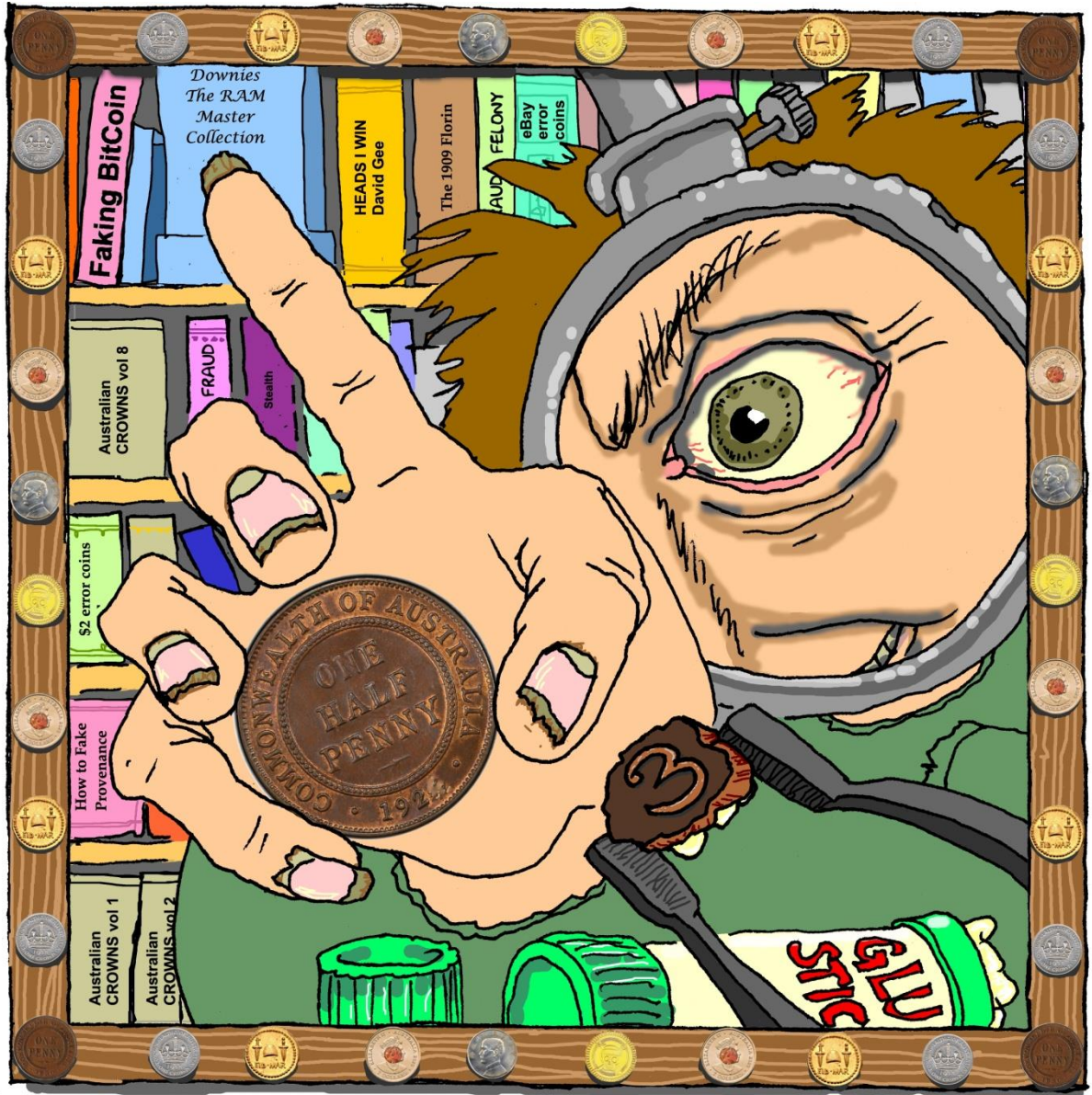


# Independent Coin News



Vol. 2 No. 6

December 2024

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

In this issue we look at collecting halfpennies, the 1923 halfpenny and how to tell if it is genuine, and the 1859 Ansell sovereign. Eric Eigner discusses a recently reported sovereign variety and we have an article by John Belcher about decimal coins struck on incorrect planchets. Included also are the usual features such as auction previews and highlights, a plethora of new releases from the Perth Mint and the Royal Australian Mint, the \$2 Market Report and of course Coin Cat's answers to emails. We continue our series for new coin collectors — in this issue we look at mintmarks, privy marks and counterstamps.

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](mailto:editor@independentcoinnews.com).

Dr Peter Andrews, editor, December 2024.

**Cover:** "Not Really a 1923" by Bronwyn Halls.

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

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## The Halfpenny



Figure 1. Tougher date 1914-H halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

withdrawal from circulation in 1966. However as it has never been demonetised the halfpenny remains legal tender.

### Specifications

The nominal specifications for the halfpenny were:

Mass: 5.67 grams

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

Diameter: 25.5 mm.

We will discuss the coins of each monarch separately, but first a brief note on the obverse (1–7) and reverse (A–E) die identifications. We'll use those of Paul Holland<sup>1</sup> as modified by Jon Saxton<sup>2</sup>. (Jon Saxton explicitly includes the Indian quarter anna that appears on the 1916 "mule" halfpenny as obverse 2, but Paul Holland leaves it out as it is strictly speaking not an Australian obverse — mules are always difficult to classify).

### George V

Just two obverses were used for the George V halfpennies, obverse 1 (the standard George V obverse) and obverse 2 (that of the Indian quarter anna) (Figure 2). Note the difference in the legend, the elephant on His Majesty's robes (red arrow) and missing pearls on the crown (blue arrow) on the quarter anna obverse.

The effigy was designed by Bertram Mackennal.

The halfpenny is one of the most collected and, apart from one key date and a mule, the most affordable pre decimal set to put together. Indeed a lower grade but problem free set, complete apart from the 1923 and the 1916 mule, can be obtained for around \$250.

From 1911 until 1964, roughly 430 million Australian halfpennies were made at mints located in Britain, India and Australia. While the higher denomination pre decimal coins have their decimal analogues, by the nineteen sixties the purchasing power of a halfpenny was too low for a decimal equivalent to be considered. More than half of the halfpennies were melted to provide material for the 1 cent and 2 cent (which have the same composition) after their



Figure 2. Obverses used on George V halfpennies. Obverse 1 (left) is the normal obverse. Obverse 2, that of the Indian quarter anna (right) was accidentally used on just a few of the 1916 halfpennies. See text for explanation. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 3. Reverse A used all George V and some George VI halfpennies. The mintmark position under the bottom scroll is indicated by a black arrow. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The same reverse design (reverse A) was used for all George V halfpennies. Mint marks appear under the scroll (Figure 3) on the coins minted at the Heaton Mint in Birmingham (H) and the Royal Mint Branch in Calcutta (I). There are no mint marks for those coins minted at the Royal Mint in London, or the branch mints in Melbourne and Sydney.

The George V halfpennies are listed in Table 1. Apart from the extremely rare 1916 mule (which is not generally considered to be part of a set but is a welcome addition if you can obtain and afford one), the only scarce issue is the 1923 halfpenny. You can expect to pay \$500 or more for a low grade problem free example of the latter.

If you are a collector seeking uncirculated examples, the hardest issues to obtain are 1923, 1915H, 1924, 1914, 1931 and 1918. No uncirculated 1916 mule halfpennies are known. The easiest to obtain are those from 1933–1936, 1911, 1912 and 1919. The last three are the easiest to find with full mint “red” lustre, but even so are still scarce in that condition and not cheap.

Date	Mint Mark	Mint	Obverse	Reverse	Comment
1911		London	1	A	
1912		London	1	A	
1913		London	1	A	
1914		London	1	A	
1914	H	Birmingham	1	A	
1915	H	Birmingham	1	A	
1916	I	Calcutta	1	A	
1916	I	Calcutta	2	A	Mule with Indian quarter anna obverse. About 10-15 known.
1917	I	Calcutta	1	A	
1918	I	Calcutta	1	A	
1919		Sydney	1	A	
1920		Sydney	1	A	
1921		Sydney	1	A	
1922		Sydney	1	A	
1923		Melbourne	1	A	Mintage estimated at 15,000.
1924		Melbourne	1	A	
1925		Melbourne	1	A	
1926		Melbourne, Sydney	1	A	
1927		Melbourne	1	A	
1928		Melbourne	1	A	
1929		Melbourne	1	A	
1930		Melbourne	1	A	
1931		Melbourne	1	A	
1932		Melbourne	1	A	
1933		Melbourne	1	A	
1934		Melbourne	1	A	
1935		Melbourne	1	A	
1936		Melbourne	1	A	

Table 1. George V halfpennies.

## Specific Dates

### 1923

The entire 1923 halfpenny production is the result of just two die pairs, both of which suffered severe cracking and were discarded after striking a comparatively small number of coins<sup>3</sup>. As a result many **but not all** of the 1923 halfpennies have extensive die cracks. Catalogues typically give estimates of the mintage of the 1923 halfpenny at around 15,000<sup>4</sup>. We will talk more about the 1923 halfpenny in a separate article in this issue.

### 1916 mule

Technically this coin is described as 1916 Australian halfpenny muled with Indian quarter anna obverse, or 1916 halfpenny mule for short. This extremely rare coin is the result of an Indian quarter anna obverse die being placed in a coining press in Calcutta instead of the Australian halfpenny obverse die. This is an extremely rare coin with only a handful (at most 10–15) known. We discussed this issue in the November 2023 independent Coin News<sup>6</sup>.



Figure 4. 1916 halfpenny/Indian quarter anna mule. Photograph courtesy of International Auction Galleries.

### George VI

The George VI effigy was designed by Thomas Hugh Paget and was used for all issues from 1938 until 1952 (Figure 4). Mintmarks were found on the obverse (I for Calcutta in 1942 and 1943 (Figure 4, right)) and reverse (dot after PENNY or dot after AUSTRALIA for Perth Mint issues and PL after PENNY for London and Birmingham minted coins [Figure 10]).



Figure 4. Obverse 3, the first George VI obverse, without mintmark (left), with mintmark (right). The mintmark is situated below the effigy of the king. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

After India became independent in 1947, the obverse legend was adjusted to remove IND IMP (Emperor of India) (Figure 5). In 1952, the Royal Mint sent new obverse and reverse master tools to the Perth Mint. The obverse dies derived from these differed in denticle alignment (Figure 5 and Figure 6).





Figure 5. IND IMP removed from the legend. Obverse 4, 1949-1952 (left), Obverse 5 1951-1952 (right).



Figure 6. Close up of obverse 4 (left) and obverse 5 (right). The alignment of the 'I's of FIDEI with the denticles is the easiest way to tell the difference between the two. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

### The new reverse.



Figure 7. The new kangaroo reverse of 1939.

The iconic kangaroo reverse was used for part of the 1939 production run at the Melbourne Mint and for all subsequent halfpenny issues. A full description of the genesis of the kangaroo reverse halfpennies can be found in Holland<sup>1</sup>. Reverse B (Figure 7) was used at the Melbourne, Perth, London and Birmingham mints from 1939–1962. An interesting feature occurs on the earlier kangaroo halfpennies—the right hand serif of the Y in PENNY is missing. Given that the proof(s) and presentation piece(s) made in London have a full Y, it is probable that the serif was accidentally erased from the working punch when Melbourne duplicated the master

tools sent from London. However this hypothesis is not documented and further research needs to be conducted. In any case the serif was missing for all issues until 1949, when new master tools must have been obtained, and present on all subsequent issues (Figure 8).

In 1942 and 1943 halfpennies were minted at the Royal Mint's Bombay branch. Tools to create the dies were sent from the Melbourne Mint and the same obverse appears on the Bombay issues but with the addition of an I mintmark under the bust of the king. The high relief reverse must have been found unsuitable for the presses in Bombay as a new master die (reverse C) was created for the Australian master with a lower slightly different relief kangaroo, a dot before and after HALF PENNY and the restoration of the missing serif on the Y of HALFPENNY (Figure 9 , left). In late 1942 a new reverse was introduced (reverse D), identical to reverse C apart from much longer reverse denticles and a missing serif on the Y as appears on the Melbourne issues (Figure 9, right). It is unknown why a new reverse was felt necessary and also perplexing as to why a minor design fault was reinstated. Reverse D was also used for the nineteen sixties proof restrikes of the 1942 Bombay halfpennies and all the business strike coins minted in Bombay in 1943.



Figure 8. Missing serif on the Y on 1939 halfpenny (left) and full serif on 1950 Perth Mint halfpenny (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 9. The two "Bombay" reverses. Reverse C (short denticles) left, reverse D (long denticles) right. Note how the right hand serif on the Y is present on the short denticles coin, but not on the long denticles version. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

As we mentioned earlier, mintmarks for most George VI coins minted in Perth and the 1951 issues from London and Birmingham appear on the reverse (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Mintmarks (left) dot after PENNY, Perth Mint; (middle) dot after AUSTRALIA Perth Mint; (right) PL after PENNY Birmingham and London. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

The complete list of George VI halfpennies is given below in Table 2.

Date	Mint Mark	Mint	Obverse	Reverse	Comments
1938		Melbourne	3	A	
1939		Melbourne	3	A	
1939		Melbourne	3	B	First kangaroo reverse
1940		Melbourne	3	B	
1941		Melbourne	3	B	
1942		Melbourne	3	B	
1942	Y.	Perth	3	B	
1942	I	Bombay	3	C	
1942	I	Bombay	3	D	long reverse denticles
1943		Melbourne	3	B	
1943	I	Bombay	3	D	
1944		Melbourne	3	B	
1945	Y.	Perth	3	B	
1945		Perth	3	B	
1946	Y.	Perth	3	B	
1947	Y.	Perth	3	B	
1948		Melbourne	3	B	
1948	Y.	Perth	3	B	
1949	Y.	Perth	4	B	Obverse legend changed
1950	Y.	Perth	4	B	
1951	PL	London and Birmingham	4	B	
1951	Y.	Perth	4	B	
1951	Y.	Perth	5	B	
1951		Perth	4	B	Mintage 126,720
1951		Perth	5	B	
1952	A.	Perth	5	B	

Table 2. A complete list of George VI halfpennies.

### Individual Issues

**The 1945 halfpenny**, although all were minted in Perth, appears with and without mintmark. The reason for this is unknown and specimen proofs appear also with or without the mintmark.

**The 1951 halfpennies** were minted in Perth, London and Birmingham. No 1951 dated halfpennies were minted in Melbourne. The London and Birmingham coins carry the 'PL' mintmark, the Perth coins have a dot after the Y (common) or no mintmark (scarcer). The no mintmark halfpennies seem to comprise roughly 10% of the total Perth mintage.

During 1951–1952 the Perth mint began producing their own dies. The early 1951 dated dies were obtained from Melbourne, the later dies made locally from master dies obtained from the Royal Mint. The reverse dies sourced from Melbourne had the dot mintmark after the Y of HALFPENNY, the locally produced dies had no mintmark.



Figure 11. Date of 1951Y halfpenny (top) and 1951 no dot halfpenny (bottom).

There is also a difference in the date. As can be seen in Figure 11, the final 1 in the date for the 1951 Y halfpennies appears at first glance to be much longer than for the 1951 no dot (which is identical to the 1951 PL as the master dies were derived from the same source). Closer inspection however reveals that it is actually the 5 on the 1951Y which is shorter than the 5 on the 1951 plain.

We find some 1951 Y halfpennies with obverse 5 (roughly 10% of the 1951 Y) and very occasionally a 1951 no dot with obverse 4 (about 1 in 25 of the 1951 no dot). From examination of the die records of the Perth Mint, Paul Holland deduced that there

was one die-pairing of the 1951 plain with obverse 4 that yielded a total of 126,720 coins struck<sup>5</sup>. This is consistent with my estimate from looking through close to 10,000 1951 halfpennies at Downie’s in 2003 — about 1 in 25 of the 1951 plains have obverse 4 and the 1951 plains comprise about 1 in 10 of the 1951 Perth mintage. This makes the 1951 plain with obverse 4 the second scarcest halfpenny after the 1923.

Reverse Die	Obverse Die	Mintage
1951 Y	4	About 23 to 25 million
1951 Y	5	About 2 to 3 million
1951 no dot	4	126,720
1951 no dot	5	About 2 to 3 million

Table 3. 1951 Perth Mint halfpenny varieties along with actual or estimated mintages.

Note also how the 1951 plain has a mintage closer to the reasonably scarce 1952A halfpenny than to the 1951Y, indicating that it is undervalued in the catalogues.

It is important to consider that these halfpennies suffer die fill. In particular I have seen this occur on the mintmark of the 1951Y with obverse 4 such that the mintmark has been completely obliterated, thus making the coin appear to be a rare 1951 no dot with obverse 4. As the 1951 no dot and 1951Y differ in the date (Figure 11), this check is essential to confirm a coin to be a genuine 1951 plain, obverse 4.

The scarcest George VI issues are the 1951 no dot with obverse 4, 1942I long reverse denticles, 1939 kangaroo reverse, 1942 and 1944. Most of the Perth Mint issues of the 1940s are difficult to find as attractive coins, they are often brown in colour and commonly weakly struck (Figure 12); they are therefore rare in better grades than PCGS MS63BN (i.e. very hard in choice uncirculated).



Figure 12. Strike weakness on 1946 halfpenny. Note the lack of detail on the temple region of His Majesty's effigy and the kangaroo's back. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

On the other hand, the 1951 Perth (no dot and dot) and 1952 halfpennies can be found with beautiful rainbow toning such as the coin in Figure 13.



Figure 13. "Rainbow" toning on a 1952 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

For people who desire coins rated as full mint red (particularly those classified as "RD" by PCGS), the most common are the 1943 Melbourne and 1943 Bombay issues; even then they are quite difficult to source.

## Queen Elizabeth II

Except for the 1959 issues that were minted in Melbourne, all Queen Elizabeth II halfpennies were minted in Perth.

### Mintmarks

The Perth Mint used a dot after AUSTRALIA for the 1953 issues and a dot after HALFPENNY for the 1960–1964 coins. In spite of all 1955 halfpennies being minted in Perth, no mintmark was used that year.

### Two obverses

The effigy of Queen Elizabeth II was designed by Mary Gillick and used on all Australian predecimal coins from 1953 until the introduction of decimal currency in 1966. Obverse 6 (Figure 14) was used from 1953–1955 with a legend that translated as “By the grace of God Queen Elizabeth II”. In 1959 FD, an abbreviation of the Latin for “defender of the faith” was added to the legend. This was obverse 7 (Figure 14).



*Figure 14. The two QEII obverses: obverse 6 (no F.D) is on the left, obverse 7 (with F.D) is on the right. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.*

### Two reverses

Reverse B, which had been used on all halfpennies minted in Australia since the introduction of the kangaroo reverse in 1939, was retired after 1962. Reverse E (which mainly differs in denticle alignment) was used in 1963 and 1964 (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Denticle alignments on reverse B (left) and reverse E (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

A list of the Queen Elizabeth II halfpennies is given in Table 4. There are no scarce dates in this series. The 1959 (Melbourne Mint) halfpenny can be found in blazing mint red such as the coin on the right in Figure 14. (A large group or original rolls — from memory I recall around 20 — were sourced from the USA in the early 2000s and many of the “full red” coins originate from this hoard.) The Perth Mint coins are very hard to find as “mint red”; however they can appear as lovely multicoloured coins (Figure 16).

Date	Mint Mark	Mint	Obverse	Reverse	Comments
1953	A.	Perth	6	B	
1954	Y.	Perth	6	B	
1955		Perth	6	B	
1959		Melbourne	7	B	Obverse legend changed
1960	Y.	Perth	7	B	
1961	Y.	Perth	7	B	
1962	Y.	Perth	7	B	
1963	Y.	Perth	7	E	
1964	Y.	Perth	7	E	

Table 4. Complete list of Queen Elizabeth II halfpennies.



Figure 16. “Rainbow” 1961 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

### Some Other Varieties

Doubled dies or die doubling occurs due to misaligned blows from a transfer punch when creating a working die. This causes doubling of the some features on the completed die and of course on all coins struck by this die. This is known as hub doubling. Coins with hub doubling on the reverse are classified as Doubled Die Reverse (or DDR); if the doubling is on the obverse they are known as DDO. Some of the more obvious examples of hub doubling on halfpennies are given in Table 5. DDO, DDR and other forms of hubbing error are considered major varieties by collectors in the United States, but strangely are less popular (so far) in Australia. Doubling will always be the strongest in the legends around part, or all, of the rim such as the 1926 halfpenny in Figure 17 and 1954 halfpenny in Figure 18.



*Figure 17. Doubled die obverse on a 1926 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*



*Figure 18. DDO on 1954 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*



A table of major die doubling and hobbing errors is given in Table 5. These are also many examples of minor doubling.

Date	Mint	Doubling
1922	Melbourne	DDO
1926	Melbourne	DDO (Figure 17)
1943	Melbourne	DDO
1953	Perth	DDO left
1953	Perth	DDO right
1954	Perth	DDO (Figure 18)
1954	Perth	obverse mishubbing (Figure 19)
1955	Perth	DDO

Table 5. Die doubling and mishubbing on halfpennies.

The mishubbing that occurs on some 1954 halfpennies (all from the same die of course) in Figure 19 is unusual and the only example I know of that occurs on Australian coins. The weird doubling of the letters occurs all the way around the rim of the coin. The cause of this was most likely outward metal flow across the surface of the die during the final blow from the transfer punch.



Figure 19. 1954 halfpenny with severe obverse mishubbing.

### Die Crack “Varieties”



Figure 20. Half moon (and pigtail) die crack on 1926 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Australian predecimal coins are notorious for being struck by old and damaged dies, thus die cracks on the resulting coins are not unusual. These are classified as minor errors or varieties and in the past (and to a lesser extent at the current time) there was a solid collector base. One of the best known “die crack errors” is the half moon die crack that occurs on some 1926 halfpennies. Very late die state coins also show a “pigtail”. The coin in Figure 20 is one such; struck by a die so old and worn that even though the coin has no actual wear, the fourth set of pearls and part of the centre diamond is missing.

## A Possible Overdate



Figure 21. 1933 halfpenny, possible overdate.

Some of the 1933 halfpennies show what may be evidence of the top part of a 2 beneath the final 3. The 1933/2 overdate pennies are the result of a 1933 dated transfer punch overhubbing partially completed 1932 dated reverse dies; where only the top part of the 2 is visible. Unfortunately none of the possible halfpenny overdates show the stem of the 2 extending into the bottom lobe of the 3. Because of this it is also possible that we are observing the result of a 1933 dated

halfpenny transfer punch on partially completed 1933 dies that had been created by a different 1933 punch. There are at least three dies that appear responsible for these coins; only one shows the tip beneath the top left of the 3 (Figure 21). The work concerning these coins is ongoing and we hope to have a report on “Possible Overdates” in a future issue.

## Commercial Proof issues

While there were a number of years during which early proofs or specimens or specimen proofs were struck, it wasn't until 1934 that the first commercial proofs were made and “large” scale production did not commence until the 1955–1963 series.

Date	Mint Mark	Mintage <sup>5</sup>
1934		50
1935		126
1938		78
1939 Kangaroo		100
1955		301
1959		1506
1960	Y.	1030
1961	Y.	1040
1962	Y.	1064
1963	Y.	1060

Table 6. Commercial halfpenny proof issues. The mintage is courtesy of numistip<sup>5</sup>.

## References

1. Paul M. Holland, “Master Die Types of Australian Halfpennies”, *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, volume 9, 1998, page 6.
2. Jon Saxton, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20060909182343/http://www.triton.vg/halfpennies.html>
3. John Sharples, “Australian Coins 1919–1924”, *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, volume 1, 1985, page 15.
4. For example, Dion Skinner “Renniks Australian Coin and Banknote Guide”, 12th edition 1980.
5. Paul M. Holland, “Bronze coinage at the Perth Mint 1951-1953: The transition to working die production”, *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*, volume 10, 1999, page 32.
6. “What is a Mule?”, *Independent Coin News*, November 2023, page 5.

## The 1923 Halfpenny



Apart from the incredibly rare 1916 mule, the 1923 is the key date and most valuable coin of the halfpenny series. Unsurprisingly, it is also the most commonly forged. In this article we will have a quick look at the origins and peculiarities of this issue and then discuss what to examine when authenticating a 1923 halfpenny.

While Sharples<sup>1</sup> and Mullett<sup>2</sup> disagree on whether there were requests from Treasury for halfpennies in 1923, both sources attribute the entire mintage of the 1923 halfpenny to the Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint. Three 1923 dated reverse dies were manufactured, one of which was “returned for further work”.

Two die pairs were put into the presses on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1924 and removed on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. Both die pairs quickly cracked, as can be seen in the die cracks on most 1923 halfpennies. The total mintage is estimated to be 15,000 (I do not know where this estimate comes from — presumably from how often the coin appeared in change — but it is the most commonly quoted number), which is low for a circulating coin. While some coins show little, if any, evidence of die cracks, the vast majority of 1923 halfpennies show moderate to extensive die cracks. As would be expected from the mint records, the die crack patterns are consistent with two die pairs. In Figure 1, we reproduce the John Sharples’ diagram that was published in the *Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia*<sup>1</sup>, with the change that on reverse 2 the crack along AUSTRALIA and the date follows the red line that I have added, rather than the black line.

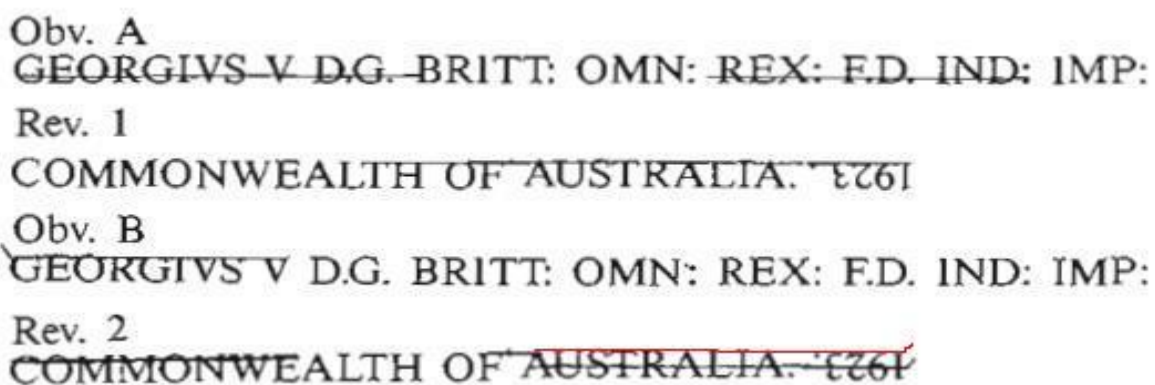


Figure 1. Die crack patterns on the two die pairs of dies used for the production of the business strike 1923 halfpennies as per Sharples. The die cracks on reverse 2 actually follow the red line that I have added.

### Die pair A1

In early die state examples such as in Figure 2, there are very few reverse die cracks except for a thin one at the base of the date. The cracks then extend across the top of AUSTRALIA, OF and the TH of

COMMONWEALTH, so the first 10 letters of COMMONWEALTH are pristine. Die cracks appear on the obverse very early and are more severe than the reverse. Obverse cracks also appear early along the base of GEORGIVS and extend quickly.



*Figure 2. Die pair A1. Early state before die crack occurs along base of date (although there is the start of a crack between 1 and 9). There is no crack across COMMON; there is a crack at base of GEORGIVS. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.*

#### **Die Pair B2**

This seems to be the scarcer of the two die pairs. There is a die crack through the 19 of the date and extending into the beads (Figure 3) and there is a die crack along the top of COMMONWEALTH. The obverse develops extensive die cracks, particularly along the top of GEORGIVS, where we can see a cud beginning to form on the coin in Figure 3.



*Fig 3. Sharples reverse 2, obverse A. Note how crack through date is at the base and extends towards the rim (Figure 1 appears to be incorrect as the crack is drawn through the middle and extends towards the rim). Photograph courtesy of Downie's Australian Coin Auctions.*

Roughly one quarter of 1923 halfpennies do not have discernable die cracks thus we cannot consider the existence of die cracks an authenticity criterion.

So what characteristics can we use to identify a genuine 1923? Since most forgeries are created by altering one or more digits in the date, this is where we look first. In Figure 4 we see a comparison of a 1923 and a 1933 halfpenny. Note that the start of the 3 is to the left of a denticle, whereas on a 1933 the start of the final 3 is very slightly to the right of a denticle. The reason for comparing a 1923 with a 1933 is that I have seen many supposed 1923 halfpennies that started life as a 1933 halfpenny. However, even before looking at the date of a 1933->1923 altered date, an experienced collector or dealer will have a feeling that something is wrong with the coin. The reason is that by 1933 the master dies were showing their age, and the legends have indented base lettering, whereas the base of the 1923 lettering is flat (Figure 4, right hand side).



Figure 4. Comparison of a 1923 and 1933 halfpenny. Left – the 3 on a 1923 halfpenny is to the left of a denticle, that of a 1933 very slightly to the right. Middle – flat based lettering on a 1923. Right – curved base lettering on a 1933. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 5 shows a comparison of the date of a 1923 with that of other coins from the 1920s. The 2 on the 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923 is, allowing for wear, identical, whereas the 1924–1927 show clear differences in the shape of the loop or the serif. The 1928 and 1929 are also similar enough to the 1923 that on worn coins it would be difficult to tell the difference. Fortunately other details of the 1928 and 1929 halfpenny reverse differ from a 1923. The 2 on the 1921 and 1922 halfpennies is identical to the 1920 and 1923 as the dated master dies for those years were derived from the same master in London.

Figure 5 (previous page). Dates on 1920s halfpennies. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 6. The 2 on a 1923. See text for details. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

It is worthwhile having a close look at the shape of the 2 (Figure 6). A line extended from the tip of the 2 goes into the base of the 2 (black line). The serif (red) is long and pointed although there is a tiny piece chipped off the point. The 3 is quite close to the 2, which gives the impression that the 2 is misaligned. Even if the 3 is in the correct spot you should look for any evidence that the angle is not quite right or the colour does not match the rest of the date.

I recently encountered an example where the 3 was positioned correctly but appeared to be lightly polished and on close appraisal I could see evidence of it being attached to the coin.

As we said earlier, the reverse lettering on all 1923 halfpennies has flat bases. Closeups of the T in COMMONWEALTH for different dates are displayed in Figure 7.



Figure 7. Closeup of T in COMMONWEALTH for various dates in the 1920s (left to right, top to bottom) 1920, 1922, 1923, , 1924, 1925,1926,1927, 1928, and 1929.

In the top row of Figure 7 are coins dated 1920, 1922 and 1923. The base of the T is flat on all these issues, as it is on the 1921 (not shown). In the middle row we have coins dated 1924, 1925 and 1926. All three have a clearly indented base to the T. The bottom row has 1927, 1928 and 1929 dated coins. The indent on the 1927's T is small and may not be noticeable on worn coins. That on the 1928 is clearly indented. The T on the 1929 appears to be indented over a flat base which is hard to pick and may look flat on worn coins. The reverse lettering of the 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1928 halfpennies is thus clearly different to that of a 1923.



Figure 8. Die cleaning marks and blobs on a 1928 halfpenny. Neither feature is found on a genuine 1923 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

It is worthwhile examining features that do not exist on genuine 1923 halfpennies. Firstly we do not see heavy die cleaning marks. When a die is cleaned, thin scratches can appear on the die, which results in thin lines being seen on the surface of the coins. Secondly, the 1923 dies failed before they had a chance to rust. Thus blobs in the field due to die rust do not appear on 1923 halfpennies. Figure 8 shows the obverse (just to the left of the king's nose) of a 1928 halfpenny. A blob caused by die rust and some die cleaning marks can be clearly seen. Blobs are reasonably common on 1928 and 1929 halfpennies.

Finally, 1923 halfpennies are all exceptionally well struck and have fully formed rims and reasonably strong rim beads. This is not true of all issues of this period. In particular the Sydney Mint coins of 1919–1922 normally show some this weakness (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Rim and rim beads on 1921, 1922 and 1923 halfpennies (left to right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

## Conclusion

A genuine 1923 halfpenny has a 2 with a pointed serif and a line from the tip of the 2 extends into the base. The 3 is to the left of a denticle. The lettering has flat bases. There are no die cleaning marks or blobs. The rim is well formed and the rim beads reasonably strong to very strong.



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## Rare 1859 Ansell Sovereign Sells at Downie's



Figure 1. The 1859 sovereign auctioned at Downie's. Photograph courtesy of Downie's Australian Coin Auctions.

A lower grade example of an 1859 Ansell sovereign sold for \$3660 at Downie's Australian Coin Auctions in October 2024 (Figure 1). This is a rare coin, with estimates of the number known ranging from 11 to 20. While Australian gold was used at the Sydney Mint in the 1850s, some was shipped to

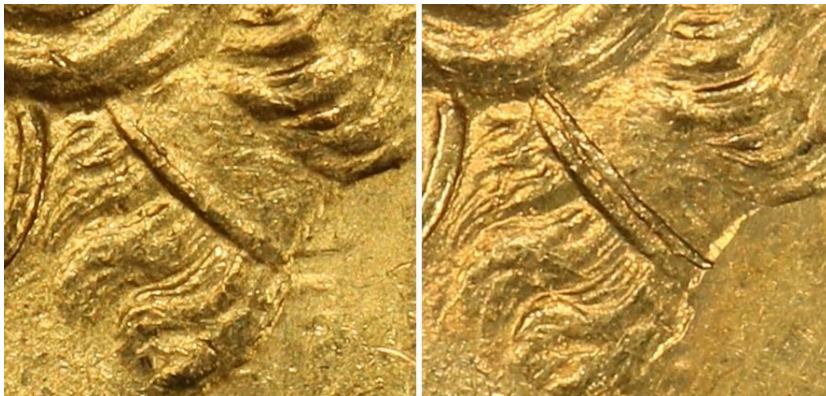


Figure 2. Comparison of a normal (left) and Ansell sovereign (right). Note the extra line on the ribbon behind the Queen's ear on the Ansell sovereign. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

the United Kingdom to be turned into coins at the Royal Mint. One shipment that was received in 1859 contained unacceptable quantities of lead, antimony and arsenic which made the gold blanks brittle and would have resulted in coins that were easily breakable.

An employee, George Ansell, found that quickly cooling the fresh gold blanks

resulted in the metal being tough enough to use for coinage<sup>1</sup>. The obverse die used to strike the Ansell coins was altered by engraving an extra line in the ribbon behind the queen's ear (Figure 2). While more than 160,000 of these coins were struck, very few remain today, with Marsh rating their rarity as R4<sup>2</sup>.

### References

1. Britannia Coin Company blog; <https://britanniacoincompany.com/blog/1859-ansell-gold-sovereigns-rare-victorian-variant/>
2. Michael A. Marsh, "The Gold Sovereign", various editions.



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## PCGS Grades Missing Counterstamp 2024 Dollar



In our July issue we reported that an Out of This World dollar had been found with a counterstamp on the obverse. We subsequently received a report that some of the coins from that show had not received a counterstamp at all. Unfortunately no photographs were available and our informant was reluctant to go into details. PCGS have since graded an Out of This World dollar as a “Missing Mintmark” error, although it really is a missing counterstamp. Certainly there is no trace of a counterstamp (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Counterstamp position. (Left) 'Map of Australia' counterstamp. (Right) Coin graded by PCGS clearly showing the lack of a counterstamp. Right hand photograph courtesy of PCGS.

However this raises another issue. PCGS have assumed that the Royal Australian Mint will only issue these dollars with a counterstamp, privy mark or mint mark. In past years this would have been a fair assumption as the Currency Determination would only mention counterstamp, privy mark and mint mark coins. The Currency determination that specified the 2024 Out of This World dollar coins was a little different. Item 220, the Out of This World reverse with the C mintmark, is defined as “R121 (a) a central circle enclosing the following: (i) a stylised representation of ...; and(vii) the letter “C”; and (b) surrounding that central...”. The other counterstamp and privy mark coins are included by entries such as: “R122. The same as for item 220, except omit subparagraph (a)(vii) and substitute: (vii) the letter “S” enclosed in a square; and”. But what is particularly intriguing is item 225, “R126. The same as for item 220, except omit subparagraph (a)(vii)”. Item 225 refers to an Out of This World issue without any counterstamp, privy mark or mint mark. This introduces the possibility of the Royal Australian Mint releasing (into circulation or in a folder) an identical coin to the one PCGS have classified as a “mint error”.

## Recent Perth Mint Releases

It has been a busy three months for the Perth Mint with more 2024 dated coins (having such designs as a wombat, brumbies, Christmas nutcracker, Chinese myths and legends and the last of the Year of the Dragon coins) and the first few 2025 dated releases. The Year of the Dragon coins have the QEII memorial obverse; all the others feature Charles III.

---

### The Australian Brumby

This was issued as a one ounce silver bullion coin and a one ounce coloured silver coin.



The coloured coin was priced at \$120 and the non-coloured coin of course sells as bullion. Both coins have a face value of \$1.

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### Double Dragon with Mother of Pearl

With two dragons around a central pearl, this coin was issued as a 2 ounce silver and 2 ounce gold proof coin with mother of pearl central inserts and face values of \$20 and \$200 respectively. The price of the silver coin is \$310 and the gold coin \$10,995.



### Chinese Dragon and Pearl

There is more than one myth associating pearls with Chinese dragons. In one, pearls are produced when dragons fight in the sky. In another, a boy who swallowed a pearl turned into a dragon. The dragon and pearl 1 ounce

gold proof has a face value of \$100 and an issue price of \$5,500.



**Wombat 2024 1 ounce silver coin**

This \$1 face value coin was issued in a card for \$110.



**Great Southern Land silver and gold coins**



With the same theme but different designs, the Perth Mint is selling a 1 ounce silver proof with a chrysoprase insert and a 2 ounce gold coin with a mother of pearl insert. The silver coin has a face value of \$1 and sells for \$155; the gold coin a face value of \$200 and a price of \$11,395.

**2024 Christmas nutcracker 2 ounce silver antiqued coloured coin**

The coin contains 2 ounces of .9999 silver with a 24-carat gold-plated representation of a nutcracker figurine, and had a release price of \$289.

Also released this month was a set of **proof gold Australian nugget replicas** gilded in rose gold. The coins depict the Welcome Stranger (1 ounce), Hand of Faith ½ ounce), Golden

Eagle (1/4 ounce), and Little Hero (1/10 ounce) gold nuggets.



The Golden Eagle (1/4 ounce), and Little Hero (1/10 ounce) coins are also available individually and the four coins have a face value of \$15, \$25, \$50 and \$100. The complete set of four coins sells for \$11,165.

**The Four Guardians** is part of the Chinese myths and legends series. Each mythical creature guards one of the four cardinal directions and is associated with a season, and one of the 'five elements' said to govern change in all things.

The Perth Mint have released two coloured one oz silver coins (Hong and Lan) in cards as well as a one oz gold proof. The face values of the silver coins are \$1 and the gold coin \$100.



### **Wedge-tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 kg ultra high relief reverse proof coins**

A gold coin with a face value of \$3000 and a price of \$173,500 was available for order, and a silver coin with a face value of \$30 was available. They are both sold out on the Perth Mint website.



The mintage of the gold coin was 10 and the silver coin 250.

### **Wedge-tailed eagle 10th anniversary 2024 10 ounce proof coins**

This design is a montage of John M. Mercanti's wedge-tailed eagle designs as they appeared on coins from 2014–2024.

The coins are available in both gold and silver — the gold version sells for \$56,200 and the silver for \$1299.



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### Kalkadoon Dreaming \$1

This is an attractive base metal coin apparently issued only in a PNC, at a release price of \$18.95. To quote the Perth Mint: *“The coin was designed by acclaimed Kalkadoon artist Chern’ee Sutton. The design features Chern’ee’s impression of an emu, kangaroo and bird, with the flowing lines representing footprints travelling across the land, and the circular motifs indicative of community gatherings...”*. The Kalkadoon are descendants of First Nations people living in the Mount Isa region of Queensland.



**Year of the Dragon 1 ounce silver lilac coloured coin in card** (face value \$1 and price of \$115) was released at the Sydney Money Expo on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, as was an otherwise identical ¼ ounce version (25 cents face value and price of \$45).



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### Chinese Myths and Legends — Dragon & Koi 2024 1oz Platinum Reverse Proof Coin



This coin was struck as a reverse proof (i.e. frosted fields and reflective devices) platinum (99.95%) coin. The issue price was \$2999 and the mintage just 150.

The following four coins are variations on previous release designs.



**Swan 5 ounce silver proof high relief** with a retail price of \$725.

**Wedge-tailed eagle 10th anniversary 2 ounce silver coloured coin in card** with a retail price of \$260.

**Quokka 1 ounce silver proof coloured coin** with a retail price of \$150.

**Koala 5 ounce silver proof high relief gilded coin** with a retail price of \$735.

### 2025 Dated Coins

#### Australian Citizenship 2025 \$1 in Card

This is an aluminium bronze coin that is issued each year. With a face value of \$1, it has a release price of \$16.50.



### 2025 Year of the Snake in Proof Silver

This silver coin has been released as a ½ ounce (face value 50 cents), a 1 ounce (face value \$1) and a 2 ounce (face value \$2). Both the ½ ounce and 1 ounce proof coins are available as individual coins for \$89 and \$145 respectively; the 2 ounce is currently only available as part of a three coin set.



High relief versions are also available: a 5 ounce coin for \$725 and a 1 ounce for \$150.

The Perth Mint have also minted a coloured version of the 1 ounce coin that sells for \$145 and a ¼ ounce coloured coin that was sold at the Sydney Money Expo.





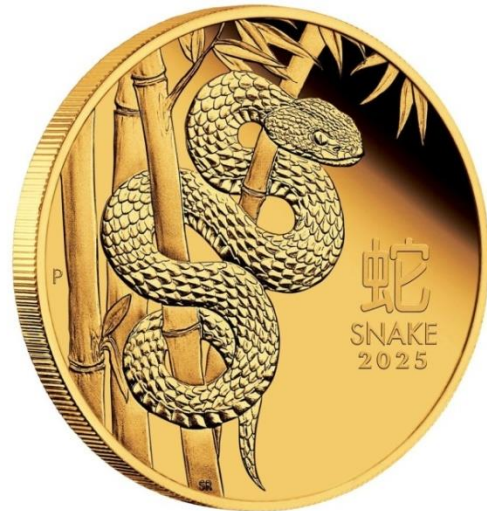
**2025 Year of the Snake in Gilded Silver**



This is a 1 ounce coin that sells for \$125 in a capsule and \$130 in a case.

**2025 Year of the Snake in Proof Gold**

The year of the snake proof coins have also been released in gold, with a different design to the silver coins and weights of 1/10 ounce, ¼ ounce and 1 ounce. These are available (as of 19<sup>th</sup> October) on the Perth Mint website for \$600, \$1465, and \$5699 respectively.



A high relief 1 ounce proof gold coin has also been released. It has a price of \$5919.

**2025 Year of the Snake Bullion Coins**

The Perth Mint has also released Year of the Snake bullion coins in platinum, gold and silver. The design of the platinum and gold bullion is the same as that of the proof gold and the silver bullion coins the same as the proof silver. A complete list of the Year of the Snake bullion coins is given in Table 1 below. *All photographs are courtesy of the Perth Mint.*

Metal	1/20 oz	1/10 oz	1/4 oz	1/2 oz	1 oz	2 oz	5 oz	10 oz	1 kg	10 kg
Silver				50 cents	\$1	\$2	\$8		\$30	\$300
Gold	\$5	\$15	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$200		\$1,000		

Table 1. 2025 Year of the Snake bullion coins.

## Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

### Christmas Festival Florals 50 cent

The annual Christmas coloured coins were issued as a cupronickel coin (\$17.50) and as a silver proof (135). As of 21<sup>st</sup> October, the silver proof was listed as “unavailable” on the mint’s website but the base metal version was still available.



### Toy Kangaroo Silver Proof \$5

The toy kangaroo, very similar to the \$1 in the baby set, was issued as a 1 ounce silver proof in a small box and at a price of \$140.



### 1 ounce Silver Bullion Kangaroo

With a face value of \$1, this coin sells at current silver value (plus a premium).



**Lunar Year of the Snake – 1 ounce Gold and Silver Bullion Coins.** The silver coins has a face value of \$1, the gold coin \$100. Once again, as they are bullion coins, the price depends upon the daily metal price.



The design of the two coins differs only in the reverse legend “1 oz .999 Ag” on the silver coin and “1 oz .999 Au” on the gold coin.

Proof versions (non-bullion of course) were released in November – a silver 1 ounce with a face value of \$5 and a gold 1 ounce with a face value of \$100. These sold for \$150 and \$5595 respectively.

All the precious metal coins have a modified Charles III obverse that includes the 12 lunar animals as depicted below.




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### Countdown 50 Cent

2024 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TV show Countdown and the Royal Australian Mint struck an extremely colourful 50 cent to celebrate the occasion. Unfortunately it has only been released as a base metal coin rather than as a silver proof.




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### Lunar Year of the Snake — Base Metal Coins

The mint also released a coin pack containing two \$1 coins with the standard obverses – the Year of the Snake and Lunar Calendar coins. The pair retailed at \$35.



The traditional 50c tetradecagon lunar coin for 2025 is also available at \$17.50.

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### War Animals \$2

The RAM has released another group of war related coloured \$2, this time to acknowledge the efforts of war animals. These coins are available as a business strike (rolls can be sourced through dealers and 5 coin sachets

were available at Adelaide Coin Fair and Sydney Money Expo), a C mintmark in a card and a silver proof. The latter was much in demand and, as of 21<sup>st</sup> October, was selling for roughly \$340 on the secondary market compared with \$85 release price.



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#### **Kangaroo Series — 1/10th ounce Gold Proof**

For \$540, the Royal Australian Mint is selling the latest in their kangaroo series of 1/10 ounce gold proof coins. They also released a silver proof for \$140 and a silver frosted uncirculated coin for \$85.

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

#### **Future releases — a sneak preview of 2025 dated coins**

From the Currency determinations, we can see that the \$1 mintmark, privy mark and counterstamp dollars for 2025 will commemorate the Royal Australian Mint's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A series of \$2 coins will be issued for the Australian Open tennis 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a set of \$1 coins will be used to feature the Australian Women's Weekly children's birthday cake book.



The Mint continues to distribute new products through a variety of sources, some through their EQL ballot; some through dealers, some through their website and also some through private companies. This appears to have tempered the “reseller” market somewhat, which is good for collectors; Independent Coin news strongly suggests that customers be patient when ordering through EQL. We repeat our comment concerning behaviour toward dealers from our last two issues.

## 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!!**

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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.



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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  
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## Mintmarks, Privy Marks and Counterstamps

These terms can be confusing for the new and sometimes even the experienced collector. While decimal collectors will have encountered these terms in reference to the Royal Australian Mint's annual \$1 "mintmark" series, the origin of these terms goes back centuries. While mintmarks and privy marks occur on the die used to strike the coin, counterstamps are added to an existing coin.

### Mintmark

A mintmark is a small change in design used to define at which mint a coin was manufactured. This may be addition of a letter or letters, a mark such as a dot or a deliberate design change such as removal of one of a lyre bird's spikes.



Figure 1. Left to right: H under scroll (Heaton Mint) on 1912 halfpenny, dot after Y (Perth Mint) on 1947 halfpenny, P125 (Perth Mint for 2024) on Kalkadoon \$1, wave gap (Canberra) on 1966 20 cent. Photographs courtesy of PCGS and the Perth Mint.

Mintmarks of one or more letters are fairly obvious; less obvious are the dot mintmarks. Mintmarks are used specifically to identify a mint; so while the dot after Y, dot after A and dot between K and G are obviously mintmarks, the dots above and below various scrolls on the 1919 and 1920 pennies are definitely not mintmarks. The changes in design on the first year of the decimal coins have been frequently incorrectly described by many, myself included, as privy marks. But, as they are clearly intended to denote mint of origin, they are mintmarks.

### Privy Mark

A privy mark is used to denote a mint master or assayer, source of metal, some type of event or to prevent counterfeiting. The mint master was ultimately responsible for the coins produced. One mint master or assayer could be responsible for multiple mints; this was often true for the Spanish colonial mints. Figure 2 shows an 1801 FM 8 reales Mexico Mint. FM (blue arrow) is used to designate the assayer Forcada whereas Mo (red arrow) is the mintmark for Mexico City.



Examples of privy marks used for source of silver on British coins include SSC (South Seas Company) and VIGO (silver from the VIGO — a captured Spanish ship).

Figure 2 (left). 1801 FM Mexico 8 reales. See text for explanation. Photograph courtesy of the Australian Coin Collecting Blog.

The modern use is primarily for marketing (Figure 3). The Perth Mint uses privy marks on some of its silver and gold issues and the RAM uses privy marks, such as letters inside a square, in the yearly mintmark and privy mark set.



Figure 3. 2017 Perth 1 ounce kookaburra with great white shark privy mark, 2019 Australia Post dollar with envelope privy mark, 2018 \$1 with B privy mark.

### Counterstamp

A counterstamp is applied to a coin after it is minted. Modern Royal Australian Mint counterstamps such as a “map of Australia” or an “M” are used on \$1 coins to designate special events such as a coin swap or a Money Expo. Earlier usages involve acceptance (usually of a foreign currency), advertising and re-evaluation. Some examples can be seen in Figure 4.



Figure 4. 2012 wheat sheep dollar with M counterstamp, 1680s Dutch 6 stuivers with bunch of arrows counterstamp near the centre of the coin, worn 1797 cartwheel penny with I.DUVOL advertising. Photographs courtesy of the Purple Penny.



An example of a coin with a mintmark, privy mark and counterstamp is none other than the holey dollar. The coin pictured is an 1813 New South Wales five shillings on a 1791 FM Mexico Spanish dollar.

A special thanks to Mark Nemtsas for providing the inspiration, definitions and many of the pictures for this article.

## First Bullock Kennedy \$50 Banknotes Released

The Reserve Bank have reported via their website that 2023 \$50 banknotes with the Bullock Kennedy (Governor of the Reserve Bank/ Secretary to the Treasury) signature combination have been printed and I can personally confirm they are in circulation, certainly in Melbourne.



2023 Bullock Kennedy \$50.

\$50 banknotes with the older Lowe Kennedy combination have also been printed, as have 2023 Lowe Kennedy \$100. The surprise appearance on the Reserve Bank website was the 2022 \$20, also Lowe Kennedy, which has a small print run of 361,445 of each prefix. Sourcing first and last prefix 2022 \$20 may be quite tough.

Date	Denomination	Signature Combination	Prefixes	Number of Sheets
2022	\$20	Lowe/Kennedy	AA 22–EA 22	361,445
2023	\$50	Lowe/Kennedy	AA 23–EA 23	1,433,185
2023	\$50	Bullock/Kennedy	AA 23–EA 23	1,075,873
2023	\$100	Lowe/Kennedy	AA 23–EA 23	1,447,328

### Source

Reserve Bank of Australia website: <https://banknotes.rba.gov.au/resources/for-collectors/serial-numbers/>



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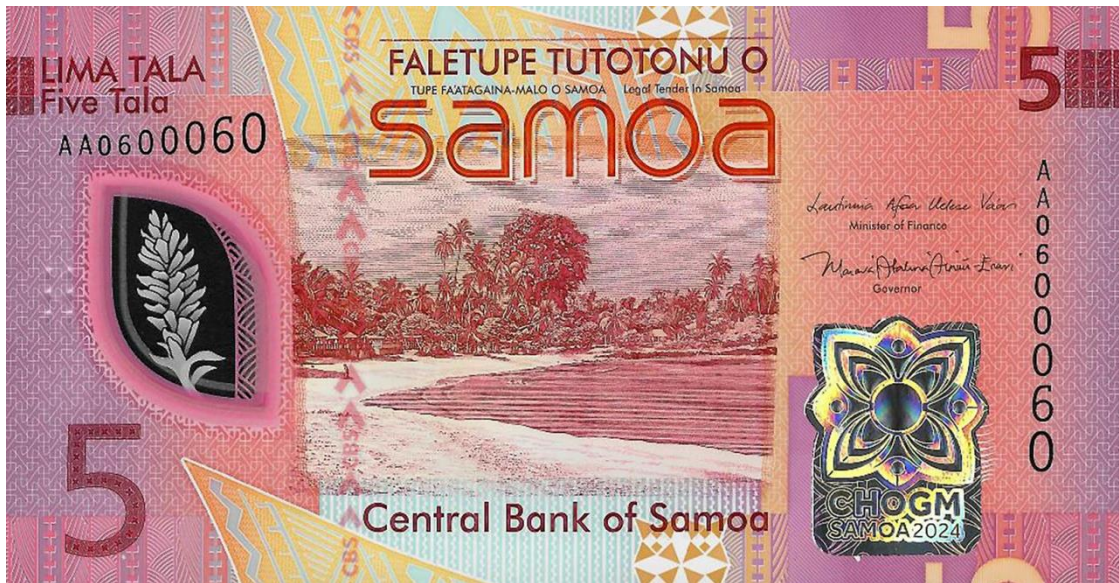


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## Samoa Issues Banknotes to Commemorate CHOGM

Samoa hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Apia from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. To commemorate the occasion, a series of special banknotes of denomination 5, 10, 20 and 60 tala was issued. These are similar to the current notes but include the CHOGM logo surrounded by the names of all 56 CHOGM countries in microtext.



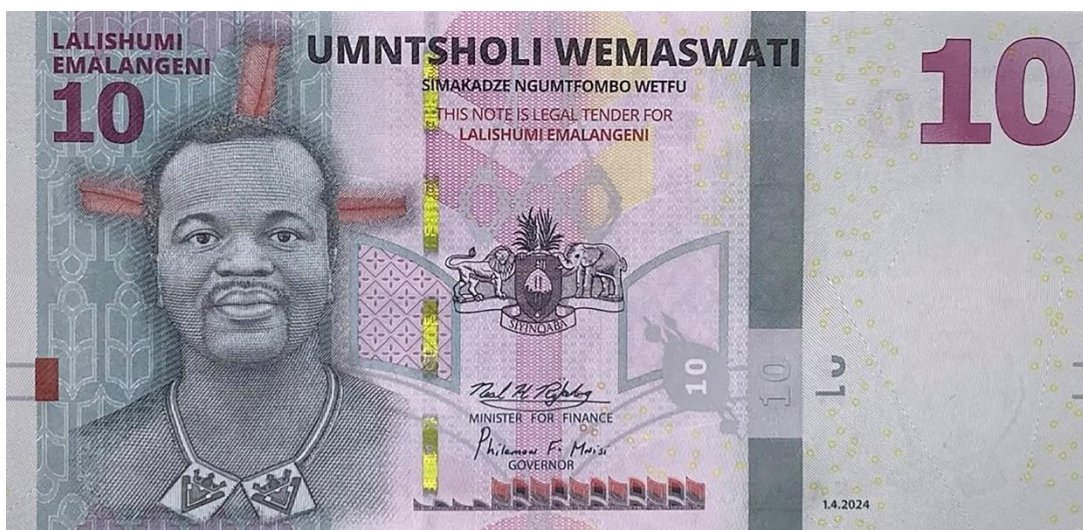
Photograph courtesy of Central Bank of Samoa.

### Source

Central Bank of Samoa: <https://cbs.gov.ws/news/new-commemorative-chogm-banknotes>

## Eswatini to Issue New 10-lilangeni Banknote

The Kingdom of Eswatini, which until a few years ago went by the name of Swaziland, is a landlocked country in east Africa between South Africa and Mozambique.





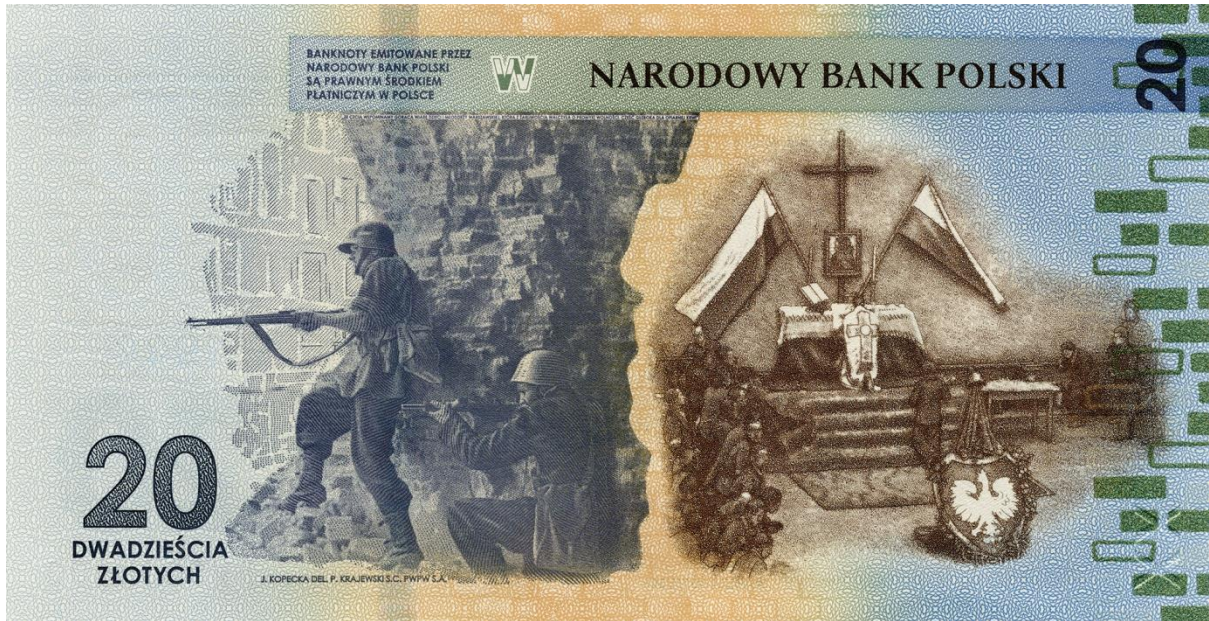
The front of the new banknote has English and Swazi text with a portrait of King Mswati III, the coat of arms (lion and elephant flanking shield topped with crown of feathers), a shield, spears, and staff (umgobo) with the denomination as registration device. The back has English text with the denomination as registration device; nine princesses taking part in the Ncwala (kingship ceremony) and the bank seal. The note has a green windowed security thread with demetalised 10 CBE and a watermark of King Mswati III.

The note size is 144 x 70 mm. 10 emalangeni is about AU \$0.85.

## Poland Issues Warsaw Uprising Banknote

Each year the National Bank of Poland (Narodowy Bank Polski) issues a “collector” banknote which, while legal tender, is not intended to circulate.





On the 26<sup>th</sup> July, Poland issued a commemorative 20 złoty banknote on the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. The Warsaw Uprising was a major operation in August and September 1944 by the Polish underground resistance attempting to liberate Warsaw. This was supposed to coincide with the Soviet advance towards the city, however for political reasons (the resistance was mainly pro capitalist), the Soviets stopped their advance just outside the city. The Germans were then able to put down the uprising after 63 days of heavy fighting. It is estimated that the fighting, bombing and massacre of civilians cost 150,000–200,000 lives.

The banknotes currently sell for roughly \$100 on eBay.

---

## Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



It's been a quiet time for Coin Cat and while one person was keen enough to send us an email, by the time we put this issue together we had received no response as to whether it was OK with them to print Coin Cat's answer.

If you have any questions for Coin Cat please send an email to [coincat@independentcoinnews.com](mailto:coincat@independentcoinnews.com)

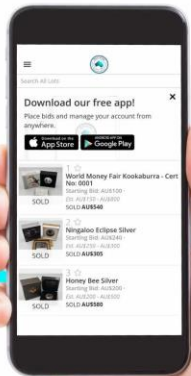


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## Coins Minted on Wrong Planchets ... John Belcher

Australian numismatics, with its diverse range of coinage has its own tales of fascination, among them is the enigmatic world of coins minted on wrong or foreign planchets. The planchet, that unassuming blank metal disc upon which a coin is struck, usually conforms to meticulous standards (Table 1). However, despite the Royal Australian Mint implementing stringent quality control measures, some coins are struck on unconventional planchets, creating rare and highly valuable pieces.



Figure 1. 1944 S Florin on Shilling Planchet, graded by PCGS as MS63. Photograph courtesy of Mark Nemtsas.

Coins minted on the wrong planchets are a numismatic oddity. The planchets may be intended for different denominations or even entirely different countries. This can result in coins that differ from the norm in ways ranging from subtle to obvious. A future article will investigate Australian coins struck on foreign planchets, however in this article we only discuss Australian coins struck on Australian planchets.

Coin	Weight grams	Weight Tolerance Grams	Diameter	Thickness	Composition	Edge
1 cent	2.60 g	2.30-2.90 g	17.65 mm	1.4 mm	97% copper, 2.5% zinc, 0.5% tin	Plain
2 cent	5.20 g	4.90-5.50 g	21.59 mm	1.9 mm	97% copper, 2.5% zinc, 0.5% tin	Plain
5 cent	2.83 g	2.50-3.16 g	19.41 mm	1.3 mm	Cupronickel, 75% copper, 25% nickel	Reeded
10 cent	5.65 g	5.16-6.14 g	23.60 mm	1.5 mm	Cupronickel, 75% copper, 25% nickel	Reeded
20 cent	11.3 g	10.52-12.08 g	28.65 mm	2.0 mm	Cupronickel, 75% copper, 25% nickel	Reeded
50 cent	15.55 g	14.59-16.51 g	Dodecagon 31.65 mm	2.0 mm	Cupronickel, 75% copper, 25% nickel	Plain
\$1	9.0 g	8.34-9.66 g	25.20 mm	2.8 mm	Aluminium bronze: 92% copper, 6% aluminium, 2% nickel	Interrupted milling
\$2	6.60 g	6.0-7.20 g	20.5 mm	3.0 mm	Aluminium bronze: 92% copper, 6% aluminium, 2% nickel	Interrupted milling

Table 1. Technical parameters of Australian coins. **These parameters are correct as of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024; for any changes refer to Currency (Australian Coins) Determination Act.**

A wrong planchet coin can be defined as a coin struck on a complete planchet intended for another denomination, whether it be an Australian or foreign planchet (coins struck on clipped or incomplete planchets will be the subject of another article). This article focuses on Australian decimal coins as errors as these are more common, but I would be remiss in not mentioning a beautiful example of a pre-decimal coin. During 1944 San Francisco minted Australian threepences, sixpences, shillings and florins; the coin in Figure 1 is a 1944S florin struck on a shilling planchet.



Figure 2. (1985-1991) 2 cent minted on a 1 cent planchet.  
Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 3. 1977 5 cent struck on a 1 cent planchet.  
Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The size difference between the “wrong planchet” and the blank for which the dies have been set up creates examples where the planchet can be off centre and exhibit only a partial date or no date at all. One example is the 2 cent coin minted on a 1 cent planchet (Figure 2).

A wrong planchet can also be an off-metal error at the same time, in other words a planchet whose composition does not match the composition of the intended coin, and owing to the nature of Australian coins probably will not meet other criteria as well. The 5 cent coin minted on a 1 cent planchet in Figure 3 is an example. What was supposed to be a cupro nickel coin was minted on a bronze (1 cent) planchet similar in size and weight to a 5 cent planchet.

Wrong planchet errors usually occur by contamination. A bin is filled with planchets for the next coinage operation but still contain some smaller diameter blanks or planchets from a previous mint run, or the feed hopper to the coining chamber was not completely emptied prior to commencement of the next operation, and these become mixed with the correct sized planchets.

Under normal operating conditions it is only possible for the wrong planchet to be of the same or smaller diameter than those currently being struck in the press. This is due to the fact that a larger planchet should not fit and/or will not be constrained by the collar die. Anomalies do occur and this 2014 5 cent struck on a \$2 planchet is a rare example (Figure 4).

Because the planchet is smaller than the coining press was set up for, the edge of the planchet will not be constrained properly by the collar die and may exhibit only partial or no milling or reeding which would normally be attributed to the coin. A second effect of an unconstrained blank is that the radial metal flow can cause fishtailing of the legends. Another factor to be considered with this error type is that the incorrect planchet was frequently thinner than what was intended and the dies having been calibrated to the thicker planchet often result in a weak strike. If the planchet was not

only a wrong planchet but was also off metal and made of a harder alloy, this will have an effect on the strength of the strike also.



Figure 4. 2014 5 cent on a \$2 planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

What sort of numbers are we talking about when discussing wrong planchets? The data I have sourced is not definitive by any measure and I have excluded data that only supplied the weight of the coin with no further information as to whether the planchet was anything other than being under or over weight. The tables below identify the coin, year of production and what planchet was incorrectly used. The tables were produced from data obtained over the last 10 years from auction houses, internet sales and social media posts. In some years multiple raw coins have been identified and in others only a single coin. There may be double counting as I suspect many raw coins have been subsequently graded and encapsulated by PCGS. The tables therefore are to be utilised only as a guide to what years the error may occur. A cursory examination reveals that by far the majority of wrong planchet errors have occurred prior to 2000. This is a testament to improved quality control measures implemented at the Royal Australian Mint since that time.

## 2c

Year	Designation	Comments
1966-1968	2c on 1c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS65BN
1972	2c on 1c Planchet	Raw coin
1972	2c on 5c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS63 (Figure 5)
1980	2c on 5c Planchet	Raw coin 2.84g
1985-1981	2c on 1c Planchet	10 known graded coins up to MS65RD
1985-1991	2c on 5c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
1988	2c on 1c Planchet	8 known graded coins
1988	2c on 5c Planchet	Raw coins 2.85g–2.88g
No Date	2c on 5c Planchet	
No Date	2c on 1c Planchet	Multiple raw coins 2.56g–2.61g





Figure 5. 1972 2c on 5c planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

### 5c

Year	Designation	Comments
1976	5c on 1c Planchet	Raw coin 2.57g 40% milling
1977	5c on 1c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS63BN (Figure 3)
1980	5c on 1c Planchet	Raw & Graded coins 2.61g–2.65g planchets.
1982	5c on 1c Planchet	PCGS graded coin Unc detail
1983	5c on 1c Planchet	Described as struck on 1c copper planchet
1984	5c on 1c Planchet	Described as struck on 1c Bronze planchet
1988	5c on 1c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS63BN
1989	5c on 1c Planchet	Raw coins 2.56g–2.59g. PCGS graded coins to MS64RB
1993	5c on 1c Planchet	Raw coin
2014	5c on \$2 Planchet	PCGS graded coin (Figure 4)

### 10c

Year	Designation	Comments
1971	10c on 2c Planchet	Raw coin on 4.93g 2c planchet
1976	10c on 5c Planchet	Raw coin on 2.82g 5c planchet
1979	10c on 5c Planchet	PCGS graded coins to MS64
1981	10c on 2c Planchet	Raw coin
1981	10c on 5c Planchet	Raw coin on 2.83g 5c planchet
1983	10c on 2c Planchet	Raw coins on 5.18g–5.25g 2c planchets
1994	10c on 5c Planchet	6 raw coins 2.78g–2.84g 5c planchet. PCGS graded up to MS65
1998	10c on 5c Planchet	Raw coin 2.81g 5c planchet
199X	10c on 5c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS66 (Figure 6)
No Date	10c on 5c Planchet	Raw coin 2.83g 5c planchet



Figure 6. 199x 10c on 5c Planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

**20c**

Year	Designation	Comments
1966-1984	20c on 1c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
1972	20c on 10c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
1974	20c on 10c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
2000	20c on 10c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
2000	20c on \$1 Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS62(Figure 7)
No Date	20c on 10c Planchet	Raw coin 5.58g, no milling



Figure 7. 2000 20c struck on \$1 Planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

50c

Year	Designation	Comments
1976	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
1978	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin on 11.3g planchet with partial collar
1979	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coins up to MS65
1982 Commonwealth Games	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin on 11.18g planchet
1985-1997	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS62
1988 Bicent	50c on 2c Planchet	Raw coin on 5.25g 2c planchet/PCGS MS63RB
1988 Bicent	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin
1992	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS67
1991 Rams Head	50c on 10c Planchet	PCGS graded coins up to MS66 (Figure 8)
1991 Rams Head	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coins up to MS65
1994 Year of Family	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin on 11.21g 20c planchet
1995 Weary Dunlop	50c Proof on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin PR69DCAM
1995 Weary Dunlop	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin on 11.24g 20c planchet
1995	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
1995-1998	50c on 5c Planchet	Raw coin on 2.81g 5c planchet
1997	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin
1998	50c on 20c Planchet	Raw coin on 11.34g 20c planchet
1999-2016	50c on 10c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS62
2000 millennium	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS64
2002 Year of Outback	50c on \$2 Planchet	Raw coin
2014	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin 11.1g Planchet AU58
2015	50c on 20c Planchet	PCGS graded coin Unc detail



Figure 8. 1991 50c on 10c Planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

**\$1**

Year	Designation	Comments
1984	\$1 on 10c Planchet	Multiple PCGS graded coins to MS64
1984	\$1 on 2c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS63BN
1995	\$1 on 10c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS62
2016	\$1 on \$2 Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS62 (Figure 9)



Figure 9. 2016 \$1 on \$2 Planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

**\$2**

Date	Designation	Comments
1992	\$2 on 5c Planchet	PCGS graded coin MS65
1995	\$2 on 1c Planchet	Raw coin 2.55g 1c planchet
1999-2016	\$2 on 5c Planchet	Weak Strike 2.83g – PCGS graded MS62
No Date	\$2 on 5c Planchet	Uniface obverse- PCGS graded MS63 (Figure 10)



Figure 10. No Date \$2 on 5c Planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

From the perspective of the numismatists to the casual noodlers, coins minted on wrong planchets can hold immense appeal, not only for their scarcity but also for the excitement of the hunt for such treasures. Armed with the information contained within this article you will need what I will term “Tools of the Trade” if you find a coin that is smaller, lighter or perhaps the wrong colour and you wish to investigate further.

To ascertain the exact specifications of the coin you are examining you will need to utilise “tools” such as those shown in Figure 11 below.



*Figure 11. Tools of the trade. Digital vernier callipers, Digital jewellers Scales, Magnifier with built in light.*

- Magnifier, preferably with built in light and high magnification (40 X).
- Vernier callipers measuring to two (2) decimal places to ascertain the diameter and thickness.
- Jewellers Scales calibrated to two (2) decimal places for correct weight.
- Magnet to determine if the coin is magnetic. Australian coins are not magnetic.

If you have conducted your investigation and the coin you are examining does not meet normal specification for that particular denomination, further enquiries need to be made. You will need access to an XRF (X-ray fluorescence) machine, which is a non-destructive analytical technique used to determine the composition of materials. In the last 5–10 years the ownership of these machines has grown considerably, and most coin and bullion dealers in the capital cities now have them.

If the XRF analysis confirms the metal composition is that of an Australian coin, the coin may have been “Struck on a Wrong Planchet” or perhaps struck on an underweight planchet rather than an incorrect one. Document your analysis and then seek a second or even third opinion from known experts in this field of error coins.

If the results of the XRF analysis do not match the composition of an Australian coin, it may indicate a foreign planchet. These type of errors will be addressed in a future article.

## **Summary**

Australian coins minted on wrong planchets offer a unique glimpse into the unpredictability of numismatics. While these errors may result from innocuous circumstances in the minting process,

they can be found in almost all denominations and this in turn has given rise to a niche market within the numismatic community. Collectors are drawn to the allure of owning a coin that defies the norm, and while deemed to be scarce or even rare, wrong planchet errors are still being found in general circulation. On occasion they can be sourced through coin dealers or auction houses.

### Acknowledgements

Brendan Hui for updated information on 50c coin errors.

Dr Peter Andrews for peer review and providing editorial advice.

### Further Reading

“Something Rarely Seen” -Australian Coin & Banknote Magazine October 2016

1944s Florin Struck on a Shilling Planchet Error - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog (australian-coins.com)

Australia 1984 One Dollar Error Struck on Copper Nickel 10c Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog (australian-coins.com)

Australian 2 Dollar Struck on a 5 Cent Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog (australian-coins.com)

Error Coin Spotlight – 1988 2c Struck on 1c Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog (australian-coins.com)

1989 5 Cent Error Struck on Wrong 1 Cent Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog (australian-coins.com)

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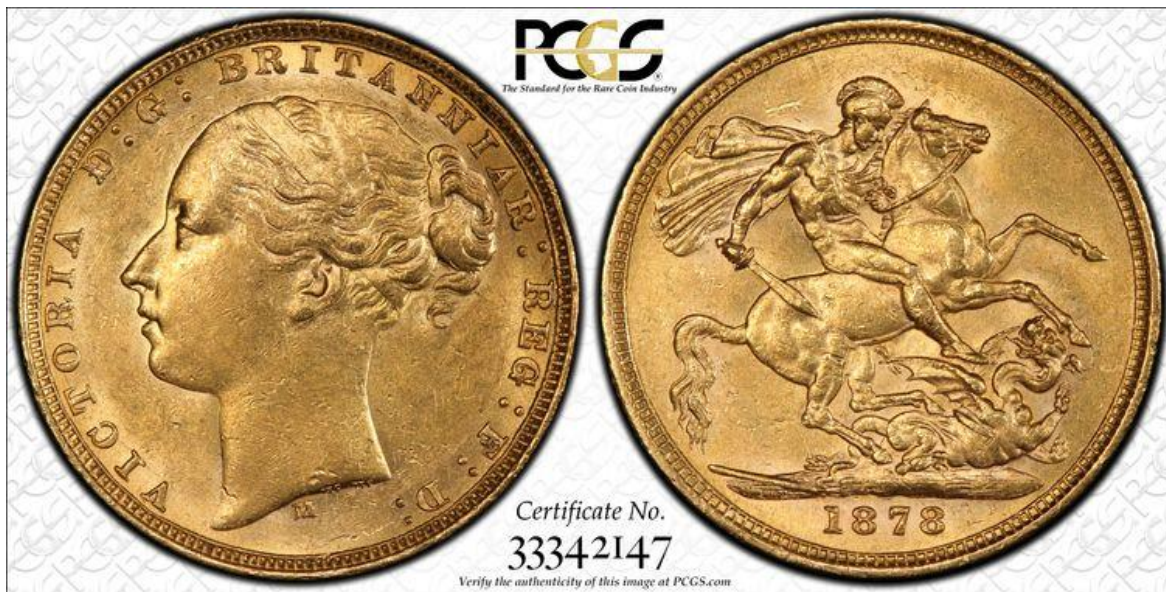
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## The 1878 Melbourne St George Sovereign D over G Variety ... Eric Eigner



While there are many die varieties in the British Victorian shield series, there are few Australian shield sovereign varieties, and fewer still amongst young head St George sovereigns. In 2015, we encountered an interesting variety of 1878 Melbourne St George sovereign, where the D of D:G (abbreviation of DEI GRATIA) in the obverse legend appears to have been struck over an inverted G. It's a fairly obvious error, but few collectors are aware of it.



Until this variety was first reported in the third edition (2024) of Steve Hill's *Standard Catalogue to the Gold Sovereign*, I had not encountered any mention of it in publications, auction catalogues, websites, or sales listings. While the exact number of D over G error sovereigns is not known, Steve Hill has assigned the coin a rarity rating of R7, indicating that between 11 and 20 examples known. Over the last nine years, I have identified just six pieces. These graded from PCGS AU53 to MS62. Two of these were sourced from the United

Kingdom, and one from Germany. Another example was listed by a Western Australian dealer but the variety was not attributed. That coin promptly sold. Of the other three, one was on eBay and two appeared (unattributed) on the PCGS population report.

If you're a keen collector of sovereign varieties and errors, the 1878M D over G sovereign is a required coin to the set, and with so few examples available, will pose a real challenge to even the most dedicated numismatist.

*The photograph at the start of this article is courtesy of PCGS.*

## Proof 1895 US Morgan Dollar Sells for Record Price



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

*Photograph courtesy of Heritage Auctions (ha.com).*

A proof United States 1895 Morgan dollar in PR67+ DCAM (deep cameo) sold for a record price of US\$324,000 at Heritage Auctions on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024<sup>1</sup>.

While some 12,000 business strike coins may have been struck, none have ever surfaced and it is conjectured that they were melted down in 1918<sup>2</sup>. As a result, the proof issue is the only obtainable 1895 Philadelphia Morgan dollar. A number of the proof coins did eventually enter circulation as 1895 Morgan dollars can be found in lower grades. According to the PCGS population report<sup>3</sup>, the lowest grade of any graded example is PR04 (i.e. just graded as "Good"). Out of the 619 coins graded by PCGS, 138 are of grades lower than PR60 (have details missing due to wear). Incidentally the PR04 catalogues at \$28,500.

The Heritage coin was described in the catalogue as *"... a magnificent Superb Gem representative of this fabulous key date, with razor-sharp definition on all design elements and deeply mirrored fields that create intense cameo contrast with the frosty devices. The mostly brilliant surfaces are virtually pristine, with just a few subtle hints of pale gold toning. Overall eye appeal is terrific."*

This particular coin is the equal second highest graded by PCGS, with just one higher at PR68.

### References

1. Heritage Auctions, September 12th, 2024: <https://coins.ha.com/itm/proof-morgan-dollars/1895-1-pr67-deep-cameo-pcgs-cac-pcgs-97330-/a/1377-3088.s?ic4=GalleryView-ShortDescription-071515>
2. Roger Burdette, "Philly 1895 Morgan Dollars: Where are they? Were they really struck?", Coin Values magazine July 3, 2006
3. <https://www.pcgs.com/coinfacts/coin/1895-1/7330>



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## Adelaide Coin & Banknote Expo 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> October

The Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA) Coin & Banknote Expo was held at the normal venue of the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide on the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> October. I arrived early afternoon on the Saturday, at which time the queue for the Royal Australian Mint stretched around the building and could be seen from space. Well ... maybe that is a bit of an exaggeration. Soon after I arrived, I talked to a collector who told me he had just been served by the RAM after spending 3 ½ hours in the queue. We worked out that at the time he queued up I was still at home in Melbourne.



*The queue for the coin swap extended around the back of the building.*

The Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA) organised separate queues for those purchasing from the RAM and those wishing to trade with coin dealers; this made access for those not interested in RAM products much easier. Besides coin swaps and general products the RAM sold A counterstamp Out of

This World dollar coins. The show itself was moderately busy while I was there on the Saturday. I've included some crowd shots below along with some helpful people who were behind counters.

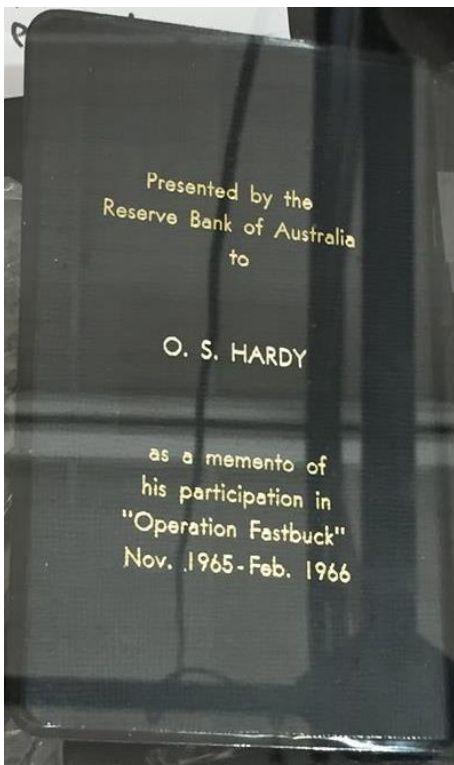


The Sunday was similar to Saturday in terms of crowds for the show itself although the coin swap queue was much shorter. Before the show commenced I offered Independent Coin News business cards to people in the coin swap queue. Several were not interested;

perhaps they weren't actually collectors, but the vast majority appeared to be so.



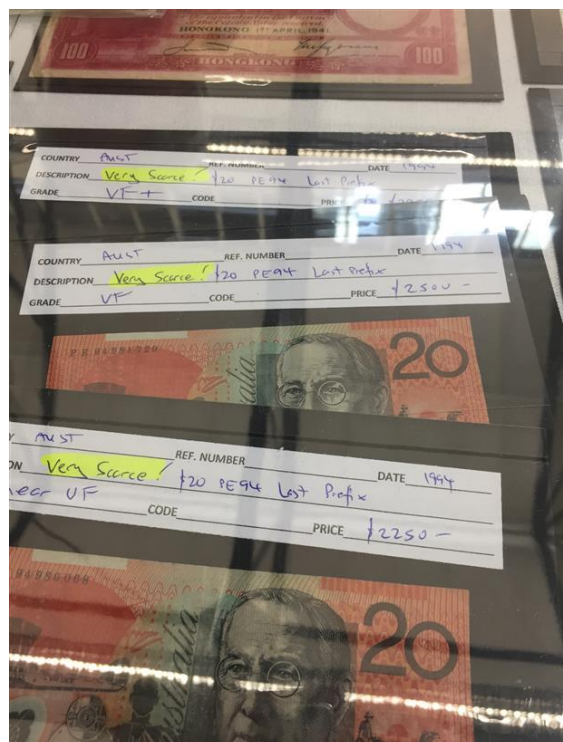
Some of the more interesting items for sale belonged to Adam Lovegrove of Southern Cross Coins — an Operation Fastback wallet, some original Stokes dies and three PE94 \$20.



Operation Fastback wallets were given out to the transport drivers responsible for delivering the new decimal currency to the banks leading up to the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1966. They are very scarce, with no more than about 70 given out.



Adam also had several of the original dies used by Stokes to strike medallions, tokens and medals. Unfortunately when Stokes closed down most of the original dies were sold as scrap metal.



The last prefix PE94 \$20 is considered one of the key issues of the polymer banknote series. These notes were obtained from a person who worked at one of the major security companies for many years, and in all that time he only ever came across three PE94 twenties.

Dealers' responses to the question of whether they had a profitable show varied, with some having had a great weekend, others saying they had a quiet two days.

---

## Sydney Money Expo 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> October

The Sydney Money Expo was held at a new location this year: the Hurstville Entertainment Centre, which is a much smaller venue and harder to get to than the Sydney Town Hall. Although many dealers complained about the lack of space for their stock at this venue, their sales were mostly good. The RAM had their normal coin swap and sales; the counterstamp coin at this show was a 'map of Australia' on an Out of This World dollar. I was unable to attend this show due to prior commitments, but frequent contributor John Belcher was kind enough to provide some photographs.



*Photographs courtesy of John Belcher.*

The next Money Expo will be in Melbourne in February.

## Upcoming Coin Fairs, Coin Shows and Numismatic Events

Sunday December 1st, 9 am–2 pm

### **Moonee Ponds Coin Fair**

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Vic

Saturday December 7th, 9 am–2 pm

### **The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair**

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am–3 pm

### **Newcastle Stamp & Coin Fair**

Pioneer Memorial Hall

54 Cowper St, Wallsend NSW

Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 am–1 pm

### **Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Banknote and Stamp Fair**

South Perth Community Centre, South Perth WA

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

### **Petersham Super Fair**

Petersham Town Hall

107 Crystal Street, Petersham, NSW

<https://scdaa.com.au>

Saturday January 4th, 9 am–2 pm

### **The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair**

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Sunday January 26th, 9 am–1 pm

### **Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair**

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East Vic

Saturday February 1st, 9 am–2 pm

### **The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair**

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Saturday February 1st, 9 am–4 pm

### **Wagga Stamp and Coin Market**

ARCC Hall

131 Tarcutta St Wagga Wagga NSW

Sunday February 2nd, 9 am–2 pm

### **Moonee Ponds Coin Fair**

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Vic

Sunday February 2nd, 9 am–1 pm

### **The Canberra Collectables Fair**

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran.

For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Saturday February 8th, 9 am–1 pm

### **Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Banknote and Stamp Fair**

South Perth Community Centre, South Perth WA

Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am–4 pm

Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am–3 pm

### **Melbourne Money Expo**

Malvern Town Hall

1251 High Street, Malvern, Victoria

Sunday February 23rd, 9 am–1 pm

### **Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair**

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East Vic

Saturday March 1st, 9 am–2 pm

### **The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair**

GyMEA Anglican Church

131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Sunday March 2nd, 9 am–2 pm

### **Moonee Ponds Coin Fair**

Community Hall

5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Vic

Sunday March 2nd, 9 am–1 pm

### **The Canberra Collectables Fair**

Garran Adventure Scout Hall

123 Kitchener St, Garran.

For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Sunday March 30th, 9 am–1 pm

### **Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair**

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East Vic

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

### **Petersham Super Fair**

Petersham Town Hall

107 Crystal Street, Petersham, NSW

<https://scdaa.com.au>

**If you have a show that you would like added to the list or there are any changes that need to be made, please send an email to [editor@independentcoinnews](mailto: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: [actclubsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:actclubsecretary@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](mailto: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](mailto:colin@noble.com.au)

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

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club

Postal Address: PO Box 9156, BATHURST NSW 2795

Telephone: (02) 6331 5404 (Business hours)

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

Meetings: 7:30 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz)

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

Illawarra Numismatic Association

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

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

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

Maitland and District Coin Club

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

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

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

Mudgee Coin, Note & Stamp Club Inc.

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

Telephone: (02) 6569 4328

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

Meetings: Meets on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10:30 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](mailto: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): [nnscoinclub@gmail.com](mailto:nnscoinclub@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](mailto: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](mailto:brsinclair@optusnet.com.au)

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

and November). During non-daylight saving months: 2:00 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**

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

#### **Victoria**

Numismatic Association of Victoria Inc.  
Postal Address: PO Box 288, Flinders Land, VIC 8009.  
Email: [info@navic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto:info@melbcoin.org.au)

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

#### Morwell Numismatic Society

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

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

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

Meetings: 7:30 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:w.bloom@murdoch.edu.au)

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

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



### Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove Ringwood East Vic.

Last Sunday of each month except December

Contact T. Gordon 0412 092917



## The Royal Mint Releases the 2025 Sovereigns



*Figure 1. Proof 2025 Royal Arms (shield) sovereign and proof 2025 Silver St George sovereign with privy mark. Photographs courtesy of the Royal Mint.*

The Royal Mint has announced the designs of the 2025 dated sovereigns and, as of late November, released the proof versions.

There are two sovereign designs being released. Firstly, the Royal Mint is striking sovereigns bearing the traditional St George and the dragon design by Benedetto Pistrucci. Secondly, as this is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Jean Baptiste Merlen designed Royal Arms (shield) sovereign, the Royal Mint is producing sovereigns with this reverse as well. The proof shield sovereign is also available as a piedfort (double thickness and weight).

Somewhat unusually, sovereigns in silver are also being minted. These are of two types: with or without a special shield privy mark next to the date (Figure 1). The silver proofs without the privy mark are available for £95, and those with the privy mark for £125.

The bullion versions of the gold coins will be available as sovereigns, half sovereigns, quarter sovereigns and double sovereigns. As far as I know these are yet to be released.

The Royal Mint has also indicated that this year is the last year in which sovereigns will be minted in rose gold (22 carat gold plus copper). From 2026 the composition will be “yellow” gold — 22 carat plus silver.



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## Downie's Australian Coin Auctions Sale 354

Downie's Australian Coin Auctions sale 354 was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October. Consignments are still being taken for auction 355 in February 2025.

Including some after-the-auction sales, 2437 of the 2509 lots found new homes for a total sales result of \$872,211.83, far in excess of the estimated \$601,000. Besides the 1859 Ansell sovereign that we mentioned earlier in this issue, a few of the more interesting results are given below.



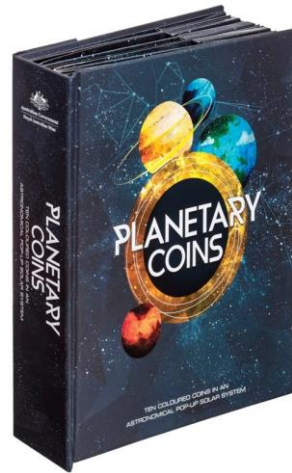
A 2015 red poppy \$1 ex War Heroes card sold for \$915.



There were three lots each consisting of a 2012 \$2 Remembrance Day on an RSL card. Each sold for \$244.



There were also three 2018 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary \$2 sets. Each sold for \$732.



The two 2017 planetary sets each sold for \$4270, somewhat lower than some recent sales results.



A Seleucid Seleukos III (226–223BC) tetradrachm (16.9 gms) from the Antioch mint with diademed head facing right; the reverse with Apollo Delphios seated left on omphalos, testing arrow held in right hand, left hand placed on bow set on ground; monograms to outer left and right achieved a price of \$640.



An Egyptian Ptolemy VIII tetradrachm (14.2 gms), Kition mint dated RY 32 (139–138BC), head of Ptolemy I, reverse Eagle standing on

thunderbolt (S7911), attractive light tone achieved \$549.



A Roman denarius of Trajan (98–117) with reverse of Virtus standing right holding spear and parazonium (S3148) with a slightly irregular edge else EF sold for \$292.



A Chinese Republic dollar Yuan Shi Kai Year 10 (1921) sold for \$823, more than four times estimate.



A Kweichow Province (China) "auto dollar" Year 17 (1928) sold for a surprising \$14,640. This coin was issued to commemorate the first roads built in the province. The car depicted is purportedly that belonging to the governor.



A Cocos Keeling Islands five cent sold for \$701.



A Celtic Ilceni, uninscribed series (from 65BC) base gold stater (5.92 gms), British J [Norfolk Wolf type], degraded head of Apollo facing right, reverse wolf facing right, pellets and crescent above and below (S31) in aVF realised \$1037.



A James I (1603–1625) Gold Crown (2.52 gms) fifth bust mm cinquefoil (S2626) with a nice portrait and in VF sold for \$2196.



A Charles I (1625–1649) Newark Besieged (1645–May 1646) ninepence 1646 (4.3 gms) ,

neatly plugged at 12 o'clock (S3144) sold for \$2440.



A Hogarth & Erichsen Sydney Threepence (A691) toned EF with mint bloom, sold for \$366.



A key date 1933 graded by PCGS as MS61, sold for \$5288.

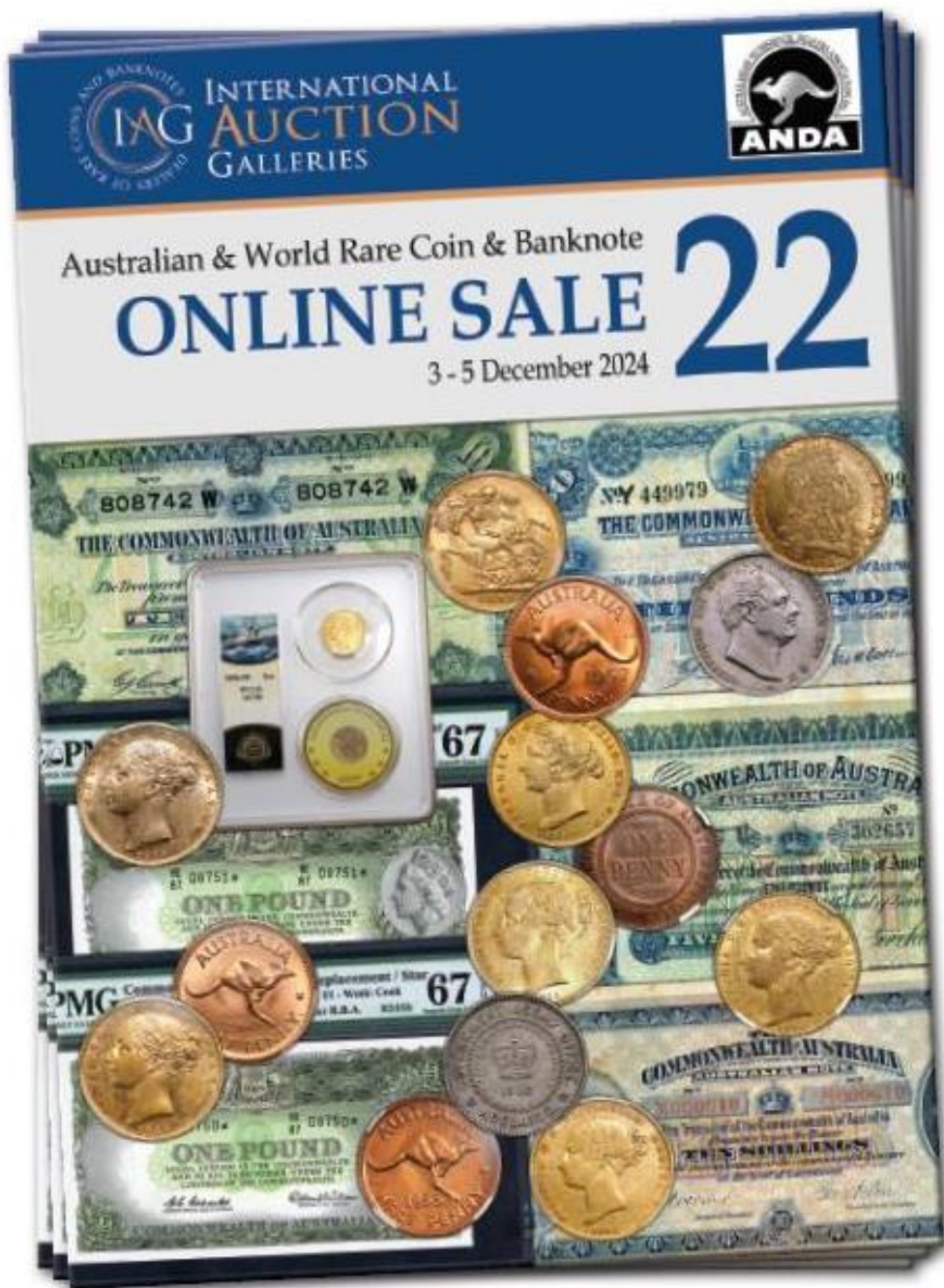


An ancient Greek Athens (449-413BC) tetradrachm (17.2gms) with head of Athena facing right wearing ivy crested helmet, the reverse with owl standing to the right, olive twig and crescent behind AQE in incuse sold for \$687.

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**3 day live online auction • 3rd - 5th December 2024**

## International Auction Galleries December Auction

International Auction Galleries online auction number 22 will run from the 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Some of the highlights include



A 1921 Melbourne Mint sovereign graded by PCGS as MS62. The entire mintage was shipped overseas (and most melted) to pay war debts and very few have survived. Indeed PCGS have graded just 13 of this issue. This is estimated at \$28,000–\$30,000.



A 20<sup>th</sup> century cast restrike of an Adelaide £5 in silver by J. Payne with an estimate of \$7500–\$8000. This coin is ex Nobles March 2023.



A high grade 1852 Adelaide pound type II in aEF/EF — estimate of \$28,000–\$30,000.



A proof 1950 Perth penny graded by NGC as PF64. Proof coins of this period are far scarcer than the commercial 1955–1963 proofs. John Sharples estimates that the mintage of the 1950 Perth proof penny is between 8 and 15 coins. Estimate \$10,000–\$12,000.



More common are the 1934 proof issues with estimates of 50 sets struck. IAG are offering a complete set of the silver proofs as individual lots. All coins have been graded by NGC: the sixpence in PF65 and the other three coins in PF64. Estimates for each coin are around \$10,000–\$12,000.



A 1957 (Perth) proof penny graded by PCGS as PR68 RD. This is the more common type with matte fields and a polished design, but it is far from common in this grade. This is the sole highest graded example of this issue and has an estimate of \$20,000–\$22,000.



Also the single highest graded and with the same estimate of \$20,000–\$22,000 is the 1960 Perth halfpenny in PCGS PR69 RD: an astounding grade for a predecimal proof bronze coin.



Finally we have a 1930 penny described as “with a few light obverse scratches .... else about fine” with an estimate of \$20,000–\$22,000.

All photographs are courtesy of International Auction Galleries. **The next auction run by International Auction Galleries will be the Signature Auction 101 in March.** Consignments are still being taken as of the 20<sup>th</sup> November.



## The \$2 Market Report for November



Due to the November issue becoming the December issue, we have added three months of sales data to our graphs. Where we have more than a full year of sales results, we have restricted the graphs to just the last 12 months.

In the last three months we have seen a slight pickup in sales price of the 2022 C mintmark red poppy and the 2023 silver proof Vietnam. Average prices have decreased over the last year for most \$2 coins.

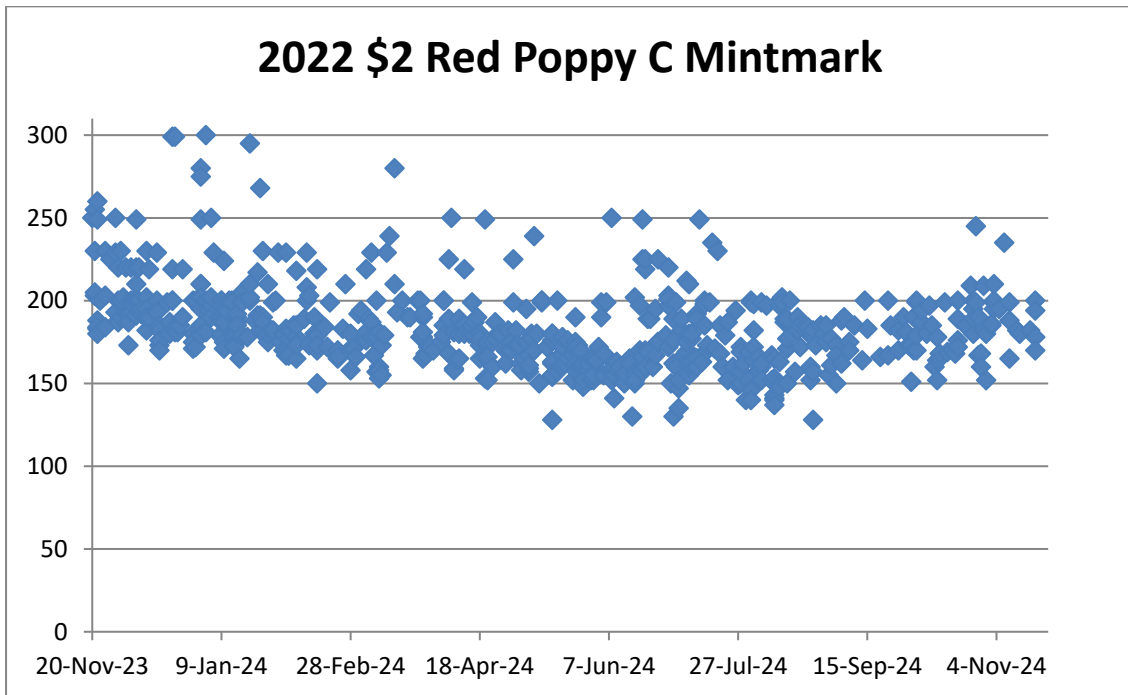
The number of sales per month over the last three months (23<sup>rd</sup> August to 22<sup>nd</sup> November) and the number of eBay listings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November are given in Table 1. Comparing this period with the previous reporting period, the number of sales has decreased substantially (by about a factor of 2) for the 2022 Red Poppy C Mintmark, gone up from 5 to 13 per month for the 2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark, but stayed substantially the same for all other coins. The number of listings is up by about 20% for the 2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze and the 2023 \$2 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Set, down by about 20% for the 2022 \$2 Red Poppy C Mintmark and little changed for the others.

Coin	Sales Per Month	Number of Listings
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	4	43
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	43	87
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	13	19
2013 \$2 Coronation	23	46
2022 \$2 Red Poppy C Mintmark	33	173
2023 \$2 Vietnam Proof	9	44
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	50	221
2023 \$2 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Set	38	239

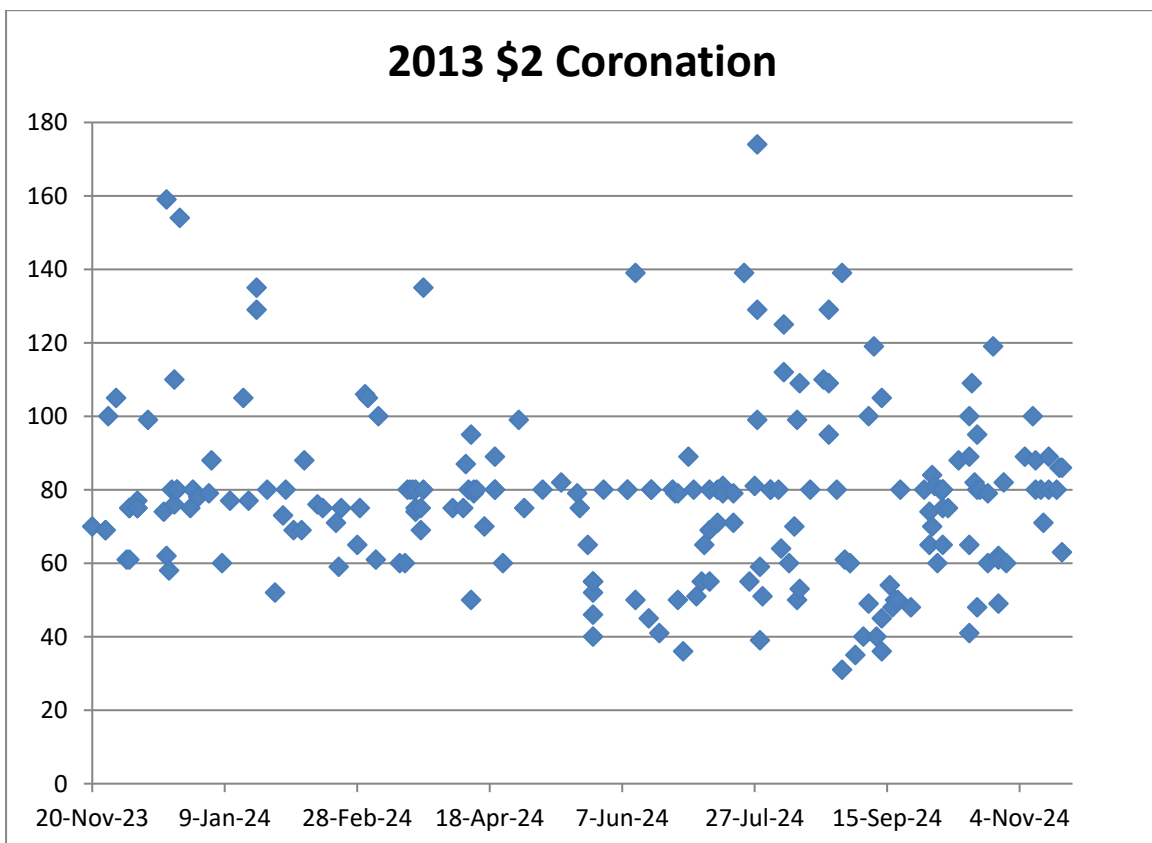
*Table 1. Sales per month on eBay in the three months 23rd August to 22nd November, and number of listings on the 22nd November. Note that although the asking prices on some of the listings are somewhat optimistic they have still been included in the "Number of Listings".*

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

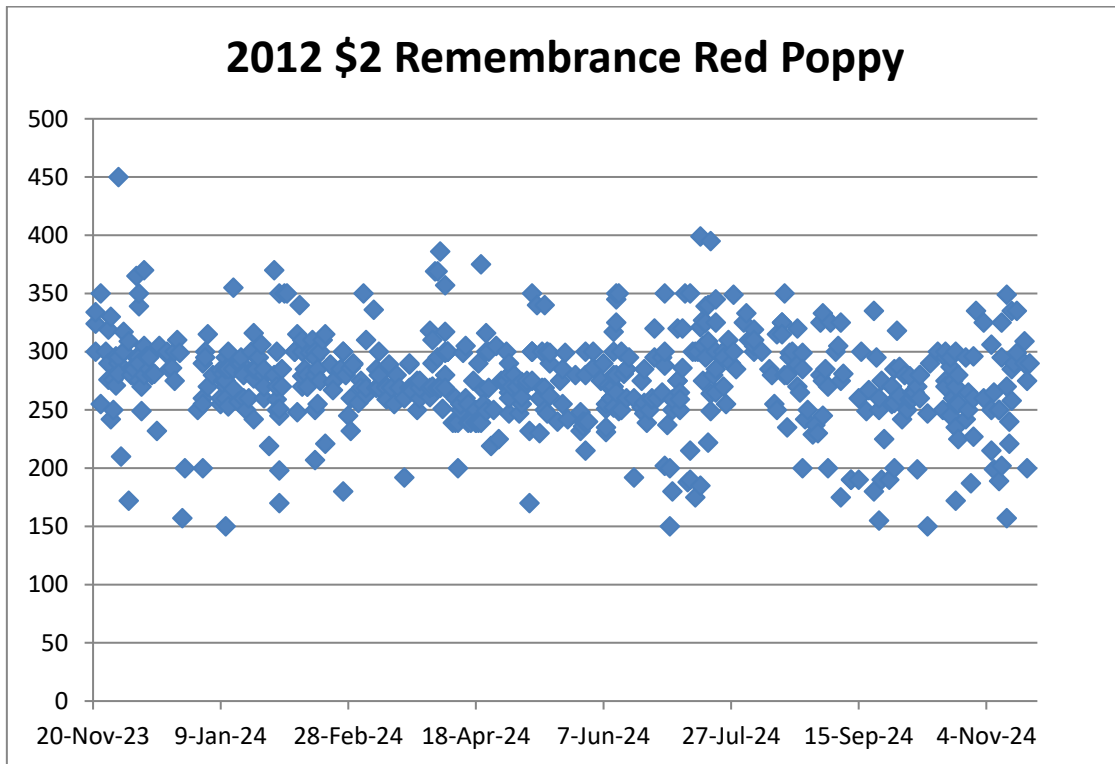
dishonoured was removed. Sales that appear to have been achieved by shill bidding were also removed. PCGS graded coins were not included, nor were listings that included multiple items and bulk lots.



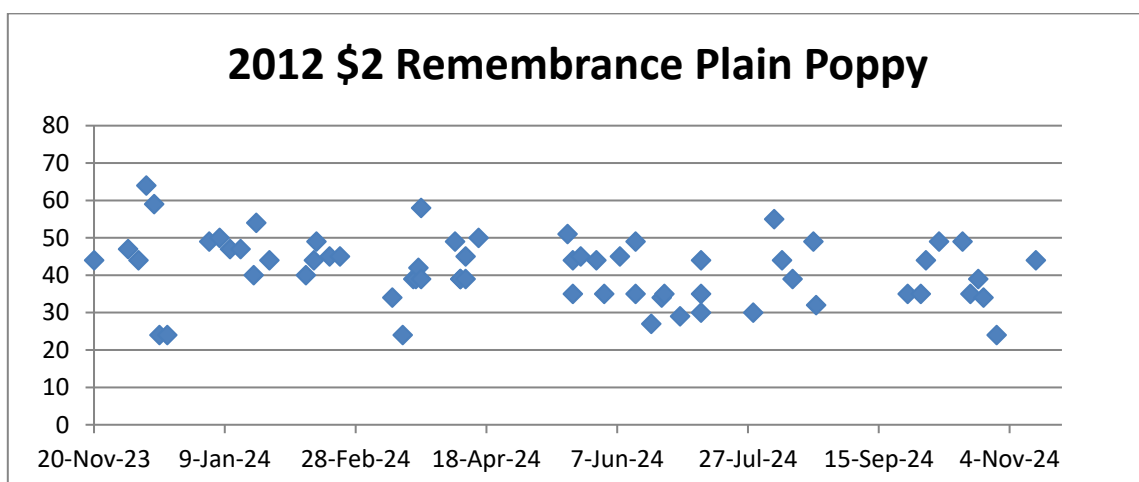
Despite the clear upward trend over the last four or five months, recent prices (around \$180–\$190) are still well down on 12 months ago.



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 of about \$80 per coin is similar to that of 12 months ago.

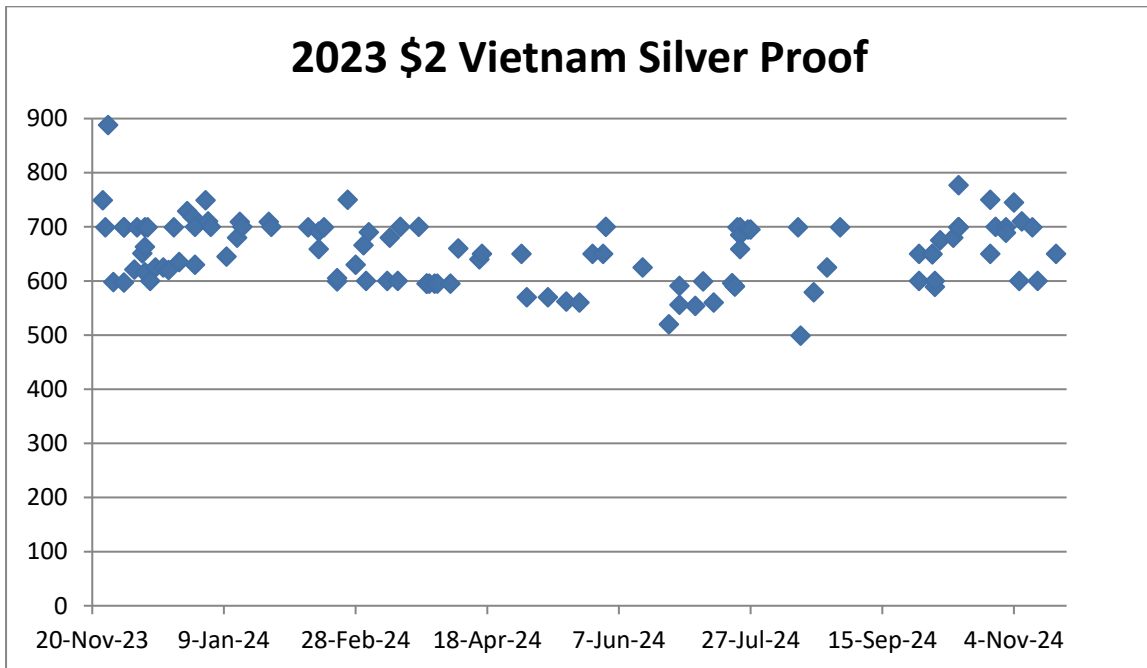


The data includes only uncirculated coins without paint chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers’ descriptions of coins as “uncirculated” are more reliable than those of coins such as the 2012 \$2 Plain Poppy and 2013 \$2 Coronation. While there is considerable scatter in the data, average prices appear to have dropped from roughly \$300 to \$250 over the last year.

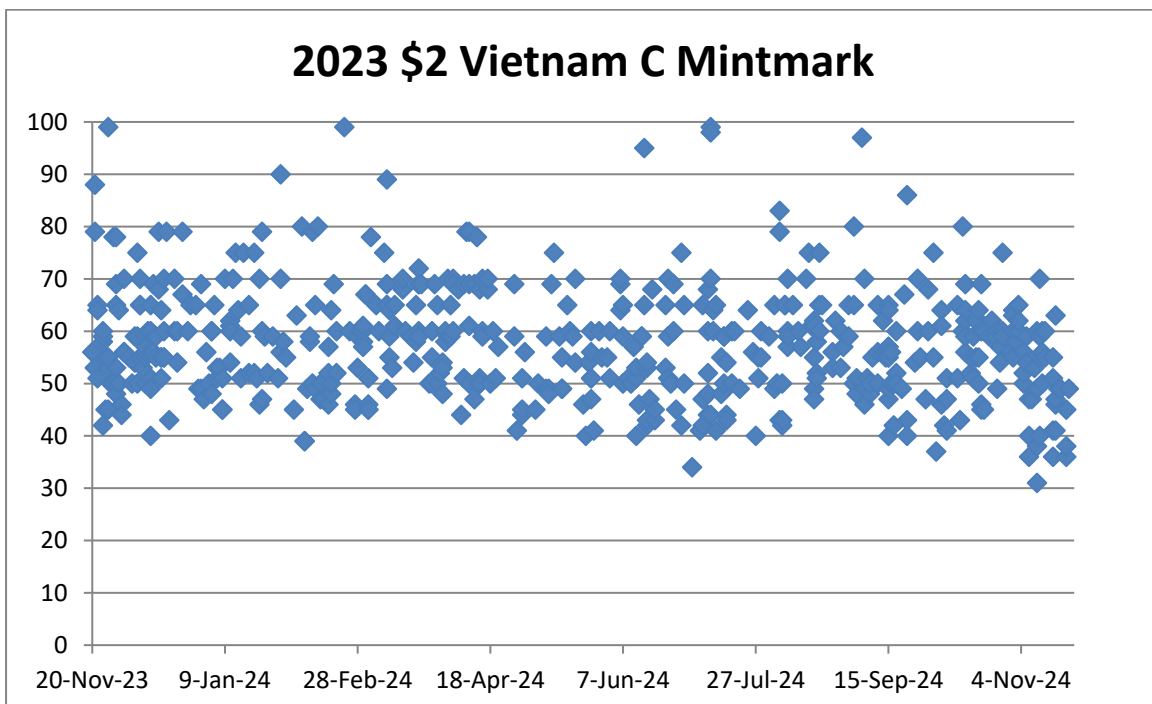


The data includes only those described as “uncirculated”, with coins that are obviously polished removed. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated and there were just 11 sales in the last three months. The average price in that period appears similar to the previous two months and is perhaps a little lower than 12 months ago. As the Plain Poppy is much scarcer in uncirculated than

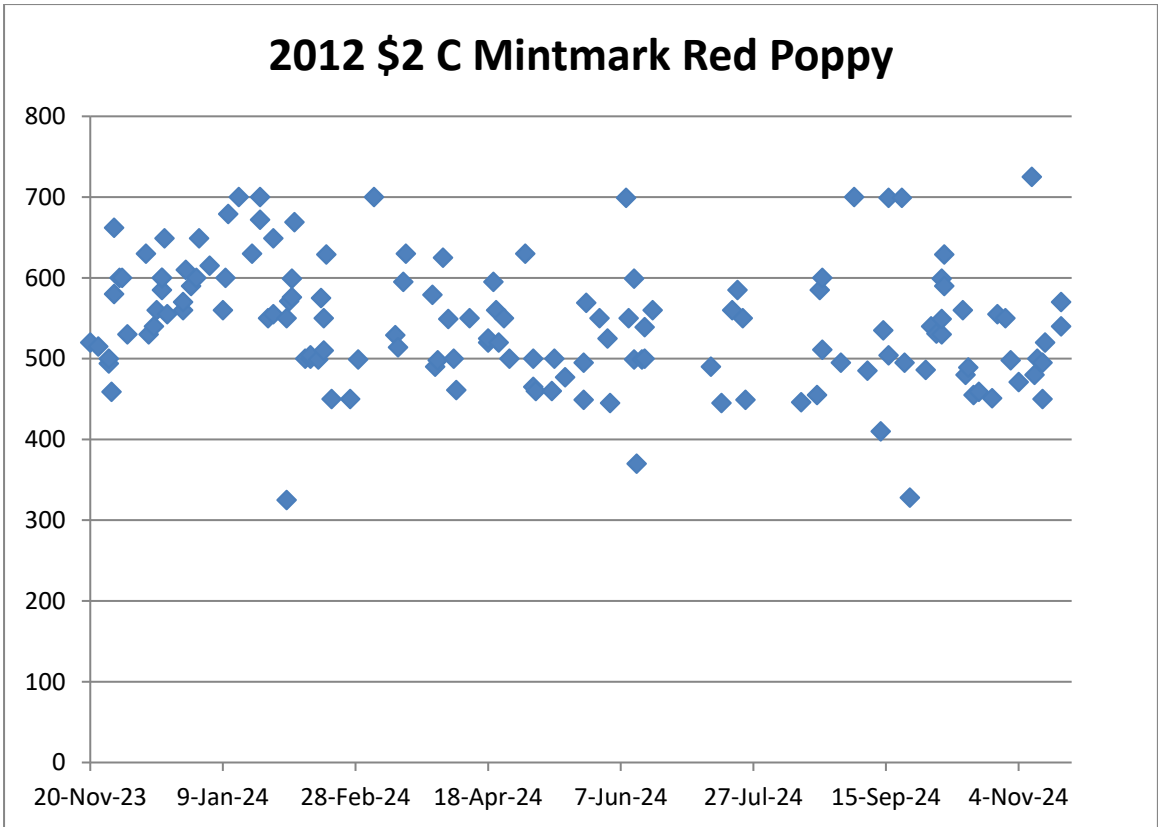
the Red Poppy, the current price of under \$50 is anomalously low compared with that of the coloured version. It is noticeable however that the sales price of these coins in cards such as those made by Downie’s are much higher (typically \$150+) than those sold loose.



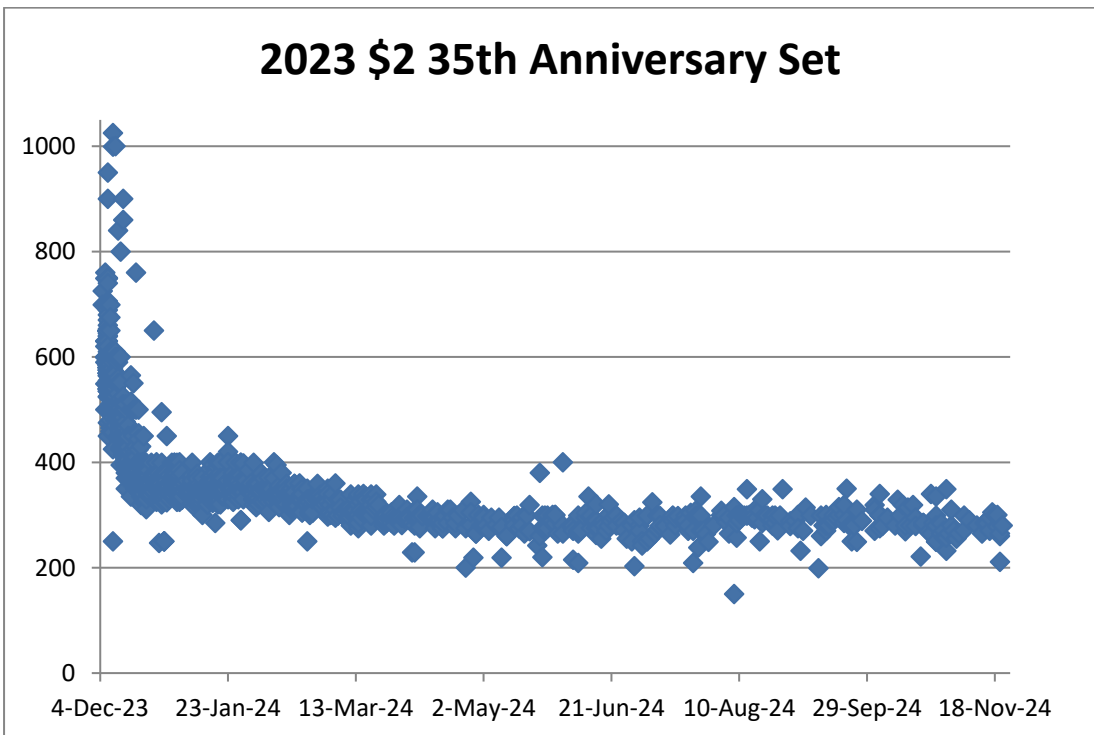
An increase in sales prices over the last few months has seen these coins selling for about the same as 12 months ago.



The rate of eBay sales has remained steady over the last few months while the number of listings has increased by about 20%. This matches a corresponding price decrease over the last few months.



Once again, prices are now somewhat lower than they were twelve months ago, with the average price a little more than \$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.



The 35<sup>th</sup> 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 under \$300 on eBay. While there was a slight price increase from June to August, the last three months have seen a decline so that sales prices are only roughly 10% above issue price.

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

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## News in Brief

### Shields Stamps & Coins Close Their Retail Shop



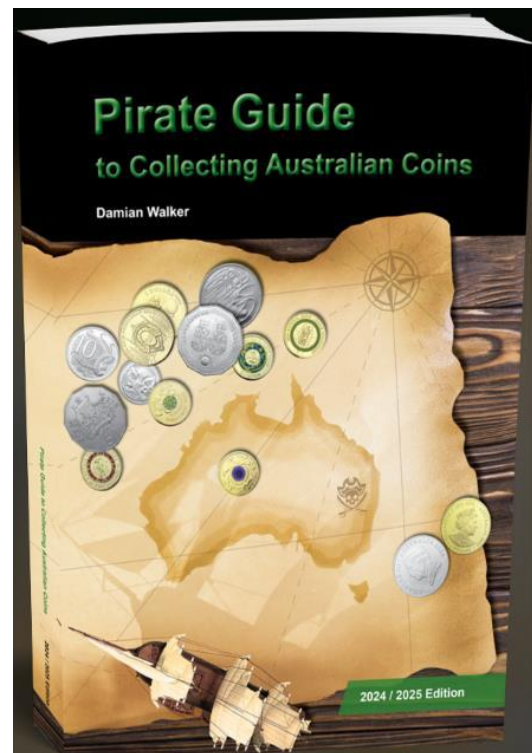
While they have closed down their retail outlet, Shields will still be trading by appointment from Suite 21, 20 Enterprise Drive Bundoora. Their old phone number of 03 94595953 will be operational from around 10<sup>th</sup> December onwards. Until then, they can be contacted on 0430129472.

After they closed for the final time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November Tony Shields posted "*As normal I didn't leave the shop until 8 pm. Two customers came in 5 minutes before closing. Peter Sellar and Emily Collier were our first customers 46 years ago, and Ian and Matthew were our last customers tonight. Thanks to them and the tens of thousands of customers around the world who traded with us in the meantime. We are probably the only dealers in the world to have done business in person, on all 7 continents. We will continue to serve collectors online, face-to-face in our office by*

*appointment, and at stamp and coin shows around the world, backed by 55 years of experience in the trade."*

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### New Edition of the Pirate Guide



Damian Walker has reported that a new edition of the Pirate Guide to Collecting Australian Coins has been released. It includes all circulating 2024 dated Royal Australian Mint coins. Further details can be found on the Australia Coins website at <https://www.australiacoins.com.au/>

## Bluey Theft Update

63,000 Bluey coins were stolen from a warehouse in Western Sydney in June. Two people were arrested soon after the theft and most of the coins were still missing. On the 30<sup>th</sup> October, a third person, a 27 year old woman, was arrested and 40,061 of the stolen coins were found in a locker. Roughly 2/3 of the coins have been now been recovered.

Source: ABC News, "Police locate more than 40,000 missing Bluey coins as woman becomes third person to be charged", <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-30/nsw-bluey-coins-recovered-third-person-arrested/104535960>



Photograph courtesy of New South Wales police.

## United States Coin Redemption Program Ends

The United States Treasury will no longer require the United States Mint to redeem bent, damaged and mutilated coins. The Mutilated Coin Program will end due to the expense of counterfeit checking required for the huge volume of damaged coins submitted, mostly by overseas recyclers.

This appears to be a worldwide trend. The Royal Australian Mint will only redeem mutilated coins for scrap value, not face value. This change was made several years ago for the same reasons as the changes about to occur in the United States.

## Sources:

Coin World "Time, expense lead U.S. Mint to stop coin redemptions" by Paul Gilkes 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2024: <https://www.coinworld.com/news/us-coins/time-expense-lead-u-s-mint-to-stop-coin-redemptions>

Royal Australian Mint Guide to Worn and Mutilated Coins: [https://www.ramint.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018/policy/worn\\_and\\_mutilated\\_coin\\_handling\\_guide.pdf](https://www.ramint.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018/policy/worn_and_mutilated_coin_handling_guide.pdf)

## Mint of Finland to Close Down

The Mint of Finland will close in Spring 2025 after completing current orders. On the 28<sup>th</sup> August it was announced that

*"The Board of Directors of Mint of Finland Ltd. has made a decision on the voluntary termination of the company's business. The decision is based on global payment changes and weakened business conditions.*

*Responsible operation has been and still is important to the company. Mint of Finland is now focusing on completing the current customer and supplier commitments in accordance with the agreements, estimated by spring 2025, before closing down operations. The company will not submit any new offers or accept new orders."*

As well as striking coins for Finland, the mint has also recently struck coins for other countries including Mozambique, Guatemala and Colombia.

Finnish coins, business strikes and some commemoratives will be struck by the Helsinki Mint, a new venture by the Royal Dutch Mint.

## Sources:

Mint of Finland <https://www.rahapaja.fi/en/>  
Helsinki Mint <https://www.helsinkimint.com/>

# Pirate Guide to Collecting Australian Coins

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

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

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

**Australia Coins**

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Available from coin dealers,  
select bookstores and online at:  
[www.AustraliaCoins.com.au](http://www.AustraliaCoins.com.au)



## An Apology

I'd like to apologise to Gary Tate for leaving him out of the thank you list in the September issue. Gary very helpfully reviewed the two cent article in that issue.

## Thank You

Thank you to John Belcher for contributing the article on wrong planchets on decimal coins and Eric Eigner for the 1878-M St George sovereign variety. Thanks also to those who performed the peer reviews on articles: Rob Barat on the halfpenny article, and Mark Nemtsas on the 1923 halfpenny. 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.