

Independent Coin News



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Welcome to the April 2025 issue of Independent Coin News, an online magazine containing the latest Australian and international coin news.

In this issue John Belcher has a look at the real and fake 2009 double struck \$2 and Fred Lever examines the myths of the 1930 penny. We also discuss how to determine if a 1930 penny is real, milk spots on some recent silver proof tokens, the perils of a 'Google' search, and what we believe to be a new mule discovery. 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. For new coin collectors, we talk about why new coins aren't always perfect in "What is Wrong With my Unc Coin".

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, March 2025.

ABN: 411 5336 2072

Cover: "Checking the Double Struck \$2" 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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Stolen Holey Dollar Repatriated to Poland



Figure 1. The Holey dollar which was returned to Poland in February. Photograph courtesy of Australian Federal Police.

On the 14th February 2025 a holey dollar, which had been stolen from a museum in Toruń, was repatriated to Poland. Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke, said the tracking down and handover of the coin showed Australia was serious about upholding international treaty commitments.

*"I want to recognise the expertise of everyone involved in this great outcome for both countries, from tracking this object to seizing it. It's important that we continue to work together to return culturally significant objects to their rightful homes. Their value can be expressed not only in monetary terms but through telling our shared history and stories."*¹

The holey dollars were created in 1813 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie, in an attempt to stop coins leaving the colony, purchased 40,000 Spanish 8 reales and had the centres stamped out. The centre (the dump) and the annulus (the holey dollar) were counterstamped with values of fifteen pence and five shillings respectively. Given that the Spanish dollar traded at 5 shillings at the time, the government made a profit on the venture and, as the coins were worth only silver value outside the colony, relatively few were exported, although they do turn up overseas every so often.

The host coin for this particular holey dollar was a 1777-FM Charles III Mexico Mint 8 reales, and both the counterstamps and the host coin are in exceptional condition. The coin was first mentioned in 1914 when it was purchased through Jacques Schulman Auctions Amsterdam. Robert Żytkowicz of the museum in Toruń replied to an email from Gregg Gibbons:

"In 1914, it was purchased in Amsterdam by the Polish numismatist, Walery Amrogowicz, from J. Schulmann for DM 144.5.

Walery Amrogowicz, a dedicated numismatist, bequeathed his extensive collection to the Scientific Society in Toruń in 1931, of which he was a member. This collection included approximately 2,000 coins and medals, as well as graphics, paintings, and a stamp collection. In the same year, the Scientific Society placed the collection on deposit at the Museum in Toruń.

Due to a lack of professional staff, the numismatic collection was not immediately inventoried. This was completed after World War II, between 1948 and 1953, by Dr. Zygmunt Wdowiszewski. The coin's absence was noted following the completion of the numismatic collection inventory in 2018. The coin was present in the previous inventory, completed in 2009, indicating its loss occurred between 2009 and 2018.

Regards,

Robert Żytkowicz

kustosz

Dział Historii i Dziejów Miasta Torunia

In 2016 the coin was sold at auction by Fritz Rudolf Künker GmbH and Co.³ for €230,000 (about AU \$380,000 at today's exchange rate). The following lot in the auction was a high grade 1813 dump⁴ (Figure 2). The (translated) auction description of the holey dollar included "...Since the condition of the original 8-Reales pieces was often very poor during the manufacturing process of the Holey Dollars, a piece of the good quality offered here is extremely difficult to find. According to information from the consignors, the two pieces, which probably match each other, have been in the possession of their family since 1911." Given that nearly 40,000 holey dollars and dumps were made and the centres were separated from the annuli after being punched out of the 8 reales, the conjecture that the coins "probably match each other" is unlikely in the extreme.



Figure 2. Type A/1 dump auctioned at the same time as the holey dollar. Photograph courtesy of Fritz Rudolf Künker GmbH and Co.

In 2022, the holey dollar was sold by a Melbourne dealer to a Perth collector for AU\$525,000. The coin was described as "First publicly offered Jacques Schulman Auction Amsterdam, 30 March 1914. Second public offering Künker Auction Berlin, 4 February 2016. Illustrated in Burgio's *Diccionario De La Moneda Hispanoamericana*, Volume II, page 135 Santiago 1958. Historical papers and

catalogues attesting to the coin's provenance will be provided." Unfortunately if a false provenance is given, such as that invented by the consignors in 2016 "the two pieces have been in the possession of their family since 1911", that (false) provenance is often innocently quoted to aid later sales.

TVP World report that the museum had this coin plus about 400 others stolen sometime between 2011 and 2018². When the stolen holey dollar was finally tracked down in late 2024, it was willingly surrendered by the unlucky Perth collector. The Australian Federal Police have said that no charges will be laid in Australia as "all parties here acted in good faith"⁵. It is also for this reason that I have not named the coin dealer who last sold the coin. We can just hope that they receive compensation and that the original thief or thieves faces justice.

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2005 Dancing Man \$1/10 Cent Mule Found



Figure 1. 2005 Dancing Man \$1/10 centmule. Photographs courtesy of Brendan Alves.

A mule is a coin struck by mismatched dies. A famous mule is the 1916 halfpenny mule, struck with a 1916 dated Australian halfpenny reverse and an Indian quarter anna obverse. The most famous decimal mule is almost certainly the 2000 \$1/10 centmule (\$1 reverse struck with a 2000 dated 10 cent obverse on a \$1 planchet). As a 10 cent is slightly smaller than a \$1, a 10c die is slightly smaller than a \$1 die, and of course the \$1 collar is wider than the 10 cent die. When the planchet is struck, there is a gap between the 10 cent die and the collar so that, as well as imprinting detail from the 10 cent die onto the coin, metal flows up between the edge of the 10 cent die and the collar, creating an outer 'rim'. Since there is also a rim courtesy of the detail on the 10 cent die, we now have a coin with an inner and outer rim.

The 2000 \$1/10 cent mule was definitely a mistake at the Royal Australian Mint that was released into circulation, and the occasional example still turns up today. There have been a few other dollars struck with 10 cent obverses that have appeared in the marketplace such as a 2015 with mob of roos reverse and a 2014 with 100 years of ANZAC reverse. As these only appear in high grade,

uncirculated or very close to it, it is suspected that they are most likely mint sport (i.e. done deliberately by a worker(s) at the mint and smuggled out).

In February, collector Brendan Alves reported finding a 2005 Dancing Man \$1/10 centmule (Figure 1). It certainly has the distinctive “double rim” seen on the 2000 \$1/10 centmules, but it is always best to measure the effigy so as to be certain, as a slightly loose collar can give the same effect. In his post Brendan provided a high resolution photograph of the obverse of his coin along with four other 2005 \$1 (Figure 2). I did the measurements and added the following response to his post:

“From your pics, I measured height on effigy on your double rim coin to be 407 pixels. Height of the one next to it is 428 pixels. I next looked at the relative sizes of 2005 10c and \$1 (DM) obverses. The 10c will be .944 times the height of the \$1; i.e. $.944 \times 428 = 404$ pixels. Given each of my measurements would only be accurate to within a couple of pixels, this means your coin is consistent with that of a 10c sized obverse and inconsistent with a \$1.”



Figure 2. The mule along with four other 2005 Dancing Man \$1. Photograph courtesy of Brendan Alves.

Given the amount of wear seen on this coin it has been in circulation for a long time, possibly since 2005. Since it was found in circulation it is more likely to be a genuine mint error rather than a mint sport and, as it took 20 years for one to surface, is almost certainly rare. It will be interesting to see if any others turn up.

[Brendan showed this coin to a couple of Sydney dealers. Town Hall coins had a good look at the coin and agreed that it is a mule. A person at the other shop dismissed it as “it is dated 2005 and there are no known 2005 mules”. Well, guess what, there are now.]

Milk Spots and the Swan Token



Figure 1. Photograph of the graded proof silver token after it was replaced in its original holder. Note the milk spots, small ones near the crown on the reverse and large ones on the obverse.

(strengthened by heating and then cooling), the imperfections are baked into the surface of the silver blank. The coin is then struck. Another possibility is contamination of the die. After a time, which may be months or years, but is normally of the order of months, the imperfection becomes a white substance known as a milk spot¹. This can manifest as a spot or spots and/or milky hazing such as seen in Figure 1.

You buy some recently released proof silver tokens, you select 10 that have no visible flaws and send them to PCGS for certification. A couple grade PR70, which is not a surprise as you knew they were lovely tokens when you selected them, and most look great on the PCGS certificate verification page. Eagerly you anticipate their return to Australia and you begin planning how to spend the money you will make selling them. Given how common the tokens are in PR70 they should sell for little more than raw value plus grading fee. But you've seen them selling for silly money so are excited.

Finally the tokens arrive and they are all covered in milk spots.

One of these tokens is photographed in Figure 1. Note the milk spot on the second A of AUSTRALIA, the many small spots and the milky hazing, mainly on the side with the denomination. Figure 2 (next page) is a photograph of the same coin taken by PCGS just after it was graded. Note the flawless surfaces, without any hint of milk spots.

So what are milk spots and how do they form?

The most common explanation is that they are caused by incomplete cleaning of the coin blank.

When a blank is manufactured, it is cleaned and degreased with solvents. If the solvents are not all properly washed off before the blank is annealed



Figure 2. Photograph of the token in Figure 1 a few months earlier, immediately after it had been graded. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Can milk spots occur on all silver coins or bars?

Yes, they can, although they are far less noticeable on bullion silver than proof silver.

Can milk spots be removed?

With care they can be removed, however doing so requires use of an abrasive material, resulting in tiny scratches on the coin. While this will not be as noticeable on a bullion coin, it will be devastating to a proof. We do not recommend this approach.

Do the PCGS and NGC guarantees cover milk spots and hazing?



They do not. Both companies explicitly exclude this from their guarantees. From the PCGS website²: “When initially grading modern silver issues, PCGS will deduct for spots that are already evident. If coins spot after they are graded by PCGS, they are not covered by the terms of the PCGS grading guarantee.”

From the NGC website³: “The development of white spots after a coin is graded by NGC is not covered under the NGC Guarantee because these white spots occur unpredictably and through no fault of NGC’s.”

Figure 3. Swan token in original capsule. Photograph courtesy of coin_struck.

Can anything be done to prevent milk spots?

The Royal Canadian Mint has developed a technique called MintShield⁴, which they say dramatically reduces the instances of milk spots. For commercial reasons, this has not been made available to the public, other mints or other bullion companies.

The Swan Tokens (Again)

Now back to the swan tokens. The people who had the PR70 tokens that developed milk spots have cracked them out of the slabs and sent the certificates back to PCGS. By the time you read this you may find that the certificate number of the token shown in Figure 2 is no longer valid.

Unsurprisingly, milk spots have also appeared on tokens still in their original containers. I know of one that was recently auctioned on eBay by a seller with the eBay identification of coin_struck, who quite correctly described his token as **“2024 Swan Pattern Crown. Impaired (milk spots) Silver proof 750 made”** with an item description reading *“Note the Swan proof has milk spotting and so is being sold as impaired/imperfect. Please see photos, this is the item you will receive”*. This was a good, honest auction description of the token (shown in Figure 3). There is milk hazing from the swan’s beak to the left of the crown and a milk spot to the right of the date. It sold for \$172.50, significantly below issue price.

I understand that the company who commissioned the Royal Australian Mint to manufacture these tokens were made aware of the problem at the time of the Melbourne Money Expo in mid-February.

Conclusions

It is not possible when a coin is struck to determine whether it will develop milk spots or hazing. If it is susceptible, the milk spots will normally, but not always, manifest themselves within the first twelve months or so. It is for this reason that milk spots are not covered by the major grading companies’ guarantees. It is also particularly risky to submit silver proof coins soon after release and **it is even more risky to purchase slabbed silver proofs in PR70 soon after release**, particularly within the first 12 months, as you do not know if they will remain that grade.

A special thanks to the anonymous people who provided the picture in Figure 1, the certificate number information and who had to crack their no longer PR70 swan tokens out of the PCGS slabs.

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The 1981 Royal Wedding 50 Cent and a Google Search



Figure 1. 1981 Royal Wedding 50 cent. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

I know that the Royal Wedding 50 cent were minted at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant Wales and shipped out to Australia in cloth bags. When I was working for Stuart Andersen he bought some of those bags at an auction and I recall cutting open the seals and looking through the coins (those resting against the fabric were just starting to show some colourful toning but would probably need many more decades in the bag to become spectacular). When I asked him, Stuart recalled that occasion and said that he had bought multiple Royal Mint bags over the years but (unfortunately) had never kept the empty bags. The Royal Mint 50 cent are often found in Reserve Bank and bank rolls as they were rolled after arriving in Australia. They are never found in original Royal Australian Mint rolls, although some RAM rolls may have been contrived in recent years.

In any case, I wanted to get further evidence to convince collector #3. At times like this a simple link to a website will do the trick. I used Google to do internet searches with keywords “1981 royal wedding 50c coin” and “1981 Charles and Diana 50c”.

The results were a huge surprise.

Unfortunately Google now prioritises the position of sales listings in search results over true information, which makes it a much less useful tool than it was even a few years ago. Figure 2 shows the result of the top of the first page from a Google search. These are all advertisements. Figure 3 shows further entries on the first page. Normally to obtain genuine information you need to look at entries on pages 2, 3, 4,..

First we'll have a look at the “sales” listings. Of these, many were just for single coins and did not specify a mint. However, 6 had incorrect information. I won't give sources for the comments or titles of the listings as I suspect the mistakes are innocent although careless.

This started with a post on Facebook, in which a collector (who I will call collector #1) proudly showed his triple clipped 1981 Royal Wedding 50 cent. A discussion ensued with another collector (collector #2) wondering how the coin could have been made by the Mint and then put into a roll. A third collector correctly stated that the coin rolling machines at the Royal Australian Mint would have no trouble in handling a clipped planchet 50 cent. That is certainly true about the coin rolling machines. I signified my agreement but also mentioned that the Royal Wedding 50 cent were made by the Royal Mint in Wales.

It surprised me to receive a response from collector #3 insisting that the Royal Wedding 50 cent originated at the RAM and that he had a RAM roll of them. This is remarkable as I

Two said *“minted by the Royal Australian Mint”*.

Others had such gems as

“Each coin is uncirculated from RAM roll and have been placed in 2x2s...”

“1981 Australian 50 Cent Royal Wedding Charles and Diana - Ex RAM Roll By Royal Australian Mint”

“1981 50c Australia Royal Wedding Pack Style 2. Struck by the Royal Australian Mint”

“The Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer was a very important event - important enough to inspire the issue of Australia's third 50c commemorative! A genuine collector favourite. The coin was struck by the Royal Australian Mint and from a mint bag of 400 coins in uncirculated condition.” This last listing is partially correct as the coins did come in mint bags. They were however Royal Mint not Royal Australian Mint bags.

One other had the description

“Country: Australia, Mintage (millions): 20, Face Value: Fifty Cents, Circulation: Circulated, Issuer: RMLL”, which is good and then ruined it with *“Designer: IRB”* as the portrait was designed by Arnold Machin.

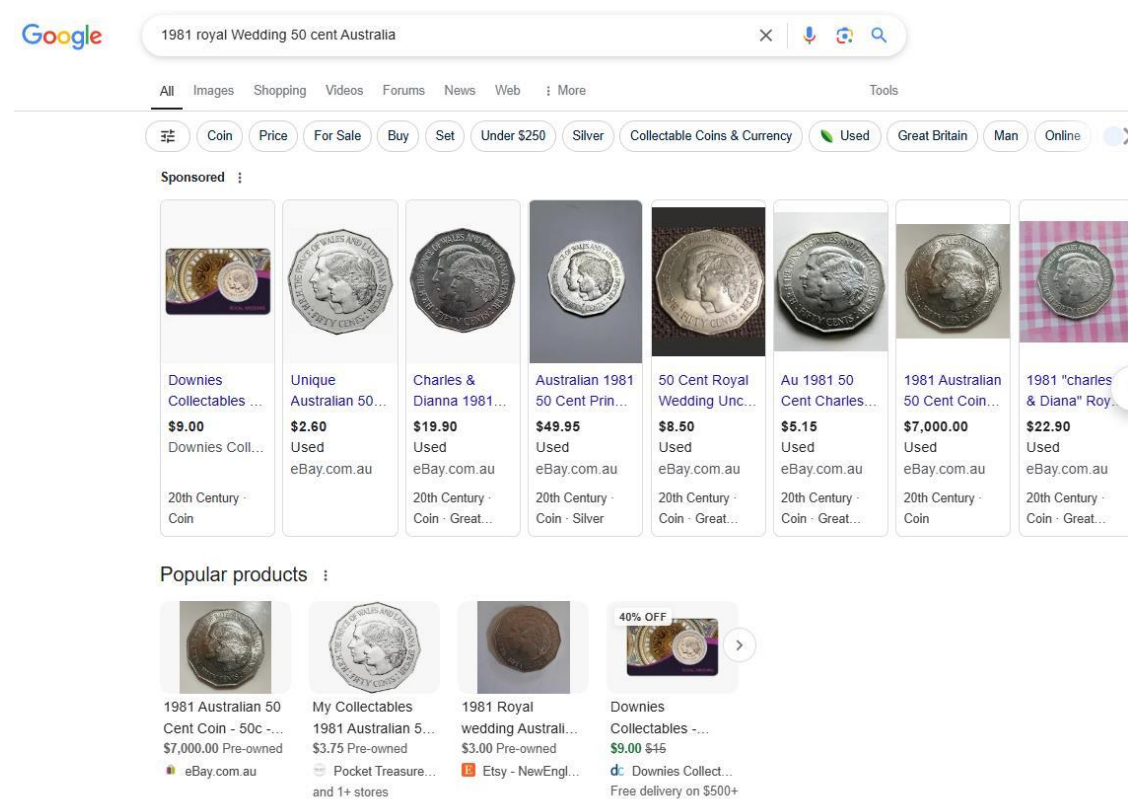


Figure 2. The top lines of a Google search. If you want real information it is best to ignore *“Sponsored”* and *“Popular products”* and scroll down.

https://www.ebay.com.au > ... > Australian > Decimal ;

50 Cent Coin 1981 Charles & Diana Royal Wedding ...

50 Cent Coin 1981 Charles & Diana Royal Wedding Australian 50c from circulation. AU \$10.00 +AU \$5.00 postage.

4.3 ★ store rating (126)

Discussions and forums

I have a 1981 prince and lady Diana 50 cent piece and I am wondering ...

JustAnswer · 1 answer ;

<p>Hello – Thank you for using JustAnswer! My name is***** and I am a certified appraiser ... More ></p> <p>✓ Top answer</p> <p>a year ago</p>	<p>Let me know if you have any follow-up questions. I'll be marking the question as completed, ... More ></p> <p>a year ago</p>	<p>Thanks! Today these have a relatively modest collector value and in their original folders they ... More ></p> <p>3 years ago</p>
---	--	---

1981 prince of wales lady Diana 50cent au coin. Is this worth what eBay ...

Reddit · r/coins · 5 comments · 4 months ago ;

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eBay
https://www.ebay.com.au > ... > Australian > Decimal ;

Circulated Australian 50c Fifty cent coin 1981 CHARLES ...

Circulated Australian 50c Fifty cent coin 1981 CHARLES & DIANA WEDDING rare ; Est. delivery. Mon, 10 Mar - Fri, 21 Mar. From Bayswater, VIC, Australia ; Returns.

\$7.50 · In stock · Free delivery

Numista
https://en.numista.com > Catalogue > Australia > Australia ;

50 Cents - Elizabeth II (2nd Portrait - Royal Wedding)

To celebrate the royal marriage of Charles and Diana the Royal Mint in Wales was to strike a commemorative 50c coin to circulate in Australia.

Figure 3. Further down the first page of the Google search. Finally we see a link to Numista; an online coin resource.

Why are so many of the listings incorrect? In many cases people making a sales listing will blindly

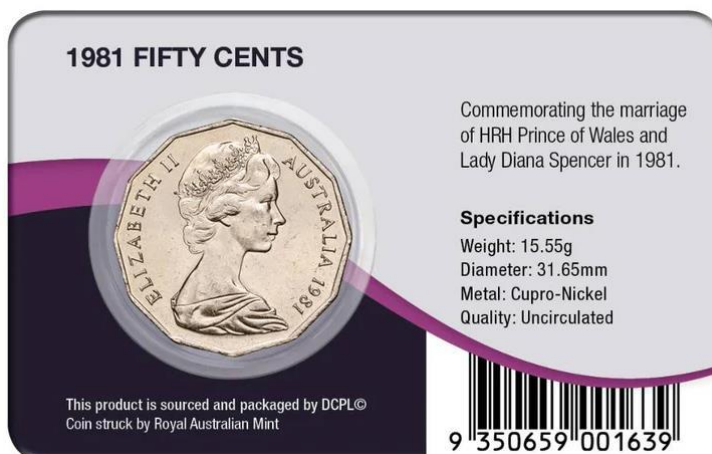


Figure 4. DCPL card with incorrect mint.

copy most of the information from elsewhere. This enables mistakes to propagate, and when they have done so often enough, the incorrect information can be accepted by many people. One cause for the incorrect mint being attributed to the Royal Wedding 50 cent is the attractive credit card sized packaging put out by “DCPL”, which unfortunately has the incorrect information “Coin struck by the Royal Australian Mint” (Figure 4). There were several listings of the 1981

Royal Wedding 50c housed in DCPL cards and all of course had the incorrect mint. The company who owns DCPL have been informed of the problem.

Some, but not many, of the sales listings gave correct information, such as that on the website of The Purple Penny: “1981 Charles and Diana Royal Wedding 50 Cent Reserve Bank Roll, Mint: Royal Mint, Wales”.

It was disappointing to see incorrect information on some of the reference sites such as allnumis, but very disturbing to find it also on the entry for the coin in the Museum of Victoria collection¹.

“Date Issued: 1981 AD, Issued By: Australia, Mint: Royal Australian Mint, Artist: Arnold Machin”

Two of the sites that do have the correct information are numista² and the Royal Australian Mint³ (figure 5).

	Commonwealth Coat of Arms sculpted by Stuart Devlin	1978 1979 1980 1981	25.8 24.9 38.7 24.1	RAM RAM RAM RAM
	Commemorating the marriage of HRH the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer. Designed by Stuart Devlin.	1981	20.0	RMLL
	Commemorating the Brisbane XII Commonwealth Games. Incorporates the Games symbol designed by Hugh Edwards to reflect the form of a kangaroo in full flight. Designed by Stuart Devlin.	1982	49.6	RAM

Figure 5. Entries from the Royal Australian Mint page dealing with mintages and mints for 50 cent coins. Note RMLL (Royal Mint Llantrisant) is in the mint column for the 1981 Royal Wedding.

The question remains, why would some of the reference sites give incorrect information about where these coins were minted? I received the first hint of an answer when I saw an entry from Online coin club⁴.

“Renniks 1986 Pocket Edition lists two mints (Royal Mint and RAM) with note: “Issues from both mints are identical and no distinguishing privy marks have been reported to date”.

Museum Victoria website only lists RAM.

The Royal Australia Mint site itself though lists the Royal Mint in Llantrisant as the only place where the coin was produced.”

Subsequent editions of Renniks list only the Royal Mint as being the source of the coins.

In 1981 due to strike action at the Royal Australian Mint, many Australian coins were struck at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant and the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg. According to two entries on the Australian Coin Collecting Blog⁵, in late May 1981 the Treasurer announced that a commemorative 50 cent would be struck in the United Kingdom or Canada. In June the Royal Australian Mint announced the coins would be struck by the Royal Mint.

There really should not be any confusion. I suspect that part of the problem is just an incorrect assumption. People know that 50 cent pieces are made by the Royal Australian Mint so they assume, without checking, that the Royal Wedding 50 cent was made there. For all other issues they would be correct. The 1981 Royal Wedding 50 cent is the only Australian 50 cent not struck by the Royal Australian Mint.

Conclusions

If using Google or other internet search engines, ignore the sales listings as they generally do not have useful information and may be incorrect. Do not use just one source for information.

The 1981 Royal Wedding 50 cent is a minor case of misinformation being repeated so that after a time it is assumed to be correct. A far from minor case involves the myths about the 1930 penny, which Fred Lever discusses in the next article.

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Coin Collecting and the Start of the 1930 Myths ... Fred Lever

This article is an extract (Chapter 2) from a work in progress by Fred Lever titled the "The 1930 Penny". Part of this article has been published elsewhere and is reprinted courtesy of the author. Copyright Fred Lever.



Throughout the history of Australian coinage there have been coins that are considered rare or scarce and anybody collecting those coins could buy them at a price usually settled by the market. Coin collectors in the 1800s and early 1900s were very few in number and well acquainted with the various rarities. They tended to be well-heeled individuals generally buying high-grade examples and so coin collecting was a "rich man's" hobby. The general public may have collected coins as a hobby and usually they were those found in circulation and of a grade that you accepted.

As a young lad in the nineteen fifties I was in this category and the coins were donated by family and mostly of a type that a shopkeeper might reject, for example foreign coins of a size or type not like our own Aussie coins, or worn out coins. Every household had a jar or drawer in which a motley collection of coins accumulated and a child like me could read the inscriptions on them and try to guess from which far flung country they may have come from. The coin catalogues of today did not exist back then.

Most coin dealers of the time did not know much about the ins and outs of the Australian Mint operation or even care. It was not until the sixties that anyone outside of a coin association or museum started to make lists of what was available in the Australian coin series. Some collectors like Ray Jewel or Marcus Clark and others knew only too well that a 1930 dated penny was rare, and much is documented about the later search for 1930 pennies and the subsequent explosion of the value of the coin through the sixties and seventies. Sadly, the simple origin of the 1930 penny was forgotten over the change of generations between 1940 and 1970.

When people don't know exactly what happened or were too lazy or could not do the proper research, they tended to make up stories to fill the gap. Sellers of the 1930 coins in the sixties then embroidered stories about the birth of the 1930 penny in order to popularize and enhance the sales market value of their coin.

2.1 When did the myths start?

My reading of coin related magazines and newspaper articles points back to the 1960s when the popular myths started. I was interested in a reader's letter in a magazine mentioning a "Fred Kingston" of Sydney as "the Father of Australian coin collecting". Kingston is quoted as saying, and this was the main enduring myth, "that when visiting the mint in 1930 a person would get a brand

new penny as a souvenir". Well, I vaguely remember a coin dealer down in George St, Sydney run by a man with that name and an "A. Kingston" definitely compiled and printed the "Australian Coin Chart" of the early sixties. I could understand Fred (Alfred?) Kingston simply verbalizing this story about the origin of the 1930-penny. He would not know anything about the records stored away in the Melbourne mint and state archives or information printed in an upper class Numismatic Journal. A throwaway line would give a newspaper reporter the quote needed, paint a charming logical picture to the layman and do no harm publicity wise.

Another tale is that a "box" of 1930 pennies was forgotten (really?) and used as a handy seat, with a burlap sack for comfort, for old Bert the "vault foreman" to sit on when having his morning cup of tea and lunch. Came the increased need in the 1940s for coppers to meet the war efforts and the box was discovered and the coins released. Only then was the 1930-penny discovered by coin collectors. Well, there are only two things wrong with that. The first is the lack of 1930 production was well known among the early collectors of Australian coins who made it their business to acquire specimens for their collections. Secondly there happen to be the years 1931 to 1939 during which, according to the Commonwealth statistics, more than 40 million pennies were supplied by the Mint to meet the needs of the country. To satisfy that you would think the "vaults" would have been thoroughly scoured of any odd boxes of pennies laying about (!) and the chances of a 10-year-old box remaining by the 1940s would be remote indeed.

A third and more fantastic story is the 1930 pennies were actually minted in the 1960s secretly by Mint workers using the old 1930 dies so they could capitalize on the skyrocketing value of the coin. Presumably they did this at night when no one would notice (!!) and then artificially "aged" most of the coins to look circulated. Then they smuggled said coins out of the Mint and sold them to coin dealers or some such. There are so many holes in this conspiracy story it is hardly worth going into.

It was only later in the years 2000 onwards when researchers had the motivation, accessed the records and writings of a particular Mint worker of 40 years standing and revisited the Mint records that the plain old simple facts were re-discovered for public exposure. Unfortunately the canards regarding the mint visitors, or the forgotten box. or "mint sport", just got repeated ad-nausea in so-called well-researched articles and sales web sites.

For instance in an auction site in 2024, using terms such as "allure", "mystery" to suck you in, they introduced more conspiracy such as a test strike that "accidentally went into circulation", or "though an oversight or clerical error coins were accidentally mixed with the 1931 issue" and to top it off "for a commemorative issue or specific purpose that remains unknown". We can do without rubbish like that. Worse than that, from sheer laziness a writers will repeat the most rosy canard (see below) and then follow up with " but I don't think that happened" but the canard idea is still there, now engraved a bit deeper in folklore!

2.2 The Main Myth called out in 1980s.

The most charming myth was that of visiting school children doing "tours of the Mint" where you were able to swap, or, be given a shiny new penny by the "tour guide". That paints a wonderful picture of the swaps or handouts to children occurring by the hundred. But then nasty logic intrudes to spoil the illusion.

1/ Despite a call in the Australian Coin Review magazine in the 1980s (by then circulated all over Australia) for someone who had been gifted, or swapped a pocket penny for a shiny new 1930 coin at the Mint on a “tour”, there was NO response! The magazine was not short of readers writing in who thought that was what happened because “they saw that somewhere in print”. However, NOBODY replied claiming it happened to him or her or even a relative or even somebody down the street they knew!

You would imagine that out of the supposed hundreds of coins handed out, someone would have tucked one away to re-emerge later on and be a fondly remembered souvenir of little Billy’s’ visit. More so you would think that the situation of being an actual personal souvenir of a mint visit in 1930 would be included in the provenance of authenticity for sale!

Such provenance could have easily doubled or tripled an auction-selling price.

No such reports were to be on hand in the 1980s survey, then again when I asked in an article in CAB in the 2010s and I don’t think the situation will ever change! Excepting for the Specimen coins, all 1930 pennies came from circulation.

2/ As for the Melbourne Mint having “Tours” for the public and schools in 1930.



The Melbourne Mint today. The gates are still impressive and the buildings used for other purposes. Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia.

People writing in the 1960s totally mixed up the operation of the new mint in Canberra, which was designed as a tourist attraction with public tour access and viewing points, with what the Melbourne Mint was in the 1930s. That Mint was a dour grimy Government factory with no facility for any public access.

On top of that the Mint was in a state of near closure in that 1930 year of great depression, with most staff stood down and production machinery locked up or in maintenance. The only staff on hand were the necessary office seniors to maintain essential services to the government, some senior factory staff engaged on critical development of tooling required for the next decade and some production staff retained to complete the few orders they had.

There is no possibility of spare staff to give tours to the public. If you were not engaged in direct coin work you were stood down and on the bread line. Even if by some chance someone wanted to hand out a memento of a mint “visit”, as a production machine was unlocked and being used in making halfpennies, a halfpenny would be the type of coin used as there were thousands to hand on the floor. You will notice that most of the stories had the viewpoint of explaining how a rare penny appeared as if by magic in circulation. No explanations ever covered the view point of HOW the coins were simply made in the mint and released in low number. That just highlights the division between the people who did know the facts and the loud mouthed or ignorant people with a vested interest promoting myth over fact.

How to Determine if a 1930 Penny is Genuine

As most of our readers are aware, the 1930 penny is the best known Australian coin "rarity" and the most often forged. Nearly 20 years ago I published an online guide to determining whether a coin was genuine. At the time I ignored the English obverse 1930 pennies as I had doubts about them.



Figure 1. Alignment of ALIA with denticles on a genuine 1930 penny. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

These doubts are incorrect as the mint records indicate that one English obverse die was used during the very short production run of the 1930 pennies. We will start by looking at **denticle alignment on the reverse**. During the period of 1911 until 1936, 3 reverse hubs were used to create penny dies. These have distinct alignment between denticles and lettering. All 1930 pennies were struck by what is called "London reverse" dies. On a London reverse the first A and L in ALIA are aligned with denticles, the I and last A in between denticles (Figure 1). I think of them as "at, at, between, between". As most fake 1930 pennies are made by alteration of the last date digit of existing pennies from later in the 1930s, they are picked up here as all pennies from 1932–1936 used a different reverse.

Over time the master dies deteriorate slightly and by 1930 the legend on the dated master (from which all 1930 reverse dies originated) had indented rather than flat bases. The **base of the letters are indented** most at EA, TH of COMMONWEALTH and ALIA of AUSTRALIA

(Figure 2, next page). The only years that have a London reverse and indented lettering are 1929, 1928 and 1927; the 1927 lettering indents are much less pronounced than 1930.

Your first glance at a 1930 penny should be at the ALIA — if the denticle alignment is incorrect or the base of the letters are not indented, then the coin is not genuine. This eliminates almost all coins for which the date could have been altered.



Figure 3. The date. 3 is slightly tilted right with respect to the upright. 0 is tilted slightly left with line going through centre of coin. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.



Figure 2. Indented base lettering on RALIA on a genuine 1930 penny. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

1930 penny has an English obverse, it is a forgery. While this is almost always the case, it is not 100% certain. So let's have a look at the obverses.

Now we will look at **the date itself** (Figure 3). The 3 is tilted slightly to the right the bottom left tip slightly to the left of a denticle, the top left is aligned with a denticle. The zero is wide, quite unlike the oval zero of the 1920 which looks like an ancient hippodrome. The bottom centre of the 0 is between denticles. The 0 is neither upright nor aligned with the centre of the coin, but somewhere in between. Overall the date does look a little wonky.

As far as I know, **no die cracks have ever been seen on 1930 pennies**. If you see a die crack then the coin is almost certainly not genuine.

A tiny **die chip** is known on the reverse of the specimen/proof 1930 pennies and the business strikes that used this reverse die (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Tiny die chip that appears on the specimen/proof and some of the business strike 1930 pennies. Photograph courtesy of Fred Lever.

So far we have looked only at the reverse of the 1930 penny. There were two obverses for the (short) production run of 1930 pennies, the English obverse (first used on the 1911 pennies) and the Indian obverse (first used on the 1916 pennies). As only 3 English obverse 1930 pennies (about 0.2% of the coins known) have been authenticated, most people have assumed that if a supposed



Figure 5. What to look for on English (left) and Indian (right) obverse pennies. See text for details. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

A quick way to discern which obverse you have is to look at where the N of OMN and colon after IMP align with denticles and the shape of the R in BRITT. For English obverse, the second stroke of the N is between denticles, the colon is at a denticle and the downstroke of the R goes straight down. For the Indian obverse, second stroke of the N is aligned with a denticle, the colon is between denticles and the downstroke of the R slopes downwards like a slide (Figure 5).

As we said earlier, almost all known 1930 pennies have the Indian obverse. Of particular interest is indentifying any 1930 pennies with the English obverse. Only 2 coins have been graded by PCGS and these same coins are the only ones that show up in a search of the Noble Numismatics archives.

The two PCGS graded coins show some strike similarities in that they

are weakly struck on one side of the coin hinting at some problem with die alignment during the (short) die run (Figure 6). It is a possibility that this is the reason that so few appear to have been minted.



Figure 6. Weakness on one side of each of the 1930 English obverse pennies, mainly the obverse. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

A very careful look at the high resolution pictures of the two English obverse pennies showed what appears to be a die chip in the region just above the bows (Figure 7). The left hand image shows where on the effigy the die chip is located. The top right is the chip on the higher grade coin, the middle the chip on the lower grade coin. The bottom coin is a proof 1926 penny that shows there is no design feature at that location. These chips occur in exactly

the same place on each coin. However, Fred Lever has reservations about using this chip for authentication as this chip occurs on multiple George V obverses. The difference in shape is most likely due to the metal spreading out with wear. If another 1930 English obverse penny appears it will be interesting to see if it has this die chip.

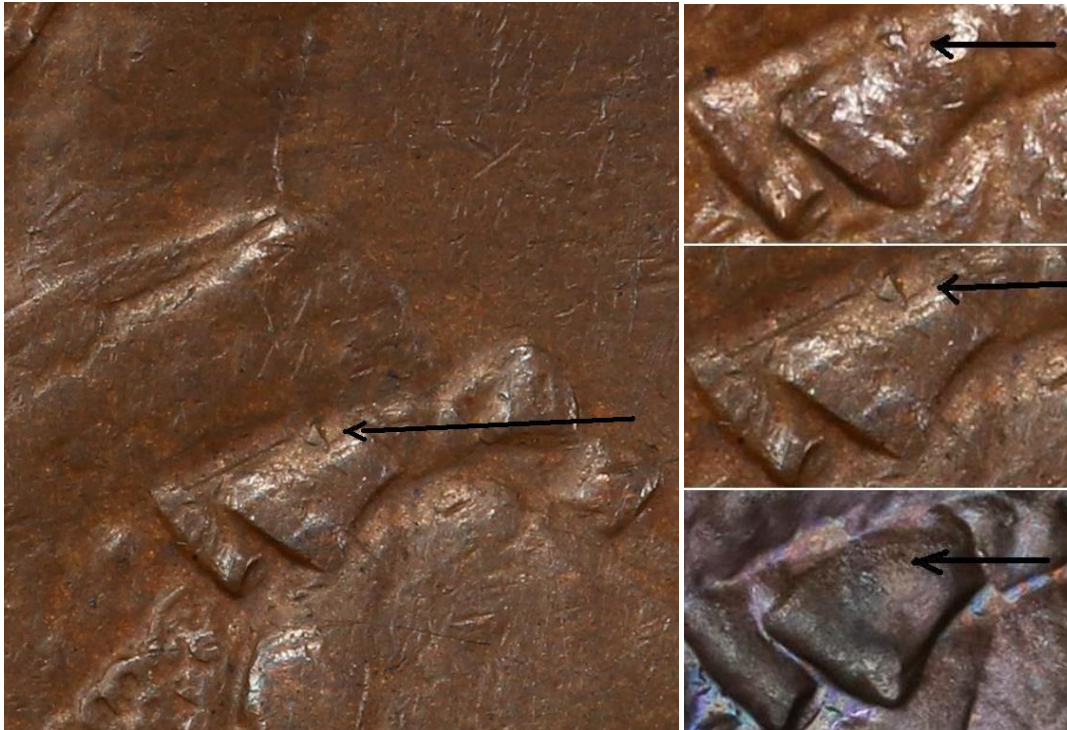


Figure 7. Die chip on the English obverse pennies. The XF40 example (left), XF45 (top right), XF40 (middle right), proof 1926 penny showing no chip (bottom right).

Of the three Indian obverse dies used for the 1930 pennies, one has a die chip after the S of GEORGIVS (Figure 8). This die chip is identical to a die chip on the 1931 dropped 1 Indian obverse pennies. In other words, the same die was used for some of the 1930 and some of the 1931 dated coins.



Figure 8. Die chip after S of GEORGIVS that appears on some 1930 pennies. Photograph courtesy of Drake Sterling.

We've had a quick look at how to identify a genuine 1930 penny. There are many other interesting facets of this coin that we haven't covered here, but will be discussed in future articles.

This article is part of a planned series of articles dealing with forgery detection of specific coins or errors. In our next issue we will look at the fake "bullseye" \$2 errors, how to determine genuine errors, and the story of why PCGS will no longer authenticate them.

A promotional banner for NOVA COINS. The background is a large, dark image of a coin with intricate designs. In the foreground, several smaller coins are displayed, including a two-dollar coin with a red poppy, a one-dollar coin with a kangaroo, and another two-dollar coin with an orange bullseye. The text 'NOVA COINS' is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below it, a list of services is provided: 'Coins', 'Banknotes', 'Australiasian Trade Tokens', 'Coin Errors', 'Collectables', and 'Coin, Banknote & Collectables Accessories'. A purple button says 'WE BUY AND SELL' with the website 'www.novacoins.com.au' below it. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Instagram and Facebook, and a logo for the Australian Numismatic Dealers Association (ANZA) with the text 'ANZA Member'.

Netherlands Kampen Double Rose Noble Encapsulated by PCGS



PCGS recently announced that they graded a Netherlands double rose noble at MS63¹. This coin was auctioned last September by Künker where it realised a price of €175,000². “We’re always thrilled when collectors and dealers submit their coins for grading after purchasing them at auction,” said PCGS President Stephanie Sabin¹.

The coin was issued by the city of Kampen in the Dutch Republic circa 1600. The obverse has a crowned sovereign seated in a gothic stall, holding an orb in the left hand and scepter in right hand, with city shield of Kampen at his feet. The obverse legend translates as “I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed seeking bread”. The reverse shows the shield of Spain in a large rose blossom and legend translating as “Gold coinage of the Imperial City of Kampen”³. Despite near constant warfare with the Kingdom of Spain, which had ruled most of the Netherlands until the 1570s or 1580s), the end of the 16th and start of the 17th century was a time in which the Dutch traders expanded their influence. There had always been considerable trade with the English, and to facilitate this trade, high value Dutch coinage was often made of the same size and weight and similar appearance to that of England. The Netherlands rose noble imitated the English Edward IV rose noble. The double noble weighs about 20 grams.

This Kampen rose noble is not the rarest, nor the most expensive, that has been sold at auction. That honour appears to lie with one that sold in 2022. Although the same basic design, it was one of just two known to still exist, weighed in at a massive 60 grams, and sold for €700,000⁴.

References

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2. Künker 27th-28th September 2024, <https://www.numisbids.com/sale/8324/lot/?lot=5055>
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Recent Perth Mint Releases

More Year of the Snake coins, emus, kookaburras and kangaroos are some of the recent releases from the Perth Mint.

Year of the Snake Coins

The 1 ounce silver green Year of the Snake was made specially for the Melbourne Money Expo in February. Released in a card, it was also still available from the Perth Mint website on the 3rd March for \$115.



The Australian opal Year of the Snake 1 ounce silver proof is an attractive coin, the centre detailed in opal. So attractive that it was quickly sold out at issue price of \$185 and is now only available on the secondary market.



Year of the Snake 1 ounce silver double happiness. This was released (in a card) at the Perth Stamp and Coin Show for \$115.



The chimera 1 ounce gold proof is the latest in the mythical creatures series. The ancient definition of a chimera was a creature with parts from different animals (usually fierce animals; in Greek mythology lion, goat and snake). This proof coin was still available on the 3rd March from the Perth Mint website at \$6470.



The 1 ounce silver coloured emu was still available on the 3rd March from the Perth Mint website for \$120.



Mini Roo half gram Gold Proof Coin was sold for \$140. It has a face value of \$2.



More of the gold Australian kangaroo coins in proof were released. A 2 ounce high relief for \$12,890, a 1 ounce high relief for \$6470, a ¼ ounce for \$1655 and a 1/10 ounce for \$680.

A 1 ounce proof coloured silver high relief version was also released at an issue price of \$150.



A tiny gold coin with a somewhat different design was also made available in a card. The

One Love 1 ounce silver proof Coloured Coin

This comes in a case and was released in time for Valentine's day. It was still available at issue price of \$119 from the Perth Mint on the 4th March.



2025 Happy Birthday \$1 (aluminium bronze) was released in a pnc through Australia Post and dated 4th February 2025. The design represents a birthday cake with coloured confetti and streamers. The issue price was \$25.



2025 ANZAC Day aluminium bronze \$1 coin was released in a card for \$20.



2025 Wedge tailed Eagle 1 ounce coloured silver coin. This coin marks the tenth wedge-tailed eagle design for the Perth Mint by renowned American coin sculptor John M. Mercanti, the 12th Chief Engraver of the US Mint. This is also available as a 1 ounce silver bullion coin.



Kookaburra World Money Fair 1 ounce Coloured Silver Coin was issued at the money fair in Berlin. This differs from the standard issue in that it has a red ampelmann privy mark. A silver bullion (not coloured of course) was also released.



All photographs are courtesy of the Perth Mint.

Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

March and April have been quiet months as regards Royal Australian Mint coin releases.

Counterstamps and Privy Marks

For the Melbourne Money Expo, the mint produced a \$1 mob of roos with a Map Privy Mark.

At the 1st March “Family Day”, the mint released a RAM 60th anniversary dollar with a “60” counterstamp.



50 cent Dorothea Mackellar Coins

Dorothea Mackellar was a 20th century Australian poet. Even if the name is unfamiliar to some, I'm sure the second stanza of "My Country" is known to most:

*"I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains."*

The three coins are struck in aluminium bronze rather than cupronickel and had a retail price of \$20 each. A set of all three coins in a sleeve was also available for \$50.





Koala 50 Cent and \$5 Coins

Of the same design as the silver coin released earlier this year, a version with the same design is available as a cupronickel coin in a card for \$17.50.

The Royal Australian Mint has also issued a 1 ounce fine silver high relief version of this coin with a \$5 face value and an issue price of \$150.

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

All photographs are courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.



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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

Burundi Endangered Species Banknote

The Banque de la République du Burundi is issuing a new giant sized non circulating legal tender banknote to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The banknote is 400 x 288 mm, so is not designed to fit into a wallet and, given its issue price of €2200, is clearly designed to be a collectable commemorative. The obverse of the banknote shows to African megafauna. The reverse shows the Burundi State House, the national flag, the national coat of arms, a map of the country with the source of the Nile, as well as dancers and drummers.



Burundi is in east Africa near Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda and is home to the southernmost source of the Nile. The banknote will be released in April with a maximum print run of 1000. More details can be found at Giant Banknote (<https://www.giantbanknote.com>).

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Rare Canadian \$2 Banknote Sells at Stacks Bowers



Figure 1. The Payable at Victoria \$2. Photograph courtesy of Stack's Bowers.

Victoria, the capital of the province of British Columbia, is located on Vancouver Island off the west coast of North America. In 1870, just 3 years after the Dominion of Canada was formed by treaty with Great Britain, and entirely without the need for a bloody revolution, banknotes were issued in British Columbia. Those issued from what would, the following year, become the provincial capital had an ornate "Payable at Victoria" printed on the reverse (Figure 1). At the time Victoria's population was only about 3,600, so it is not surprising that the number of banknotes printed was very small. There are just three examples known of the "Payable at Victoria \$1", far more common than the \$2. The Charlton catalogue of Canadian banknotes has always listed the "Payable at Victoria" \$2 (DC-3e) as "No Known Issued Notes".

This has now changed. Recently an example originated in Europe and was auctioned by Stacks Bowers on the 28th January 2025. Graded VF-35 by PMG (Paper Money Guaranty), the note realised US\$360,000, well above the estimate of \$50,000-\$75,000.

Sources

Stack's Bowers catalogue: <https://auctions.stacksbowers.com/lots/view/3-1G428G/canada-dominion-of-canada-2-dollars-171870-dc-3e-payable-at-victoria-pmg-choice-very-fine-35>

Stack's Bowers press release: <https://stacksbowers.com/stacks-bowers-galleries-sells-rare-canadian-1870-dominion-of-canada-2-banknote-for-360000/>

\$2 Struck on Foreign Coin to be Auctioned by IAG



Figure 1. 1992 \$2 overstruck on a 1988 Philippines 10 sentimo. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

At first glance it just looks like a \$2 coin struck on a foreign (aluminium) planchet (Figure 1). A more detailed examination reveals something even more interesting —an underlying design. Around the obverse periphery you can see the underlying legend *REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS* (Republic of the Philippines), on the reverse a fish is beneath the aboriginal elder and some of the stars in the southern cross. This fish is the Philippine goby, which appeared on the Philippines 10 sentimo from 1983–1994 . Although difficult to see, the date 1988 is underlying *ELIZA*. Figure 2 shows a 10 sentimo (of a slightly different date, but the same design) rotated by 60 degrees. As you can see it matches the underlying image of the Australian \$2.



Figure 2. 1983 Philippines 10 sentimo, both sides rotated at 60 degrees to match the coin in Figure 1. Photograph courtesy of numista.

The specifications of the Australian \$2 are weight 6.6 grams, aluminium bronze planchet, width 20.5 mm and thickness 2.80 mm. The Philippines 10 sentimo of the time weighed 1.5 grams, had an aluminium planchet, a width of 19 mm and a thickness of 2.33 mm¹.

The strike is exceptionally strong, strong enough to cause the original 19 mm host coin to become sufficiently large so as to accommodate the 20.5 mm \$2 design and also to cause metal to be forced up between the collar and the die. (I suspect that this metal that formed an outer rim may have been somewhat uneven and was ground down, but I would need to have the coin in hand to be certain).

At times in the past coins have been officially overstruck on host coins from different countries, the 1813 holey dollar and dump are examples. In modern times this practice has ceased. However, when a mint has been manufacturing coins for more than one country, it has even been known for a coin to be accidentally overstruck on one from a different country, but this is extremely rare. Alan Herbert rates this type of error as R7, one of the rarest type of error coins².

Was this an accident? If the coin press had been operating normally during a production run of \$2, the strike on a thinner planchet such as the 10 sentimo would be *weaker than that on a \$2 planchet*. That we see the opposite is a good hint that the “error coin” was not struck during a normal production run. Also, as the Royal Australian Mint has never struck coins for the Republic of the Philippines³, it is hard to understand how an already struck Philippines coin would be mixed in with a batch of Australian \$2 planchets. I drew this coin to the attention of a few error collectors. I’ll quote the response of one of them (who asked that I please not mention their name) which I feel sums up the situation:

“No haven’t come across that example before. Seen and handled a few mint sport from the same era on random foreign planchets though, so someone was having fun with some world coinage at the mint.”

John Belcher mentions one of these “mint sport” coins, a 1998 5 cent with 1993 dated reverse in his article in this issue.

This coin is lot number 1676 in International Auction Galleries’ signature auction 101⁴.

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2. Alan Herbert, “Official Price Guide to Mint Errors”, 6th edition, 2002, page 273.
3. Numista, a list of coins struck by the Royal Australian Mint; <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/index.php?mi=28&p=47>
4. International Auction Galleries, Signature Auction 101, April 2025.

Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



G-Day coin cat, further to your piece on halfpennies I would like an opinion on this one.

It's been in my collection for years and I have it marked as die shift. The condition is not great however I thought your readers might find it interesting. Thank you.

Mick Southwell.

Meow.

Dear Mick,
It certainly is interesting and is a topic I can really get my claws into. As far as I know, this only occurred on the 1954Y halfpennies in the

predecimal series and the coins are scarce.

Figure 1 shows Mick's coin. Figure 2 is a closeup picture of part of the legend of a coin struck by the same obverse die as Mick's halfpenny.



Figure 1. The obverse of Mick's 1954 halfpenny.

The problem has arisen while the obverse die was created. Normally it takes two or three blows from the transfer punch to create a halfpenny die. The first will create the middle of the die, second reinforce the middle and create all or part of the legends and possibly the beads and rim. If necessary a third blow is used to finish the legend, beads and rim. When the transfer punch is pushed into the partly formed die, metal flows outwards and thus the die needs to be constrained by a metal collar. If there is no collar we get an elongation of the legend

on the die (similar to the elongation of the legend on well centred coins struck without a

collar). In the case of the 1954Y halfpennies, after the transfer punch blow that created the elongated legend there must have been a final (constrained) application of the transfer punch to create the beads and rim. All coins struck with this die have the elongated legend.



Figure 2 Close up of the legends showing elongated letters.

which gives an indication of how rare the mistake is.

Once again, thank you for this interesting topic.

Regards
Coin Cat

References

1. <https://www.thesandpit.net/index.php?option=1999dollar>
2. Alan Herbert, "Official Price Guide to Mint Errors", 6th edition, 2002.

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

1954 was during the early days of the Perth Mint creating their own dies and mistakes were made as they built up experience. For example, there are two different examples of misaligned 1953 halfpenny obverse dies and one misaligned 1954 obverse (besides this die).

While I do not know of any other predecimal example, there does appear to be one in the decimal series.

A small number of the 1999 Year of Older Persons \$1 have the legend going almost into the rim. Colloquially known as the "large head" variety, it is a misnomer as the effigy size is the same as the "medium head" and all that differs is the height of the lettering¹.

Alan Herbert does not even mention this type of die error in "The Price Guide to Mint Errors",

The Controversial Double Struck Two Dollar... John Belcher



Figure 1. Forged double struck 2009 \$2. Photograph courtesy of Status International.

Double struck coins are one of the most collectable types of error coins sought out by numismatists. The error is easily recognisable with its sometimes striking appearance, and due to its scarcity, is one that most error collectors desire in their collection.

As background information, double strikes can be found on the earliest ancient coins all the way through to modern day coinage in most, if not all, countries of the world. In Australia, although deemed to be scarce (if not rare), examples can be found in both the pre-decimal coins and all of the decimal coins that were issued into circulation.

Initially I did not intend to write this article. The research and investigation I undertook into the controversy surrounding the double struck 2009 \$2 (Figure 1) was originally for my own benefit. I embarked on this process initially to determine the defining characteristics of a legitimate coin as opposed to a “fake”. As the research revealed some unexpected results, I believed that the information that emerged may be of some interest to other coin collectors. Thus the article was born.

As an avid collector of error coins I have learnt through experience that an impulse purchase can lead to regret. This can be due to ignorance of the nature of the error or circumstances surrounding the manufacture of the particular error concerned. I now try to familiarise myself with the specifics of a coin if I wish to add it to my collection, or conduct research prior to any acquisition.

Double and multiple strike coins fall into four primary types:

- Double struck on-centre (where the second strike is within the collar Figure 2 (top)).
- Multi-struck (which involves three or more strikes), such as the \$2 coin in Figure 2 (second from top).
- Flip-over double strike (where the second strike is on the other side to the first), such as in Figure 2 (second from bottom).

- Double Struck Off-Centre, where the second strike is on the same side of the coin, but off centre, as in Figure 2 (bottom).



Figure 2 (part). Double strike on centre (top), multiple strike (second from top), flip over double strike (third from top).



Figure 2 (bottom). Double struck off centre. Photographs courtesy of Australian Coin Collecting Blog, Status International, Australian Coin Collecting Blog and PCGS respectively.

In all cases the second strike shows identical characteristics (strength, die wear, detail) to the first strike.

This article deals specifically with the 2009 \$2 coin, which is known for large off centre strikes and, being unusually common, is thus lower priced than most double struck decimal coins (Figure 3).



Figure 3. 2009 \$2 Double Struck 70% Off Centre. Photograph courtesy of PCGS (with a thank you to Pete, owner of Eridmatos Collection). Notice how crisp the second strike is compared with the fake in Figure 1.

To understand the occurrence of a double struck off centre coin I will revisit the minting process and how this error can legitimately occur.

In the minting press, there are three dies. The anvil die is fixed and stationary. The blank planchets are placed on the anvil die by a device called a feeder finger. The planchets are constrained on the anvil die by the collar die which defines the design of the edge of the coin (flat, reeded, partially

reeded, etc.). During the strike, the hammer presses the blank planchet between all three dies to create the coin. The coin is ejected from the collar and sent out of the minting press and down the coin production line. In the case of a double strike, the dies strike the coin the first time, but the coin fails to leave the striking chamber completely and is struck a second time. A side effect of the ejection process is that the coin is rotated out whilst leaving the chamber, causing the second strike to occur anywhere on the coin. This rotation is of consequence and will be referred to later in this article. The amount of the second strike present on the coin is measured as a percentage “off centre” and I have seen examples ranging from 3% to 98% in pre decimal and decimal coins but this percentage seems restricted to the 50%–75% range on the 2009 \$2 coin.

History of the 2009 \$2 Double Struck Off Centre Coin.

The 2009 \$2 had a production run of over 74.5 million coins. In 2010, a number of coin forums discussed the finding of some of these coins that were double struck 50%–75% off centre. Over the next 6–7 years more of these coins (at least 10–15) appeared for sale through coin dealers, coin groups or private sellers (including eBay), but all had little or no provenance. Information at the time indicated they were from a “mint worker” (if true this would imply that the removal of the coin from the mint had not been legal) or a cash transfer logistics company or similar. On this point I am not in a position to refute this information as these are conceivable sources, as I outline later. By 2017 or 2018 scepticism of the coin’s legitimacy had become so feverish that some social media posts were awash with allegations of counterfeit coins and nefarious dealers. Baseless allegations were even made of Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) who had certified and graded a number of these coins, and rejected others as forgeries. It should be noted that none of these allegations concerning companies or dealers were ever substantiated. Never-the-less the demand for these 2009 \$2 double struck coins collapsed virtually overnight, similar to what occurred in 2022 with the fake \$2 coloured error coins (colour on wrong side, also known as bullseyes)¹. Today the 2009 \$2 error coin makes an occasional appearance on various selling sites. Auction houses and dealers that have sold this coin recently do provide a guarantee of authenticity, but the vast majority do not buy or sell these coins.

The Investigation

As the adage goes “a picture says a thousand words”, so I initially compiled a photographic record of this controversial \$2 coin. The quality of the photographs ranged from poor to high grade, so I was not able to examine each coin specifically but it was the rotation of the 2nd strike that proved invaluable in determining each individual coin. With twenty eight (28) coins represented in compilation of photographs available, only 3 coins were deemed to be a duplication, with the remaining coins all displaying a variation in the degree of rotation when viewing either the obverse or reverse or both of said coin. Some twenty five (25) individual coins have been identified to date, double the number originally suspected of being produced.

Of the 25 coins photographed:

3 have been graded by PCGS as legitimate mint state, double struck off centre coins

2 have been deemed counterfeit by PCGS.

1 was graded as mint state by a now defunct grading service.

1 other coin was deemed to be a fake by a very reputable expert.

7 coins made an appearance either in legitimate well known auction houses or coin dealerships. (Some of these were subsequently proven to be fake and the purchaser refunded by the auction house).

11 were from private collections, whose owners all who attest to the legitimacy of their coin. (Unfortunately there is no guarantee that all of these coins are genuine as the level of expertise varies widely amongst collectors.)

The Royal Australian Mint was contacted in relation to the production of the 2009 \$2 coin and any discrepancies that they may have been logged. I submitted two photographs from my photographic collection as examples and I received the following reply²

“Thank you for contacting the Royal Australian Mint.

Coins minted for circulation are produced at an incredibly high speed; approximately 650 coins per minute. Due to the high-speed minting process, variations or anomalies in some elements, like a coin being double stuck, may occur. We can confirm that your coin is a standard circulating coin and is neither counterfeit nor fake. Such differences do not affect the authenticity of the coin.

Please note we do not have any records available that would provide insight into this particular occurrence from 2009.”

(It is interesting to note that a genuine coin that has been subsequently struck by a fake die pair is still a genuine coin so the mint’s reply does not confirm the coin as a “genuine error”.)

So a fault in the coining press could produce multiple numbers of this error, but I was not convinced that with a number of coins identified as counterfeit that this was not the only source of production of this error.

A number of conversations and correspondence with Australian experts indicated that they believed the original first strike on the coin to be legitimately produced at the Royal Australian Mint, but on a number of coins the second strike is caused by a counterfeit die. This is consistent with the explanation from PCGS concerning coins they determined to be fake.

I then investigated coin die production and for the reader, summarise as follows³.

The Royal Australian Mint produces a production die after a multi- step process involving the use of a computer-controlled engraving machine, creating what is known as a reduction punch. The reduction punch then transfers the design to a softened steel block, a process known as hobbing. This is called the master die. The master die is hardened, and is then used to hob another steel block, the working die. The third and last case of hobbing occurs when the working hob is hardened, and used to create the production die.

As can be seen this process takes days to complete and which left me wondering why anyone would go through this process to produce a limited number of coins which, although fetching at their peak \$2000-\$3000, possibly would not cover the cost of machinery and fabrication costs. That is until I uncovered a production technique called **Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM)** using the **spark erosion process**. An EDM machine is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Photograph of an industrial EDM machinery and a Portable EDM device.

So what is the spark erosion process? Essentially it involves electrolysis. Two conductive materials are placed near each other in an electrolytic bath and a current is passed between them, causing a spark to jump across the gap and complete the circuit. This electric discharge generates localised heat, which melts and removes metal in a controlled manner, creating a reverse (i.e. incuse) replica of the original object. A conductive material is necessary for the original sample, so a genuine coin is used in the process.

Repetitive electric pulses gradually erode small amounts of metal from the die steel (work piece). The spark will jump to the smallest gap between the two materials and over time the point of impact moves across the surface of both pieces, etching the design into the die steel wherever the gap is shortest. This continues until the entire coin design is etched into the die steel.

This process does not involve “hobbing” as outlined earlier and the new steel die needs to undergo hardening. I mention this as it becomes a factor later in the analysis of the 2009 \$2 double struck coins.

Having determined that a counterfeit coin die can be produced and may have been used to create a number of the \$2 error coins in question, I attempted to ascertain what criteria could be used to distinguish a legitimate coin from a counterfeit.

I initially contacted PCGS regarding their “Counterfeit” attribution to ascertain any features or characteristics that enabled them to make their decision and received the following reply⁴

“Our PCGS graders do not leave notes on their results, nor do they provide us with specific instructions on how to classify a mint error.”



Figure 5. 2009 \$2, the second strike from fake dies. Photograph courtesy of Roger McNeice’s “The \$2 Book”.

NGC authenticator Skip Fazzari⁵, in an article from 2007, commented on EDM made dies *“Each spark creates a tiny crater, leaving a pitted surface, which is one of the indicators used to spot counterfeit coins made with EDM dies. These pits result in tiny raised pimples on the coin’s surface.*

This process then creates telltale signs of counterfeiting that can be utilised in an examination. Each step in the production of an error from a counterfeit die introduces subtly defects, often seen in the form of repeating bagmarks, scratches, pimples or depressions. Counterfeit errors produced this way also suffer from a loss of fine details and lack the crisp, high quality lustre expected”.

In correspondence with error expert Mike Diamond (Error-Ref.com), he commented *“A genuine double strike should show sharp but incomplete penetrance of the first-strike design through the 2nd strike design, however this appearance can be duplicated in sophisticated counterfeits. Images that seem a bit dodgy can be due to the effects of metal flow. I would have to examine an example under a microscope to make a firm determination.”*⁶

Discussion with Australian experts confirm these comments and that compared to the initial first strike, the second strike on suspect coins display a “mushiness” or lack of definition, are not as well struck or showed some other strike deficiencies. One explained that they believe that the “best” of the fake coins were released first, with later examples displaying the weak second strikes and poor definition.

For the reader I will briefly revisit weakly struck coins. One cause is worn dies. As a die is used, the sharp details are worn down and flattened, similar to a coin in circulation but remembering that the high points on the die are the lowest points of a coin. A worn die will cause soft and indistinct areas in the lowest points of the design on the coin. This sounds familiar; soft or mushy, indistinct definition.

The counterfeit die used in the second strike may become worn out after only a few uses. One explanation is that the quality of the steel used in its manufacture was of low quality and that the completed die was not hardened (as previously mentioned) sufficiently, or at all, prior to being utilised. The pressures then exerted in the coin press of the counterfeiters needs to be up to 200 tonnes to enable proper stamping of the coin. This could obviously result in this premature wear of the die. Thus **there may have been multiple counterfeit dies produced.**

One person who was able to examine multiple examples of the suspect coins remarked that counterfeit dies were most likely used on coins that originated from different die runs. This can be proven because \$2 coins have interrupted milling. As the milling comes from the collars and the collars are positioned randomly with respect to the dies, the break in the milling normally occurs at different positions relative to the legend for different die pairs. The type of equipment failure that causes genuine double struck coins is extremely unlikely in the first place and far less likely to occur more than once for a given date and denomination.



*Figure 6. Closeup of Figure 5. Compare the detail on the Aboriginal elder's beard on the second strike with details on the beard on the first strike (red arrow). While the second strike is as strong as you would expect on a double struck coin (notice how just traces remain of the upper part of the 2 [green arrow]), the beard will be just as strong on the second strike **if the second strike was made by a genuine die.***

Another aspect that needs to be considered when investigating the mismatched second strike is that a counterfeit die might not be the culprit. The second strike may have been produced by utilising a previously "retired" die from the Royal Australian Mint. Worn dies that may have been replaced in the minting process could have been resurrected by persons unknown and used to create the subject coins. The colloquial term for this is known as "Mint Sport" and examples appear from time to time. Two examples appeared recently in the 5 cent denomination. Although not double struck but they were in fact double obverse coins, they display the use of an out of date die to create errors for the market. One coin had a 1998 date on one side and a 1993 date on the other (Figure 7), the other coin being a 1994 date paired with a 1993. These coins however were not struck by aged dies and the second strike dies used on the \$2 forgeries do not appear to be normal dies that exhibit just die wear.

A future article will examine the occurrence of double obverse and double reverse coins in detail.



Figure 7. 5 cent with 1998 date obverse and 1993 dated reverse. Photograph courtesy of Status International.

Conclusions

So what conclusions have I have drawn from this research and investigation into the 2009 \$2 double struck off centre coin.

There are legitimate 2009 \$2 double struck off centre coins in the market. The occurrence of a similar coin, such as the 2015 \$2 double struck off centre, attests to this, as do those examples in the 5 cent, 10 cent, 20 cent, 50 cent and \$1 denominations.

There are counterfeit examples of this coin ranging from very high quality to quite poorly made.

Other than those exhibiting very poor quality second strikes, which after some examination, can be dismissed as fakes, I do not yet have the ability or technical skill to make a confident determination. I would require at least a second opinion from an expert that has had previous experience examining these particular coins. Unfortunately, I believe that the true number of these experts may be restricted to just a handful.

After examination and agreement by expert(s) as to legitimacy of the coin, I would arrange for a final determination by PCGS or NGC. Although mistakes can be made by these third party grading companies, their processes are robust and dynamic, adjusting to counterfeiting techniques and evaluating a coin accordingly.

EDM equipment used in the making of counterfeit dies and coins was observed as far back as 2007, nearly 18 years ago, and with the advances in technology in general, one needs to display utmost caution when examining certain types of errors where a counterfeit die could come into play.

“Caveat Emptor”, buyer beware, is certainly applicable when attempting to obtain a 2009 \$2 double struck off centre \$2.

Acknowledgments

First and foremost I wish to extend my appreciation to a number of people I have had contact with regarding this investigation. They have freely given their expert opinions and advice and their own interpretations, some have indicated that it be on the condition of anonymity. I have given an undertaking to fulfill their wishes.

To Alex Birkin for peer reviewing the initial draft and helpful suggestions.

To members of various coin communities and groups who supplied photographs and advice I thank you for your contributions.

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6. Mike Diamond Numismatist and author, Coinworld and Error-Ref.com, private communication.

Further reading

The \$2 Coin Collectors Book by Roger McNeice OAM CF (p52).

Cointalk.com/threads/What you need to know about strikes by Jason Poe.

Renniks Australian Pre-Decimal & Decimal Coin Errors by Ian McConnelly.



What is Wrong With My Unc Coin?

New collectors often expect the coins they purchase, whether in packaging from the mint, in coin rolls, in a 2x2 from a dealer or in a third party slab such as a PCGS slab, to be absolutely perfect. In this article we will have a look at some of the unwanted features you may find on recently released coins, and what effect they will have on a grade PCGS would assign.

Bagmarks

Bagmarks range from tiny specks to gouges on a coin due to it being impacted by other coins, either during production at the mint or later. Modern business strike coins (i.e. those intended for circulation) are normally heavily bagmarked. Figure 1 gives a hint as to one of the reasons.



Figure 1. Freshly minted coins being poured out of a barrel at the mint. Photograph courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.

Coins made for sets or appearing in cards have less bagmarks than business strikes, but the marks themselves can be just as severe. Heavy marks such as those in Figure 2 occur when a coin that has already landed in a barrel after being struck is hit by another coin falling into the barrel. The severity of the bagmark depends upon the weight of the coin and the impacted area.

All bagmarks affect the grade of course, but a few heavy bagmarks far less than a multitude of light marks.



Figure 2. Heavy bagmarks on a 2023 \$1 in an AFL card.

Struck through oil or grease

I have found this problem on many of the recent aluminium bronze coins, particularly \$2



Figure 3. Areas (red arrows) struck through oil or grease on a 2023 \$1.

and, sadly, on coloured C mintmark \$2. This manifests as (normally) fairly small areas on a coin where there is a rough rather than a smooth surface Figure 3; red arrows).

Figure 4 shows the whole obverse of that coin and we can see that there were specks of grease over most of this side.



Figure 4. Specks of oil or grease can be seen over most of the obverse of the coin in Figure 3.

Coins struck through oil and grease seldom achieve really high grades (MS66+) as the ugly spots affect the coin's eye appeal.

Scraped by the coin rolling machine

The modern coin rolling machines are notorious for producing circular scrapes and sometimes scrapes in the centre of the end coins of a roll. These occur on both security and Royal Australian Mint rolls. Photographs of both ends of a RAM 2022 Peacekeeping \$2 collector roll are shown in Figure 5. The scrapes caused by the coin rolling machine are shown in red.



Figure 5. Coin rolling scrapes (in red) on both ends of a RAM collector roll.

I have not noticed rolling machine scrapes on early decimal coins and they appear to be a 21st century phenomena. As far as coin grades are concerned they are a show stopper. The coin will be slabbed as *No Grade Unc Details Damage* and will only be worth face value (unless a scarce coin such as a 2000 \$1/10 cent mule).

Thin scratches

A thin scratch, extending across a considerable proportion of the coin's surface,

is a problem that occurs predominately on the aluminium bronze coins. This is a comparatively recent phenomena (only seen on coins minted within the last decade or so).

Because they are so thin, they can easily be missed (Figure 6). If you do not look at each face of the coin from all possible angles you can easily miss them. The graders at PCGS or NGC will not miss them, and the reward for sending a coin like this can be a coin heavily discounted in grade or even worse, graded as *Genuine Unc Details Scratch* and (unless particularly rare) only worth face value.



Figure 6. A thin scratch on a recent \$1 coin.

Stained planchets

No matter how good the strike, how good the lustre, how few the bagmarks, if you have a dirty or stained planchet, your coin will not be high grade. Stains on planchets have been seen on a number of aluminium bronze issues in recent years. For the two dollar coins, this includes even the C mintmark coins which typically had issue prices of around \$15 or so.



Figure 7. Stained planchet \$. These stains are visible in the field in front of Her Majesty's eye and in other places (arrows on closeup).

The stains of course lower the grade of a coin as they reduce the eye appeal. If you are purchasing over the counter it pays to inspect each coin for this and the other problems.

This discussion has highlighted coins whose relatively subtle problems cause them to have lower resale value. Coins struck on damaged planchets or misstruck in other ways are more properly called "error coins" and are a topic for another day.

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uneven strike with light toning on luster
Near Mint State
\$3,250

69-79AD Vespasian Gold Aureus - NGC XF strike 5/5, surface 2/5
Displays light surface and edge marks, yet retains the striking portrait of the emperor Pax enthroned on ornate chair left facing, extending olive branch downward in right hand, transverse long sceptre in left hand
\$13,500

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Great Britain
Edward IV
Shilling, Fine Silver Issue
Very Fine - \$1,095

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Great Britain
James I, 2nd Coinage
Gold Thistle Crown
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Trinidad and Tobago Alter Their Coat of Arms

On the 25th February 2025, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago made a small alteration to their coat of arms in that they removed the three ships of Columbus and replaced them with a representation of the national (percussion) instrument, the steelpan. Despite some public concern that removal of the ships would remove an important point in the country's history, Dr Claudius Fergus, who chairs the National Committee on Reparations, said: "This is not an attack on the history of the Caribbean. It's not an attempt to erase but rather to correct ... Every generation has an obligation to reinterpret their history and to correct the falsehoods on which some of that history would have been written¹."



Current design of Trinidad and Tobago 50 cents. Note the three ships of Columbus on the shield. Photograph courtesy of numista.



New coat of arms. Image courtesy of wikipedia.

What is the numismatic importance of this? The coat of arms will have to be replaced on every coin and currency denomination that has the coat of arms— in fact on all coins and banknotes. It is uncertain when this will occur, however the coat of arms may be changed on a new \$100 banknote planned for September 2025².

References

1. The Guardian 24th August 2024, "Historian hails Trinidad plan to remove Columbus ships from coat of arms", <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/25/historian-hails-trinidad-plan-remove-columbus-ships-coat-of-arms-steelpan>
2. Banknote News 16th February 2025, "Trinidad and Tobago to revise coat of arms in September 2025", <https://banknotenews.com/?p=44852>

Melbourne Money Expo, Malvern Town Hall February 15th – 16th

Firstly, let's look at the positives from the expo. Overall the show was probably the best Melbourne show in years. With the Royal Australian Mint not putting in an appearance, the only people who turned up were genuine collectors, and the crowd behaviour was better than it had been at the last money expo in Sydney 2024. It was very busy both mornings and a little quieter in the afternoon.



A crowd shot on Saturday.

The Perth Mint had a stand near the front entrance. Aleysha Howarth, who designed the Year of the Snake "Opal" 1 ounce silver proof was at the stand and she was kind enough to sign some certificates of that particular coin — until they were sold out (which did not take all that long). Australia Post and ANDA also had stands; both sold out of all products over the weekend. The tables at the front of the town hall in the foyer were manned by volunteers from the Numismatic Association of Victoria.



Another crowd shot looking straight down the hall.



At his first show, Thomas of SVC Collectables.



A 1970 Cook Medal in gold.

Over the last few shows I've attended, Adam Lovegrove of Southern Cross Coins has always had something interesting in his display cabinet. This show as no exception with a Stokes Captain Cook medallion in gold.

Unfortunately the lighting makes it very difficult to photograph coins. In spite of several attempts I was unable to get a good shot of the coin I liked the most at the show – the 1893 Sydney proof (or prooflike) sovereign that Andrew Crellin of Sterling & Currency had available for sale. There are pictures on his website. It is well worth looking at. (Now if only I had a spare \$75K).

All the dealers I talked to indicated that they had a profitable show, a pleasant improvement on some shows last year.



Matt Thompson, the show organiser.

Matt Thompson, the show organiser, gives the thumbs up for the show. He said that for once he had no complaints from dealers and he was very happy about the crowd and crowd behaviour.

He is already planning a few tweaks on positioning of queues for next year's expo.

There was also a big negative from a personal point of view. I do not appreciate a senior anda committee member going out of his way to come up to me and tell me I was banned, which is a complete lie, and suggest I leave. A few minutes later he also told me there was a taxi stand outside and to go out and get one. Given that the ANCA members I talked to about this episode just brushed it off, I can only assume that what I was subject to is acceptable behaviour according to that organization.

By the way, I stress that apart from that person I mentioned, I found the vast majority of dealers to be friendly and courteous.

Upcoming Coin Fairs, Coin Shows and Numismatic Events

Saturday April 5th, 9 am–2 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Saturday April 15th, 10 am–4 pm

Sunday April 16th, 10 am–3 pm

Brisbane Money Expo

Queensland Sports & Athletics Centre

Kessels Road, Nathan, Mount Gravatt QLD

Sunday April 6th, 9 am–2 pm

Moonee Ponds Coin Fair

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds VIC

Sunday April 6th, 9 am–1 pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran ACT

For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Saturday April 19th, 9 am–4 pm

Wagga Stamp and Coin Market

ARCC Hall

131 Tarcutta St Wagga Wagga NSW

Sunday April 27th, 9 am–1 pm

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East VIC

Saturday May 3rd, 9 am–2 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Sunday May 4th, 9 am–2 pm

Moonee Ponds Coin Fair

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds VIC

Sunday May 4th, 9 am–1 pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran ACT

For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Saturday May 10th, 9 am–1 pm

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Banknote and Stamp Fair

South Perth Community Centre, South Perth WA

Saturday May 17th, 9 am–3 pm

Sunday May 18th, 9 am–3 pm

Wagga Stamp and Coin Fair

Sturt Primary School Hall

White Avenue

Koorlingal NSW

Sunday May 25th, 9 am–1 pm

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East VIC

Sunday June 1st, 9 am–2 pm

Moonee Ponds Coin Fair

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds VIC

Sunday June 1st, 9 am–1 pm

The Canberra Collectables Fair

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran ACT

For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Saturday June 7th, 9 am–2 pm

The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Saturday June 21st, 10 am–4 pm

Sunday June 22nd, 10 am–3 pm

Perth Money Expo

South Perth Community Centre, South Perth WA

Sunday June 29th, 9 am–1 pm

Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East VIC

Sunday, June 29th, 9:30 am–4 pm

Petersham Super Fair

Petersham Town Hall

107 Crystal Street, Petersham NSW

<https://scaa.com.au>

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

Numismatic Associations

Numismatic Association of Australia

Postal Address: The Secretary, NAA, 4 Station St, Nunawading VIC 3131

Website: <https://numismatics.org.au/>

Australian Capital Territory

ACT & District Coin Club

Club Liaison: Wayne Corbin Ph 0414 374 511

Email: actclub.secretary@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month (February-December) at 7:30 pm; The Boardroom, Mawson Club, 10 Heard St, Mawson ACT

New South Wales

Australian Numismatic Society NSW

Postal Address: PO Box 830, Manly, NSW 1655

Email: mattkenlloy@hotmail.com

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

Telephone: (02) 9223 4578

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of each month at Chatswood RSL at 10:45 am, except March, July and November on the 2nd Monday at 7:30 pm at Noble Numismatics.

Australian Society for Ancient Numismatics

Telephone: Colin Pitchfork, (02) 9223 4578

Email: colin@noble.com.au

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

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club

Postal Address: PO Box 9156, BATHURST NSW 2795

Telephone: (02) 6331 5404 (Business hours)

Email: amcrae@lisp.com.au

Meetings: 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at Old Eglinton Fireshed in Park Street, Eglinton.

Coffs Harbour Stamp and Coin Club

Postal Address: 182 Linden Ave, Boambee NSW 2450

Telephone: (02) 6690 0168

Email: sheryl.ellem@bigpond.com

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

IBNS (Sydney Chapter)

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

Email (secretary): info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz

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

Illawarra Numismatic Association

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

Email: illawarranumismatics@gmail.com

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

Maitland and District Coin Club

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

Email: maitlandclub@gmail.com

Meetings: 7:15 pm on the second Monday of the month at the Baptist Church Hall on the corner of Anderson Drive and Christie Rd, Tarro.

The Metropolitan Coin Club of Sydney

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

Telephone: 0431 483 914

Email: metccsyd@gmail.com

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

Mudgee Coin, Note & Stamp Club Inc.

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

Telephone: (02) 6569 4328

Email: MudgeeCNSC@gmail.com

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

Nambucca Heads Stamp and Coin Club

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

Telephone: Elizabeth (02) 6373 5324

Email (secretary): lizzie20649@hotmail.com

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

Newcastle Numismatic Society

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

Email (secretary): nnsclub@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Ross Southern

Orange Coin and Stamp Club Inc

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

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

Email (secretary): normanbinns@bigpond.com

Meetings: 7:30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month (except December) at the Orange Community Information Centre, 79-81 Kite Street, Orange, NSW. Meetings are best accessed via the back entrance of the Information Centre, from the Woolworth's carpark southern end. The carpark is behind the shops on the southern side of Summer St (the main street) between Anson and Sale Streets.

Sapphire Coast Stamp & Coin Club

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

Telephone: (John) (02) 6495 7308

Email: brsinclair@optusnet.com.au

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

and November). During non-daylight saving months: 2:00 pm on the third Saturday (May, June, July, August, September)

Queensland

Australian Numismatic Society Queensland Branch
Postal Address: PO Box 78, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006.
Email: gerald.doyle@bigpond.com
Website: <https://www.the-ans.com/>
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Meeting Room 1, Bulimba Library, Corner Oxford St & Riding Road, Bulimba, Brisbane.

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

Queensland Numismatic Society Inc
Postal Address: PO Box 431, Lutwyche, Qld 4030.
Email: sapyx@optusnet.com.au
Meetings: 7:00 pm on the first Friday of the month, Metropolitan Grange Library, 79 Evelyn Street, the Grange.

Redcliffe Numismatic Society Inc
Website: <https://www.rns.org.au/>
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 12, Margate QLD 4019.
Telephone: (07) 3396 6855
Email: info@rns.org.au
Meetings: 7:30 pm on first Tuesday of each month except January at Level 2, Moreton Bay Integrated Care Centre, 106 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe.

Redland Bay Coin and Stamp Club
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 3275, Birkdale QLD 4159.
Telephone: (07) 3207 2518
Email: margck5@bigpond.net.au
Meetings: 7:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at Cleveland Uniting Church, 36 Passage St, Cleveland (small hall on Queen St). Visitors are very welcome.

Rockhampton Coin Club
Postal Address: PO Box 4079, Rockhampton, QLD 4700
Telephone: Gary 0428 575 526
Email: grmuz52@bigpond.net.au
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the second Monday of the month (except January) at the Frenchville Sports Club, 105 Clifton Street, North Rockhampton.

South Australia

Numismatic Society of South Australia Inc
Website: <https://www.sanumismatics.org.au>
Postal Address: PO Box 2183, Kent Town, SA 5071.
Telephone: 0417 212 906
Email: secretary@sanumismatics.org.au
Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at 7:45 pm at SAPHIL House, 22 Gray Court, Adelaide.

Yorke Peninsula Collectables Club
Postal Address: PO Box 178, Bute, SA 5560.
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month (except for January) at Kadina Senior Citizens Club, Taylor St, Kadina.

Tasmania

There appear to not be any current coin clubs.

Victoria

Numismatic Association of Victoria Inc.
Postal Address: PO Box 288, Flinders Land, VIC 8009.
Email: info@navic.org.au
Website: <https://www.navic.org.au>
Social Media: Facebook and Twitter (@Numisvic)
Meetings: 7:45 pm on the third Friday of the month Feb-Nov, second Friday in December) at Kensington Town Hall, 30-34 Bellair St, Kensington.

Bairnsdale and District Stamp and Coin Club
Postal Address: PO Box 252, Bairnsdale, VIC 3875.
Telephone: (03) 5152 5053
Email: seb86@bigpond.com
Meetings: 7:45 pm on the third Thursday of the month at Secondary College Conference Room, McKean St, Bairnsdale.

Bendigo Coin & Collectables Club Inc.
Website: <https://www.bendigocoinclub.com>
Postal Address: PO Box 589, Bendigo, VIC 3552.
Telephone: 0411 796 730
Email: secretary@bendigocoinclub.com
Meetings: 7:30 pm every second Friday night at the Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet Street, Quarry Hill.

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

IBNS (Melbourne Chapter)
Website:
https://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41:australia-melbourne&catid=10:the-ibns-chapters&Itemid=46
Postal Address: PO Box 325 Yarraville, VIC 3013.
Telephone: Ian Yarde (Secretary) 0404 813 973
Email: melbourne-chapter@theIBNS.org
Meetings: 7:30 pm normally on the third Thursday of the month (except January) at Level 16, 379 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000. Please wait at ground level for the door to be opened and telephone the Secretary if you are late and there is nobody at the door. As meeting dates and venues can vary from time to time, visitors from country, interstate or overseas are advised to check with the Secretary for any changes.

Melbourne Numismatic Society Inc
Website: <https://www.melbcoin.altervista.org>
Email: info@melbcoin.org.au
Meetings: 8 pm on the second Thursday of the month (except January) at Nunawading Community Hub, 96-106 Springvale Road, Nunawading.

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

Postal Address (Secretary): PO Box 432, Moe, Vic 3825.
Email: greycats2@bigpond.com
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at the Christian Community Church, 5-7 McDonald St, Morwell.

Sale & District Stamp & Coin Club
Website: <https://www.navic.org.au/numismatic-links/numismatic-societies/sale-district-stamp-coin-club/>
Postal Address: PO Box 788, Sale, Vic 3850.
Telephone: (03) 5144 7815
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at Gwen Webb Activity Centre, Market Street, Sale.

Western Australia

Peel Region Numismatic Group
Website: <https://www.peelnumis.org/>
Postal Address: PO Box 1285 MANDURAH WA 6210
Telephone: 0415 967 109 or 0410 000 617
Email: prng@southwest.com.au
Meetings: 6 pm on the second Wednesday of the month (except January) Falcon Library, Meeting Room 2, Corner of Cobblers Rd & Flavia St, FALCON WA.

Perth Numismatic Society Inc
Website: <https://www.pns.org.au/>
Postal Address: PO Box 8419, South Perth WA 6951
Telephone: 0417 930 854
Email: secretary@pns.org.au
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of the month (except December), John McGrath Hall, 97 Hensman St, South Perth WA 6151.

IBNS (Perth Chapter)
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 207, SOUTH PERTH, WA 6951.

Telephone: 0414 361 693
Email: gurkha2@bigpond.com
Meetings: 9:30 am on the first Sunday of the month except January, at Philately House, Unit 18, Wellington Fair, 200 Wellington Street, East Perth.

South-West Coin Club
Website: <http://www.southwestdistrictcoinclub.com/>
Postal Address: PO Box 728, Bunbury, WA 6231.
Telephone: (08) 9726 0665
Email: info@southwestdistrictcoinclub.com
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

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove Ringwood East Vic.

Last Sunday of each month except December

Contact T. Gordon 0412 092917



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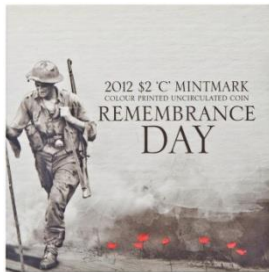


Phone: **03 8677 8800** | Email: auctions@downies.com
www.downies.com/auction

Downie's Australian Coin Auctions Sale 355

Auction 355 ran from the 18th–20th February 2025 with 3201 lots over the three days.

Some of the highlights included:



Three 2012 Remembrance Day C mintmark coins each sold for \$549.



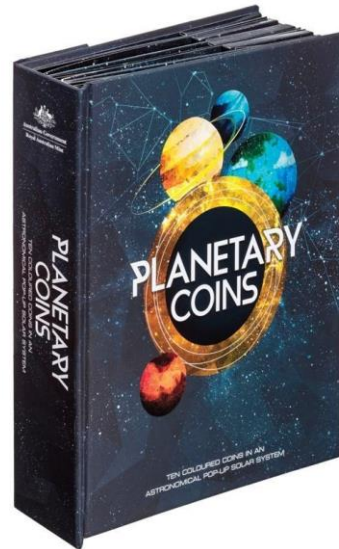
Three 2012 Remembrance Day \$2 on RSL cards were sold in separate lots. These averaged \$276.



There were two 2013 Coronation Diamond Jubilee C mintmark coins. Each sold for \$518.



Four 2018 30th Anniversary of the \$2 12 coin sets sold averaging \$625 per set.



The prices of 2017 Planetary sets have continued to slide. Four sets were sold each for \$3172; roughly 2/3rd of what they were selling for a year ago.



A Pratt Christchurch penny token in VF sold for \$976 on a \$110 estimate.



A Wilson Dunedin Penny with obverse scrapes else aVF sold for \$732.



A New South Wales Dump type A/in poor condition sold for \$976.

The two 1930 pennies each sold for \$20,740.



One was described as cleaned at some point, with six visible pearls, minor obverse nicks and small reverse rim bruise else good fine.



The other 1930 was good fine with six visible pearls, the reverse with a few rim bruises otherwise a little better.



A 1922/1 overdate threepence with a small obverse rim bruise at 5 o'clock otherwise VG, achieved a price of \$4270.

A 2006 proof set with the rare 2005 \$1 mob of roos sold for \$6110.



An 1855 Sydney Mint sovereign, slightly buckled else very fine sold for \$4270.



A 1929M sovereign about uncirculated sold for \$4880.



A 1926 penny, graded by PCGS as MS64BN realised \$1525.



Of the banknotes, a Kell-Heathershaw 10/- (R6) crisp gVF sold for \$4270.

Downie's Australian Coin Auctions number 356 will take place in May 2025.



IAGs major auction Signature Sale 101
Signature Sale 101 - 8-10 April 2025
www.iagauctions.com



P: (07) 55 380 300 F: (07) 55 387 296
 E: mail@iagauctions.com
 A: P.O. Box 1380, Broadbeach
 QLD, 4218 Australia



Preview of International Auction Galleries Auction 101

International Auction Galleries' 101st auction will be on the 8th, 9th and 10th April. Online bidding commenced in mid March. One of the many highlights is the 1813 holey dollar struck on a 1795-FM Mexico City Charles IV 8 reales host coin. Not listed in Mira, it is a pleasing example and has been authenticated by NGC and graded VF20 under the Sheldon system. The estimate is \$160,000–\$170,000.



An 1852 Adelaide pound without wear is a very scarce coin. Graded MS62 by PCGS, the coin in the IAG auction has an estimate of \$30,000–\$32,000.





Other highlights include a remarkable 1895A German New Guinea 20 Mark 1895. A beautiful well struck uncirculated example (graded by NGC as MS63), it has an estimate of \$75,000 –\$80,000.



The sovereign offerings include spectacular 1856 and 1860 Sydney Mint coins and a rare 1922 Melbourne sovereign.



The first Australian half sovereign were minted at the new Sydney Mint and had the distinctive “Sydney Mint” reverse. The original mintage was comparatively small and there are probably fewer than 40 known today. This example is one of the best and graded good very fine. It is estimated to bring \$28,000 – \$30,000.



The 1856 is just touched off from uncirculated and comes in a large PCGS slab that pays testament to its discovery as part of the hoard of the S.S Central America which sank in 1857.



Other key half sovereigns include an uncirculated 1859 and an uncirculated key date 1918 Perth (next page).



1860 is considered a key date for Sydney Mint sovereigns. Some are technically overdates 1860/0. This is one of those coins and rare in choice uncirculated.



The 1922 Melbourne sovereign is considered rare. This example is graded by NGC as MS64.

In the Commonwealth coins section, a more affordable 1930 penny graded as good fine is up for auction as are some high grade florins including an uncirculated 1915 and a choice uncirculated 1932.



All photographs are courtesy of International Auction Galleries.

The next auction run by International Auction Galleries will be online sale 23 in June.

The estimates on the florins appear low even for the current market.

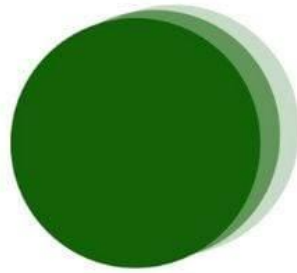
The error coins include a full reverse brockage of a Bombay Mint penny and a \$2 overstruck struck on a 1988 Philippines 10 Sentimo, a 19 mm aluminium coin. The latter is highlighted in a separate article.



The banknotes include a £20 1918 Cerutti-Collins in VF and a £50 1920 Cerutti-Collins in good fine.



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The \$2 Market Report for March



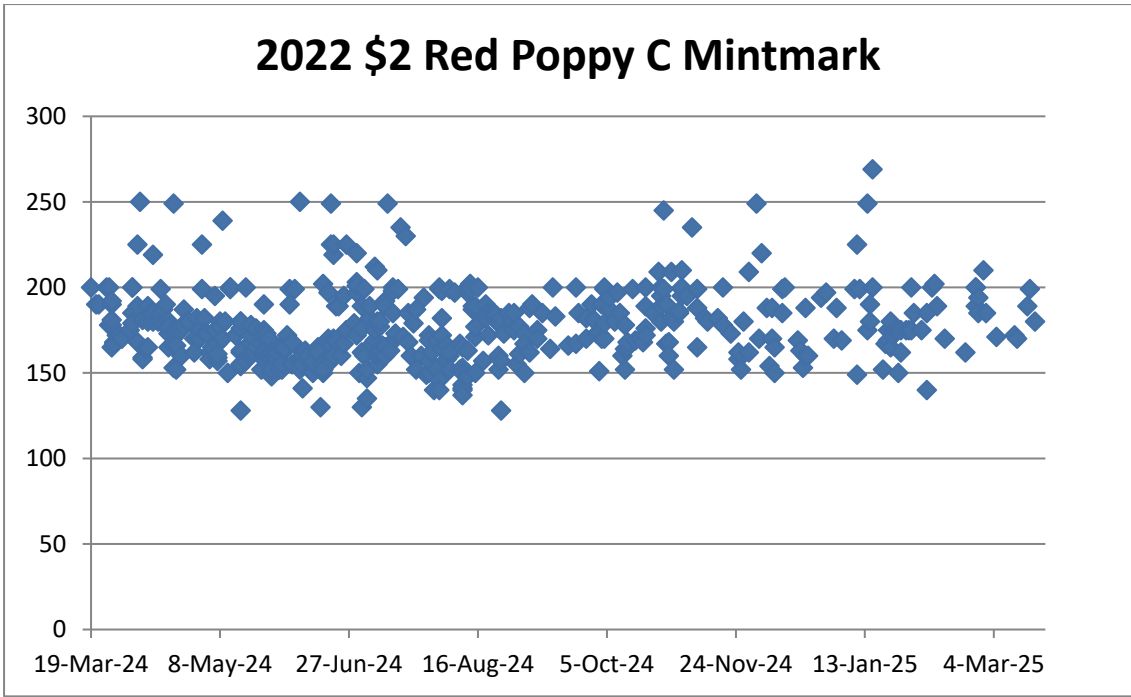
With the addition of sales from the last two months, we have data for more than a full year for all releases and have restricted the graphs to display just the last 12 months' data.

The total eBay sales rate for the 8 coins and sets that we track changed little in this reporting period. In the last two months we have seen a slight decrease in sales price of the 2012 remembrance C mintmark red poppy. Sales prices for all other issues have remained fairly steady. The sales rate (Table 1) has remained steady for most, apart from an increase of 50% for the 2012 \$2 remembrance red poppy and a decrease of around 20% for the 2023 35th anniversary set. There were only 4 sales of the 2023 Vietnam silver proof in the two month period.. The number of eBay listings for the 2012 remembrance red poppy has decreased by about the number of increased sales and there has been a huge (nearly 40%) decrease in the number of 2023 35th anniversary sets. There has been little change in the number of listings of the other issues.

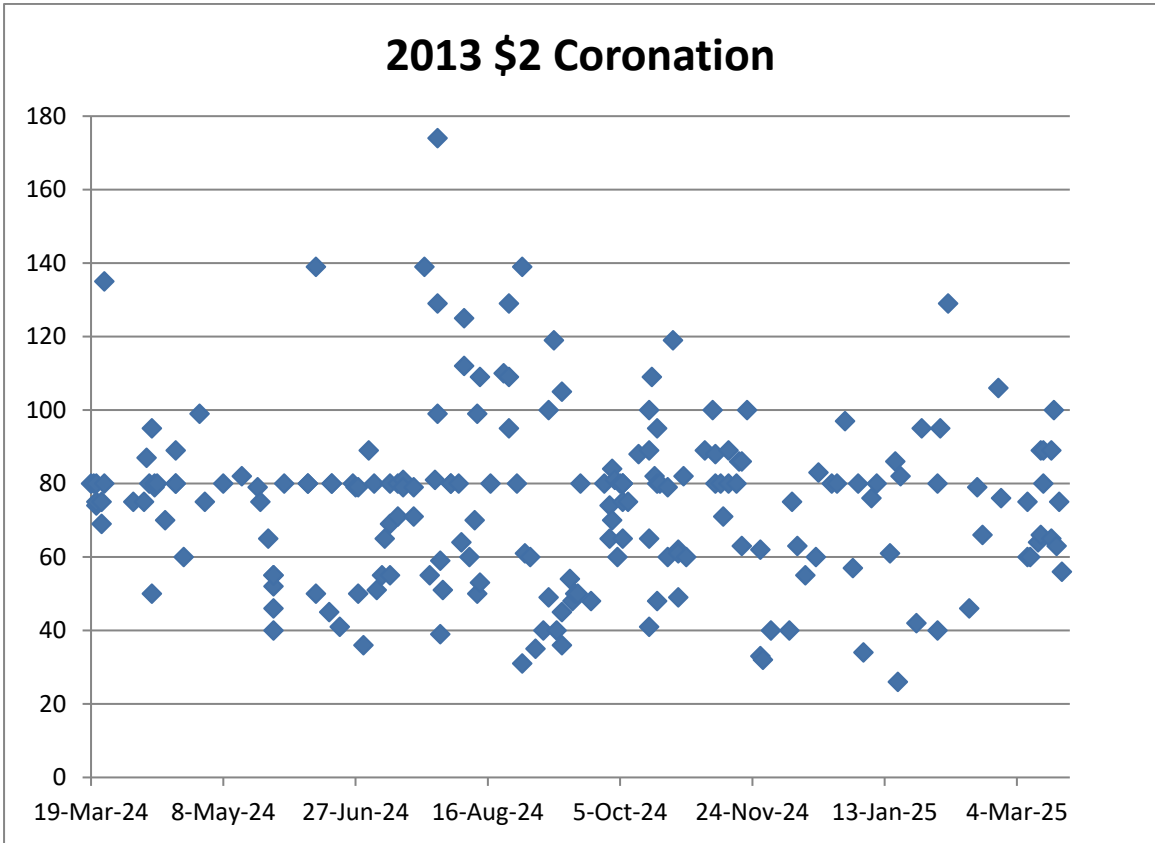
Coin	Sales Per Month	Number of Listings
2022 \$2 Red Poppy C Mintmark	18	151
2013 \$2 Coronation	13	40
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	36	45
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	6	40
2023 \$2 Vietnam Silver Proof	2	39
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	37	203
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	12	30
2023 \$2 35 th Anniversary Set	24	151

Table 1. Sales per month on eBay in the two months 23rd January to 22nd March, and number of listings on the 22nd March. 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 were extracted from eBay "sold" listings, both auction and buy it now. Data for all releases was extracted via a program, although some data checking was still required, mainly for the business strike issues (2012 Remembrance Plain Poppy and 2013 Coronation) and the NCLT 2012 Remembrance Red Poppy. 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 were 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.

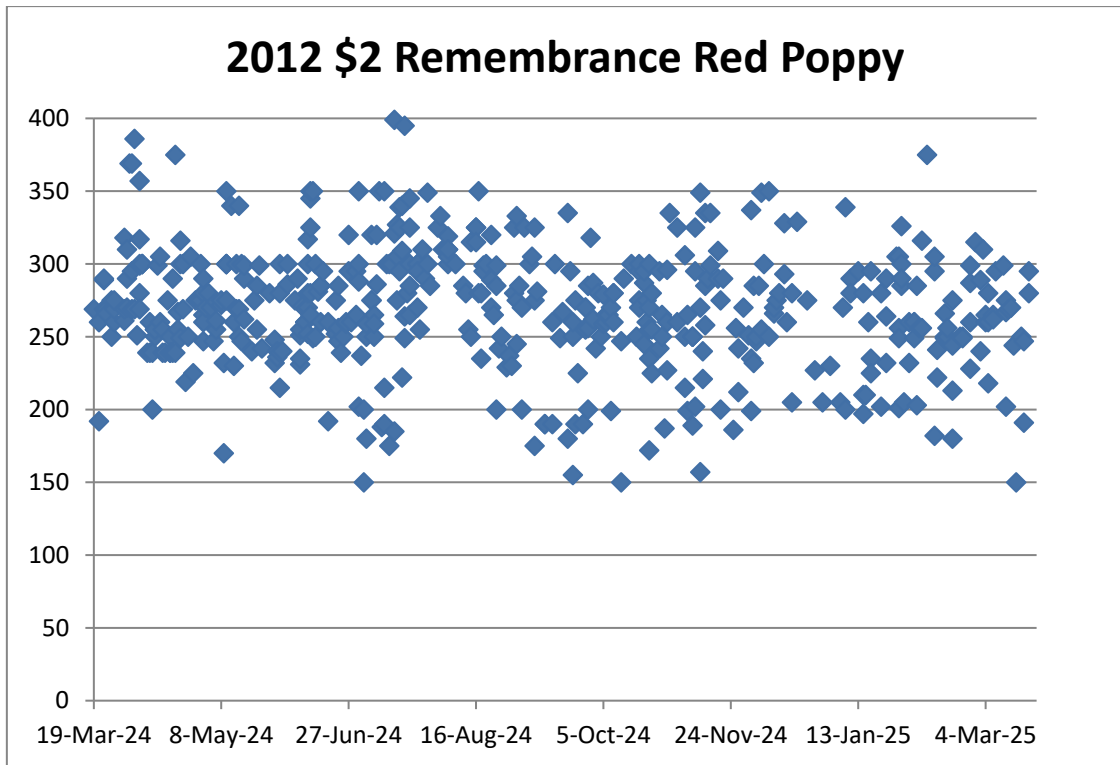


Prices were static over the last two months, and while recent prices are little changed to 12 months ago, the number of sales has decreased substantially.

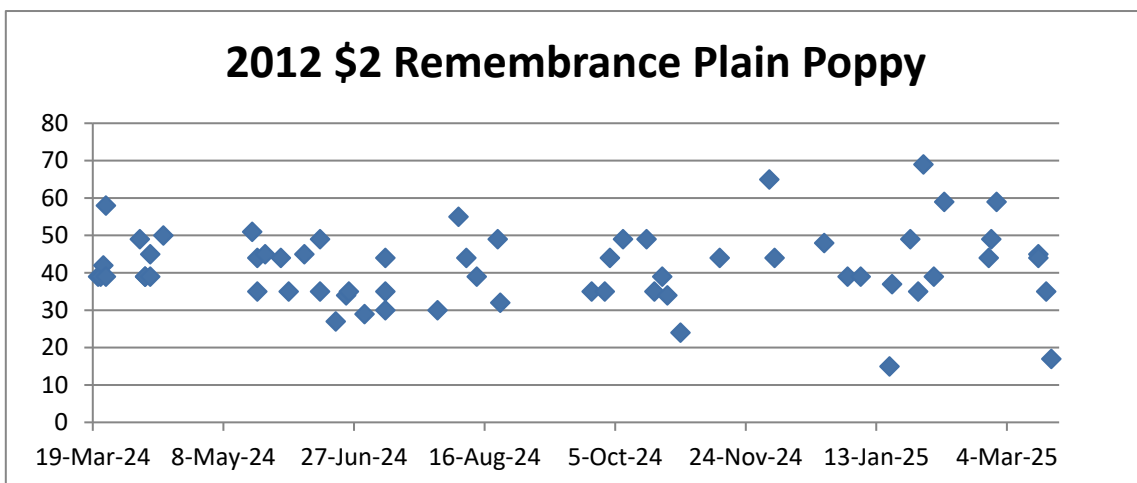


The data includes only those coins described in the listing as “uncirculated”. Examination of individual sales shows that the price realised is heavily dependent upon the quality of the image of

the coin being sold. While the sales prices are somewhat scattered, the average has dropped to about \$75 per coin, similar to 12 months ago.

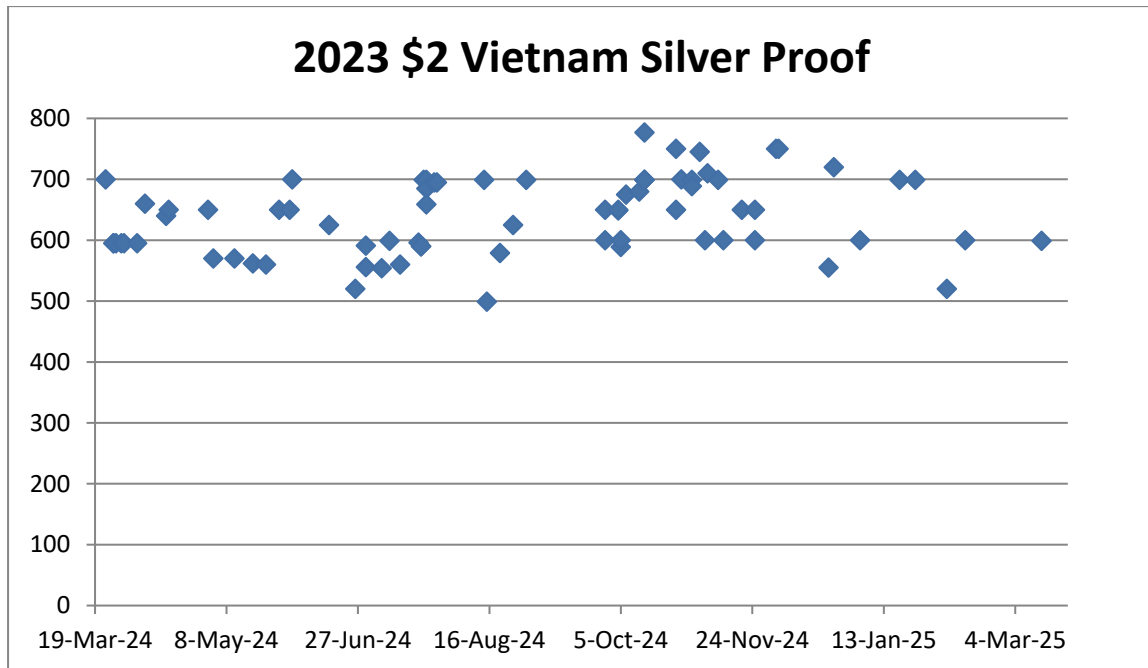


The data includes only uncirculated coins without paint chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers' descriptions of coins as "uncirculated" are more reliable than those of coins such as the 2012 \$2 Plain Poppy and 2013 \$2 Coronation. While there is considerable scatter in the data, average prices appear to have dropped from roughly \$260 to \$240 over the last year.

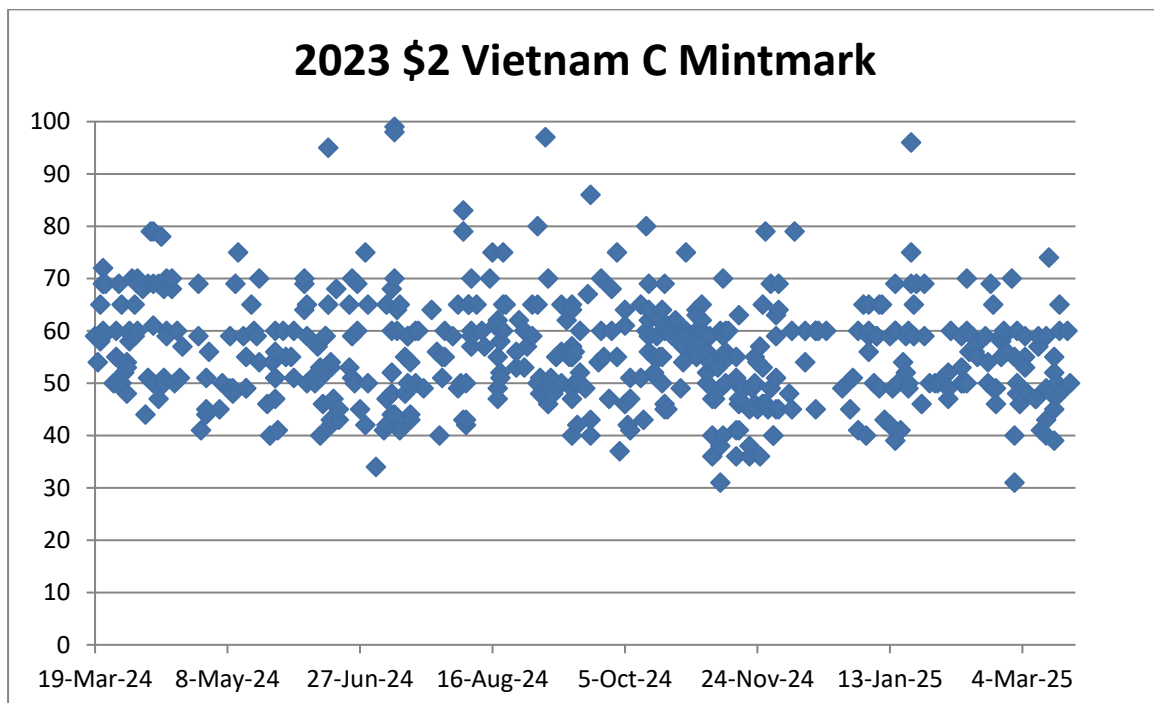


The data includes only those described as "uncirculated", with coins that are obviously polished removed. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated and there were just 8 sales in the last two months. The average price in that period appears similar to the previous two months and is perhaps a little lower than 12 months ago. As the Plain Poppy is much scarcer in uncirculated than the Red Poppy, the current price of a little under \$40 is anomalously low compared with that of the

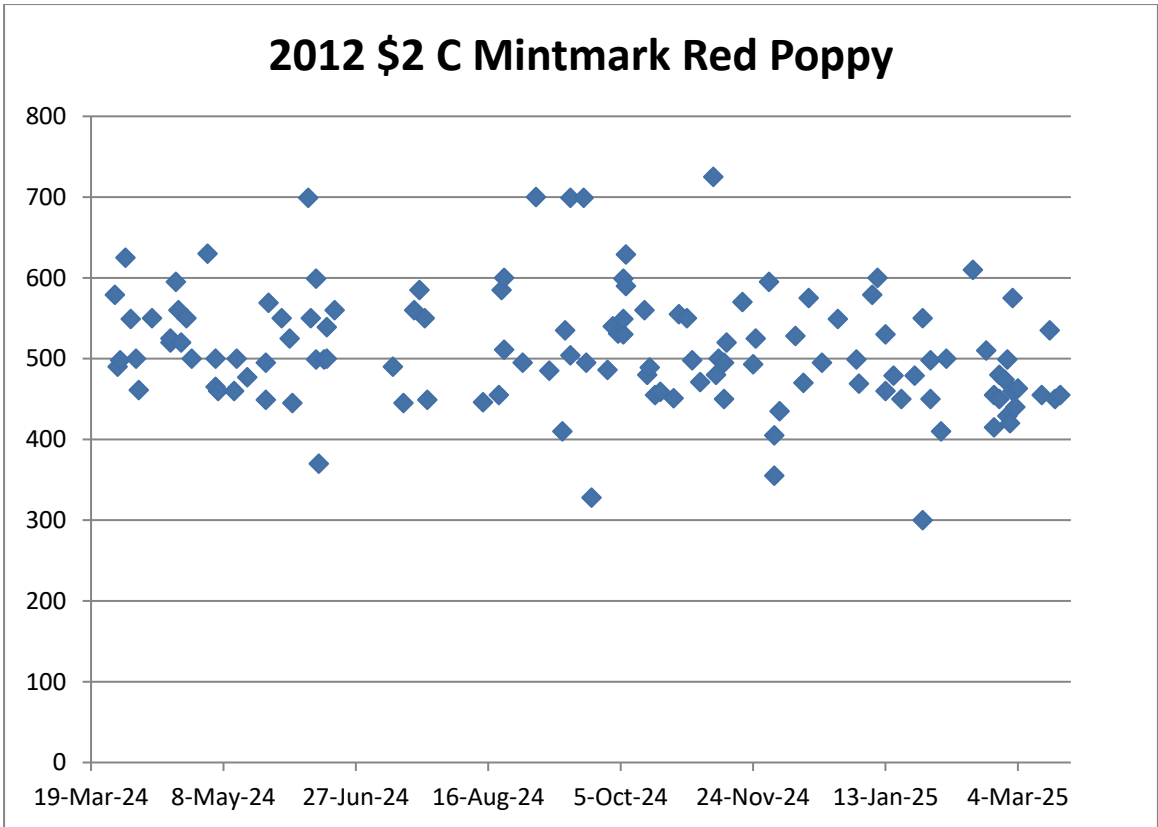
coloured version. It is noticeable however that the sales price of these coins in cards such as those made by Downie's are much higher (typically \$150+) than those sold loose.



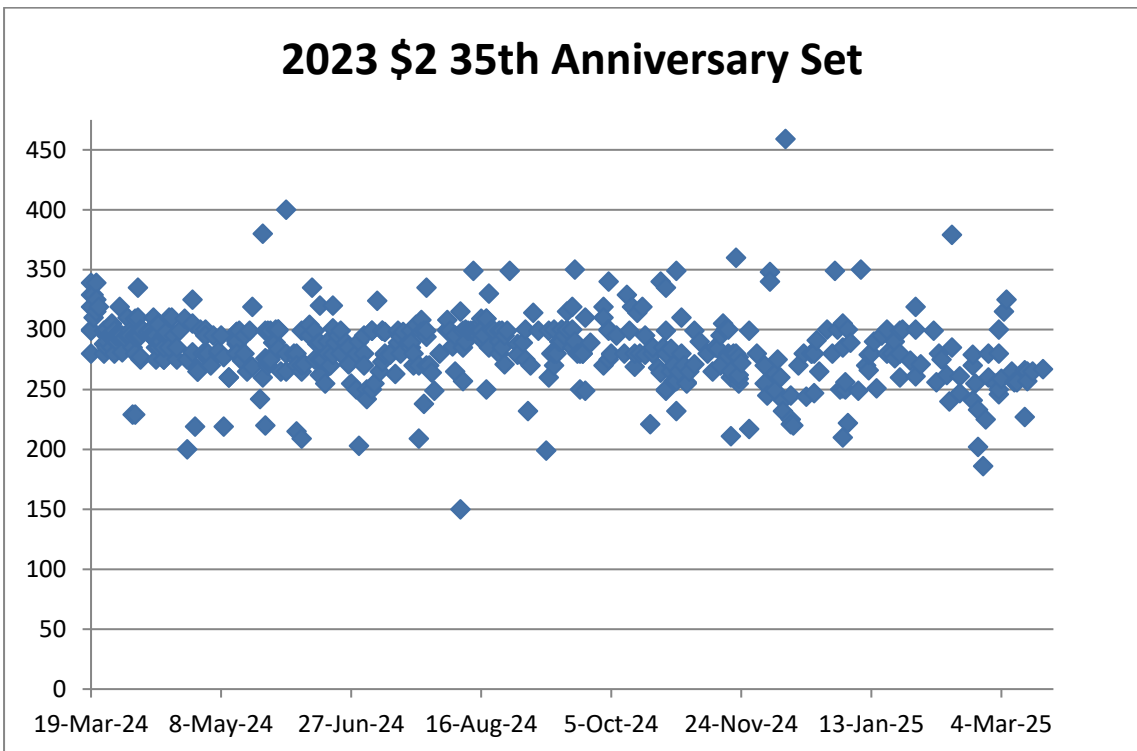
There were only 4 sales in the last two months, with average prices now around \$600 or so and number of listings has hardly changed.



The rate of eBay sales has remained steady over the last two months while the number of listings has increased about 15%. The average price of just over \$50 is a little lower than 12 months ago.



Once again, prices are now somewhat lower than they were 12 months ago, with the average price now under \$500. There is considerable scatter in the data as you would expect for an item with so few sales. This coin is probably the toughest of the C mintmark \$2 to locate.



The 35th Anniversary Set failed to achieve the heights of some of its predecessors. Part of the reason could be the high issue price (\$235), and the Royal Australian Mint suspending sales and using EQL for the remainder of the sets. All the same, “fear of missing out” (FOMO) ruled for a week or so. Since then the average sales price has slowly decreased to around \$260 on eBay. After eBay fees, anyone selling a set for \$160 would receive less than the issue price of \$235. Prices over the last two months are just a little lower than over the previous two months.

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

2025 Aussie Bubs and Honours System Sets Delayed

These Royal Australian Mint sets had been scheduled for February but have now been delayed. The Aussie bubs is assumed to be the equivalent of the baby sets of the last few years and it is not known whether these are the same designs as coins from 2021–2024 or new designs.

\$5 Banknote News

The theme has been decided for the new \$5 banknote. It will honour the enduring emotional, spiritual, and physical connection of First Nations peoples to country.

Assistant Governor (Business Services) Michelle McPhee said¹, ‘The theme encompasses the deep connection First Nations peoples have to the land, the waters and the sky.’

‘This inspiring theme will guide the creation of an artwork that will feature on the redesigned banknote.’

‘The selection of a theme follows an Australia-wide campaign, which led to more than 2,100 theme nominations from the public.’

‘We extend our gratitude to everyone who made a submission.’

The reverse of the banknote will be unchanged.

Reference:

1. Reserve Bank Press release 17 March 2025; <https://www.rba.gov.au/media-releases/2025/mr-25-07.html>

Postscript to the article on Pre-1955 Proof Coins

In the article on the pre-1955 proof coins in the February issue I mentioned that the same dies for the specimen/proof 1930 pennies were later used for business strikes. David Robinson of the Australian Coin Forum correctly pointed out that the same is true for the 1927 Parliament House florin.

We will discuss the Parliament House florin in detail next issue.

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:

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- Coin mintage details (where figures have been published).
- Errors, varieties & mintmarks to look for and how to verify them.
- Information on storing your coins.

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References and Peer Reviews

While coin errors can sometimes be approved of, errors in articles can never be. Each major article in Independent Coin News undergoes peer review. For those unfamiliar with the peer review process, this involves one or two experts in the field examining the article for mistakes or omissions. (Ideally this would be two people but that is not always possible). The article may be immediately cleared for publication, there may be suggestions for improvements, or the article may be rejected. This process is intended to fix any unintentional mistakes, but even more importantly to weed out articles in which the author has an agenda and ignores evidence inconsistent with it. Even so, the odd minor mistake does slip through. When this occurs, an "Errata" section is included in the next issue. Also, in case you are wondering, the peer review process also applies to articles written by the editor.

References are included as a backup to provide evidence for various statements and assumptions in an article. For the convenience of the reader these are correctly placed immediately after the end of the relevant article.

Thank You

Thank you to John Belcher for contributing the article on the fake \$2 double struck errors and Fred Lever for examining some of the myths and legends of the 1930 penny. Thanks also to Gregg Gibbons for contacting the museum in Toruń from which the holey dollar was stolen and also for peer reviewing the article on the milk spots on proof silver. Thanks also to Mark Nemtsas for peer reviewing the article on Google searches and to the members of the Australian Coin Forum (<https://www.australian-coins.net/>) for their comments on the 1930 English obverse penny die chip in the 1930 penny authentication article. Once again Downie's and International Auction Galleries have been extremely helpful in sending previews of future auctions.

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