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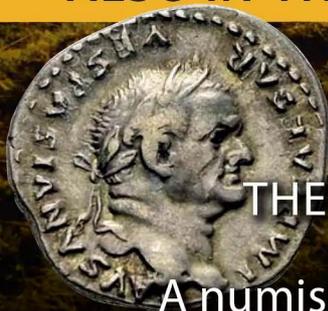
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## Irish Coins of the TUDORS

### Edward VI, Philip & Mary

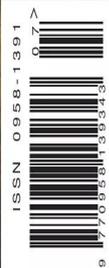
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PUBLISHING FOR COLLECTORS SINCE 1983



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COIN NEWS

1

# On my wish list

**N**EWs that a Petition Crown has recently made a new record for a British Silver Coin (see News & Views) comes as no real surprise, the prices of the “unicorn coins”—the Petition Crown, the Vigo Five Guineas, the Una and the Lions, et al, have been creeping ever upwards these past few years and there seems to be no end in sight. Whether it is private collectors or investors that are buying these rarities doesn't really matter (after all, even if they are all being purchased by investors, pension funds and the like, presumably those buyers know there's a market amongst collectors, no point in investing in something that no one wants to buy when you want to sell), someone is buying them and they get further out of the reach of us mere mortals. Few of us will ever be able to afford one of these unicorns, we know that and it's OK, we won't be able to afford a Ferrari either, but we still like to look at one when it drives past and like to dream that one day our ship may come in and we'll find ourselves on the dealer forecourt realising that we can't actually fit in one anyway and getting out is a nightmare (I sat in a McLaren once, surprisingly spacious inside, but so low on the ground that getting out was less than dignified!).

So what, I wonder, would you buy if your ship did come in? (Apologies for the old phrase, it was a favourite of my father, for those of you who aren't familiar with it, it simply means “if you get rich”.) It was a question I posed recently in MEDAL NEWS and I ask it again here, what coins are on your wish list?

Would you go after the unicorns? Would you seek out Una? Look for the glister of a Vigo Guinea? Try to complete your Penny collection with a 1933 example? Would you put the feelers out to try to bring all of these stunning rarities together, safe in the knowledge that your Euromillions win would cover it? Personally, I don't think I would. Whilst Una is stunning, whilst the Petition Crown is, without a doubt, the very pinnacle of the engraver's art, they don't call out to me. Hammered gold, on the other hand, does. There's something about the almost fragile look of a 14th century Noble, something exquisite about the early Sovereigns, something regal about the Laurels, something simply magnificent about a Triple Unite. For me, if money were no object, that is what I would buy, the best example of every hammered gold piece available. I'd start with the early denominations, one Noble, one Half Noble, one Quarter Noble. Then move on to the Ryals, the Angels, then to the Sovereigns (both 20-Shilling and 30-Shilling varieties) and then the gold of the Stuarts, James' Imperial Laurel, his political Unite and, of course, the aforementioned Triple Unite of Charles I.

Once I'd got examples of every denomination, I'd then go back and start again, adding more examples of the coins I already had but from different monarchs. So, I'd add a Richard II, Henry IV, V and VI Noble to go with my Edward III one and so on. What a collection that would be. I've roughly worked it out as being 78 coins, and it would feature all the coins I've already highlighted as well as the Crowns, the Pounds, the Half Pounds, etc. All hammered gold would be included right up to the reign of Charles I and probably the early issues of Charles II too. I might not bother with the Commonwealth coinage though; I've never quite understood the hypocrisy of getting rid of the institution of the “crown” only to continue using the term for your coins!

I haven't yet worked out exactly how much that would all cost because I won't care, I'll be a multi-millionaire and money will be no object. Of course, because money will be no object it won't take me long to buy 78 coins. They come up reasonably regularly, so I'll then look around for other things, anything Exeter Mint I think, keep it local and searching for them will take a little longer. What I wonder is on your wish list? What would you buy if you had endless funds? Do let me know.

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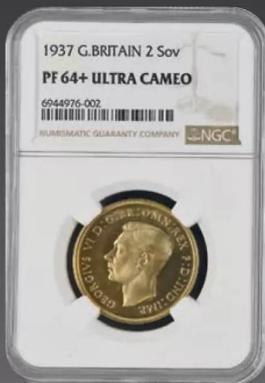
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**PF 70 ULTRA CAMEO**  
 6673473-004  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

2019 PROOF SOVEREIGN  
 NGC PF70 ULTRA CAMEO



1937 G. BRITAIN 2 Sov  
**PF 64+ ULTRA CAMEO**  
 6044976-002  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

1837 £2  
 PF64+ULTRA CAMEO



1989 G. Britain 1 Sov  
 Sovereign Anniversary  
**PF 70 ULTRA CAMEO**  
 6046398-003  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

1989 PROOF SOVEREIGN  
 NGC PF70 ULTRA CAMEO



1990 G. BRITAIN 1 Sov  
**PF 70 ULTRA CAMEO**  
 6046440-006  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

1990 PROOF SOVEREIGN  
 NGC PF70 ULTRA CAMEO



1764 G. BRITAIN 1/2G  
 W&R-128 GOLD PATTERN  
**PF 64 CAMEO**  
 6027414-001  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

1764 PATTERN HALF GUINEA  
 NGC PF64 CAMEO



1985 G. BRITAIN 2 Sov  
**PF 70 ULTRA CAMEO**  
 6046540-000  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

1985 PROOF TWO POUNDS  
 NGC PF70 ULTRA CAMEO



1989 G. Britain 1/2 Sov  
 Sovereign Anniversary  
**PF 70 ULTRA CAMEO**  
 6046398-004  
 NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE COMPANY NGC

1989 PROOF HALF SOVEREIGN  
 NGC PF70 ULTRA CAMEO



1651 ENGLAND UNITE  
 S-3208  
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 S-1657 RICHARD II  
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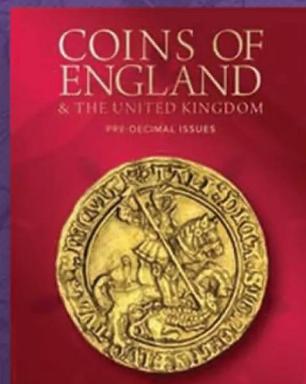
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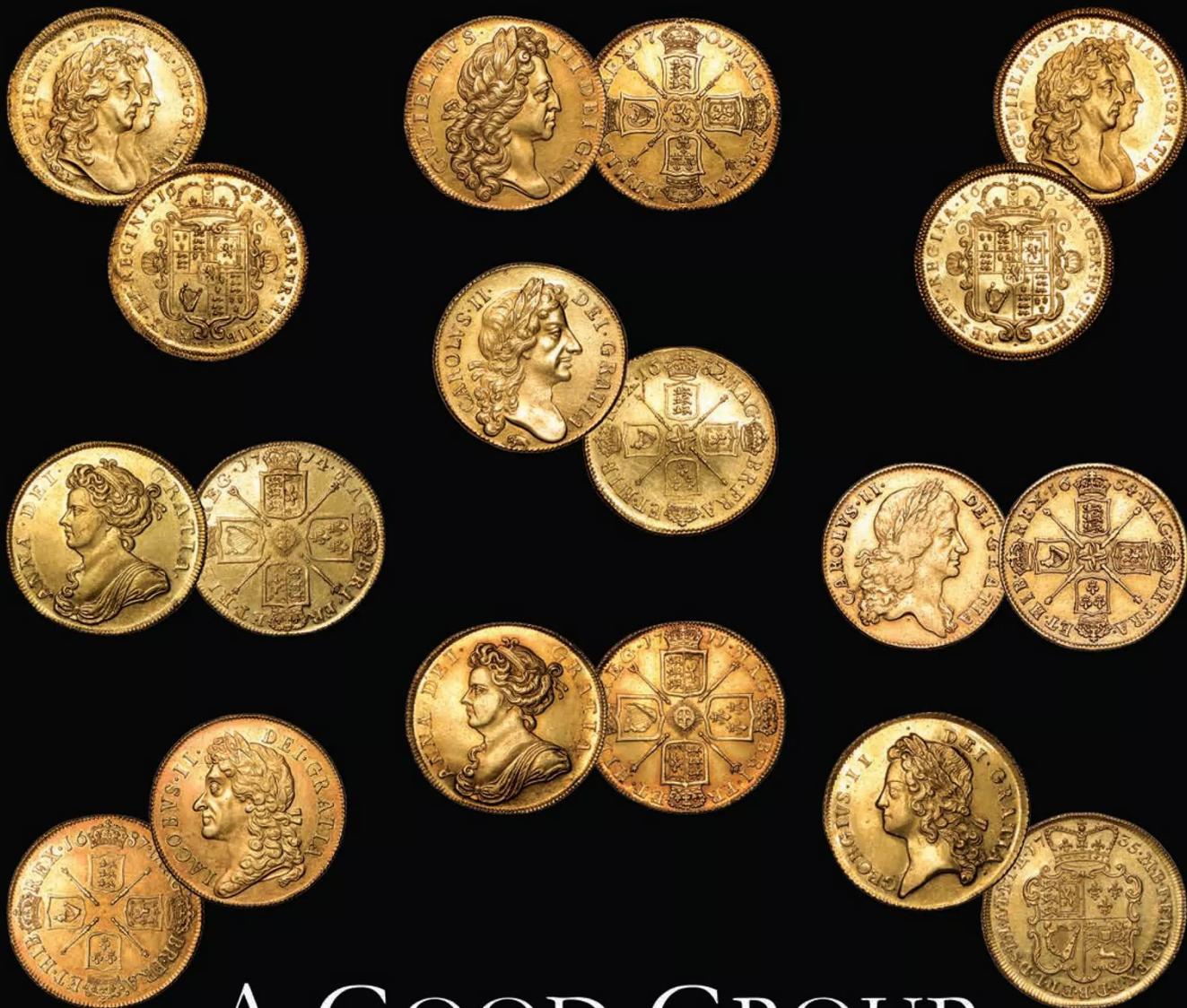
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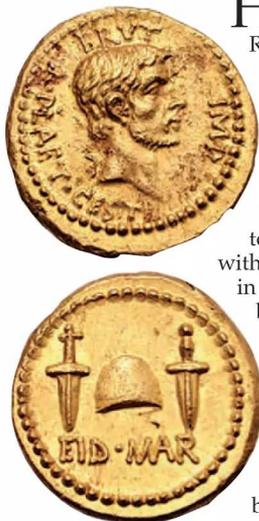
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### Petition Crown rides again

JUST when you think a record-price has been established for a rare piece, boom, along comes another one to blow it out of the water! The much anticipated Geoffrey Cope Collection, presented as a joint offering by Numismatica Ars Classica, Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) and Numismatica Genevensis, witnessed a number of records broken as this sublime collection, diligently put together over a 50-year period by Mr Cope, made its debut on May 8. The head-line act was, of course, top trumps of the milled British series, a Petition Crown of Charles II; it sold for CHF 949,375 (\$1 million) to become the most expensive British silver coin ever sold at auction. Among the other scene-stealers, was an Oxford Crown of Charles I, which sold for CHF 441,000 (\$486,000), a record for this type, and for any coin, gold or silver, of Charles I. Within the Roman section, a bronze Sestertius of the Emperor Hadrian commemorating the completion of Hadrian's Wall in AD 122, a piece formerly held in the British Museum, sold for CHF 735,000 (\$810,000). Director of CNG, David Guest, said: "Widely regarded as the most beautiful machine-made coin ever struck and undoubtedly the most important coin in the British series, we are delighted to have seen the 1663 Petition Crown realise a world-record price. The overwhelming success of the sale of the Cope Collection further underlines the confidence in the market for superb and rare British coins." The second and final part of the Cope Collection will be offered in Zurich in October 2024. (All figures include 22.5 per cent Buyer's Premium.)

### End of the road for Roma



HOW the mighty have fallen. It would be fair to say, that Roma Numismatics dominated the UK ancient coin market for many years, securing head-line stealing results for a number of their more rare and singular lots. As we now know, all was not as it seemed and a daring attempt to secure top dollar Stateside for a coin with a faked provenance resulted in the deception being uncovered by law enforcement officers. Consequently, founder of the company Richard Beale was arrested on the grounds of grand larceny in the first degree. After admitting falsifying the impressive provenance for the record-breaking Brutus "Eid Mar" gold aureus (which sold in September 2020 for £2.7m), amongst others, Beale

was retained in the US to face trial (he could receive a lengthy prison sentence). It came as no surprise to many when the news came through that Roma Numismatics of London had closed their doors; their last sales taking place from April 24 to 25, where even items from the office, such as coin trays, were sold off to the highest bidder. As of May 24, 2024, the company ceased trading. And if you are curious as to the fate of the gold aureus central to this story, it was repatriated to its country of origin by the US Authorities.

### Ancient grading

ANY reader who is not fully cognisant with the grading of Ancient coins, could usefully take time out to carefully read their way through Heritage Auction tutorial on the subject: <https://coins.ha.com/tutorial/ancient-coin-grading>. If you can digest the following in toto: "NGC Choice XF 5/5 - 3/5, Boscoreale Toning, edge marks" you probably have no issues. If you stumble over matters like "Boscoreale" and "3/5" then an hour spent on the above website could well be educational. While the site is primarily concerned with numeric grading the explanations of many terms are useful in understanding lot descriptions of ancients, be they numeric or not. All terms are lavishly illustrated with links to Heritage auction lots, allowing magnified images to be viewed in detail. In this connection NGC is the sole major third-party grading service to certify ancient coins. PCGS does not. Neither get involved with ancient Indian coins. Following an illustrated version of the Sheldon Scale, as applied to ancients, the five-point strike and surface grades are explained. These are specific to hand struck ancients. A further illustrated table clarifies terms that are NGC-specific such as "Fine Style" and the use of the star ★. While you are there check out "Boscoreale toning," Other coin attributes are defined and illustrated as they specifically apply to ancients, e.g. "crystallized", "brushed", "altered surface".



All-in-all a very useful and educational compilation that should clarify all aspects of "NGC Choice XF 5/5 - 3/5, Boscoreale Toning, edge marks".

Dr K. A. Rodgers

Obverse of aureus struck for Aulus Vitellius in Rome AD 69. Certified NGC Choice XF 5/5 - 3/5, Boscoreale Toning, edge marks. Get it? If not read the text (image courtesy & © Heritage Auctions).



### An auction of note

**B**ANKNOTES performed particularly strongly at the Tennants' Coins, Tokens and Banknotes Sale, held on May 8; noteworthy, if you will forgive the pun, was a rare Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation \$1 from 1890, which sold for £3,800, after much enthusiastic bidding. Lots from the eastern region of the world garnered further strong results, as witnessed amongst the world coin section where a Republic of China Dollar (Yuan) of 1912 sold for a healthy £1,100. Sovereigns are never far away from the action in many an auction and there was a particularly hearty result for a 1832 William IV gold sovereign, which secured £2,500 when the bidding came to a close. One particularly splendid lot to catch our eye was a George VI "Coronation" Gold Proof Set of 1937 (illustrated), which sold for £9,800 after much pursuit. Tennants' next sale will be held in August.

### Successful move

**T**HE London Coin Fair took place in its new home, the Novotel in Hammersmith, for the very first time in June and there's no doubt at all that the move was a great success! A few issues with unloading in the morning (nothing to do with the organisers, everything to do with bad timing and a lot of coaches) were soon forgotten when the doors opened, and the collectors flooded in. And it was a flood, they even had to open the doors a little early to ease the congestion in the hallway outside the main room—when was the last time you saw that at a coin fair? It may be that the numbers attending were the same as previous London Coin Fairs, we haven't got the figures yet, but it felt like more, a lot more, and because everyone was in the same big hall there was a real "buzz" around the place. It felt like coin fairs used to feel 20 years ago, there was an energy in the room, people were rushing hither and thither, and tables seemed to be rammed all day. Luckily the space was big enough to accommodate the numbers so whilst there was definitely a sense of being in a crowd there was no unseemly crush. Everybody we spoke to seemed to be doing well and enjoying the day; dealers were happy with the numbers through the door, collectors were happy with the breadth and depth of items on offer and we didn't hear a negative word all day (apart from one or two people who had got lost finding the place but they'll soon get used to it, they won't get lost next time!). Congratulations must go to Mike and Lu Veissid and the team from London and Midland Coin Fairs for making the day such a success. The Token Team won't be at the next one on September 7 (it's the day before the Midland Coin Fair, which we are attending and, of course, the same month as Coinex and it doesn't make sense for us to travel into London twice in one month), but we will definitely be there on November 2, we're looking forward to it already!



*Taking time out during a busy day, Token Publishing's Carol Hartman with Roberto Delzanno (from Sweden), prolific author, publisher and general coin aficionados.*



### "A" is for ...

**W**HEN you think of quality, be it choice, rare coins or, indeed, top-end jewellery, the name Asprey instantly comes to mind. While the companies operate in very different spheres of the market, clearly there could be confusion between the two, hence the decision by Asprey Coins to rename their company. Henceforth, Asprey Coins will become Avere Coins. Everything else about the firm remains the same, including the elegant logo. For their latest array of quality coins, visit [www.averecoins.co.uk](http://www.averecoins.co.uk) or telephone: 01243 915155 to discuss your individual requirements.

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### Out and about

REGULAR readers will be familiar with the auction reports featuring Mowbray's of New Zealand. Key to their numismatic operations is David Galt, who just happened to be holidaying in the UK during the month of May. Part of his travel itinerary took him and his wife Margaret to the Westcountry where the busy couple found time to spend an evening with Token's Carol Hartman and Phil Mussell. After much apologising about the unseasonal weather in Devon during the past month, an excellent evening was had by all discussing coins and the numismatic world at large. David also revealed the numerous places he had visited whilst here in the UK including that essential on any visitor's "to-do" list, the British Museum. His wife Margaret managed to take a quick snap of David next to the George III's Collection at the BM. After our evening soiree, David emailed to say: "One of the things I have been impressed by is the integration of coins and medals into almost any museum display in the UK. So while there are excellent special displays at the British Museum, Royal Mint and even better in their collection of record, great displays can often be found anywhere. Even Florence Nightingale had a small collection and it's there in the museum dedicated to her in London". David and Margaret are now safely back in Wellington, just as the weather has perked up here!



### "When will they ever learn?"

PETER SEEGER asked that question in song back in 1955. It was repeated by The Kingston Trio and later by Peter, Paul & Mary. It is still relevant today. I recalled the line on hearing about the theft of half a million dollars' worth of US collector paper money from a car at the Central States Numismatic Society Show held on May 1-4 in Illinois. That half million dollars represented 95 per cent of the stock of Emporium Coin and Currency. I have lost items from locked cars, not of any great value, but the thefts taught me the lesson: locked cars are NOT secure. He had the prides and joys of his collection in his car mounted on several display boards. He stopped at a service station to top up his vehicle and buy a coffee. His left his car locked alongside the pumps; his display boards standing behind the driver's seat. When he got back they were gone. He has come to the conclusion he was tailed and the few minutes he was away was all that was needed for his vehicle to be opened and the goodies removed. Yes, the guys were caught on camera but they were masked-up and unidentifiable. Let Emporium's loss teach all dealers and collectors the lesson: never leave valuables in a locked car. Cars are not secure.

Antoine Scrivener

### Mule gives a big kick



POSSIBLY an early, experimental type (mule) imported Gallo-Belgic broad flan gold stater of the Ambiani tribe, with a right-facing head and left-facing horse (above, top), considered unique, created quite a stir at the Chris Rudd auction of May 19. Certainly a star lot among a strong showing of Celtic, it was contested to a healthy £3,800. While what is considered to be an excessively rare piece known as a Commios E-Type gold stater of the Southern Region which came from the Royal Berkshire Collection, purchased from B. Knight in 1982, secured £2,200. John Follows of course, needs no introduction to Celtic coin aficionados, and a piece from his collection, a near EF, "Odin's eye" 1 silver unit of the Iceni (above) sold for £1,100. Catch up with the next Chris Rudd all-Celtic auction when it takes place on Sunday, July 14.

### Star bars

FANS of the sci-fi trilogy *Star Wars*, who also have a penchant for gold or silver, have a treat in store with the latest offering from the bullion arm of the Royal Mint; for the first time, iconic characters of the original *Star Wars* trilogy will feature on newly minted bullion bars as part of a two-part collection celebrating this incredibly popular franchise. The neatly named, Light Side Bullion Bar depicts the likenesses of Luke Skywalker™, Princess Leia™ and Han Solo™, with the use of artwork created from the Lucasfilm's image library. An opulent tribute to one of the most successful franchises of all time, the *Star Wars* Light Side Bullion Minted Bars are available in both gold and silver editions.



### When professionals gather

SAN FRANCISCO was the chosen destination to host The International Association of Professional Numismatists (IAPN) 72nd Annual Congress, held from May 16 to 19, 2024, and the city did not disappoint. Some 39 member companies attended the Congress which was held at the Argonaut Hotel, situated on the picturesque waterfront at Fisherman's Wharf. The Congress approved three new IAPN members, Paul Knudsen of Paul's Coins (USA), Keith Candiotti (USA), and Ginza Coins (Japan). The Congress provides an opportunity for the winner of the IAPN's annual book prize to be acknowledged. Curator of the Heberden Coin Room at the Ashmolean Museum, Jerome Mairat, was awarded the IAPN Book Prize for his title *Roman Imperial Coinage, Volume V.4: The Gallic Empire (AD 260-274)* published by Spink. The Gala dinner also provides an opportunity for IAPN members to support local charities and this year, IAPN members raised \$10,500 for the Ceres Community Project. The charity prepares home-delivered meals for people who are too unwell to shop or to cook for themselves. Budapest, Hungary has already been announced as the next destination for the Congress in 2025.



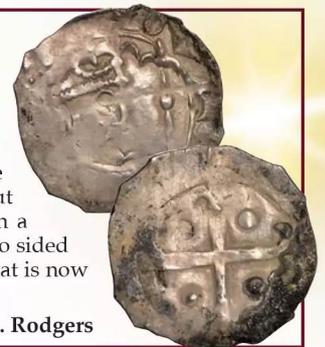


## Always worth the wait

LIST number 37 has landed on the editorial mat (well, in-box actually) from the highly respected numismatist and dealer, Mark Rasmussen. Mark needs little introduction to collectors suffice to say his lists are a must-have as it offers an exceptional range from the British series, from the high-flyers to the simply pleasing pieces to own. There are, as one would expect, some notable highlights such as a rare penny in the name of Cnut; sole reign (1040–42), York Mint (S.1169), which comes attractively toned, practically EF, and priced at £2,875; a beautifully toned and rare Proof silver farthing of 1718, second issue, struck on a thin flan; graded good EF-FDC and offered at £2,250; while sovereign fans will not be disappointed with such pieces as a superb George IV sovereign dated 1826, second bare head (M.11), beautifully toned, UNC and rare, it comes priced at £4,000. There are a number of special collections such as a Collection of Sixpences 1758–1970 and the Broadstone Collection of Halfcrowns. This 52-page list is extensive in its coverage of the British series (and excellent world and Irish coins too), however, the prices vary as well with some pieces costing just £12, hence this really is a “must-have” regardless of budget constraints. To secure your copy (printed, £2.50, UK or emailed PDF), contact Mark via email: [mark.rasmussen@rascoins.com](mailto:mark.rasmussen@rascoins.com) or by telephoning: 01306 884 880.

## Silver penny shines

IT is always great to see a silver coin of David I head to the block. Some researchers consider these to be the first homegrown coins of Scotland/Alba. One led “A Collection of Scottish Coins” at Noonans on May 9. The 1.41 g piece came from David’s Period D with both the mint and moneyer uncertain. The obverse shows a crowned bust right with sceptre; the reverse a cross fleurdelisée with pellets in angles (S-5010). Described “Of good metal and very fine but much flatness, patches of dark deposit on reverse, very rare”, it took a satisfactory £1,860 on a £1,200–1,500 estimate. In case there are any sassenachs among readers, David I was the guy who sided with the Empress Matilda over the English throne. He also controlled considerable tracts in what is now northern England.



Dr K. A. Rodgers



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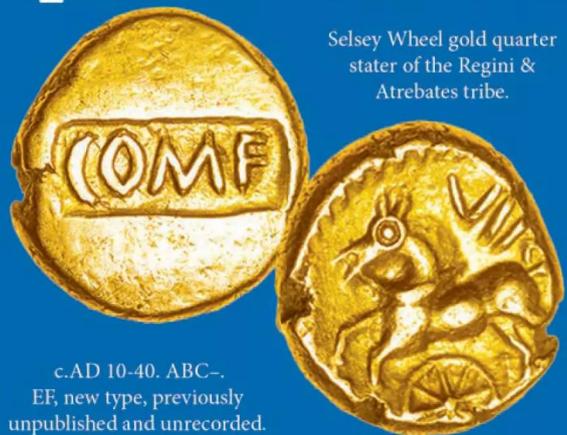
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## First of Verica’s quarter staters

Selsey Wheel gold quarter stater of the Regini & Atrebatas tribe.



c.AD 10-40. ABC-.  
 EF, new type, previously unpublished and unrecorded.

This coin has to be one of the very first gold quarter staters issued in the brief initial series designed for Verica, and is the only one on record so far that was struck before the two bold crescent emblems were added that distinguish it so instantly from Tincomaros’ identical obverse design (ABC 1082-1088). This coin’s cartouche has exactly the same rim profile and lettering as later strikings after the two gold neck torcs were added (ABC 1196), that symbolised royalty and divinity. To be sold in Norwich, 14 July 2024, estimate £1500. Want to read more about the stories depicted on the coins? For a free catalogue ask [liz@celticcoins.com](mailto:liz@celticcoins.com)



# Auction

## preview

### Roll up, roll up . . .

POSSIBLY not at the top of every collector in the UK's itinerary—the annual American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money held in the USA—however, it is the highlight for many thousands of collectors Stateside and beyond. This year's event takes place from August 6 to 10 in Chicago at the Donald E. Stephens Convention & Conference Center, and along with seminars and the hugely popular bourse, there are, as one might expect, a number of high profile auctions. One of the official sponsors of the event, Heritage Auctions, are presenting a number of fabulous lots in their ANA special sale. Ancients feature strongly, as do many splendid examples from the British series such as a George IV gold Proof £5 (right). There is the pick of choice world coins such as a Netherland's East Indies Dutch Colony William III Proof Pattern cent of 1855 (left); along with examples of numismatic gems from all corners of the globe. Certainly an event to keep an eye on with extensive auction lot information available to view shortly at [www.money.org/worldsfairmoney](http://www.money.org/worldsfairmoney).



## A solid collectors' sale

HAVING successfully "cut their teeth" for many years in the military medal world, C&T Auctions of Kent are certainly making their mark on the numismatic auction scene too! They are well underway with their next sale to be held on July 3 (nicely time to take your mind of the General Election taking place the next day!) with a broad range of items already consigned from notable numismatic pieces to those "tray fillers" so vital to the completion of any collection. In other words, something for everyone, with a range of estimates to suit all pockets. Their Coin Specialist, George Champ, is on hand to answer any queries concerning the next sale, or indeed to discuss individual consignments to this and future sales. C&T's auctions are held online only, with live bidding available through their website, [www.candtauctions.co.uk](http://www.candtauctions.co.uk) or via the-saleroom.com, and other online platforms. For more details, telephone: 01233 510050 or email: [george.champ@candtauctions.co.uk](mailto:george.champ@candtauctions.co.uk).

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NGC George VI (1936-1952), Sovereign, Proof, 1937. Hammered at £3,800



Danish East Anglia, St Edmund, Memorial Coinage, Penny. Hammered at £460



NGC PF 58 - Victoria (1837-1901), Crown Gothic, 1847. Hammered at £5,200



Diana, Princess of Wales £5, (22ct 40g). Hammered at £1,600

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**THE SOUTH DOWNS COLLECTION OF SHILLINGS**

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ROMAN IMPERIAL COINAGE, VALENS (364–378),  
MILIARENSIS, TRIER, 367–75  
SOLD IN FEBRUARY 2024 AS PART OF  
THE VALE OF PEWSEY HOARD  
HAMMER PRICE: £6,500  
TOTAL HAMMER PRICE: £81,160



EDWARD III (1327–1377)  
PRE-TREATY PERIOD, NOBLE  
SOLD IN MAY 2022 AS PART OF  
THE ROMNEY MARSH HOARD  
HAMMER PRICE: £12,000  
TOTAL HAMMER PRICE: £39,550



HAROLD II (1066), PENNY  
SOLD IN FEBRUARY 2024 AS PART OF  
THE BRAINTREE HOARD  
HAMMER PRICE: £24,000  
TOTAL HAMMER PRICE: £325,560



# GETTING TOGETHER SOCIETY & FAIR NEWS

Society secretaries and fair organisers—if you have an interesting talk or event to report, then we would be more than happy to feature it in our dedicated Getting Together feature. Simply email: [jayne@tokenpublishing.com](mailto:jayne@tokenpublishing.com) with your information.

## THE HAMMER FINALLY FALLS AT CREWE

THE society's online auction, which was due to take place in April, had to be postponed due to a technical problem and will now be held on July 9. Following on from the success of last year's event, 30 lots, varying from medallions to numismatic books, and from medieval to modern coins, will be offered with finishing times two minutes apart during our club night. Live bidding will be projected onto a screen during the meeting so that members can follow the progress of their lots and watch the bids climb. It makes for a lucrative and entertaining meeting. The society does not meet in August but in September the programme resumes with a private visit to the Grosvenor Museum in Chester, where we will have the opportunity to examine coins from the Willoughby Gardner collection of Saxon silver pennies, along with coins from Roman, Viking, medieval, Tudor and Civil War hoards. The visit is sure to be of interest to coin collectors and metal detectorists, historians and archaeologists alike. In October, we shall be holding our popular Autumn coin fair. These events are increasingly well attended and attract local, regional and national dealers. In November, Steve Bentley will describe "The History of the Crystal Palace" using medallions. The society meets on the second Tuesday of the month, except for January and August. Visitors are always very welcome at our usual venue, Wistaston Memorial Hall, near Crewe. Please contact the Secretary, Stuart Hallworth, on 07828 602611 for details.



Steve Bentley, Chairman.

## OLYMPIA COMES TO WILTSHIRE

AT the May meeting of the Wiltshire Numismatic Society, Mark Woodlands gave a most interesting and informative presentation of "Coins, Tokens and Medallions" and related ephemera connected with the summer Olympic Games from the end of the 19th century right up-to-date including Paris 2024 coins, etc. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Devizes. Our July meeting sees the "Numismatic Quiz for the M. Bowden Cup". Phone the secretary, Verity Jeffery, on 07342 858799 for further details.

## NEW NAME IN SUSSEX

AT our recent AGM, the members of The Worthing & District Numismatic Society agreed to change our name to Sussex Coin Club make it more explanatory of who we are, what we do and also to indicate the region that our members reside in. This decision was partly prompted by the end of term of our Chair, William Tyler, who held the role for two years and to whom the club is grateful, and the resignation of our long-term Treasurer, Rob de Ruiter, who is moving out of Sussex. Again, many thanks for his support over the years. As with many clubs, we have seen our numbers fall during and after Covid, and the increasing use of the internet for trading rather than clubs and local coin fairs, and the increasing difficulty of obtaining speakers for our monthly meetings. This change of name comes with a move to a more accessible venue. We will now meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Durrington Community Centre, Romany Road, Durrington BN13 3FJ (at the eastern end of the Tesco car park). Timings are 7pm-9pm. New and returning member's welcome. For further details please email: [Sussexcoinclub@gmail.com](mailto:Sussexcoinclub@gmail.com).

## BRITANNIA NUMMARIA 2024

ONE day conference celebrating Romano-British numismatics and monetary history will be held on Thursday July 18 at The Guildhall, St Helens Square, York. To book or for further information contact Lee Toone. Tel: 07799 791790 or visit our website [www.britannianummaria2024.blogspot.com](http://www.britannianummaria2024.blogspot.com).



## YORKSHIRE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

ON May 20, Dr Gary Redfeather presented on "The Wild West—Collecting US Morgan Dollar Varieties". Gary began by explaining that Morgan dollars had been a passion of his since the 1970s. He outlined how the first Morgan dollars were minted in Philadelphia on March 11, 1878, closely followed by San Francisco on April 17 of the same year. Master dies were made in Philadelphia and then working dies were made from these master dies and distributed to the different mints. It was difficult to get the dies from Philadelphia to San Francisco, 4,000km away. Railroad was mainly used but the western states were poorly connected at this time. There was a "Pattern War". One of the engravers was William Barber; his son, Charles Barber, became the sixth Chief Engraver at the US Mint, between 1869 and 1917. George Morgan became the seventh Chief Engraver, between 1917 and 1925. The Morgan dollar had Lady Liberty on the obverse. There was apparently some doubt as to whether this was based on Morgan's wife or his mistress! Of course, the famous eagle was on the reverse. Van Allen and Mallis were the two pioneers who began categorising the varieties up to 1971—hence the acronym "VAMS". Gary explained how there were many varieties, and sub-varieties, in existence, with many of the varieties being based on the positioning of the date (year) and mint mark. In 1878, Morgan dollars were only minted in Philadelphia, Carson City and San Francisco. The New Orleans Mint began in 1879. There was a break in the Carson City mintage between 1886 and 1888 and this mintage ended in 1893. Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco continued until 1904. Then mintage ceased, except for 1921, when minted in Denver, San Francisco and Philadelphia. This was a very well-illustrated and researched presentation with Gary outlining how he had been the first to recognise some of these many varieties. The next meeting will be an informal gathering, at 1pm, on Friday, July 19, in the bar area of The York Coin and Stamp Fair, The Grandstand, York Racecourse. Please email [jtaylor3@ntlworld.com](mailto:jtaylor3@ntlworld.com) for further details.

Jon Taylor (Secretary)

## THE ESSEX NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2024

ON May 24, we had our Society Secretary Roger Barrett speak to us about "The Cae Bardd Hoard—an Essex Connection". Firstly, we held a one-minute silence for the recent passing of one of our members, Ian Roper. On to the talk, he explained a chance meeting at the London Coin Fair back in November 2022 with Lee Toone that led to a discussion about joint interests in a coin hoard discovered in Wales in 1981. Roger explained that, in the early 1980s, his father, Denis Barrett, and he travelled to Wales so his father could purchase the hoard of nearly 4,700 Roman coins. Roger told the story of the initial find, and museum report subsequently published in 1987. The coins dated from AD 318–28. The majority were from Western mints of Constantine I and family. Roger detailed the hoard and the context of the find in Wales. He explained how, after some conservation, much of the hoard was sold on, but his father retained a large group—some of which he kept as part of his collection and others to slowly sell on. Roger finished by saying that the "revised" edition of Lee's book *The London Mint of Constantius and Constantine* will be available from Spink this July. On June 28, we welcome back Denis Martin who will talk to us about "What makes a coin rare? A study of Edwardian Sterling's and other coins". On July 26, Karen Till will update us on some "More Essex Finds". Prospective members and/or visitors to any of our meetings, for whom there is a £2 entry fee, are always welcome and for further details please see our website [www.essexcoins.org.uk](http://www.essexcoins.org.uk) Annual membership is £15, or £20 for couples. Meetings are normally on the fourth Friday monthly at the Christ Church URC, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 0AW commencing at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start.

Roger Barrett, Hon Secretary.

## TOKEN CONGRESS OCTOBER 4–6, 2024

THIS year's Token Congress will be held again at the Northampton Hilton Hotel and all are welcome. There is a Friday night auction, a Saturday night bourse with a dozen dealers and other collectors offering items for sale, talks all day Saturday and on Sunday morning on a wide variety of token subjects. So, whether you are interested in 17th century, 18th century, 19th century, communion, co-op, shop, brothel(!) or any other tokens on any subject, Northampton is the place to be this October. We normally have around 100 delegates and you are sure to meet someone who shares your interests and who can help with your collection. There is also subsidised beer! The cost is £220 and covers the hotel room for two nights, all meals, tea and coffee. The warm welcome is free! For further details and a booking form contact this year's organiser, Tim Everson, at: [tim.everson@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.everson@btinternet.com).

## NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF IRELAND NORTHERN BRANCH

THE highlight of the February 2 meeting was a numismatic talk by Dr Alexey Shitvov entitled "Ancient Coins of the Northern Black Sea: A Portrait of the Civilisation". A comprehensive review of the early history of the coinage in the north-west Black Sea region, the Crimean Peninsula, and the Cimmerian Bosphorus was presented, from the emergence of the coinage to the end of the Spartocid Dynasty. Recent discoveries and outstanding issues in the numismatic history of the region were outlined and the talk was supplemented with a display of ancient coins from the speaker's collection. Saturday April 6 saw a public lecture organised jointly with the NMNI. This half-day event featured a guided tour of the Ulster Museum, particularly focused on its numismatic collections, and an afternoon filled with numismatic talks delivered by experts and focused on the Irish coinage and eminent collectors. The Society's meeting of Friday, May 3, was the now traditional Show-and-Tell Competition, open to all members of the NSI South and NSI-NB. For more information, please contact the Society by email at: [numsocirelandnb@gmail.com](mailto:numsocirelandnb@gmail.com). Please kindly note that the Society website is currently inaccessible due to the ongoing major revision of the contents.

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# A VIEW OF THE BAY

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Here we take a look at some of the numerous numismatic items offered over the auction website eBay. This is just a small selection which have caught our eye. Read on and see if you agree with our reviewer (comments in italics). Unless stated otherwise the descriptions are as the eBay listing written by the seller (including weak spelling and poor grammar). Prices do not include any VAT or other charges which may have been added.



Scotland P157d 1 Pound British Linen Bank Sign Anderson 9.8.1955 F+.—£4.

*This was started at 99p, which was just one penny below what it was worth, but it managed to get three bids from two bidders.*

*The grade of this note was no better than poor as it was heavily stained in several areas and appeared to have been stored in damp conditions for many years. It had edge damage possibly caused by hungry mice.*

Greek Lydia Kroisos lion AR silver stater Siglos coin 550 BC (Croesus). All items are acquired from legitimate sources such as established galleries, International coin fairs and old British and European collections. The Authenticity of our items is guaranteed and protected by our 100% buyer satisfaction guarantee.—£205.

*Started at £199.99, it attracted two bidders.*

1990 20p coin error struck on 1p bronze blank, Royal Mint Certificate included. This fascinating lot is offered with a signed letter from the Information and Research Manager at The Royal Mint Museum which confirms the details of this unusual error coin as follows. "The piece is of the incorrect composition for a twenty pence piece, underweight, and features slightly rounded edges consistent with the blank being unsuitable in size for the collar in which it was struck. It appears in this instance that a bronze blank, most likely intended for a 1p piece, has been struck between 20p dies."—£240.

*A Buy It Now listing at £1,600 for this interesting error coin, but the selling price shown in the positive feedback seems to indicate that an offer of just £240 was accepted by the buyer. The Royal Mint letter was dated August 30, 2023.*

1913 China Yuan shikai Silver Pl. Dollar 26.7 Gr.—£1.46.

*It's quite an achievement for an item to be started at one US cent, attract a total of nine bids from five bidders and sell for just US\$1.85. This alleged "Fat Man Dollar" was in a slab of the home made Chinese variety, the seller being in China, this seller has a history of selling fake items and for non-delivery.*

1897 Victoria Great Britain Large Gold Diamond Jubilee Medal NGC UNC Details. Eimer 1817a. BHM: 3506. 22 Carat Gold. Official Weight 93g. Diameter 55mm.—£7,202.90.

*The metal value was about £4,860 but it sold for 48 per cent above that. The start at one penny did the trick with 16 bidders placing a total of 43 bids with none being made inside the final three hours.*

Countermark / Engraved Lot X 78 Antique and Modern Mixed Grade Coins.—£260.

*Many hours of fun to be had by the winner sorting through this interesting lot of 78 coins. They had a feedback score in excess of 13,500.*

Jersey 1841 1/52nd of a shilling coin proof like finish.—£321.

*A very popular high grade coin with a total of 32 bids being made by just six bidders.*

Bank Notes Bank Of All Nations Oct 2 1980 Franklin Mint X 42 UNC Bank Notes.—£77.69.

*Only two bidders were interested, so a bit of a bargain at just £1.85 per uncirculated 44-year-old note.*

Bulgaria 1000 Leva 1929 P53cts "Color Trial" [PMG 50 NET] About Uncirculated.—£707.17.

*Fought over by six bidders attracted by the 99 cents starting price. The "NET" designation was due to "Previously Mounted, Paper damage". The grading by the slabbing companies can sometimes leave UK collectors scratching their heads as this note had been heavily stained by glue in several places and had a corner missing, in the UK the grade would probably be "poor".*

1983 UK Uncirculated Coin Collection Benson & Hedges Promo Pieces Of Eight. Not collaboration you would see today! Quite a scarce set.—£14.

*Just one bid for this set from £1 to 1/2p, the 2p was not the rare mule type.*

1901 Pan American Expo Elongated Penny Electric Tower 2 Sided Armour's Ill Day. This elongated coin is a must-have for collectors and enthusiasts alike. Featuring the Pan American Expeditions Electric Tower. This example is unusual because it is double sided. The reverse side advertised Illinois Day Armour's Sept. 1901. It has been pressed / elongated / squished to create a one-of-a-kind piece of history.—£707.31.

*Sold by a seller in the USA with a starting price of \$19.99, four bidders fought over it making a total of six bids to reach an impressive \$898.88. Three bids placed close to the end increased the price by \$873.88, the close-to-the-end underbidder was just \$10 below the winner. The buyer and seller have exchanged positive feedback, if a last minute buyer gets a shock at the price they have to pay sometimes "buyer's regret" results in non-payment but not this time.*

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AR tetradrachm  
NGC Choice AU 4/5 - 4/5



SICILY. Siculo-Punic. Ca. 264-260 BC  
AR 5-shekels or decadrachm  
NGC XF 5/5 - 3/5, Fine Style



Lucius Verus (AD 161-169)  
AV aureus  
NGC Gem MS 5/5 - 5/5, Fine Style



Australia: George V gold Sovereign 1920-S  
MS63 PCGS  
From the James D. Wolfensohn Collection



Great Britain: George IV gold Proof 5 Pounds 1826  
PR63+ Deep Cameo PCGS



Japan: Meiji gold 20 Yen Year 3 (1870)  
MS62 NGC



Netherlands East Indies: Dutch Colony Willem III Proof Specimen  
Pattern Cent 1855  
SP64 Brown PCG



Peru: Philip V gold Cob 8 Escudos 1713 L-M MS62 NGC



Romania: Carol I gold Proof Specimen  
Pattern 20 Lei 1868  
SP63 Deep Cameo PCGS  
From a Special Collection of Romanian Coins

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# NumisMarket

## Spoilt by Choice

Continuing with his special monthly reports, ROBERT PARKINSON, author of *ECoinomics* and Senior Category Manager: Coins, Stamps and Bullion at eBay UK, looks at what's shaping today's numismatic market...

**E**ARLIER this month (May), the global numismatic community witnessed the disposal of one of the finest collections of British coins assembled in recent decades—the Geoffrey Cope Collection. This superb selection was offered for sale through collaboration between CNG, NAC and NGSA, presumably to maximise the incentives offered by these three firms but simultaneously creating a possibly confusing and discordant buyer experience. Nonetheless, prices were not dampened and the results were simply astounding. The Charles II Petition Crown graded by NGC as MS63+ hammered for a vast CHF 775,000, while the 1644 Oxford Crown of Charles I brought CHF 360,000 hammer. As impressive as these prices are, they were perceived as being “about right” by the trade. It was for the unextraordinary offerings—but in extraordinary condition—that the real jaw-dropping results were seen. The finest known Henry VIII Testoon brought CHF 95,000, or £100,000 altogether including fees; a James I “fine work” Shilling brought an immense CHF 75,000 hammer, with a second example achieving CHF 50,000 hammer; even an AU Details Farthing of 1718 brought CHF 18,000 hammer (although this piece was unique for this year as a “dump” type). Across the board, unbelievable prices were attained that made dealers across the world scratch their heads and consider repricing their stock.

Cope's Collection is destined to soon be overshadowed, however. The global market has been abuzz of late regarding a collection on its way to be sold through Stack's Bowers, the life's work of a Danish butter magnate by the name of Lars Emil Bruun. Bruun passed away in 1923 and stipulated in his will that his collection of almost 20,000 coins should be retained for 100 years in case the Copenhagen Royal Coin and Medal Collection should be lost or damaged. Now that the required century has passed, the collection is free to be offered as a complete 19th century assemblage of unmatched provenance and quality. The group is chiefly of Scandinavian coinage, supposedly, but one imagines that the Collection will deviate away over the course of its 20,000 coins. NGC are currently encapsulating the entire group, with their eventual sale at Stack's estimated to bring more than \$70,000,000.

Several superb collections have appeared recently, at Morton & Eden, CNG, and Stack's; however, it would seem that the day-to-day general sales for UK auctioneers have a dearth of decent quality material. As a result, I have detected some frustration from particular UK auctioneers regarding the placement of these vast academic collections. The competition between auction firms to offer the lowest fees possible in order to secure consignments is in danger of creating a “bargain bucket” feel, where cataloguing, provenancing and marketing costs are slashed to make consignments cost effective.

It is certainly the case that one must conduct appropriate research before placing a consignment; the Poorton Hoard recently offered at Duke's auctioneers, Dorset, serves as testament

to this. The hoard was found beneath the flagstone floor of a 17th century cottage in South Poorton farm, and represented six gold coins and over 1,000 silver coins dating from Edward VI through to Charles I. However, apart from the gold offerings, the entire hoard of 1,019 silver coins was offered in just 97 lots with the final lot comprising an incredible 61 Charles I Shillings. The group's initial estimate from Duke's was £35,000, whereas the final hammer price exceeded £60,000, including the top result of £5,000 for a Charles I Unite.

Duke's does not claim to specialise in coins, but when the local collection came through the door, they were hardly likely to refuse it. One can only speculate whether this collection would have fetched more had it been consigned to a specialist numismatic auction house with their expertise in the field, their cataloguing and, of course, their specialist photography. However, along with many collectors, I was thrilled to secure a new piece for my collection, at what I considered to be a very reasonable price. At the end of the day, as long as the vendors were happy, the auction house was happy and (I am sure) collectors such as myself were happy, then I would consider this a successful sale all round.

For the past few years, it has seemed that more and more dealers and auctioneers pop up year on year; however, one name will no longer be amongst their number. Roma Numismatics recently sent an email to its clients announcing the formal closure of its operations, presumably due to the controversy of its founder's falsification of the provenance of the Eid Mar Aureus that sold in 2020. Roma's dissolution serves as warning to all numismatists worldwide to exercise due diligence when assessing provenances, and to not try and skirt proper import/export processes.



James I Shilling.

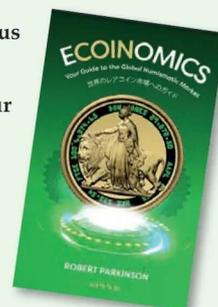


Charles I Unite from the Poorton coin hoard.

Coins not to scale.

Robert Parkinson's new guide to the global numismatic market *ECoinomics*, is available to purchase from Token Publishing Ltd, price £20 (plus p&p). Order on line at [www.tokenpublishing.com](http://www.tokenpublishing.com) or telephone 01404 46972 to secure your copy while stocks last.

Questions or comments are welcome; to get in contact, please visit [www.ecoinomics.co.uk](http://www.ecoinomics.co.uk)  
The Japanese version released in Tokyo in October 2023..



# August 2024 Global Showcase Auction Highlights from Stack's Bowers Galleries

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GREAT BRITAIN. Anglo-Saxon.  
Kings of Wessex. Penny, ND (ca. 899-910).  
Wynbeorht, moneyer. Edward the Elder.  
NGC MS-64.



GREAT BRITAIN. Ryal (Rose Noble),  
ND (1466-67). Bristol Mint; mm: Crown.  
Edward IV (first reign).  
NGC AU-58.



GREAT BRITAIN. Commonwealth.  
1/2 Crown, 1652.  
London mint; mm: Sun.  
NGC AU-55.



GREAT BRITAIN. 5 Guineas,  
1746 Year DECIMO NONO. London Mint.  
George II. NGC AU-55.



GREAT BRITAIN. George III Coronation  
Gold Medal, 1761. London Mint.  
PCGS SPECIMEN-60.



GREAT BRITAIN. Trade Tokens.  
Wales. Anglesey. Parys Mine Co.  
Silver Penny Token, 1787.  
PCGS PROOF-62.



GREAT BRITAIN. Great Britain - Chile.  
Dollar (4 Shillings 9 Pence), ND (1797).  
George III. PCGS AU-55.



GREAT BRITAIN. "Gothic" Crown,  
1847 Year UNDECIMO. London Mint.  
Victoria. PCGS PROOF-63.



GREAT BRITAIN. 5 Pounds, 1887.  
London Mint.  
PCGS PROOF-62 Deep Cameo.

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# The 1715 Treasure Fleet shipwreck



**O**N March 17–18 Heritage Auctions in Dallas conducted their second Shipwreck & Treasure World Coins Showcase sale. Among the 600 lots on offer, 17 had been recovered from the wrecks of Spain's 1715 Treasure Fleet. The lots were but a tiny proportion of items salvaged from one of the greater maritime disasters of all time.

## Treasures for sale

In 1715, the King of Spain, Felipe V, had a problem. The War of the Spanish Succession had raged for 12 years and was finally at an end. It had left his kingdom teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. For many years, Spain's economy had depended on regular annual deliveries of treasure from the southern Americas. The war had disrupted these. No treasure sailings had occurred for two years.

With the war's end, Felipe commissioned a fleet to deliver the vast stockpile of gold, silver and gems that had accumulated in New Spain over the previous three years.

Two regular treasure fleets would be required: five ships of Nueva España Flota under Capitán General Don Juan Esteban de Ubilla and six ships of Tierra Firme Flota under Capitán de Mar y Guerra Don Antonio de Echeverz y Zubiza. The two would load up at separate ports—Vera Cruz and Cartagena.

They would then rendezvous at Havana. From here, the double armada of 11 ships would sail for Spain.

Echeverz's fleet arrived first in Havana. It was ready to sail again by mid-March, heavily laden with silver and gold coins from Santa Fe de Bogota, chests of Colombian emeralds, and gold jewellery from Peru.

Meanwhile, Ubilla was stuck in Vera Cruz awaiting the arrival of pack-mule trains coming overland from Acapulco, bringing, among other things, imported silks, ivories, and Chinese porcelains imported from Manila and Canton. The trains had been delayed and it was not until the first week of May 1715 that Ubilla met up with Echeverz in Havana.

Each week of delay saw the Mexico City Mint deliver further consignments of coin and specie to ships already stuffed with gold bullion and silver ingots. The resulting lack of space saw the local Governor charter the French 4th rate ship *Grifon*. Neither Ubilla or Echeverz wanted any responsibility for this vessel. Both fleets were further delayed until this matter was resolved. The final, departure-delaying hiccup was caused by King Felipe. He sent an urgent message to Havana requiring the acquisition and delivery of a vast wealth of gold jewellery



Silver cob of 8 reales of Felipe V dated 1714 and struck in Mexico City [Mo-J; KM-47]. It is better struck than most and has only minor saltwater damage. Graded VF it sold for \$1,680 on March 27, 2022.



Clump of four silver coins from the 1715 Treasure Fleet with a total weight of 101.46g. Coins are issues of Carlos II and Felipe V consisting of three 8 reales and one 4 reales. They have rectangular flans indicating they are likely Mexico City issues.



Silver cob of 8 reales of Felipe V struck in 1709 at the Mexico City Mint [Mo-J; KM-47]. A scarce issue from this shipwreck it sold for \$960 on September 22, 2022.



Silver cob of 8 reales of Felipe V struck at the Mexico City Mint [KM-47]. A solid piece bearing a near full shield and cross.

that his intended bride, the Duchess of Palma, could pick over to decide what she might wear at their wedding.

Both fleets were forced to mark further time while eight further chests containing this extraordinary bejewelled wedding gift were sourced, delivered and loaded. While the gift was indeed sumptuous, it would prove to be the death warrant of all bar one ship and most of their crews.

### Disaster dawns

Finally, on Wednesday, July 14, 1715, the Golden Fleet sailed forth with the morning tide and a fair morning breeze into the Gulf Stream. However, the innumerable delays meant the North Atlantic hurricane season was well underway.

The convoy was led by Ubilla's flagship *Nuestra Señora del Carmen y San Antonio*, the former *HMS Hampton Court*, a 70-gun third rate ship of the line. Echeverz brought up the rear in his war galleon, *Santo Cristo de San Roman*.

Come noon on July 29, the fleet was near becalmed. There was little wind and the sea was running a heavy yet silent swell. Notably, the sea birds had vanished.

As the swell grew stronger, the cargo began to move about. The next morning, the sun seemed to never rise. Visibility was reduced and, at noon, the ships were called to close station. Ubilla signalled all poop lanterns to be lit to help guide one another. By afternoon, it had become quite dark. The wind had got up and was soon gusting from the east-north-east at up to 80mph. The waves rose steadily, savagely crashing over decks and carrying away deck cargo, spars, and cordage.



Heavily corroded silver 8 reales cob of Felipe V [KM-47]. Struck at Mexico City Mint [Mo-J].

By nightfall, the wind was up to 110mph. Ubilla lost his mizzenmast. The fleet became wildly scattered. The onboard noise was deafening, yet heard above it was the terrifying sound of the breakers pounding reefs along Florida's coast towards which the ships were steadily driven.

Throughout this entire episode, the wily French captain of the *Grifon* was playing a hunch. He had no liking for the official course and had steered a nor-east bearing taking him into the edge of the storm but well out to sea. By 3.00am on the morning of July 31, his would be the only ship in the Golden Fleet still afloat.

First to hit the Florida reefs had been Ubilla's *Hampton Court*. Dismasted and with her rudder gone, she struck at 2.30am. She died very quickly with her bottom ripped out. Ubilla and his crew were pounded to death on the rocks. A 50-foot wave saw her poop and afterdeck cast ashore. Echeverz's war galleon also broken up, drowning him and 124 of his crew. The smaller ships capsized and sank in the surf except for *La Holandesa*, that was bodily cast into the dunes over 100 yards from the water's edge.



Outstanding 6.71g gold cob 2 escudos aka doubloon of Felipe V [KM53.1] struck at the Mexico City Mint [Mo-J]. Sporting a strong lustre and with well-defined design details it came certified MS65 NGC, tying it for the highest NGC grade.

What survivors there were clambered up the beaches, although the weaker were sucked back into the surf.

Wreckage and bodies were strewn along the coast for 30 miles. Eventually, a small group managed to get word of the disaster to Fort Augustin, 120 miles north. By then, the bottom line read 14,000,000 pesos in treasure lost with over 1,000 of the 2,500 crew and passengers dead. It was one of the worst maritime disasters of all time.

### Sunken treasures

For the next four years, the Spanish attempted to salvage the treasure. Word had got around and the Spaniards were joined by privateers, buccaneers and native Americans, all anxious to claim salvage rights. In the event, the hazards involved in recovery outmatched the benefits and, by 1719, all abandoned the wreck site, although not before a group of freebooters had raided the warehouse in which the Spaniards had stashed what treasure they had managed to recover.

Officially, the Spaniards claimed to have accounted for 30 per cent of the cargo value. There is reason to believe they



Raw, uncut, Colombian emerald lumps: (a) 90x60mm, 340.21g; (b) 28x18mm, 9.28g.

cooked their books in order to cheat the Spanish throne who applied a 20 per cent tax to all treasure landed in Spain.

Further attempts at salvage were few and far between until the late 1950s when new technology became available. Two names pop-up frequently in salvage accounts over ensuing years: Kip Wagner and Mel Fisher. Their teams worked both together and independently. Wagner located the original Spanish salvage camp where he unearthed coins and artefacts. He used an aeroplane to spot the underwater wrecks, allowing him to initiate salvage work. Recoveries included coins, jewellery, precious stones, cannons, religious artefacts and Chinese porcelains. From 1970 to 1982, Fisher took time out to look for the *Atocha* full-time. This was a treasure galleon that sank off the Florida Keys in 1622, also in a hurricane, along with other fleet ships. It eventually yielded Fisher \$450,000,000.

In 1983, Fisher brought part of his *Atocha* team back to continue salvaging the 1715 Fleet wrecks. To help his cause, he now made



*Contraband gold ship spike, 220mm long, 142.2g c. 11 ct. An ingenious way to transport contraband back to Spain. The spike would be used to replace an iron spike from the ship, as in the captain's quarters. After inserting the gold spike, he would pitch over the head to conceal it. When the ship cleared port, the gold spike could be taken out and the original put back in. On May 29, 2009, it fetched \$8,625.*

*Felipe V gold cob escudo struck at Mexico City Mint [MXo-]; KM-51.1 and counterstamped CARRIED ABOARD / APOLLO 14 / 31 JAN / 9 FEB 1971. On November 4, 2022, it sold for \$17,400.*

a 20 per cent "donation" to museums in the State of Florida each year. Today, the 1715 Fleet is recognised as the world's largest source of New Spain gold cobs. Recovered silver cobs number in the hundreds of thousands.

Central to the wealth carried by Spain's treasure fleets were emeralds, many sourced from mines in Colombia such as Muzo, Chivor and Cosquez. Stones from these mines are renowned for their colour, fire and geometry. Great lumps of raw, uncut emeralds are frequently recovered as part of the former cargoes. Four relatively small pieces were on offer in Heritage's March 17-19 sale. And there is no end in sight. Nor will the search end so long as the Queen's jewels, at least 1,000,000 pesos of registered cargo, and a large amount of unregistered contraband remain in Florida waters.

Naturally, the lawyers have been waxing fat from these finds. After Fisher's discovery of the main mass of the *Atocha* treasure, the State of Florida claimed title to the wreck. They forced the salvors into a contract that gave 25 per cent of all found treasure to the state. Fisher fought back, claiming that finds should belong exclusively to those that discovered treasure. After eight years of litigation, on July 1, 1982, the US Supreme Court ruled in favour of Fisher. It set a precedence by awarding his company, Treasure Salvors, rights to all treasure it found.

And, just in case any reader is wondering, some 681 wrecks of Spanish treasure ships have been found dating from the late 15th century to 1898.

*(All images courtesy Heritage Auctions.)*

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# LATEST ISSUES



## CANADA

**Theme:** Anniversary of His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation  
**Mint:** Canadian Mint  
**Metal:** Silver  
**Denomination:** \$1  
**Diameter:** 36.07mm  
**Mintage:** 15,000  
**Contact:** Canadian Mint, [www.mint.ca](http://www.mint.ca)



## LITHUANIA

**Theme:** Tales from my Childhood—The Twelve Brothers, Twelve Black Ravens  
**Mint:** Lithuanian Mint  
**Metal:** Silver (€5), Cupro-Nickel (€1.50)  
**Denomination:** €5, €1.50  
**Diameter:** 28.70mm (€5), 27.50mm (€1.50)  
**Mintage:** 2,750 (€5), 30,000 (€1.50)  
**Contact:** Lithuanian Mint, [www.lb.lt](http://www.lb.lt)



## MONGOLIA

**Theme:** Archeology and Symbolism—Manjushri Mandala  
**Mint:** B. H. Mayer's Kunstprägestalt, Munich  
**Metal:** Silver  
**Denomination:** 2,000 Togrog  
**Diameter:** 65mm  
**Mintage:** 111 (colour and crystals antiqued), 111 (gilded) and 333 (plain antiqued)  
**Contact:** NumisCollect, [wholesale.numiscollect.eu](http://wholesale.numiscollect.eu)



\*Coin reduced



## PALAU

**Theme:** Yin and Yang  
**Mint:** B. H. Mayer's Kunstprägestalt, Munich  
**Metal:** Silver  
**Denomination:** \$5  
**Diameter:** 38.61mm  
**Mintage:** 999  
**Contact:** Coin Invest Trust, [www.cit.li](http://www.cit.li)



## SLOVAKIA

**Theme:** 80th Anniversary of the Rudolf Vrba and Alfréd Wetzler Report  
**Mint:** Kremnica Mint  
**Metal:** Silver  
**Denomination:** €10  
**Diameter:** 34mm  
**Mintage:** 5,800 (BU), 13,500 (Proof)  
**Contact:** Fama Numismatics, [www.fama-numismatics.com](http://www.fama-numismatics.com)



## TUVALU

**Theme:** Universe Starry Sky and Planets  
**Mint:** Perth Mint  
**Metal:** Silver  
**Denomination:** \$5  
**Diameter:** 55.90mm  
**Mintage:** 388  
**Contact:** Perth Mint, [www.perthmint.com](http://www.perthmint.com)



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This month, director  
Dr Kevin Clancy reveals one of the  
Museum's treasures . . .

### Coins and the Sea— Edward III Noble

**T**HE coin illustrated here is an Edward III noble. With a denomination of 6s 8d, or a third of a pound, and being made of fine gold, it was a relatively high-value coin but was struck in sufficiently large numbers to form the foundation of England's circulating coinage of gold. This specimen has survived in reasonably good condition but it is not especially rare or unusual so why make it the subject of this article? The reason lies in its design and how this relates to a new temporary exhibition at the Royal Mint Experience.

The noble's popularity is probably best explained in the context of trade, in the hands of the merchant class, and its design might also be explained in that same world. On the obverse the king is placed in the centre of a ship resembling a merchantman of the time. Although the oversized figure of the monarch suggests a naïve aspect, the image could be seen as conveying the message of England's right, or ambition, to occupy a prominent place in the trading community of Europe, which the arrival of the coin itself was seeking to augment. That the figure of the king is brandishing a sword and carrying a shield, however, could be thought rather belligerent in tone and could relate to victory over the French fleet a few years before the noble's first release in 1344. Whatever the true message of the design, it stands as an example of how the English, and later British, coinage consciously drew on a rich maritime heritage and it is for this reason that the coin has been included in a new exhibition on the theme of Coins and the Sea which opened at the Royal Mint Experience on 25 May.

One of the main objectives of any museum is to make its collections accessible and one of the ways in which the Royal Mint Museum does this is to stage temporary exhibitions in the galleries of the Royal Mint Experience. A programme of exhibitions is planned at least three years in advance and themes are selected that have a firm link back to the Mint or the history of the British coinage. Coins and the Sea, which will remain open to the public until spring next year, does precisely this, by exploring the reasons people go to sea, shipwrecks, life onboard and the imagery that we find on our coins.





## CITY VIEWS COLLECTION

**Theme:** Paris

**Denomination:** Gold—£1,000, £500, £200, £100; silver—£10, £5, £2

**Metal:** Gold Proof, silver Proof

**Diameter:** Various issue sizes depending on denomination and metal

**Designer:** Obv. Martin Jennings; Rev. The Royal Mint

**Details:** Paris is the city of choice for the third issue in this innovative series (London and Rome being the previous two chosen cities) and rightly so as it will host the Olympic Games this year. And when you think of Paris, of course, what instantly comes to mind is that iconic landmark, the Eiffel Tower. Viewed from the banks of the River Seine, the reverse design depicts a cityscape with the Eiffel Tower piercing the skyline. The inspiration for the image was taken from a wood engraving and lithograph made in 1900. The reverse depicts the current bare-head portrait of His Majesty King Charles III, the first time a coin in the series has carried the King's portrait. The collection is a commemorative issue only and not for general circulation.



## THE ROYAL ARMS

**Theme:** Bullion range

**Denomination:** Various, but issued by weight

**Metal:** Gold (one and one-tenth ounce), silver (one ounce and ten ounce)

**Diameter:** Various issue sizes depending on weight/metal

**Designer:** Obv. Martin Jennings;

Rev. Timothy Noad

**Details:** A new bullion release, available individually or in rolls. A distinctive Royal emblem of centuries standing is depicted on the reverse of the coin. This first interpretation of the Royal Arms was created by Timothy Noad in 2019 and is retained for this issue. Gold and silver bars are also available with the Royal Arms design.



## 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS

**Theme:** Operation Overlord—The D-Day Landings

**Denomination:** £200, £25 (gold Proof), 50p (gold Proof, silver Proof, cupro-nickel)

**Metal:** Gold Proof, silver Proof, and cupro-nickel

**Diameter:** Various issue sizes in gold, 27.3mm (50p, silver and cupro-nickel). 22.05mm (gold sovereign)

**Designer:** Obv. Martin Jennings; Rev. David Lawrence

**Details:** Issued to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings which took place on June 6, 1944 as part of the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. Struck with the assistance of the Imperial War Museum, the reverse design depicts soldiers disembarking from landing craft as they attempt to wade ashore under extreme and hazardous conditions. This is the first of a new series of military-themed coins from the Mint. Please note, as well as the new 50p range, the Mint has also issued a "Strike on the Day" gold sovereign, which will be struck on June 6, 2024 and will carry the privy mark "80".



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William III Five Guineas sold above its estimated value for £55,000.



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Victoria Proof Gothic Crown sold for an impressive £33,000, also exceeding its estimated value.



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DR GRAHAM BENNETT

# The good, the great and the glorious

We begin with a newcomer to Auction Highlights, although not a newcomer to auctions. This was **FELLOWS' Monies, Medals and Militaria** sale held on April 25. The star lot from this sale was a Victoria sovereign of 1841, one of the rarest of sovereigns from that long reign. In VF and estimated at £2,000–3,000, bidding was very keen from four online parties eager to acquire it and continued until reaching an impressive hammer price of £10,500 (plus buyers' premium of 25 per cent). Sally Oliver said, "It was such a privilege to handle an 1841 sovereign. It is one of the rarest dates of this coin type. We were delighted when it came in and we thought it might make a good price but the hammer of over £10,000 is an excellent result for our vendor." It was consigned by a local vendor in Birmingham and sold to a local collector so its journey was a short one. A George VI gold proof set of 1937 comprising five pounds, two

pounds, sovereign and half sovereign, with St George and the Dragon design on the reverses, was in its original box and conservatively estimated at £5,000–7,000 but realised £8,600 when the hammer fell. A USA dime of 1796, designed by Gilbert Stuart in the early 18th century, featured a draped bust of Liberty on obverse with "LIBERTY" and date whilst the reverse showed 15 stars around "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and eagle with spread wings. In NEF, this extremely rare specimen from the first year of its minting was one of only about 22,000 produced. Expected to reach between £1,500 and £2,000, it hammered on a strong £4,350. Certainly, an interesting and productive sale and thanks to Alexandra Whittaker for the information.



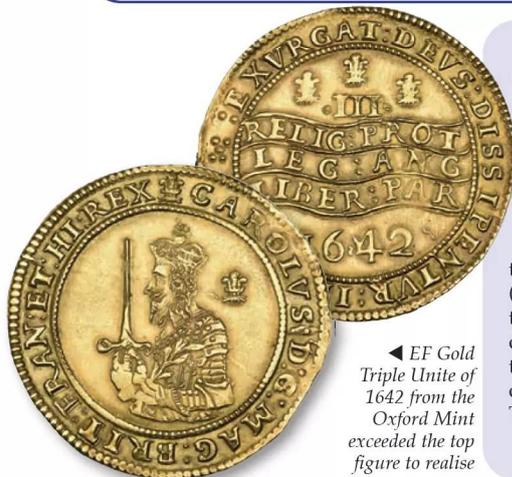
▲ George VI gold proof set of 1937 realised £8,600 when the hammer fell.



◀ Victoria sovereign of 1841 in VF found a new home for £10,500.



One of only 22,000 USA dimes of 1796 ever minted, this specimen sold for £4,350. ▶



◀ EF Gold Triple Unite of 1642 from the Oxford Mint exceeded the top figure to realise £95,000.

It's a welcome return to **MORTON & EDEN** and their auction of Coins and Medals of Charles I and the Civil War held on April 26. This was one of those special sales where very high prices were achieved. We begin with the highest price, which was for a gold Triple Unite of 1642 from the Oxford Mint. Amazingly there were three Triple Unites on offer! This one (with a long provenance stretching back to 1888) featured the Oxford plume on obverse only with tall, narrow bust of the King holding upright sword and olive branch and plume behind his head. The reverse had the famous declaration

between three wavy lines with value III and three plumes above and five pellets between legend and date below. In EF, it was estimated at £70,000–90,000 and managed to exceed the top figure to hammer on £95,000 (plus BP of 20 per cent). The other two Triple Unites made £62,500 and £90,000. An Oxford Mint silver pound of 1642, struck from a Shrewsbury die, had large horseman of fine workmanship trampling arms on obverse with declaration in two lines on reverse with value "XX" and three Shrewsbury plumes above, date below. In VF and estimated at £30,000–40,000, it reached a hammer price of £50,000.



▲ Truro Mint undated crown of Charles I, in virtually mint state more than doubled the lower estimate to hammer on £46,000.

A Truro Mint undated crown had King riding on thick-set horse, holding sword (the King, not the horse!) on obverse and oval garnished shield of arms on reverse. In virtually mint state, believed to be the finest known example, it realised £46,000 when the hammer fell from a top estimate of £15,000! Perhaps the most surprising realisation in this auction was for a Scarborough besieged (July 1644–July 1645) two shillings and fourpence uniface formed from a cut portion of a silver plate, dish or bowl showing its original reeded rim and punched with a view of a castle gateway and value S II / D II II. In VF and toned, this extremely

rare item commanded a high estimate of £40,000–60,000 but someone was very keen to get their hands on it because it hammered on an amazing £90,000! Obviously, an important historical specimen but not the most pleasing of coins. Lastly, a stunning pattern gold Unite of 1630 by Nicholas Briot with large crowned bust of the King on obverse and crowned and garnished square-topped shield with “C R” on either side and date above on reverse. With some minor flan imperfections on reverse and very light traces of handling, it was in GVF and estimated at £40,000–50,000 and managed to find the hammer on the lower of those two figures. The sale made a total including BP of £1,641,216.

May 8–9 saw SPINK conduct their World Banknotes auction where a huge variety of material was available to bidders. An Ireland, Currency Commission £100 dated 17th December 1937 was in PMG holder 25 VF with only one note in higher grade at PMG, so interest was high in this one. The hammer realised £4,800 (plus BP of 20 per cent) from an estimate of £2,700–3,500. An Imperial Bank of Persia 50 toman dated 14th June 1924 did particularly well. In PMG holder Choice Fine and repaired, with only two notes in higher grade at PMG, it was expected to reach a high of £4,200 but found the hammer on a very strong £12,000! Not far behind was an Iran, Bank Mellî, colour trial specimen of 100 rials (1933–35) with no serial number in PMG holder (no grade stated). This was given an estimate of £1,500–2,500 but bidding was very keen, so much so that the hammer came to rest on a very healthy £11,000. A State Bank of Pakistan, Haj Pilgrim issue, specimen 10 rupees

(1950) had green on orange under print with Shalimar gardens at centre with red “SPECIMEN” overprint. In PMG holder 64 choice uncirculated and very rare as a specimen, it realised its lower estimate of £9,000 when the hammer fell. Finally, a Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority 50 riyals (1961) in EF was estimated at £1,500–2,000 but bidders had other ideas because it hammered on a strong £5,800. A sale with a lot to offer banknote collectors. Many thanks to Arnas Savickas for the information.



▲ Iran, Bank Mellî, colour trial specimen of 100 rials (1933–35) soared past expectations to sell for £11,000.



◀ Excessively rare Robert the Bruce sterling sold for £2,600.



▲ Very rare Robert II groat realised £1,800—just above the top estimate.

Very rare and sought-after James III groat of Berwick hammered at mid-estimate and sold for £1,800. ▶



Over to NOONANS who held two sales on May 9, the first of which was A Collection of Scottish Coins, the Property of a Gentleman (Part II) consisting of 177 lots which almost sold entirely. A Robert the Bruce (1306–29) sterling with mint mark cross pattee, had bust facing left, triple pellet stops, colon before “ROBERTVS” on obverse and long cross with four mullets of five points in angles on reverse. In GF and an excessively rare variety, it hammered on £2,600 (plus BP of 24 per cent) from a pre-sale estimate of £800–1,000. It had previously been sold by Dix Noonan Webb in 2002. A Robert II (1371–90) groat, phase 3 from Dundee, with normal Robert II head, large B behind, tressure of six arcs, trefoils in spandrels, saltire on sceptre-handle, line below bust, double saltire stops, nothing after

“SCOTTORVM”, double saltire after “DNS” and plain A both sides, was in VF and very rare and expected to sell for between £1,200 and £1,500 but managed to nudge past the top figure to find the hammer on £1,800. Lastly for this sale, we have a light issue James III (1460–88) groat of Berwick with tressure of eight arcs and legend ending in “SCOTOR” on obverse whilst the reverse had three pellets and annulet in first and third quarters with mullet of six points in second and fourth quarters. Full and round, about VF, a very rare and sought-after type with a fine provenance, it realised a hammer price of £1,800 which was about mid-estimate of £1,500–2,000. The total hammer price for the sale was £57,700. A great sale for collectors of the Scottish series.

The other NOONANS auction that day was The Michael J. McKeever Collection of Irish Coins with Other Properties that consisted of 123 lots of which 96 per cent sold. A Charles I (1625–49) Southern Cities of Refuge, Cork, uniface copper farthing had CORKE across field with crown above, crossed palm leaves below all within a beaded border on obverse. In about VF and very rare, it hammered on £2,800 from an expectation of £1,500–2,000. The catalogue states, “Unlike the later similar issue by James Ballard, this specimen has a crown on the obverse and not a lion’s head. It is also struck on a copper flan, not brass.” From the Hiberno-Scandinavian period came a number of coins, the most notable of which was a Phase I penny of Dublin, Faeremin, in imitation of long cross coinage, in the name

of Thymn, with draped bust on obverse and long voided cross on reverse. It had some minor points of die rust in reverse field but was struck on a round flan and was in virtually mint state with original bloom so a estimate of £2,200–2,600 was placed on it. It achieved the higher of the two figures when the hammer fell. We conclude this sale with a Richard III (1483–85) groat without mint name but believed to be Dublin, having double saltire after second R of “RICAR”. The legend was flat in places but King’s name was legible and it was in about VF for issue, toned and rare. It hammered on a strong £2,400 from an estimate of £1,200–1,500. The auction made a total hammer price of £51,270. An amazing opportunity for collectors of the series. Many thanks to Rachel Aked.



▲ Very rare and VF A Charles I Southern Cities of Refuge, Cork found a new home for £2,800.



▲ Richard III groat in VF for issue soared past the higher estimate to sell for £2,400.



▲ Sovereign 1937 proof, in a London Mint Office case with certificate sold for £2,200.



▲ 1779 George III oval countermarked Spanish silver 4 reales from Madrid hammered at £480.

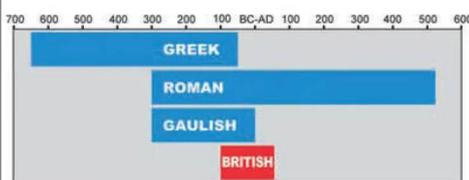
Roman Imperial Britannic Empire billon antoninianus of Carausius in GVF made one bidder very happy at £250. ▶



The two days of May 14–15 saw LOCKDALES conduct their Auction 262 of Coins and Exonomia with a total of 903 lots on offer and a 90 per cent sell-through rate. We start with a George VI proof sovereign of 1937 in nFDC with some light hairlines in a London Mint Office case with certificate. Estimated at £1,500–2,000, it hammered on £2,200 (plus BP of 19.5 per cent). A George III oval countermarked Spanish silver 4 reales from Madrid dated 1779 did rather well when the hammer reached £480 from a top estimate of £300. Halfcrowns of Victoria, particularly the young head variety, are gaining in popularity and prices are increasing as such. An 1842 example, which was lightly toned and in EF, reached a strong £520 when the hammer fell from an expectation of £300–350. A rather interesting Celtic gold quarter stater of the Cantii dated after 65 BC had stylised Roman trophy surrounded by abstract motifs on obverse with a four-petalled flower on reverse. Found in Suffolk in 2004, it was in GVF/VF and almost doubled its high estimate of £400 by hammering

on a healthy £700. A Norman silver penny of Henry I (1100–35) from the Thetford Mint was in VF/GVF, slightly bent with a hairline crack at 3 o’clock. This managed to hammer on its top estimate of £650 so did rather well. A Roman Imperial Britannic Empire billon antoninianus of Carausius from possibly the Colchester Mint had Providentia standing left and holding globe and cornucopia on reverse with a striking portrait on obverse. This is a late reign issue which features the legend of the three Augusti (AVGGG) indicating his attempt to associate himself with the continental Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. In GVF with a trace of silvering, it was estimated at £150–200 and managed a hammer price of £250. Lastly, an error 50 pence of 1979 struck on a ten pence flan in EF with a letter from Graham Dyer, the former director of the Royal Mint Museum, confirming the anomaly. Given a low estimate of £40–50, this was keenly fought over until the hammer came to rest on £220. The auction made a total including BP of £172,384. Many thanks to Chris Elmy.

## Why British Celtic coins are such a good buy these days



British Celtic coins weren’t minted for as long as Greek, Roman or Gaulish coins. That’s one of the reasons they are so rare and why today some canny collectors are deciding to collect them.

Many collectors are having to make tough choices these days. So here’s some great news. Here’s why many collectors are choosing British Celtic coins: they are generally much scarcer than most other ancient coins and therefore often hold their value better. Why so scarce? Because comparatively few ancient Britons used coins and because far fewer were minted over a much shorter time span. Greek coins were minted for about 600 years, Roman for about 800 years and Gaulish for about 250 years, whereas British Celtic coins were produced for little more than 150 years. Indeed the bulk of inscribed British types were issued during the brief life of Jesus. That’s why, year after year, the demand for British Celtic coins constantly outstrips supply. Ask [liz@celticcoins.com](mailto:liz@celticcoins.com)



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TED FLETCHER

# Roman Coins Found In Scotland

**I**N the 1950s, most history text books used in junior schools preached the mantra that the Caledonii . . . correction, the Picts, as we called them . . . had no currency of their own until well into Medieval times. Barter, taking third place to looting, and to self-sufficiency, met most Pictish requirements, though workarounds occurred with certain denominations. If, for example, a centurion who earned a denarius-a-day, decided to splash out on a goat for a special meal or a sacrifice, his denarius would have purchased it because the herdsman who owned it knew a village smith who could melt a denarius, take a quarter of the molten metal as his payment, and cast an attractive finger-ring using the remaining silver and a little lead.

Such casual but convenient three-way transactions ensured a steady infiltration of Roman coins into Pictish lives. Chance finders, such as farmworkers and building site labourers, or civil engineering navvies, would no doubt have benefitted from many. So, too, have modern Scottish metal detectorists. If we adjust just for differences in population numbers, and if we take into consideration the fewer Scottish detectorists actively pursuing the hobby compared to figures from England and Wales, it becomes clear that Roman coin hoards found in Scotland, and on notably productive locations throughout parts of Scotland where high counts of single Roman coins turn up, must have received them in the same way that many received them in England and Wales. Roman armies, thousands strong, had to cross borders and penetrate deeply into hostile territory to give battle, and to conquer natives tribes, in order to provide opportunities for large numbers of coins to be bartered, spent, lost, or hoarded.

Gnaeus Julius Agricola, renowned as a man of few words and swift deeds, gained appointment from Emperor Vespasian as Governor of Britannia, with command of four legions and their auxiliaries. On arrival in the province in AD 78, he marched westward, eradicated all resistance in the Welsh Lowlands, captured and destroyed the Druid stronghold on Anglesey, then set about annihilating the Welsh mountain tribes. In the south and north of Wales, legionary fortresses at Caerleon and Chester, each with garrisons of 5,600 men, secured the new territories. The following year, his legions mopped-up recalcitrant pockets of resistance among the Brigantes as Agricola established a new legionary headquarters for the Ninth Legion at Eboracum (York) on Britannia's eastern flank. Before leading any major attacks on tribes to the north of the Brigantes, Agricola spent more than a year Romanising the regions already subdued. He encouraged road construction, founded tribal capitals with stone buildings and water supplies, introduced agricultural improvements, and—

perhaps most important—provided education and introductions to Roman culture for the sons of tribal leaders. A string of fortifications on a line between the mouth of the Tyne in the east, and Carlisle in the west, all interconnected by a Roman road (later known as Stanegate), and by sophisticated signalling systems, offered security for tribes who agreed to live peacefully alongside the Roman army.

In AD 79, Agricola extended the Roman campaign into what we refer to in modern times as the Scottish Borders—known then as the tribal lands of the Votadini, the Selgovae, the Novantae, and the Damnonii. Perhaps impressed when seeing the benefits enjoyed by the Brigantes, most of those unconquered tribes offered only token resistance to the Roman legions, allowing Agricola to push even further northward. A setback almost occurred later that year as Agricola's three-year term as Governor of Britannia drew to a close. Emperor Vespasian died and was succeeded by his son, Titus. Fortunately, the new Emperor shared his father's confidence in Agricola and promptly re-appointed him. Two years of training for his legions and auxiliaries followed, especially in defensive tactics against ambushes and the type of guerilla warfare at which the Caledonii excelled. He also established marching camps and watch towers across all lands conquered during previous campaigns. The well-trained invasion force then crossed into Caledonian territory . . . at the very moment messengers arrived reporting the death (from fever) of Emperor Titus. The Governor knew that Domitian, younger brother of Titus, had recently expressed jealousy when hearing of the military successes thus far achieved. Agricola fully expected dismissal but the new Emperor followed his brother's policy and retained Agricola's services, perhaps hoping the run of victories would falter as the last tribe refused to submit.

Throughout much of AD 84, the natives fared best in two or three relatively minor encounters. Confidence grew as new recruits flocked to join



*Vespasian aureus; Rome Mint, c. AD 70. The obverse has a laureate head right with IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG around. On the reverse, captive Jewess sitting, hands tied; trophy of captured arms behind; IVDAEA in ex-ergue.*



*Vespasian denarius AD 76. The obverse has IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG around a laureate head right. On the reverse, eagle standing on an altar, head to left, with COS VII to left and right.*



Vespasian sestertertius, Rome Mint; AD 76. The obverse has a laureate head right. On the reverse, Fortuna stands left, holding rudder, olive branch, and cornucopie.



Titus denarius, struck at Rome in AD 79. The obverse has a laureate head with IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG around. On the reverse, a Capricorn with a globe beneath, and TR P VIII IMP XIII COS VII P P around.



Titus, bronze As, struck at Rome in AD 79. The obverse has IMP T CAES VESP AVG PM TRP PPP COS VII around a laureate head right. On the reverse, VICTORIA AVG VST around Victory walking right, holding wreath and palm branch; S-C across fields.



Titus sestertertius, Rome Mint, with IMP T CAES VESP AVG PM TR P PP COS VIII legend around a laureate head facing left. On the reverse, PAX AVGVST-S C around Pax standing left, holding branch and cornucopie.



Domitian aureus struck at Rome in AD 81. On the obverse, a laureate head right, with IMP CAES DOMITIANVS AVG PM around. The reverse depicts Minerva standing right, wielding spear; shield on left arm; with TR P COS VII DES VIII PP around.



Domitian dupondius, struck at Rome in AD 82. On the obverse, a radiate head left has IMP CAES DIVI VESPF DOMITIAN AVG PM around. On the reverse, a standing Minerva holds a thunderbolt as she clutches a spear in her left hand; TR P COS VIII DES VIII PP S-C around.



Domitian denarius, struck AD 81. The obverse has a laureate head right with IMP CAES DOMITIAN AVG PONT around. On the reverse, the legend P P COS VII DES VIII around a dolphin entwined with an anchor.



Hadrian sestertertius struck AD 119-122. The obverse has IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVG around laureate head right. On the reverse, PONT MAX TR POT COS III S-C, SECVR AVG around Securitas seated left holding sceptre and resting head on hand.



Hadrian dupondius, struck at Rome 119-21. On the obverse, IMP CAE-SAR TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVG P M TR P around radiate head. The reverse shows Virtus standing right, foot on helmet, holding spear and parazonium; with VIRTVTI AVGVSTI S-C around.

the winning side and swelled their numbers to 35,000 compared to the 25,000 Romans who hoped to draw their enemy into a pitched battle. Late in the year, hubris combined with impatience and numerical superiority drove the Caledonii to make a mass onslaught at a location the Romans named *Mons Graupius*. A bloodbath ensued, with 25,000 native hotheads slain. The onset of autumnal nightfall gave the remnant 10,000 opportunity to flee into adjacent dense forests. With an eye to ominous storm clouds gathering, Agricola marched his victorious legions southward. In a matter of weeks, Domitian's order recalling him to Rome came through.

In Italy, Agricola retired to his family estate where he died in AD 93, aged 53. Later Emperors would abandon the territorial gains and tribal conquests he had achieved in Scotland. The legions fell back to Stanegate where construction of Hadrian's Wall, between the Solway and the Tyne, commenced in AD 122. 20 years later, Emperor Antoninus Pius ordered the building of a more northerly wall, half the length of Hadrian's, between the Forth and the Clyde. Occupied for

20 years, the Antonine Wall lost its garrisons in AD 162 as the Roman army withdrew once again to Hadrian's Wall, which served largely as a customs and tax collecting barrier for almost half a century until Emperor Septimius Severus, at the head of an army of 40,000, arrived in AD 208 and declared his intention to eradicate the Caledonii. A strong naval contingent, sailing northwards off Scotland's east coast, shadowed the legions as they prepared to retrace Agricola's campaign trail of more than a century earlier. After strengthening Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall, Severus attacked all tribes in the south until they sued for peace. Then, with the navy carrying campaign supplies up the east coast, the legions rebuilt and garrisoned many of Agricola's old forts, forcing the Caledonii to retreat to the far north. In late AD 210, tribal leaders asked for a truce but, just as negotiations commenced, Severus fell ill and had to withdraw. He made the long journey to Eboracum, where he died in AD 211. His son, Caracalla, campaigned briefly in Scotland during AD 212, but soon agreed to a peace treaty. All Roman forces returned to



Hadrian denarius, struck at Rome c. AD 120–24. The obverse has IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG around a laureate bust. The reverse has P M TR P COS III around helmeted Minerva AD vancing right, brandishing spear and holding a round shield.



Antoninus Pius aureus, struck at Rome AD 143–44. On the obverse, a laureate head left with ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP TRP COS III around. The reverse has IMPERA-TOR II around Jupiter seated left, holding thunderbolt and sceptre.



Antoninus Pius denarius, struck at Rome in AD 143–44. On the obverse, ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS III around a laureate head right. The reverse has IMPERATOR II around a winged caduceus between crossed cornucopiae.



Antoninus Pius sestertius, struck AD 139. The obverse has a laureate head with IMP T AEL CAES HADR ANTONINVS AVG PIVS around. On the reverse, Fides standing right, holding corn-ears and plate of fruit; PM TR P COS II around.



Septimius Severus denarius, struck AD 208. On the obverse, a laureate head with SEVERUS PIUS.AUG.around. The reverse shows Genius standing left, with P.M.P.M.TR.P.XVI.COS.III.P.P. around.



Septimius Severus sestertius. On the obverse, L SEPT SEVERVS PIVS AVG, with laureate head right. On the reverse, VICTORIAE BRITANNICAE around two Victories attaching shield to palm tree with two captives at its base. SC in exergue.



Septimius Severus denarius, struck AD 209. The obverse has a laureate head right. On the reverse, the Emperor on horseback left, hurling javelin at a British enemy.



Caracalla denarius, struck AD 211. The obverse has ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT around a laureate head right. On the reverse, P M TR P XIII COS III P P around Victory hurrying right on prow with wreath and palm.

Hadrian's Wall, which became the permanent northern frontier of the Roman Empire for the next 200 years. The Romans never campaigned deep into Caledonia again. Shortly after this, the northern frontier of the Roman Empire was permanently established on Hadrian's Wall. The Caledonii remained undefeated . . . and bided their time.

Emperors Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Severus and Caracalla all sent legions to Scotland: thousands upon thousands of troops who, in their off-duty hours, behaved as pleasure-seeking young soldiers have always conducted themselves away from the front line, with bulging coin purses emptied by the time they returned to barracks at daybreak. Present-day Scotland has no equivalent to the English and Welsh PAS database where we can speedily search for descriptions and images of coin finds reported by detectorists.

(All images shown are used courtesy of the Wildwinds database.)

Milecastle 39 on Hadrian's Wall. In AD 212, Roman troops looking northwards from the milecastle's ramparts into Caledonia stood on the ultimate northern border of the Roman Empire: a boundary line for the next 200 years. (Image [www.geograph.org.uk](http://www.geograph.org.uk). Copyright Oliver Dixon; used here under a Creative Commons Licence.)



  
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DAVID COLLINS

# THE IRISH COINS

## Of Edward VI and Philip & Mary

**H**ENRY VIII had become King of England and Lord of Ireland in 1509, but it was not until 25 years later, in 1534, that he issued his first Irish coins. Even then, they were minted within the Tower of London and not in Ireland, and this is largely to do with his overriding policy of centralisation. These, of course, are the harp issues which extended from 1534 to the spring of 1547. No less than six different issues were minted, covering 14 different coin types or variations, not to mention mules and counter-marked types.

A major change came in 1544, when the silver content was reduced to 0.67 fineness and, at the same time, the current value of a groat was called up to six pence. Over the next two years, the silver content was reduced further to 0.5 fineness.

In 1545, the first British Isles dated coins using Arabic numerals were introduced, indicating the regnal year of Henry—shown as 37. This turned out to be the penultimate year of Henry's life and, in the following year, 1546, we find the year 38 being shown (figure 1). These were struck in Bristol, and not in London, by the Mint Master Sir William Sharrington, and contained a mere 25 per cent of silver. These groats show his initials "WS" by way of a monogram at the start of the reverse legend.



Fig. 1. Ireland, Henry VIII, 6th Harp Issue, Bristol, mintmark lis, debased silver sixpenny groat, reverse legend commences with "WS" monogram and ends with regnal year "38" (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).

These highly debased coins had very serious repercussions for the Irish economy, creating steep inflation, whilst at the same time tarnishing any reputation that the English King had, and reducing the influence of the English in Ireland, hindering the acceptance of the Reformation principles. Not surprisingly, there was a deep resistance to the Church of England's programme of reform from all levels of the Irish society.

Henry had himself proclaimed King of Ireland by the Irish Parliament on June 18, 1541, although he was never actually crowned upon Irish soil. Many had regarded Henry's claim as an illegal one and this was supported by the reasoning that, as he had been excommunicated by the Mother Church, and since it was the Mother Church which had earlier granted Lordship of Ireland to Henry II as a papal right, then he had lost the right

to it. Consequently, he had been deemed to be a heretic. He was also viewed as having no moral values and being totally corrupt. Some in the Irish Parliament had even considered offering the crown of Ireland to James V of Scotland, as Scotland at this stage remained a Catholic nation.

During this time, we have a strange and curious mixture of new and old money circulating with widely different silver content. The new money was represented by the later debased harp groats of Henry VIII, with the English profile coins of Henry VII and the earlier Henry VIII coins being highly prized, since they had a much higher level of silver. Consequently, we find that in financial transactions it was often stipulated that payments should be in *salfas* which means "half-face" money, referring to these profile coins. In fact, some coins in circulation went back for almost a century, including the three crowns groats of Henry VII, which were also desirable—these being nicknamed "croise caoile" or "narrow-cross" money. Also preferred were the earlier "dominick" groats, referring to harp groats which had a legend ending "DOMINUS" and relating to Henry VIII as Lord of Ireland, as opposed to the later inferior harp groats which had the title "REX".

### Edward VI

Henry died on January 28, 1547, at the age of 55 and, for a short period after his death, the harp groats continued under Sharrington, but this time the regnal year of 38 was omitted (figure 2). His son was crowned as Edward VI on February 20 of that year at the age of nine. He was the only surviving son of Henry, his mother being Jane Seymour, who had been Henry's third wife, and he was the first monarch to be brought up as a Protestant. Because he was so young, the country was governed by a Regency Council, at first led by his uncle, Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset, and later by John Dudley, 1st Duke of Northumberland. During his short reign, Edward promoted Protestantism with reforms which included abolition of the Mass and the introduction of compulsory church services in English, as opposed to Latin. This was to become known as the Edwardian Reformation.



Figure 2. Ireland, Henry VIII, 6th Harp Issue, Bristol, mintmark lis, debased silver sixpenny groat, reverse legend commences with WS monogram but omits regnal year (issued posthumously) (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).

By way of an indenture dated February 10, 1548, and issued under Edward VI, the Dublin Mint was set up. This had earlier been sanctioned by Henry VIII but did not materialise until 13 months after his death. The indenture states the following: *“Thomas Agarde, undertreasurer of the mint within the castle of Dublin, Martyn Perry, comptroller and surveyor, and William Williams, general assayer there, covenant with the King to make four manner of moneys of silver, that is to say: The groat, running for fourpence of lawful money of England. The half-groat, penny and half-penny in like proportions of weight. The standard to be four-ounce fine silver and eight-ounce alloy in each pound (therefore, only one third was to be silver).”*

It went on to say that: *“The engravers shall work only in the house within the mint assigned to them by Agarde.”*

The reason behind this new issue was that Edward’s ministers hoped they would be able, at some later stage, to portray the new King’s name and image on a future coinage, which would be of a higher silver standard. Consequently, it was considered better to place the old King’s head on a very debased coinage in anticipation of better times to come.

## “... The sixpences and the threepences were of two distinct styles ...”

Although the indenture mentions groat, half-groat, penny, and half-penny, it does say that this is in terms of lawful money of England, but in Ireland this had to be increased by one half to give us sixpence, three pence, three-halfpence and three-farthings. This was a reflection of the times when the English groat was always worth more than its Irish counterpart.

The coins were also to be very English in their design, with only the reverse legend indicating their Irish origin, as they had a Dublin Mint signature. They included, for the first time, a portrait representing a true likeness of the old King. This demonstrates the influence of the Renaissance playing its part, being reflected in the portraiture on the Irish coins, with the face not looking straight back at us, but slightly sideways in order to give depth, thus creating almost a three-dimensional image.

The sixpences and the threepences were of two distinct styles—those struck from imported Tower of London dies and those struck from Irish dies of local manufacture (figures 3 and 4). The English dies have only two busts, referred to as the early and late ‘Tower’ types, but the Irish dies, as far as the groats are concerned, comprise three types—“the large head”, “the small head”, and “the well-proportioned head”, but they also have many interesting variations. The dies of the threepences, however, only utilised one local Irish type.



Fig. 3. Ireland, Edward VI, Posthumous “Old Head” Coinage, debased silver sixpence, Dublin, large facing bust of local style (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).

The three-halfpence (figure 5) only use the two English die busts, whereas the three-farthings only use the English full-face “Tower” bust, which is similar to the English testoon or shilling.

All of the Irish busts show very crude images of Henry, but to quote A. J. Laker, in his booklet *The Portrait Groat of Henry VIII*, *“It is this crudity which gives them a charming fascination.”* However, it is possible that these crude portraits might have been intentional, on the grounds that so much contempt had been felt towards the English King.



Fig. 4. Ireland, Edward VI, Posthumous ‘Old Head’ Coinage, debased silver threepence, Dublin, early ‘Tower’ bust (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).



Fig. 5. Ireland, Edward VI, Posthumous ‘Old Head’ Coinage, debased silver three-halfpence, Dublin, full-face ‘Tower’ bust (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).

All the groats at the start of the issue bear the mintmark of Thomas Agard, namely a boar’s head, and contain in the reverse cross ends what is meant to be either a floral ornament or a fleur-de-lis. The legends read *“CIVITAS DVBLINIE”*. The stops in the legend comprise trefoils, saltire, and, sometimes, roses. Some obverses have either a boar’s head or a harp mintmark. Sometimes we find that there is an overstrike of the harp over the boar’s head.

Agard died in 1549 and Martyn Perry took over as the undertreasurer, and his sixpences, which show the late “Tower” portrait, carry the initial mark “P” on the reverse. Some dies that have the mintmark as a harp may also have been used by Perry before the “P” was introduced.

Therefore, the mintmarks sequence is as follows: “boar’s head” for Agard; “harp” for Agard / Perry; and “P” for Perry.

Frequently, however, we find that no mintmarks are displayed. In most cases, the obverse legend on sixpences made from local Irish dies shows the “H” and “E” in the name *“HENRIC”* ligated in the form of a monogram, and it could be that this is, in fact, a substitute for a mintmark.

Although these coins had a slightly higher silver content than the late harp issues and were only issued between 1548 and 1551, they did not last long in circulation and were soon to be thrown in the melting pot.

Meanwhile, in England, base shillings with only 25 per cent silver content were issued, showing the profile image of Edward VI and the heraldic initial marks, namely a lis, a rose, or a lion. These shillings were abandoned in England in 1551 but were then promoted in Ireland in the following year, with Perry being instructed to issue very similar shillings, with the only difference in appearance being the year 1552 (MDLII) and the harp as a mintmark (figure 6). These were the first Irish coins to be dated by the Christian era, but also the last to be struck in Ireland for nearly a century.



Fig. 6. Ireland, Edward VI, coinage of 1552, silver shilling, mintmark harp (image courtesy of Mark Rasmussen Numismatist Ltd. Member collections NSI-NB).

Brass and copper copies of these shillings were also produced in large quantities by counterfeiters, who thinly silvered over them to make them appear genuine, although the silver was soon to wear off. They became known as “bungals” from the Irish *bonn geal* which means white groat (figure 7). Nevertheless, they were accepted as currency, passing for a penny in the west of Ireland. These imitations are dated *“MDXLIX”*, or more commonly, *“MDLII”*.



Fig. 7. Ireland, Edward VI, coinage of 1552, contemporary brass imitation of silver shilling, pierced for wearing (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).

## Mary

In January 1553, Edward VI developed a fever and cough with breathing difficulties, believed to be tuberculosis, eventually dying on July 6 at the age of 15. He had left written instructions that he should be succeeded by his cousin Lady Jane Grey, as she was a Protestant, in preference to his Catholic sister Mary. But another reason for Edward's decision was that negotiations had been taking place between the Spanish ambassador and Mary's council, with the intention of arranging a marriage with the King of Spain's son, Philip, and that the English had a real fear of a foreign match. However, the events that followed nearly plunged England into a civil war. Eventually, after 13 days of uncertainty, it was his sister Mary who, at the age of 37, became widely accepted as the new Queen.

Mary was the only child of Henry and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, to survive infancy. As a devout Catholic, Mary was to reverse many of the anti-Catholic measures imposed by her half-brother, and this has become known as the Marian Restoration. She was also now faced with the question as to whether she should accept the title as Queen of Ireland. Such a royal title reverted to the days of her father, who had been proclaimed King of Ireland but, as indicated earlier, this was without the sanction of the Pope.

The British Museum presently holds what is believed to be an Irish pattern shilling (figure 8), which it had acquired in 1861, and with a provenance going back to 1815 from the collection of an Irish gentleman. The National Museum of Ireland also holds an electrotype copy of it. There is no reference to the monarch, but it is now assigned to Mary Tudor, although it had earlier been attributed to Lady Jane Grey. The reverse features the Tudor rose surrounded by heraldic ornaments, with the Latin inscription translating as "If God be with us who can be against us", whilst the obverse reads "Justice is the Queen of Virtues". The reverse legend is that which was used at the head of a political tract put out by Mary's supporters in the summer of 1553. This suggests that the coin was prepared very early in Mary's reign, probably in August 1553, when it was still undecided as to what title she would accept.



Fig. 8. Silver medal, 1553. Diameter: 30.5mm. Obverse: "IVSTITIA . VIRTVTVM . REGINA." ("Justice is the Queen of Virtues"); three crowns in pale within a border of 12 arches; mintmark fleur-de-lis. Reverse: "SI . DEVS . NOBISCVM . QVIS . CONTRA . NOS." ("If God be with us, who can be against us"); a rose surrounded by five lions passant guardant alternate with five flowers; mintmark fleur-de-lis (image courtesy of British Museum collections ref. 1861,0910.1).

The resurrection of the old arms of Ireland, the three crowns, which is depicted on the obverse, could possibly be seen as a repudiation, by the engraver, of Henry's attempt to usurp the kingship of Ireland, representing a rejection of everything he

stood for. Or, perhaps, it may simply represent a yearning for the old days.

Nevertheless, it was later decided that Mary should accept the title of Queen of Ireland. The pattern design was not accepted and was to be replaced by a portrait coinage (figure 9), and with the reverse reinstating the harp which had been introduced earlier by her father. This comprised a shilling, a groat of fourpence, a half groat, and a penny, and all were now minted in the Tower of London by the engraver Derrick Anthony and John Lawrence as under-graver. In a proclamation dated August 20, reference was made to a "special standard" of quality for the Irish currency and, although it failed to define it, there was an improvement to the silver content, which was now increased to 0.583 fineness.

Mary's portrait is certainly beautiful, with her long flowing hair being symbolic in that it represents maidenhood. Translating the Latin inscription on the obverse reads "Mary by the Grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland", with the reverse reading Mary's personal motto, "Veritas Temporis Filia" (translating as "Truth, the Daughter of Time"), together with the year "1553" in Roman numerals. The issue continued into the following year and some very rare shillings display the year 1554. The mintmark comprised a fleur-de-lis.

The groat, half-groat, and penny all follow the same design, although these coins exclude a reference to the year. The penny also has a different obverse legend reading in abbreviated form "Mary by the Grace of God a Rose without a Thorn".

It may be that it was around this point in time that certain harp groats of Henry VIII, which had been upvalued to sixpenny groats, were to be countermarked with a small cluster of four pellets in order to indicate that they were now only worth fourpence (figure 10).



Fig. 9. Ireland, Mary Tudor, Pre-marriage coinage 1553–54, London, silver shilling dated 1553. (Chris Comber Collection, Part II, Auction 48, Lot 318, September 23, 2021, (image courtesy of St James Auctions).



Fig. 10. Ireland, Henry VIII, 1st Harp Issue, London, mintmark crown, silver groat, countermarked with quatrefoil of four pellets (image courtesy of member collections of NSI-NB).

## Philip and Mary

As Mary was now 38 years old, it was considered important that she should marry in the hope of producing an heir and, as mentioned earlier, negotiations had been taking place to arrange a marriage with her cousin, Philip, who was the son of Charles V of Spain and the Holy Roman Emperor. Philip was to reign jointly with Mary, as Consort. In the following year, another of the Queen's cousins, Cardinal Pole, petitioned the Pope to recognise the title of Queen of Ireland for Mary, and a papal bull was prepared, accepting Mary as Queen and Philip as King.

When the marriage to Philip was proclaimed on January 14, 1554, it attracted considerable opposition, particularly outside of London, and uprisings took place, reflecting a fear of foreign domination. The most serious was organised by Thomas Wyatt the Younger, who assembled an armed force in

February. However, Mary and the English Parliament managed to quell the crisis by making it clear that Philip's powers and prerogatives would be very limited. Wyatt was obliged to surrender at Ludgate and was subsequently executed, as was Lady Jane Gray.

Under the marriage settlement, Philip was instructed not to change any of the established laws of England, and would also have no say in any succession should Mary die childless. The Spanish treasury would be responsible for paying his English servants. In fact, a huge amount of Spanish silver and gold, valued at about £50,000, had been converted into coins within the Tower in October 1554, contributing towards the country's money supply and the financing of Philip's English household.

When Philip set foot upon English soil, the Spanish troops that accompanied him were ordered to remain onboard their ships. A carefully staged marriage took place in Winchester Cathedral on July 25, 1554, co-inciding with the Feast of St James, the patron saint of Spain. During the ceremony, it was made clear that Philip was never to be installed upon an equal basis with Mary. At the marriage banquet, held at the Bishop's Palace in Wolvesey Castle, he was made to sit upon a smaller chair, which was also positioned lower than Mary's, and was served his food and wine after the Queen. So, whilst Philip may have celebrated with his newly acquired title as King of England, he could merely fantasise of the ultimate regal authority which was now tantalisingly beyond his grasp. Nevertheless, whilst Mary remained Queen and Philip's powers and privileges were restricted, we still find that Philip's name came first on royal proclamations, but what was perhaps most disconcerting, in England, was the refashioned coinage.

The portraits of Mary and Philip, to be displayed on the coins, were to be based upon their depiction on the pair of medals prepared by an Italian goldsmith and engraver, Jacopo Nizzola da Trezzo, both of which are regarded as masterpieces (figures 11 and 12).



Fig. 11. Portrait medal of Mary Tudor Queen of England (reverse) by Jacopo Nizzola da Trezzo, model 1554 (contemporary cast); bronze, 67mm, 69.11g. Robert Lehman Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (accession no. 1975.1.1293, public domain image).



Fig. 12. Portrait medal of Philip II (obverse) and Mary Tudor Queen of England (reverse) by Jacopo Nizzola da Trezzo, 1555; silver/copper alloy with traces of lead, 66mm, 98.96g. The medal is an unusual combination and re-cast of two earlier individual medals (c.f., Fig. 11). Robert Lehman Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (accession no. 1975.1.1294, public domain image).

There are deep biblical connotations behind these medallic images. With Spain at the height of her power and prestige, we find Philip being regarded as a new King Solomon, being associated with divine wisdom. His wife Mary is consequently compared with the Queen of Sheba who, recognising the divine source of her husband's wisdom, acknowledges Philip as her superior, and so she is displayed as wearing a matron's cap with her long flowing hair now bound up and covered. She also wears a huge diamond pendant mounted in a setting in the style of a rose, together with a large pearl known as "La Peregrina"—a priceless gift given to her by Philip and which was compared with the Gospel of Matthew's Pearl of Great Price, indicating an acceptance and devotion to Christ. The woman on the reverse of Mary's medal represents *Sacra Philosophia* and symbolises Mary governing with the benefit of divine providence.

On the coins, Philip's portrait was of a fine style and is, perhaps, even slightly better than that of Mary's, who is portrayed as looking much older than Philip, as he was actually ten years younger (figure 13). Whilst the portrait of Philip is in perfect equilibrium, complementing that of Mary's, it is nevertheless in the commanding and superior position, facing to the right rather than to the left. Apparently, this had been insisted upon by Charles V, as was the placing of Philip's name in the legend before Mary's. Meanwhile, we find an elevated crown suspended above, exactly between their two heads.

In Ireland, the coinage of Mary and Philip comprised only shillings and groats and reverted to the very debased standard of only 0.25 fineness. This was partially due to lack of finances caused by the expense of military action against a rebellion led by Shane O'Neill in Ulster, who was opposing English and Scottish settlers.

The obverse legend translates as "Philip and Mary by the Grace of God King and Queen of England", thus making no reference to Mary's Irish titles. This may have been because she did not want to anticipate the result of the petition to the Pope regarding the proposed designation as "Queen of Ireland", although this

omission was to continue to apply on groats issued in subsequent years. The reverse legend translates as “*We have Made God our Helper*” and was based upon the inscriptions on earlier coins of Edward IV and Henry VII.

The reverse was similar to Mary’s earlier issue in that it continued to show a crowned harp, although this time crowned initials “P” and “M” on either side of the harp replaced those of “M” and “R”. The shillings were only minted in 1555 and this year is displayed in the exergue below the portraits. The groats were produced from 1555 to 1558. Those dated 1555 were actually the first Irish coins to show the calendar year in Arabic numerals. The mintmarks comprised a portcullis, a rose and, more uncommonly, a cinquefoil.

The portraits on both Irish shillings and groats are slightly shorter and wider than those on their English counterparts and consequently may be considered as not quite so pleasing to the eye. It is also noticeable that the dies for the groats dated 1557, which are the most common, are a little cruder than those for the previous years.



Fig. 13. Ireland, Philip & Mary, debased silver groat of 1557, mintmark rose (on reverse only, image permission of Mark Rasmussen Numismatist Ltd).

Large numbers of English debased pennies, many of which had been minted in London and York during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, were transported to Ireland to satisfy the demand for small currency. The obverse of those minted under Philip and Mary showed the Tudor rose with the abbreviated

titles of the joint monarchs, with the reverse displaying the royal shield with the legend reading “*CIVITAS LONDON*” or “*CIVITAS EBORACI*” (York).

Philip, who by now had become the King of Spain, abandoned Mary in 1557 and, in the following year on November 17, she died, probably of ovarian cancer. Mary had remained childless and the crown, on her instructions, was now presented to her half-sister Elizabeth, who was the daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn. Philip was to shortly propose marriage to Elizabeth, but this was on condition that she converted to Catholicism, which was something that she was not prepared to accept.

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DR K. A. RODGERS

# Gold Coronation Medals Glisten Royally



**T**HE Great British coin section of Stack's Bowers mid-April Hong Kong sale contained a remarkable selection of gold Coronation Medals ranging from Charles I to George VI. They were accompanied by their silver siblings, plus a number of miscellaneous related medals. It was the gold, however, that took centre stage. Many were rare. Most were in choice condition.

The British Museum website displays a second example. Its caption differs from the Hunterian. It states, "Only three specimens of this piece were struck in gold". If that is indeed the case, and with two examples in museums, that sold in Hong Kong would be the sole example known in the wild.



One of three extant Scottish gold Coronation commemoratives of Charles I, 1633 [Eimer-123]. PCGS Genuine—Holed, VF Details; \$1,560.



Charles I was represented by just one medal, the sole example in the sale of a commemorative for the crowning of a Scottish monarch in Edinburgh, as opposed to the crowning of an English, or British monarch, in London. It was dated 1633, seven years after his Coronation in London.

The design of the 29mm gold medal is by Nicholas Briot [Eimer-123]. The obverse shows a bust of the Monarch crowned and draped, wearing an elaborate collar. The reverse displays a mature thistle plant. The piece on offer came pierced and certified PCGS Genuine—Holed, VF Details. On the day, it sold for \$1,560 on an estimate of \$1,000–2,000, just a little more than the silver equivalent. But there is more to this medal than meets the eye, let alone that of the cataloguer.

An unpierced example is illustrated on the Hunterian website. Its caption notes it is, "One of only three surviving in gold". A legend in Latin on the medal's edge proclaims the gold used was mined in Scotland. This inscription can also be read to imply Briot struck the medal in Edinburgh.



Charles II's gold Coronation Medal of 1661 by Thomas Simon [Eimer-221]. PCGS SPECIMEN-60; \$18,000.



The sale contained a most excellent example of a Charles II, 29mm gold Coronation Medal of 1661 by Thomas Simon [Eimer-221]. To a great extent, the design celebrates the Stuart Restoration. Like his dad, Charles is shown on the obverse crowned and mantled, but also wearing the Collar and George of the Garter.

On the reverse, the Monarch is shown seated on his Coronation throne. A figure hovering above has been variously identified as "Peace" and "Victory". More likely, it is Nike and, instead of a wreath, bestows the victor's crown upon Charles' head. The legend reads "•EVERSO •MISSVS •SVCCVRRERE •SECLO •XXIII •APR •1661." ("Sent to support a fallen age, 23 April, 1661").

The medal went to the block with an estimate of \$7,500–15,000 and a certification of PCGS SPECIMEN-60. On the day, it realised \$18,000. An example certified SPECIMEN-62 fetched \$37,200 in Stack's Bowers' August 2020 ANA sale.

No medals were listed for sale connected with James VII/II. But a rare 35mm Coronation Medal of William III and Mary II was offered in the catalogue [Eimer-312A].

The obverse displays the draped jugate busts of the joint Monarchs. On the reverse, Zeus (William III) is seated among clouds with an eagle, busy knocking Phaethon (James II) from his chariot with a thunderbolt. The design is by John Roettier. Mintage of the gold version was 715, all of which were given to members of the Commons and William's courtiers. That on offer came certified NGC AU Details—Removed from Jewelry [sic]. On an estimate of \$3,000–5,000, it was bid-up to \$5,670.



*Allegorical reverse designs on Stuart Coronation Medals. Above: [Eimer-312A] William, as Zeus, blasts James II, as Phaethon, from his chariot. NGC AU Details—Removed from Jewelry; \$5,670. Right: [Eimer-390] Anne, as Athena, hurls thunderbolts at a monstrous, evil James III/Louis XIV Siamese twin. PCGS AU-50; \$5,520.*



Queen Anne, the last of the Stuarts, made it to the throne in 1702. The obverse of her 35mm gold Coronation Medal shows her diademed and draped. The reverse is highly allegorical. It presents Anne, as Athena, hurling a thunderbolt at a two-headed, four-armed serpentine monster (James III and Louis XIV) who wields rocks and a club [Eimer-390].

Convention ascribes John Croker as the engraver of this medal with the reverse based on a design by court painter Sir Godfrey Kneller. But, in 2015, an Oxford research student discovered a manuscript in the National Archives in Kew containing sketches and notes by Isaac Newton, Master of the Mint at the time Anne was crowned. These show Newton was responsible for the reverse design that illustrated the double Catholic threat posed by Louis XIV and James III. Certified PCGS AU-50, it took \$5,520 on a \$3,000–5,000 estimate.

And then came the Hanoverians. Gone from their Coronation Medals are any politico-religious allegories involving monsters and Greek gods. The only thing that matters, design-wise, is to make clear that the crowns of the first four Georges are each bestowed by Britannia.

The medals of George I [Eimer-470] by John Croker, George II [Eimer-510] by John Croker and George III [Eimer-694] by Lorenz Natter are simple variations on this theme with Britannia doing the crowning. All were 35mm.



*Coronation Medal reverses of first four Hanoverian monarchs show them receiving their crowns from Britannia (and Scotia and Hibernia). From left to right: George I, PCGS SPECIMEN-58, \$11,900; George II, PCGS Genuine—Cleaned, UNC Details, passed; George III, PCGS SPECIMEN-61, \$18,000; George IV, PCGS SPECIMEN-61; \$18,000.*

By the time George IV came to the throne in 1821, Benedetto Pistrucci had arrived at the Royal Mint and was given the task of designing the latest Coronation Medal. As might be expected, he had no intention of simply emulating his predecessors. The new Monarch is shown being crowned by a winged figure, presumably Nike, while being watched with approval by Britannia, Scotia and Hibernia.

The Committee of the Privy Council rejected Pistrucci's initial design. The seated Monarch was deemed to be shown at too low a level. To avoid the need to produce a new die, Pistrucci made a cut in the die's centre and engraved a dais that served to elevate the Monarch. The two parts of the die were then enclosed in an iron ring to produce the punch. Certainly Nike has an extraordinarily long left thigh.

George I's gold medal took \$11,900 certified PCGS SPECIMEN-58; George II's medal was passed-in certified PCGS Genuine—Cleaned, UNC Details; George III's medal took \$18,000 on a \$7,500–10,000 estimate and certified PCGS SPECIMEN-61; George IV also fetched \$18,000 on a \$10,000–20,000 estimate and a PCGS SPECIMEN-61 certification.

William IV despised the whole Coronation ceremony and dismissed it as a ridiculous charade. Possibly this attitude



*Obverse and reverse of Coronation Medal of William IV and Adelaide with their uncrowned busts on either side and legends in English [Eimer-1251]. PCGS SPECIMEN-58; \$5,040.*

spilled over to the design of his—and his Queen's—Coronation Medal. Any allegorical reverse design was dispensed with and, in its place, is the bust of Queen Adelaide. There is nary a crown in sight anywhere on the medal.

Not only was it the first time a single Coronation Medal displayed busts of both a Monarch and his Consort, neither of whom is shown crowned, but it is the first to have its legends entirely in English. Both designs are by William Wyon [Eimer-1251]. That on offer came certified PCGS SPECIMEN-58 and on an estimate of \$3,000–5,000 took \$5,040.

The arrival of teenage Alexandrina Victoria to the throne in 1837 saw Pistrucci return to the Coronation Medal fray. His



Reverse of Coronation Medal of Queen Victoria by Benedetto Pistrucci showing the new Queen receiving her crown jointly from Britannia, Hibernia, and Scotia. [Eimer-1315] PCGS SPECIMEN-61; \$19,200.

36mm gold medal [Eimer-1315] depicts the diademed head of the young Monarch on the obverse. The reverse shows Victoria seated on her throne, holding sceptre and orb, and receiving her crown jointly from Britannia, Hibernia, and Scotia. The Monarch's lion lurks at far right with its paw resting on a cluster of thunderbolts. Both legends have reverted to Latin. Certified PCGS SPECIMEN-61 and with an estimate of \$10,000–15,000, it was bid up to a handsome \$19,200.

Victoria's eldest surviving son, Edward VII, had three different gold medals in the sale commemorating his 1902



Obverse and reverse of gold Coronation Medal of George V and Queen Mary, struck by Wright & Son for the Burgh of Kirkcudbright. The reverse displays the civic coat-of-arms of Kirkcudbright along with numerous thistles, laurel and oak branches. PCGS SPECIMEN-58; \$3,600.

the Garter. The reverse is all about Kirkcudbright. It displays the civic coat-of-arms within a shield along with numerous thistles, laurel and oak branches. Hallmarks attest to maker and the 18k purity.

Certified PCGS SPECIMEN-58, it sold for \$3,600 on a \$1,500–2,500 estimate.



Obverse and reverse of the Coronation Medal of Edward VII and Alexandra [Eimer-1871A]. PCGS SPECIMEN-58; \$10,200.



Coronation and that of his wife Queen Alexandra. Notable among them was a massive, 55mm, 91.55g version by George William de Saulles [Eimer-1871A]. Mintage was 878. That on offer came ex-collection of Thomas Hughes, Mayor of Sydney.

The obverse shows a crowned and mantled bust of the new Monarch wearing the Collar of the Garter. A laurel branch is below. The reverse depicts a crowned, veiled and draped bust of Queen Consort Alexandra with a garland of British flowers below. Both legends are in English. Certified PCGS SPECIMEN-58 it was bid up to \$10,200 on a \$7,000–10,000 estimate.

George V and Queen Mary are represented by a very rare 38mm, 29.44g gold medal unlisted in either Eimer or BHM and struck for the Burgh of Kirkcudbright. The catalogue listing gives the Mint as Wright & Son, presumably the engraver and medallist formerly of Edgware, Middlesex. A website refers to this company having struck similar 1911 Coronation Medals for other British locations.

The obverse presents the crowned jugate busts of George and Mary. The Monarch is mantled and wearing the Collar of



The magnificent Coronation Medal of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth struck in 123.40g of gold [Eimer-2046A]. PCGS SPECIMEN-63; \$19,800.

This portion of Stack's Bowers' sale concluded with the top seller: a massive 57mm, 123.40g gold medal, the work of Percy Metcalfe, struck at the Royal Mint to mark the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth [Eimer-2046A]. On the obverse, George is crowned and mantled, wearing Collar of the Garter. On the reverse, Elizabeth is crowned and draped.

This is undoubtedly the most spectacular of the Coronation Medals on offer. The catalogue comments: "No doubt one of the more provocative examples of this impressive type that one can hope to encounter. The present specimen radiates with an unending degree of enchanting and robust brilliance, with the wondrous fields nearly free from any spotting or color [sic] . . . exceptionally captivating."

In due course, the bidding went well past the upper estimate of \$15,000 to conclude at \$19,800. The medal came certified PCGS SPECIMEN-63.

(All prices are given in USD. To get approximate GBP multiply by 0.8.)





## PART III-B

DAVID ROWE



# TIPS FOR THE COLLECTOR

## FACES BEHIND THE FLORINS

**I**N last month's article, David looked at the Florins of Edward VII; this month, he takes a closer look at the people behind the designs—the young Birmingham artist George William de Saulles and his muse, Susan Beach Hicks, the model behind the iconic “Standing Britannia” image.

George de Saulles, a short but highly productive career



*George William de Saulles, medallist.*

George William de Saulles designed and engraved a vast array of coins, medals and seals before his career was tragically cut short by his death at the age of 41.

He was born in Birmingham on February 4, 1862, and went on to study at the Birmingham School of Art. He was then apprenticed to a die-sinker in Birmingham before moving to London in 1884 to work for the medallist John Pinches, who himself had previously worked for the Royal Mint under William Wyon and his son Leonard.

De Saulles returned to Birmingham in 1888 to join medallist Joseph Moore. His work had come to the attention of Thomas Brock, the winner of the competition to design the obverse of the Old Head coinage of 1893. After the debacle of Boehm's Jubilee Head, Brock insisted that it should be de Saulles who engraved the dies from his design, rather

than entrusting the work to the Mint engravers. He was also charged with reworking the Britannia reverse on the bronze coinage by Leonard Wyon, who had died in 1891.

The success of the designs for the Old Head coinage led to de Saulles's appointment as Engraver to the Mint in January 1893.

In 1895, he was tasked with designing the British Trade Dollar featuring a standing Britannia. The newly appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer (and thus Master of the Mint) was Sir Michael Hicks Beach (later Earl St Aldwyn). It was presumably at his suggestion, and it would certainly have been with his approval, that his 17-year-old daughter Susan was chosen to sit, or rather stand, as de Saulles' model for Britannia.

A standing Britannia also featured strongly in de Saulles's 1900 design for the Queen's South Africa Medal.

With the accession of Edward VII in January 1901, de Saulles had to design new effigies of the King, with a bare-headed version for domestic use and a crowned version for use in some of the colonies, along with new reverses, notably for the florin.

As the florin was to feature a standing Britannia, to clearly differentiate it from armorial design of the half-crown, de Saulles again turned to Susan Hicks Beach, now aged 24, as his model.

At the same time, he had to design dated medals for the new King's Coronation, a task complicated by the re-scheduling of the Coronation at two days' notice (the King had appendicitis).

By 1903, de Saulles was hard at work on designing the Great Seal for Edward VII (which also features Britannia on the reverse). He had nearly completed this task when he, in turn, was struck by appendicitis, though with a less fortunate outcome than the King. Despite surgery, he died on July 22, 1903, of peritonitis. He was only 41 years old and left a widow, Myra, but no children.

*“Contrary to unauthorised rumours, Mr GW de Saulles is not a foreigner ...”*



Wax impression of the Great Seal of Edward VII, with Britannia standing on the left.

The Mint was scrupulous in calculating the outstanding fees payable to Myra for work that de Saulles had done leading up to his death. It is a testament to his vast output that these fees amounted to more than £500 in addition to the balance of his £200/year salary.

Because of his surname, and despite having been born in Birmingham of British parents (his paternal grandfather was Swiss), de Saulles had to contend throughout his career with the suspicion that he was a foreigner. The *Sphere* in June 1901 confidently reported that the King’s South Africa Medal had been, “designed by Herr de Saulles, the Austrian diesinker”. The sculptor Sir Alfred Gilbert was under the impression that he was French when he leapt to his defence in a letter to *The Times* in March 1901, writing, “Monsieur de Saulles like many others resident in our country, should have the same consideration which Englishmen accord to all comers”. He had to send a second letter a week later, writing, “I find that this gentleman is an Englishman [ . . . ] I apologise for a want of knowledge, which I apparently share with the public and the Press, as to the doings and appointments of his Majesty’s Mint”. In an article on the design of the new coinage on January 27, 1902, the *Irish News* and *Belfast Morning News* thought it necessary to add, “Contrary to unauthorised rumours, Mr G W de Saulles is not a foreigner.”

There is no space here to list all the medals designed and engraved by de Saulles. The coins he engraved and/or designed are listed right:

1893	UK gold and silver (engraver, obverse designed by T Brock)	
1895	UK bronze (re-working of L C Wyon’s reverse, used until 1936)	
1895	British Trade Dollar (obverse and reverse, used until 1935)	
1901	Cyprus (obverse, Victoria)	
1902	UK gold, silver and bronze (Edward VII obverse and reverse of shilling, florin and half-crown)	
1902	Crowned Edward VII obverse for Australia, British Guinea and West Indies, British Honduras, Canada, Cylon, Cyprus, East Africa, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Jersey, Straits Settlements.	
1903	Straits Settlements Dollar (obverse and reverse)	

**Susan Hicks Beach, the woman who was twice Britannia**



Susan Hicks Beach, aged 24, in the *Daily Mirror*, January 23, 1904.

When she first sat as a model for Britannia for the British Trade Dollar in 1895, Susan Hicks Beach was a girl of 17, and she was still only 24 when she modelled for the 1902 florin. It was

in the rest of her adventurous life that she proved herself worthy of representing the icon on the coin.

Susan was born on June 15, 1878, the daughter of Sir Michael Hicks Beach MP and his second wife, Lady Lucy, and possibly named after Sir Michael’s first wife Lady Susan, who had died in premature childbirth less than two years after marriage. Susan had an elder brother, also Michael but always called Mickey, and two sisters.

Susan’s early years alternated between the fashionable life of a daughter of the London political elite and rural life on the family estate in Coln St Aldwyn, Gloucestershire. When she was 17, her mother presented her at a Court Drawing Room (with the Princess of Wales standing in for the Queen). In the country, she attended a constant round

of hunt balls while also developing an interest in breeding Shetland ponies.

An early sign of her devotion to public service was her involvement with Saint Mary's Girls' Club, a charity for, "poor girls working in the factories of South London". A newspaper appeal in 1901 asked for contributions to be sent to Miss Susan Hicks Beach (address: 10 Downing Street—her father had become Chancellor of the Exchequer for the second time in 1895).

Towards the end of 1902, Susan and her younger sister Victoria (known as "Tora") embarked on an adventurous tour of India, returning via Egypt, Malta and Italy. For Susan, this was to be the first of many journeys abroad. She came back with embroideries from Kashmir, sold at a bazaar to raise money for the factory girls' club.

Despite the new florin having been issued in 1902, it was only in 1904 that the public started to notice it in their change, exciting a flurry of press coverage revealing Susan's role in its creation. This included a full-page portrait in the *Tatler* and a photo (illustrated here) in the *Daily Mirror*.

Daringly for the time, Susan appeared in a series of tableaux vivants held at the Savoy Hotel in 1905 in aid of "The Circle", a proposed meeting place for the, "daughters of professional men".

In 1906, Sir Michael was raised to the peerage, becoming the first Earl St Aldwyn and allowing his daughters to use the courtesy title of "Lady". It was at this time that Lady Susan made the acquaintance of a woman who was to have a major influence on her life over several decades, Princess Hélène of France, Duchess of Aosta.

Hélène, daughter of the pretender to the French throne, was very well connected with the English court, having almost married Queen Victoria's eldest grandson—and next in line to the throne after Edward—Prince Albert Victor. She was a Catholic, however, and despite protracted negotiations over her conversion, the unofficial engagement was eventually called off. Albert Victor never acceded to the throne, as he died in 1892 before his father became King and it was his younger brother who went on to be crowned George V.

In 1895, Hélène married the Duke of Aosta, at the time second in line to the Italian throne. Despite producing two sons, the marriage was not a happy one. The Duke was a serial adulterer, and Hélène's coping mechanism was to travel to far-away places and shoot as many wild animals as possible! In 1906, she visited London to interview potential travel companions and she quickly selected Lady Susan, who had been introduced by a mutual friend.

Their first trip together in 1907–08 started in Egypt, travelling down the Nile to Luxor and Aswan, and then on to the Horn of Africa. The second in 1909–10 saw them start from Lisbon before sailing to southern Africa via Madeira and then covering most of sub-Saharan Africa before heading north to Suez for the return to Europe. A third expedition followed in 1910–11. In all three cases, the focus was firmly on hunting, and on a scale that seems shocking today. To her credit, Lady Susan suggested to their Italian guide that they should limit themselves to shooting one, or at most two, of each species. There is a particularly disturbing photograph of the Duchess standing next to the dead body of a magnificent bull elephant.

In 1913–14, the pair headed further east, with a tour taking in India, south-east Asia and Australia before returning to Europe via the United States.

During the Italo-Turkish war, Hélène had trained as a nurse, and, with the start of World War I, she was appointed Inspector-General of Italian Red Cross nurses. She took this

role very seriously, and her subsequent travels with Susan would include hospital inspections wherever they went.

Susan, meanwhile, found a war role of her own. In December 1914, Lady Mabelle Egerton had set up a coffee shop in Rouen station in France, a major logistics hub for troop movements to and from the front. Susan was one of the many volunteer women who staffed the shop, which sold tea, coffee and light refreshments to officers and men (the wounded were fed for free) and remained open day and night until April 1919. It is interesting to wonder what thoughts went through Susan's mind when one of the men paid for his meal with an Edward VII florin, which must surely have happened!

Susan's presence in the "theatre of war" earned her a campaign medal, with her medal card recording her as a "war worker".

Her work in Rouen was interrupted in 1916, an *annus horribilis* for the Hicks Beach family. Her brother Mickey was an officer in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars; having survived Gallipoli, he was stationed to Egypt where he was joined by his wife Marjorie. She died of typhoid fever in March 1916 and, less than two months later, Mickey was killed in action at the Battle of Katia. And just a week after that, Earl St Aldwyn died at the family estate in Gloucestershire. Mickey's orphaned son, also Michael, succeeded to the title at the age of three.

Susan thus lost her sister-in-law, brother and father within the space of two months. In a prophetic letter to Victoria the month before his death, Earl St Aldwyn writes: "It is possible that the war may last longer than my life; and that Mickey may not return from it. [ . . . ] Please God these things won't happen; but no one can tell." He also wrote that he would, "try and put Susan into as much knowledge of the estate and the farm as will enable her to look after it [ . . . ] till Mickey returns".

Mickey was never to return, and Susan was to spend the rest of her working life looking after the family estate and farm—though not without the occasional hunting trip to Africa with Hélène.

On the farm, Susan specialised in local breeds, such as Old Gloucester cattle and Old Spot pigs. Along with running the farm and estate, she immersed herself in local affairs: the first woman member of Northleach Board of Guardians (which ran the local workhouse) and a long-serving member of Northleach Rural District Council; a magistrate, and later Chairman of the Bench, at Fairford Police Court; county delegate to the Central Council of Milk Recording Societies, etc. She continued judging at agricultural shows well into her seventies.

Lady Susan never married. She died aged 86 in 1965. George de Saulles is reported to have given the family the plaster model for the reverse of the Edward VII florin, but extensive enquiries have failed to reveal its current location, or whether it survives.



Susan Hicks Beach in 1915, wearing the badge of the Rouen Station Coffee Shop.

### Further reading

Dr K. A. Rodgers' excellent article on Britannia on banknotes (COIN NEWS, May 2024, and this issue) also includes useful information on the history of Britannia on the coinage.  
*Britannia: Icon on the Coin* by Katharine Eustace (Royal Mint Museum, 2016) traces the history of Britannia on the coinage.  
 The definitive biography of Princess Hélène of France, Duchess of Aosta is *The Wandering Princess* by Edward Hanson (Fonthill, 2017).  
 The story of the Rouen Station Coffee Shop is told in *Lady Mabelle's Coffee Shop* by Trish Jones (2nd edition, 2022) available for £5 + postage from trish.mountfield@hotmail.co.uk and sold in aid of Mountfield Village Hall.



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DAVID IVERSON

# The 2008 Coins

## In Your Pocket

**I**N 2008, the reverse designs on all UK coinage denominations from 1p to £1 was changed. There had been numerous designs for specific years for the 50p and the £1, but this was the first design change for all denominations from 1p to 20p since the introduction of the decimal coinage system in 1971.

There had been other changes between 1971 and 2008. These included the discontinuation of the half penny, the introduction of the 20p piece in 1982 and a change of the metal component of the 1p and 2p pieces. There was also the reduction of the sizes of the 5p and 10p coins, but the designs had remained the same on the new smaller coins.

With regard to the obverse, depicting the Queen, updated images were introduced in 1985 and, again, in 1998. The images being replaced were: 1p—crowned portcullis; 2p—feather plume; 5p—Scottish thistle; 10p—crowned lion; 20p—Tudor rose; 50p—Britannia (the regular annual image); £1—no regular annual image, though some had re-occurred.

The new reverse design that was chosen was based on a shield designed by Matthew Dent. The £1 coin had the complete shield depicted, the other six denominations, from the 50p to the 1p, showed sections of the shield.

The change was introduced *during* the year of 2008. What has probably not been widely understood is just how dramatic the split is between production of the original and the new designs. Across the whole seven denominations the percentages are 21.14 per cent original designs and 78.86 per cent new designs. The breakdown for individual denominations is even more stark, with the original 2p at just over four per cent for the original design and the 20p and £1 both at less than ten per cent.

The full breakdown is as follows:

	Old		New		Total
1p	180,600,000	26.23%	507,952,000	73.77%	688,552,000
2p	10,600,000	4.20%	241,679,000	95.80%	252,279,000
5p	92,880,000	35.99%	165,172,000	64.01%	258,052,000
10p	9,720,000	11.98%	71,447,000	88.02%	81,167,000
20p	11,900,000	9.38%	115,022,000	90.62%	126,922,000
50p	3,500,000	13.33%	22,747,000	86.67%	26,247,000
£1	3,910,000	8.19%	43,827,300	91.81%	47,737,300

This design change also involved an initial oversight that led to the production of “error” coins. The 20p coins, unlike all the other denominations, had previously had the date on the reverse. The new design required the date to be switched to the obverse. The first batch of 20p coins minted with the new reverse were matched with the original undated obverse. Estimates vary, but the general consensus is that around 120,000 such coins were minted and released into circulation.

This information is widely known, these coins are very sought after and usually change hands for around £40 to £50.

Obviously, the 2008 £1 coin was withdrawn from circulation along with all “round pound” coins issued since 1983, when in 2017 they were replaced by the new 12-sided coin. This means that the vast majority of the historically very low mintage figure of 3,910,000 would have been returned to the Royal Mint and melted down. They were not very plentiful and readily encountered even when in circulation, they are now something of a rarity.



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ANTOINE SCRIVENER *1st Earl Of Essex 1672 (image courtesy WIKI).*

# ST PATRICK'S COPPERS



Large size St Patrick halfpenny. On the obverse, King David beholds the English crown marked with a large brass "splasher". On the reverse, St Patrick blesses his faithful Irish flock with a shamrock.



Typical example of a small St Patrick halfpenny token certified XF45 PCGS. Small brass "splasher" highlights English crown on obverse. On reverse, St Patrick is busy driving assorted wriggly reptiles from Ireland.

**F**OR some 350 years, the origins of small copper tokens bearing the image of St Patrick has been much debated in numismatic circles. Who struck the tokens and where they were produced is unknown. But mint them someone certainly did, possibly in Ireland and probably c. 1674–75, although we have no proof of that. Other suggested dates include 1641–42, 1667–69, and 1672–74.

Arthur Capel, 1st Earl of Essex, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1672 to 1677. He is suspected to have sanctioned at least part of the mintage of these tokens, hence the proposed 1672–74 minting date.

Collecting these pieces is popular on both sides of the Atlantic. The better quality and rarer varieties command high prices.

The least worn tokens show that they were reasonably well struck-up. However, the quality of the dies used varied considerably, making it difficult to assess the extent of subsequent wear. Many that superficially appear heavily worn were simply struck with dies lacking significant design detail such as facial features. These are often assigned unwarranted low gradings by inexperienced collectors. One clear indication of whether a token is heavily worn or simply struck by imperfect dies can be found in the prices being paid, particularly by discerning American collectors.

## Description

Two main types of St Patrick copper tokens exist: large planchet and small planchet. In both groups, planchet diameters and thicknesses vary. Typically, the large range between 28.0 and 28.8mm and weigh from 8.1 to 9.2g. The majority of the small are in the range 24.3–25.7mm and 4.2–5.8 g.

Traditionally, numismatists have regarded the small as farthings and the larger as halfpennies but research by Philip Mossman made clear both were halfpennies, with the larger type produced first.

Some ten varieties of the larger tokens are known, struck from up to ten combinations of five obverse and six reverse dies. From what is known of die usage in the mid-17th century, it seems likely these 11 dies would have lasted no more than a year at best striking copper flans.

In contrast, over 120 die varieties are known of the smaller tokens. The smaller flans proved much easier to strike, the dies probably lasting longer and able to keep a 17th century mint busy for 2–3 years. These smaller tokens were also more profitable. Mossman estimated that, when placed in circulation as halfpennies, the larger tokens would have returned a profit of 49.1 per cent while the smaller would have yielded 119.1 per cent.

Examples of the smaller planchet pieces occur in silver. Mossman has speculated that these were presentation pieces produced as gifts to influential officials in return for their support in allowing the smaller, highly profitable tokens to circulate as legal tender. A single example is known in gold.

All the silver and gold pieces show signs of circulation. None are known in proof or Mint state.

No one knows how many were struck. Guestimates range upwards of 7,000,000. Today, about 1,000 examples exist in a wide range of conditions.

## Designs

The obverses of both token types show a kneeling King David wearing what heraldry calls an Eastern Crown. He is playing a harp as he raises his eyes to the English crown poised in the sky. Above is the legend "FLOREAT REX" ("Let the king flourish").

There are two types of obverse among the smaller tokens: those with no designs below the kneeling David, and those showing a partial design. The semi-nude winged female decorating the harp's pillar had become a commonplace feature of coins and tokens by the second quarter of the 17th century.

The reverse of the larger tokens shows St Patrick with crozier and clad with mitre, blessing a congregation with a shamrock. Alongside St Patrick is the heraldic shield of the city of Dublin consisting of three pairs of towers representing three castles. Above is the legend "ECCE GREX" ("Behold the flock").

The smaller reverses all show St Patrick holding his Metropolitan Cross as he banishes various serpents and other wriggles from Ireland. Behind him is St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The legend reads: "QUIESCAT PLEBS" ("Let the people be at peace"). The number and nature of the fugitive reptiles varies among different reverse dies.

On the whole, the quality of the strike and dies of the larger pieces is better than that of the smaller. That said, for their day and age, the designs were well executed with each token struck with a crudely reeded edge to prevent clipping. Further, each blank planchet had a drop of molten brass added to the obverse prior



*Finest certified large St Patrick halfpenny: AU53 PCGS. The portrait of King David is especially clear and St Patrick even has a hint of facial features (sold in January 2022 for US\$28,800. Ex-John J. Ford Collection Part VII).*

to striking after which it was described as a “splasher”.

This “splash” served a dual purpose. It made counterfeiting more difficult and imparted a golden appearance to the royal English crown at the top of the design.

The combination of golden crown and the royalist legend, “*Let the King flourish*”, point to the tokens being designed so they might qualify for an official status rather than just being a private issue.

Numerous die/design varieties exist among both the small and the large tokens. Some of the design variations help compound the issue of who made these tokens. A choice example is seen among those whose legends display “Masonic punctuation”. Commonly this occurs as three small dots defining a triangle.

### Distribution

St Patrick tokens were first distributed in Ireland. Irrespective of their circulation here, at some time prior to 1678 a large number were taken to the Isle of Man. Here they were used as legal tender during the minority of the Earl of Derby, hereditary Lord of the island. When the Earl became of age, the coins were demonetised by an act of Tynwald on June 24, 1679, effective from January 15, 1680.

“ . . . coppers of St Patrick found in excavations of early colonial sites in New Jersey have all been large planchet versions. Some small planchet St Patricks have surfaced in 18th century sites, indicating these were circulating at that time. . . .”



*Small size St Patrick halfpenny in gold—the sole genuine gold St Patrick token known today. It has a remarkable provenance. The distinctive scrape across the cathedral characterises this piece.*

*One of the better known small St Patrick halfpennies struck in silver composed of 92 per cent silver, seven per cent copper, and one per cent other elements. Ex-Newman collection, it comes well struck and in a remarkable state of preservation that allows a clear view of the King’s facial features and St Patrick’s somewhat ghostly countenance. Note the reverse shows “QVIESCATPLEBS” as a single continuous word.*

(All Images courtesy [www.ha.com](http://www.ha.com) and not to scale.)



*Masonic punctuation, three dot triangle, in reverse legend of St Patrick halfpenny. And is that a giant centipede at lower right?*

*Small size halfpenny showing Masonic punctuation in the obverse legend with three dot triangle after REX.*

A year later, Mark Newby, an English Quaker merchant in Dublin, acquired a large number of these tokens from an unknown source. He took these with him when he emigrated to West (New) Jersey in September 1681. There the locals were impressed by Newby’s coppers. They saw them as providing small change of which the colony had a substantial short supply.

In May 1682, the General Free Assembly of West (New) Jersey granted the tokens legal tender status. They were allowed to circulate at a face value of one halfpenny and replaced wampum then in use. There were restrictions—no one was required to accept more than five shillings in coppers at one time. And Newby had to put up a surety of 300 acres of land that he would exchange for the coppers on demand.

When Newby died the following year, his estate included £30 in coppers, roughly 10,800 coins.

It is not known which kind of St Patrick coppers Newby brought with him. Initially, it was assumed to be large planchet tokens only, given that the West (New) Jersey legislation spoke only of “halfpence” and, at the time, it was considered the small tokens were farthings.

Further, coppers of St Patrick found in excavations of early colonial sites in New Jersey have all been large planchet versions. Some small planchet St Patricks have surfaced in 18th century sites, indicating these were circulating at that time. However, it is not known whether these arrived with Newby or were shipped over at a later date.

Certainly, Newby’s St Patrick coppers filled an important need in Western (New) Jersey commerce. They continued in circulation into the early 19th century as well as circulating in Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware.

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# LOCUST INVASIONS



Fig. 1: 42mm silver medal of 1693.

## Introduction: Welsh locusts

In 1693, the distinguished Welsh scholar Edward Floyd (1660–1709), Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, wrote to the Royal Society to report locusts in Wales:

*“Sir, You have probably been already informed from some other parts of the Kingdom, of swarms of locusts that have lately appeared on our British coasts. However because I am not certain that they have been observed elsewhere, I shall take this Occasion of giving you what Account I can at present, of some that have been seen in Wales. As far as I have been yet informed, they were first seen on the 10th of October, scattered about the Fields in Marthbery Parish, Pembrokeshire, where they were generally taken notice of, at first, became of the unseasonableness of the time for grasshoppers but afterwards, for that upon further Examination, they found them distinct from our English Grasshoppers, in bigness, colour, &c. I could not learn that any of them have been seen flying in that county; but from North Wales I am informed that two vast swarms of them had been seen in the Air not far from Dolgellau, a Market-Town of Merionydshire [Merionethshire]. I cannot assure you of the time when these flying Locusts were observed, but ... it was near the same time that those others of Pembrokeshire had been taken notice of in the Fields. What part of the World these Creatures should come from, I must leave to your Conjecture; in the mean time I can assure you that they are of the very same Species with some African Locusts in my Custody in the Museum.”*

This news was deeply worrying. In a religious age, the warning from the Bible that locusts were agents of divine wrath was taken seriously: *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, . . . very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they,*

*neither after them shall be such. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees . . . and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.”* Exodus, 10: 12–14.

## The heuschreckenplage of 1693

Outbreaks of infestations by *Locusta migratoria* were once relatively frequent in Central Europe. Locust plagues (*heuschreckenplage*) are well documented around the continent at least as far back as the 14th century. Locust migration is influenced by the environment, including climate. In Europe, locust outbreaks often occurred during cooler springs and wetter summers, devastating crops and destroying harvests.

The largest swarms seen in post-medieval Europe occurred in 1693, followed by 1748. It was, therefore, unsurprising that medals portraying the ominous locust were struck in those years (1693, figures 1–5, and 1748, figure 6), while others illustrate the deadly consequences—Famine (figures 7 and 8), and Hunger (figures 9 and 10).

The swarms across Europe in 1693 lasted for weeks as the weather suited the locusts to linger and consume crops. That year, in retrospect, witnessed the last great locust plague that struck right across Europe, from Wales to Ukraine. In places, the resulting famine was the worst in memory and on record. One contemporary recorded: *“The autumn . . . was already in when the first news of the invasion of the locusts was heard . . . There were so many millions of them that they passed like black clouds. At times the number of the insects was such that when they flew in a swarm it seemed to be a cloud so dense that it obscured the light from the sun. During the day, when it started to get hot, they rose from the earth and looked for new pasture, but at night they lay out of the earth and ate everything green. Some went to the trees in such a multitude that the branches bowed to the ground. The main swarm . . . consisted of three clouds which flew at certain distances from each other . . . A south wind picked them up and drove them north to the nearest mountains, where they consumed all the grass, while sparing the vines and most of the trees . . . All locusts were yellowish, the males smaller and lighter than the females. Swans, ducks and chickens, and pigs too, eagerly ate it. Since the cold rain and frost fell, they could not get any further, and so they died . . . after staying there for over four weeks.”*

The locust invasions should be viewed against the wider apocalyptic events of the time. France, during 1693–4, suffered its worst ever famine, in which 1,700,000 people died, while the Nine Years’ War of 1688–97 raged against Louis XIV.

Locust plagues stimulated scientific investigation. Improvements in the microscope, however, lent spurious

credibility to one rumour, that the locusts had imprinted in minute lettering on their wings: "ANNONA MORIEMINI" ("You will die of hunger").

Figure 1 shows a silver medal by Johann Kittel (1656–1740, medallist at the Breslau Mint in Lower Silesia, now Wrocław in western Poland) which captures how medallists were evidently perturbed by the black clouds of locusts that in 1693 smothered not only their own cities, but also more widely. Raining locusts formed a stinking mess a foot-high in ponds and wells. Locust droppings dripped from roof-tops. The smell was disgusting, famine struck, and subsequent disease wiped out people and their livestock. On the obverse, locust left, with legend: "EIN DIENER DES HERREN DER HERSCHAREN" ("Locust, Servant Of The Lord"), expresses the dark biblical imagery of divine wrath looming over Europe.

The occupying swarm encouraged the medallic arts to regard the locust threat in xenophobic terms, as reflecting the wider existential crisis apparently confronting Europe. This is evident on the reverse: a memorial stone under a tree at harvest time with nationalist inscription: "FREMDE HEVSCHRECKEN IN DEVTSCHLAND GESEHEN MDCXCIII" ("Foreign Locust seen in Germany 1693").



Illustration 2: This 32mm brass medal by Christian Wermuth (1661–1739) at the Gotha Mint. Obverse shows two locusts feeding, while a swarm arrives. Legend: "DENCK AN DAS SCHRECKLICHE HEUSCHRECK HEER DASS DICH NICHT GOTTES ZORN VERZEHR" ("Remember the terrible locust army, that you are not consumed by God's wrath"). The legend on the reverse makes clear where the foreign locusts in Germany had come from: "MORGENLÄNDS HEUSCHRECKEN WEL-CHE AUS TÜRKIE KOMENDE, IM AVGVSTO V SEPTEMBRI 1693 DURCH UNGARN, ÖSTREICH, SCHLESSEN, BÖHMEN VOIGT VND OSTERLAND, IN THÜRINGEN GEZOGEN, ALDA SIE ERFROHRN UND DEM VIEH ZUR SPEISE WORDEN" ("Oriental Locusts Came From Turkey in August and September 1693 through Hungary, Austria, Silesia, Bohemia, Vogtland, Osterland and Thuringia, Froze and Food For Cattle").



Fig. 3: 31mm silver medal 1693. Obverse legend: "IRAE NUNCIA DIVINAE" ("News of Divine Anger"). Reverse legend is the same as illustration 2, but in Latin: "INGENS LOCUSTARUM EXERCITUS EX ORIENTE HUNGARIAM, AUSTRIAM, SILESIAM, BOHEMIAM, VOIGT- ET OSTLANDIAM THURINGIAMQUE TRANSIIT MENSE AVGVSTO ET SEPTEMBRI MDCMXCIII." C.W.

## War of the locusts

All the medals above specifically allude to the "threat from the East." The invasion by "oriental locusts" in 1693 was an allusion to the Turkish army that, only a decade earlier, had similarly attacked the Holy Roman Empire. It, too, had reached the gates of Vienna, having overrun and devastated everything that had stood in its path. The locust army of occupation was a powerful symbol of the "foreign" menace to Christianity

and the West. The same message about external threats still lingered over 50 years later.



Fig. 4: This 38mm silver medal by Kittel. Obverse, winged Father Time with an hourglass on head and carrying a scythe, releases two giant locusts; ALS HEVSCHRECKEN DAR; in the exergue: 6 Sep. MDCXCIII (1693). Reverse: storm clouds rain locusts down over Breslau (Wrocław). Memorial stone with the inscription: 21 Aug. 1693: SO HAGEL GOTT STALTE BRESLAV IN DEM JAHR (God hails locusts on Breslau in the year).



Fig. 5: This 38mm silver medal by Kittel carries on the obverse the winged figure of Death, releasing locusts. Reverse is the same as in fig. 4. This image of the medal comes from "Anmerkungen ueber die Heuschrecken in Schlesien von dem Jahre 1748" ("Notes on Locusts in Silesia from 1748"), by Johann Kundmann, the first numismatist to realise the significance of these locust medals.



Fig. 6: This 23mm silver (also in gold and bronze) medal features the locust plague in Silesia of 1748, by Georg Wilhelm Kittel (1694–1769) born the year after his father had completed the 1693 locust medals. Obverse: creeping locust, left, legend: "EIN UN-GEBETNER GAST"; in exergue: "AUSFREMDDEN LANDEN" ("Uninvited guest from foreign lands"). Reverse, a swarm above eaten crops: "KOMMT FELD UND WALD ZUR LAST" ("Field and forest come together) 1748."

## "Little Ice Age"

The 1690s and 1730s/40s were unstable decades of cold and drought. Locusts partly caused, and partly reflected, crop failures. This, in turn, caused famine, hardship and violence. The "Little Ice Age" medals (figures 7–10) by Kittel and Weymuth place their locust pieces in wider climate change context:



Fig. 7: 30mm silver medal of 1736 by Kittel marks extreme weather conditions in 1736: obverse: torrential rain creates flooding. Reverse notes the subsequent drought.



Fig. 10: 30mm silver medal from 1740, by Kittel, of the devastation caused by an unusually harsh winter.



Fig. 8: 32mm silver medal of 1694 by Wermuth, blaming the inflated price of corn and the consequent hunger on Jewish grain traders, ignoring the impact of the locust plague the previous year.



Fig. 9: 21mm silver medal by Kittel of 1737; obverse, sun shines over farmer harvesting. Reverse, End of Famine. Hand of God stops Death's scythe.

“... the largest swarm of locusts in 70 years devastated parts of the Mediterranean ...”

### Conclusion: Apocalypse Now?

*“Whenever I hold back the rain, or send locusts to eat up the crops, or send an epidemic on my people, if they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again.”*  
2 Chronicles 7:13–15.

The Royal Society heard no more about swarms in Wales, but locusts still occasionally devastated the British countryside, such as in 1750 around Norfolk, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

Global warming will further enhance interest in medals depicting historical *heuschreckenschwarm*. Biblical plagues might have seemed unlikely in the UK until, in 2020, the Covid-19 epidemic arrived. At the same time, the largest swarm of locusts in 70 years devastated parts of the Mediterranean and, for a while, was threatening wider areas of southern Europe. The insects had arrived from across the Middle East and Africa, where many countries are still facing a similar threat.

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As ever, the two day show is being held at the Knavesmire Stand of the York Racecourse, Knavesmire Road (off Tadcaster Road), York, YO23 1EX, and runs from 10.00am until 5.00pm on Friday, July 19, (everything is an hour earlier than it used to be, don't get caught out, we did last year!) and from 10.00am until 4.00pm on Saturday, July 20—although let's be honest, realistically many people start to pack up by lunchtime on the second day, so don't leave it too late to attend. We'll certainly be gone by 3.00pm on the Saturday as we have to get to Stratford-upon-Avon for the Medal Fair being held there the next day!

One of the reasons the show is so popular is that it is absolutely free to get in and, with a fabulous mix of coin, medal and banknote dealers in attendance, there really is something for everyone. Of course, there's York itself too, well worth a visit if you've never been. We'll see you there!

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# LETTER FROM AMERICA

By  
Fred Liberatore

## The Silver Kennedy Half Dollar-Short Set

**T**HE year 1964 was a strange year for coin collectors. Momentous things were happening. Our beloved young, dynamic president had been assassinated the previous November. The speed with which the program to redesign the half dollar as a memorial to the martyred president was really remarkable. Congressional approval, the designing, die preparation and actual production moved at what—in retrospect—seems almost light speed for a Government program.

Gilroy Roberts designed the impressive left facing portrait of the late president with “LIBERTY” above around the rim and “IN GOD WE TRUST” at the base of the bust with the date below that. Frank Gasparro, Chief Engraver, designed the reverse which is crowded and unexceptional. It does incorporate a facing eagle with a Union Shield breast, wings outspread, lots of rays and more stars than can easily be counted. The eagle’s talons have an olive branch in one and an arrow bundle in the other. “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA” is above around the rim and “HALF DOLLAR” below and around the rim. The eagle has a small banner above its head with the required “E PLURIBUS UNUM”.

The strange and momentous thing that was happening for coin collectors was the inexorable, creeping increase in the price of silver. This half dollar, weighing 12.5 grams, was 90 per cent silver and ten per cent copper with a reeded edge. It wasn’t long before the price of the silver in this half dollar exceeded its face value. In spite of this, the mints poured out 273,000,000 from Philadelphia (no mint mark) and 157,000,000 from Denver (D) in 1964. This turned out to be the last year United States coinage was struck in fine silver. To this day, 1964 Kennedy half dollars are readily available at just above silver bullion value in spite of extensive melting.

The Kennedy half dollars issued from 1965 to 1970 were made of debased silver. They were clad in 80 per cent silver with a core of about 20 per cent silver and an overall silver content of 40 per cent. This was a low enough silver content to

keep them from hitting the melting pot for a while but, by 1969, it was clear that the silver had to be removed. And so, in 1970, the only half dollars struck in debased silver were proofs or those included in the uncirculated mint sets. None dated 1970 were struck for active circulation.

No mint marks are found on Kennedy half dollars from 1965–67 as the mints frantically replaced the fine silver coinage that was being pulled from circulation by the public. The lowest circulation strike for these half dollars is 1965 at 65.8 million. The highest mintage is for 1967, a huge 295,000,000. Denver exclusively produced these half dollars during the years 1968 and 1969. The total mintage of circulation strikes was 1.272 billion with about a third of that being the fine silver issue of 1964. Genuine proofs are available for 1964, and 1968 to 1970. Their total mintage is a comfortable 9.92 million. No proofs or regular mint sets were issued during the mint markless years of 1965–67. A collector outcry resulted in the issue of Special Mint Sets. These coins were better than a typical uncirculated coin since the dies were specially polished. By 1967, the quality of these coins approached that of genuine proofs. The total mintage of the Special Mint Sets sets was 6.48 million. The mint sets of 1970 contained the only circulation strike of a Kennedy half dollar that year which was from the Denver Mint.

A complete set of these silver half dollars consists of only 15 coins. Full circulation strikes account for seven of the coins, proofs account for four, the Special Mint Set specimen sets three, and the Mint Set circulation strike from Denver from 1970. All of these half dollars are readily available, even with the losses due to the two bubbles in silver prices and extensive melting. Most of these half dollars are bullion buys in typical uncirculated or proof condition. Only the 1970 D from the Mint Set commands a premium. It would not surprise me that, with careful shopping, a full set of the 15 could be completed for under \$125. The total silver in the set is about 2.88 troy ounces—worth about \$72 at the silver price of \$24 (June 2023.) For me, a collection with a solid silver floor always leads to Happy Collecting.



(Image courtesy of Stacksborders.)

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# BACK to BASICS

## Horse-trading I

Dr K. A. RODGERS contemplates a purchase or two . . .

**I**T is over ten years since I discussed purchasing numismatic items, yet it is something we all do on a regular basis. Last November, it became opportune for me to revisit the topic; I had good cause to recall some of the points I cited back in December 2012. I had just spent a week contemplating the possible purchase of one of the more expensive banknotes I am ever likely to own.

In that original article, I listed ten “essential” pre-purchase actions made by a very down-to-earth American numismatist, Alan Herbert:

1. Buy the book before you buy a coin or note,
2. Know more about the item than the person selling it,
3. Know how to grade within a point,
4. Keep accurate records of every purchase and sale,
5. Understand the minting/printing process,
6. Collect what you like and want, not what someone tells you to collect,
7. There are no dumb questions,
8. Don't clean your coins—or notes,
9. Walk before you run, and
10. Make a list.

These are better than anything I can come up with. I only wish someone had suggested them to me when I was making my first purchases. In November, I had to work my way through each before making a major financial commitment.

Certainly, it is essential to know what you want to buy and what the current market value is. Hence the need of a book—and a list. Such a list will include current values for the different grades I have an interest in.

That list is essential. If I don't list what I have as well as what I want, I am prone to impulse buying that all too often results in my purchasing dupes.

Being on the ball with prices alerts me to both overcharging and markdowns. The latter can occur where a vendor is getting shot of a less-than-satisfactory item or has cash-flow problems.

Dealers don't know everything. It pays to be fully informed. Such knowledge may lead to getting a bargain or, if you are selling, avoid being taken for a ride.

Ultimately, we are responsible for the grading of any coin or note we buy. It certainly isn't the responsibility of an independent grader. If you disagree, you can haggle over the price with the vendor but don't expect any favours.

If you are not satisfied that an item is as represented, ask the dealer to open any holder so you can examine the item before purchase. If you open a holder without the vendor's blessing, either before or after purchase, regard the coin as yours.

My experience is that 99 per cent of dealers are straightforward and honest. They have to be. Their reputation is their livelihood. They want to encourage customers to come back.

Yes, I have been ripped-off by the occasional operator but I have had more hassles with sales from fellow collectors than with dealers.

Get to know your dealers and let them get to know you and your collecting interests. They may well point out folk who have tried to scam them, ones you need to be cautious around. And while regular customers can expect a discount now and again, don't expect one to be offered until you have spent some decent dosh.

Herbert advocates buying big ticket coins and notes for your collection first. In an ideal world, with a surfeit of disposable income, this would be the way to go. Those more expensive items tend to appreciate faster than more common pieces. However, most of us do not have such resources when starting-out to be able to do this.

Certainly, beginners need to take it slowly and be very sure of what they are buying. And, of course, that the price is right on all counts.





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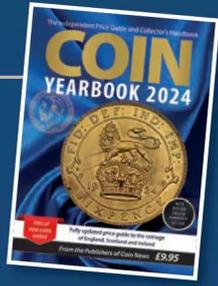
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Coin price guide to: 25 Pence and 20 Pence



The Price Guide is intended as a supplement to the highly acclaimed **COIN YEARBOOK** and we hope the prices quoted will provide a true reflection of the market. The grading used in this price guide is strictly as the recognised English system. In the listing "—" indicates either: Metal or bullion value only; not usually found in this grade; or not collected in this condition.

DATE	Mintage	UNC	DATE	Mintage	UNC
1998 Proof	—	£5	2011 Proof	—	£8
2000 BU	136,428,750	£2	2011 Silver Proof	—	£35
2000 BU	—	£5	2012	69,650,030	£2
2000 Proof	—	£5	2012 BU	—	£5
2000 Silver Proof	—	£35	2012 Proof	—	£8
2001 BU	148,122,500	£2	2012 Silver Proof (issued in set with Victorian 4 Shilling piece)	—	£35
2001 Proof	—	£5	2012 — with selective gold plating	—	£45
2002 BU	93,360,000	£2	2012 Gold Proof	—	£900
2002 BU	—	£5	2013	66,325,000	£2
2002 Proof	—	£5	2013 BU	—	£2
2002 Gold Proof	—	£900	2013 Proof	—	£10
2003 BU	153,383,750	£2	2013 Silver Proof	—	£35
2003 Proof	—	£5	2013 Gold Proof	—	£375
2004 BU	120,212,500	£2	2014 BU	173,775,000	£2
2004 BU	—	£4	2014 Proof	—	£5
2004 Proof	—	£6	2014 Silver Proof	—	£10
2005 BU	124,488,750	£2	2015	63,175,000	£35
2005 Proof	—	£4	2015 BU	—	£5
2006 BU	114,800,000	£2	2015 Proof	—	£10
2006 Proof	—	£4	2015 Silver Proof	—	£35
2006 Silver Proof	—	£35	2015 Gold Proof	—	£900
2007 BU	117,075,000	£2	2015 Platinum Proof	—	£800
2007 Proof	—	£4	<b>New Portrait</b>	—	—
2008 BU	11,900,000	£2	2015 —	131,250,000	£3
2008 BU	—	£6	2015 BU	—	£5
2008 Proof	—	£2	2015 Silver Proof	—	£5
2008 Silver Proof	—	£7	2015 Gold Proof	—	£900
2008 Platinum Proof	—	£800	2015 Platinum Proof	—	—
<b>New Reverse, date on Obverse</b>	—	—	2016 BU	212,625,000	£3
2008 Mule—paired with old Obv. (thus no date)	115,022,000	£2	2016 Proof	—	£5
2008 —	Est. approx. 120,000 (?)	—	2016 Silver Proof	—	£10
2008 BU	—	£75	2017 BU	—	£10
2008 Silver Proof	—	£6	2017 Proof	—	£35
2008 — Piedfort	—	£35	2017 Silver Proof	—	£10
2008 Gold Proof	—	£50	2018 BU	—	£35
2008 Platinum Proof	—	£900	2018 Proof	—	£10
2009 BU	121,625,300	£2	2018 Silver Proof	—	£35
2009 Proof	—	£5	2019 BU	—	£5
2009 Silver Proof	—	£7	2019 Proof	—	£10
2010 BU	112,875,500	£2	2019 Silver Proof	—	£35
2010 Proof	—	£5	2020 Proof	—	£5
2010 Silver Proof	—	£7	2020 Silver Proof	—	£10
2011 BU	191,625,000	£2	2021 Proof	—	£35
2011 Proof	—	£5	2021 Silver Proof	—	£35
2011 BU	—	£5	2022 BU	—	£5
2023 New definitive Reverse BU	—	£5	2022 Proof	—	£10
2023 — Proof	—	£10	2022 Silver Proof	—	£35
			2022 Platinum Proof	—	£800

CHARLES III (2022-)

2023 Silver Proof (only available in sets)	—
2023 — Gold Proof (only available in sets)	—

NEXT MONTH: PRICE GUIDE TO DECIMALS—FIFTY PENCE

TWENTY-FIVE PENCE (CROWN)

This series is a continuation of the pre-decimal series, there having been four crowns to the pound. The coins below have a legal tender face value of 25p to this day, and are minted in cupro-nickel except where stated otherwise.



DATE	Mintage	UNC
1972 Royal Silver Wedding	7,452,100	£2
1972 — Proof	150,000	£8
1972 — Silver Proof	100,000	£36
1977 Silver Jubilee	37,061,160	£2
1977 — in Presentation folder	Incl. above	£8
1977 — Proof	193,000	£8
1977 — Silver Proof	377,000	£36
1980 Queen Mother 80th Birthday	9,306,000	£2
1980 — in Presentation folder	Incl. above	£3
1980 — Silver Proof	83,670	£36
1981 Royal Wedding	26,773,600	£2
1981 — in Presentation folder	Incl. above	£3
1981 — Silver Proof	218,140	£36

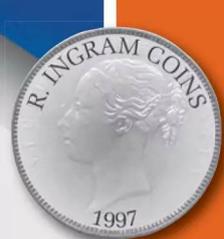
TWENTY PENCE



The series commenced in 1982, some 11 years after the introduction of decimal coinage. Its presence from introduction date meant that there was no requirement for ten pence circulation-standard coins until the latter's size was reduced in 1992. Its alloy is uniquely 84% copper and 16% nickel, unlike the 75/25 of the fifty pence.

DATE	Mintage	UNC	DATE	Mintage	UNC
1982	740,815,000	£2	1992 BU	—	£4
1982 Proof	—	£7	1992 BU	—	£5
1982 Silver Proof Piedfort	25,000	£40	<b>Enhanced effigy</b>	—	—
1983	158,463,000	£3	1992 — BU	—	£4
1983 Proof	—	£6	1992 — Proof	—	£8
1984 BU	65,350,000	£1	1993	123,123,750	£1
1984 Proof	—	£3	1993 BU	—	£3
1984 Proof	—	£7	1993 Proof	—	£6
<b>New portrait</b>	—	—	1994	—	£1
1985	74,273,699	£2	1994 BU	67,131,250	£6
1985 BU	—	£4	1994 Proof	—	£5
1985 Proof	—	£6	1995	—	£3
1986 BU	—	£7	1995 BU	102,005,000	£3
1986 Proof	—	£10	1995 Proof	—	£5
1987	137,450,000	£1	1996	—	£2
1987 BU	—	£3	1996 BU	83,163,750	£2
1987 Proof	—	£6	1996 Proof	—	£5
1988	38,038,344	£1	1996 Silver Proof	—	£20
1988 BU	—	£3	1997	89,518,750	£2
1988 Proof	—	£6	1997 BU	—	£2
1989	132,013,890	£1	1997 Proof	—	£5
1989 BU	—	£3			
1989 Proof	—	£6			
1990	88,097,500	£1	<b>New portrait</b>	—	—
1990 BU	—	£3	1998	76,965,000	£2
1990 Proof	—	£6	1998 BU	—	£4
1991	35,901,250	£1	1998 Proof	—	£5
1991 BU	—	£4	1999	73,478,750	£2
1991 Proof	—	£6	1999 BU	—	£3

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B341 £1 DY21 LAST MILLION GDEF.....	£49.50
B299 £10 A12 HOLLOM UNC.....	£85
OPERATION BERNHARD £10 WWII NAZI COUNTERFEIT PEPPIATT DATED 1930S VF PLEASE NOTE THESE NOTES HAVE PINHOLES THIS WAS DONE BY THEM TO HIDE PRINT FLAWS.....	£175
B415 £10 AA01 000149 UNC.....	£750
B413 £50 CLELAND AJ36 000087 UNC.....	£450
FRANCE 50 LIVRES 1792 PA72 VF.....	£55
ZIMBABWE \$10 1980 CW0010586A REPLACEMENT UNC.....	£165
B418 £50 TURIN AA01 FIRST MILLION UNC.....	£125
CHILDS BANK £30 PROMISSORY NOTE 1743, WITH VIGNETTE TEMPLE BAR CORNER TORN OFF TO CANCEL POOR.....	£325
T.11 TYPE 2 £1 JOHN BRADBURY SECOND ISSUE VF.....	£495
PACKET 50 WORLD NOTES UNC.....	£24.50
CHARLES III £5 CA FIRST SERIES UNC.....	£15
CHARLES III £10 HB FIRST SERIES UNC.....	£18
CHARLES III £20 EH FIRST SERIES UNC.....	£35

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Colin Narbeth is the founder of the IBNS  
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## BUYING — ANY QUANTITY

# BANKNOTE NEWS



## Banknote of the Year

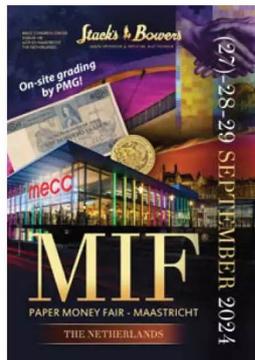
THE International Bank Note Society (IBNS) has recently announced their "Banknote of the Year" for 2023 with the accolade going to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) for the very first time with its \$2 note. Almost 100 new banknotes were released worldwide during 2023 but of these only 15 were deemed of sufficiently new design for the IBNS members to nominate them for "Banknote of the Year".

The vertical note was designed and manufactured by De La Rue in close collaboration with the ECCB and its striking bright yellow, red, blue and purple front features legendary cricketer Sir Issac Vivian Alexander "Viv" Richards, also known as "The Master Blaster", as well as the Bank's 40th Anniversary logo—turtles, and fish. The reverse features more turtles and fish, coral, and a map of the islands in contrasting bright blue.

The runner-up this year was Peru's 200 Sol note which features painter Tilisa Tsuchiya, whose work showcases Peruvian legends, folklore and myths; and second runner-up place went to Jamaica's \$1,000 note which features national heroes and Jamaica House. For more information visit [www.theibns.org](http://www.theibns.org).

## Paper Money in Maastricht

ALL reports coming out of The Netherlands indicate that the MIF Spring Fair in Maastricht was a great success with more dealers, exhibitors and visitors than ever before. Plans are already afoot for the next event which will take place on the weekend of September 27–29. Unfortunately for us, that's Coinex weekend so we can't make the trip across this year, but we're planning to soon! Visit [www.mif-events.com](http://www.mif-events.com) for more information; we'll bring you updates nearer the time.



## The Bank of England in the North

THE Bank of England has recently announced that its "northern hub" in Leeds will be expanded with 500 staff, one in ten of its workforce, working there by 2027. The Bank's northern office, which currently employs 70 people, opened in October last year at Yorkshire House in the city centre. The expansion, which will be achieved through a combination of voluntary internal relocation and local recruitment, aims to, in the Bank's own words, "improve trust and wider understanding of the Bank's work across the UK, ensure as an organisation that it better represents the people it serves, help tap into wider talent pools across the UK, and retain talented colleagues".



## Shipwrecks and sieges

NOONANS of Mayfair held two banknote sales back-to-back at the end of May, with World Banknotes (including the fifth part of the Laurence Pope Collection of Portuguese Colonial banknotes) coming under the hammer on May 29, and the Trevor Wilkin Collection of Siege notes following a day later. Highlights of the first sale included two Government of India ten rupees that had been recovered from the wreck of the SS *Shirala*, sunk by a German U-Boat on July 2, 1918. The *Shirala* was on her way from London to Bombay when she was sunk, her cargo included signed one rupee and unsigned five- and ten-rupee notes, many of which were recovered after floating ashore. Most were subsequently destroyed and replaced, but these examples obviously escaped the authorities. Estimated at £2,000–2,600, each they sold in two separate lots (474 and 475) for £6,500 and £5,500.

Highlights of the Trevor Wilkin Collection included a Siege of Mayence 50 livres, first issue from 1793 that was estimated at £300–400, but hammered at £1,500; a Siege of Mantova 9 lire, dated 6 October 1796, estimated at £500–700 which hammered at £2,800; a Siege of Zara 1 franc, 1813 that was estimated at £1,000–1,500, but hammered well in excess of that at £6,500, and a fabulous selection of Mafeking pieces, including notes in all denominations and soup tickets! Visit [ww.noonans.co.uk](http://ww.noonans.co.uk) to view the lots in more detail.



The Specialist Banknote section included **free** with Coin News

# LATEST ISSUES

This month Michael Alexander of the London Banknote Monetary Research Centre (LBMRC) focus on new note from ARGENTINA and SURINAME...

## ARGENTINA—New 10,000 Peso banknote in Heroines and Heroes of the Homeland series released

The Banco Central de la Republica Argentina have released new 10,000 peso (\$US 11.30) banknotes which are the third value in a new family of banknotes entitled “Heroines and Heroes of the Homeland”. The theme of the banknotes was introduced by the previous administration in May 2022 but with different denominations from 100 to 1,000 pesos. With significant inflation levels and a change in Government late last year, both the persons featured and the face values were amended. Argentina’s President, Javier Milei, has also reiterated that his Government plans to retire both the national currency and the Central Bank in favour of officially replacing the peso with the United States dollar. The South American country has experienced hyper-inflation with levels reaching nearly 300 per cent annually.

The new banknote features images of Manuel Belgrano and María Remedios del Valle, both remembered for their contributions to Argentina’s War of Independence against Spanish imperial forces, on the obverse. The image of Manuel Belgrano is recreated from a portrait attributed to the French artist François Casimir Carbonnier. The representation of María Remedios del Valle is recreated from a recently commissioned portrait by the artist Gisela Banzer whose work is entitled *La Capitana*. The reverse features a familiar artistic recreation from a lithograph of the scene of the Pledge of Allegiance held on February 27, 1812. The note is printed on a cotton fibre paper and measures 165 / 55mm. It is predominantly light blue in colour with corresponding multi-colour underprint. It is believed the new banknotes are printed by China’s state-owned China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation on behalf of the Banco Central, though this is not confirmed. During the country’s currency crisis, the Banco Central has contracted out banknote production to China, Brazil, and Spain to print notes as its own national printing works have been overwhelmed with the increased demand for banknotes.

María Remedios del Valle (c. 1768–1847) is remembered as the Heroine of the War of Independence—she bravely faced prejudices and limitations of the time as a woman of African descent. Remedios del Valle was invaluable as a lookout during the British Invasions of 1806–07 and, after the May Revolution, she fought in the Northern Army. Because of her courage, General Belgrano appointed her with the rank of Captain. She was shot, captured by Spanish royalists and publicly flogged. After years living in obscurity and misery, General Juan José Viamonte petitioned the legislature on her behalf to provide her with a pension. The legislature granted del Valle a salary equal to the rank of Captain of the infantry. This was later elevated to that of a Sergeant Major of the cavalry in 1830. She continued receiving a pension until her death in 1847. Manuel Belgrano (1770–1820) is remembered as the creator of the Argentine flag. Belgrano was one of the patriots who promoted the May Revolution and is regarded as one of the greatest heroes of the War of Independence. Trained at the Royal College of San Carlos in Buenos Aires and then in Salamanca, Valladolid and Madrid, Belgrano was a lawyer, journalist, economist, politician, diplomat and, when the war broke out, he assumed military duties. He participated in the defence of Buenos Aires during the British Invasions and, during the War of Independence, he commanded the Northern Army. Belgrano had a prominent role in the Congress of Tucumán that declared Independence. He was an early defender of the importance of educational, cultural and economic development of the country.

Security features on the obverse side include: (i) Watermark—shown in the left field are the replicated images of María Remedios del Valle and Manuel Belgrano along with their initials when the note is held up against a source of light; (ii) Windowed security thread—a red vertical security thread is visible on the obverse side in three segments. When held up against a light source, it appears as a continuous solid band. The initials BCRA can also be seen. The thread reveals a dynamic effect when tilted under light; (iii) Optical Variability Ink—located in the upper right corner is the image of the sun which is replicated from Argentina’s flag. When the note is tilted, the colour of the sun changes colour from golden to green, demonstrating a dynamic three-dimensional effect; (iv) Latent image application—located near the lower right corner, the initials RA can be seen within the dark blue shape when the banknote is tilted under ordinary light; (v) Tactile print—located along the left and right edges on the obverse or front side, a series of short diagonal dashes in a constant row is printed using an engraved process. The application is included to aid visually impaired persons to identify the note’s value.

The new 10,000 peso banknote denomination joins the 1,000 and 2,000 peso banknotes which are part of the new series released towards the end of 2023. The Banco Central have advised the release of 20,000 peso banknotes featuring the image of Juan Bautista Alberdi is scheduled to occur in the last quarter of the year.



## SURINAME New 200 and 500 dollar denominations added to current series

The Central Bank of Suriname has added two new denominations to the country’s current family of banknotes. The new banknotes, 200 (US\$ 5.88) and 500 (US\$ 14.70) dollars, were put into circulation in March 2024. The bank has added these new Surinamese dollar denominations to give consumers the ability to easily pay cash for large purchases using fewer banknotes—resulting in safer, more efficient cash transactions. The Central Bank has reiterated the introduction of larger denominations does not increase the country’s money supply and thus will not affect the exchange rates or increase the level of inflation.

Suriname introduced the Surinamese SRD dollar in January 2004 replacing the Gulden. The introduction of a dollar was chosen as most Caribbean Community-CARICOM member countries have the dollar as their currency, though with different denominations and exchange rates. Both the new denomination banknotes are printed on a Hybrid ADDvance® composite substrate of paper and polymer measuring 140 / 70mm. The design of these notes is very similar to the banknotes in the current

2010 series with both denominations depicting similar motifs on the obverse or front side. Both banknotes include an image of the Central Bank building in Paramaribo, the capital of the Republic of Suriname, along with an indigenous plant shown on the right side of the building. On the reverse side is an image of a fishing trawler shown on the predominantly green 200 dollar banknote and a combine harvester in a field depicted on the predominantly purple 500 dollar note. Each note also includes the image of a tree which is native to Suriname on the left of the primary image.

Common Security features include: (i) Watermark—viewed from the front side, and towards the left half, is the image of the letters “CBvS” in a vertical direction along with an image of the building of the Central Bank of Suriname; (ii) Security strip—shown on the reverse side of both notes, a RollingStar® brand vertical security strip which appears as segmented is visible and located to the right half of the note. When tilted under an ordinary source of light, the strip depicts the effect of changing colour. The strip also appears as a solid line when the note is held up against the light and includes see through micro-lettering; (iii) Latent image—seen on the front of the note, near the upper right, is a latent image application which includes the letters SR along with the dollar sign “\$”. The letters can be seen when the note is tilted under an ordinary source of light; (iv) Foil Hologram—included on the front side is a varifeye® brand security foil application which will change colour and reveal images when the note is tilted under an ordinary source of light. The foil is also embossed with numerals denoting the note’s face value of 200 or 500; (v) Tactile print—located to the left of the image of the Central Bank building are a series of dashes, five dashes denoting the 500 dollar note and four dashes with a space in between denoting the 200 dollar note. The dashes are printed using an engraved or intaglio process and included as a measure to aid persons with impaired vision to identify the banknotes.



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# FOLLY'S WAR

**O**VER the years, the website of Tom Spark's Short Snorter Project, [www.shortsnorter.org](http://www.shortsnorter.org), has generated some delightful responses. One of the more memorable arrived from out of left field in May 2008. It came from Ann Boyd.

In an e-mail she wrote: "Hi. My great aunt died several years ago in her late nineties. She served in World War II in the Red Cross in India, Australia, and the States. I have her short snorter with the \$1 silver certificate leading it off and subsequent paper money from the many locales she was in during the war. I know it would please her greatly to know that this is included in your collection."

And what a snorter it turned out to be. Eleanor Roosevelt's, Jinx Falkenburg's and Jimmie Dodd's signatures were there, along with a host of servicemen and women. Ann's great aunt had a most eventful war. The snorter documents her remarkable tale.

## Folly's service

Ann's great aunt was Florice "Folly" Langley, born into a family of five in Alabama on August 2, 1895. She left college in her late teens and headed to New York. Her hope was to break into Broadway musicals or even opera. She had a warm, beautifully modulated contralto but, in the event, managed to make only a few chorus lines before a series of family calamities in the 1920s called her home.

The 1930s found her employed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the largest of the New Deal agencies. It was the start of a career that would see Folly deeply involved in helping people for the rest of her life.

She quickly graduated to supervising WPA facilities in northern Alabama. Immediately prior to the outbreak of war, she was also engaged in social service work with the US Army. Along the way, Folly was invited to the White House for tea and sherry with Eleanor Roosevelt, possibly via her friendship with Alabama Governor Jim Folsom.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, Folly tried to enlist in the military. She already had two nieces in the Navy and Marine Corps, and a nephew in the Army.

Folly had a family reputation for being somewhat economical with the truth when it came to giving her age. She confessed to the military that she was "40-something" but even that proved too old. When she subsequently applied to the American Red Cross, she shaved-off

a further ten years. In this pretence, she was blessed by a youthful appearance.

The ARC took one look at Folly's WPA track record and signed her up with alacrity. By July 29, 1942, she was crossing the equator aboard the troop transport USS *Mount Vernon*, bound for Australia. On the way, they stopped off at Wellington, New Zealand, where, no doubt, Folly acquired the ten shilling component of what would become her wartime snorter.

The ARC team disembarked in Melbourne. Folly's immediate brief was to set up ARC service clubs in Queensland. August saw her on a train to Cairns and thence to Mareeba in the tropical north.

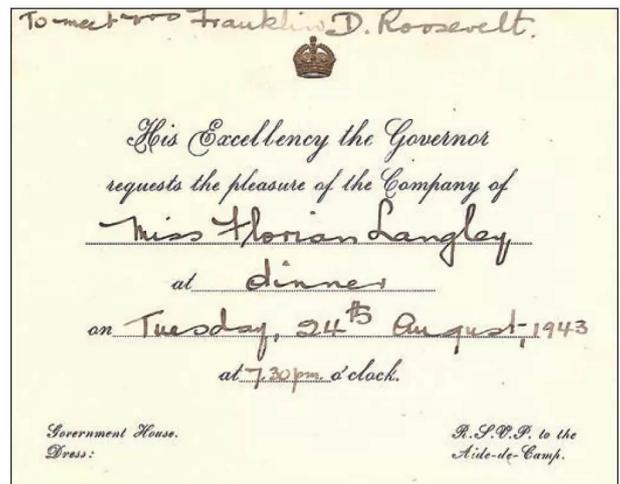
From 1942 to 1945, up to 10,000 Australian and US service personnel would use Mareeba airstrip, aka Hoevet Field, as a staging post for battles in New Guinea and the Pacific. Units based at Mareeba included the USAAC 19th and 43rd Bomb Groups, the 8th Fighter Group, plus 5 and 100 Squadrons RAAF and the Australian 33rd Light A-A Battery.

Folly is credited with building the Mareeba ARC Service Club from the ground up. Its doors were certainly wide open come December 25, when Folly would experience her first Christmas in temperatures of 49 degrees celsius. But this tropical clime caught up with Folly. Early 1943 found

Folly Langley fully kitted-up in India.



Folly Langley ARC (image by Tom Sparks, courtesy Ann Dodd)



Folly's Suva invite to dinner with Mrs E. D. R. at Government House, Fiji.



First lady Eleanor Roosevelt, ARC, signing short snorters in Fiji (image courtesy The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum).

her hospitalised with dengue fever; it affected her badly and would recur throughout the war.

July saw her recommencing her travels, this time bound for Fiji. July 4 was celebrated in Club Sambo, Suva. It co-incident with Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to the Pacific war front. Once again, Folly received an invitation to meet the First Lady at Government House where *that* signature was added to Folly's now burgeoning snorter.

At some juncture, Folly must have returned to the USA as, on New Year's Eve 1943, she received orders to report immediately to Newport News, Virginia, to embark for new horizons. This time it was aboard the troop ship *SS Empress of Scotland*, formerly the *Empress of Japan*, bound for India. Here, Folly would serve out the remainder of her war.

An exact record of her Indian assignments is not known. APO addresses for her include 433, 465,

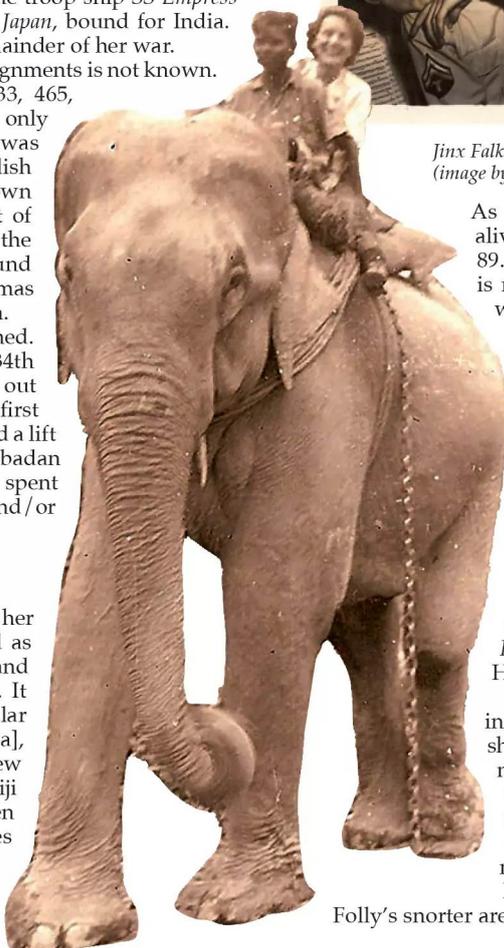
629 and 886. In Assam, she not only enjoyed some river fishing but was enthusiastically wooed by an English tea planter. She regretfully turned down his proposal and, in the latter part of 1944 and early 1945, ministered to the needs of servicemen in and around Calcutta. Here, she spent Christmas with an American Railway Battalion.

However, the dengue fever returned. She was hospitalised in the 234th General Hospital and invalided out before VJ-Day. It seems that, for the first leg of her voyage home, she thumbed a lift on a C-54 flying from Karachi to Abadan in Iran. On arrival in the USA, she spent further time in hospital in Denver and/or Arizona.

## Folly's snorter

Folly's snorter chronicles her various postings. For her, it served as a valued itinerary of her travels and a fond reminder of those she met. It comprises 12 notes: US one dollar silver certificate series 1935A [P-416a], Australia ten shillings [P-25a], New Zealand ten shillings [P-158a], Fiji one penny [P-47a], South Africa ten shillings [P-82d], India ten rupees

An Indian elephant ride for Folly.



[P-19a], Iran 20 rials [P-34A?c], Egypt ten piastres [P-168a]—no signatures, Military Authority in Tripolitania ten lire [PM-4a]—no signatures, Algeria 50 francs series 23-1-1942 [P-84], Portugal 20 escudos series 28-01-41 [P-153a]—no signatures, Bermuda five shillings [P-8b].

Along with the signatures of ARC colleagues and servicemen and women are those of a United Services group who crossed paths with Folly in India. On the back of the 10 rupees are the monikers of Pat O'Brien, Betty Yeaton, Jinx Falkenburg, Ruth Carrell, Jimmie Dodd and Harry Brown.

From late October through early December 1944, these six spent 50 days touring the China-Burma-India theatre of the war. They performed over 100 shows in Karachi, New Delhi, and Luichow, with ten days at forward air bases in China.

The first five signatures on the face of the same note are all of CNAC captains: J. H. Watson, R. W. (Bob) Jenkins, W. M. C. McDonald, Ridge Hammell and J. T. (Jimmy) Scoff. For those who have just come in, these are the pilots who risked life and limb to fly supplies over "The Hump", aka The Himalayas, from Kashmir into southwest China. There is a dedicated China National Aviation Corporation web site out there: [www.cnac.org](http://www.cnac.org).



Jinx Falkenburg signing snorters amidst admiring troops (image by Florice Langley, courtesy of Ann Dodd).

As of 2008, Jenkins was still very much alive and living in Mt Dora, Florida, aged 89. Quite where Folly caught up with him is not known. It is possible it was in 1945 when Jenkins had returned to the fray after some time Stateside in the latter half of 1944.

William McDonald turned out to be Chief Pilot for CNAC. Both Watson and Jenkins had bunked-in with him when they first arrived in Calcutta. They had a three week work stint in Assam before they returned to Calcutta to, "whoop it up and sign short snorters." McDonald shared an apartment with Frank Higgs, another CNAC senior pilot who later became the model for a character in the comic strip *Terry and the Pirates*, penned by a childhood friend of Higgs' in Ohio.

Bob recalls that they lost 25 aeroplanes in two years, but only one of those was shot down. Although they received two new planes each month, at the end of the war they had the same number in the fleet. Ridge Hammell was a good friend of Bob's and was one of those who did not make it home.

Images of all the notes that comprise Folly's snorter are available on Tom Sparks' website along



Folly singing with the troops with the names and affiliation of the signatories identified to date.

[www.shortsnoter.org/Florice\\_Langley\\_Short\\_Snoter](http://www.shortsnoter.org/Florice_Langley_Short_Snoter).

## Folly's peace

Post war, Folly took out a Master's degree in social work at Tulane University, having successfully persuaded them to admit her as a graduate student even though she had never graduated from college. Subsequently, she worked for—and



Fiji one penny note autographed by First Lady, Mrs F. D. R.



Folly's 10 rupees, note #6 in her short snorter, recording her service in India. Front: Capt. J. H. Watson CNAC, Capt. R. W. Jenkins CNAC, W.M.C. McDonald, Ridge Hammell, J. T. Scoff, Johnny W. Brothers, Leonard E. Browules, James H. Stone, Magil Willingham (Ala), Herbert A. Beatty, F/O, M/Sgt C. L. Hoke, Al Thomas 1st Lt AC, Christian E. Hawkins 1st, Henry F. Marten. Back: Pat O'Brien, Betty Yeaton, Jinx Falkenburg, Ruth Carrell, Jimmie Dodd, Harry Browz, C. Hug Haggerty, Ennmett D. Jones, Maj. L. G. Bruggeman Jr USMC, Rayburn D. Boren Capt AC, Sofie Walker, Lulie Sewell (images by Tom Sparks).



Folly's Short Snorter Note #1, US one dollar silver certificate, series 1935A, from Folly's time in Australia. A number of signatories are ARC colleagues. Front, May 30, 1943: Malinda Ehlers, T. Richard Bennett, -, Anita Woodworth, Grey M. Lusty, Hank Harris, Walter J. Lightfoot, Swing Johnson, -, Lynn F. Woodworth 12th AF, -, -, Walter G. Dyer, -, Margaret C. Gibbs, R. O.? Johnson. Back: R. G. Breene, Kenneth L. Brown Capt. (in margin), -, -, James J. Cushman, William E. Davis, Reggie Quinn, -, ? Roosevelt, -, G. J. Thompson, -, C. L. Goldtrap, Capt. Johnson R. Saunders, -, -, ..

then became—Executive Director of the Family Service Agency in Charleston, South Carolina. She then relocated to run the Social Service Agency in Macon, Georgia, where she stayed until she retired.

She found that families in the US had just the same problems as those in Australia, India or Fiji. And those same problems arose in all classes of society, both the very wealthy and the very poor. Counselling was the name of Folly's game and afterwards she relaxed with her favourite hobby—fishing.

Folly had never added back those years she had shaved from her age on joining the Red Cross. Family Services thought she was retiring at 65. She was 77. She had problems when she turned 75, proving to Social Security that she was 65 so she could draw her benefits. And, she had been born Florice Shanks but she subsequently adopted her mother's maiden name of Langley and retained it in later life along with her revised birth year.

Her ties to her home in Roanoke were always strong. From afar, she had assisted both emotionally and financially with raising her five Alabama nieces and nephews of her three sisters, one of whom had died in 1926 and another who had lost her husband in 1925. It is in Roanoke that she finally retired, living with her other sister until her death at 96 on January 3, 1992.

*Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to both Ann Boyd (Folly's Great-niece) and James Ingram (Folly's nephew), who provided family information and many of the images used in this story. Without Tom Sparks' interest, enthusiasm and assistance, the story of an all-American Red Cross girl would never have seen the light of day. (Images by Tom Sparks, courtesy of Ann Dodd unless otherwise stated.)*



# Coffee break QUIZ

OUR “just for fun” feature—the coffee break quiz—poses ten numismatically-related questions every month to test your knowledge. So grab a cup of coffee, put your feet up, get quizzing and see how many you can answer. Once you have finished turn to page 95 for the solutions. The questions have been set by our Quizmaster DAVID MATTHEWS.

The subject of our quiz this month is all things Welsh— *pob lwc* (good luck)!

1. Thomas Telford designed the Menai Suspension Bridge, but who designed the 2005 £1 reverse that featured it?
2. “Y DDRAIG GOCH DDYRY CYCHWYN” is on the edge of which £1 coin?
3. “Y DDRAIG GOCH DDYRY CYCHWYN” is also on the 1969 Investiture Medal by Michael Rizzello for the Royal Mint. What does it mean?
4. Maundy Money was distributed in St David’s Cathedral by Elizabeth II in which year?
5. Known for writing in the Boathouse at Laugharne, who was the Welsh poet on a 2003 medal by Peter Nicholas?
6. Who was the man behind the 20th century Welsh banknotes which feature Welsh Castles, Little Trains of Wales, etc, and often have odd denominations?
7. Who was the “Copper King” for whom the numerous Druid Head Anglesey tokens were made in the late 18th century?
8. In which castle did Thomas Bushell establish a mint, during the reign of Charles I, which was to use Welsh silver?
9. Which works of a George Roskell company featured on a 1813 penny token by Halliday?
10. Bancy Ddafad Ddu was the name of which bank that failed in 1815?

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1679 Maundy Set NEF-EF toned	£550	1930 Maundy Set AUNC	£210	1847 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£44
1686 Maundy set GVF-NEF	£595	1933 Maundy Set AFDC	£240	1849 Maundy Twopence GEF-AUNC	£39.50
1687 Maundy Set GVF-NEF	£550	1934 Maundy Set AUNC	£225	1851 Maundy Twopence AUNC scr.	£19.50
1694 Maundy Set 1d & 2d HI for HIB GVF	£950	1935 Maundy Set AUNC in original box	£225	1852 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£39.50
1732 Maundy Set NEF-EF	£425	1936 Maundy Set AUNC	£295	1852 Maundy Twopence AVF	£19.50
1740 Maundy Set NEF nice tone	£475	1936 Maundy Set Ed. VIII AFDC	£125	1853 Maundy Twopence UNC	£44
1746 Maundy Set GVF	£375	1938 Maundy Set AFDC in dated COI	£240	1855 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£39.50
1746 Maundy Set 1d and 3d 6/3 GVF-NEF	£395	1948 Maundy Set FDC	£260	1859 Maundy Twopence BEITANNIAR AUNC	£65
1766 Maundy Set Ave. EF sl. clip to 4d	£450	1950 Maundy Set UNC toned	£240	1860 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£39.50
1766 Maundy Set Ave. NEF	£395	1953 Maundy Set FDC in dated COI	£1,600	1868 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£39.50
1772 Maundy Set Ave. NEF Ex Sprink sold with tickets	£395	1957 Maundy Set FDC	£260	1871 Maundy Twopence Proof struck en medaille FDC R4	£395
1780 Maundy Set EF CHOICE	£450	1974 Maundy Set Abt. FDC in original undated COI	£240	1879 Maundy Twopence EF	£25
1800 Maundy Set Virtually as Struck	£595	1975 Maundy Set Abt. FDC in original undated COI	£240	1879 Maundy Twopence VF	£19.50
1818 Maundy Set AUNC	£395	1978 Maundy Set FDC	£240	1886 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£39.50
1822 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£475	1981 Maundy Set FDC	£240	1893 Maundy Twopence NEF	£19.50
1823 Maundy Set AUNC	£450	1989 Maundy Set FDC	£225	1895 Maundy Twopence GEF	£29.50
1825 Maundy Set GEF-AUNC	£375	1991 Maundy Set FDC	£225	1898 Maundy Twopence UNC	£44
1826 Maundy Set 2d T/B in BRITANNIAR AUNC	£425	1992 Maundy Set FDC	£225	1899 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£37.50
1827 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£425	2000 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£240	1900 Maundy Twopence UNC Choice	£44
1828 Maundy Set AUNC	£395	2004 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£275	1902 Maundy Twopence UNC	£35
1830 Maundy Set AUNC	£425	2005 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£295	1903 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£32.50
1833 Maundy Set AUNC	£450	2006 Maundy Set FDC	£225	1904 Maundy Twopence UNC	£35
1838 Maundy Set AFDC	£695	2007 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£275	1904 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£29.50
1839 Maundy Set AUNC	£595	2008 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£595	1904 Maundy Twopence Slabbed by NGC MS-65	£49.50
1840 Maundy Set Ave. EF	£325	2010 Maundy Set FDC	£595	1905 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£35
1841 Maundy Set AUNC	£695	2011 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£495	1906 Maundy Twopence UNC	£35
1843 Maundy Set AUNC	£475	2018 Maundy Set FDC in COI	£795	1906 Maundy Twopence GVF	£22.50
1844 Maundy Set AUNC	£550	2018 Maundy Set FDC	£695	1907 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£32.50
1845 Maundy Set AUNC	£475	2020 Maundy Set FDC in original COI RARE	£850	1908 Maundy Twopence FDC	£39.50
1848 Maundy Set AUNC dark tone in Undated COI	£1,250	1689 Maundy Fourpence NEF holed	£39.50	1908 Maundy Twopence Slabbed by NGC MS-61	£44
1849 Maundy Set AUNC	£650	1760 Maundy Fourpence Slabbed by ANACS MS-64	£225	1908 Maundy Twopence Slabbed by PCGS PR-65	£49.50
1850 Maundy Set AFDC in contemporary undated case	£550	1831 Maundy Fourpence VF	£25	1911 Maundy Twopence Proof FDC	£49.50
1850 Maundy Set AUNC	£495	1834 Maundy Fourpence GF-AVF	£22.50	1912 Maundy Twopence UNC	£44
1854 Maundy Set AUNC	£495	1842 Maundy Fourpence NEF	£29.50	1916 Maundy Twopence UNC	£44
1857 Maundy Set UNC nice	£495	1843 Maundy Fourpence VF	£22.50	1925 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£44
1858 Maundy Set AUNC	£395	1844 Maundy Fourpence GF-AVF	£19.50	1928 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£44
1859 Maundy Set AUNC	£395	1848 Maundy Fourpence NEF	£29.50	1935 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£49.50
1861 Maundy Set UNC	£395	1849 Maundy Fourpence EF	£29.50	1936 Maundy Twopence Ed. VIII FDC	£32.50
1862 Maundy Set AUNC in original undated COI	£475	1850 Maundy Fourpence NEF	£25	1936 Maundy Twopence Geo. V Abt. FDC	£69.50
1863 Maundy Set UNC	£395	1864 Maundy Fourpence GVF	£25	1952 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£55
1864 Maundy Set AUNC	£350	1872 Maundy Fourpence NEF	£25	1953 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£295
1865 Maundy Set AUNC	£350	1876 Maundy Fourpence EF+	£29.50	1700 Maundy Penny NEF	£140
1866 Maundy Set AUNC	£375	1877 Maundy Fourpence NEF	£29.50	1705 Maundy Penny GVF	£65
1866 Maundy Set EF-GEF	£275	1882 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£39.50	1716 Maundy Penny EF	£95
1867 Maundy Set UNC	£450	1884 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£39.50	1723 Maundy Penny EF scr.	£39.50
1868 Maundy Set UNC in original dated case	£475	1886 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£39.50	1739 Maundy Penny NEF	£69.50
1869 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£495	1898 Maundy Fourpence UNC	£44	1743 Maundy Penny NEF	£55
1869 Maundy Set GEF-AUNC	£425	1899 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£39.50	1743 Maundy Penny NEF some scr.	£35
1870 Maundy Set FDC	£350	1902 Maundy Fourpence AFDC	£39.50	1743 Maundy Penny /0 NEF	£75
1871 Maundy Set AUNC	£325	1904 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£35	1746 Maundy Penny /3 NEF	£65
1872 Maundy Set AFDC	£350	1905 Maundy Fourpence UNC	£39.50	1752 Maundy Penny EF	£59.50
1873 Maundy Set AUNC Nice tone in original undated COI	£325	1906 Maundy Fourpence Abt. UNC	£35	1753 Maundy Penny EF CHOICE	£85
1874 Maundy Set UNC Nice tone in original undated COI	£395	1907 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£35	1756 Maundy Penny NEF	£59.50
1875 Maundy Set AFDC	£350	1908 Maundy Fourpence EF	£25	1756 Maundy Penny GVF	£39.50
1876 Maundy Set Abt. FDC in original undated COI	£395	1908 Maundy Fourpence Slabbed by NGC MS-62	£44	1757 Maundy Penny GRATIA: Virtually as Struck	£125
1877 Maundy Set AUNC	£350	1916 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£44	1757 Maundy Penny GRATIA: NEF	£69.50
1878 Maundy Set AUNC	£295	1917 Maundy Fourpence FDC	£49.50	1758 Maundy Penny NEF	£49.50
1879 Maundy Set Abt. FDC in original undated COI	£375	1921 Maundy Fourpence AUNC	£49.50	1758 Maundy Penny GVF	£39.50
1880 Maundy Set Abt. FDC in original undated COI	£375	1936 Maundy Fourpence Ed. VIII FDC	£32.50	1759 Maundy Penny GVF-NEF	£44
1881 Maundy Set UNC	£350	1936 Maundy Fourpence Geo. V Abt. FDC	£69.50	1759 Maundy Penny Slabbed by CGS AU-70	£85
1882 Maundy Set FDC in original undated COI	£425	1953 Maundy Fourpence FDC	£325	1760 Maundy Penny EF+	£110
1882 Maundy Set AUNC	£350	1679 Maundy Threepence AVF	£39.50	1760 Maundy Penny NEF scarce	£79.50
1883 Maundy Set AUNC	£325	1679 Maundy Threepence LY Abt. VF unrecorded	£85	1766 Maundy Penny EF	£85
1884 Maundy Set AFDC	£325	1682 Maundy Threepence Fair	£15	1772 Maundy Penny NEF unven toning	£49.50
1885 Maundy Set Abt. FDC in dated COI	£375	1683 Maundy Threepence F date sl. weak	£17.50	1781 Maundy Penny NEF	£65
1886 Maundy Set AUNC	£325	1684 Maundy Threepence Fair	£15	1786 Maundy Penny NEF	£49.50
1887 Maundy Set YH Abt. UNC	£350	1684 Maundy Threepence /3 GF-AVF	£44	1792 Maundy Penny EF	£95
1890 Maundy Set UNC in dated COI	£260	1687 Maundy Threepence AVF	£49.50	1792 Maundy Penny NEF	£75
1891 Maundy Set UNC choice	£240	1689 Maundy Threepence GF-AVF	£95	1792 Maundy Penny Slabbed by CGS AU-70	£125
1892 Maundy Set AFDC	£240	1710 Maundy Threepence GF	£44	1800 Maundy Penny AUNC	£55
1893 Maundy Set AUNC	£195	1713 Maundy Threepence EF bright	£95	1800 Maundy Penny NEF	£35
1894 Maundy Set AUNC	£195	1723 Maundy Threepence AVF ex mount Rev.	£35	1800 Maundy Penny Slabbed by NGC AU-55	£59.50
1895 Maundy Set UNC in original dated COI	£275	1727 Maundy Threepence GVF edgy	£49.50	1818 Maundy Penny AUNC	£55
1896 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£195	1739 Maundy Threepence GVF	£75	1822 Maundy Penny AUNC	£55
1897 Maundy Set UNC toned nice	£210	1746 Maundy Threepence /3 NEF	£75	1829 Maundy Penny UNC	£65
1898 Maundy Set UNC in original COI	£240	1746 Maundy Threepence /3 Slabbed by CGS VF-50 (GVF)	£69.50	1834 Maundy Penny NEF	£29.50
1899 Maundy Set UNC in contemporary box	£275	1762 Maundy Threepence VF	£29.50	1837 Maundy Penny NEF edgy	£25
1900 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£210	1763 Maundy Threepence EF Choice	£59.50	1839 Maundy Penny EF	£35
1901 Maundy Set AFDC in dated COI	£240	1763 Maundy Threepence NEF	£39.50	1840 Maundy Penny AUNC	£49.50
1902 Maundy Set Abt. UNC in dated COI	£225	1763 Maundy Threepence VF	£29.50	1848 Model Maundy Penny GEF-AUNC	£22.50
1902 Maundy Set Proof FDC in dated COI	£275	1763 Maundy Threepence Slabbed by CGS VF-55	£49.50	1848 Model Maundy Half-Penny VF RARE	£22.50
1903 Maundy Set FDC in dated COI	£260	1765 Maundy Threepence AVF haymark Rev. VERY RARE	£850	1848 Model Maundy Penny GVF	£15
1904 Maundy Set FDC in original dated COI	£240	1772 Maundy Threepence Almost as struck	£125	1849 Maundy Penny NEF	£29.50
1905 Maundy Set FDC in dated COI	£240	1795 Maundy Threepence F	£29.50	1866 Maundy Penny UNC	£39.50
1906 Maundy Set FDC in original dated COI	£240	1873 Threepence Maundy slabbed by NGC MS-62	£125	1867 Maundy Penny GEF-AUNC	£32.50
1907 Maundy Set FDC in original dated COI	£240	1935 Maundy Threepence AUNC	£59.50	1871 Maundy Penny GEF-AUNC	£32.50
1908 Maundy Set FDC in original dated COI	£240	1936 Maundy Threepence Ed. VIII FDC	£44	1884 Maundy Penny EF	£29.50
1909 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£350	1936 Maundy Threepence Geo. V Abt. FDC	£89.50	1897 Maundy Penny UNC	£44
1911 Maundy Set AUNC	£225	1937 Maundy Threepence Proof FDC	£65	1899 Maundy Penny UNC	£39.50
1911 Maundy Set Proof Abt. FDC	£325	1953 Maundy Threepence FDC	£395	1900 Maundy Penny AUNC	£39.50
1912 Maundy Set UNC	£240	1679 Maundy Twopence HIB/FRA Abt. VF holed	£19.50	1903 Maundy Penny UNC	£35
1913 Maundy Set FDC	£260	1729 Maundy Twopence NEF	£85	1904 Maundy Penny AUNC	£29.50
1915 Maundy Set AUNC	£225	1756 Maundy Twopence EF sold with old ticket	£65	1905 Maundy Penny UNC	£35
1917 Maundy Set AFDC	£210	1772 Maundy Twopence Virtually as Struck lustrous	£125	1907 Maundy Penny AUNC	£32.50
1918 Maundy Set AFDC	£225	1772 Maundy Twopence 7/6 EF	£75	1916 Maundy Penny AUNC	£39.50
1919 Maundy Set AFDC	£225	1833 Maundy Twopence EF	£55	1934 Maundy Penny AUNC	£39.50
1920 Maundy Set Abt. UNC	£240	1835 Maundy Twopence AUNC	£75	1935 Maundy Penny AUNC edgy	£19.50
1922 Maundy Set AUNC	£225	1838 Maundy Twopence GEF-AUNC	£29.50	1936 Maundy Penny Ed. VIII FDC	£35
1924 Maundy Set AUNC	£210	1838 Maundy Twopence EF	£17.50	1941 Maundy Penny FDC	£49.50

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1681 Guinea ..... NF-F ... £1,150	1926 1st obv ..... BU ..... £145	1926 ME ..... BU ..... £25		
<b>CROWNS</b>	1961 pol die ..... BU ..... £20	<b>PENNIES</b>	1863 ..... toned EF ..... £65	
1666 elephant ..... sl wk on French shield, ..... rim nick o'wise F ..... £950	<b>FLORINS</b>	1870 ..... toned EF ..... £120	1876 H ..... lustre EF ..... £75	
1679 4th bust ..... F-GF ..... £195	1903 ..... BU ..... £375	<b>HALFPENNIES</b>	1690 tin P5680 ..... Fair-NF ..... £240	
* * * * *	1911 ..... BU ..... £125	1717 no obv stops ..... F-NVF ..... £140	<b>FARTHINGS</b>	1717 sm flan ..... F ..... £120
1681 elephant and castle..sl smoothing to crown oppos date o'wise toned NF-F .... ..... extremely rare ... £3,600	1928 ..... BU ..... £25	1746 ..... VF ..... £30	1853/2 raised WW ..... VF ..... £28	
* * * * *	<b>SHILLINGS</b>	1853/2 raised WW ..... VF ..... £28	1932 ..... BU ..... £7	
1893 LVI ..... EF-GEF ..... £135	1700 large 00 ..... lustre EF ..... £350	<b>DECIMAL 50p</b>	2009 Kew Gdns ..... AUNC ..... £190	
1928 ..... BU ..... £425	1821 ..... EF ..... £195			
<b>HALFCROWNS</b>	1852 ..... lustrous UNC or nr so ..... £275			
1829 ..... F-GF ..... £65	1878 d60 ..... lustrous EF ..... £195			
1840 ..... lustrous UNC ..... £1,850	1919 ..... BU ..... £65			
	<b>GROATS</b>			
	1888 ..... BU gem ..... £110			

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### FURTHER READING



Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article by Ed Archer on the coinage of Charles II in Scotland in the April issue of COIN NEWS. The article draws attention to the wide range of errors and varieties that are found particularly on the silver coinage and I thought readers might be interested in the contribution of J. K. R.

Murray, who published a comprehensive account of this silver coinage in the British Numismatic Journal, including a numbering system detailing the main varieties of the first and second coinages. One such example (as shown); [Murray 18a], a 1671 merk with the value positioned over the English rather than the Scottish arms.

(Reference: Murray J. K. R., "The Scottish silver coinage of Charles II", British Numismatic Journal 1969; 38(10): 113-125, available from [https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/1969\\_BNJ\\_38\\_10.pdf](https://www.britnumsoc.org/publications/Digital%20BNJ/pdfs/1969_BNJ_38_10.pdf)).

C. Simon Herrington

### GETTING LEFT BEHIND

Dear Editor,

I am finding it difficult collecting coins due to the situation the coin industry is in.

I've been collecting coins (British) for over 60 years but find it hard now. I've no e-mail address, website, internet, etc, and have no idea about them; I've got a phone, legs, a mouth for talking about coins, etc., and used to travel to auctions, fairs around the country.

Now my problem is not what to buy for my collection, but communication with dealers and other collectors. Therefore, I

have ordered only six months of COIN NEWS, to see what happens next.

At the moment we have lost communication with fellow collectors and dealers—no dealers' lists, well not many, coin auction catalogues and then just lately I've found some companies don't accept money (cash) anymore, but continue selling (cash) coins in their auctions.

What is the future of collecting? We can only wait and see!

In the meantime, I will continue with six months' issues, but I find it very depressing collecting coins at the moment. Perhaps, you can help the older generation, those without computers, etc. I cannot travel so far nowadays, that means less fairs, auctions, etc, and with no catalogue or lists being provided, how am I supposed to continue?

Please help, ask dealers to use paper again, making lists for the previous generation who don't have computers.

D. Gardner

We agree, the situation is very frustrating and the assumption that every collector has internet access is clearly incorrect, hence we always applaud an actual printed list or catalogue when we receive them.

Thank you for your continued support for the magazine—ED

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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Each month we will be featuring a short story from the past, related to the hobby, as reported at the time. If you have an item that you would like to share with our readers please send it to The Editor, marked "Archives".

This month we head back to July 1971 when *Coins Magazine* ran this article by the late and much respected Patrick Finn (former Director of Numismatics at Spink). It was written at the time when the 1966 amendment to the Exchange Control Act, limiting private ownership of gold, was finally repealed and the gold coin market was once again opened up with the need to register everything you had in your collection. The article was followed by a three-page price-guide to gold coins, the first part of which we have included here—just look at those prices!

## market trends

# ARE WE DUE FOR ANOTHER GOLD RUSH?

By Patrick Finn

SO THE RESTRICTIONS on collecting gold coins minted after 1837 have finally been rescinded and we can again buy sovereigns without listing our collections, real or mythical, for some bureaucrat in the Bank of England. In passing we must thank the politicians, among them Sir Gerald Nabarro and Enoch Powell, who have shown an interest in the cause during the last few years.

The introduction of the Gold Coins Order in April 1966 caused a great slump in the immediate future of sovereigns as collectors' pieces. By the end of 1966 interest and prices had waned considerably. The hoarders had been selling furiously under fear of prosecution, while the genuine collectors were very depressed over the whole sad business. But the situation changed after those early months, and after one or two court cases people learned to live with it, albeit reluctantly.

Some months back I said in these pages: 'Four years have gone by, we have a change of Government and still the restrictions are with us. Despite all this the prices of sovereigns have consistently surged forward, but it is immediately noticeable that those issued before 1837 have achieved much more spectacular price-rises in these four years (often more than 100 per cent). It can hardly be a coincidence that the Exchange Control Act restrictions apply only to gold coins issued after 1837. One can only speculate about what would happen should the present Government rescind those restrictions, but it seems likely that much activity would follow such a move.' The speculation is over now and the reality of the situation is that business in sovereigns is brisk again.

Gold has always been the lifeblood of the world's monetary system. It has flowed from the vaults of one country to another, and over the centuries men have discovered that in the final analysis gold is often the only protection in times of financial crises. In the days when gold coins were in general circulation one at least had the satisfaction of knowing that the money was worth what it claimed to be and could be used freely in any part of the world. Consequently confidence in the yellow metal has never waned, and there has been a steady demand for more.

Gold coins in circulation lasted only until the collapse of the gold standard in 1914 and the introduction of our present token coins of no intrinsic metal value. Now gold coins are produced basically for trade, or as special commemoratives. Visitors to the Continent will have noticed, enviously perhaps, that modern gold coins are on sale in most banks, and are obviously in keen demand. (Of course one can also buy gold in other forms as well.) Over the years the French have emerged as the greatest hoarders of modern gold coins and this is not surprising when one remembers that they have endured over a dozen devaluations since 1914! The official price of gold was fixed at \$35 per troy ounce by the United States Government in 1934. Naturally this is something the French would like to change, and maybe they have a point when one considers how the value of other metals has risen since then. If the British now become gold conscious as a result of the new revival perhaps they will back France in any future debate on the subject?

## Buyers' Guide to British Gold Coins since 1817

NB. Forgeries exist of pieces marked (F)

FIVE POUNDS				
	Fine	VF	EF	Unc.
GEORGE III 1820 (pattern) .. ..				£3500-00
GEORGE IV 1826 (proof) .. ..				750-00
VICTORIA 1839 (proof) with 'Una and the lion' reverse .. ..				935-00
1887 JH (F) .. ..	£60-00	£75-00	£110-00	130-00
1893 OH (F) .. ..	70-00	100-00	130-00	150-00
EDWARD VII 1902 (F) .. ..	65-00	90-00	120-00	140-00
GEORGE V 1911 (proof) .. ..				250-00
GEORGE VI 1937 (proof) .. ..				160-00
TWO POUNDS				
	Fine	VF	EF	Unc.
GEORGE III 1820 (pattern) .. ..				950-00
GEORGE IV 1823 St George on reverse (F) .. ..				135-00
1826 (proof) shield reverse .. ..	38-00	70-00	110-00	300-00
WILLIAM IV 1831 (proof) .. ..				500-00

SOVEREIGNS				
	Fine	VF	EF	Unc.
VICTORIA 1887 JH (F) .. ..	£28-00	£40-00	£48-00	£60-00
1893 OH .. ..	30-00	45-00	60-00	75-00
EDWARD VII 1902 .. ..	30-00	45-00	60-00	70-00
GEORGE V 1911 (proof) .. ..				125-00
GEORGE VI 1937 (proof) .. ..				90-00
GEORGE III				
	Fine	VF	EF	Unc.
1817 .. ..	15-00	30-00	50-00	60-00
1818 .. ..	20-00	45-00	80-00	90-00
1819 .. ..	700-00	1200-00	2000-00	*
1820 .. ..	12-00	28-00	55-00	70-00
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Type laureate head/St George				
1821 .. ..	14-00	30-00	65-00	75-00
1822 .. ..	15-00	34-00	70-00	80-00
1823 .. ..	100-00	350-00	*	*
1824 .. ..	20-00	38-00	80-00	95-00
1825 .. ..	60-00	120-00	250-00	325-00
Type bare head/shield				
1825 (F) .. ..	16-00	40-00	60-00	70-00
1826 .. ..	14-00	30-00	60-00	70-00
1827 (F) .. ..	15-00	32-00	65-00	75-00
1828 .. ..	300-00	600-00	1500-00	*
1829 .. ..	14-00	30-00	60-00	70-00
*1830 .. ..	14-00	30-00	60-00	70-00

Coins, tokens, medals or banknotes—if it's interesting why not share it?

If you have an item that you would like to share with our readers, please send it to The Editor, marked "Archives".



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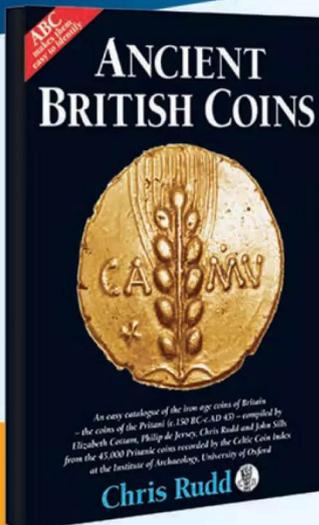
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## DEVON & EXETER NS

**3rd Wednesday of the month**

The Courtenay Room,  
St James Centre, Stadium Way,  
Exeter EX4 6PX.  
01626 830538

## ESSEX NS

**4th Friday of the month**

Christ's Church Chelmsford, 164 New London  
Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW.  
01279 814216 (leave a message)  
[www.essexcoins.org.uk](http://www.essexcoins.org.uk)  
[info@essexcoins.org.uk](mailto:info@essexcoins.org.uk)

## HARROW COIN CLUB

**2nd Monday of the month**

The Scout Building off Walton Road,  
Waldstone, Harrow HA1 4UX.  
0208 9528765

## HAVERING NS

**1st Tuesday of the month**

Fairykes Arts Centre, Billett Road, Hornchurch,  
Essex RM11 1AX.  
07835 800894  
[haveringcoins@hotmail.com](mailto:haveringcoins@hotmail.com)

## HUDDERSFIELD NS

**1st Monday of the month except July and August**

Lindley Liberal Club, 36 Occupation Road,  
Huddersfield HD3 3EQ.  
01484 866814

## IBNS (LONDON)

**Call or check website for dates**

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**Last Saturday of alternate months Jan–Nov 1pm**

Highfields Fire Station, Hassocks Lane,  
Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2GQ.  
07890 162940  
[simonbid@ntlworld.com](mailto:simonbid@ntlworld.com)

## IPSWICH NS

**2nd Tuesday of the month**

The Ipswich & Suffolk Club,  
Archdeacon's House, 11 Northgate Street,  
Ipswich IP1 3BX.  
[www.ipnumsoc.org.uk](http://www.ipnumsoc.org.uk)

## NS OF IRELAND

**Email for dates**

Venue: Ely House, 8 Ely Place, Dublin 2.  
[secretarynumsocireland@gmail.com](mailto:secretarynumsocireland@gmail.com)  
[www.nsi.ie](http://www.nsi.ie)

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## NORWICH COIN & MEDAL SOCIETY

**2nd Monday of the month**

The White Horse, Trowse NR14 6ST.  
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[www.norwichcoinandmedalsociety.co.uk](http://www.norwichcoinandmedalsociety.co.uk)

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Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2GQ.  
0115 9280347  
[marktray60@gmail.com](mailto:marktray60@gmail.com)

## ORMSKIRK & WEST LANCS NS

**1st Thursday of the month**

The Eagle and Child, Maltkin Lane, Bispham  
Green, Ormskirk L40 1SN.  
01704 232494  
[www.numsoc.net](http://www.numsoc.net)

## PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT NS

**4th Tuesday of the month**

Belsize Community Centre,  
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01733 562768

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Venue details on application.  
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07818 422696

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[www.tynesidecoinclub.com](http://www.tynesidecoinclub.com)

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[verityjeffery2@gmail.com](mailto:verityjeffery2@gmail.com)

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**2nd Thursday of the month**

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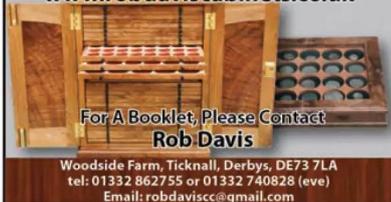
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1. Edwina Ellis
2. 2010 for Cardiff in the Capital Cities series
3. The Red Dragon will show the Way
4. 1982
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6. Richard Williams
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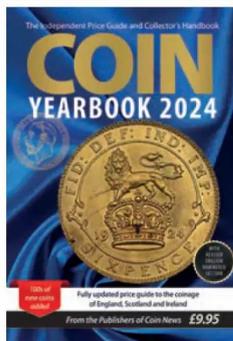
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