulation only	
1975	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	100 million
1976	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	121 million
1977	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	102 million
1977	mint uncertain		Doubled date	Circulation only	
1978	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	128 million
1979	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	69 million
1980	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	145 million
1981	Canberra, Perth, Royal Mint			Circulation and mint set	249 million
1981	mint uncertain		missing SD	Circulation only	
1982	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	121 million
1983	Canberra and Perth			Circulation and mint set	177 million
1984	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	57 million
1985	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	34 million
1986	Canberra			mint sets only	180,000
1987	Canberra			mint sets only	200,000
1988	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	28 million
1989	Canberra			Circulation and mint set	124 million
1990	Canberra			mint sets only	106,000
1991	Canberra			mint sets only	169,000
2006	Canberra			mint sets only	87,000
2016	Canberra			"In come the dollars, in come the cents" set	10,000
2017	Canberra	Not applicable	Stuart Devlin kangaroos	carded	29,000
2017	Canberra	Not applicable	Planetary Set Venus	In Planetary set.	10,000

Table 1. Non-proof bronze 2 cent coins.

Privy Marks

The "privy marks" on the early Australian decimal coins were small changes to the design, presumably to identify the mint that struck a particular coin. On each of these a small feature was ground off the transfer punch(es) so that all dies, and thus all coins, struck by these dies would be missing a tiny part of the design. Privy marks were applied to the 2 cent coins minted in Melbourne and Perth in 1966 (Figure 3). All 1967 and 1968 two cent were struck in Perth and these also had the

missing claw privy mark (also known as the Perth reverse or Perth privy). From 1969 until 1972 the coins were minted only at the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra, and from 1973 until 1983 coins were minted at both mints. In most cases we cannot tell the origin of a particular coin, however some coins carry the Perth privy mark and as they are never found in Royal Australian Mint rolls, we can assume they originated at the Perth Mint.



Figure 3, left to right. No privy mark (Royal Australian Mint Canberra). Missing second claw on left foot (Melbourne). Missing claw on right foot (Perth).

The Missing SD “Variety”



Figure 4. 1966 two cent. (Top to bottom). Full SD, traces of SD, no apparent SD. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

The missing SD variety occurs on some 1966 Perth, 1967, 1968 and 1981 two cent. These coins are reasonably scarce. The ‘SD’ refers to the initials of the designer Stuart Devlin, found at about 6 o’clock near the rim and below the body of the frill necked lizard. So how could we have a coin with this design element missing? The initials are on the master die, so something must have happened later in the coin manufacturing process. To make working dies, a transfer punch is created by pressing a metal punch into the master die, thus creating a raised relief image of the reverse. This transfer punch is used to create multiple dies, which are used to strike coins. Overenthusiastic cleaning of a transfer punch could result in the designer’s initials being removed. However this would result in all the dies this punch created having the SD missing, and the “missing SD” variety would be quite common. This is not the case.

Given that the SD can be partially or completely missing for a given date, the cause is most likely die fill on one or more working dies. Figure 4 shows 1966 Perth 2 cent coins with full SD, mostly missing SD and completely missing SD.

The 1977 Doubled Date Variety



Some 1977 2 cent coins show significant doubling of the obverse legend, most noticeably that of the date. This is due to hub doubling. During the production of a working die, two strikes of the transfer punch were misaligned so the die (and thus all the coins struck by this die) has doubling. These coins are technically known as doubled die obverse (or DDO). This is a scarce variety. The mint of origin is uncertain but is most likely Perth as the coins are most often found in the south west of Western Australia, and to my knowledge none have been found in Royal Australian Mint rolls.

Figure 5. 1977 Doubled Date 2 cent.

The Non-standard Designs

In 2017 the Royal Australian Mint released a 2 cent coin in a card with one of Stuart Devlin's alternate designs: a kangaroo and a joey (Figure 5). These retailed for \$12.50. Also in 2017, a 2 cent "planet Venus" was released as part of the "Planetary Set".



Figure 5. 2017 2 cent kangaroo and joey (left), planetary set Venus (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Source of the coins

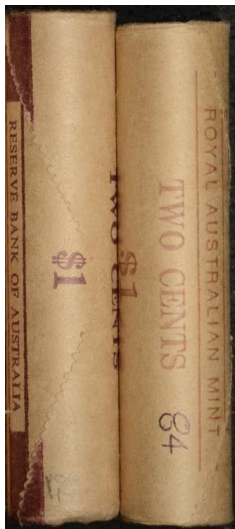
Mint Sets

One may imagine that the best source of high quality two cent coins would be the annual Royal Australian Mint sets. While this is true for later dates, until 1984 the coins in mint sets were in soft plastic pockets and unfortunately are often covered in pvc (poly vinyl chloride) residue. In particular this has caused ugly toning on the bronze coins (Figure 6). However it is sometimes possible to find sets where the coins are still fully brilliant.



Figure 6 (left). 1970 2c (toned) in Royal Australian Mint set. Photograph courtesy of Hobbyandtrade on eBay.

Coin Rolls



In general better quality coins can be found in Royal Australian Mint rolls. Early dates coins from RAM rolls are usually of higher quality than those from Reserve Bank rolls as coins in Reserve Bank rolls are generally struck in Perth, put in bags, transported, then rolled, whereas coins from Canberra are placed straight into rolls at the mint. 1981 and later rolls appear from other banks and security companies such as Transurety.

Figure 7 (left). Reserve Bank and Royal Australian Mint roll. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny.

Scarce Coins?

In reality, there are no scarce coins among non-variety issues. The only non-variety coin that trades for more than \$100 is the 2017 Venus coin. The prices of the 2016 and 2017 “kangaroos” issues appear anomalously low. But there is such a thing as grade rarity. High grade business strike coins (such as gem uncirculated or MS65) are scarce for some dates. 1966 Perth, 1967 and 1968 2 cent are found in Reserve Bank rolls (and not in RAM rolls) as they were produced by the Perth Mint. The coins inside these rolls usually show some degree of staining, possibly due to the type of paper in the rolls, but more likely due to moisture being trapped between coins. Figure 8 shows an example of such a coin, although the staining is relatively minor. On more extreme cases, the stains are darker with spots of verdigris in the middle. Only on one occasion did I have the pleasure of looking through a small hoard comprising several 1968 rolls where there was little or no staining on each coin. The sole MS67 on the PCGS population report originated from this group.



Figure 8. 1968 2 cent showing (water) stains. The staining on this coin is relatively minor, most from 1968 rolls are worse. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Of the variety coins, the 1973 and 1974 with the Perth reverse are quite hard to source. All missing SD varieties are scarce, the 1968 particularly so, and the 1977 doubled date is scarce to very scarce. Expect to pay more than \$100 for the latter two even in low grade.

The Proof Bronze Coins

Proof 2 cent coins were issued in annual proof sets in 1966, 1969–1991 and 2006. None are hard to obtain and they are only expensive in ultra high grade. A perusal of the PCGS population report shows that coins in PR70 (i.e. perfect) are extremely scarce for 1966–1974 issues, tough for 1975–1982, and reasonably easy to find in later dates.

What is hard to obtain is the 2010 proof 2 cent. This is part of the “Heritage set”, which consisted of the 1 cent to 50 cent (round) as well as plasters of alternate designs that had been considered for the decimal coins (Figure 9). Only 401 of these sets were produced.



Figure 9. 2010 Heritage Set which contained proof 1 cent to round 50 cent. Photograph courtesy of Sterling & Currency. This set sold for \$3700 in March 2023.

Silver Coins

Proof silver versions of the 2 cent have been released by the Royal Australian Mint and the Perth Mint on a number of occasions (Table 2). Some are the standard size and design; others are of non-standard size or a different design.

The first issue was the 1991 25th anniversary silver set which contained fine (.9999) silver versions of all eight denominations. This set trades for little more than bullion.

The 2006 set commemorating the 40th anniversary of decimal currency is a little more interesting. Again, all eight coins were included in the set and all the coins bear the original 1966 Arnold Machin obverse. Well, that was the theory. A handful of sets have surfaced where the 2 cent has the Ian

Date	Mint	Reverse	Obverse	Origin
1991	Canberra	standard	Raphael Maklouf	part of 25th anniversary silver set
2006	Canberra	standard	Arnold Machin	part of 40th anniversary silver set
2006	Canberra	standard	Ian Rank Broadley	part of 40th anniversary silver set; rare "mule"
2011	Canberra	standard	Ian Rank Broadley	1 cent and 2 cent fine silver proof set
2009	Perth	Meszaros wattle design	Ian Rank Broadley	part of Australian decimal pattern set
2016	Perth	standard with P mintmark	Ian Rank Broadley (modified legend, Figure 11)	Perth 1 cent and 2 cent set; oversized
2016	Canberra	standard	Ian Rank Broadley	part of fine silver proof set
2018	Canberra	standard	Raphael Maklouf	high relief; individual coin

Table 2. Fine silver proof 2 cent coins.

Rank Broadley obverse (Figure 10). This is a rare coin. Eric Eigner of Drake Sterling sold one for \$6500 a few years ago.



Figure 10. 2006 fine silver proof 2 cent. Arnold Machin designer obverse (left), Ian Rank Broadley obverse (right). The latter is very rare. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

In 2009 the Perth Mint released a set of silver proof versions of Andor Meszaros' proposed decimal designs for the 1 cent to 20 cent. This included the wattle two cent (Figure 11). A two coin set consisting of an oversized 1 cent and 2 cent was released by Perth in 2016. These two coins had a P mint mark. This is the only 2 cent coin thus far that has an explicit mint mark.



Figure 11. The Perth Mint silver proof two cent. 2009 with Andor Meszaros wattle design (left), 2016 oversized proof (right). Note the P mintmark near the rim at 6 o'clock on the 2016 dated coin. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Gold Coins

There have been just three gold sets that have included a 2 cent coin, all from the Royal Australian Mint. Two (2006 and 2016) have a standard size coin but the 2012 is part of a mini-coin set (0.5 grams) . This coin has edge milling (Figure 12). These coins trade at a premium above gold value.



Figure 12. 2006 standard size 2 cent in gold from yearly gold set (left), 2012 mini-coin 2 cent in gold (right). Note the edge milling on the miniature. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Collecting the Two Cent

How popular is the 2 cent? It is now more than thirty years since it was last issued as a circulating coin but a surprisingly large number of people have a two cent collection. I ran a survey on the Independent Coin News Facebook page asking how many people collected this denomination. Of the 166 replies, 98 (59%) indicated that they were collectors.

The Future

Will there ever be a Charles III 2 cent?

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1663 Petition Crown Sells for 939,000 Swiss Francs

On 8th May 2024, a 1663 Petition Crown (Figure 1) was sold at auction for \$939,375 Swiss Francs¹ (about 1.6 million Australian dollars). The Cope Collection of British and Roman coins was a joint sale by Numismatica Ars Classica, Classical Numismatic Group and Numismatica Genevensis.²



Figure 1. 1663 Petition Crown auctioned in May 2024. Photograph courtesy of Numismatica Ars Classica.

Following the restoration of the monarchy, there was a Royal competition to design the new milled Charles II coinage. This was won by Flemish brothers John and Joseph Roettier. A rival was Thomas Simon. A gifted engraver, Simon had had an interesting career. Working at the Tower Mint under Charles I, he sided with the Parliamentarians during the civil war, who appointed him as Chief Engraver of the Mint. After the restoration, Simon was made to share his job with John Roettier, a supporter of the King during the time he was in exile in the Netherlands.



Figure 2. 1662 crown designed by John Roettier. Photograph courtesy of NGC.

In a sense the Roettiers won the competition by default as Thomas Simon did not submit his design in time. The obverse of the Roettiers design is shown in Figure 2. As can be seen comparing Figures 1 and 2, the Thomas Simon design was intricate. In particular there is exquisite detail in His Majesty's portrait. An additional feature of the coin is the double line of edge lettering (Figure 3) which reads

"THOMAS SIMON · MOST · HVMBLY · PRAYS
· YOVR MAJESTY TO · COMPARE · THIS · HIS ·
TRYALL · PIECE · WITH · THE · DVTCH · AND ·
IF · MORE TRVLY · DRAWN & EMBOSS'D ·



Figure 3. Edge lettering on the Petition Crown. Photograph courtesy of Numismatica Ars Classica.

MORE · GRACE · FVLLY · ORDER'D · AND ·
MORE · ACCVRATELY · ENGRAVEN · TO ·
RELEIVE · HIM .”³

The Thomas Simon design was submitted to the King in 1663 and rejected. While Simon’s design was superior, his entry was late and, unlike Simon, his competitor had shown unwavering loyalty to the King. Because it was never

an official issue, the Petition Crown is extremely rare, with the number of existing coins estimated as 20 by Heritage (7 in museums)⁴ and 16 by Sovereign Rarities³.

References

1. The auction item is accessible online at <https://www.arsclassicacoins.com/bidder/#!/auction/lot?a=4516&l=1306>
2. Numismatic News <https://www.numismaticnews.net/world-coins/petition-crown-of-charles-ii-sets-new-record>
3. The Great Engravers: Thomas Simon's Petition Crown, <https://www.sovr.co.uk/pages/the-great-engravers-thomas-simons-petition-crown>
4. <https://coins.ha.com/itm/great-britain/great-britain-charles-ii-silver-pattern-petition-crown-1663-ms62-ngc-/a/3113-31155.s>

Further Reading

All four of the references above.

Ancient Greek Coins at Noonans in September

254 ancient Greek coins with pedigrees going back over 50 years will be auctioned by Noonans Mayfair on the 25th September¹. These coins were collected over 90 years by a father and son. The collection is going by the name Phillips Collection (although that is not the real family name) and the proceeds will go to the Heberden Coin Room in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University’s Museum of Art and Archaeology.

One of the highlights of the auction is a Dionysios I decadrachm from Syracuse, the dies the work of the engraver Kimon (Figure 1). The obverse of the coin shows a charioteer driving a galloping quadriga to the left, holding reins in one hand and urging the horses on, a wreath-bearing Nike flying right to crown the driver. The reverse shows a head of the Greek nymph Arethusa facing left, wearing a pendant earring and pearled necklace; four dolphins swimming around, the one below the neck carrying a signature of the artist (KI)².

Morton & Eden sold a nicer example, struck by a different die pair, in September 2023 for £320,000³. This lot has an estimate of £40,000 to £50,000.



Figure 1. Syracuse, Dekadrachm, struck under the tyrant Dionysios I, c. 400-395; signed work of Kimon. Photograph courtesy of Noonans.

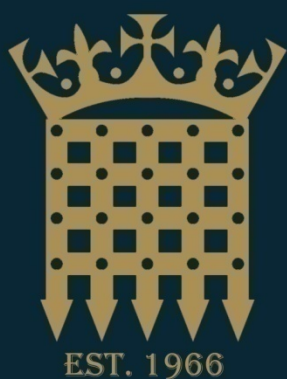
Not all the lots are quite as valuable as the decadrachm. For example, lot 111, a gold Carthaginian stater (350—320BC) has an estimate of £3,000 to £3,600 (Figure 2). The design is simple, but I believe, attractive. Described as “Stater [Five Hemidrachms], struck at Carthage, c. 350-320. Obverse: head of Tanit left, wearing crown of barley, triple pendant earring and pearled necklace. Reverse: horse standing right, three small pellets on ground line. Metal: gold; Punic weight standard; 9.36g/1h”. Tanit was one of the major Carthaginian deities.



Figure 3. Carthaginian stater from 350-320 BC. Photograph courtesy of Noonans.

References

1. Auction catalogue: <https://noonans.co.uk/auctions/calendar/756/catalogue/?&offset=0>
2. As in 1, lot 94.
3. “Signed Syracuse Silver Dekadrachm Sells for £320,000”, Independent Coin News November 2023, page 23.



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A Coin Theft, Embargoes and Fear of Missing Out



Figure 1. Task Force about to raid the alleged perpetrator's residence. Image courtesy of New South Wales police and the New Daily.



Figure 2. Some of the stolen coins. Photograph: NSW police /AFP/ Getty Images

A Coin Theft

On the 7th August 2024 a man was charged by New South Wales police with the theft of 63,000 (or 64,000 depending upon the source) unreleased Bluey coins from a warehouse in western Sydney on the 23rd of June¹. These coins were not to be released before the 2nd of September. On the 31st July, police raided a property in Sefton where they seized 189 of the unissued coins. State Crime Command robbery and serious crime squad commander Detective Superintendent Joseph Doueihi said "Our investigation at that stage identified that person that was selling those coins was a legitimate coin collector and had innocently come into possession of those items". The collector had paid \$1.50 for each of the coins, which were of course seized by the police².

In mid August a second man was arrested in relation to the theft². In early July these coins were selling at \$5 to \$15 each, far more than the innocent collector paid. Detective Superintendent Joseph Doueihi has asked that if people know of the location of bulk quantities of these coins that they contact the police.

One possible source of information concerning sales of these coins is eBay. eBay sales can be accessed for several months after the transaction, along with the seller's eBay handle, and I suspect this is how New South Wales police began their investigations. A search of the key phrase "bluey bag" brought up 89 sales on the 25th August (this is a week before release day, **so in theory no-one should have been selling them yet**); the earliest sales were several by one particular seller on the 2nd July, little more than a week after the alleged theft.

Embargoes

The sale of mint (RAM or Perth Mint) products months before their official release brings us to the second part of this article – embargoes. Both mints impose upon their wholesale dealers a period in which details (usually just photographs and packaging details, as descriptions of all coins can be found through the Currency Determination) of a new release are confidential. For example on the "terms of trade"³ the Royal Australian Mint define the terms:

“Embargo Period means the period during which Embargoed Material is confidential and must not be disclosed or communicated to third parties

Embargoed Material means Mint Material which is expressly or impliedly identified as material under embargo and which may not be disclosed or communicated to third parties during the Embargo Period.”



Figure 3. Royal Australian Mint at the Carrington Inn in Bungendore to launch the Centenary of Cobb & Co's Last Passenger Coach Service with local Federal member Kristy McBain and Dr Andrew Leigh. Photograph courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.

Both mints take embargoes very seriously and reserve the right to revoke a dealer's wholesale status if the dealer breaks an embargo. I know of one Queensland dealer who had this happen because they continued to defy embargoes.

There are a couple of reasons for an embargo. Firstly, it should create a level playing field given the specified release date. However with the advent of so many internet dealers obtaining stock early, this is now far less relevant and embargoes seem to be ignored by all except the authorised dealers. Secondly, the mint can host a formal release (and

press conference) of the new product, such as happened recently for the Cobb & Co \$1 coin (Figure 3).

Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)

So why are people paying \$10 per coin for a coin that will be available from Australia Post at \$29 per tube of 10 (\$2.90 per coin) in two months time?

- “If I don't buy it now I may miss out”. This is known as Fear of Missing Out or FOMO. In the majority of cases it is unjustified as the mints typically produce sufficient coins to keep the collectors happy. An exception to this is when a coin has a much wider appeal than the normal collecting community, or it is hyped up by the media. The coloured Bluey coins released earlier this year were an example of the former as the Bluey cartoon has a wide appeal. Media hype has occurred on a number of releases over the last two years and resulted in the “sneaker people” using bots to buy up a release and then try to resell at exorbitant prices. This has been tempered somewhat by the Royal Australian Mint's use of EQL ballots and by shipping products several weeks later. The high secondary prices for Bluey coins on platforms on eBay could be solved by the RAM minting more coins, however they may not be permitted to do so as they specified a maximum mintage before release date.
- I didn't know these exist so if I don't buy it now I may miss out. Usually prices decrease and continue to do so after the initial release so you are extremely unlikely to miss out.

- It'll be worth a fortune in a few months so it doesn't matter if I pay a ridiculous amount now because then I'll be able to sell it to those who think that if they don't buy it now they'll miss out. We suggest you consult an accountant who specialises in income tax.
- "I just have to be the first to have it". Enjoy your coin ... but remember that it was your decision to pay so much.

How Do I Know a Coin Has Been Released?

The Royal Australian Mint announces releases through their website and social media; these are also often reported on radio, television and newspapers. The Perth Mint announce upcoming releases about a month before release via their website and network of dealers and also via Western Australian radio stations.

If a coin is yet to be released should I buy it?

If you are offered a coin by a mint authorised distributor taking pre-orders, there is no problem.

A list of Royal Australian Mint distributors can be found here:

<https://www.ramint.gov.au/australian-coin-distributors>

And Perth Mint dealers here: <https://www.perthmint.com/customer-care/find-a-distributor/>

If offered by a dealer not on the appropriate distributor list, e.g. an eBay listing or a dealer you do not know, do so at your own peril —especially if coins are being sold in bulk. For example, if you are hypothetically offered a bag of 2025 \$2 coloured tennis coins which would not be released for months, then it would be unwise to purchase them, as there is the possibility they are stolen coins and you would eventually be forced to return them without receiving compensation.

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1. "Dog act: \$600,000 of unreleased Bluey coins looted", The New Daily 7th August 2024, <https://www.thenewdaily.com.au/news/crime-news/2024/08/07/bluey-coins-looted>
2. "Second man arrested in theft of \$600,000 worth of limited-edition Bluey coins in Sydney", The Guardian 20th August 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/aug/20/bluey-coin-theft-australia-second-arrest-ntwnfb>
3. https://www.ramint.gov.au/sites/default/files/wholesale_dealers-domestic_wholesale_terms_of_trade.pdf



Recent Perth Mint Releases

Most of the Perth Mint offerings over the last two months are variations of a theme: designs identical to previous issues apart from material or gilding.

The 125th anniversary Perth Mint sovereigns

This was issued as a $\frac{1}{4}$ sovereign and double sovereign in proof, a three coin and five coin set, a two coin set and finally a five sovereign (in years gone by would be known as a £5) proof with rose gold gilding (pictured). As of 24th August this spectacular coin was still available from the Perth Mint website for \$6495.



The koala five ounce high relief proof coin in gold was also still available from the Perth Mint website on the 24th August for \$6495.



Australian Wedge-tailed Eagle. With the same basic design as for earlier issues this year, these are now available as a 3 ounce silver proof for \$399 and a bi-metal proof ($\frac{3}{4}$ ounce of 99.99% pure gold and $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of 99.95% pure platinum for \$5999.



ANA World's Fair of Money Year of the Dragon 1 ounce Silver Golden Coloured Coin

This coin came in a card and was released at the American Numismatic Association Money Fair. As with the other Year of the Dragon coins it has the QEII memorial obverse.



Kookaburra Kaa-Kaa 2 ounce Silver Antiqued Coloured Coin



To quote the Perth Mint website: "The third coin design by leading Western Australian Indigenous artist Kevin Bynder portrays his original coloured painting of a kookaburra.

Struck from 2 ounces of antiqued fine silver, this special coin celebrates the iconic bird known to Nyoongar people as 'kaa kaa'." The Perth Mint will donate \$10,000 of the proceeds to Binar Futures —an organisation inspiring young Aboriginal people to build positive futures. As of 24th August the coin was still available from the Perth Mint website for \$269.

The Jewelled Turtle is the latest in the Perth Mint Masterpieces jewelled coin series. With 10 ounces of .9999 gold, a three dimensional turtle in 22 carat gold and encrusted with pink Argyle diamonds, this coin is made to order (maximum mintage of 8) and sells for \$269,000.



Future Releases

These include the 2025 Year of the Snake bullion issues, plus wombat and brumby issues.

All photographs are courtesy of the Perth Mint.

Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

It's been a busy couple of months for the Royal Australian Mint.

First, the annual gold and silver sets have been released. The “Change of Monarch” theme continues from the base metal set released earlier this year. The \$2 coin has the Dan Thorn effigy of Charles III, the other coins various effigies of Elizabeth II. The fine silver set is now only available on the secondary market and the gold set is “currently unavailable” on the Royal Australian Mint website as of 21st August.



Effigies of the gold set, \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c. Photographs courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.

The Mint continues to distribute new products through a variety of sources: some through their EQL ballot, some through dealers, some through their website and also some through private companies. A welcome change to the RAM's EQL ballot is that postage is now combined for products bought through ballot on the same day — a huge improvement for those purchasing cheaper items. Products won through ballot face shipping delays of several weeks. This appears to have tempered the “reseller” market somewhat, which is good for collectors; Independent Coin news strongly suggests that

customers be patient when ordering through EQL. We repeat our comment concerning behaviour toward dealers from our last issue:

Not all issues are released through the dealer network so it would be wise to check with your local dealer before the release date whether they will have the particular issue you are interested in, rather than calling them at a busy time.

All the other Royal Australian Mint issues have the Dan Thorn Charles III effigy.

Olympic and Paralympic \$2 Coins



These were once again released through Woolworths and are also available from

Australia Post and the Royal Australian Mint as a three coin pack (Olympic) and a single carded coin (Paralympic). The coins in the packs (pictured) appear to be general circulation coins as they are not high quality.



Cobb and Co Centenary Dollar



To commemorate the centenary of the last Cobb & Co passenger coach run, the RAM released a carded \$1 coin. Cobb & Co. began operation in 1853, transporting passengers and goods by horse drawn coaches. These

were supplanted by the automobile in the early decades of the 20th century.

NAIDOC 50 Cent

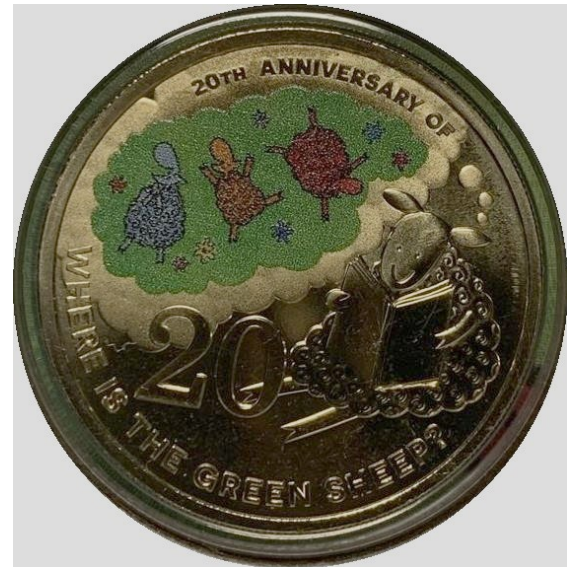
To mark 50 years of NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee), two 50 cent coins were released; one into circulation and the other as a coloured coin in a card. Protests by first nations peoples concerning the treatment of indigenous Australians are now recognised in national NAIDOC Week.



Where is the Green Sheep 20 Cent

“Where is the Green Sheep?” is a children’s story written by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek in 1994.

The coin is available in a card included in a book, and can be purchased as a gold plated coin in a book. The coin photographed in the gold plated twenty cent. Thanks to the Purple Penny for providing the coin and the book.



Two Bullion Coins, available as 1 ounce coins in both gold and silver.

As these are bullion coins you will need to call the Royal Australian Mint to find out the price on the day.

Australian Dolphin Series – **Hourglass Dolphin**

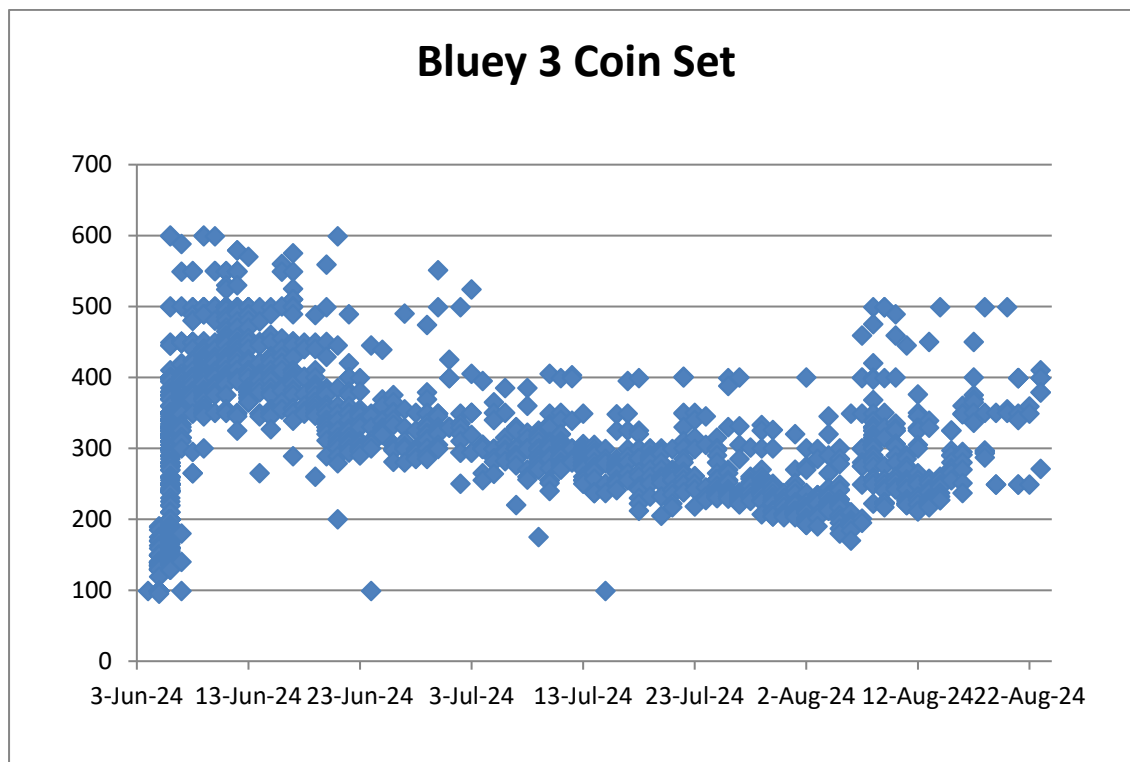


Australia Zoo Series – **Giraffe**



Bluey Coins

More Bluey coins and PNCs are being released through Australia Post as we detail in the Australia Post section. Last issue we showed a graph of the eBay sales for the Bluey 3 coin sets. Further sales in the last two months have been added to give the graph below, current as of the 24th August. The prices realised continued their decline until about the 7th August, then increased, at about the time when the Bluey coins resurfaced in the media thanks to the theft of 63,000 non-coloured coins.





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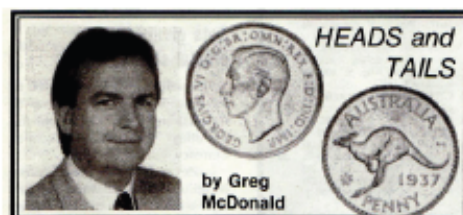
Forty years experience, world-wide contacts and 29 books has afforded me a unique perspective in analysing the Numismatic investment market



In having to review the price of every single coin and banknote on an annual basis for my Pocketbook Guide, this has helped me to identify gaps in the market. Over the years I have been able to pass on this information to my clients. **Some of the results have been spectacular!!**

This is how one client fared when he auctioned off one of my recommendations in the late 1990's.

6494 1939 Melbourne Proof 1d. Attractive purple orange tone. Very rare. FDC free from any spots. McD cat \$25,000. (Ex Greg. McDonald, cost \$345 in 1983) (P) **\$15000 - \$20000**



Above. My monthly column in the Coin Review [1985-1992]. At right : My first book of 1983. It required a reprint just six weeks after publication.



ARE YOU A SELLER?

These days, my emphasis is to help collectors, investors, executors, and beneficiaries sell their portfolios for the best possible price.



It doesn't matter if you have one coin worth a million dollars or a million coins worth a dollar!

Well, ok the above is your typical advertising spiel, like restaurants saying they use only "the freshest ingredients" and everyone else suggesting they offer the 'Best Service.'

We did go close though. We once handled a collection that sold for \$1,100,000. Three years ago we arranged the sale of a collection estimated to achieve \$130,000. It sold in auction for a staggering \$212,000! The real story here is that the collection weighed a massive 750 kg!!!

It was delivered on a number of pallets by an Interstate trucking company. It weighed 750 kg; took weeks to sort and catalogue. It sold for \$212,000!

If you have already been told your collection is unsaleable junk, I urge you to read this recent letter of thanks [below].

Subject: RE: Collectables -

Date: 7 December 2021 at 7:16:40 am AEDT

To: "Greg McDonald" <gregmcdonaldpublishing@gmail.com>

Hi Greg

What a great result. I know I can speak for the entire family in thanking you most sincerely for assisting us through the process. We really could not have done this successfully without you and will be forever grateful for all your guidance and support.

The collection was a life-time accumulation that was left untouched in a tumbledown garage for many years. A leaky roof and a cosy home for generations of rats and mice is all that is needed to be said about the general condition of the collection. It took 18 months from the initial contact with the beneficiaries to work out what could be just cashed in at the bank, sold as bullion or given away to the grandkids. What was left was a staggering - and varied - collection

ooo000ooo

If you just need some advice or want me to handle the whole transaction, it will cost you nothing to ask. Our fees are negotiable and never more than 11% [including GST]. These fees only apply after we have successfully negotiated a successful outcome. Simply email me with either a brief list, spreadsheet, receipts, scans or similar information to get the ball rolling.

gregmcdonaldpublishing@gmail.com

I will answer your enquiry personally. Confidentially assured

The Royal Australian Mint Visitor Centre Reopens



After a major refurbishment, the visitor centre has reopened. Kathryn Harris of the Purple Penny made her way from Adelaide and provided us with some photographs and comments.

Naturally a photograph of His Majesty Charles III now replaces that Queen Elizabeth II.

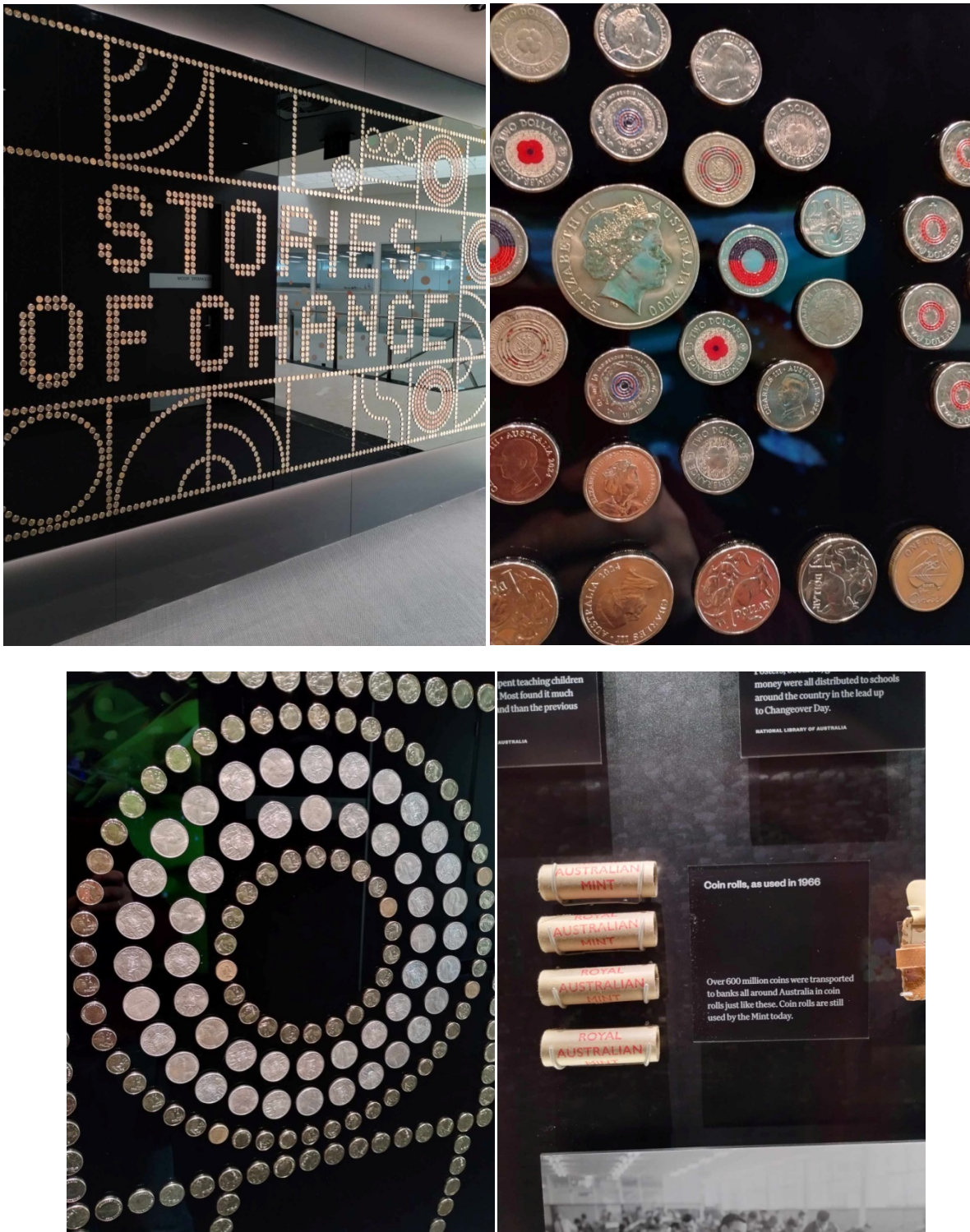
There are various displays, including original plasters, trials for coloured coins and original Royal Australian Mint coin rolls. Some of these are shown below.

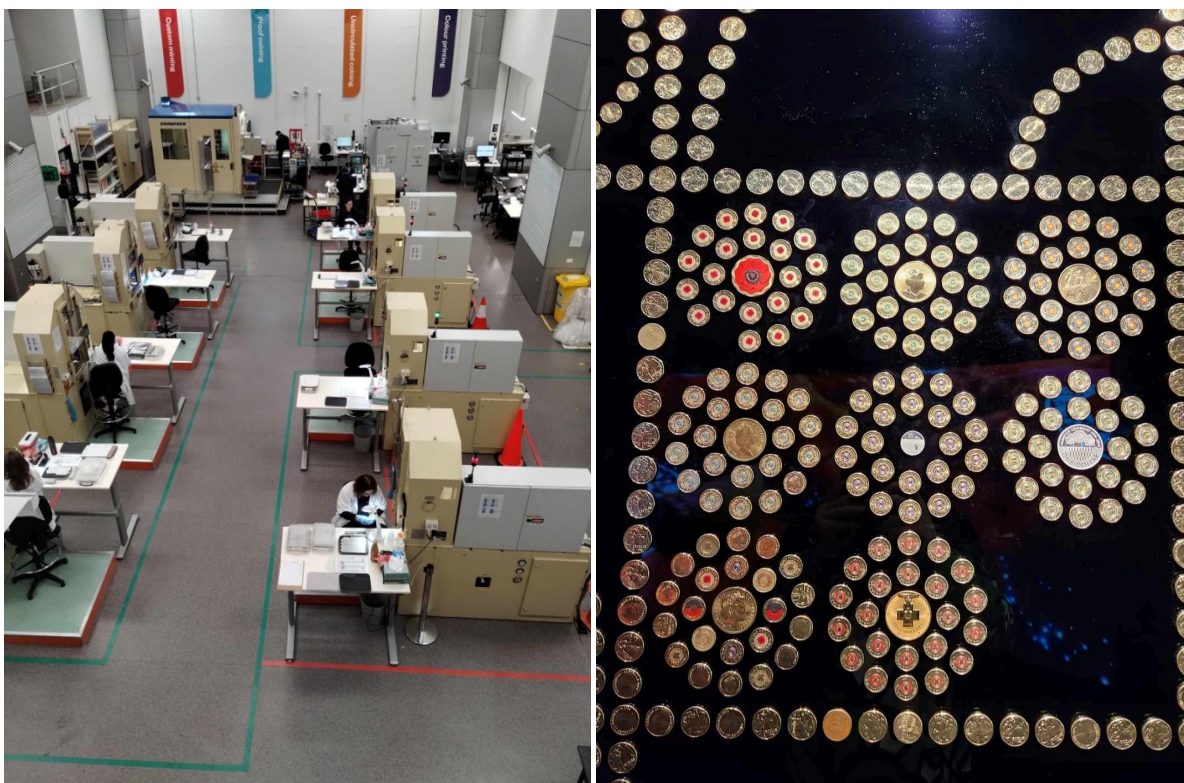


Left: Plasters used to create the original decimal master dies. Notice the strong double bars (i.e. complete ribbons/reeds) on the 50 cent.

Right: The plaque associated with this display reads: “In 1919, the Mint undertook a range of tests to determine if using different shapes on coins would enhance the look and longevity of added colours. By using four concentric rings with colour print over and between them, it was found the coin design is more robust and less likely to be damaged. With this innovation, Mint coin designers can now be more creative with their coloured designs, particularly for circulating coins. The trial coins and the resulting releases can be seen here.”

The murals are made from circulating coins, some coloured, artistically stuck to the wall.





Left: The work area where the proofs are individually struck. I believe that each coin is struck four times. Right: Sadly it was only weeks before one of the 2012 \$2 remembrance coins went missing. This photograph is courtesy of Peter Johnson.

Bluey \$1 Coins and PNCs from Australia Post

More Bluey \$1 coins were released by Australian Post on the 2nd September. Ten uncoloured coins were sold in a tube for \$29, the contents of which could be put into a small album. One in 10 of the tubes contained a coloured version of the 'Bluey' coin (top left).

<p>2278401 (76602915) Bluey</p>	<p>2278402 (76602916) Bluey & Her Family</p>	<p>2278403 (76602917) Bingo</p>	<p>Bluey 10-Coin Tube and Collectable Folder Set \$29</p>
<p>2278404 (76602918) Muffin & Socks</p>	<p>2278405 (76602919) Stripe, Trixie & Nana</p>	<p>2278406 (76602920) Rad & Frisky</p>	
<p>2278407 (76602921) Bluey & Friends</p>	<p>2278408 (76602922) Bluey, Bingo & Friends</p>	<p>2278409 (76602923) Mum & Dad</p>	



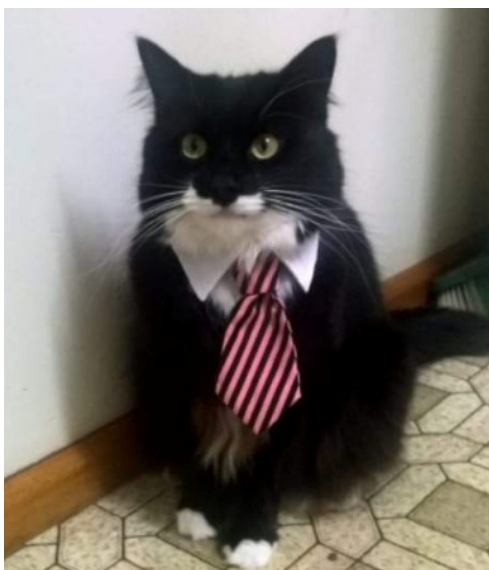
Postal Numismatic Covers (PNCs) were also available that matched the coins in the tube except that these had an envelope privy mark. (The privy mark coins were also sold on the Royal Australian Mint website.)



A proof silver and proof aluminium bronze version of the 'Bluey' coin was also available from Australia Post and the RAM (via EQL ballot). All but the tubes were quickly sold out.

The photographs of the PNCs and the advertising for the coins in a tube are courtesy of Australia Post.

Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



Dear Coin Cat,

Recent articles that I have written for Independent Coin News which investigated Rotated/Upset dies in both Decimal and Pre-Decimal coins indicated that PCGS would only grade coins with a rotation of 45 degrees or greater. PCGS have now revised their grading standards and will now accept coins with rotated dies of 20 degrees or more and label them as such. A link to the relevant PCGS article is attached for your readers' information.

<https://www.pcg.com/news/varieties-vs-mint-errors-whats-the-difference>

John Belcher

Dear John,

Thank you, this is interesting information. However as PCGS will be grading these as error coins, the grading fee will be extremely high. If you send 100 coins it would cost \$100 per coin; less would be much more per coin.

Regards,

Coin Cat

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

coincat@independentcoinnews.com

Japan Introduces New Banknotes

New banknotes of 1000, 5000 and 10,000 yen were released on 3rd July 2024. These are the first new Japanese banknotes since 2004. All are the same size as the previous generation.



The front features Shibusaburō Kitasato who invented tetanus serum therapy, discovered the plague bacillus, and founded the Institute for Infectious Diseases and the Kitasato Institute. The back depicts "Under the Wave off Kanagawa," a world famous work by the ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai in the Edo era.



The front shows Tsuda Umeko, who devoted her life to the higher education of women and founded Joshi Eigaku Juku (now Tsuda University). The back depicts Fuji (Japanese wisteria flowers), which have been cherished since ancient times.



The front features Eiichi Shibusawa, who was involved in the establishment of around 500 businesses and economic organizations during his lifetime and played an active role in the business world. The back depicts Tokyo Station (Marunouchi Station building), a historic structure commonly known as the “Red Brick Station.”

These notes incorporate some newly adopted anti-counterfeiting technologies such as a **high-definition watermark** where the portrait is surrounded by a continuous pattern of intricate lines, and a **3D hologram** that can be used to rotate the portrait in 3D (this is a world first).

Older anti-counterfeiting technologies still used include **latent images** (when tilting a note, the denomination appears on the front, and “NIPPON” appears on the back), **pearl ink** (when tilting a note, a pink pattern emerges at the centre of either end of the note), **microprinting** (microscript that cannot be easily reproduced on colour copy machines), intaglio printing, tactile marks (for the visually impaired), **watermark-bar-pattern** (watermarks in bar patterns are embedded in the paper), and **luminescent ink** (when ultraviolet light is shone on a note, the seal of the Governor of the Bank of Japan on the front side, and part of the background pattern on either side, become luminous).

Source

National Printing Bureau Japan.

All photographs are courtesy of National Printing Bureau Japan.

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World's Largest Banknote Auctioned



An example of the world's largest banknote, measuring 35 cm x 21.5 cm, was auctioned at Noonans Mayfair on 28th August with an estimate of £5,000–£6,000, but failed to meet reserve. The 1998 100,000 piso note was a special issue from the Central Bank of the Philippines to celebrate the 100th anniversary of independence from Spain. The note is larger than an A4 size of paper and is graded by PCGS as 68PPQ. Only 1000 were ever issued.



The obverse of the note shows a symbolic scene of the struggle for Philippine Independence in 1896 - the Sigaw ng Himagsikan led by Andres Bonifacio, the supremo of the Katipunan (revolutionary organisation). The reverse features the proclamation of the Philippine Independence led by General Emilio Aguinaldo on 12 June 1898, in Kawit, Cavite.

All photographs are courtesy of Noonans Mayfair.

Sources

Noonans Mayfair <https://www.noonans.co.uk/auctions/archive/past-catalogues/744/catalogue/969431/>

ABS CBN News: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/2024/8/26/look-bsp-shows-p100-000-piso-bill-1549>

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank New \$50 Banknote



In June the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) released into circulation a colourful new \$50 banknote to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Grenada's independence. The note is legal in all countries and dependencies covered by the ECCB.

The front depicts Eric Gairy, Grenada's first prime minister, the olympic sprinter Kirani James, coat of arms and map of Grenada, a nutmeg branch and jet airliner. The back shows Maurice Bishop, Grenada's second prime minister, musicians and a nutmeg branch.

Security devices include a colour-changing foil strip, a complex polymer window, a fluorescent strip and a magnetic strip, and tactile features to enable identification by visually impaired people.

Source: Keesing Technologies. Photographs courtesy of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

International Coin of the Year Awards

The Coin of the Year Awards 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 Gold Coin and best coin overall were awarded to American Liberty high relief \$100 gold coin with the theme "Liberty Through Perseverance".

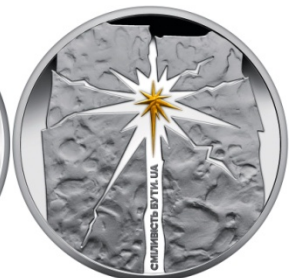


The obverse features an exceptionally hardy species: the bristlecone pine, thought to be one of the oldest living organisms, with a lifetime up to 5000 years. The reverse depicts a bald eagle on a rocky outcrop. The coin contains 1 ounce of .9999 gold.



Most Historically Significant Coin: 2023

Cameroon 2,000-franc Sumerian Civilization coin. This coin is the first of the "7 Groundbreaking Ancient Civilization" series dedicated to the most famous ancient civilizations. The obverse of the coin is encircled by inscriptions in ancient scripts from seven different civilizations, centred around the Coat of Arms of Cameroun. The reverse portrays the Sumerian god Lamassu in colour, complete with cuneiform script and architectural elements.



Best Contemporary Event Coin: 2023 Ukraine

10-hryvnia The Courage to Be UA. The obverse has "a stylized composition symbolizing Ukraine, the image of which is embodied in the symbol of a trident, which is "on the cutting edge" of time, modern trends, social processes, world attention and the creation of a new world history: a blade is placed on a mirror background; at the top — small State Coat of Arms of Ukraine"; lower right inscriptions: УКРАЇНА (Ukraine), year and denomination. On the reverse "a stylized composition is placed, symbolizing the

phenomenon of courage and heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people; in the centre of the composition is a star that shone with new hope (symbolic parallel — the star of Bethlehem) thanks to the incredible courage and determination of Ukrainians, which destroyed the immovable ideological (mythical) "stone-concrete" of the invincibility of the Russian army, suggested by Russian propaganda to the whole world for many decades; in the center a vertical inscription: СМІЛИВІСТЬ БУТИ. UA." Thanks to numista (<https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces375938.html>) for the explanation. Photographs courtesy of National Bank of Ukraine.



Best Silver Coin: 2023 Austria €20 The Neutron Star coin. The Neutron Star is the third in the Austrian Mint's Uncharted Universe series (the second of the series "Black Hole" won the overall ICOTY award last year). A neutron star has a density so high that it is composed almost entirely of neutrons and is one of the possible stellar remnants produced by a supernova explosion. The obverse has the inscription NEUTRONENSTERN (neutron star). The reverse shows the crust and the core of the neutron star and the inscription KREBSPULSAR (Crab Pulsar). The Crab Pulsar is the rapidly rotating neutron star (pulsar) formed from the 1054 AD supernova that produced the Crab Nebula. Also on the reverse 1.4 M_{\odot} (the mass of the pulsar — 1.4 solar masses), 30 rps (the star rotates 30 times per second) and $r \sim 10 \text{ km}$ (10 km is the approximate radius of the Crab pulsar). Photograph courtesy of <https://www.coinsaustralia.com.au>.



Best Crown Coin: 2023 Cook Islands silver \$10 Astrolabe coin. The obverse side of the coin has several historic scientific instruments used throughout history — including the hourglass, a sundial, and a telescope — and the effigy of Her Majesty Elizabeth II. The reverse of the coin shows the astrolabe. An astrolabe was an early type of scientific instrument used for time and observational purposes and was really an early type of analogue computer. It was used for navigation until about the 15th century when it was supplanted by the sextant. Photograph courtesy of <https://www.herobullion.com>.



Best Circulating Coin: 2023 China brass 5-yuan Sheng Role — Chinese Peking Opera Art coin. The obverse of the coin features China's national emblem, surrounded by various musical instruments with the Chinese characters for People's Republic of China and the date. The reverse shows the "Sheng" character from Beijing's Chinese opera partly in colour, as well as some decorations with the Chinese characters for "art of Peking Chinese opera" and the denomination. Photograph courtesy of <https://www.jeromecollection.com>.



Best Bimetallic Coin: 2023 Austria silver with niobium centre €25 Global Heating coin. On the obverse a thermometer is part of a clock a depiction of the Earth and +1.5°C, showing that time is running to keep the average temperature less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures. The reverse shows silhouettes of two human faces; in front of them an endangered (due to pollution and rising ocean temperatures) sea turtle is seen swimming. Photographs courtesy of Münze Österreich.




Most Artistic Coin: 2023 Latvia silver €5 Riga Fashion coin. The obverse depicts a seated woman with bright red lips, wearing a dress with bright floral patterns; the reverse a fabric sample and a stylised blue pattern for making clothes, a piece of fabric with a bright floral print and the inscriptions "Rīgas Modes" (Riga Fashion), the denomination, country and year. Photographs courtesy of Latvijas Banka (Bank of Latvia).



Most Innovative Coin: 2023 France macaroon-shaped gold €200 Pierre Hermé coin. This coin commemorates the Pierre Hermé pastry shop in Paris with an extremely innovative shape — that of a macaroon. Photographs courtesy of <https://www.emonnaies.fr>.



Most Inspirational Coin: 2023 Canada silver \$50 Allegory of Peace coin. To quote the Royal Canadian Mint, "Hope, peace, stability — these global aspirations have sparked innovation once more, and the result is this extraordinary tribute to those dedicated to making the world a more peaceful place. The coin itself is 99.99% pure silver with antique finish, but its inner core is replaced by a 3D allegorical figure of Peace, intricately cast in 99.9% fine silver and plated with gold for an uplifting gleam." Photograph courtesy of the Royal Canadian Mint.

 **AUSTRALIAN SPECIALTY AUCTIONS**



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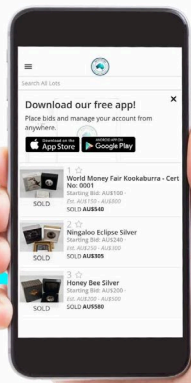
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Rotated Dies on Pre-Decimal Bronze Coins by John Belcher



Figure 1. 1962Y Penny, a full clock face of rotated dies.

Australian bronze coins first appeared in 1911, one year after the silver coins: the florin, shilling, sixpence and threepence. Owing to their composition being 97% copper (the remainder zinc and tin), these are colloquially known as copper coins.

Halfpennies and pennies were minted from 1911 until 1964 at a variety of mints both home and abroad — London and Birmingham in the United Kingdom, Calcutta and Bombay in India, and Melbourne, Sydney and Perth in Australia.

Mint identification can often (but not always) be made from a mintmark on the coin. Mintmarks used by the Perth Mint are dot between K and G, dot after PENNY or dot after AUSTRALIA, whereas both Bombay and Calcutta used an I mintmark and Birmingham an H mintmark. The Royal Mint in London used a PL mintmark only on 1951 dated coins, even though coins were also struck there from 1911 until 1915. It is not always possible to determine the mint of origin of some coins from 1919–1926, although in some cases this can be done via the obverse and reverse die combination.

It appears that, with the exception of London, no mint was immune to having the mechanical failures that cause dies to rotate and produce upset coins. From the mint mark we can sometimes identify which mint was responsible.

The Penny

The Penny was minted in numbers exceeding 755 million, double the mintages of most of the silver coins, yet the number of years where rotated error coins appear as a proportion is some 5 to 6 times greater. Rotations restricted to 30–60° either side of 12 o'clock may indicate that the die retaining mechanism was wearing, allowing for die slippage in the retainer. There are a number of years where rotations are up to 180° or full clock face rotations 0–360°, which indicates complete failure of the die retainers. Various years with mints and the known rotations are shown in Table 1. The list is not exhaustive and it is suspected that many other years have coins produced by rotated dies. No coins with rotation under 30° were tabled.

Date	Mint (if known)	Rotation
1917 I	Calcutta	30–40°
1918 I	Calcutta	30°
1919 No Dot	Melbourne	45° and 330° (Figure 2)
1920 No Dot		30°
1921	Melbourne	30° and 330°
1922 English obverse		330°
1922 Indian obverse	Perth	60° and 330°
1924 English obverse		30–60° and 330°
1924 Indian obverse	Sydney	300–330°
1927	Melbourne	330°
1942 Y.	Perth	30°
1942 I	Bombay	30–45°
1943 I	Bombay	30–45°
1943 Y.	Perth	270°
1947	Melbourne	60° and 300°
1948	Melbourne	30° and 330°
1949	Melbourne	45°
1950 Y.	Perth	0–360° — Full Clockface (Figure 3)
1951 Y.	Perth	30°
1951 PL	London	300°
1952 A. Wedge serif	Perth	30–80°
1952	Melbourne	30°
1962 Y.	Perth	0–360° — Full Clock Face (Figure 4)
1963 Y.	Perth	30–60° and 300–330°

Table 1. Confirmed rotations in pennies.



Figure 2. 1919 no dot Penny upset to 45°. Photograph courtesy of Mark Nemtsas



Figure 3. 1950Y Penny upset to 180° and 90° respectively. Photographs courtesy of Mark Nemtsas.



Figure 4. 1962Y Penny upset to 90°. Photograph courtesy of Gary Tate.

Finding rotated (upset) pennies that are of a grade that may qualify for encapsulation is no easy task and I have only been able to find two that are suitable, in extremely fine to about uncirculated condition (Figure 5).



Figure 5. 1950Y Penny 50° rotation and 1962Y Penny 180° rotation. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

The Halfpenny

The Halfpenny mintage was over 435 million and this represented approximately 60% of Penny mintage; unsurprisingly the number of years where rotated dies have been detected in half pennies

is also reduced. Table 2 displays the mints and years discovered. Again this list is not exhaustive and it will come as no surprise if further years/mints come to light.

Date	Mint	Rotation
1921	Sydney	30° and 315°
1922	Sydney	30° and 330°
1942	Melbourne	30°
1942 I	Bombay	45° (Figure 6)
1943 I	Bombay	30–90°
1945 Y.	Perth	30–60°
1946 Y.	Perth	30 and 330°
1947 Y.	Perth	30°
1948 Y.	Perth	30–45° and 330°
1951 Y.	Perth	30–60° (Figure 7)
1961 Y.	Perth	30°
1962 Y.	Perth	30–180° and 315° — possible clockface (Figure 7)
1963 Y.	Perth	30–80°
1964 Y.	Perth	30°

Table 2. Table of confirmed rotations in Half Pennies



Figure 6. 1942 I Halfpenny upset to 45°. Photograph courtesy of Mark Nemtsas.

It is suggested that collecting rotated pennies and half pennies is yet another subset of the general collection regime of bronze coins for most collectors. Information on upsets appears in books and catalogues but they are often listed as varieties. I believe that they are **mint errors** in their own right. They represent an interesting situation for the collector at present as they are no longer minted, and have not been for 60 years. They have flown under the radar for most collectors as the unwanted cousins of other types of errors, but they still appear in auctions, dealer stock and coin shows. The more pronounced the upset, the more desirable the coin. Condition is also a consideration, but the scarcity of some years may take priority. As mentioned before, when buying over the internet, ensure that the rotation/upset is as listed and that the angle has not been “fudged” or rounded up by the seller¹.



Figure 7. 1951 halfpenny at 60° and 1962 halfpenny at 315°.

Acknowledgements

Mark Nemtsas and Kathryn Harris of the Purple Penny for supply of photographs and also Gary Tate for the many photographs he supplied, not all of which were utilised.

References

1. John Belcher, "Rotated Dies on Decimal Coins", Independent Coin News, March 2024 page 32.

Further Reading

Australian Coin & Banknote Magazine April 2004
 Renniks Australian Pre-Decimal Coin Varieties



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Rare British India Coins to be Auctioned in October

Part II of the Puddeste Collection will be auctioned by Noonans Mayfair on 1st and 2nd October (part I was auctioned in February). This collection was put together by Robert Puddeste over 45 years from 1977 with many coins trials or proofs. Part II includes the unified coinage from 1835 onwards. (Before this the East India Company put out coinage for each of the three presidencies.) Some of the highlights include:



An 1835 East India Company gold two mohurs. Most are 20th century proof restrikes but this is one of the few (possibly less than 20) originals that survive. Estimate: £15,000–£20,000.



An 1854 East India Company proof one mohur. Extremely rare as a plain edge proof. This is a superb example with very few handling marks. Estimate: £7,000–£9,000.



In 1858 the East India Company was dissolved and India came under direct control of Britain. It wasn't until 1862 that the first 'Indian' coins were produced. At the time it was normal to use a 'frozen date'; i.e. all the coins of the series would have the date of the start of the series no matter what year they were actually produced. The 1863 proof rupee being auctioned is unusual in that regard and most likely never left Britain, as only 1862 dated coins would have been acceptable to the issuing authorities in India. Estimate: £9,000–£12,000.



The origin of the 1903 gold rupee is uncertain and it is **unique** as it is the only known one to have an uncrowned effigy of Edward VII. Estimate: £15,000–£20,000.



The final piece is a 'pattern' 1939 Rupee with a security edge, one of about 4 known. Estimate: £20,000–£30,000.

All photographs courtesy of Noonans Mayfair. The catalogue can be found at <https://www.noonans.co.uk/auctions/calendar/781/>.

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Uncirculated Coins and Mint Lustre

So you want to know if a coin is uncirculated. The American Numismatic Association (ANA) publishes (and updates every few years) a book, complete with pictures, showing what each US coin looks like for a given grade¹. While I have seen similar guides to grading Australian George V silver coins, I do not know of a complete guide for even the relatively few types of pre decimal coins, let alone the plethora of decimal issues. A complete guide would be a monumental work.

When using a guide, it is important to do so correctly, particularly to read all the “fine print”. For example, these are extracts from the ANA Grading Standards for US coins.

Referring to Liberty seated half dimes², *“These grade descriptions are based on average strikes, but coins often have weaknesses other than that specifically mentioned. Coins with “Full Details” are exceptional...”* and to Morgan dollars³, *“Business strike silver dollars were all placed in mint bags of 1,000 coins. Subsequent handling of bags caused bagmarks and abrasions on virtually all coins, which should not be confused with circulation wear. Full mint lustre and lack of any wear are necessary to distinguish MS-60 from AU-58.”*

This is saying that missing detail does not necessarily mean the coin has wear.

When presented with a coin, novice collectors often make the mistake of diving in, eyeglass ready to look at the high points, and if they cannot see these assume the coin is circulated.

For our first example, we will examine a United States Morgan dollar. In Figure 1 we look at the obverse high point of Liberty’s ear. The image on the left is a business strike 1887 New Orleans Mint dollar. Note the detail missing on the ear and the curls compared with that of the proof 1881 on the right. This amount of wear would imply a coin grade of extremely fine (or AU55 under the Sheldon system).



Figure 1. Liberty’s ear on 1887-O business strike US Morgan dollar (left); 1881 proof Morgan dollar (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Wear and lustre

Before we further examine our 1887-O Morgan dollar we will have a quick look at the life of a coin after it is produced.

When a coin is a normal business strike and there are no problems when it is struck (such as being struck through some foreign material, which is a topic for another day), it will have mark free surfaces and full mint lustre. Mint lustre is the sheen that is produced on the surface of a coin when the coin is struck. After the coin is struck it will travel along a conveyor belt and be dropped into a bucket for later sorting, being put into bags or rolls and transportation. At each point of this process our freshly minted coin will bang against other coins or the side of containers and have tiny chips knocked off its surface or small scratches on its surface. These are known as bagmarks. Before the coin goes into circulation the lustre will still override the bagmarks. After some circulation, the bagmarks will overwhelm the lustre. We will discuss the borderline case where a coin is considered uncirculated or not later in this article.

Let's go back to our 1887-O Morgan dollar example. So let's have a look elsewhere on the coin; say Liberty's nose and lips and the field nearby. In Figure 2 the photograph on the left is of the same business strike coin we have been discussing; the coin on the right is an 1892-S San Francisco Morgan dollar graded as AU55 by PCGS — the same grade as implied by the lack of detail on our 1887-O. The contrast is striking. The 1887-O has a few marks on the cheek, well separated with the fields almost completely clear of any marks. The 1892-S is a true circulated coin: some heavy circulation marks on the lips and surrounding areas, and multiple marks in the fields such that the marks dominate. In spite of the missing detail on Liberty's ear, our 1887-O has definitely not been circulated.



Figure 2. (left) 1887-O Morgan dollar from Figure 1. (Right) 1892-S Morgan dollar in AU55. Photographs courtesy of PCGS and David Lawrence Rare Coins respectively.

In Figure 3 we show the entire obverse. Notice how strong and attractive the lustre is. This coin is graded by PCGS as MS66+, a grade it achieved in spite of the strike weakness. Indeed it is the sole



Figure 3. Full obverse of 1887-O Morgan dollar from Figures 1 and 2. In particular note the beautiful virtually mark-free fields. Photograph courtesy of PCGS, who graded the coin as MS66+.

highest PCGS graded example of an 1887-O Morgan dollar and sold at Heritage in 2022 for US\$78,000. In extremely fine (AU55) this issue sells for US\$50 to US\$75 so it is vitally important not to confuse strike weakness with wear.

The moral of the story is to look at the entire coin when grading, not just at the high points. My recommendation is to cover the high points with a finger tip (without touching the surface) and then examine the lustre for breaks indicating wear.

One other point to draw from this is that we do not need to be familiar with a coin's design in order to grade it. This is why we began by discussing a coin unfamiliar to many beginning collectors.



Figure 4. Weakly struck 1934 florin. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

So let us now have a look at some Australian examples. A clear example of an uncirculated weak strike is the 1934 florin shown in Figure 4. The fourth set of pearls is almost completely missing; the band on the crown is weak. The moustache is flat, as is His Majesty's shoulder. These are all characteristics of a very weak strike. However, as for the Morgan dollar, there are few marks in the field. Once again, looking only at the high points would have resulted in undergrading the coin.

Early Australian silver, florins in particular, were often weakly struck. Figure 5 shows a 1910 Edward VII florin (high points are along the sideburns and moustache) and a 1916 George V florin (high points are the fourth set of pearls, band of the crown, cheek and moustache). These two coins are clearly uncirculated as the marks in the fields are dominated by the lustre. Of course the same is true of many bronze issues. Figure 6 shows a 1914 and a 1947 penny which, although missing the high points, are clearly uncirculated.



Figure 5. Weakly struck 1910 and 1916 florins that are clearly uncirculated. These are graded as MS64 and MS65 by PCGS. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 6. Strike weakness on the obverse of a 1914 penny and the reverse of a 1947 penny. The fourth set of pearls is just barely visible on the 1914 and the back of the kangaroo is not fully formed on the 1947. Both coins have considerable or full mint "red" and little in the way of bag marks. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



However bronze coinage can be a little trickier than silver and gold as the lustre is much more susceptible to environmental conditions and can quickly disappear even without any real circulation or through poor storage. To determine if a coin qualifies as uncirculated you may need to look at the underlying bloom. Figure 7 shows a 1914 halfpenny with beautiful underlying mint bloom, no major bag marks and very few minor ones. Even though brown, it is clearly uncirculated.

Figure 7 (left). 1914 halfpenny uncirculated but brown. Courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 8. 1928 threepence. Note the clear dividing line between the lustre in the legend and much weaker lustre in the fields. This is a clear indication that a coin has been circulated. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

So far we have looked at coins that were clearly uncirculated. What of coins that may or may not qualify for that grade? As discussed earlier, after a coin is produced, it is banged around by other coins, scraped by containers and eventually has the same happen to it in circulation. (Note: it is usually not possible to tell whether an impact has occurred during the minting process or soon after entering circulation so uncirculated coins are defined as “showing no loss of detail due to circulation wear” rather than something like “has never been put into a teller’s till”.) In all these cases some of the lustre is chipped or worn away. In the open fields there is nothing to stop an object such as another coin chipping away at the lustre; however the raised lettering does protect the lustre from other objects. Figure 8 shows the obverse of a 1928 threepence. Lustre

still remains in the legends, but far less in the fields owing to myriad impacts. This coin has seen too much circulation to be considered “uncirculated”. Seeing a clear dividing line between the legends and the fields is a classic indication of wear, more so than missing detail, although in this case some wear had also occurred on the fourth set of pearls and band of the crown.

A coin that is closer to uncirculated but still does not qualify is the 1899 Perth sovereign shown in Figure 9. There is slight rubbing on the obverse high points and even though there is still considerable lustre in the fields, there is an obvious change between the legend and the fields.



Figure 9. 1899 Perth sovereign graded by PCGS as AU58 (about uncirculated). Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

While this discussion has concentrated on older coins, it is of course also valid for decimals. While there are exceptions such as the 2000 \$1/10 cent mule and the 1966 wavy 2 20 cent, most decimals are of little value unless uncirculated. We will have a closer look at the decimal coins and how to grade them in the next issue.

References

1. The Official American Numismatics Association Grading Standards for United States Coins edited by Kenneth Bressett, 6th edition, Whitman 2006.
2. Reference 1, page 140.
3. Reference 1, page 268.

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

Western Australian Roman Coin Study Group

Telephone: Walter Bloom, 0417 930 854

Email: w.bloom@murdoch.edu.au

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

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



Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

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A Battle for the Treasure of the San José

The San José was a galleon of the Spanish Armada de la Guardia de la Carrera de las Indias. On the 8th June 1708 the fleet it was in encountered a British squadron off Barú Island, just south of Cartagena, Colombia. In the ensuing battle, known as Wagner's Action, the San José's powder magazine exploded sinking the ship with the tragic loss of all but 11 of the 600 crew and also the loss



Explosion of San José during Wager's Action. Oil on canvas by Samuel Scott.

of all the gold, silver, emeralds and jewellery she was carrying.

Based on the speculation that the San Jose was carrying 11 million pesos in coins, 17 billion dollars worth of coins etc. may have gone down with the ship. Naturally there have been searches for its remains. On the 27th November 2015, the galleon San José was finally found by the Colombian Navy. For obvious reasons its exact location has been kept a secret. Since then a number of groups have laid claim to the "treasure":

- The US-based salvage company Sea Search Armada (SSA) has argued that the company located the area in 1981 where the ship was later found, although in 2011 a US court ruled against them.
- The Bolivian indigenous people Qhara Qhara, who have argued their ancestors likely mined the gold and silver from which the coins were struck.
- The Spanish government, who claim that as it was their ship that sank the treasure is still theirs.
- And of course, Colombia.

There are of course other items of lower commercial value, but equal archaeological value, in the wreck. The Director of the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History Alhena Caicedo said in an interview with the Guardian, "There has been this persistent view of the galleon as a treasure trove. We want to turn the page on that. We aren't thinking about treasure. We're thinking about how to access the historical and archeological information at the site."

It will be interesting to see how this all plays out.

Sources

Numismatic News article by Richard Giedroy, Jul 30, 2024. <https://www.numismaticnews.net/world-coins/columbia-asserts-its-claim-to-treasure>

The Wikipedia entry on the San José is quite detailed:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_galleon_San_Jos%C3%A9



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Downie's Australian Coin Auctions Sale 353

Downie's Australian Coin Auctions number 353 was held on the 13th to 15th August. More than 94% of the 3188 lots were sold. A few of the more interesting results are given below.

Pre Decimal Coins



A 1914H florin in very fine sold for \$579.



A 1912 florin in PCGS AU55 (extremely fine) sold for \$701.



A 1930 penny achieved \$20,740.

Proclamation Coins



A Brazilian John V Johanna 1729R described as lightly polished with rough surfaces, otherwise VF, sold for \$4880.



A 1798 spade guinea graded by NGC as MS64 sold for \$3904.

Error Coins



A 1988 Coat of Arms 50 cent sold for \$10,980. The "normal" 1988 50 cent has the bicentenary reverse. The origin of the coins with the coat of arms reverse is unknown but they are extremely rare.

Australian Gold Coins



An 1855 Sydney Mint type 1 sovereign described as being about very fine sold for \$3904. This was the first year of sovereign production in Australia and this issue is tough even in middle grades.



Two 1899 Perth sovereigns graded by NGC as AU58 both sold for \$976, which is little above bullion value. This shows that even though 1899 is considered a key date in a Perth Mint sovereign collection, collectors are only paying a premium for uncirculated coins.

Banknotes



An uncirculated consecutive pair of last prefix DA96 \$50 sold for \$4880, more than 60% above estimate. These are very scarce as an uncirculated pair.



A desirable Coombs Wilson Reserve Bank £1 star note, book pressed else extremely fine with centre and quarter folds, sold for \$1342.



An error Fraser-Evans prefix AD93 blue Dobell \$10 with strong wet ink transfers realised \$366.

Ancient Coins



Ancient Byzantine Leo I (457–474) Solidus of Constantinople (3.91 grams), helmeted bust of Leo facing holding spear and shield, reverse Victory standing left holding long cross (\$4333) with a few surface scratches otherwise VF achieved \$762.



Aethelred II (978–1016) Penny Crux type (1.56 grams) of Oxford, moneyer Godinc (S1148) no peckmarks but has a small loss of flan inside rim between 9 and 11 o'clock VF \$579.



Henry VII (1485-1509) groat profile type of London, regular issue (2.73 grams) mm pheon (\$2258) particularly nice portrait for issue and attractive toning gVF sold for \$1220.

Decimal Coins



There were two 2012 C mintmark Remembrance Red Poppy \$2. Each sold for \$536.



The six non C mintmark 2012 red poppy \$2 (each with RSL card) averaged \$278.



The four 2013 C mintmark coronation \$2 lots averaged \$463.



The two 2023 35th anniversary sets each sold for $\$240 + 22\% = \292 . This means that, allowing for the 15% seller's fee, the seller(s) received \$204 for each set —less than the issue prices of \$235.

Consignments are still being taken for Downie's auction 354 in October.



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International Auction Galleries September Auction

International Auction Galleries auction number 100 ran from the 10th–12th September 2024, and contained some spectacular items. At the time of writing, some unsold items (including the Eridmatos Collection of error coins with a reserve of \$610,000), are still available on the IAG website.

The sales highlights include:



An 1856 Sydney Mint proof half sovereign, graded by PCGS as PR62CAM and with a pedigree extending back to the Pretoria Mint collection in 1996, which sold for \$73,200.



Also an 1896 Melbourne Mint proof sovereign, graded by PCGS as PR 65+ DCAM (and with a provenance going back to 1904), sold for \$75,640.



A 1920 kookaburra square penny (type 7) graded by PCGS as SP 64 was sold for \$41,480.



A 1978 50 cent struck on a 20 cent planchet achieved a price of \$2,196.



A 1978 50 cent (mule) struck with a Fiji reverse sold for \$14,400.



A 1942S threepence with a partial brockage sold for \$244.



One of the surprising results of the sale was the price for a damaged (holed) dump of \$8,540, much more than the estimate of \$3,400 to \$3,600. It is of type E/3 and, with not many more than a dozen known, is very rare.



A lovely high grade 1813 holey dollar in good very fine sold for \$183,000.



An attractive 1922 halfpenny in PCGS MS 66 BN found a new home thanks to a collector paying \$1769.



An uncirculated 1920 double dot penny (PCGS MS62BN) sold for \$6,100. This variety is very hard to find in this grade.



An eight pearl 1930 penny in good very fine sold for \$56,120.



Surprisingly tough in this grade, a 1959 florin in PCGS MS65 went for \$170.



One of the few ancient coins in this auction was a Greek silver tetradrachm Aeolis Myrina (circa 155–145 BC). The obverse design is of a laureate head of Apollo of Grynion facing right. The reverse shows Apollo of Grynion standing right holding a phiale and laurel branch with omphalos and amphora at feet. This coin realised \$1,891.



A 1994 Fraser Evans specimen \$20 sold for \$5,978.



A consecutive pair of Riddle-Heathershaw (R 26) £1 crisp, with light traces of bends or folds, and graded as about uncirculated, sold for \$1,952.



A £10 Kell-Collins (R 54) Commonwealth banknote described as "Single U/1 prefix issue, lightly flattened of and with tag as sold previously for \$115,000 (on which it was described as gEF) in aEF" sold for \$6,588.



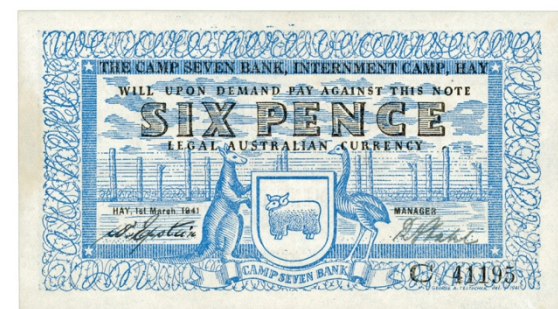
An 1863 Sydney Mint half sovereign in PCGS AU55 sold for \$3,904.



The 1899 Perth sovereign is one of the key dates of a Perth Mint sovereign collection. An uncirculated example in PCGS MS62 sold in this auction for \$2,440 (as compared with under \$1,000 for examples in AU58 in the recent Downie's auction).



This is not a particularly scarce date, but it is an exceptionally pretty coin. A collector paid \$3,660 for this 1919 Sydney sovereign graded by PCGS as MS64.



An internment camps sixpence note (Epstein-Stahl, Hay 1-3-1941, Camp Seven) sold for \$4,880. These notes are very scarce; this one came with a tag as previously sold for \$23,500

All photographs are courtesy of International Auction Galleries. **The next auction run by International Auction Galleries will be their Online Action OS22 in December.**

The \$2 Market Report for August



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

In the last two months we have seen a slight pickup in sales price of the 2022 C mintmark red poppy, the 2012 Remembrance Red Poppy, the 2023 C mintmark Vietnam and the 2023 35th anniversary set. This is the first time since we started taking data in May 2023 that we have seen such an upward trend apart from new releases. It will be interesting to see if these trends continue.

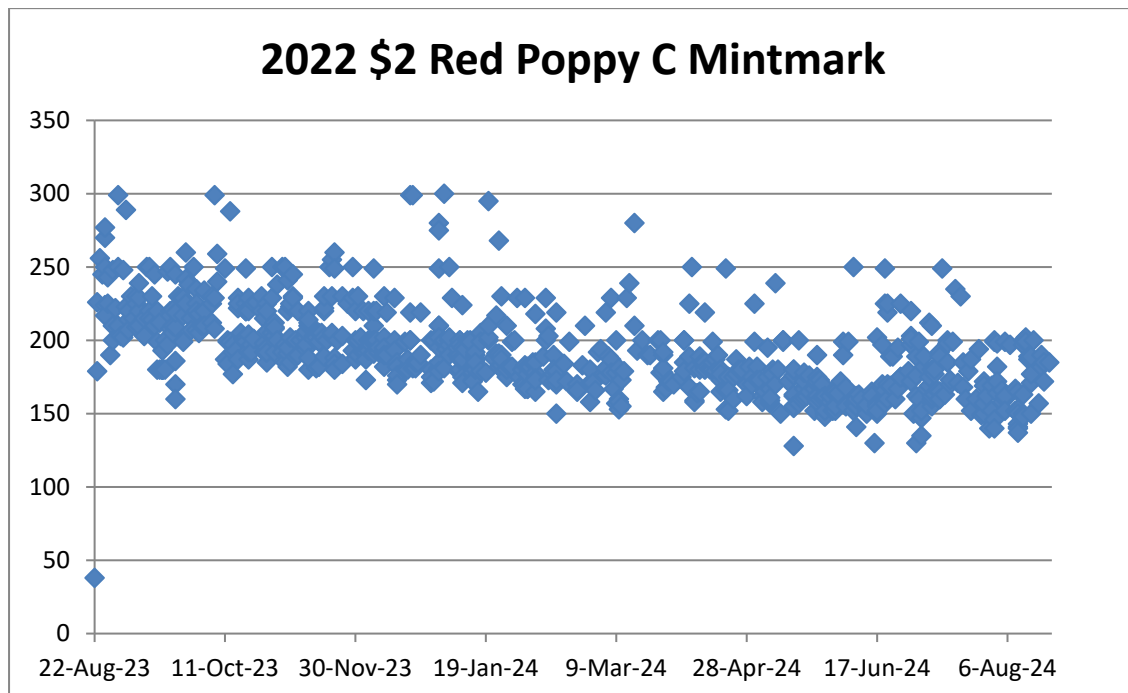
The total number of sales and number of listings for the recent two month period (23rd June to 22nd August) is given in Table 1. Comparing this two month period with the previous two months, the number of sales has decreased for the 2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark, increased for the 2023 Vietnam silver proof and remained steady for the other issues. The number of listings has increased substantially for the 2022 Red Poppy C mintmark and there has been a large decrease in the 2023 \$2 Vietnam C mintmark and the 35th anniversary set.

Coin	Number of Sales	Number of Listings
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	11	37
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	97	80
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	11	18
2013 \$2 Coronation	41	49
2022 \$2 Red Poppy C Mintmark	118	217
2023 \$2 Vietnam Proof	19	41
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	85	177
2023 \$2 35 th Anniversary Set	90	203

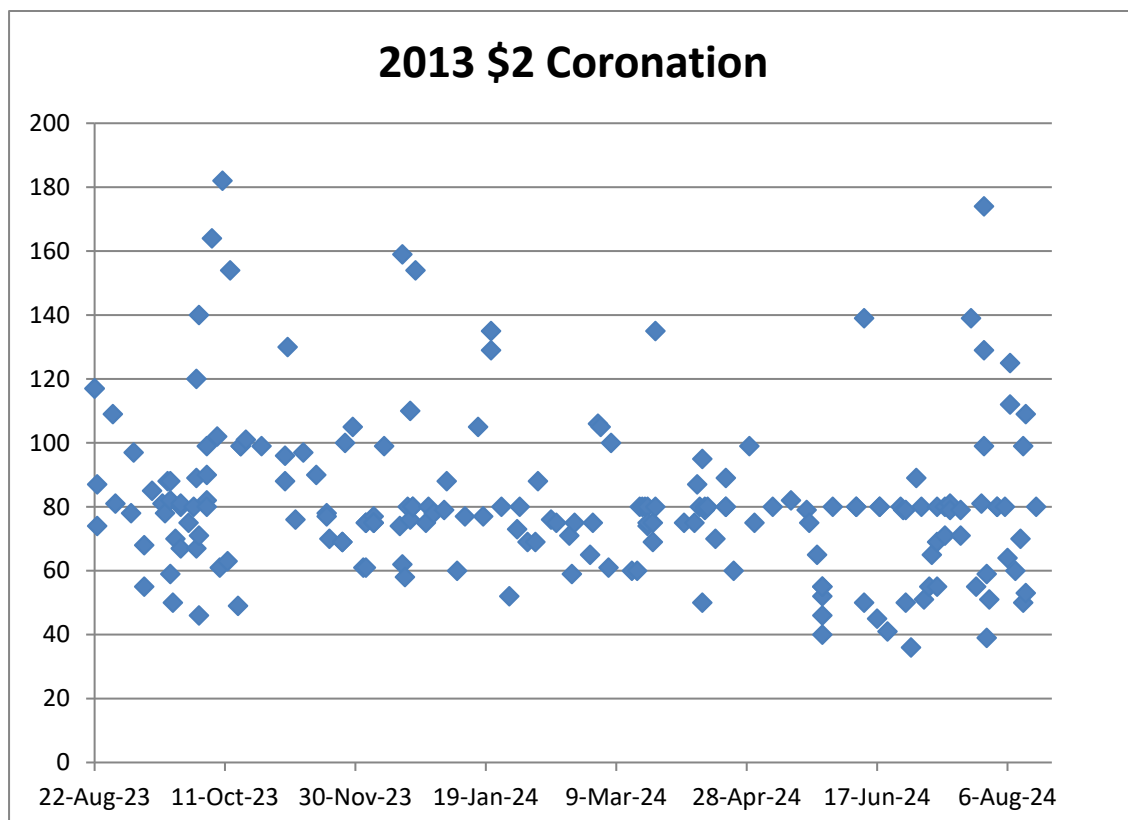
Table 1. Sales on eBay in the two months 23rd June to 22nd August, and listings on the 22nd August. Note that although the asking prices on some of the listings are somewhat optimistic they have still been included in the “Number of Listings”.

The data used in these reports was extracted from eBay “sold” listings, both auction and buy it now. Data for the business strike issues (2012 Remembrance Plain Poppy and 2013 Coronation) and the NCLT 2012 Remembrance Red Poppy was extracted manually so as not to include circulated and damaged coins. For the other issues it was possible to extract the data via a program, although some data checking was still required. As there is no guarantee that all the eBay sales were honoured, the data for those that we suspected (from the seller’s feedback) had been dishonoured was removed.

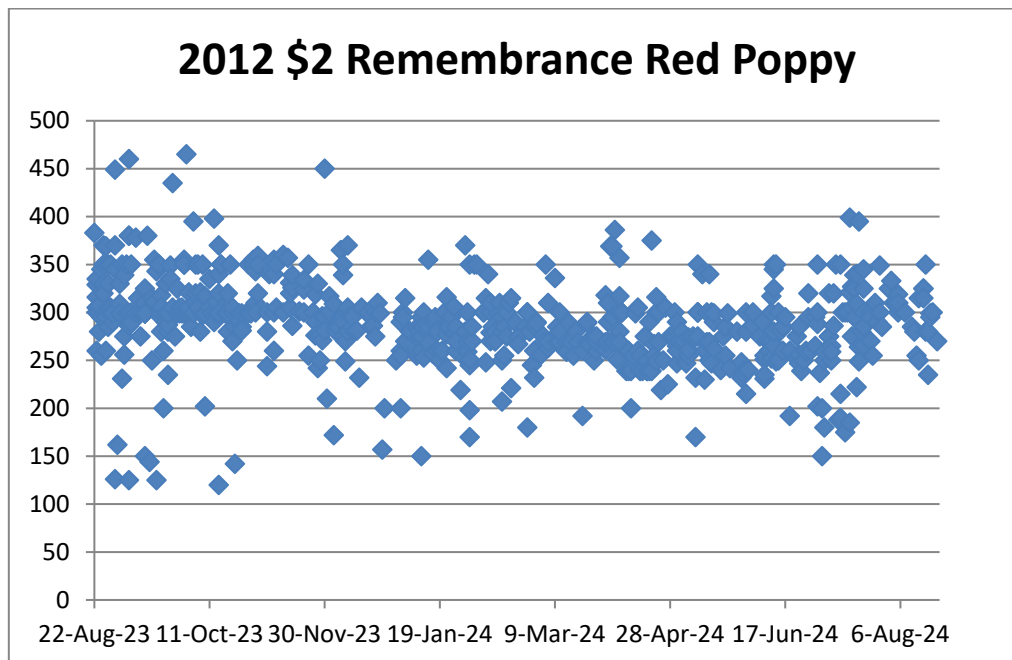
Sales that appear to have been achieved by shill bidding were also removed. PCGS graded coins were not included, nor were listings that included multiple items and bulk lots.



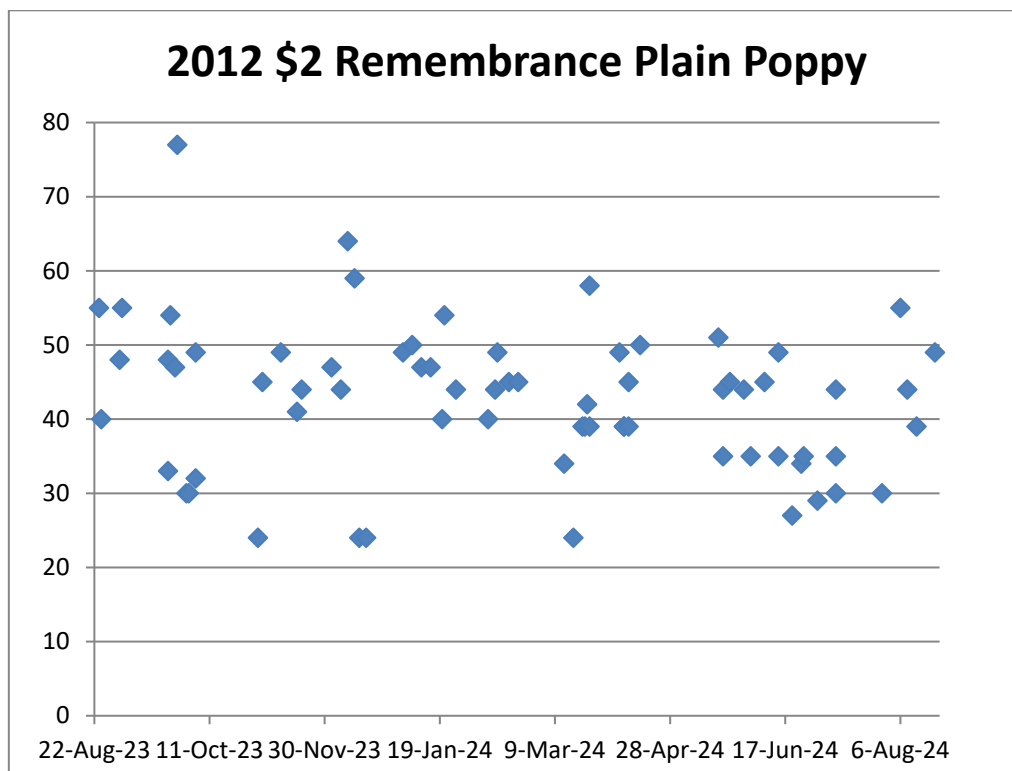
While the number of sales is similar to the last period, the prices realised show a definite upward trend, with the average price around \$170 and a few sales around \$200.



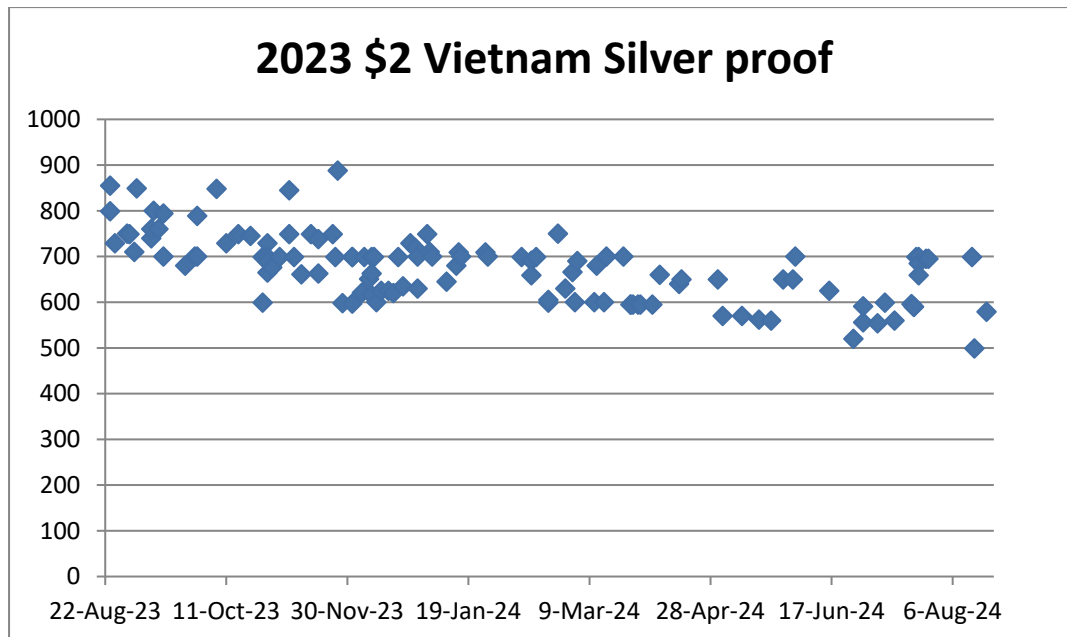
The data includes only those coins described in the listing as “uncirculated”. Examination of individual sales shows that the price realised is heavily dependent upon the quality of the image of the coin being sold. With 41 sales in the last two months and prices ranging from \$40 to \$180 there is no definite trend, although the average is around \$70 to \$75 per coin.



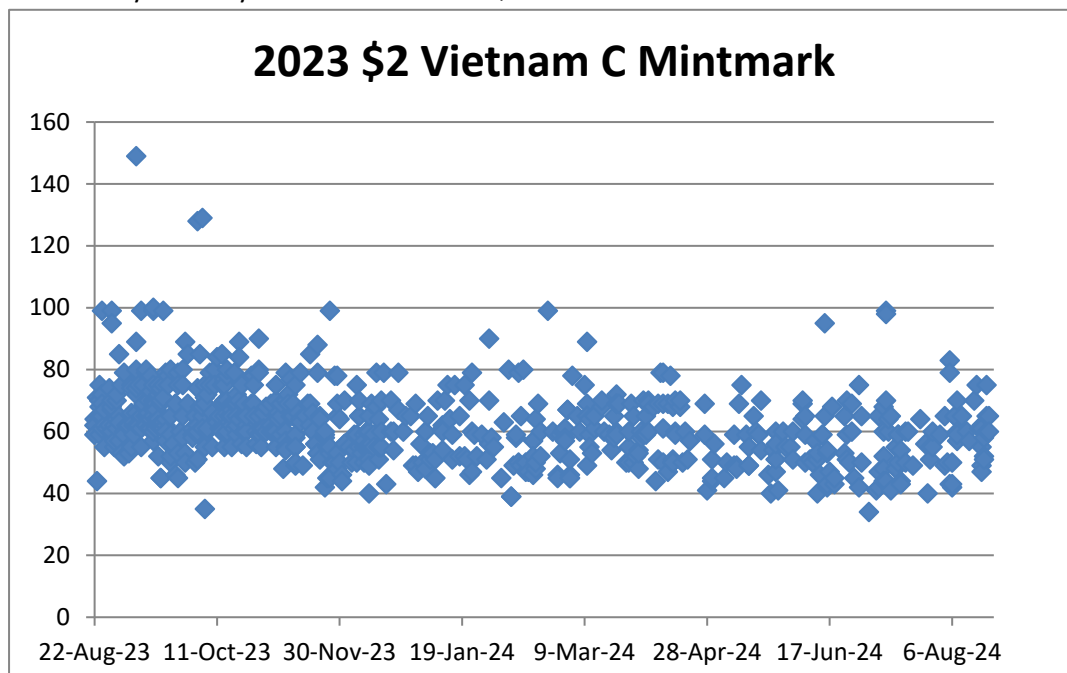
The data includes only uncirculated coins without paint chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers’ descriptions of coins as “uncirculated” are more reliable than those of coins such as the 2012 \$2 Plain Poppy and 2013 \$2 Coronation. Number of listings and number of sales matched the previous two months, but there has been a clear increase in price.



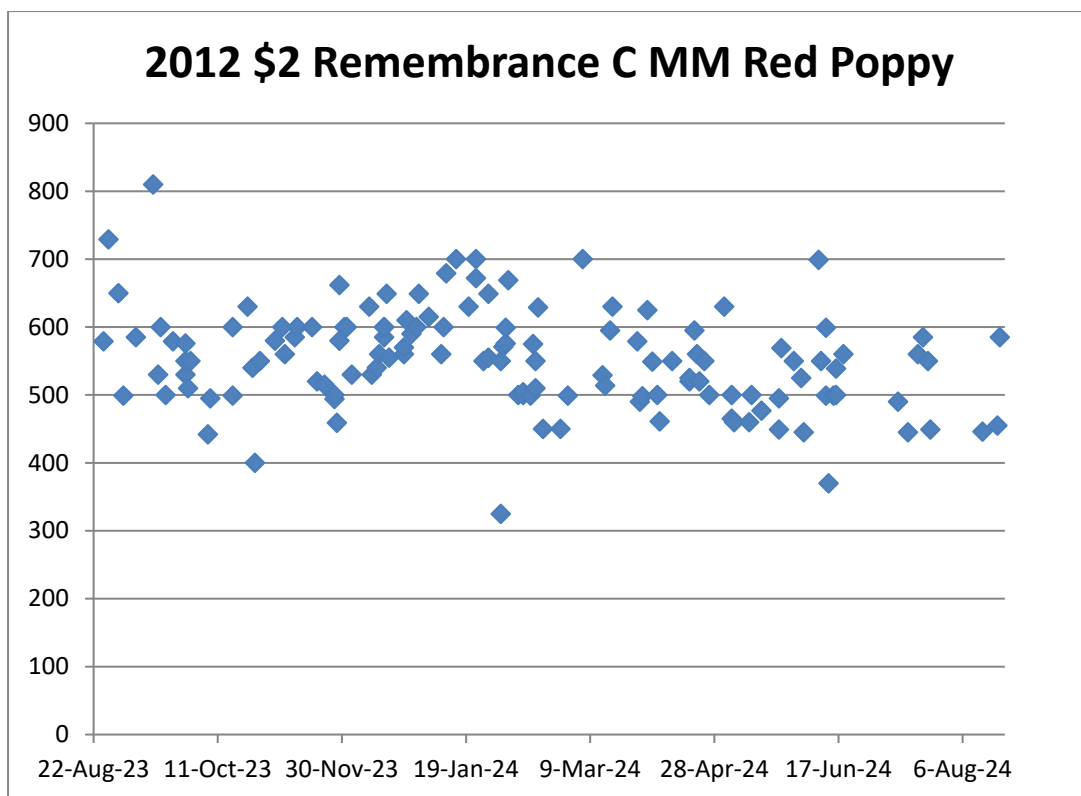
The data includes only those described as “uncirculated”, with coins that are obviously polished removed. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated and there were just 11 sales in the last two months. The average price in the last two month period appears to be similar to the previous two months. As the Plain Poppy is much scarcer in uncirculated than the Red Poppy, the current price of under \$50 is anomalously low compared with that of the coloured version. It is noticeable however that the sales price of these coins in cards such as those made by Downie’s are much higher (typically \$150+) than those sold loose.



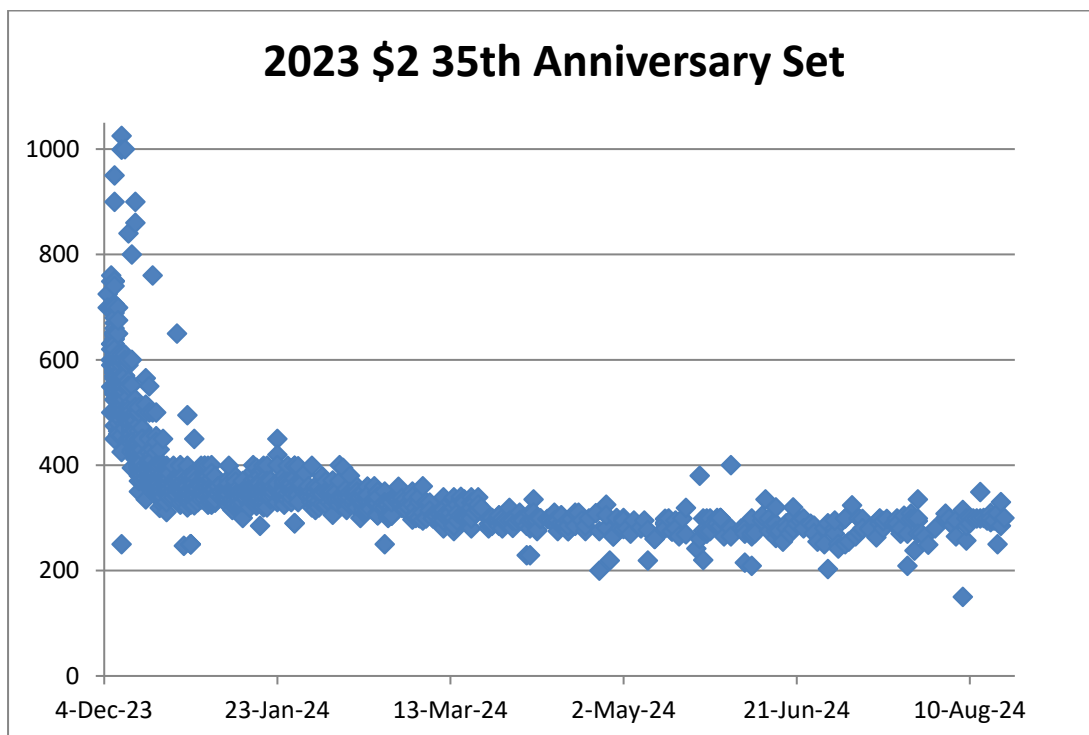
Since the peak at around \$1,500 in late April we saw a rapid decrease to around \$800 in mid June, followed by a steady decrease to around \$580 at the current time.



The number of sales increased in the last two months and the average price showed a definite increase in the last two months.



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



The most recent release failed to achieve the heights of some of its predecessors. Part of the reason could be the high issue price (\$235), plus the Royal Australian Mint suspending sales and using EQL for the remainder of the sets. All the same, “fear of missing out” (FOMO) ruled for a week or so. Since then the average sales price has slowly decreased to a little under \$300 on eBay. There has

been a clear upturn in sales prices in the last two months. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues.

Past sales results and the current trend are no guarantee of future returns. If you plan on buying coins purely for investment purposes, Independent Coin News suggests you first consult a financial adviser. If buying for your own collection, it may be worthwhile being patient if you fail to procure the issue on release day.

News in Brief

RAM combines shipping on purchases through the EQL ballot

After people asking for this for months, the Royal Australian Mint is finally combining shipping on products purchased on the same day through the EQL ballot system.

US Colonial 1652 New England Threepence Consigned to Auction



Crudely struck on irregular planchets, the threepence, sixpence and shilling were the first coins struck in British North America. Until 2020, it was believed that the only surviving threepence was in a museum, although another example stolen from a Yale cabinet decades ago may still exist. This example was found in an antique cabinet containing many early US coins in the Netherlands in 2016 and authenticated as a New England threepence in 2020. It has been graded by PCGS as XF45 and will be auctioned by Stacks Bowers in November. As the only example available to private collectors it should fetch a handy sum.

Source: PCGS News,

<https://www.pcg.com/news/most-exciting-colonial-coin-discovery-in-years-consigned-to-stacks-bowers-galleries>

Rare Biafra Crown Sells for US\$9,600



A rare and possibly unique Biafran Crown was sold at auction by Stephen Album Rare Coins in June. Biafra broke away from Nigeria in 1967 but was reabsorbed nearly three years later after a terrible war and mass starvations. It is believed that this coin was made to celebrate two years of independence but the details are sketchy.

Source: Stephen Album Rare Coins,

<https://www.sarc.auction/BIAFRA-Republic-AR-crown-1969-PCGS-MS63 i52799808>

Coins Marked With 'COPY' during American Numismatic Association Show

In the United States it is perfectly legal to own a counterfeit coin as long as it has 'COPY' stamped on it, unlike Australia where it is

illegal in all cases (but rarely enforced for pre decimal coins). At the 2024 American Numismatic Association (ANA) show, Beth Deisher and Mary Sauvain from the Anti-Counterfeiting Educational Foundation (ACEF) counter stamped 'COPY' on 35 coins deemed to be counterfeit from 13 collectors. Each collector had to agree to this and sign a waiver absolving ACEF from any liability.

Source: Coin World, 24th August 2024, <https://www.coinworld.com/news/us-coins/acef-marks-fake-coins-with-copy-during-ana-show>

Noble Numismatics in Administration

Along with Downie's Australian Auctions and International Auction Galleries, Sydney based Noble Numismatics has been one of the three major Australian numismatic auction houses for the last few decades.

However, according to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), Noble Numismatics is now in external administration.

So what does this mean? The ASIC website defines some terms. Administrators are responsible for investigating the company's affairs and securing a resolution (DOCA or liquidation) that will be the most lucrative for creditors. A DOCA (deed of company arrangement) is a binding arrangement between a company and its creditors governing how the company's affairs will be dealt with. This is quite different and not to be confused with a company being in receivership. As of the 6th September, and contrary to some rumours that are floating about, Noble Numismatics is still trading.

Hand Coloured Bluey Coins on eBay

Some of the recent Australia Post Bluey dollars with hand painted reliefs have been

appearing on eBay. While skilfully executed, these are of course not official. The only official coloured coin of this set is the Bluey with a balloon (above) which is pad printed on a flat field. The unofficial, hand painted coins, are based on a normal coin, with a raised design, where paint has been added to the high points. It is thus relatively easy to tell whether you are looking at an "official" or "unofficial" Bluey coin.



Thanks to Mark Nemtsas of the Purple Penny for the photograph. Owing to copyright reasons, we are unable to provide a photograph of an altered coin.

First Charles III \$2 Bullseye Errors Found



We have heard of three bullseye (paint applied to wrong side) errors found on Charles III \$2 coins; one an Olympics (olympism) coin, the others on Paralympics \$2 coins. Photograph courtesy of the finder, Craig Montgomery who said "it's my first and was very excited with it". Thanks also to James Cleary for providing a photograph of another Paralympics bullseye.

Pirate Guide to Collecting Australian Coins

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

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

- A chapter for each coin denomination, from \$2 to 1c.
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- Errors, varieties & mintmarks to look for and how to verify them.
- Information on storing your coins.

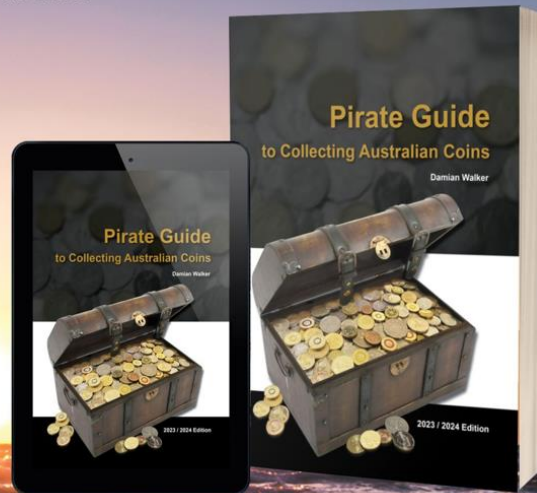
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Thank You

Thank you to John Belcher for contributing the article on the rotated dies on pre-decimal bronze. Thanks also to those who performed the peer reviews on articles: Gregg Gibbons on “A Theft, Embargoes and FOMO”, and Mark Nemtsas on how to determine if a coin is uncirculated. Once again Downie’s and International Auction Galleries have been extremely helpful in sending previews on future auctions.

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

