

Independent Coin News



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

In this issue we look at the Hannibal head 8 reales (and holey dollar), pre 1955 proof coins (a collecting area not for the faint hearted), and John Belcher has contributed an article on Australian coins struck on foreign planchets. Included also are the usual features such as auction previews and highlights, new releases from the Perth Mint and the Royal Australian Mint, the \$2 Market Report and of course Coin Cat's answers to emails. Unfortunately we don't have an article this issue in our series for new coin collectors, however there is one planned for the April issue.

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

Dr Peter Andrews, editor, February 2025.

Cover: "Designing the Hannibal Head 8 Reales" 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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Hannibal Head Holey Dollar to be Sold



Figure 1. "Hannibal Head" holey dollar to be sold in February. Photograph courtesy of Australian Financial Review.

The finer of the two "Hannibal Head" holey dollars known to be available to collectors will be sold through Coinworks in February. The holey dollars were created in 1813 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie, in an attempt to stop coins leaving the colony, purchased 30,000 Spanish 8 reales and had the centres stamped out. Both the centre (the dump) and the annulus (the holey dollar) were counterstamped with values of fifteen pence and five shillings respectively. Given that the Spanish dollar traded at 5 shillings at the time, the government made a profit on the venture and, as the coins were worth only silver value outside the colony, relatively few were exported. Of the host coins for the holey dollars, some are rarer than others: one of the rarest being the "Hannibal Head". These were produced for just a few years by the Lima Mint.

In looking at the origin of the "Hannibal Head" 8 reales, we must go back to Europe at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. In 1808 Spain was in crisis. Firstly Ferdinand VII forced his father Charles IV to abdicate. Then two months later, Napoleon deposed and imprisoned Ferdinand and forced Spain to accept Napoleon's older brother, Joseph Bonaparte, as sovereign. This was not greeted with universal acclaim, particularly amongst the general populace. Uprisings were prevalent over the next four years. The continental mint in Madrid issued coinage with the obverse portrait of Joseph Bonaparte such as the 1809 IG Madrid 8 reales in Figure 2.



Figure 2. 1809 8 reales with Joseph Napoleon obverse. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Being on the other side of the world, the continental mints were able to show their displeasure. By maintaining the legend of "FERDINAND VII BY THE GRACE OF GOD", they refused to

acknowledge Joseph as ruler. While the Mexico City Ferdinand VII portrait shows little resemblance to later issues, the Lima portrait, known as the “Hannibal head” is clearly imaginary and most likely intentionally ugly (Figure 3). In 1813, Napoleon removed his troops from Spain, and freed Ferdinand VII from captivity. Ferdinand then ruled Spain during the tumultuous time when the Spanish colonies broke away. He died in Madrid in 1833.



Figure 3. Obverse of Lima “Hannibal head” 8 reales (left) and Mexico 8 reales (right). Photographs courtesy of Imperial Numismatics in Perth and Numista respectively.



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The Pre-1955 Australian Proof Coins



Figure 1. 1927 proof florin. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The “commercial proof coin” series is generally accepted to have commenced in 1955 when the Perth branch of the Royal Mint issued 301 proof halfpennies and pennies and the Melbourne branch 1200 proof threepences, sixpences and shillings. (No florins were issued in 1955.) In this article we will have a quick look at the earlier proof, specimen and specimen/proof coins. By necessity, this will be just an overview as an in depth analysis would involve considerable research.

Decimal collectors are familiar with the modern proof coins, coins with mirror fields and frosted high points. With rare exceptions, the early proof coins were not like that.

Before 1955, special coins were sometimes minted as proof of record coins, to give to dignitaries, at a special occasions such as opening (or closing) a mint. We can classify various types of “proof of record” coin.

Types of Early Proof or Archival Coins

Patterns

These are trial strikes intended to demonstrate how a new design actually appeared on a coin. An early example is the trial pieces for the Sydney Mint half sovereigns and sovereigns (Figure 2), dated 1853: two years before the first business strikes at the new Sydney Mint in 1855.



Figure 2. 1853 Sydney Mint pattern pieces in proof. Photographs courtesy of Heritage (ha.com).

Another example is the 1937 trial strikes of the Australian Commonwealth coins using the new reverses (penny, threepence, shilling and florin) that were adopted the following year.

Patterns exist also for designs that were never implemented, the best known being the 1919–1921 square pennies and halfpennies (Figure 3). These were trial pieces for smaller cupronickel coins

intended to replace the large bronze pennies and halfpennies. The project was eventually abandoned, but not before hundreds (at least) of trial pieces were made.



Figure 3. 1921 cupronickel square (kookaburra) penny pattern or trial piece. Photograph courtesy of Downie's Australian Coin Auctions.

Specimens



Figure 4. 1922 Perth specimen penny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Coins commonly called specimens were struck with normal (although superior) dies on a normal (although often specially selected) planchet. These were kept as coins of records or given to dignitaries. Examples of specimens include the 1922 Perth Mint penny in Figure 4, which may well be unique¹, a 1919 penny (although PCGS have certified it as a “proof”) and the 1911 pennies. We will talk more about the 1911 specimens later.

Specimen/proof



Figure 5. 1920 dot below bottom scroll penny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

These coins are similar to specimens but struck on polished (to some degree) planchets. Most of the early “proofs” fall into this category, including the 1920 dot below bottom scroll (with Indian obverse) penny (Figure 5) and the iconic proof 1930 penny.

Proof

These coins were struck by polished dies on polished planchets and differ from modern Royal Australian Mint proof coins in that the relief was not usually frosted. Examples include the 1955-1963 commercial proof coins as well as some earlier such as the 1927 Parliament House florin, 1934 full set of 6 coins, and 1935 bronze proofs.



Figure 6. 1935 proof halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

A 1935 proof halfpenny is shown in Figure 6. Notice how the surfaces are much more reflective than of the specimen/proof (Figure 5) and the specimen (Figure 4). It is also worth noting that this halfpenny is a superior example in that it is full mint red. Most of the early bronze proofs now qualify as red brown or brown.

Specimens, Specimen/Proofs and Proofs

In many (maybe most) cases the terms specimen, specimen/proof and proof are used interchangeably. Before the commercial proof era (1955 onwards), proof coins were generally struck as archival pieces for the mint itself or to gift to other mints and public institutions. Additionally they could be kept by the Mint Master himself or provided to friends or associates. There were also cases where private individuals financed the making of proofs. For example, Belinda Downie has stated that² *“It is acknowledged that British collector John G. Murdoch financed the striking of gold proofs at the Melbourne Mint during the 1890s. It is said that he provided his own gold coin blanks to the mint”*.

Gold Coins 1855–1931



Figure 7. Proof gold with frosted (left) and non-frosted relief (right). Photographs courtesy of International Auction Galleries and PCGS respectively.

There have been comparatively few years during which proof sovereigns and half sovereigns were manufactured. These coins range from specimen-like to proofs with mirror finishes (the 1911 sovereign on the right in Figure 7) to those with delicately frosted designs (the 1897 Melbourne Mint half sovereign on the left in Figure 7).

Edward VII

The first Australian silver coins were struck by the Royal Mint in London in 1910. Specimens are extremely rare. I've only ever heard of them appearing in one set, which also included a 1911 specimen halfpenny and penny.

George V

1911-1915 Royal Mint

There are few Royal Mint specimens known. We start by having a look at a specimen 1911 penny (coin on the left in Figure 8). At first glance it looks like an average uncirculated example with some remaining red lustre. On the right in Figure 8 we have a business strike 1911 penny with full mint lustre. Both of these coins have been graded by PCGS - the specimen as SP64RB and the business strike as MS65RD.



Figure 8. 1911 pennies – specimen (left) and business strike (right). Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

It is remarkable to find early Australian bronze coins full red. The coin on the right is almost certainly part of the hoard that Baldwins in London obtained from the Royal Mint at the time. These coins were made available to the public late last century. They still had a few left when I visited in 2001.



As specimen coins are intended to be a showpiece, the coins are normally struck from brand new dies. Let's examine the differences between these two coins (Figure 9). Firstly, the pearls along the base of the band (red arrows) are barely visible on the business strike but fully defined on the specimen. Secondly, the pearls and diamonds (green arrow) and ear also have sharper outlines on the specimen. This tells us that the dies which struck the business strike coin had seen some use.

The denticles, rim and edge of the coin also highlight the differences

Figure 10. Rims of specimen (left) and business strike (right) 1911 pennies. See text for detail.

between business and specimen strikes. While the denticles on both coins are perfectly formed, the rim of the specimen is square, whereas the inner part of the rim of the business strike shows some rounding (red arrow in Figure 10). The strike of the specimen is strong enough that metal has been forced up between the rim and collar forming a tiny rim extrusion (green arrow in Figure 10). We do not see this on the business strike. (You can on occasions have rim extrusions on business strikes and rim extrusions are often missing on specimens and proofs so they are not always a good method of identification). As to the rarity of the 1911 specimen penny, they are extremely rare with just two having been auctioned in the last couple of decades³. There is also a third coin that is part of the 1910 and 1911 specimen set.

An unusual 1911 specimen is the threepence which, rather than having the plain edge normally associated with these coins, has edge milling (Figure 11). This coin, which he described as a “matte proof” once resided in the collection of the late Jon Saxton.



Figure 11. Matte proof or specimen 1911 threepence with edge milling. Image courtesy of triton.vg.

1914-1915 Heaton Mint

At various times the Royal Mint outsourced some coin production to the Heaton Mint in Birmingham. The Heaton Mint struck halfpennies in 1912, 1914 and 1915, pennies in 1912 and 1915, shillings in 1915 and florins in 1914 and 1915. Proofs exist for the three silver coins, but only one or two are known for each (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Proof 1915H florin ex Parkhill collection. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

1916—1918 Calcutta

With the risks in shipping coins from Britain during World War I, the Royal Mint outsourced Australian bronze coin production to the mint in Calcutta. Proof coins were produced in 1916 and specimen coins were produced for all three years. The specimen coins appear to have been reserved for distribution to collections or dignitaries⁴.

The Royal Mint provided new tools for the penny production in India. New obverse (Indian obverse) and reverse (Calcutta reverse) master dies were made with flatter tables⁵. This results in flatter fields, and early strike coins intended for circulation can sometimes appear proof or specimen like (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Specimen (left) and specimen-like (right) 1916 pennies. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

Both coins have flat reflective fields, so how do we know that the coin on the right is not a specimen? Once again we look at details on the base of the crown (Figure 14) and the rim (Figure 15), the top of the N in ONE and the right hand side of the upper scroll (Figure 16).



Figure 14. The area at the base of the crown on a business strike (left) and a specimen (right) 1916 penny.

As we saw for the 1911 dated coins, the pearls along the bottom of the band are well defined for the specimen and mostly missing for the circulation strike (Figure 14). The rim of the specimen (Figure 15) is square whereas that of the business strike is rounded.



Figure 15. The rim of a business strike (left) and specimen (right) 1916 penny.

The high design of the Mackennal effigy on George V requires a high striking pressure to fill the cavities of both dies and create a perfect reproduction of the intended design. Specimen coins are struck hard enough to do this (and sometimes they are struck more than once); business strike coins generally not so. The top of the N on ONE and the right hand part of the scroll on both pennies and halfpennies are the areas that first show evidence of any strike weakness. Our business strike penny (left in Figure 16) shows weakness in this respect but the specimen (right hand side of Figure 16) does not.



Figure 16. Evidence of the strength of the strike. Weakness at the top of the N on the 1916 business strike (left); no strike weakness on the specimen (right).

1916—1936 Silver Coins



Figure 17. 1916 Melbourne Mint specimen set. Photograph courtesy of Sterling & Currency.

In 1916 the Melbourne Mint commenced production of Australian silver coins. Sixty specimen sets in blue felt lined cases (Figure 17) containing all four coins were presented to various dignitaries or sold⁶. In most cases the coins have since toned, but are, in many cases, spectacular coins.

Proof silver pieces were produced by the Melbourne Mint at various times during the 1920s. Records are scanty, however in all cases but for the 1927 Parliament House florin and the 1934 complete set, the mintages are believed to be in single figures.

1927 Parliament House Florin

With good reason many consider the 1927 Parliament House florin to be one of the most attractive circulating coins Australia has produced (Figure 18). Because it was our first commemorative, a number of proof coins were produced. Mint records indicate the manufacture of 400 coins but it is commonly believed that a large number remained unsold. As of February 2025 PCGS have graded 21 proof Parliament House florins, 4 in PR67.



Figure 18. Proof 1927 Parliament House Florin. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

1919–1936 Bronze Coins

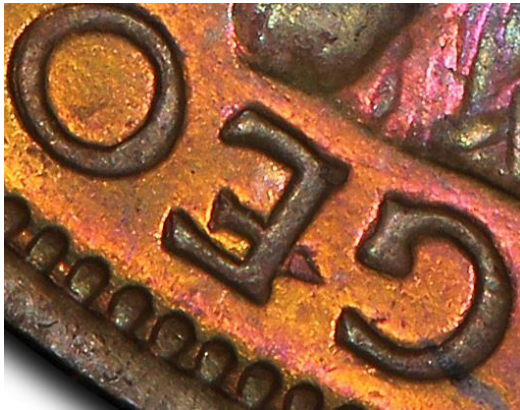
From 1919 –1933 and in 1936 just a handful of bronze proofs were produced. Due to lack of record keeping, the exact numbers are unknown, but certainly in single figures. One specimen penny, a 1922 with the Indian obverse, is known to have originated at the Perth Mint (Figure 4). The other coins were struck as “proof of record” coins or for dignitaries or collectors at the discretion of the mint master.

Proof coins exist for the key date 1923 halfpenny and the 1930 penny. Just two examples of the 1923 halfpenny appear to exist, one of which now resides in the Museum of Victoria⁷ (Figure 19). The other coin is available to collectors. It was first auctioned by Noble Numismatics in July 1998 and again in November 1999. It achieved a hammer price of \$81,000 in 1998 and \$75,000 in 1999.



Figure 19. Proof 1923 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of the Museum of Victoria.

There are six known proof 1930 pennies: one in the Museum of Victoria, one at the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia, and four are in private hands. The proof coins all have a tiny die chip between the beads above the start of the F in COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA. This same die chip can be seen on some of the business strikes, indicating that the dies used to strike the proofs were also used for circulation pieces. (Perhaps it would be technically correct to describe the 1930 proof coins, and many others from that period, as specimen/proofs, however as they are always referred to as proofs we will give them that designation.)



The tiny die chip on the 1930 raises another important point — that not all of these proof coins were struck with absolutely perfect dies. For example the proof 1924 halfpennies have a die chip extending from the E of GEORGIVS on the obverse (Figure 20).

The reflectivity of the fields also varies as, while most issues appear to have been struck with non-polished dies so that the coin doesn't have a mirror finish, others such as the 1929 halfpenny and penny have such reflective fields that the dies used may have been polished.

Figure 20. Die flaw near E of GEORGIVS on a 1924 proof halfpenny.

The 1934 Set and the 1935 Bronze Coins

The 1934 Melbourne Mint proof sets were the brainchild of New Zealand collector Henry George Williams who guaranteed that all 50 sets that were produced would be sold, reputedly at 6 shillings and sixpence per set. (It appears that a couple of other sets were struck for the mint archives. One of these has now passed to the Museum of Victoria.) While some of these sets have been broken up over the years, many are still sold as full sets. Most of the bronze coins have toned to some extent but the odd one does turn up fully brilliant. Over time the tools to make new dies (hubs and transfer punches) deteriorate and some detail will be lost, on them and of course on all coins. This is most noticeable on the threepence. By 1934 the pearls and ornaments along the base of the band of the King's crown have disappeared, on both the business strikes and the proofs. Some of the proofs have a weak fourth set of pearls, possibly due to die fill despite the small number struck. The coin in



Figure 21 1934 proof threepence. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Figure 21 is one of those. In 1935 Mr Williams ordered 126 halfpenny and penny pairs from the Melbourne Mint. The level of detail on these coins is superb and they can be found with exceptional eye appeal (Figure 22). For this reason — and reason of cost — these are the coins I recommend you look at if you wish to have an example of a George V halfpenny or penny in your collection.



Figure 22. Proof 1935 halfpenny. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

George VI

1937 and 1938 Crown

The only 1937 dated Australian coin released into circulation was the crown. This was the first use of the George VI effigy and the first issue of an Australian crown. One hundred proof coins were made available to the public and a number of others, believed to be five, were kept at the Melbourne Mint or sent to other institutions. The same H.G. Williams who had been responsible for the 1934 and 1935 proof issues purchased 50 of the coins. Just 52 of the 1938 proof crowns were sold, a few at the time and others decades later.



Figure 23. Proof 1938 crown graded by PCGS as PR63. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

With their brilliant reflective fields, proof crowns are easy to pick. Unfortunately these coins often have hairline scratches, either from wiping immediately after being struck or lightly (and sometimes heavily) cleaned years later. For example PCGS have graded the coin in Figure 23 as PR63.

Another interesting feature on the proof crowns is the orb at the top of the crown. Figure 24 displays the orb of a 1937 proof (left) and that of a 1938 proof (right). The orb on the 1937 is quite strong although not perfect, whereas that on the 1938 is missing the centre of the design. This is normal on all 1938 crowns, and must have been due to a problem with the dated master die as it also occurs on all business strikes (and should not be confused with wear on the coin).

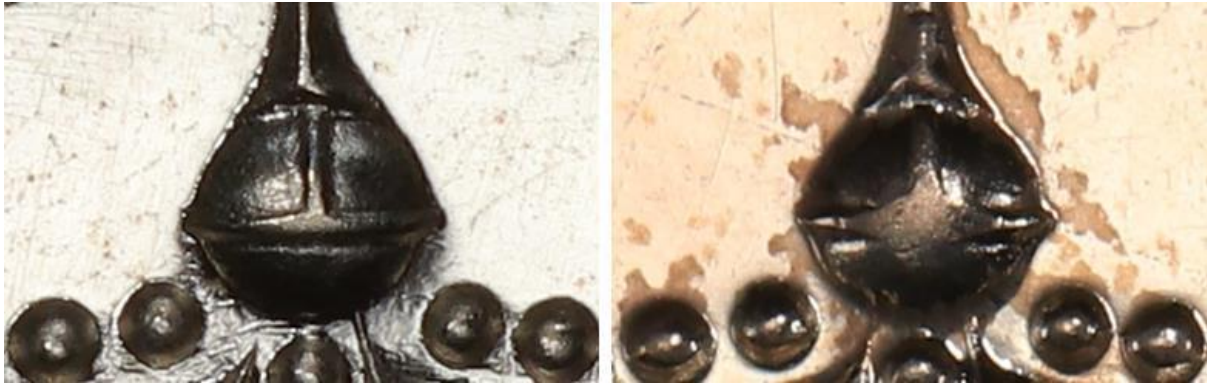


Figure 24. Orb of a proof 1937 crown (left) and 1938 crown (right). Note the weakness on the 1938 crown. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

1938 Set

100 proof coins of each denomination were struck during 1938. As the proof coins were done at the start of each production run, they were made available to the public (without much fanfare) at different times. Thus a set could only be put together one coin at a time. All 100 threepences were sold, 78 halfpennies, 94 pennies, 68 sixpences, 94 shillings, 80 florins and 52 crowns. These proofs are notorious for heavy die cleaning lines and, as in the case of the crown, for hairline scratches on the coins themselves (Figure 25). This was to be the last attempt to sell a complete set of proofs until 1955.



Figure 25. 1938 proof sixpence. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

1939 Kangaroo halfpenny



Figure 26. 1939 "roo" halfpenny in proof. Photograph courtesy of Numisbid.

After 1938 the Melbourne Mint produced few proof coins until the start of the 1955–1963 series. An exception to this was the 1939 halfpenny with the kangaroo reverse. The reverse designs were changed for the penny, threepence, shilling and florin in 1938.

During 1939 the new halfpenny design was finalised and production was commenced. A number of proofs were struck in Melbourne (and one in London which we discussed in the December 2024 issue⁸.) The number of proofs made varies from source to source. Numista⁹ states that 100 pieces were produced, but only 78 sold.

Melbourne Mint Specimens and Proofs 1940–1952



Figure 27. 1940 specimen shilling showing the scratch caused by poor handling. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

In 1941 a set of specimen coins were produced for a visitor to the Melbourne Mint. This set consisted of a 1940 threepence, 1940 sixpence, 1940 shilling and 1941 florin. These have been graded by PCGS as SP64, SP62, SP64 and SP61 respectively. In fact, they have been graded by PCGS twice, with the same result, as someone evidently thought they could get better grades by cracking the coins out of their slabs and resubmitting them. The PCGS population report now has duplicate entries for each of these coins.

Unfortunately these coins each received a serious deep scratch (Figure 27 shows the scratch on the shilling) or severe hairline scratches as they were carelessly removed from the containers in which they had been stored for decades, hence the low grades. (Photographs of all coins can be seen on the PCGS website. The scratches show up clearly on the threepence and shilling.)

In 1945 the Melbourne Mint did not strike pennies for circulation. However they did strike four proof coins. Some time after the closure of the Melbourne Mint these were transferred to the Museum of Victoria. One of these was sold off as a duplicate in around 1988, so there is just one available to collectors.

Proofs are also known of the 1947 florin (one available to collectors) and the 1952 penny (number uncertain but there is one in the Museum of Victoria collection).

Perth Mint Proofs

John Sharples, former numismatist at the Museum of Victoria, wrote an article in the Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia discussing the Perth Mint proofs up to the time of the "commercial" proofs¹⁰. I have reproduced his table of known Perth proofs below. The number in

each column is the number of coins recorded in the “numbers out” book; that in brackets is the number of coins that John Sharples is aware of. Clearly the “numbers out” book does not detail all the proof coins made by the mint. Most of the proof coins were sent to institutions (e.g. there are examples of most of these coins in the Museum of Victoria and some even on display in the Perth Mint visitor centre) with perhaps only a couple of each being sent directly to collectors.

Year	Halfpenny	Penny	Shilling
1940		5(1)	
1941		7(3)	
1942		8(11)	
1943		8(12)	
1944		8(12)	
1945	8(7)	8(11)	
1946	6(13)		4(6)
1947	8(13)	8(19)	
1948	14(18)	10(16)	
1949	10(16)		
1950	8(15)	8(15)	
1951	(8)	(14)	
1952	(16)	(15)	
1953	(20)	(20)	
1954		(15)	

Table 1. Proof coins from the Perth Mint. See text for details.

I need to make a few comments about this table. I have shifted the 1949 record of 10(16) pennies to the halfpennies column as no 1949 pennies were produced in Perth, but all 1949 halfpennies originate there. The 1951 halfpenny photographed in the Museum of Victoria collection is a “no dot” with obverse 5 type; i.e. it originates from the dies and master dies sent from London rather than those sent from Melbourne. The 1945 halfpenny photographed in the Museum of Victoria collection had a dot after HALFPENNY. From memory I have also seen proofs with no dot. The 1941 penny in the British Museum is a K.G, which Sharples describes as being “the worst proof he has ever seen”.



Figure 28. 1945 Perth proof penny. Note the tiny dot above the G of KG which is also found on some business strikes. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Most of the other proofs are of somewhat better quality than the 1941 K.G penny, however these early proofs do look crude by modern standards. We often find that one or both dies of the proof coins were also used for the business strikes. For example the tiny dot above the G in KG of the proof 1945 Perth penny in Figure 28 appears to match a 1945Y penny “variety”.

1951 Royal Mint Proofs

In 1951 the Royal Mint undertook the production of some Australian halfpennies, pennies, threepences and sixpences. Even though some of the production was outsourced to the Heaton Mint in Birmingham all coins carried the PL mintmark. Some 10–20 proofs of each denomination were produced. These coins were of exceptional quality; unfortunately some have been mistreated or poorly stored over the years. Even so superior pieces such as the threepence in Figure 29 occasionally appear on the market.



Figure 29. 1951 PL threepence in proof, graded by NGC as a proof 66. Photograph courtesy of International Auction Galleries.

1942-1943 Bombay Proofs



Figure 30. 1942 Bombay penny proof restrike. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

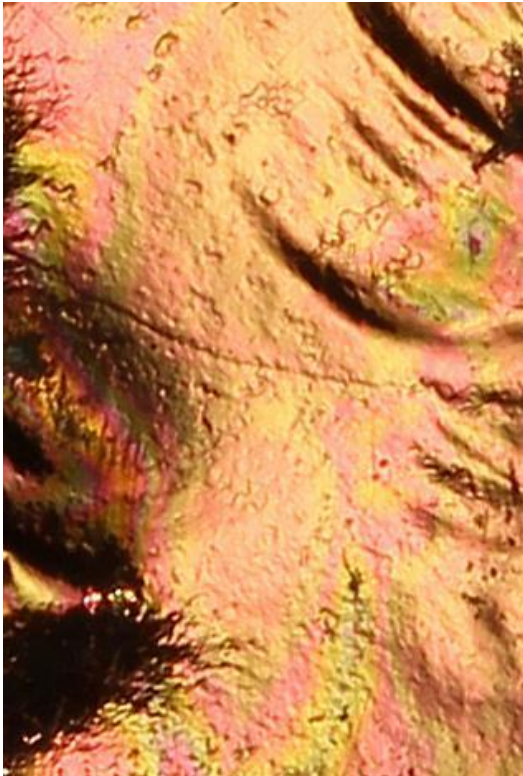


Figure 31. Closeup of Figure 30 that shows die rusting. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Halfpennies and pennies were struck in Bombay in 1942 and 1943. No proof coins were struck — at least until the 1964 when some proof restrikes were made (Figure 30). The number struck is not known. Soon after the availability of the coins became known, the Australian Government requested an end to the enterprise as permission had not been given for these coins to be made.

Close inspection of the coins reveals that they were struck with refurbished rusted dies and the coins had been lacquered. Figure 31 is a close up of the region of Figure 30 just behind the king's eye. There is considerable pitting due to die rust having created tiny raised regions on the die.

An interesting feature of this set is that the 1942 halfpenny is of the scarcer long denticles variety. It is difficult to find examples of these coins that are still mint red; the coin pictured in Figure 30 is unusual in that regard.

Elizabeth II



Figure 32. Proof 1953 threepence. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Proof and specimen 1953 and 1954 coins from both mints are rare, with John Sharples estimating 20 of each of the three Perth bronze issues. Jaggards report that 12 sets of 1953 Melbourne proofs were minted, only 4 of which have appeared at auction¹¹. A proof 1953 threepence is shown in Figure 32. The Perth Mint proofs are much more readily available.

From 1955–1963 proof coins were available in commercial quantities.

No proofs are known to have been struck at the Melbourne Mint in 1964. A brilliant proof halfpenny and penny pair, somewhat similar to the Perth proofs pre 1957, was auctioned by Spink & Son in 1987. Apart from this pair, I have seen photographs of a proof 1964 Perth penny.

Conclusions

Because of time and space constraints this has only been a brief look at the fascinating pre 1955 proof coins. An in depth study of all issues would require considerable research and given the paucity of early official records may not be possible.

Before people point out the omission, I deliberately bypassed the Melbourne Centenary florin. I feel that further independent research is required into this coin as some of the claims I have seen are inconsistent with coins I have had the opportunity to inspect.

Given that all coins discussed in this article, unless badly impaired, are valued at many thousands or tens of thousands of dollars, I urge caution before blindly embarking upon a collection. As authenticity can be questioned, I suggest buying coins for which there is a money back guarantee. For example, NGC and PCGS graded coins are covered by their guarantee. Similarly the major auction houses such as Downie's, Nobles and International Auction Galleries will guarantee the coins sold by them. Of course there are also dealers who specialise in the early proof coins and higher end numismatic items.

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Rare Brutus Aureus Sells in Switzerland



A Roman aureus featuring Brutus on the obverse sold for 1.8375 million Swiss francs (about 3.25 million Australian dollars) at the Numismatica Genevensis SA December auction in Geneva¹.

Brutus is perhaps the best known of the assassins of Julius Caesar on the Ides of March, 44 B.C. The rationale behind the murder was to stop Caesar seizing absolute power after he had declared himself dictator for life. As Caesar had been a popular figure, public outrage resulted in Brutus fleeing Rome for northern Greece. Along with his fellow conspirators Brutus was defeated by Mark Antony and Octavian (later known as Augustus Caesar) at the battle of Philippi in 42 BC, after which Brutus committed suicide.

The obverse has a right facing portrait of Brutus with legend Brutus Imp(erator), which is a strange legend for a man who was supposedly against absolute power. The reverse shows a selection of military equipment such as shield, breastplate, spears and helmet on two prows and legend CASCA LONGUS (the moneyer Publius Servilius Casca Longus, one of the other conspirators of 44 BC).

Coins such as this were used to pay his troops. An aureus would have represented about a month's pay.

The coin up for auction was graded by NGC as AU. Only 17 of this particular type of gold aureus are known to have survived.

References

1. Numismatica Genevensis SA auction 20, 9th–10th December 2024, Lot 1032; <https://www.biddr.com/auctions/ngsa/browse?a=5211&l=6395759>

Photograph courtesy of Numismatica Genevensis SA.



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China Releases Year of the Snake Banknote and Coins

To commemorate the Year of the Snake in 2025, the People's Bank of China has continued its lunar series by releasing from the 16th December 2024 a 20 yuan banknote and a 10 yuan bimetal coin into circulation¹.



The front of this attractive banknote features a snake and the national emblem of the People's Republic of China; the back features children putting up Spring Festival couplets, with residential buildings in north China's Shanxi Province in the background, flowers and legends in Mongolian, Tibetan, Uyghur, and Zhang.

The banknote measures 145 mm x 70 mm and is printed on a polymer substrate with intaglio printing and several security features.

The obverse of the coin features the name of the bank, the face value of 10 yuan, patterns of flowers and other elements. The reverse shows a snake image, patterns of a lamp and ginseng, a herb in traditional Chinese medicine.



At the time of writing the face value of the coin is about AU \$2.20 and that of the banknote about AU \$4.40. A quick glance at eBay shows that these coins and banknotes are selling for roughly five to ten times face value, with original rolls of 20 coins also available. The 2024 Year of the Dragon coins and banknote release generated a “feeding frenzy” similar to what we have seen in Australia when new releases attract speculators. I haven’t seen any media reports in journals such as the South China Morning Post concerning queues at banks for the Year of the Snake issues.

As is the common practice of central banks around the world, China has also issued a pair of commemorative precious metal coins, one in gold and one in silver. The gold coin weighs 1 gram and the silver coin 8 grams. The obverses both feature traditional Chinese elements symbolising happiness and blessings. The reverse of the gold coin shows the character Fu (“good fortune”) as well as persimmons, and bat patterns. The reverse of the silver coin shows a child looking out of the window, and a cat.



Reference

1. People’s Daily Online, <http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1211/c90000-20252525.html>

All photographs courtesy of the People’s Bank of China.

Recent Perth Mint Releases

The Perth Mint did not release any coins in December, but have released a number of coins in January.

Year of the Snake Coins

More Year of the Snake coins were released, most with similar or identical designs to the coins produced late last year. An exception is the coin below.

Year of the Snake ½ ounce silver Fu Prosperity Coin

The Fu character (large and to the left of the stylised snake) symbolises prosperity and the floral design represents renewal and growth. This coin has a face value of 50 cents. It seems to be sold out at the Perth Mint as of the 21st January but some dealers still have it in stock.



The Perth Mint use “standard” designs for the Year of the Snake coin in different metals. This “standard” design may be partly coloured or gilt for some issues.

The **Year of the Snake three coin silver 1 ounce set**. These coins have the standard

silver design in proof, coloured and gilded. Each coin has a face value of \$1.



Year of the Snake 1 ounce silver proof high relief

Year of the Snake 1 Kilogram Silver Coloured Coin with Gold Privy Mark

These two have standard designs; the one ounce a face value of \$1, the 1 kilo a face value of \$30.

The **Year of the Snake 2 ounce silver antiqued coin** has a slightly different design to the other silver Year of the Snake coins.



The coin has a face value of \$2. As of 28th January it was still available from the Perth Mint at issue price of \$289.

Year of the Snake 1 ounce Gold Proof Coloured Coin. This coin has the “standard” Year of the Snake design for gold coins, with a coloured snake. The face value is \$100.



Year of the Snake 1 ounce Platinum Proof Coin. The platinum coin has the same design as the standard year of the snake design for gold coins and also has a face value of \$100.

Year of the Snake aluminium bronze. With a face value of \$1 this was released in a pnc.



The coin has the same design as the standard silver Year of the Snake coins.

Kangaroo Bullion Coins

The mint uses the same design on all the gold kangaroos apart from the 1 kg. Similarly, the same design is used for all silver bullion kangaroos.

¼ ounce gold bullion kangaroo has a face value of \$25.



1 ounce silver bullion kangaroo has a face value of \$1.



1 kg gold bullion kangaroo has a face value of \$3000.



The Perth Mint also released the 2025 versions of three of their annual series.

Happy Birthday ½ ounce Silver Proof Coloured Coin. This coin has a face value of 50 cents and was released in a card at a price of \$89.



Newborn ½ ounce Silver Proof Coloured Coin. This coin also has a face value of 50 cents and was released in a folder at a price of \$92.



Wedding 1 ounce Silver Proof Coloured Coin. This coin has a face value of \$1 and was released in a box with a price of \$160.



Future Releases

The Perth Mint releases for February include

- Opal Lunar Series 2025 Year of the Snake 1 ounce Silver Proof Coin
- Year of the Snake Rotating Charm 2025 1 ounce Silver Antiqued Coin
- Australian Emu 2025 1oz Silver Coloured Coin
- Kangaroo coins in proof gold, two with high relief
- One Love 2025 1oz Silver Proof Coloured Coin

All photographs are courtesy of the Perth Mint.

Recent Royal Australian Mint Releases

RAM 60th Anniversary \$1 Coins

This year the annual “mintmark” \$1 coin celebrates the 60th anniversary of the mint itself. As of the end of January the C mintmark coins are only available from the visitor centre at the mint. Various counterstamps and privy marks will become available during the year.



Australian Open Tennis \$2 Coins

Six different \$2 coins have been released through Australia Post to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Australian Open tennis competition. There are two basic designs, one for the women’s tennis and one for the men’s tennis. Each design can be found with blue colouring, blue colouring and an envelope privy mark, and green colouring with an envelope privy mark. The non-privy mark coins are released in change from Australia Post outlets. The privy mark coins are available for \$12 each in a sealed packet; 1 in 10 of these have a green coloured coin.

Koala Bullion Coins

The Koala coins are 1 ounce silver (face value \$1) and 1 ounce gold (face value \$100). Both coins are of purity .9999. As bullion, of course the price for each is determined by the daily gold or silver price.



Mint website – “It is the perfect gift to mark birthdays, anniversaries, engagements, baby arrivals, graduations, new jobs, promotions and sporting achievements. This colourful uncirculated coin is a playful modern twist on Stuart Devlin’s iconic 50-cent piece design featuring our beloved kangaroo and emu.” The coin sells for \$17.50 RRP.

50 Cent Celebrations



I find it difficult to describe this coin so I will just quote the blurb on the Royal Australian

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

All photographs apart from the tennis coins are courtesy of the Royal Australian Mint.

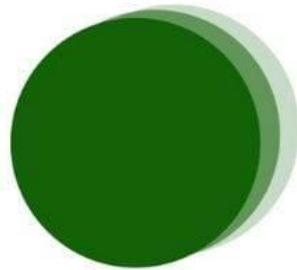
\$2 Tooth Fairy

The \$2 tooth fairy series has continued into 2025 with the coins once again being available in cards (through dealers) and in a kit (from the mint).



The cards sell for \$17.50 and the kits for \$30.

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

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

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



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



ARE YOU A SELLER?

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



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

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

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

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

Subject: RE: Collectables -

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

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

Hi Greg

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

The collection was a life-time accumulation that was left untouched in a tumbledown garage for many years. A leaky roof and a cosy home for generations of rats and mice is all that is needed to be said about the general condition of the collection. It took 18 months from the initial contact with the beneficiaries to work out what could be just cashed in at the bank, sold as bullion or given away to the grandkids. What was left was a staggering - and varied - collection
ooo000ooo

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

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I will answer your enquiry personally. Confidentially assured

Part 2 of the Mark Freehill Collection Sells at Nobles

Part 2 of the Mark Freehill Collection of British Commonwealth banknotes was auctioned by Noble Numismatics on the 25th–29th November 2024. Mark Freehill, who passed away in 2019, was a passionate collector of British Commonwealth coins and banknotes. The bidding was keen, with many of the lots vastly exceeding their estimates.



One of the surprising results, given it had an estimate of \$700, was the sale of a group of nine 1945 Military Administration of Burma banknotes, including specimens (some shown above) which realised a price of \$183,000. It was described as “one rupee (P.25b) (2); five rupees (P.26b); specimen set (P.25s, 26s), ten rupees (P.27s), one hundred rupees (P.29s), ten rupees (P.28) (2). Currency notes with pin holes, nearly uncirculated; specimen set uncirculated”.



A set of uncirculated 1881 specimen Oriental Bank Corporation (Colombo, Ceylon) of 5, 10, 50 and 100 rupees (1st January 1881, discordant serials prefix C, perforated specimen BWC London in 3 lines, pencilled 12 May on first two, 14 March on second two) sold for \$32,940 on an estimate of \$6,000.



A Government of India (British administration), 1937 provisional issue 100 rupees, only for use in Burma, described as "T/41 725040. Minor spike or spindle holes to left. 'U/R26 8 38' ink pad stamped in black vertically, otherwise good very fine and very rare" also achieved a price far exceeding the estimate of \$6000 with a final sale price of \$29,280.

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Rare Indian Reserve Bank Haj 100 Rupees Sells at Heritage



India Haj Pilgrim Issue 100 Rupees ND (1959) Pick R6 Jhunjunwalla-Razack 6.13.2.1 PMG Very Fine 30. Photographs courtesy of heritage (ha.com).

A rare 100 rupees banknote, issued by the Reserve Bank of India in 1959, was sold at Heritage's World Paper Money Signature auction on the 7th December for US\$26,400.¹

These banknotes were issued to Indian Muslims on a pilgrimage to Mecca. They were only redeemable in Saudi Arabia, where they could be exchanged for riyals (after which the note would be sent back to India by the Saudi banks). The Haj banknotes only differ from the normal 100 rupees in that they had the serial number prefix HA and were red in colour. Ten rupee banknotes, that were blue in colour, were also issued (see below).



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

These banknotes are rare as most were redeemed. In the item description Heritage say that at the time of cataloguing PMG have graded just 15 of these notes.

References

1. Heritage World Paper Money Signature auction, Hong Kong, 7th December 2024, lot 24249.

Coin Cat Answers Your Emails



Dear coin cat,

I have been collecting banknotes for the past 5 years.

Auctioneers and Dealers put their own gradings on banknotes without referencing whose criteria they are using.

I try and buy graded notes where possible because there is less than a 40 % chance that the seller will give the correct or even a close grading that are issued by PMG or PCGS.

I have asked auctioneers and dealers why their grades don't correlate. Often the answer is that PMG and PCGS can't grade paper Australian banknotes because they don't understand the intricacies of our notes.

I then challenged some dealers and asked what is the difference between EF and different AU grades (AU 53, 55, 58). Only one dealer could answer the question.

On a positive note only 2 Dealers in Australia would actually offer a refund or partial refund if the grade they sold the banknote at was incorrect.

Your thoughts on how we can get auctioneers and dealers onboard.

Cheers

Andrew

Dear Andrew,

Firstly a banknote is a banknote is a banknote. **If you can grade a banknote from one country you can grade a banknote from any country.** Secondly, I believe the key to your confusion is that you (and the people you have talked to) are trying to equate three different grading systems. The grading system that has commonly been used (and unfortunately abused) in Australia follows that put forward by the International Banknote Society (IBNS). This can be found online at https://www.theibns.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=25

Basically an uncirculated note is one without any teller flicks or centre folds (although the paper or polymer can be slightly wavy – many of the Australian polymers from around 2005-2013 were like this). A teller flick or light centre fold (but not both) drops the note to about uncirculated. A heavy centre fold or three light folds drops the note to extremely fine.

The PCGS grading standards can be found here: <https://www.pcgs.com/banknote/grades>.

There are substantial differences to IBNS. For example PCGS will still give a note with a teller flick an unc grade if it shows no sign of real circulation and their grade of AU53 is closer to IBNS extremely fine.

The PMG standards can be found here: <https://www.pmgnotes.com/paper-money-grading/grading-scale/>.

They are similar to PCGS although I have observed that they differ a little for the high uncirculated grades.

PCGS and PMG certainly can grade Australian paper notes. The graders at both companies have had considerable experience in grading **by their standards** and also much experience in detecting whether banknotes have been “fiddled with”, for example pressed, washed, repaired, trimmed, or whatever other tricks have been used to “improve” a note. It can be difficult to see problems such as flattened folds after the banknote has been encapsulated (Figure 1).

I hope this helps.

Coin Cat



Figure 1. Coombs Randall \$20 graded by PCGS as VF25 and encapsulated. Photograph courtesy of the Purple Penny.

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

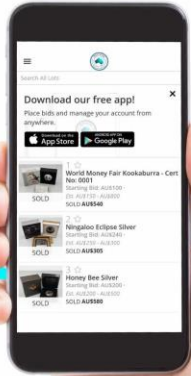


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Coins Minted on Foreign Planchets ... John Belcher



In a previous article I investigated the occurrences of Australian coins minted on incorrect planchets intended for Australian coins, whether of correct metal composition or off-metal. In this article we shall introduce an international flair to the collector's trove by investigating Australian coins minted on foreign planchets. Coins minted on foreign planchets cover all decimal denominations and range from the subtle to very significant deviations, not only in composition but also shape, such as the 2017 20 cent struck on a Cook Islands triangular planchet (Figure 1).



Figure 1. 2017 20 cent on a 6.8g aluminium bronze triangular planchet (Cook Islands). Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The incidence of Australian coins on foreign planchets goes back into the pre decimal series of Australian Coin. Kathryn Harris of the Purple Penny has reported a number of instances of the 1943 shilling and 1944 threepence being minted on USA nickels and dimes respectively. This occurred at the mint in San Francisco, identified by mintmark, which was producing Australian silver coins at that



Figure 2. 1944 S Shilling on a US 5c war nickel planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

time. Blanks destined for US coins contaminated the coin hoppers for the Australian coins, have been subsequently been minted and found their way back to Australia (Figure 2). The humble halfpenny also makes an appearance; one example minted in London appears on a brass planchet instead of a bronze planchet (Figure 3).

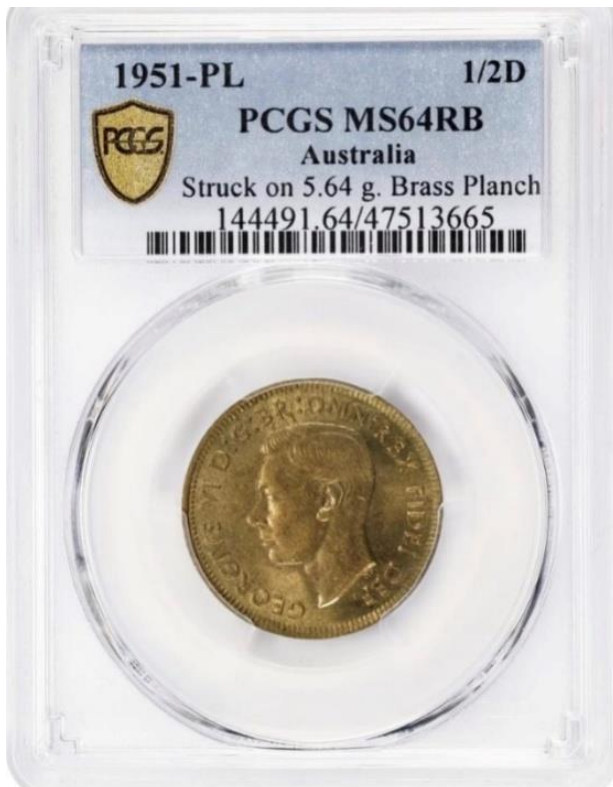


Figure 3. 1951PL halfpenny on a brass planchet. Photograph courtesy of Brendan Hui.

To understand the incidence of Australian coins on foreign planchets one must delve into not only the minting process, where the contamination may have occurred, but also into what mints are involved. Australian coins have been produced at a number of mints around the world. These mints of course also produce coins for their own country and often for others. Each denomination of a particular coin is of size and composition stipulated by the issuing country. As an example, the Australian 1966 20 cent on a Bahamas 25 cent planchet (Figure 4) was minted at the Royal Mint, London. In 1966 the Royal Mint was producing coins, not only for Australia but also the Bahamas. Contamination of the planchets occurred and the Bahamas 25 cent, being of a smaller diameter, fitted into the collar die and was subsequently minted.

Table 1 gives a comparison of these coins' technical specifications, the difference being in the weight, diameter and composition.



Figure 4. Australian 20 cent struck on Bahamas 25 cent planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

Specifications	Australia	The Bahamas
Queen	Elizabeth II	Elizabeth II
Type	Standard Circulation Coin	Standard Circulation Coin
Years	1966–1984	1966–1970
Value	20c	25c
Composition	75% Copper, 25% Nickel	100% Nickel
Weight	11.31g	6.9g
Diameter	28.52mm	24.26mm
Thickness	2mm	2mm
Shape	Round	Round
Technique	Milled Edging	Milled Edging
Orientation	Medal Alignment	Medal Alignment

Table 1. Specifications of Australian 20 cent and Bahamas 25 cent. Data courtesy of Numista.

In 1981 the Royal Mint at Llanstrisnant, Wales produced some 50 million 20 cent coins for Australia and also minted coins for Hong Kong, including the \$2 coin which had a scalloped edge. Yes, you guessed correctly, some found their way into the Australian batch of planchets and were subsequently minted as Australian 20 cent coins – an impressive coin and one not easy to miss (Figure 5).

Australian mints have also, at various times, produced coins for other nations utilising blanks nominated by a particular country. On occasion stray blanks or planchets have found their way into the coining chamber and become minted as an Australian coin. One such example is shown in Figure 6, a 2016 10 cent struck on a 3.6g nickel plated steel planchet. This coin is magnetic. The Royal Australian Mint was producing coins for a number of Pacific Island nations and this planchet is believed to originally have been intended for a Tongan 20 Seniti coin.



Figure 5. 1981 20 cent struck on Hong Kong \$2 planchet. Photograph courtesy PCGS.



Figure 6. 2016 Australian 10 cent struck on a 3.6g magnetic planchet (Tongan). Photo courtesy of PCGS.

Another piece of the puzzle originates in South Korea at Poongsan Corporation who have been supplying blank planchets to Australia since 1997. This company now accounts for more than half of the world's supply of coin blanks. The composition of the coin blanks includes base metals such as brass, nickel, silver, aluminium and bronze, special alloys and also bi-metal compositions, and clad metal and stainless steel. With the sheer volume of coins produced it is therefore not surprising that, despite stringent quality control and safeguards, foreign planchets still find their way to Australia. Figure 7 is a spectacular example of a 2009 \$1 on a foreign bi-metal planchet. A full article on this coin and others has been penned by Mark Nemtsas and Kathryn Harris and is recommended reading.



Figure 7. 2009 \$1 on Bi Metal Bolivar planchet destined for Venezuela. Photo courtesy of Mark Nemtsas, Coin Collecting Blog.

Table of known Decimal Australian Coins minted on Foreign or suspected Foreign Planchets

Denomination	Year	Description
1 cent	1966	Struck on Aluminium Planchet — possible trial strike?
	1966	Struck on 3.14g Lead Planchet — possible trial Strike?
	1976	1c Proof on Fiji Silver Planchet
	1978	1c on 0.7g Aluminium Planchet
2 cent	1966	2c struck on Unknown 3.43g 21mm Planchet
	1971	2c struck on 3.08g, 1.0mm thick Planchet
5 cent	1976	Struck on 2.59g Foreign Planchet
	1993	5c struck on US 1c Planchet
	1994	5c struck on 1.7g, unknown, underweight Planchet
	1988	5c struck on 2.6g Foreign Copper Planchet
	2000	5c struck on Singapore 10c Planchet
10cent	1981	10c struck on Sri Lanka 50c Planchet
	1992	10c on wrong Planchet
	1994	10c on 7.83g Unknown Planchet
	1995	10c on 5g 23mm Planchet — possibly a Token
	2016	10c on 3.6g Tongan 20 seniti coin — Nickel plated Steel Planchet
20cent	1966	20c struck on Unknown 8.55g Planchet
	1966L	20c struck on Bahama's 25c Planchet
	1970	20c struck on Unknown 9.10g Planchet with 180 degree rotation
	1975	20c struck on Hong Kong Scalloped \$2 Planchet
	1979	20c struck on Nepalese 1 Rupee 7.4g Planchet
	1979	20c struck on Nepalese 1 Rupee 7.5g Planchet
	1979	20c struck on Hong Kong \$1 Planchet
	1979	20c struck on Unknown 8.7g Planchet
	1981	20c struck on Hong Kong Scalloped \$2, 2.50g Planchet
1981	20c struck on Hong Kong 8.48g Planchet	

	1981	20c (3.5 claw variety) struck on Canadian 1c, 2.7g Planchet
	1981	20c struck on Unknown 8.5g Planchet
	1983	20c on Unknown Copper Planchet
	1995	20c (United Nations) struck on Foreign 7.6g Planchet
	1995	20c (United Nations) struck on Magnetic Steel Planchet
	1996	20 struck on 8.5g Copper Planchet
	1996	20c struck on 8.63g Copper Planchet — possibly Tibet Temple Token
	1996	20c struck on 7.5g Foreign Planchet
	1997	20c struck on Unknown Bronze 8.53g Planchet
	1998	20c struck on Unknown 7.03g Planchet
	1998	20c struck on Unknown 8.27g Planchet with 50% milling
	2000	20c (Volunteers) on 11.3g Aluminium/Bronze Planchet
	2001	20c struck on Bi-metal 10.6g Planchet
	2001	20c struck on 10.66g Iranian 250 Rials Planchet
	2017	20c on Aluminium 6.8g Cook Islands \$2 Planchet
	2021	20c on Unknown 4g 21mm Planchet
50 cent	1976	50c struck on underweight 12.7g Planchet
	1979	50c struck on underweight 13.1g, 2mm Planchet
	1979	50c struck on underweight 13.5g Planchet
	1979	50c struck on underweight 13.4g Planchet
	1980	50c struck on Foreign 17.84g Planchet
	1980	50 struck on 13.1g Hong Kong \$5 Planchet
	1981	50c struck on 10 sided Foreign Planchet
	1981	50c (Charles/Diana) on Hong Kong \$5 Planchet
	1981	50c (Charles/Dianna) on Hong Kong \$5, 9.66g Planchet
	1981	50c (Charles/Dianna) on Great Britain 50p, 13.22g Planchet
	1981	50c (Charles/Dianna) on Great Britain 50p, 13.59gplanchet
	1981	50c (Charles/Dianna) on Hong Kong \$5, 9.64g Planchet
	1981	50c (Charles/Dianna) on underweight 9.5g Planchet
	1992	50c on 10.88g Scalloped edge Cook Island Planchet
	1992	50c on 50 Toea Planchet of Papua New Guinea 13.73g
	2006	50c struck on oversize 15.52g Planchet
	2006	50c struck on oversize 11.55g, 36mm Planchet — Trial strike?
	2014	50c struck on a Round Brass Planchet
1 Dollar	2005	\$1 struck on Underweight 5.7g Planchet
	2008	\$1 struck on 6.4g 98% Copper Planchet
	2009	\$1 struck on Bi-metal, Venezuelan 1 Bolivar Planchet
	2015	\$1 struck on Underweight 4.64g Planchet
	2020	\$1 struck on 6.4g Bi Metal Planchet
2 Dollar	1992	\$2 struck on 3.28g Magnetic Planchet — possibly washer
	1999	\$2 struck on 4.1g Foreign Planchet (Euro 10c Planchet)
	2000	\$2 struck on Euro 10c Planchet
5 Dollar	1988	\$5 struck on 12 sided Planchet

The above table has been compiled from data sourced from PCGS, auction houses and social media sites. Coins that have the country of origin of the planchet identified have been highlighted. Other coins have been established as minted on a foreign planchet, but for whatever reason the actual intended country for the planchet has not been identified. I have also included coins that have only a declared weight or specifications with no other information, and although these may not necessarily fit the criteria of a foreign planchet, they provide an insight into what is about in the coin market. Identifying these and similar coins is a task that will need to be carried out by the avid collector.

At this point it should be noted that a number of coins with unidentified planchets have been graded and encapsulated (Figure 8 and Figure 9). I would speculate that the owners of these coins did not have the ready access or knowledge of XRay Fluorescence analysis and had the coins slabbed with what information they had. This presents a dilemma for today's investigator. Most XRF analysis guns I have encountered **do not** give a correct analysis through the holder. The decision then has to be made whether to "crack open" the holder, remove the coin and commence your analysis from the start.



Figure 8. 1981 50 cent (Charles/Diana) struck on a 10 sided planchet in lieu of 12 sides. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.



Figure 9. 1988 \$5 struck on a 12 sided gold coloured planchet. Photograph courtesy of PCGS.

The task of identification of a given foreign planchet is not as simple as it first appears. You must have all the specifications of your suspect coin, including its metal composition. You should have established where the coin was minted. You then have to obtain the records from that specific mint for the year(s) concerned to establish for which other countries that mint was producing coins and compare those coin specifications against your coin.

If this does not identify the planchet for you, the task becomes much more onerous as the most likely scenario is that an “unintended” foreign blank has been shipped to the mint. Poongsan ship blanks to over 60 countries so you now have, depending upon the year, these other countries’ coins with their own multiple denominations and individual specifications and metal compositions to search through. Access to this data is only available through a very limited number of sites, compounding the problem of proper identification.

The time and effort involved in proceeding down this path is that once the correct determination of the coin has occurred a premium is bestowed upon the coin in both numismatic and monetary value. Another important aspect involves the excitement of the investigative process itself and its results. This cannot be underestimated.

In conclusion, as the numismatic community continues to grow and evolve the fascination with coins minted on wrong or foreign planchets is likely to endure. These unintended treasures serve as a reminder of the intricate processes involved in coin production and the occasional surprises that emerge from even the most meticulously managed mints. The limited number of these coins in circulation further enhances their appeal as collectors compete to secure these unique pieces for their collections.

Further Reading

[Error Coin Spotlight -2014 50c Struck on a Brass Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[Foreign Planchet Error Coins - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[Exciting New Australian Dollar Coin Discovery \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[Australian \\$2 Coin Error Struck on Foreign Planchet or Washer! \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[Australia 1995 United Nations 20c Struck on Thai Temple Token Blank \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[More Australian Two Dollar Error Coins Struck on Euro 10c Planchets \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[Error Coin Spotlight - 2001 20 Cent Struck on Bi-Metal Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

[2017 20c Struck on Cook Islands 2 Dollar Planchet - The Australian Coin Collecting Blog \(australian-coins.com\)](http://australian-coins.com)

Coins that were Never Minted

Dies are expensive to make and mints are naturally reluctant to discard them, particularly when unused. However, there are a number of occasions when it is known or suspected that dies were created for a given year and denomination but the coins were never minted.

The 1930 Florin, Shilling, Sixpence and Threepence



The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint issued 638,000 halfpennies dated 1930 and a small number (of the order of 1,000 to 1,500) of 1930 pennies. In May 1930, Treasury advised the mint that they had sufficient stock of bronze and silver coins and that none would be required that year¹. (Evidently this situation changed later in the year as halfpence were minted around August and September.)

So why make dies that would not be used? The answer lies in the timing. The Melbourne Mint, while actually part of the Royal Mint, often anticipated orders from Treasury as, at least until the Great Depression, there was demand for new coins of most denominations

almost every year. To prepare 1930 dated master dies, the Melbourne Mint would have needed to effectively change two digits on the master dies, rather than just one digit as they had been doing during the 1920s: a tougher task. By May 1930 the master dies may all have been completed. Working dies for all denominations were prepared in late June, possibly in anticipation of demand. While the dies for the bronze coins were eventually used (for business strikes and a few proof coins), no 1930 dated silver coins were issued for circulation or even struck for archival purposes. This is despite four reverse dies being made for each of these denominations.

1932 Perth Sovereign



In 1932 Australia abandoned the gold standard and the production of gold sovereigns ceased. The Perth Mint die book records that 10 sovereign die pairs were in stock at the end of 1932. These remained until around 1948 when all but one pair was destroyed.

The sole remaining 1932 Perth reverse die has been displayed in the Perth Mint Visitor Centre, however the last time I was there the obverse die was on display.

Thanks to Drake Sterling for the photograph of the die.

1934 Melbourne Sovereign



In 1934 the Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint requested 3 dies to strike 1934 sovereigns as part of the Melbourne and Victoria centenary celebrations. The mint had received the request from the organisers of the Centenary People's Fair. After some letters going back and forth, the Royal Mint sent 4 reverse dies to Melbourne on the 22nd March, 1934. (This also indicated that Melbourne still had some obverse sovereign dies). These dies arrived on the 26th April.

However, they were never used. A mint report from early 1935 indicated that the dies were destroyed in December 1934.

This episode was first brought to the attention of the numismatic community by Eric Eigner a few years ago. His article detailing the full story (although we do not know why the project was abandoned) can be found [here](#)².

1871 Melbourne Mint Shield Sovereign



This was an occasion when the dies were made but no 1871 Melbourne Mint sovereigns exist. However the dies were eventually used after alteration. The Melbourne Mint finally opened in 1872. At the time of opening they had received 1871 dated dies and one batch of 1872 dies. (Two batches had been sent but one shipment

disappeared in a shipwreck.) As it would have been inappropriate to issue coins dated the year before the mint opened, the 1871 dies remained unused. Due to inexperience of the mint staff, the lifetime of the dies during this first year of operation was considerably lower than required for the mint to meet their targets, and they risked running out of dies. As a result, the mint employed a local jeweller, Julius Hogarth to re-engrave a 2 over the 1 on the unused 1871 dated dies.

1933 Threepence (and possibly Sixpence)

No threepences or sixpences were struck in 1933, however there is overwhelming evidence that 1933 threepence dies were made and a hint that 1933 sixpence dies were made as well. The 1934/3



threepence is a well known variety and the best guess is that the dies were created by either a) hubbing a 1934 punch over a 1933 die or b) stamping a 4 over the final 3 on each unused 1933 die. In either case an attempt appears to have been made to first fill in the final 3 of the date³.



The evidence for the sixpence is a little less clear (see below). That may well be the top of a 3 underlying the 4 in that date, but it could be just some die damage in an unfortunate place. However the hub doubling you can see on the 9 and its lack on the 4 is consistent with hobbing a 1934 dated die over a 1933 die where there was a very good attempt at erasing the underlying 3. As far as I know this variety was first brought to notice by "echidna" on the Australian-coins.net forum. These coins seem to be scarce.

1953 Perth "Long 5 different 3" Penny



A well known and reasonably scarce variety of penny is the 1953 "long 5 different 3", minted in Melbourne. While a master die and punch was made for a Perth version of this coin, it appears that they were never used. The reverse of the long 5 different 3 has a lower relief than the common variety. The reasons for this go back to the introduction of the Mary Gillick designed effigy of Elizabeth II. Paul Holland had determined that the reverse dies used in Melbourne and Perth during the reign of George VI were based upon the master die and punch made at the Royal Mint in 1937⁴.

5th November 1937. Kangaroo reverse master die dated 1937 from new ½ relief reduction punch. Beading

added and sent to Melbourne.

16th November 1937. Kangaroo reverse working punch dated 1937 from master die of 5th November. Sent to Melbourne November 1937.

New reverse tools were prepared by the Royal Mint in 1953 to accommodate the lower relief of obverse of Elizabeth II.

27th April 1953. Kangaroo reverse reduction punch dated 19 in 3/8 relief to facilitate coining with new obverse.

22nd May. Reverse master die from reverse punch of 27th April. Beading added and date (1953) completed . Sent to Melbourne.

22nd May. Reverse master die from reverse punch of 27th April. Beading added and date (1953) completed . Sent to Perth.

On the 12th June reverse working punches were made from both master dies of 22nd May and sent to Melbourne and Perth respectively.

It is important to notice the lower relief design of the 1953 tools to those of 1937. Some dies were created in Melbourne using the new lower relief tools and some coins, the “long 5 different 3”, struck. If you look carefully at the 1953 Perth and the 1953 long 5 different 3 in Figure 1 below you can see the difference in the relief of the kangaroo.



Figure 1. 1953 Perth penny (left) and 1953 long 5 different 3 penny (right). Note the lower relief of the coin on the right. Photographs courtesy of PCGS.

So why were so few coins struck with the new relief? Given that the entire 1953 Melbourne penny mintage in 1953 was about 6.9 million and that at best 1% of 1953 Melbourne pennies are of this variety, then the mintage would be in the tens of thousands. I once asked Tony Byrne, who was chief numismatist at the Royal Australian Mint in the 1960s and 1970s, about the “long 5 different 3”. His response was that the government was unhappy about the new coins and told the Melbourne Mint

to cease using the new dies⁵. The Royal Mint had also sent new tools to Perth. Whenever the Royal Mint created new master tools they had a habit of making the beading different for each of the branch mints, which isn't really surprising since each tool was created separately (see entries of 22nd May 1953 above). This suggests that if there had been any Perth equivalent of the long 5 different 3 the beading would have been different to that produced in Melbourne.

The question of why the new tools sent to Perth were not used in 1953 has been answered in a 1999 article by Paul Holland⁶. On the 2nd July 1953 a telegram was sent from the First Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to the Deputy Master of the Perth Mint saying "DO NOT USE NEW REVERSE TOOLS WRITING" followed by a letter stating that they did not order new reverse tools and that they were concerned that the alteration of the reverse would result in a less clear representation of the kangaroo⁶. A reply from the Perth Mint on the 7th July stated that the tools had been put away unused. In 1956 the Royal Mint produced new reverse tools of the lower relief for use at the Perth Mint. The 1953 dated master die and punch were never used.

References

1. John Sharples, "The 1930 Penny", Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia, Volume 3 (1987) pg 6; <https://numismatics.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Vol-3-Article-1.pdf>
2. Eric Eigner, "The 1934 Melbourne Sovereign", Coin News Magazine, September 2024; also Independent Coin News, January 2024, page 24.
3. Peter Andrews, "Overdates", Independent Coin News, March 2024, page 28
4. Paul Holland, "Variations of die types of Australian pennies: 1937–1964", Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia, Volume 8 (1995) page 7; <https://numismatics.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Vol-8-Article-1.pdf>
5. Tony Byrne, private communication (verbal) around 2001
6. Paul 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 43; <https://numismatics.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Vol-10-Article-4.pdf>



Iran Undertakes Legal Action to Retrieve Coins



Figure 1. Sasanian Drachm AD 631 (lot 443 of CNG auction 14th January 2025).

The theft of cultural items including coins from archaeological sites is a long standing problem, as is the faking of provenances when those items are sold privately or through public auction. (An example of this was the EID MAR [Ides of March] gold aureus a couple of years ago¹.) An international agreement that addresses this problem is the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property². Australia is one of 147 countries that are signatories to this convention, as are Iran, the United States and the United Kingdom.



Figure 2. Vahbarz dracm (lot 412 of CNG auction 14th January 2025) from 3rd century BC.

On January 17th the Tehran Times³ reported that “Iran’s General Directorate of Museums has announced that it has initiated legal measures to stop the sale of two historic coins at a foreign auction house” and that the coins in question are from the pre-Achaemenid and Sasanian periods. The auction house is Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) and the two coins pictured in the Tehran Times article are lots 413 and 443.

Lot 443 (Figure 1) was described in the catalogue as “SASANIAN KINGS. *Āzarmīg-duxt* (*Āzarmīdokht*). AD 631. AR Drachm (32mm, 3.57 g, 9h). WYHC (*Weh-az-Amid-Kavad*) mint. Dated RY 1 (AD 631). VF”. It was passed in with a starting bid of US\$6000.

The Sasanian Empire lasted from 224 AD to 651 AD and is viewed as the last ancient Persian empire. At its height it encompassed modern Iran, the coast of the Persian Gulf, modern Iraq and the area north up to the Caucasus and modern Yemen. The Achaemenid empire (also known as the Persian empire) was founded by Cyrus the Great about 550 BC and lasted until Alexander's conquest in about 330 BC.


Lot 412 (Figure 2) was described in the catalogue as "KINGS of PERSIS. Vahbarz (Oborzos). 3rd century BC. AR Drachm (17mm, 4.29 g, 3h). Istakhr (Persepolis) mint. Near EF". This lot is listed on the CNG website as SOLD for US\$22,500. Also the auction description includes the provenance as "Purchased by the consignor during the late 1980's from Dr. A. Shams Aram whom was living in Frankfurt Germany at the time". Given the provenance and that this coin was minted more than a century after the end of the Achaemenid era, I doubt it is one of the coins that the Iranian Directorate of Museums is pursuing.

The Directorate identified over 15 more coins from the Sasanian period that appeared at a later CNG auction. The Iranian authorities believe that these are some of a hoard of over 600 artifacts looted from the Beyza archaeological site of Fars Province last year.⁴

It will be interesting to see the final result of all this.

References

1. Dealer Arrested for False Provenance of Rare Ancient Coin, Independent Coin News May 2023, page 3
2. Some details of the UNESCO convention can be found online here: <https://www.unesco.org/en/fight-illicit-trafficking/about>
3. Tehran Times, "Iran takes legal action to seize historic coins sold at foreign auction", January 17, 2025; <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/508742/Iran-takes-legal-action-to-seize-historic-coins-sold-at-foreign>
4. Iran Daily, "Iran takes action as NY auction reveals more stolen ancient coins", January 25th 2025; <https://newspaper.irandaily.ir/7729/8/12994>



The advertisement banner for NOVA COINS features a dark background with a large, faint image of an ancient coin. The NOVA COINS logo is prominently displayed in the top left, accompanied by a circular graphic of a planet. A purple button in the top right corner reads "WE BUY AND SELL" above the website address "www.novacoins.com.au". A list of services is provided on the left side, including Coins, Banknotes, Australiasian Trade Tokens, Coin Errors, Collectables, and Coin, Banknote & Collectables Accessories. In the bottom right, there is a section for social media (@nellienovacoins & @nova.coins), a call to action to shop online or visit coin shows, and the ANDA (Australian Numismatic Dealers Association) logo with the text "ANDA Member".

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Petersham Coin Fair 29th December

Despite (or perhaps because of) the holiday season the show was quite busy. I haven't had the opportunity to attend the Petersham Show for years, but in my experience it was one of the best shows for collectors. Here are a few photographs from the show, courtesy of Paul Whenman and John Belcher. The next show is on the 30th March.



Upcoming Coin Fairs, Coin Shows and Numismatic Events

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 ACT
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 15th, 10 am–4 pm
Sunday February 16th, 10 am–3 pm
Melbourne Money Expo
Malvern Town Hall
1251 High Street, Malvern VIC

Saturday February 22nd, 10 am–3pm
Western Money Fair
Uniting Church Belmont
42 Thompson St, Belmont, Geelong VIC

Thursday March 20th – Sunday March 23rd
Sydney Stamp and Coin Expo
Wentworth Park Sporting Complex
5 Wentworth Park Rd, Glebe NSW

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 ACT
For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Saturday March 22nd, 10 am–3pm
Western Money Fair
St Thomas Anglican Church
117 Synott St Werribee VIC

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 30th, 9:30 am–4 pm
Petersham Super Fair
Petersham Town Hall
107 Crystal Street, Petersham NSW
<https://scdaa.com.au>

Saturday April 5th, 9 am–2 pm
The Shire Stamp and Coin Collectors Fair
GyMEA Anglican Church
131 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA NSW

Sunday April 6th, 9 am–2 pm
Moonee Ponds Coin Fair
Community Hall
5 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds VIC

Sunday April 6th, 9 am–1 pm
The Canberra Collectables Fair
Garran Adventure Scout Hall
123 Kitchener St, Garran ACT
For information contact Wayne on 0414 374 511

Sunday April 27th, 9 am–1 pm
Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair
Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre
6 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East VIC

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

Numismatic Associations

Numismatic Association of Australia

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

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

Australian Capital Territory

ACT & District Coin Club

Club Liaison: Wayne Corbin Ph 0414 374 511

Email: actclub.secretary@gmail.com

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

New South Wales

Australian Numismatic Society NSW

Postal Address: PO Box 830, Manly, NSW 1655

Email: mattkenlloy@hotmail.com

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

Telephone: (02) 9223 4578

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

Australian Society for Ancient Numismatics

Telephone: Colin Pitchfork, (02) 9223 4578

Email: colin@noble.com.au

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

Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club

Postal Address: PO Box 9156, BATHURST NSW 2795

Telephone: (02) 6331 5404 (Business hours)

Email: amcrae@lisp.com.au

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

Coffs Harbour Stamp and Coin Club

Postal Address: 182 Linden Ave, Boambee NSW 2450

Telephone: (02) 6690 0168

Email: sheryl.ellem@bigpond.com

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

IBNS (Sydney Chapter)

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

Email (secretary): info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz

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

Illawarra Numismatic Association

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

Email: illawarranumismatics@gmail.com

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

Maitland and District Coin Club

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

Email: 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

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

Mudgee Coin, Note & Stamp Club Inc.

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

Telephone: (02) 6569 4328

Email: MudgeeCNSC@gmail.com

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

Nambucca Heads Stamp and Coin Club

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

Telephone: Elizabeth (02) 6373 5324

Email (secretary): lizzie20649@hotmail.com

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

Newcastle Numismatic Society

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

Email (secretary): 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

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

Sapphire Coast Stamp & Coin Club

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

Telephone: (John) (02) 6495 7308

Email: brsinclair@optusnet.com.au

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

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

Queensland

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Australia

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

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

Tasmania

Tasmanian Numismatic Society Inc
Postal Address: The Secretary, PO Box 12, Claremont, Tasmania 7011.
Email (Secretary): 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
Website: <https://www.navic.org.au>
Social Media: Facebook and Twitter (@Numisvic)
Meetings: 7:45 pm on the third Friday of the month Feb-Nov, second Friday in December) at Kensington Town Hall, 30-34 Bellair St, Kensington.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morwell Numismatic Society

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

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

Email: greycats2@bigpond.com

Meetings: 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at the Christian Community Church, 5-7 McDonald St, Morwell.

Sale & District Stamp & Coin Club

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

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

Telephone: (03) 5144 7815

Meetings: 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at Gwen Webb Activity Centre, Market Street, Sale.

Western Australia

Peel Region Numismatic Group

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

Postal Address: PO Box 1285 MANDURAH WA 6210

Telephone: 0415 967 109 or 0410 000 617

Email: prng@southwest.com.au

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

Perth Numismatic Society Inc

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

Postal Address: PO Box 8419, South Perth WA 6951

Telephone: 0417 930 854

Email: secretary@pns.org.au

Meetings: 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of the month (except December), John McGrath Hall, 97 Hensman St, South Perth WA 6151.

IBNS (Perth Chapter)

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

Telephone: 0414 361 693

Email: gurkha2@bigpond.com

Meetings: 9:30 am on the first Sunday of the month except January, at Philately House, Unit 18, Wellington Fair, 200 Wellington Street, East Perth.

South-West Coin Club

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

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

Telephone: (08) 9726 0665

Email: info@southwestdistrictcoinclub.com

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

Western Australian Roman Coin Study Group

Telephone: Walter Bloom, 0417 930 854

Email: w.bloom@murdoch.edu.au

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

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



Ringwood East Coin and Stamp Fair

Ringwood East Senior Citizen Centre

6 Laurence Grove Ringwood East Vic.

Last Sunday of each month except December

Contact T. Gordon 0412 092917



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Downie's Australian Coin Auctions Sale 355

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

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, photographs of some of the auction highlights are not yet available.

Highlights include:



Two 1930 pennies and four 1923 halfpennies
1559 decimal coin lots.

A 2015 Anzac Remembered set including \$1
War Heroes coin.

Approximately 170 pre-decimal banknote lots
inclusive of many Unc singles.

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



An 1855 Sydney Mint type 1 sovereign



A 1929M modified head Sovereign.
Over 40 tradesmen tokens.



A 1763 Northumberland Shilling



And a scarce Fiji 1942 Emergency overprint on
New Zealand 1 Pound Lefeaux note.

As of 29th January, consignments are still being taken for Downie's auction 356 in May 2025.



IAGs major auction Signature Sale 101

Signature Sale 101 - March 2025

www.iagauctions.com



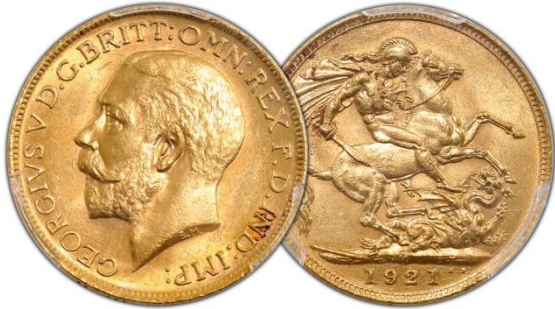
P: (07) 55 380 300 F: (07) 55 387 296
 E: mail@iagauctions.com
 A: P.O. Box 1380, Broadbeach
 QLD, 4218 Australia



International Auction Galleries December Auction

International Auction Galleries held their online auction number 22 from the 3rd-5th December 2024.

Some of the highlights included



A 1921 Melbourne Mint sovereign graded by PCGS as MS62. A high grade example of a scarce issue, this coin sold for \$27,450.



An 1852 Adelaide pound type II, graded as aEF sold for \$22,692.



A proof 1950 Perth penny graded by NGC as PF64 sold for \$6832.



A 1930 penny described as “with a few light obverse scratches ... else about fine” sold for \$24,400.



A rare 1920 English obverse dot above bottom scroll penny graded by PCGS as genuine, cleaning with VF details sold for \$5,128.



Of the Proclamation coins, a high grade 1732M Brazilian gold Johanna, graded by PCGS as AU 58 fetched \$8540.



The early Sydney Mint sovereigns, with their iconic design, while not particularly scarce ,

are tough to find without wear. An 1867 dated example, described as “ A few minor surface marks with good details and some mint bloom. Very scarce in this grade. UNC” was sold for \$2074.



While the total mintage was low for the 1930 Melbourne sovereign, the surviving population is reasonably high, but it is hard to find as an uncirculated coin. A lovely example, graded by PCGS as MS63 sold for \$2562.



Two examples of the 2000 \$1/10 cent mule were offered in this auction. Graded as AU50 and AU55 by PCGS (these roughly correspond to gVF and EF) they both sold for \$805.



One of the more common decimal upset errors occurs on the 1966 (London) 10 cent. The two coins in this auction, graded MS64 and MS62 by PCGS, each sold for \$231.



While the 1856 Sydney Mint half sovereign is hard to find, there is a rare variety with the missing berry above the L of HALF. An example, graded by PCGS as VF25, sold for \$10,980. We will discuss this variety in more detail in a separate article.



Of the foreign (non-proclamation) coins, the scarcest was the USA 1876 Carson City double eagle (\$20). A tough issue, with a mintage of 138,441, an NGC AU53 example sold for \$12,200.



An about uncirculated Phillips/Randall \$1 star note was sold for \$1281.



Two 2012 Remembrance Day C mintmark \$2 sold for \$488 and \$451. These results are consistent with the slow price decline of these coins over the last 12 months.



An interesting offering was a trial New Zealand heptagonal \$2 struck by the Royal Australian Mint (7.32g with plain edge); the reverse TEST — RAM — TEST and the New Zealand coat of arms. This sold for \$1281.

All photographs are courtesy of International Auction Galleries.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the next auction run by International Auction Galleries, Signature Auction 101, has been delayed until April.

THE SHIRE STAMP & COIN COLLECTORS' FAIR
GYMEA ANGLICAN CHURCH
131 GYMEA BAY ROAD
FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
9 am to 1:30 pm
SELLING & BUYING



The \$2 Market Report for January



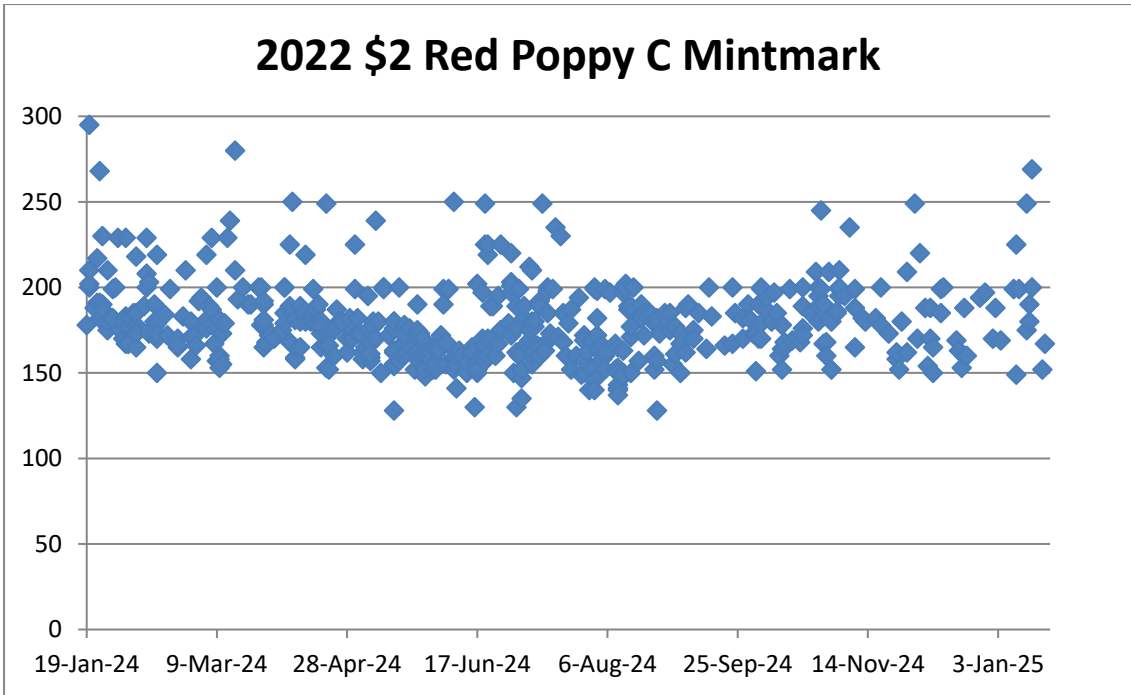
With the addition of sales from the last two months, we have data for more than a full year for all releases and have restricted the graphs to display just the last 12 months' data.

In the last two months we have seen a slight decrease in sales price of the 2012 remembrance red poppy. Sales prices for all other issues have remained fairly steady. The sales per month (Table 1) for all issues have decreased for all but the 2012 remembrance plain poppy, which appeared to remain steady. However the total of 8 sales in that period is not statistically significant. The number of eBay listings for each issue is about 15% lower for 2022 red poppy C mintmark and 2023 Vietnam aluminium bronze. The number of 2013 coronation listings has shown a dramatic decline with little more than half the listings of two months ago. There has been little change in the number of listings of the other issues.

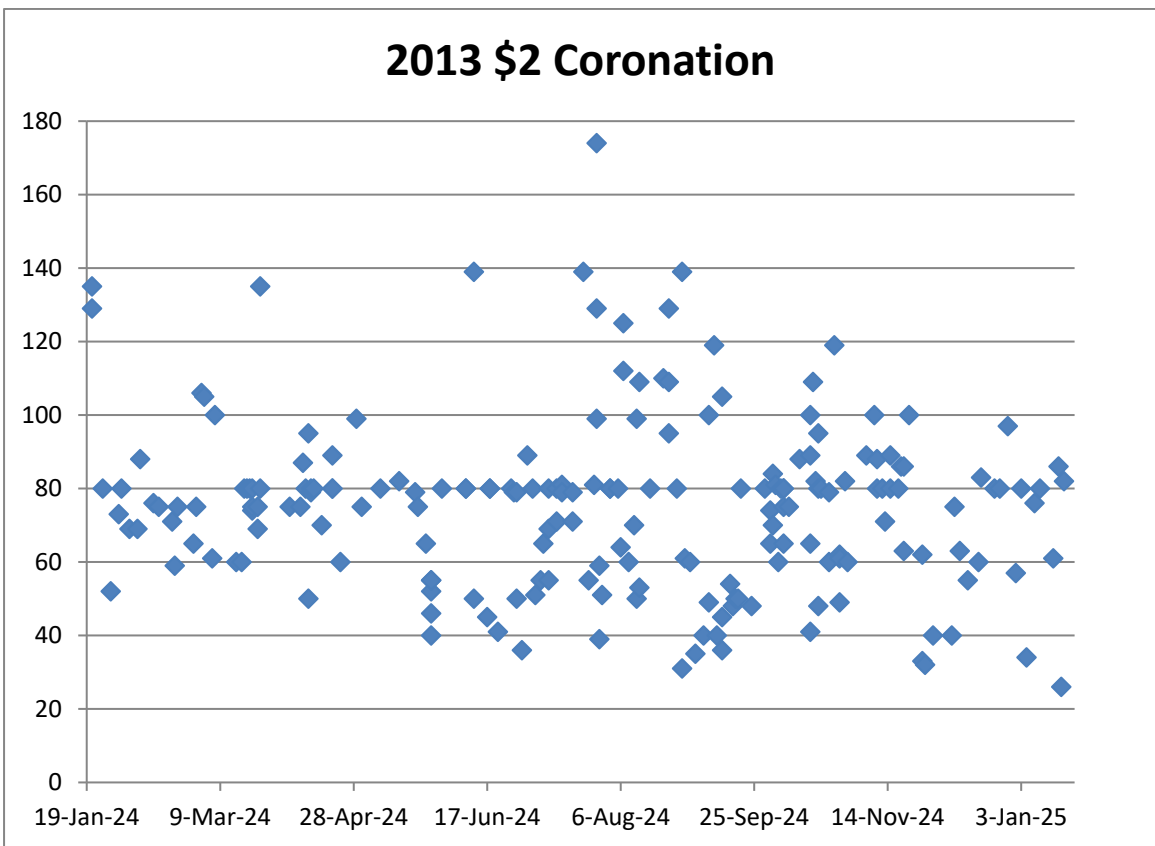
Coin	Sales Per Month	Number of Listings
2022 \$2 Red Poppy C Mintmark	22	144
2013 \$2 Coronation	12	25
2012 \$2 Remembrance Red Poppy	25	74
2012 \$2 Remembrance Plain Poppy	4	45
2023 \$2 Vietnam Silver Proof	4	39
2023 \$2 Vietnam Aluminium Bronze	36	176
2012 \$2 Remembrance C Mintmark	9	22
2023 \$2 35 th Anniversary Set	31	246

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

The data used in these reports were extracted from eBay "sold" listings, both auction and buy it now. Data for all releases was extracted via a program, although some data checking was still required, mainly for the business strike issues (2012 Remembrance Plain Poppy and 2013 Coronation) and the NCLT 2012 Remembrance Red Poppy. As there is no guarantee that all the eBay sales were honoured, the data for those that we suspected (from the seller's feedback) had been dishonoured were removed. Sales that appear to have been achieved by shill bidding were also removed. PCGS graded coins were not included, nor were listings that included multiple items and bulk lots.

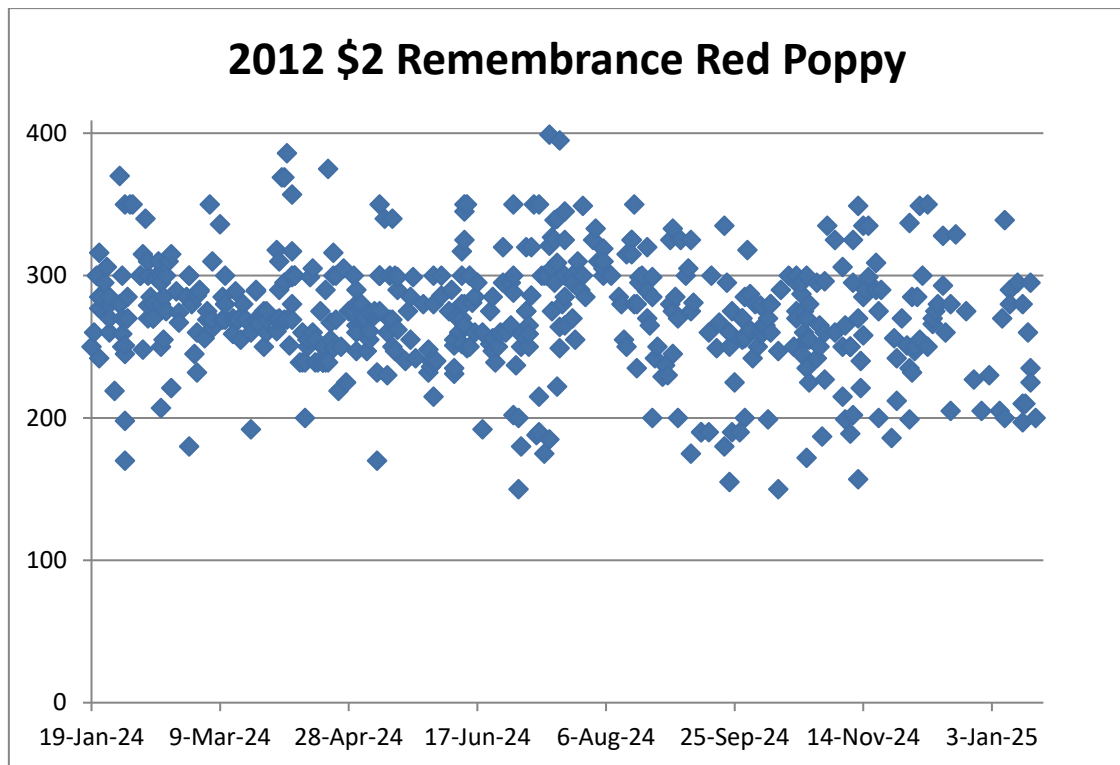


Prices were static over the last two months, and recent prices (apart from a few outliers) are noticeably lower than 12 months ago.

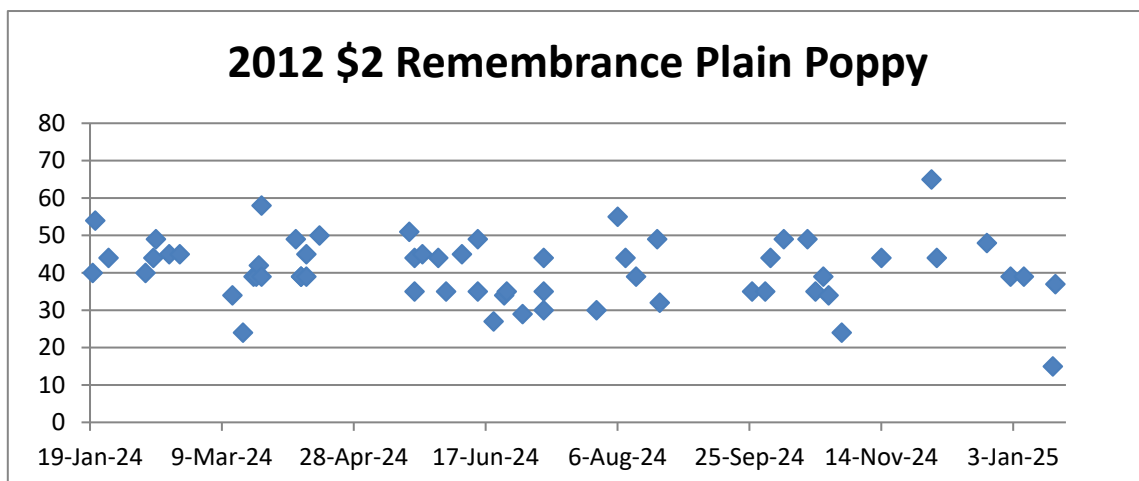


The data includes only those coins described in the listing as “uncirculated”. Examination of individual sales shows that the price realised is heavily dependent upon the quality of the image of

the coin being sold. While the sales prices are somewhat scattered, the average has dropped to about \$70 per coin, a little lower than 12 months ago.

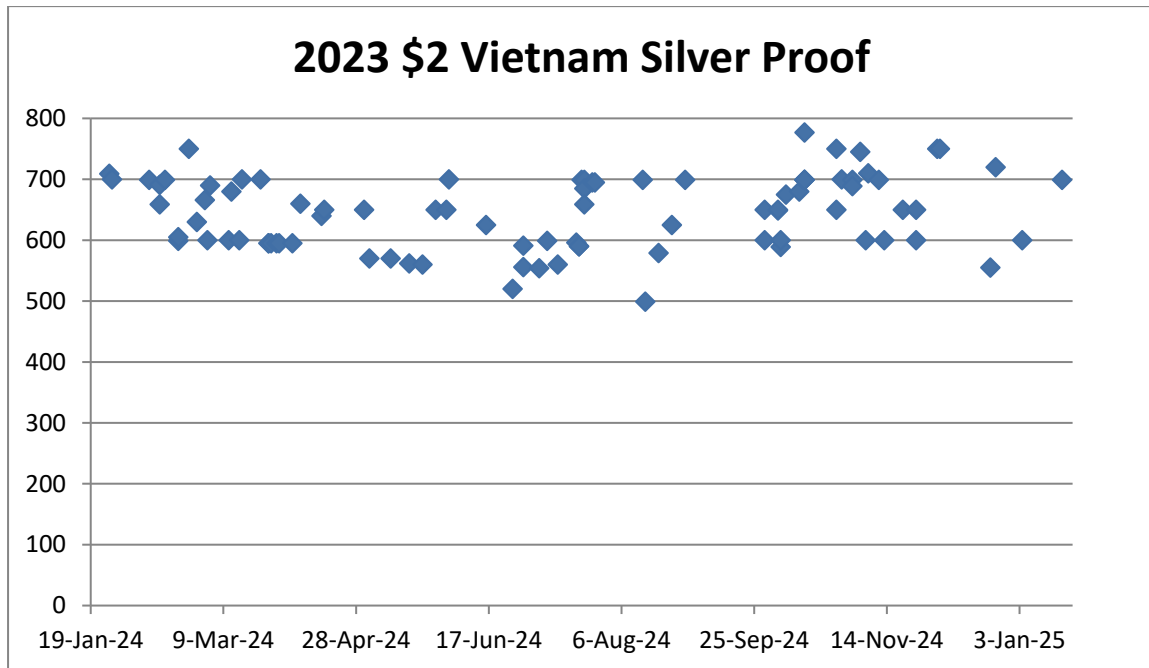


The data includes only uncirculated coins without paint chips. Due to the NCLT nature of the product, sellers' descriptions of coins as "uncirculated" are more reliable than those of coins such as the 2012 \$2 Plain Poppy and 2013 \$2 Coronation. While there is considerable scatter in the data, average prices appear to have dropped from roughly \$280 to \$240 over the last year.

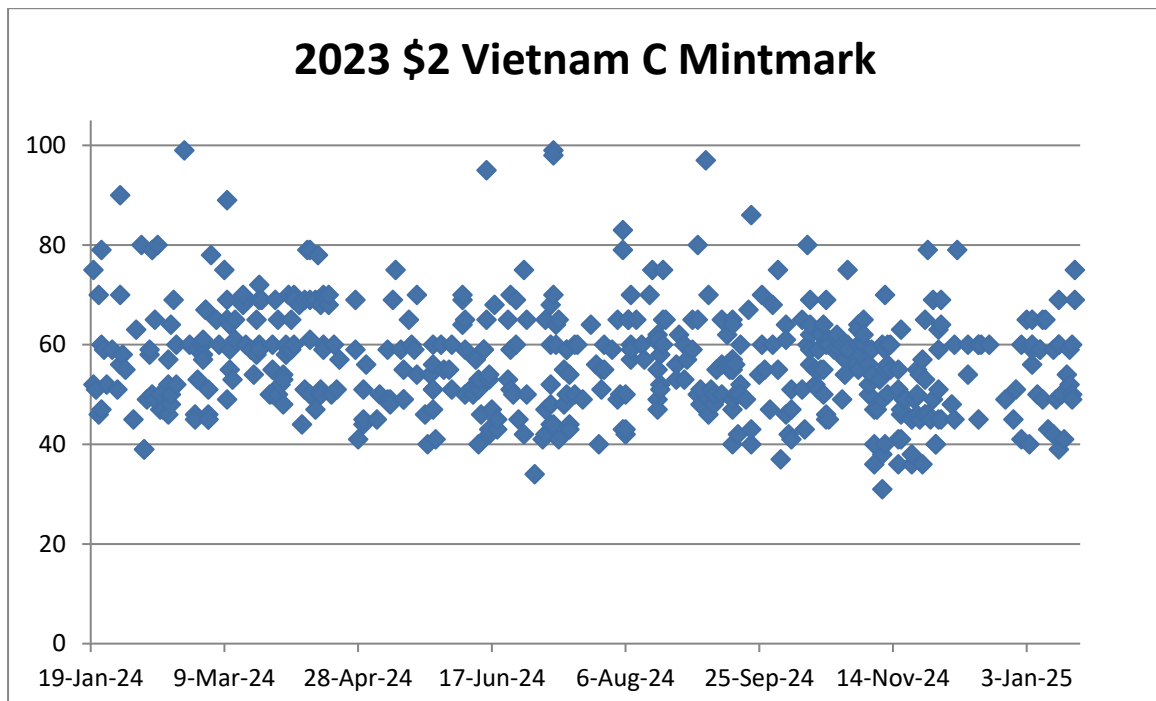


The data includes only those described as "uncirculated", with coins that are obviously polished removed. This issue is the most difficult to find uncirculated and there were just 8 sales in the last two months. The average price in that period appears similar to the previous two months and is perhaps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

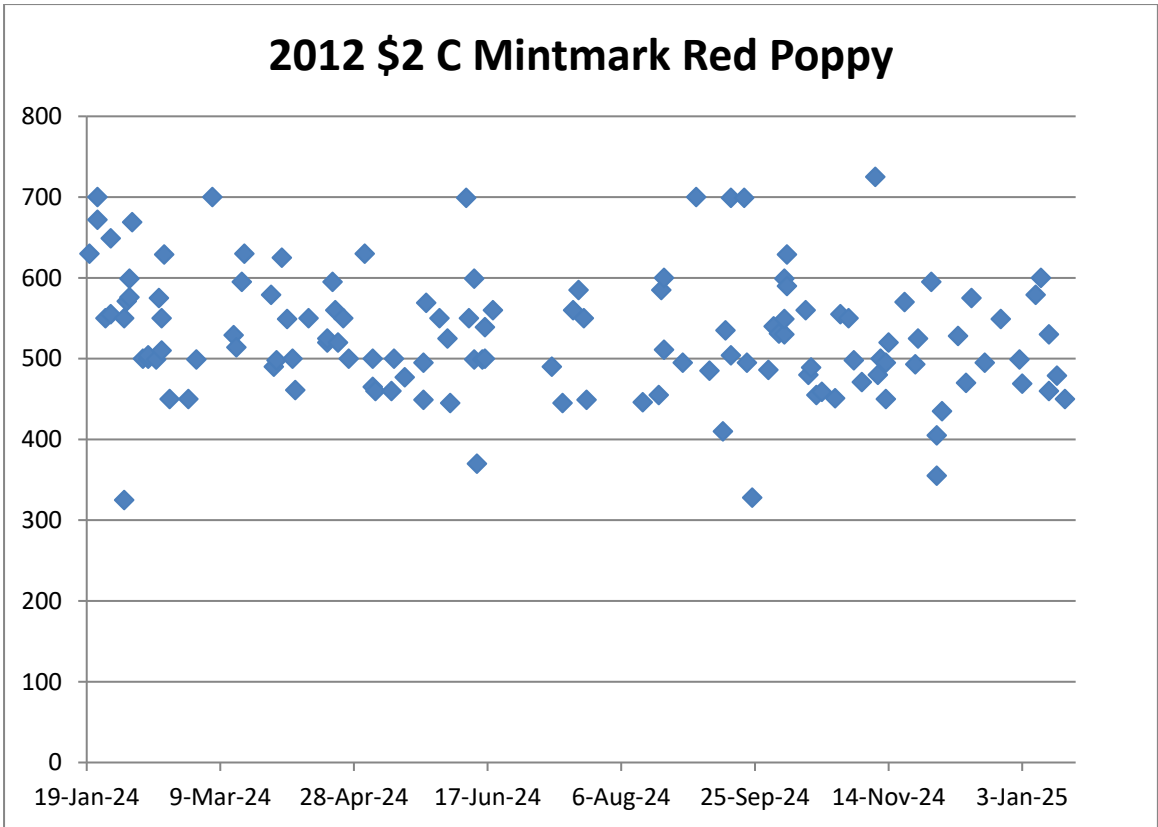
coloured version. It is noticeable however that the sales price of these coins in cards such as those made by Downie's are much higher (typically \$150+) than those sold loose.



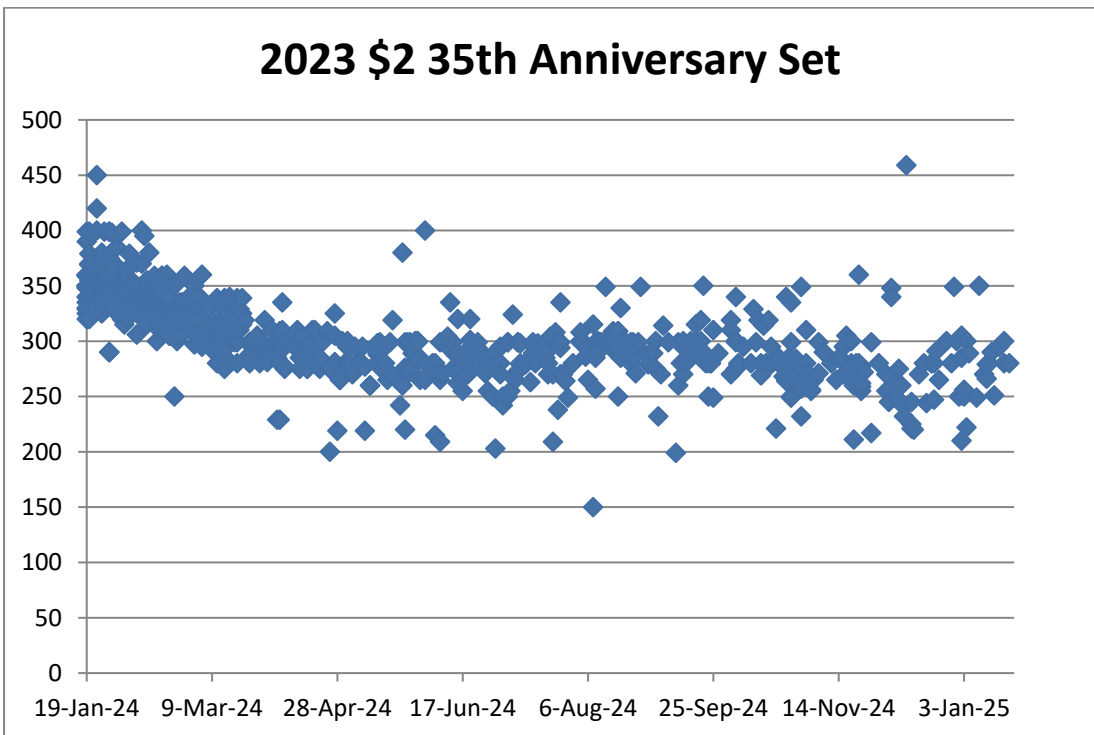
There were far fewer sales in the last two months, with average prices now around \$650 to \$700.



The rate of eBay sales has gone down by about 30% over the last two months while the number of listings has decreased by about 20%. The average price of around \$55 is a little lower than that 12 months ago.



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



The 35th Anniversary Set failed to achieve the heights of some of its predecessors. Part of the reason could be the high issue price (\$235), and the Royal Australian Mint suspending sales and using EQL

for the remainder of the sets. All the same, “fear of missing out” (FOMO) ruled for a week or so. Since then the average sales price has slowly decreased to around \$270 on eBay. Prices over the last two months are similar to those over the previous few months.

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

News in Brief

RAM not attending coin shows in 2025

The Royal Australian Mint has advised that it will not be attending any coin expos this year apart from the Sydney Coin & Stamp Expo in March.

IAG auction delayed

As a result of Noble Numismatics moving their April auction to March, International Auction Galleries has delayed their March auction until April. Paul Hannaford has said that “this will allow us to collect some high quality items I have waiting from Melbourne at the next fair, and I also have some more highlights coming when I get back [from holidays] (a holey dollar etc.)” .

New Auction House

Robbie Colborne of Ensleigh Coins has announced the launch of a new Sydney based auction house, Copeland Roberts. Also involved in the venture as Numismatic Director is Eric Eigner of Drake Sterling. Currently they are only running online auctions but are looking to run live auctions later this year. Their website is at <https://www.copelandroberts.com/>

A List of 2024 Australian Coins

This is hopefully a complete list of 2024 dated Australian coins. I have included the business strike, collectable and bullion coins that I am aware of from both mints. It is quite likely that there have been bullion issues that have slipped my notice. If you see any mistakes or omissions please send me an email. By my count there were 163 Royal Australian Mint coins and 146 Perth Mint coins in 2024.

Perth Mint Collectables

Denomination	Description	Obverse	Comments
\$1	125th anniversary 1 ounce silver	Charles III	
\$1	125th anniversary 1 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$5	125th anniversary quarter sovereign gold proof	Charles III	
\$15	125th anniversary half sovereign gold proof	Charles III	
\$25	125th anniversary sovereign gold proof	Charles III	
\$50	125th anniversary 2 sovereigns gold proof	Charles III	
\$100	125th anniversary 1 ounce gold	Charles III	
\$100	125th anniversary 1 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$100	125th anniversary 1 ounce platinum	Charles III	
\$100	125th anniversary 5 sovereigns gold proof	Charles III	
\$100	125th anniversary 5 sovereigns gold proof gilded	Charles III	
\$1	Anzac Day aluminium-bronze	Charles III	
\$1	Australian Citizenship aluminium-bronze	QEII memorial	
\$1	Brumby 1 ounce silver bullion	Charles III	
\$1	Brumby 1 ounce silver coloured	Charles III	
\$100	Brumby 1 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$100	Chinese Dragon and Pearl 1 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$100	Chinese Myths and Legends Dragon & Koi 1 ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$100	Chinese Myths and Legends Dragon & Koi 1 ounce platinum reverse proof	Charles III	
\$2	Christmas Nutcracker 2 ounce silver antiqued	Charles III	
\$2	Double Dragon 2 ounce silver proof mother of pearl insert	Charles III	
\$200	Double Dragon 2 ounce gold proof mother of pearl insert	Charles III	
25 c	Dragon white coloured 1/4 ounce silver Melbourne Money Expo	QEII memorial	
50 c	Dragon 1/2 ounce silver proof	QEII memorial	3 coin set only
50 c	Dragon blue coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon gilded 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon golden coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon multi-coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon probable Sydney expo coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon purple coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon red coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon teal coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon white coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
50 c	Dragon yellow coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	10 coin set only
\$1	Dragon (multi) coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon 1 ounce silver proof	QEII memorial	3 coin set only
\$1	Dragon 1 ounce silver proof high relief	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon 1 ounce silver with dragon privy	QEII memorial	3 coin set only
\$1	Dragon 1oz Silver Gilded	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon aluminium-bronze	QEII memorial	in pnc only
\$1	Dragon golden coloured 1 ounce silver ANA World Fair	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon lilac coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon lilac coloured 1 ounce silver Sydney Expo	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon opal series 1 ounce silver proof	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon purple coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon red coloured 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon teal coloured 1 ounce silver Perth Money Expo	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon white coloured 1 ounce silver Brisbane Money Expo	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon Yellow coloured 1 ounce silver Melbourne Money Expo	QEII memorial	
\$2	Dragon 2 ounce silver antiquated	QEII memorial	
\$2	Dragon 2 ounce silver proof	QEII memorial	3 coin set only
\$8	Dragon 5 ounce silver proof high relief	QEII memorial	
\$15	Dragon 1/10 ounce gold proof	QEII memorial	
\$25	Dragon 1/4 ounce gold proof	QEII memorial	
\$30	Dragon 1 kg silver coloured with 1 gram gold privy	QEII memorial	

\$100	Dragon 1 ounce gold proof coloured	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce gold proof high relief	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce platinum proof	QEII memorial	
\$1	Emu 1 ounce silver coloured	Charles III	
\$100	Emu 1 ounce gold	Charles III	
\$1	Four Guardians 1 ounce coloured Hong	Charles III	
\$1	Four Guardians 1 ounce coloured Lan	Charles III	
\$100	Four Guardians 1 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$15	Gold Nugget Replica — Little Hero 1/10 ounce	Charles III	
\$25	Gold Nugget Replica — Golden Eagle 1/4 ounce	Charles III	
\$50	Gold Nugget Replica — Hand of Faith 1/2 ounce	Charles III	
\$100	Gold Nugget Replica — Welcome Stranger 1 ounce	Charles III	
\$1	Great Southern Land 1 ounce silver proof with chrysoprase insert	Charles III	
\$100	Great Southern Land 1 ounce gold proof with mother of pearl insert	Charles III	
\$1	Happy Birthday 1 ounce coloured proof	Charles III	
\$60	Honey Bee 2 kg antiqued silver	Charles III	
\$2,500	Jewelled turtle 10 ounce gold and diamond proof	Charles III	
\$1	Kangaroo 1 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$2	Kangaroo 0.5 grams gold proof	Charles III	
\$15	Kangaroo 1/10 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$25	Kangaroo 1/4 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$100	Kangaroo 1 ounce gold proof high relief	Charles III	
\$200	Kangaroo 2 ounce gold proof high relief	Charles III	
\$1	Koala 1 ounce silver	Charles III	
\$5	Koala 5 ounce silver proof high relief gilded	Charles III	
\$30	Koala 1 kilo silver	Charles III	
\$100	Koala 1 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$500	Koala 5 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$1	Kookaburra 1 ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$1	Kookaburra 1 ounce silver coloured World Money Fair	QEII memorial	
\$10	Kookaburra 10 ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$15	Kookaburra 1/10 ounce gold	Charles III	
\$15	Kookaburra 1/10 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$15	Kookaburra 1/10 ounce platinum	Charles III	
\$25	Kookaburra 1/4 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$30	Kookaburra 1 kg silver	Charles III	
\$200	Kookaburra 2 ounce gold proof high relief	Charles III	
\$500	Kookaburra 5 ounce gold proof high relief	Charles III	
\$2	Kookaburra kaa-kaa 2 ounce silver coloured antiqued	Charles III	
50 c	Newborn 1/2 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$2	Next Generation Emu 2 ounce silver piedfort	Charles III	
\$10	Next Generation Emu 10 ounce silver piedfort	Charles III	
\$1	One Love 1 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$1	Quokka 1 ounce silver	Charles III	
\$1	Quokka 1 ounce silver proof coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Swan 1 ounce silver	Charles III	
\$1	Swan 1 ounce silver coloured	Charles III	
\$5	Swan 5 ounce silver proof high relief	Charles III	
\$100	Swan 1 ounce gold	Charles III	
\$1	Wedding 1 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$1	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 ounce silver	Charles III	
\$1	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 ounce silver coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 ounce silver proof high relief	Charles III	
\$1	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 ounce silver proof high relief gilded	Charles III	
\$1	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary montage 1 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$2	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 2 ounce silver coloured	Charles III	
\$3	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 3 ounce silver proof	Charles III	
\$30	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 kg silver ultrahigh relief	Charles III	
\$100	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 ounce gold proof high relief	Charles III	

\$100	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary montage 1 ounce gold proof	Charles III	
\$150	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1.5 ounce bimetal proof	Charles III	
\$500	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 5 ounce gold proof high relief	Charles III	
\$3,000	Wedge tailed eagle 10th anniversary 1 kg gold proof ultra high relief	Charles III	
\$1	Wombat 1 ounce silver coloured	Charles III	

Perth Mint Bullion

Denom.	Description	Obverse	Comments
\$1	Brumby 1 ounce silver bullion	Charles III	
\$100	Chinese Myths and Legends Dragon & Koi 1 ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
5 0c	Dragon 1/2 ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon 1 ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon 1 ounce silver bullion with dragon privy	QEII memorial	
\$1	Dragon 1 ounce silver rectangular bullion	QEII memorial	
\$2	Dragon 2 ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$5	Dragon 1/20 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$8	Dragon 5 ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$15	Dragon 1/10 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$25	Dragon 1/4 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$30	Dragon 1 kg silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$50	Dragon 1/2 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce gold bullion with dragon privy	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce gold rectangular bullion	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce platinum bullion	QEII memorial	
\$200	Dragon 2 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$1,000	Dragon 10 ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$1	Four Guardians 1 ounce silver bullion	Charles III	
\$15	Kangaroo 1/10 ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$25	Kangaroo 1/4 ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$50	Kangaroo 1/2 ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$100	Kangaroo 1 ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$3,000	Red Kangaroo Gold Bullion 1 kg	Charles III	
\$100	Red Kangaroo Platinum Bullion 1 ounce	Charles III	
\$1	Red Kangaroo Silver Bullion 1 ounce	Charles III	

Royal Australian Mint Non-bullion

Denom.	Description	Obverse	Comments
5c	Fine gold proof	QEII memorial — Mary Gillick	6 coin gold set
5c	Fine silver proof	QEII memorial — Mary Gillick	6 coin silver set
5c	Proof	Charles III	
5c	Wooden Echidna	Charles III	Baby set
5c		Charles III	
5c		QEII memorial — Mary Gillick	6 coin Change of Monarch set
10c	Fine gold proof	QEII memorial — A. Machin	6 coin gold set
10c	Fine silver proof	QEII memorial — A. Machin	6 coin silver set
10c	Marionette Lyrebird	Charles III	Baby set
10c	Proof	Charles III	
10c		Charles III	
10c		QEII memorial — A. Machin	6 coin Change of Monarch set
20c	Fine gold proof	QEII memorial — R. Maklouf	6 coin gold set
20c	Fine silver proof	QEII memorial — R. Maklouf	6 coin silver set
20c	Proof	Charles III	

20c	Where is the Green Sheep	Charles III	card and book
20c	Where is the Green Sheep gold plated	Charles III	In book
20c	Wind Up Platypus	Charles III	Baby set
20c		Charles III	
20c		QEII memorial — R. Maklouf	6 coin Change of Monarch set
50c	Christmas Festival Florals	Charles III	
50c	Christmas Festival Florals silver proof	Charles III	
50c	Countdown coloured		
50c	Dragon Tetradecagon	QEII memorial	
50c	Fine gold proof	QEII memorial — I. Rank-Broadley	6 coin gold set
50c	Fine silver proof	QEII memorial — I. Rank-Broadley	6 coin silver set
50c	NAIDOC	Charles III	business strike
50c	NAIDOC coloured	Charles III	
50c	Plush Toy Coat of Arms	Charles III	Baby set
50c	Proof	Charles III	
50c		Charles III	
50c		QEII memorial — I. Rank-Broadley	6 coin Change of Monarch set
\$1	AFL — Adelaide	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Brisbane	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Carlton	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Collingwood	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Essendon	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Fremantle	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Geelong	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Gold Coast	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Greater Western Sydney	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Hawthorn	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Melbourne	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — North Melbourne	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Port Adelaide	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Richmond	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — St Kilda	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Sydney	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — West Coast	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL — Western Bulldogs	QEII memorial	18 coin tube from Australia Post; PNCs
\$1	AFL Premiership Season	QEII memorial	
\$1	AFL Premiership Season Coloured	QEII memorial	
\$1	AFL Premiership Season Coloured	QEII memorial	
\$1	AFL Premiership Season Coloured Proof	QEII memorial	2 coin set
\$1	AFL Premiership Season Silver Coloured Proof	QEII memorial	2 coin set
\$1	AFLW Premiership Season	QEII memorial	
\$1	AFLW Premiership Season Coloured	QEII memorial	
\$1	AFLW Premiership Season Coloured	QEII memorial	
\$1	AFLW Premiership Season Coloured Proof	QEII memorial	2 coin set
\$1	AFLW Premiership Season Silver Coloured Proof	QEII memorial	2 coin set
\$1	Bluey — Bingo	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Bingo envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Muffin and Socks	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Muffin and Socks envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Mum and dad	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Mum and dad envelope	Charles III	

	privy		
\$1	Bluey — the Grannies	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — the Grannies coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — the Grannies envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — the Heelers	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — the Heelers coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — the Heelers envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Uncle Rad and Frisky	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Uncle Rad and Frisky envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Uncle Stripe, Aunt Trixie and nana	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey — Uncle Stripe, Aunt Trixie and nana envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey and Friends	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey and Friends envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey coloured Proof	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey Silver coloured proof	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey uncoloured	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey uncoloured envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey, Bingo and Friends	Charles III	
\$1	Bluey, Bingo and Friends envelope privy	Charles III	
\$1	Cobb and Co Centenary	Charles III	
\$1	Fine gold proof	QEII memorial — J. Clark	6 coin gold set
\$1	Fine silver proof	QEII memorial — J. Clark	6 coin silver set
\$1	Kangaroo series 1 oz silver frosted	Charles III	
\$1	Kangaroo series 1 oz silver proof	Charles III	
\$1	NRL — Canberra Raiders	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Canterbury Bulldogs	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Cronulla Sharks	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Gold Coast Titans	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Manly Sea Eagles	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Melbourne Storm	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — New Zealand Warriors	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Newcastle Knights	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — North Queensland Cowboys	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Parramatta Eels	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Penrith Panthers	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Redcliffe Dolphins	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — South Sydney Rabbitohs	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — St George Illawarra Dragons	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Sydney Roosters	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	NRL — Wests Tigers	QEII memorial	17 coin tube from Anaconda
\$1	Olympics coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Out of This World	Charles III	In Currency Determination*
\$1	Out of This World A counterstamp	Charles III	NSSA show
\$1	Out of This World B counterstamp	Charles III	Brisbane Money Fair
\$1	Out of This World B privymark	Charles III	4 coin set
\$1	Out of This World C counterstamp	Charles III	Canberra show, temporary centre
\$1	Out of This World C mintmark	Charles III	4 coin set, visitor centre
\$1	Out of This World C mintmark silver proof	Charles III	
\$1	Out of This World envelope privymark	Charles III	Australia Post products
\$1	Out of This World M counterstamp	Charles III	Melbourne Money Fair
\$1	Out of This World M privymark	Charles III	4 coin set
\$1	Out of This World map counterstamp	Charles III	Popup Shops and Sydney Money Fair

\$1	Out of This World P counterstamp	Charles III	Perth Money Fair
\$1	Out of This World S counterstamp	Charles III	Sydney Easter Show
\$1	Out of This World S privymark	Charles III	4 coin set
\$1	Paralympics coloured	Charles III	
\$1	Plush Kangaroos	Charles III	Baby set
\$1	Proof	Charles III	
\$1	Year of the Dragon	QEII memorial	
\$1	Year of the Dragon - Chinese Zodiac	QEII memorial	
\$1		Charles III	
\$1		QEII memorial — J. Clark	6 coin Change of Monarch set
\$2	Fine gold proof	Charles III	6 coin gold set
\$2	Fine silver proof	Charles III	6 coin silver set
\$2	Indigenous Baby	Charles III	Baby set
\$2	NRL Premiership Season	QEII memorial	
\$2	NRLW Premiership Season	QEII memorial	
\$2	Olympics AllezAus	Charles III	
\$2	Olympics Community	Charles III	
\$2	Olympics Olympism	Charles III	
\$2	Paralympics	Charles III	
\$2	Proof	Charles III	
\$2	Tooth Fairy	Charles III	
\$2	War Animals	Charles III	
\$2	War Animals Silver Proof	Charles III	
\$2		Charles III	
\$5	Dragon 1 ounce silver proof Domed Coin	QEII memorial	
\$5	Koala one ounce silver high relief	QEII memorial	
\$5	Olympics silver proof domed	Charles III	
\$5	Paralympics silver proof selectively gold plated	Charles III	
\$5	Toy kangaroo silver proof	Charles III	
\$10	Kangaroo series 1/10 oz gold proof	Charles III	
\$30	Dragon 1 kg fine silver proof	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon 1 ounce gold proof Domed Coin	QEII memorial	
\$100	Out of This World C mintmark Gold proof	Charles III	

It is not known whether the no mintmark out of this World \$1 was released into circulation. A number appeared in the counterstamp folders at one or more of the coin shows.

Royal Australian Mint Bullion

Denom.	Description	Obverse	Comments
\$1	Dragon one ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$1	Giraffe one ounce silver bullion	Charles III	
\$1	Hourglass Dolphin one ounce silver bullion	Charles III	
\$1	Kangaroo one ounce silver bullion	Charles III	
\$1	Koala one ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$1	Queensland Coat of Arms one ounce silver	QEII memorial	
\$1	Tiger Snake one ounce silver bullion	QEII memorial	
\$100	Dragon one ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$100	Giraffe one ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$100	Hourglass Dolphin one ounce gold bullion	Charles III	
\$100	Koala one ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	
\$100	Tiger Snake one ounce gold bullion	QEII memorial	

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Errata

December 2024 issue page 5, Table 1. The entry for 1912 should read as H mintmark and Birmingham mint. This was due to a cut and paste mistake.

Thank You

Thank you to John Belcher for contributing the article Coins Minted on Foreign planchets. Thanks also to Paul Wheman for peer reviewing the article on the pre-1955 proof coins. 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.