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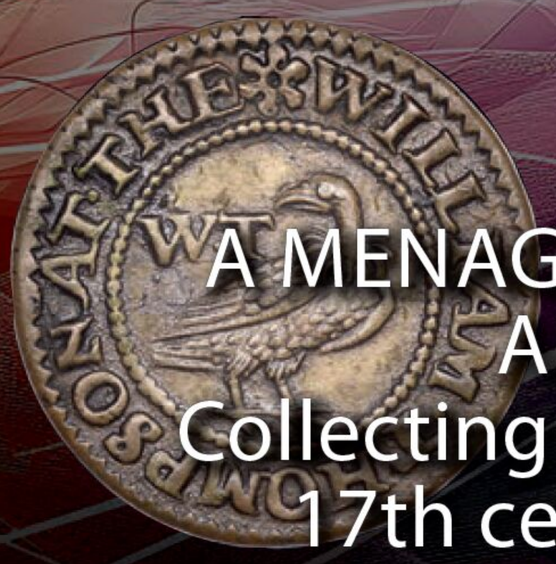
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Formerly *Coin & Medal News* incorporating *Coins & Medals*, *Irish Numismatics*, and *Banknote News*

Published monthly by Token Publishing Ltd. Please note that Editorial, orders, subscriptions and general enquiries can ALL be contacted at the following address:

8 Oaktree Place, Manaton Close, Matford Business Park, Exeter, Devon EX2 8WA

Available at your Newsagent, or by Annual Subscription
Within UK £48.00 for 12 issues
Europe and World surface mail £60.00
World airmail £70.00

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E-mail: info@tokenpublishing.com
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Printed in England by Buxton Press

Distributed to the Newstrade by Select Publisher Services Ltd, 62, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth BH3 7AR

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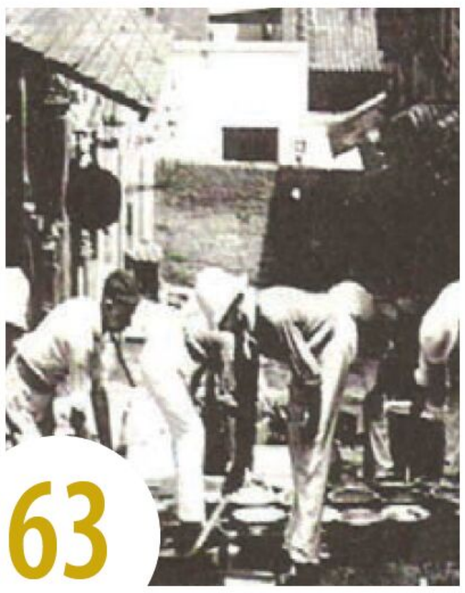
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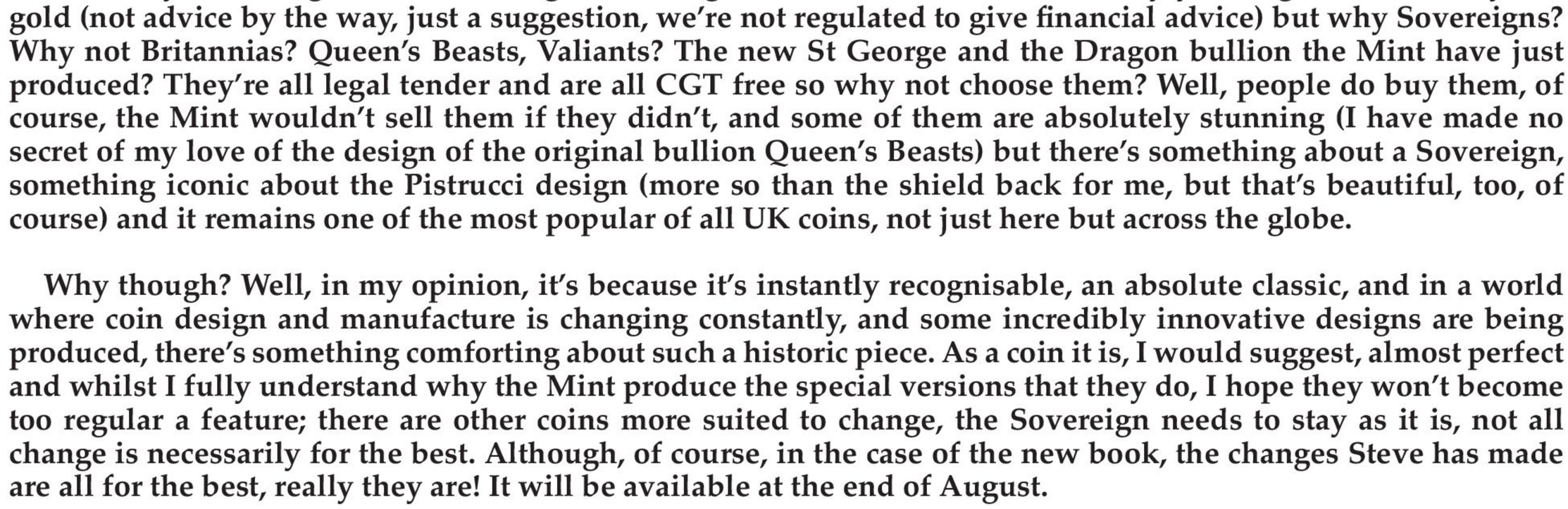
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The Gold Standard

AS many of you will know, the brand-new edition of our acclaimed *Gold Sovereign Series* is due out soon; this will be the third version of Michael Marsh's acclaimed book that Token Publishing have produced, with each one being updated and revised by Steve Hill of Sovereign Rarities. Since we first published the revised edition back in 2017, Steve has done an incredible amount of work on the book—he added Quarter Sovereigns in the first edition, Five and Double Sovereigns in the second edition and, this time around, he has gone back to the Tudors and has incorporated the very earliest hammered Sovereigns and Half-Sovereigns, now making the book the "Standard Catalogue" to the Sovereign Series with every coin ever bearing the Sovereign name now included. Indeed, Steve has done so much work on the book that it's only fair he gets top billing on this new edition (although Michael Marsh's name still appears of course) and we have noticed that a number of the auction houses are now referring to the "Hill" numbers rather than "Marsh" numbers. The purpose of this comment though isn't simply to sell the new book but to wonder about the appeal of its subject matter, for the Sovereign remains one of the most recognisable, and collectable, coins in the world and books written about it always sell well (the first two edition of our revised book sold out). But what is it exactly about the Sovereign that has such wide appeal? Why is the Sovereign the go-to coin for so many when they are buying gold? Why is it (or one of its fractionals) the coin that is so often given as a gift? There are other gold coins out there, some very attractive ones, there are even much smaller gold bars available than there used to be, allowing people to own smaller, more affordable quantities of the yellow metal than once was possible and yet the Sovereign's appeal remains.

Certainly one aspect, for UK buyers at least, is the fact that gold, unlike silver, is VAT free and, as importantly, legal tender gold coins are capital gains tax (CGT) free. And a Sovereign is legal tender at £1. Yes, it's true, you can still use a Sovereign to pay off a debt in court (that's what legal tender refers to) so if you get a £60 parking ticket you can use 60 Sovereigns to pay it. You would, of course, then be promptly carted off and sectioned as the value of those 60 Sovereigns would be somewhere in the region of £24,000. The fact that legal tender precious metal coins are CGT free may not seem like much of a bonus but CGT is now a miserly £3,000—half what it was last year—so, if you'd bought 20 gold coins in 1998 for £60 each (Sovereigns were roughly that back then) and were selling them now for £400 or thereabouts, you'd normally be liable for 18 per cent (24 per cent if you're a higher rate tax payer) of £6,800 (the difference between £1,200 and £8,000). That's £1,224 (or £1,632), not an inconsiderable sum. However, if those gold coins were Sovereigns then the legal tender aspect means you're at least £1,200 better off than if you'd bought American Eagles or Krugerrands! So that's a reason why you might want to buy UK gold (not advice by the way, just a suggestion, we're not regulated to give financial advice) but why Sovereigns? Why not Britannias? Queen's Beasts, Valiants? The new St George and the Dragon bullion the Mint have just produced? They're all legal tender and are all CGT free so why not choose them? Well, people do buy them, of course, the Mint wouldn't sell them if they didn't, and some of them are absolutely stunning (I have made no secret of my love of the design of the original bullion Queen's Beasts) but there's something about a Sovereign, something iconic about the Pistrucci design (more so than the shield back for me, but that's beautiful, too, of course) and it remains one of the most popular of all UK coins, not just here but across the globe.

Why though? Well, in my opinion, it's because it's instantly recognisable, an absolute classic, and in a world where coin design and manufacture is changing constantly, and some incredibly innovative designs are being produced, there's something comforting about such a historic piece. As a coin it is, I would suggest, almost perfect and whilst I fully understand why the Mint produce the special versions that they do, I hope they won't become too regular a feature; there are other coins more suited to change, the Sovereign needs to stay as it is, not all change is necessarily for the best. Although, of course, in the case of the new book, the changes Steve has made are all for the best, really they are! It will be available at the end of August.



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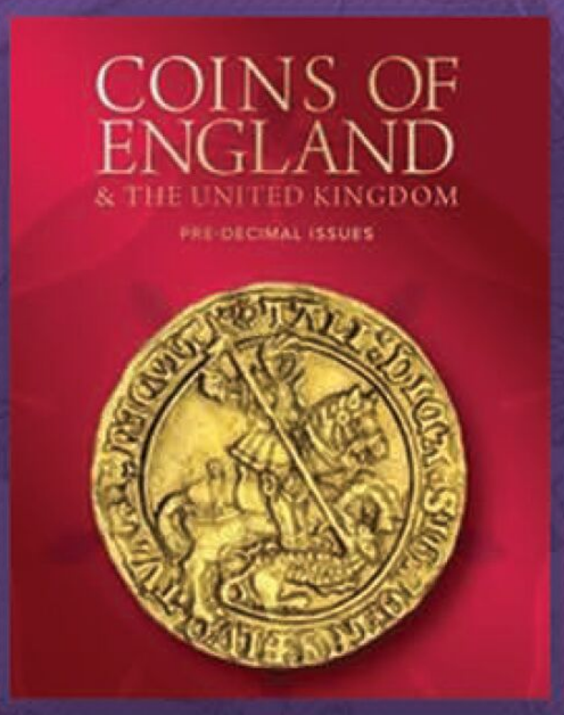
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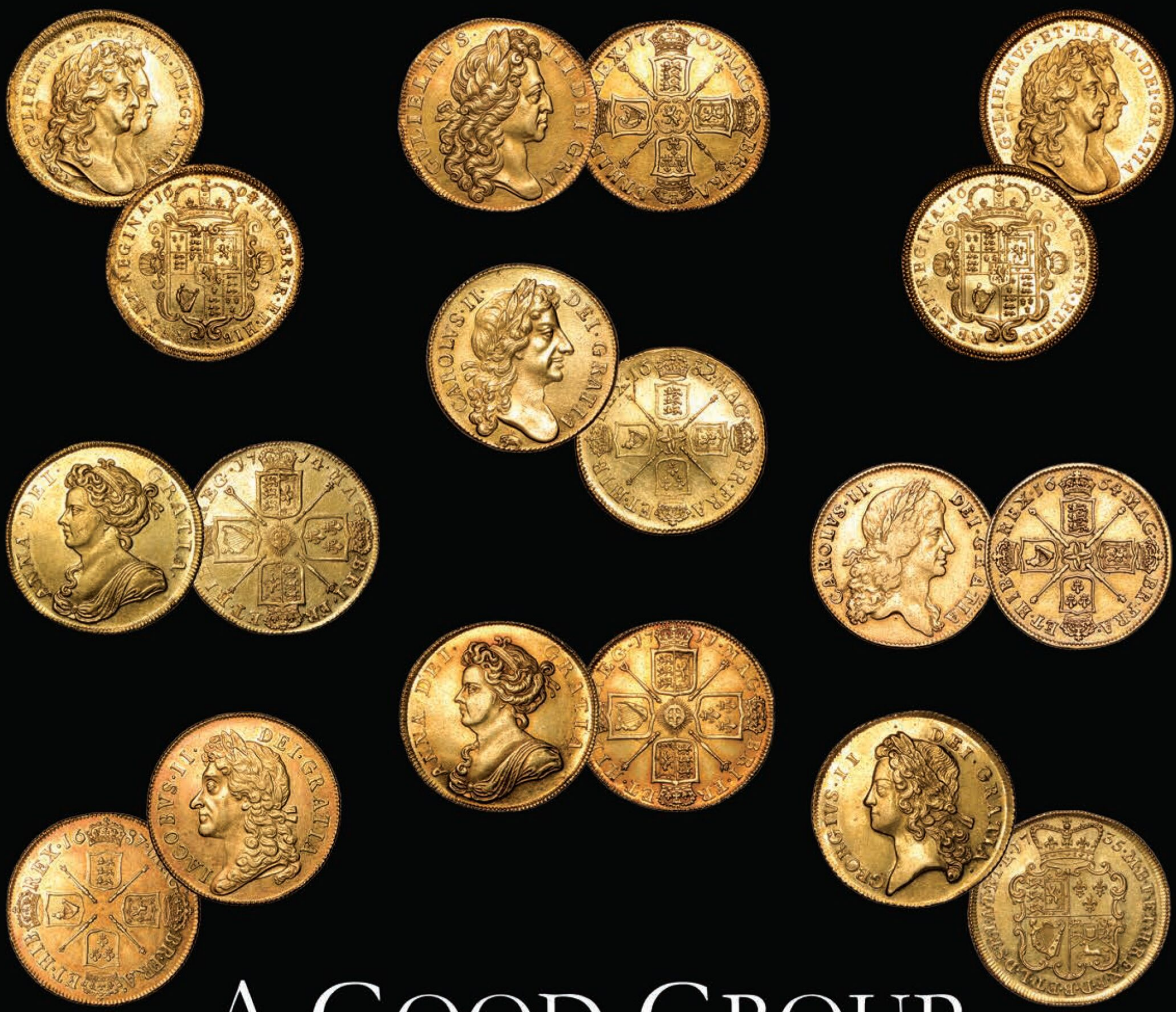
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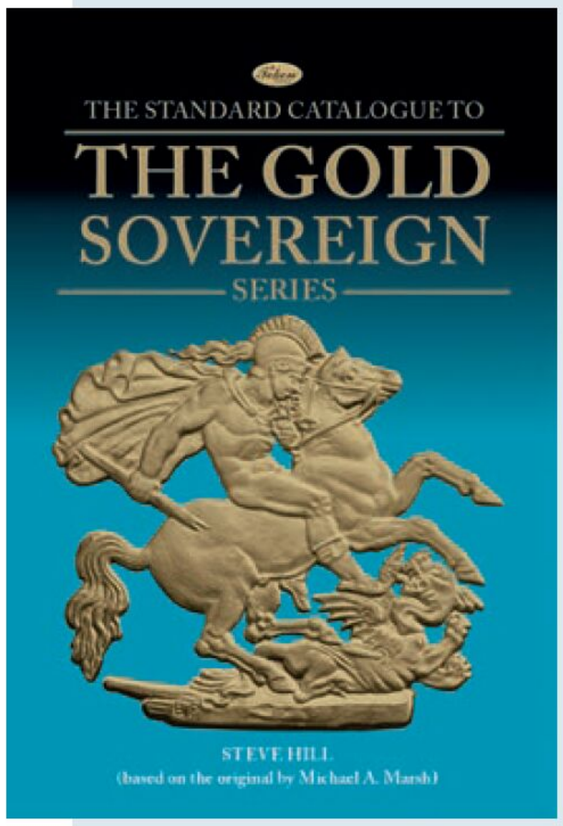


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Setting a new Standard

THERE must surely have been many thousands of words written about the gold Sovereign series. However, for many, it was the seminal works by Michael A. Marsh that cemented the coin's "celebrity" status in the world of numismatics. His publications, *The Gold Sovereign* and *The Gold Half-Sovereign*, became essential points of reference for collectors and dealers alike. Based on these original titles, an updated version incorporating both books, fully revised and updated by Steve Hill of Sovereign Rarities, was first released in 2017 and it quickly sold out. A second, revised edition, now including the five and double Sovereigns, was published in 2021 to further acclaim and winning for its author, Steve Hill, the prestigious International Association of Professional Numismatists (IAPN) Book of the Year Award 2022. Now, for 2024, the third, revised edition (admirably updated once again by Steve Hill) is due for release mid-August with an eager collective awaiting its publication. This brand new edition now features not only the modern, post-1816 Sovereign series, but also the original hammered coins, creating for the first time in its history, *The Standard Catalague to the Gold Sovereign Series*. The complete gold Sovereign family, from the very first Henry VII issues up to those of King Charles III, can now be found in this one definitive, profusely illustrated, hardbound book—complete with price and rarity guide. Available to order now, priced at £45 (+p&p), by telephoning 01404 46972, or buy online at www.tokenpublishing.com.

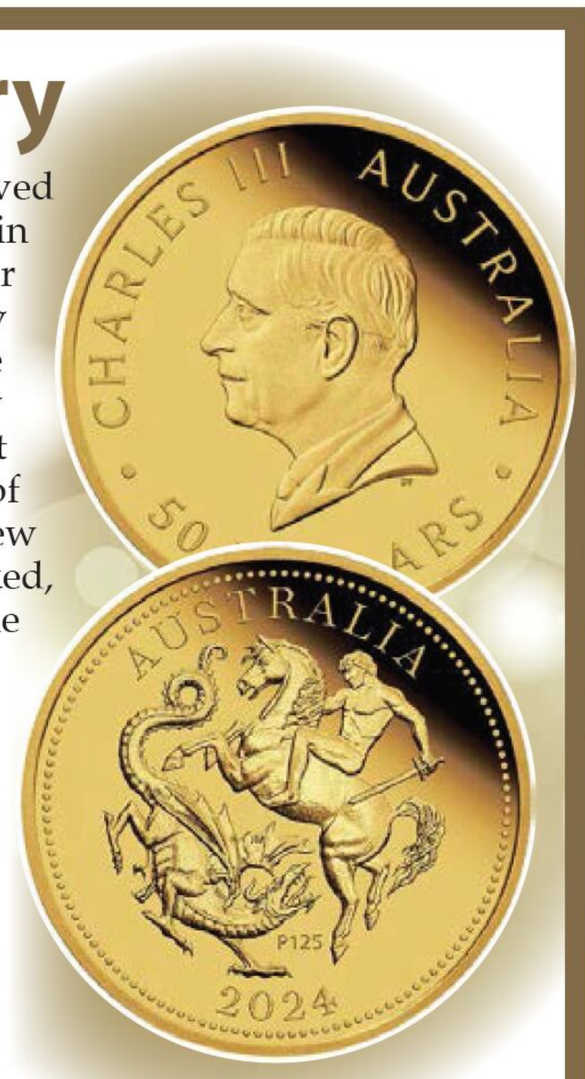
Small but mighty



WE all know and appreciate size is not everything, particularly when it comes to the diverse and, at times, dynamic world of numismatics. Making a rare appearance—only four other coins of this type have been sold at auction over the last 42 years—was an extremely rare Arab-Byzantine solidus (lot 34) measuring just 20mm and weighing in at a dainty 4.27g which was sold by Morton & Eden in their June 12 auction for an impressive £168,000 (including buyer's premium). Struck around AH 72–74 (CE 691–94), the scarcity of the issue comes ultimately from the fact it was demonetised and should, therefore, have been destroyed. Tom Eden of Morton & Eden commented after the sale: "The price realised reflected its importance. It had in the past been assumed to be a standard and inexpensive Byzantine issue. It survived probably because at some stage it was mounted in a jewellery setting. Coins like this were supposed to be handed in and melted following the introduction of the first purely Islamic dinars in AH 77. Its historical and religious importance lies in the fact that it is the very first gold coin to bear the words of the Shahada (*In the name of Allah there is no God but Allah. He is unique. Mohammed is the Messenger of Allah*) in order to spread the tenets of Islam as well as rejecting the Christian belief in the Trinity".

Golden anniversary

CREATING a striking new design of a much loved image can present quite a challenge to coin designers, however, Jennifer McKenna has, for the Perth Mint, risen to the challenge admirably with her interpretation of St George slaying the dragon. The arresting image appears on a new gold sovereign issue from Australia's Perth Mint issued to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the first gold sovereign struck at the Mint. The new design portrays a naked warrior astride a naked, rearing horse! (In Pistrucci's iconic design, the horse is wearing a bridle.) It's a strong design with the image set within a decorative circle of raised dots, together with the inscription "AUSTRALIA", "2024", and a "P125" mintmark. The obverse depicts the Dan Thorne effigy of His Majesty King Charles III along with the denomination. The new sovereign issues (from five pounds to the quarter sovereign) are available in the UK from Westminster Collections or select new issue dealers.



Creating a stir



WHEN you have more than one determined bidder in pursuit of a single piece, pre-sale estimates can be left at the starting gates. Warwick & Warwick's June 19 sale had much to tempt collectors, however, it was in their coin section that things got heated. Lot 899 (illustrated) was the highest selling item of the overall auction; it was an 1868 Hong Kong Proof half dollar, graded extremely fine, toned, with verdigris spot to reverse. Clearly it was coveted as when the bidding battle ceased, it had secured a rather handsome £15,500. There were surprises lurking in the Medallic and Commemorative section too, as illustrated by lot 832, a 1966 London Medals (Great Fire and Blitz) 18ct gold Proof, part set of five commemorative medals, graded FDC, with certificate number 64; after much contention, it sold for £7,000. Warwick & Warwick's next auction takes place on August 21, 2024—and clearly, it's not to be missed.

Something to celebrate

BEFORE the world evolved around the internet, one of the main ways collectors could find out about new numismatic material was via the many dealers' lists and catalogues that proliferated at the time. In today's collector market, printed lists are few and far between except, that is, for one that has been around since 1982. Coincraft of London are marking the 600th edition of their newspaper-style catalogue the *Phoenix* (a copy is enclosed with this issue by way of celebration). In addition to the *Phoenix*, they have also published 326 issues of *The Blue Card Flyer* (sent exclusively to their 1,500 most active collectors) and 265 issues of the *Banknote Bulletin*. All in all, the total number of pages amounts to a staggering 19,376 since 1982! Coincraft, Britain's Coin Shop, as they are known, is a family owned and run business that has been assisting collectors since 1955. Their "Aladdin's Cave" retail premises is situated across the road from the British Museum and has been there since 1976; their opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 5.00pm, with some 19 members of staff on hand to assist in ensuring an enjoyable buying or selling experience. Next year, Coincraft will celebrate its 70th year in the coin business and it has to be said, and not only in the coin trade, that the world and life in general has changed a great deal over those seven decades. Their premises can be found at 45 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LU or view their current inventory online at www.concraft.com.

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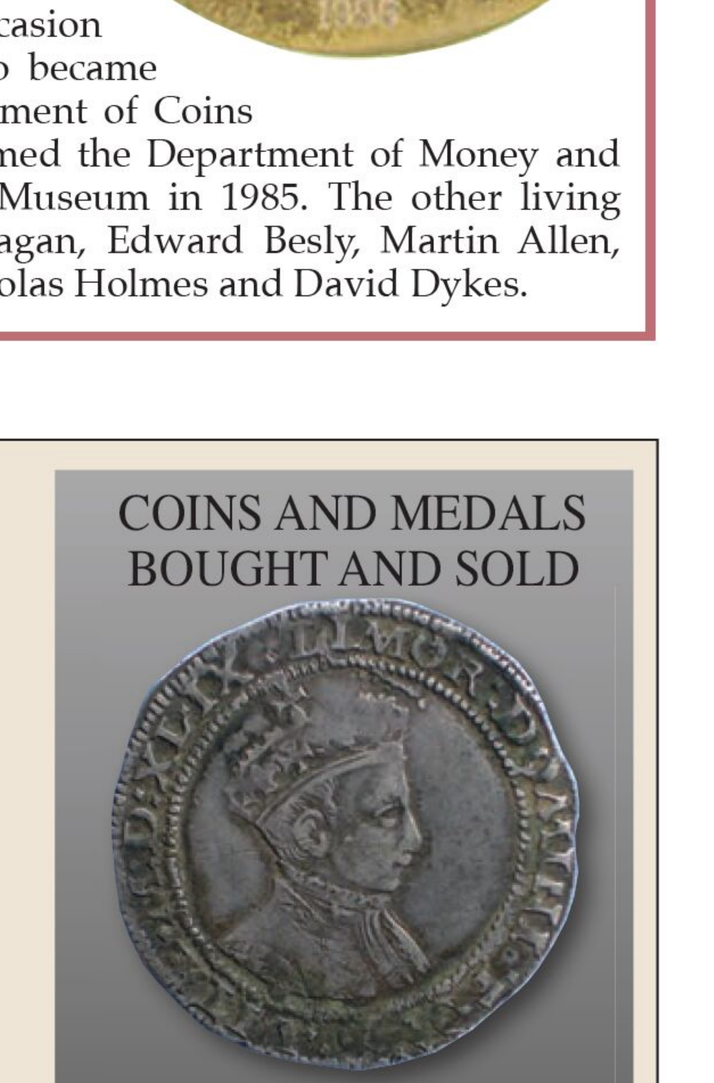
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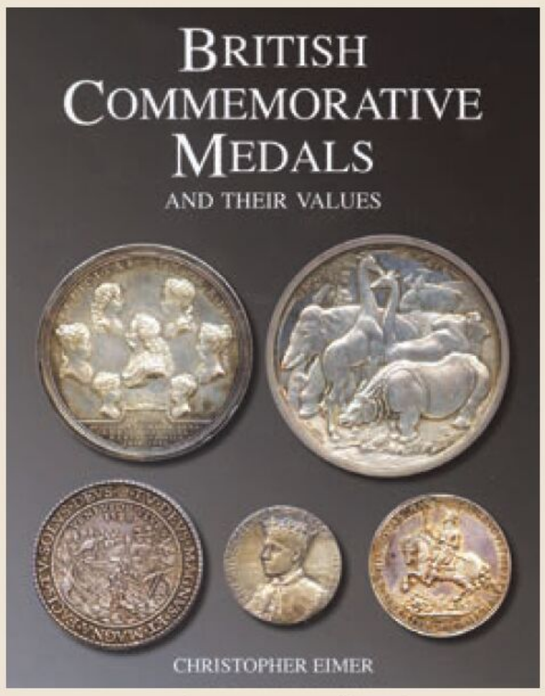
ONE often hears reference made to the "numismatic season" and it is, without doubt, September that is the launch-pad month for commencement of these coin activities. The month gets off to a flying start with the London Coin Fair on September 7 at its splendid new venue, Novotel London West, 1 Shortlands, Hammersmith W6 8DR. Its inaugural outing in June proved the new location a resounding success with both dealers and collectors pleased with the spacious layout of the room and the facilities the hotel had to offer. Doors open at 10am and entry is £5.

Also in September, is that flagship event in the numismatic calendar—Coinex. Now in its 45th year, the two-day show, organised by the British Numismatic Trade Association (BNTA), takes place at its now established venue of the rather sumptuous Biltmore Hotel, 44 Grosvenor Square, London W1K 2HP. The impressive surroundings of the hotel are in keeping with the prestige of the event where BNTA members and invited guests come together to buy, sell, chat and generally catch up on all things numismatic. Doors open on Friday 27 at 12.30pm, closing at 5.30pm and entry is £40; reopening on Saturday morning at 10am and finishing at 3pm, entry is £5. Don't miss next month's issue for a full rundown of exhibitors and an itinerary of ancillary events. For more details on attending the London Coin Fair, go to www.coinfairs.co.uk or telephone: 01694 731781. For Coinex information, visit www.bnta.net.

Due recognition

WHEN it comes to an exclusive "club", they don't come much more select than joining the six other living recipients of the John Sanford Saltus Medal, presented by the British Numismatic Society every three years. The medal was established in 1910 with a generous donation by past-President of the Society, John Sanford Saltus (1854–1922). This premier award, with the recipient voted for by members of the Society, is presented to those who "have made outstanding scholarly contributions to British Numismatics". The person chosen for such an accolade on this occasion is Dr Barrie Cook, who became a curator in the Department of Coins and Medals (now renamed the Department of Money and Medals) at the British Museum in 1985. The other living recipients are: Hugh Pagan, Edward Besly, Martin Allen, Nicholas Mayhew, Nicholas Holmes and David Dykes.





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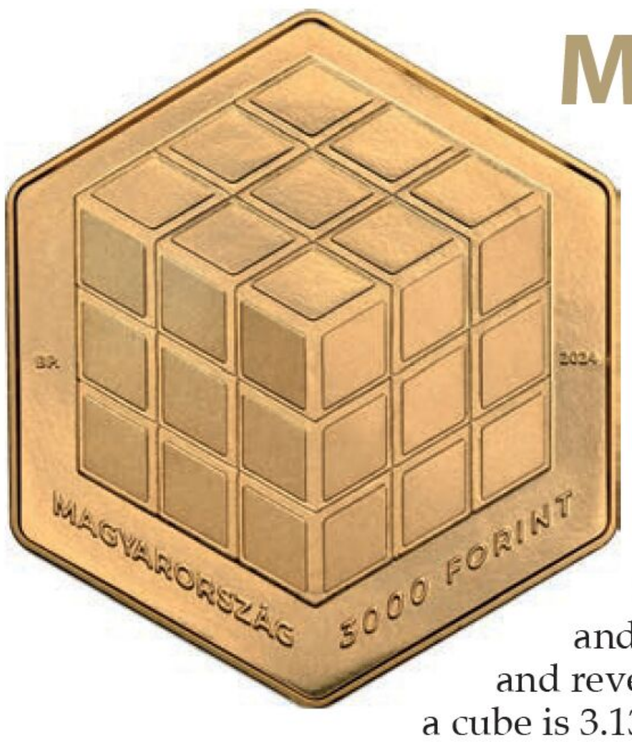
HERITAGE'S June 9 Spotlight Great Britain World Coins Showcase Auction offered a highly collectable example of an Elizabeth I silver pattern penny of 1601 [KM-PnA1; Peck-3; N-2051]. Frequently when these elusive pieces turn up at auction, they are holed or have otherwise sustained significant damage. This example showed no such problems and came certified XF40 NGC. For Heritage, it was the nicest example of this issue they had ever brought to auction. The obverse shows a three-quarter face crowned bust of the Virgin Queen wearing an elaborate mantle, with ruff and jewels. The reverse bears the Royal monogram, surmounted by the Tudor double-arched crown between two pellets; the 1601 date is divided by this crown. The English legend spans both sides of the coin: THE PLEDGE OF / A PENNY. On auction day it had little difficulty in being bid up to $4,080 [£3,230].

Dr K. A. Rodgers (images courtesy Heritage Auctions).



Show me the money

OPENING at the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford in August is a fascinating new exhibition "Money Talks". The concept behind the display is to show how currency and art come together through design and how these images may challenge our view of modern culture. Over 100 objects have been selected from some of the world's most well-known and respected artists from Rembrandt to Andy Warhol and Grayson Perry to the infamous Banksy. Any design on a coin, of course, starts life as an artist's concept or impression, evolving from one person's creativity to a currency for the masses. For centuries, money has not just been a means of exchange for goods and services, it is also a medium for political commentary and even scathing satire. Alongside these various and thought-provoking artworks is a range of exhibits including Roman, Chinese and Islamic coins, Art Nouveau banknotes, and the artwork for the currency of Kings Edward VIII and Charles III—on display for the very first time. And to really knock your socks off, NFTs (Non-fungible token—art stored as a digital asset) also form part of the display. The exhibition opens from August 9, 2024 to January 5, 2025, so plenty of time to plan a trip to beautiful Oxford. To find out more and to purchase tickets, log onto https://www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions or telephone the ticket office on 01865 278112.

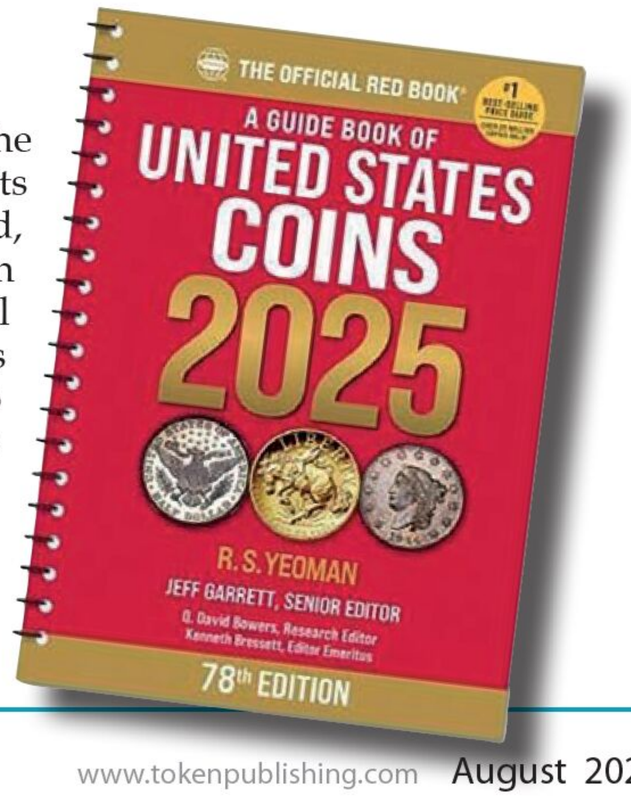


Milestone for famous puzzle

REMEMBER that mind-boggling, time-wasting invention called the Rubik's Cube? Did you manage to complete it? Global competitions were held and world records set, such was the mania for the device at the time. What is startling is that it came into the lives of many 50 years ago! The three-dimensional combination puzzle was invented in 1974 by Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture, Ernő Rubik. However, it was not until 1980 that it was introduced internationally and quickly became a world-wide phenomenon. The Rubik's Cube has 43 quintillion different combinations of arranging the coloured squares; no wonder it became addictive! The rights to sell Rubik's Cube belong to a Canadian company called Spin Master Corporation and they have granted the Hungarian National Bank approval to strike a coin to mark the Cube's 50th anniversary. Released from July 15, 20,000 Proof-like 3,000-forint coins will be issued composed of an alloy of copper, aluminum, zinc, and tin known as "Nordic gold." The striking hexagonally-shaped coin depicts on its obverse and reverse two different perspectives of the Cube. And just as an aside, the world record for solving a cube is 3.13 seconds! For more details, email: mail@coin-currency.com.

New edition for 2025

WHEN it comes to the value of US coins, there is only one "go to" publication—the *Red Book* (*The Official Red Book®—A Guide Book of United States Coins* to give it its exact title). Published since 1946, the book gives coin values, historical background, detailed specifications and accurate mintage data—all accompanied by high-resolution photographs. The 78th edition of the *Red Book* covers everything from early colonial copper tokens to iconic "Old West" silver dollars. The publishers claim it is the world's best-selling coin price guide (over 25 million sold since inception) and we are inclined to agree with them. The 2025 edition—spiral and hardbound—has landed in Devon and is available to purchase now! With fully updated prices, the new edition includes recent auction records, new research, new photographs, the very latest mintage information from the US Mint, and all for £22.00 (plus p&p). Buy online at www.tokenpublishing.com or telephone 01404 46972 to place your order.







Struck for good luck!

AS this issue lands on doormats, inboxes and onto newsagents' shelves, the 33rd Olympic Games and 17th Paralympic Games will be taking place in Paris. To honour and inspire the Team GB and Paralympics GB athletes, an official UK 50p has been produced. The striking design depicts Olympic and Paralympic athletes racing, one would hope to victory, side by side. There is a neat nod to the location of the Games with a silhouette of the iconic Eiffel Tower at the base of the coin. To mark the release, the Mint invited Team GB athletes Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix, Ruby Evans, Will Bayley and Funmi Oduwaiye to strike some of the very first coins. Each of the participating GB athletes will also receive their own coin in their kit bags before making their way to Paris. Rebecca Morgan, Director of Commemorative Coin at the Mint, said: "The Olympic and Paralympic Games are the pinnacle of sporting events, highlighting the incredible talent of athletes across the world. We hope the coin serves as a special good luck token and everyone at the Royal Mint will be cheering on our Team GB and Paralympics GB athletes!" The new collectable 50p is available in a number of coloured editions with prices starting from £12.

HISTORY IN COINS

Unlock the clue below to discover your specific % discount for AUGUST 2024. Message me with your answer, the date of the *COIN NEWS* magazine it relates to and the coin(s) you wish to buy. Get it right before the next month's *COIN NEWS* is released and HistoryInCoins will discount your purchase(s) from the website by that exact amount.



Add up the two middle digits of the date on the Spanish Armada Elizabeth 1st Sixpence and then subtract the first.

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Leaping into another world?



Cunobelinus Leaping Griffin silver unit of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes tribe. c.AD 8-41. ABC 2909. Extremely Fine. Found Sudbury, Suffolk, 28 December 2022.

Classical griffins were fabulous beasts, with eagles' beaks, erect head-plumes resembling ears, powerful wings, and lions' bodies and claws (here replaced, pointedly, with pellet triads). Cunobelinus must have known he was reaching the end of his life, and it seems he did not long outlive this last, grand, silver coinage. Not long afterwards, perhaps to distribute at his father's funeral, Caratacus issued silver units ABC 2903 whose griffin, on the obverse, now has only two pellets per paw and springs up and away from Cunobelinus' fallen staff of office, perhaps to safeguard his welfare in another world. This Extremely Rare coin (only eight others recorded) will be sold in Norwich, 15 September 2024, estimate £1000. Want to read more about the stories depicted on the coins? For a free catalogue ask liz@celticcoins.com

Auction preview



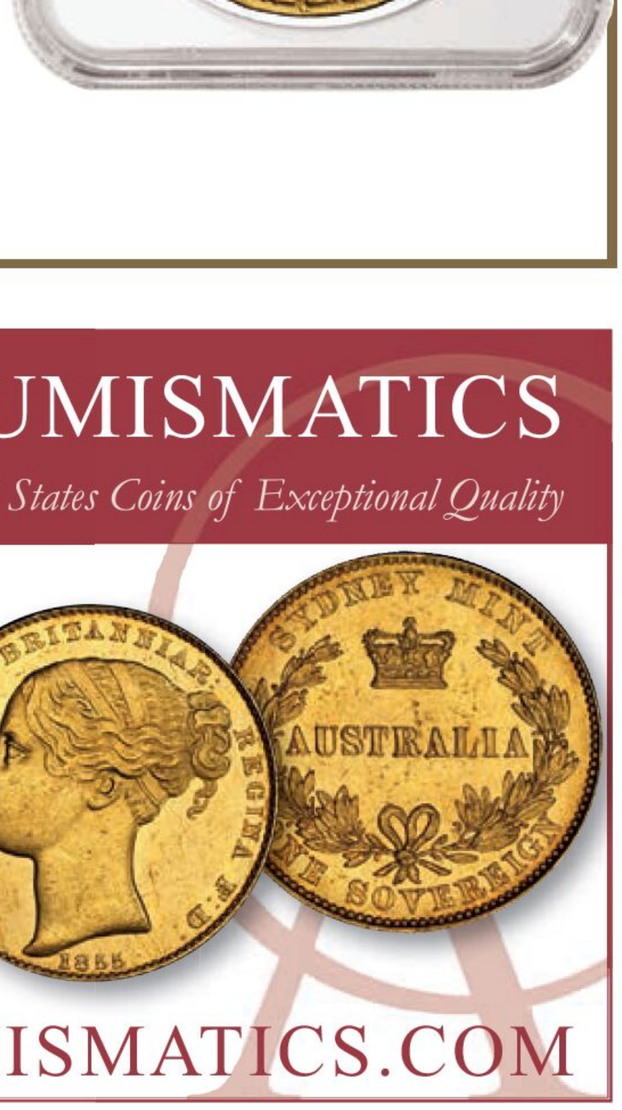
More than a token sale

A SOLID and broad-based sale is presented by Tennants on August 9 as their sale of coins and banknotes gets underway. The auction includes a fine offering of gold, silver, modern and historic coins and banknotes, including a notable highlight—a Victoria 1887 11-coin Proof set issued for the Golden Jubilee (illustrated); consisting of four gold and seven silver coins with an obverse design by J. Edgar Boehm, this is a much sought-after set and considered rare. It comprises a full set of gold and silver coins from five pounds to threepence and is housed in its original red leather case. It comes with a pre-sale estimate of £15,000–18,000 but could well exceed that on the day if interest runs high. Less headline stealing, but equally of interest, is a 1935 George V Proof crown (estimate: £500–600), a Charles III guinea 1683 (estimate: £1,000–1,500), and a rare George V sovereign, 1921 Sydney Mint (estimate: £600–800). Also to catch our eye are a pleasing group of 18th century tokens, including a selection of Samuel Birchall, Leeds halfpennies (each with an estimate of £180–250). Browse or bid online at www.tennants.co.uk or telephone 01969 623780 for more details.

Saved for the nation

THERE are certain collections, when they are presented at auction, that generate a frisson of excitement as more and more details of the contents of the accumulation come to light. The Lars Emil Bruun Collection is the most impressive group of Scandinavian coins in private hands. Danish butter and property entrepreneur, Bruun assembled a collection of 20,000 pieces from his native Denmark and other Scandinavian countries. He left instructions that, upon his death, his collection was to be "moth-balled" for 100 years ensuring a legacy for his country should anything untoward happen. A century later, his collection is being offered by Stack's Bowers Galleries in a series of auctions commencing September 14, 2024 (the proceeds going to his heirs). As is frequently the case these days, a collection of such importance has been authenticated and graded on this occasion by Numismatic Guaranty Company® (NGC®). One of the stand-out pieces of the collection is a Denmark 1496 noble graded NGC AU 55 (right). This piece is the first gold coin struck by Denmark and the first dated-coin from the Danish Kingdom and considered unique in private hands. Stack's Bowers will showcase the consignments from Part I of the Collection at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Illinois, USA (August 6–10, 2024). Even if the items in the Collection are beyond your budget, it is well worth taking a look at the video of top highlights of the Collection via YouTube.com/ngccoinvideos.





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Elizabeth I (1558-1603)
"Portcullis Money"
8 Testerns ND (1600-1601)
MS61 NGC



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



Victoria gold Proof
5 Pounds 1893
PR66+ Deep Cameo PCGS



Elizabeth I (1558-1603) gold Pound
ND (1594-1596)
AU58 PCGS



Charles I gold Triple Unite 1643
AU50 NGC



William & Mary gold "Elephant &
Castle" 5 Guineas 1691
XF40 NGC



Anne gold 5 Guineas 1706
AU Details NGC



George III gold Proof
"Cartwheel" Penny 1797
AU Details NGC



George IV gold Proof
Sovereign 1821
PR64 NGC

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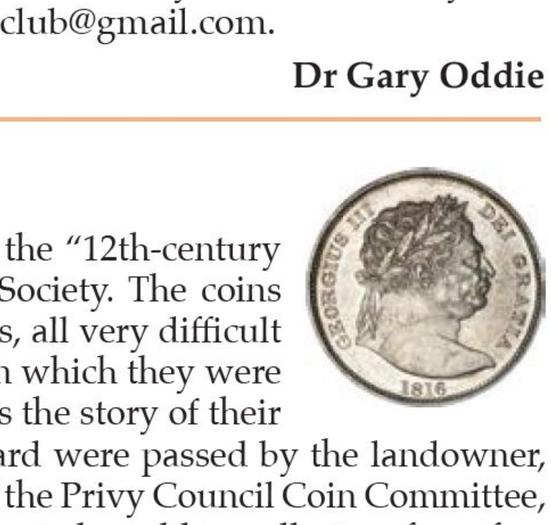
Society secretaries and fair organisers—if you have an interesting talk or event to report, then we would be more than happy to feature it in our dedicated Getting Together feature. Simply email: jayne@tokenpublishing.com with your information.

BANS AUTUMN CONFERENCE

THE Autumn Conference 2024 of the British Association of Numismatic Societies (BANS) will take place in Lichfield over the weekend of Friday, September 6, to Sunday, September 8, 2024. Whether it is your first Autumn Conference, or you are someone who has attended BANS events before, we very much hope you will be able to join us. The Autumn Conference venue will be the 3-star Cathedral Hotel located just a few minutes' walk from Lichfield city centre near the magnificent gothic Cathedral, providing parking facilities for visitors. More details are available at www.cathedralhotellichfield.co.uk. An excellent programme of nine lectures has been arranged for the three days, some with a local flavour. The speakers include Chris Barker, Steve Bentley, Rob Davies, Stuart Hallworth, Dr Gary Oddie, David Palmer, Dr John Rainey, MBE, and Wendy Scott. Early booking is recommended as in the event that we cannot accommodate you at the Cathedral Hotel (rooms are limited), we will use other hotels in close proximity to the Conference venue. We do hope you will be able to attend what promises to be an excellent Autumn Conference.

Bill Puglsey, Acting Treasurer and Secretary

BEDFORD COIN CLUB—ON THE MOVE



THE June meeting of the Bedford Coin Club was very busy with a bourse where members could buy and sell all manner of coins, tokens, medals and banknotes. 12 members and one guest spent an enjoyable evening browsing the many trays and boxes, and everyone managed to find something of interest. The usual "show-and-tell" was postponed until a later meeting. The meeting was also the end of an era as, after six years, this was the last to be held at this venue. For future meetings, a more central venue has been found in Bedford (easy access and parking) that will allow the club to grow. For details please contact the secretary—Simon Rowley—on 07555 048859 or email bedfordcoinclub@gmail.com.

Dr Gary Oddie



IMPORTANT MEDIEVAL HOARD MELTED DOWN!

AT our June meeting, the Crewe Society was treated to a fascinating presentation on the "12th-century Tealby Hoard" by Alan Dawson of the Ormskirk & West Lancashire Numismatic Society. The coins themselves are enigmatic, often badly struck and, with 30 mints and 123 known moneyers, all very difficult to identify correctly. Mystery surrounds their finding in 1807, since the ploughed-up jar in which they were found was a thousand years older than the coins themselves. More surprising, however, is the story of their disposal. The original finders may have kept a few of the coins for themselves, but 5,731 coins of the hoard were passed by the landowner, Charles Tennyson, to his friend Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society. Banks was also a member of the Privy Council Coin Committee, responsible, among other things, for the supply of metal for coinage. Banks arranged for around 300 coins to be sold to collectors for a few shillings each and a similar number were either kept by Banks or returned to Tennyson. However, the remaining 5,127 coins were sent to the Royal Mint in the Tower, where they were melted down! An ingot was reportedly made of the metal. Its fate is not known but it may have been used by the Mint in the re-coinage of 1816. So if you own a British silver coin of that date, it's possible that it contains a tiny amount of Tealby silver. The Crewe Society meets on the second Tuesday of most months and visitors are always very welcome. Please contact the Secretary, Stuart Hallworth, on 07828 602611 for details. The next meeting will be on September 10, when we shall have a private visit to the Grosvenor Museum in Chester and the opportunity to see several hoards dating from Roman to Civil War times.

Steve Bentley, Chairman

A FASCINATING INSIGHT

ON June 18, Dr Shailendra Bhandare, Curator of South Asian and Far-Eastern Coins and Paper Money at The Ashmolean Museum, gave a very well researched and informative presentation on "Indo-Greek & Related Coinages: an Introduction & Insights". Shailendra outlined how the "story" began with Alexander's appearance in north-west India in 326 BC, where he created an extension to the existing Greek Empire. Eventually that Empire fragmented 250–30 BC and the last of the Indo-Greeks was about 50 BC. The presentation was therefore encompassing a period of roughly 250 years. The main area in north-west India was known as Gandhara, which also covered today's Pakistan and Afghanistan. This area linked the western with the eastern world and was on the Silk Route. The Indo-Greeks were succeeded by the Indo-Scythians and Indo-Parthians, who maintained a very similar tradition in the depictions shown on their coins. The numismatic legacy of the Indo-Greeks continued with the use of bilingualism on the coins of the area and the same metallurgy continued for another 500 years. Shailendra gave warning of forgeries which date back to at least the 1830s. On September 16, at 7pm via Zoom, Dr Adrian Marsden will present on "CONCORDIA MILITVM and ADVENTVS AVG: two new reverse types for the Gallic emperor Tetricus I and an Imperial visit that never happened". Email jtaylor3@ntlworld.com for the Zoom link or any other further details.

Jon Taylor, Secretary

THE ESSEX NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

ON June 28, we welcomed back Denis Martin who gave a talk to us entitled "What makes a coin rare? A study of Edwardian Sterling's and other coins". Denis started by quoting from Lord Stewartby's introduction to his book *English Coins 1180–1551* concerning an attempted assessment of rarity. Extremely Fine (not more than single figures) Very Rare (perhaps ten to 15 examples). He noted that "Rare" is vaguer but is less abundant than other coins. Denis showed illustrations of the Petition Crown of 1663 and Rawling's Crown of 1664. Whilst a few examples exist, rarity would depend on how many are in Museums. That may explain such high prices paid at auction in recent years for these examples. Desirable, although "relatively" plentiful, coins such as an Alfred the Great Monogram Penny or an Edward 1st Groat can demand high prices. Such key coins are often desirable therefore in demand. That could also be the case with exceptional condition coins. A 1905 half-crown of Edward VII is often considered a key and rare coin, even though it had a mintage figure of 166,008. With so many of these coins likely melted down, an exceptional one would clearly demand a high price; Denis gave further examples of rarity. He went on to his subject of Edward I–II giving further advice on rarity by specialised knowledge of a series. The subtleties in the series show that, in some cases, only a handful of coins could survive. A great evening well attended.

Roger Barrett, Secretary

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FOR READING COIN CLUB



OUR May meeting was a celebratory party for our 60th anniversary. It was held in the Abbey Baptist church and was attended by 25 members and guests. Following some introductory words from our treasurer, we were treated to a finger buffet and a cake decorated with the club logo during which members had a chance to look at a display of coins. First there was a section specifically on numismatic items relating to Reading, including a Reading 1*d* from the reign of Edward III, tokens from later periods, tickets and a rare one pound note from one of the provincial Reading banks. Then there were some interesting items on show concerning the Reading coat of arms and the scallop shell logo of the club. Also provided were some booklet copies of one of Michael Broome's papers on the *Coinage of Reading*. A set of Victorian coins illustrated the full range of predecimal coins from the tiny ¼ farthing through to the gold £5 coin—a total of 21 different denominations, accompanied by a section showing coins from Ancient Greece through to the modern day, (including a Charles III 50p), an alphabetical display of Foreign coins, from Austria to Zambia and Banknotes from Algeria to Zimbabwe. Also on display were the Michael Broome Cup, the Marc Myhill Shield, the minute book from the very first meeting of the club and lists of previous speakers and winners of the various competitions throughout the previous 60 years of the club. We are always happy to hear from anyone who may be interested in the club and can be contacted through our website www.readingcoinclub.co.uk.





John Quinn, Hon Secretary

MEDALLION CONGRESS 2024

THE decennial congress hosted by the Historical Medal Society was held on Saturday, June 22, at the Delta Marriott Hotel, Warwick. A record 37 people were in attendance for this established annual event. The programme contained talks given by John Sallay, Frances Simmons, Paul Dietz, John Cumbers, Ann Marie Carey, Neil Beaton, and Andrew Wager on subjects covering "School Award Medals", "Olympic Medals Now: London to Paris", "WWI Peace Medals", "Joseph Davis and W. J. Taylor (19 Century medallists)", "Historical Medals of Plymouth", and the "Edward Thomason Archive Part 2". After the evening dinner, a bourse was held. Those attending were given a copy of the latest *Historical Medal Journal No. 6, 2024*. It is A5-size, printed in colour on good quality paper and contains ten articles in its 64 pages. For anyone who would like to purchase a copy of the latest, and also back-copies of the annual journal, then please email the Editors at: historicalmedalsociety@gmail.com For any other information visit www.historicalmedalsociety.org.uk.

Anthony Gilbert

WEBSITES AND APPS IN WILTSHIRE

AT our June meeting, one of our youngest members, Mark Flowers, gave an insight into the internet and the advantages that the internet offers to help coin collectors in many and various ways including details of websites and apps for recording one's collection details; a most useful tool to take to coin fairs, auctions, etc. Mark offered to load either of the apps mentioned on to members' mobile phones and this offer was taken up by several members. The evening turned out to be a different, but very useful, talk and demonstration of the availability of technology to collectors.

Verity Jeffery, Secretary



A VIEW OF THE BAY



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.

Antique Large Medallion Plaque H.G. Wells AD 1921 10cm Brass T2. The brass is dark from tarnishing. [uniface].—**£222.77.**

For just over three days, this remained at £20 and then, close to the end, four bidders came in and the price shot up. The charity selling it must have been very happy with the result.

Antique British Bank Notes Dated 1809/1810 Guinea Notes x 4. All notes issued by Inglis, Borthwick Gilchrist & Coy. One Two Guinea Note dated 1809. Two One Guinea Notes dated 1809. One One Guinea Note dated 1810.—**£2,345.**

*Probably the best ever eBay Scottish banknote listing. "*Paper Money of Scotland*", page 1,034, gives no values for one pound and one guinea notes, just "RARE". There is no mention of a one guinea note dated 1810 nor of a two guinea note of any date being issued and the company had a "Very small note circulation". Started by a charity at £74.99, they had 28 watchers and eight bidders placed a total of 28 bids. Unusually, the winner was responsible for half of the bids. The price increased by over £1,000 inside the final five minutes. One one guinea note was not defaced but the other three had been cross hatch cancelled in very old ink on the front; the reverses were not shown. This is the highest price achieved in the last three months for Scottish notes and money very well spent.*

Scarce Government of Cyprus One Shilling Banknote November 1919 [No. 16438]. Scarce Government of Cyprus One Shilling Banknote dated "12th Nov 1919". Condition is poor, more of a space filler. Quite a lot of creases, paper tears, rubbing wear and dirt etc.—**£4,667.89.**

A lot of money to pay for just "a space filler" in poor condition, which must have surprised the seller. Starting at £4.99, it was fought over by 11 bidders who made a total of 36 bids with the price increasing by £3,817.89 inside the final two minutes. "Pick 12" described as rare and no value is given. This seller seldom gives feedback to his buyers so they do likewise, feedback has not been exchanged for this transaction.

George III [1818] Silver Crown. Unique Rare Coin Owned Victoria's Doctor Not Circulated. Engv'd George Johnson Born Nov 29 1818, Goudhurst, Kent. This George III silver crown coin is a very unique and interesting item. Given as a Christening gift in the same year that the coin was made, never entering circulation as a coin. The coin is celebrating the birth of the eminent physician George Johnson who was born November 29th, 1818 in Goudhurst, Kent. Engv'd George Johnson Born Nov 29 1818, Goudhurst, Kent. Sir George Johnson was made Physician Extraordinary by Queen Victoria in 1889 and was the rival to Sir William Gull, who was named as one of the suspects of being the notorious murderer, Jack the Ripper in 1888.—**£560.**

Most of the high quality engraving was on the obverse field with just "Goudhurst Kent" on the reverse above St George. The start at 99p caught the attention of 11 bidders who placed 30 bids in total with the price doubling close to the end. The seller has received positive feedback.

Rare 1869 Victorian Penny. Great Gap Filler. This rare Victorian penny from 1869 is a great investment opportunity for any collector. With its beautiful design and historical significance, it is sure to be a prized possession. Made in Great Britain this penny features the image of Queen Victoria and is a great gap filler for any collection. It is in excellent condition and is sure to impress even the most discerning collector. Don't miss out on the chance to own a piece of history.—**£1.**

The description was a bit flowery for an almost-smooth disc with just the date clear but it found a new home for the starting price.

GB Royal Mint Trial of the Pyx Remembrance Silver Proof £5 Coin 2021 Sealed.—**£60.12.**

Pyx coins could be seen as a bit of a Royal Mint gimmick but this seems like good value for a silver proof "crown" with a Pyx connection. The 99p start attracted 18 bids from six bidders.

New King Charles III banknotes UK unc 2024 whole set £5 £10 £20 £50.—**£279.**

Listed very soon after release, with five sets sold so far, each at £194 above face value with assorted prefixes in each set. eBay is currently flooded with Charles III banknotes and buyers should exercise caution if a seller has a very low feedback score—especially if their prices are low.

New King Charles III banknote UK £5 2024 CA01 [892075].—**£48.**

No grade stated for this first prefix fiver but it appeared to be uncirculated. It was started at £10 and it was fought over by nine bidders who placed a total of 22 bids;it had 62 watchers.

1663 Charles II crown. Early milled 29.5g 38.2mm. Very good, pictures show actual coin.—**£256.**

Only two bids from a start at £225 with the winner coming in very close to the end. The seller has received positive feedback. A nice coin for the money and in better condition than a 1670 example on offer by the Royal Mint for £410.

Some readers may be unaware that it's now possible to see negative and neutral feedback without having to do a lot of scrolling. Click on "See all feedback" and, under "Period", click "12 months" and there is now the option to choose "Rating type"—all, positive, neutral or negative. Some bidders apply the body temperature rule: if a seller's feedback is below 98.6 per cent, don't bid.

August 2024 Global Showcase Auction Highlights from

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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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NumisMarket

Surface Scanning

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 . . .

WE in numismatics remain in a time of change, a market tug-of-war between those dealers and auctioneers making use of third-party grading (TPG) and those who reject the practice entirely. An extremely common justification I have heard from the UK/European market regarding their derision towards TPG is the "incorrect" attributions many coins receive from the grading services, often regarding damage or surface alteration. The frustration arises from coins that have been in old collections for decades—or centuries—and have never been flagged as having problems yet, when submitted to NGC or PCGS, return with the dreaded "Details" label. As such, I felt it appropriate this month to report on the different aspects that can disqualify a coin from a straight numerical grade. In broad brushstrokes, the following are the most major forms of surface alteration that can occur on a coin from when it is first struck.

Natural Alteration

1) Circulation wear. The everyday wear a coin encounters from being handled and knocked against other coins, resulting in metal loss at the highest points.

2) Scratches/Knocks. The damage that can occur from contact with harder items (such as other coins). More significant scratches can prevent coins from being given a numerical TPG grade.

3) Tone/Patina. The natural tone a coin develops over time, generally following predictable patterns dependent on the designs, metal type and purity, storage, and age.

4) Environmental damage. Most often encountered on reactive metals—such as copper, bronze and tin—but also seen on metal detecting finds, environmental damage is the detrimental effect of corrosive substances or harmful gases on a coin's surfaces.



Artificial Alteration

1) Cleaning/Polishing. The most commonly encountered surface alteration, the impact of an often well-meaning collector shining up their coin to improve the appearance. This practice often leaves diagnostic parallel hairlines across the surface of the coin which are observable when tilted in the light.

2) Tooling/Smoothing/Plugging. A more extreme version of cleaning, in that these practices were employed to attempt to improve visual appeal of a coin—sometimes deceptively. Tooling can be the re-engraving of designs to attempt to disguise wear, or can be used to hide scratches and metal flaws (known as smoothing). If a coin is pierced, sometimes a plug of metal will be added to fill the hole and the surfaces smoothed over to hide evidence of the repair.

3) Artificial toning/Dipping. Used largely on polished or cleaned coins to disguise the bright surfaces, this involves the exposure of a coin to chemicals to speed up the development of patina. Dipping involves treating a coin with an acidic solution to remove ugly tone or haze and improve the eye appeal. The patina that both dipped and artificially toned coins develop are distinct from natural tone as it does not follow the strike of the coin (natural patina develops most prominently on areas of most metal stress on a coin's surfaces, e.g. where the designs were struck), and the colour gradation is more severe.

4) Clipping/Filing/Sweating. These practices were all used by unscrupulous traders to remove metal from coins to melt down and retain as "profit". Clipping is seen on both silver and gold coins and can mostly be identified through the coin weight, whilst filing and sweating are more commonly seen on gold coins. Filing leaves distinct bright patches on a coin's edges with parallel file marks evident on magnification, while sweating is the shaking of gold coins together in a bag to create gold dust; this is very obvious through a polished, "blurred" effect on a coin's designs.

5) Graffiti/Gilding. Generally used when a coin was used as a plaything, graffiti is any text or imagery engraved on a coin, while gilding is the practice of coating the coin in thin gold plate to give it a bright aurous appearance.

6) Whizzing. Not a form of surface alteration seen much in the UK, this is the use of a circular brush to leave micro-scratches on coins intended to resemble original lustre.

For the most part in traditional European cataloguing, many of these forms of wear were mentioned only in passing, i.e. "previously wiped, otherwise well-struck and a superlative example for the type". The focus was more on how well the coin was made, the eye appeal, and the rarity as opposed to a full report on the surfaces themselves. When I was employed by a leading auction house a few years ago, this was still much the attitude held by the cataloguers there. However, in the years following I worked in the US and become familiar with the TPG process; one of my close friends was formerly a grader at a major TPG service, and through him I have learnt much about the methods employed internally to determine the various forms of surface alteration on coins.





As more sophisticated forgeries become prevalent in our market, the role of TPG goes beyond mere grading, becoming an essential indicator of authenticity and one that helps inject confidence into the trade. I recently ticked a major acquisition off of my bucket list—a Henry VIII Testoon (left), struck in above-average silver for the type and with an impressive portrait. On sending pictures to my friend, he noted two scratches on the obverse and determined that it would receive a "details" grade as a result. I decided to submit it anyway, however, to emphasise that it was not plagued with any overt artificial surface alteration and simply bore the marks associated with heavy circulation.

I retain a healthy scepticism regarding TPG, its failings to attribute varieties correctly and its occasional glaring oversights. Whether you choose to use third-party grading or not, however, it undeniably serves a valuable purpose in our trade, and its usefulness transcends the frustration encountered on a case-by-case basis with individual coins that receive seemingly harsh grades.

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DR K. A. RODGERS

Once a Jolly Banjo . . .

FEW Australians have featured on both Australia's banknotes and coins, including coins struck by both the country's mints. Andrew Barton Paterson CBE is one of the very few. That's the guy who gave his country *Waltzing Matilda*—amongst other bush ballads.



Since 1993, Banjo Paterson has graced the face of Australia's $10 note, along with The Man From Snowy River *plus words from this poem including some in microprint (image courtesy www.ha.com).*

He was first numismatically honoured when his portrait appeared on the face of the $10 polymer note in 1993 [R-316]. It is still there today on the Next Generation Wattle Series $10 [R-326] that arrived in 2017. The year past marked Paterson's 30th anniversary as a Dinkum Aussie banknote icon.

For the benefit of COIN NEWS readers who are not entirely up-to-date with Australian culture, Paterson was born near Orange in 1864 of a Scottish immigrant dad and an Aussie-born mum. His parents lost their wool clip in a flood when he was five, resulting in the family having to sell-up. They eventually took over an uncle's spread near Yass.

As soon as Paterson could ride, he went to school at Binalong. This led to Sydney Grammar in 1874. He matriculated there at 16 to start work as a clerk in a law firm, qualifying as a solicitor in 1886.

The previous year, he had submitted his first poem to the *Bulletin* using the penname "The Banjo", taken from a favourite horse. The *Bulletin* and Banjo proved a fit. Both were committed nationalists.

On December 21, 1889, the *Bulletin* published Banjo's *Clancy of The Overflow* followed by *The Man from Snowy River* on April 26, 1890. The nation responded. Paterson and his bush verse had arrived. *Waltzing Matilda* appeared in 1895 and the nation has never been the same since.

In 1899, Banjo sailed for South Africa as war correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. His reports on the Relief of Kimberley, the surrender of Bloemfontein and the capture of Pretoria caught the attention of the British press barons. This led to his being dispatched to cover China's Boxer Rebellion. On his return to Australia, he became editor of the *Sydney Evening News* for a couple of years, and then the T*own and Country Journal* from 1907 to 1908.

Following a 1908 trip to the UK, he reverted to what he knew best—farming. He was now married to Alice Walker with two children. The family took over a 40,000 acre property near Yass.

When World War I rolled around, Banjo became an ambulance driver in France before being commissioned in the Australian Imperial Force in October 1915. He was wounded in France and, at one stage, reported missing.

He was repatriated to Australia in 1919 to be discharged with the rank of Major. Throughout his time at the Front, Alice worked in a Red Cross ambulance unit to ensure she was always near where Banjo served.

Back in Civvy Street, he continued to publish poetry and short stories. He wrote for the weekly *Truth* and also for the *Sydney Sportsman* on rugby league.

He died in Sydney on February 5, 1941. In the 76 years of a very full life, he had been lawyer, journalist, jockey, soldier, farmer and poet. He was very much a man and an Australian worth a coin or two.



Left: the reverse of the 1995 Waltzing Matilda *centenary commemorative dollar with "C" mintmark. Right: reverse of 2004 Masterpiece of silver Proof (images courtesy www.downies.com). Shown enlarged.*

Banjo's first association with the nation's coins was in 1995 when his immortal *Waltzing Matilda* made it to a Royal Australian Mint (RAM) dollar in time for the ballad's centenary. BU aluminium-bronze versions were struck with a "C" mintmark and "S", "B" and "M" counterstamps, plus two silver Proofs produced with both continuous and interrupted reeding.

The same *Matilda* design from the reverse was used on one of the six Masterpieces in Silver proofs in 2004.





At left: The Man from Snowy River *as depicted on the reverse of a .999 fine silver colourised dollar struck by the Perth Mint for Tuvalu to mark the 120th anniversary of the poem's publication. Right: a reworking of the design as it appears on 40mm, 25g sterling silver dollar issued by Tokelau earlier this year (images courtesy Perth Mint and www.downies.com).*

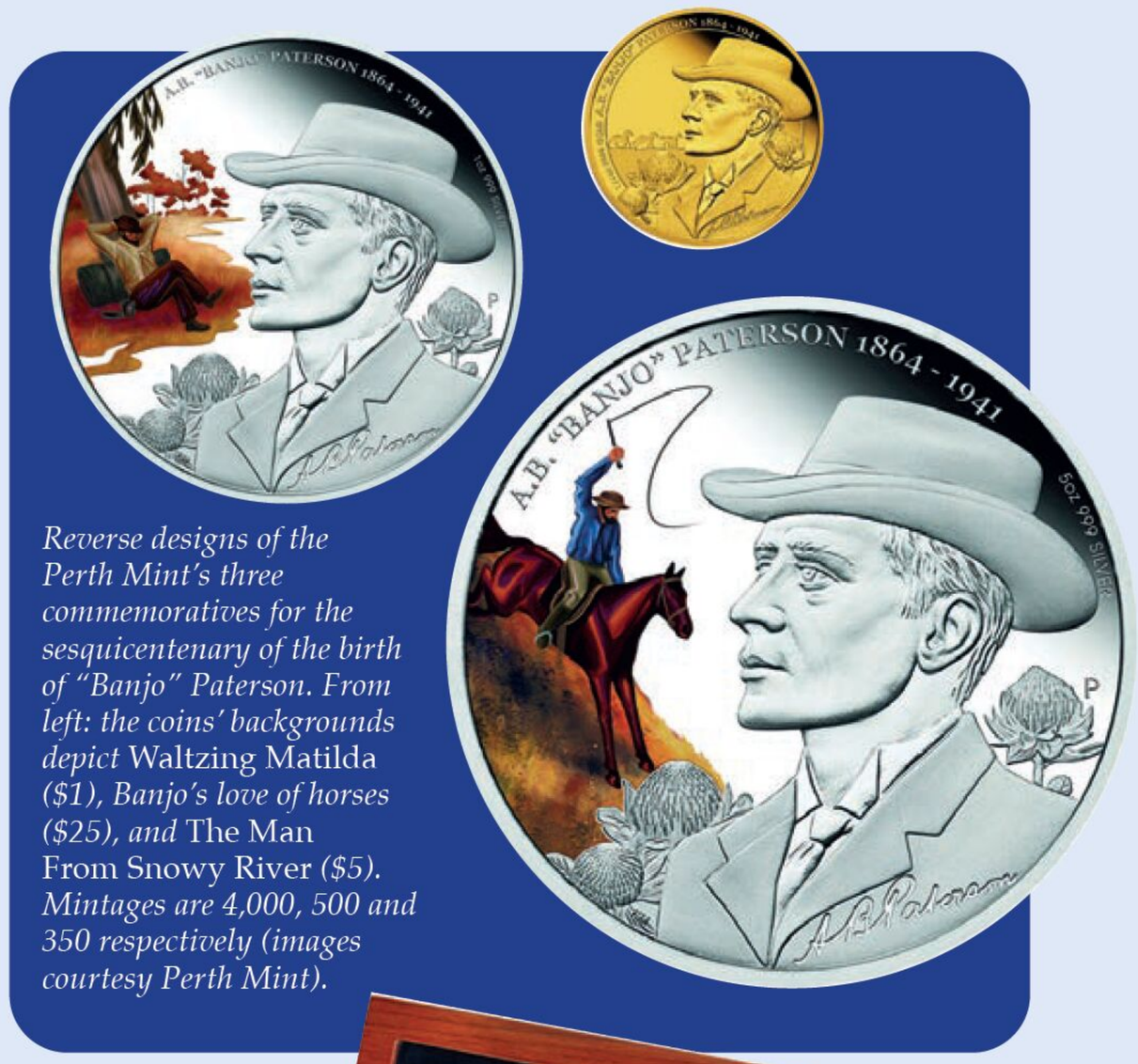
Then, in 2010, *The Man from Snowy River* featured on .999 fine silver colourised dollar struck by the Perth Mint for Tuvalu to mark the 120th anniversary of the poem's publication. In 2014, the same design was reworked on a 40mm, 25g sterling silver dollar issued by Tokelau.

On February 17, 2014, Australia celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Banjo Paterson. The Perth Mint marked the occasion with the issue of three coins: a 1oz silver $1, a 5oz silver $5, and a ¼oz gold $25.

The reverse of all coins show a common portrait of Paterson set about with waratah blossoms. The portrait is similar to that on the $10 note. A gold-foiled example of this note came housed in a wooden display case with each of the $5 silver coins.

Essential Trivia

The Man from Snowy River and, of course, *Waltzing Matilda* will be well known to all Terry Pratchett fans. Among other aspects of Australian culture, both are delightfully sent-up in *The Last Continent*.



Reverse designs of the Perth Mint's three commemoratives for the sesquicentenary of the birth of "Banjo" Paterson. From left: the coins' backgrounds depict Waltzing Matilda *($1), Banjo's love of horses ($25), and* The Man From Snowy River *($5). Mintages are 4,000, 500 and 350 respectively (images courtesy Perth Mint).*



The Perth Mint's set consisting of a gold-foiled $10 note and the commemorative $5 silver coin (image courtesy Perth Mint).

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AUSTRALIA

Theme: Tooth Fairy Kit
Mint: Royal Australian Mint
Metal: Aluminium bronze
Denomination: $2
Diameter: 20.50mm
Mintage: Unlimited
Contact: Royal Australian Mint, www.ramint.gov.au



**Coin enlarged*

AUSTRIA

Theme: Luminous Marine Life—Blue Doctorfish
Mint: Austrian Mint
Metal: Copper Alloy
Denomination: €3
Diameter: 34mm
Mintage: 65,000
Contact: Austrian Mint, www.muenzeoesterreich.at



CANADA

Theme: Colourful Birds—American Goldfinch
Mint: Canadian Mint
Metal: Silver
Denomination: $20
Diameter: 38mm
Mintage: 7,500
Contact: Canadian Mint, www.mint.ca



COOK ISLANDS

Theme: Reconstruction—Elephant
Mint: B. H. Mayer's Kunstprägeanstalt, Munich
Metal: Silver
Denomination: $10
Diameter: 45mm
Mintage: 999
Contact: Fama Numismatics, www.fama-numismatics.com

**Coin reduced*



MONGOLIA

Theme: Woodland Spirits—Bear
Mint: B. H. Mayer's Kunstprägeanstalt, Munich
Metal: Silver
Denomination: 500 Togrog
Diameter: 38.61mm
Mintage: 1,500
Contact: Coin Invest Trust, www.cit.li



TUVALU

Theme: Rubik's™ Cube 50th Anniversary
Mint: Perth Mint
Metal: Silver
Denomination: $2
Diameter: 45.60mm
Mintage: 3,000
Contact: Perth Mint, www.perthmint.com

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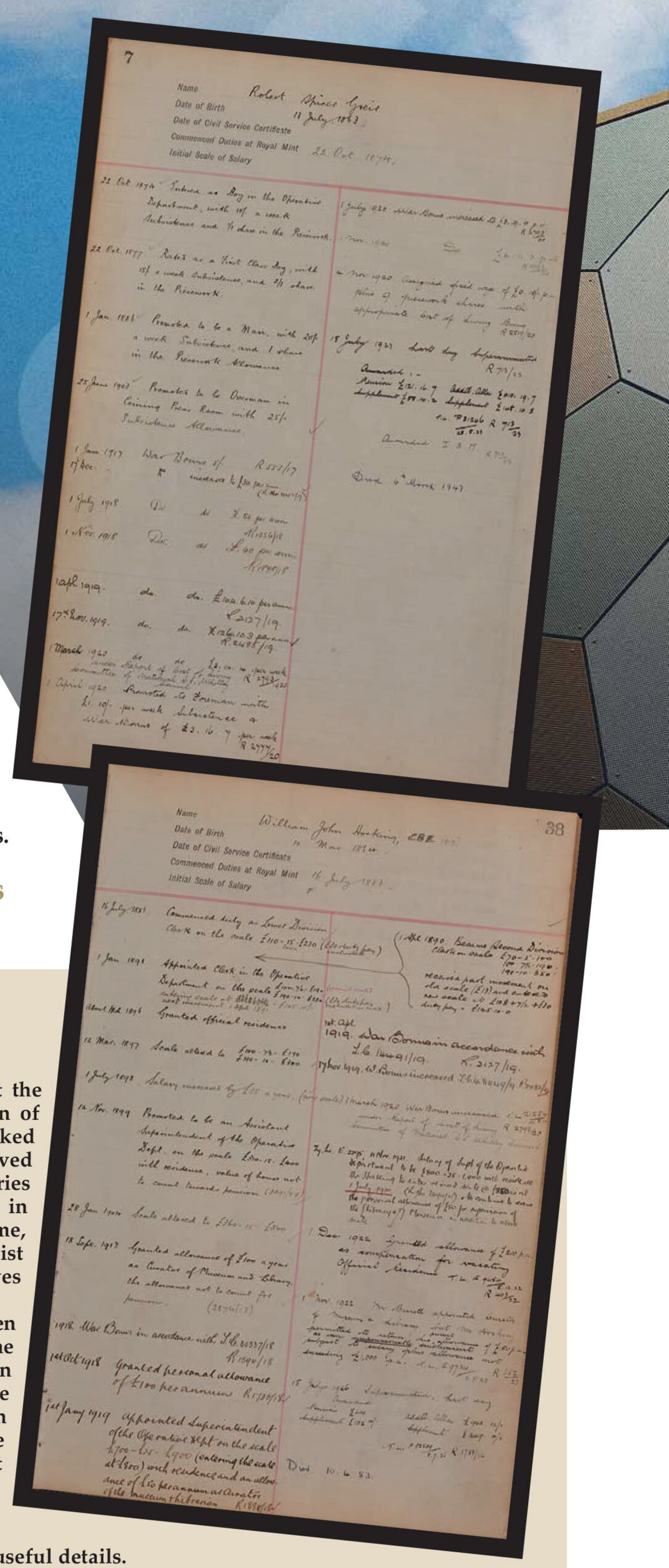
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BEHIND THE SCENES



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

Making money for a living—documenting Royal Mint careers

THE Royal Mint Museum has a collection relating to what the Mint makes but almost equally important is the collection of objects and records that document those who work and have worked for the organisation. There are paintings and furniture, engraved watch cases and letters, photographs and, importantly, summaries of employees' Mint careers. These Establishment Lists survive in several different forms, becoming less easily accessible with time, but for those who joined the Mint from the 1870s the records exist in bound volumes and are now located on one of the open shelves in the Museum's library.

The hand-written entries note name, date of birth and when someone started at the Mint but they also go on to track the subsequent years of service, including promotions, increases in salary, bonus payments and, in some instances, when an employee was granted a residence within the confines of the Mint site on Tower Hill. These records provide a remarkable insight into the careers of individuals more than 150 years ago, many carrying out jobs which still exist at the Royal Mint today. For those conducting family history research, the career of an ancestor is revealed, a key fragment in building a broader picture, and the team at the Museum are in the happy position of regularly providing these useful details.

There is a satisfying equality in seeing the careers of the most senior Mint officials alongside the least well paid set out in exactly the same format. So, for example, Robert Spicer Greir is noted as having entered Mint service in October 1874 at the age of 11, in the role of Boy, being promoted to First Class Boy three years later and eventually to Foreman at the age of 56, a position he retained until his retirement three years later having completed almost 49 years of service. Then a few pages further on the career of William Hocking is presented. Starting out as a Lower Division Clerk in July 1883, as well as taking on responsibility for the Museum some years later, he was promoted to the position of Superintendent of the Operative Department in 1919, one of the most senior roles in the Mint, and was awarded a CBE by George V.

To make this goldmine of personal history more easily accessible, the Museum has now digitised three of these volumes and published them on its website. The records are searchable and the hope is that they will provide an extremely useful resource for family historians as well as those who have a fascination with the history of the Royal Mint.

To see these lists, and much more, visit the Royal Mint Museum website (www.royalmint.com).

The Royal Mint Museum

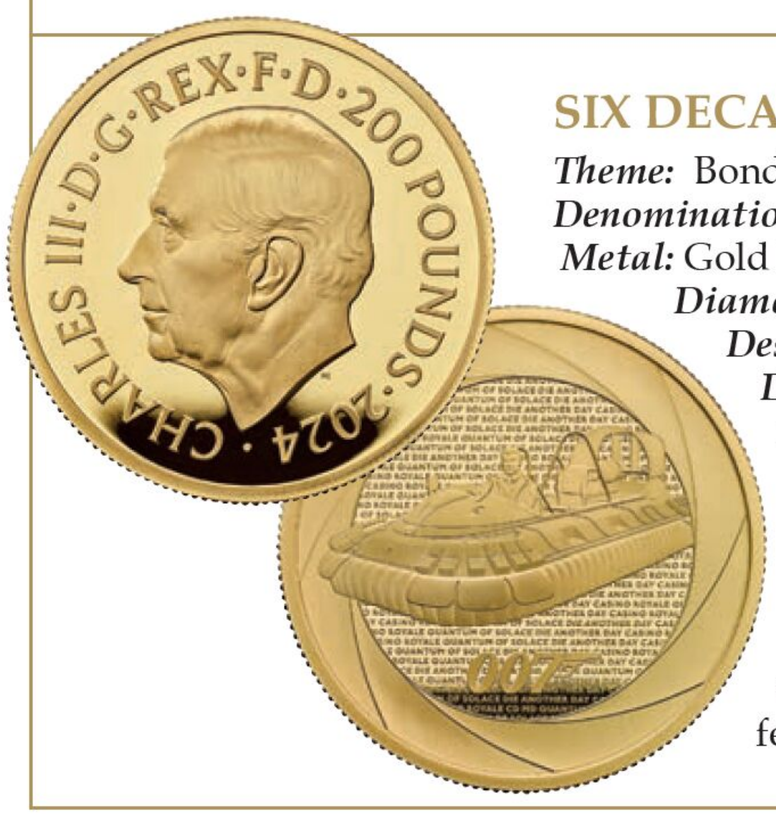
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THE GREAT ENGRAVERS

Theme: The Waterloo Medal, Allied Leaders by Benedetto Pistrucci
Denomination: £2,000, £1,000, £500, £200 (gold Proof); £5, £10, £500 silver Proof
Metal: Gold Proof, silver Proof
Diameter: Various issue sizes depending on denomination and metal
Designer: Obv. Martin Jennings; Rev. Benedetto Pistrucci
Details: This is the second bite of the Great Engravers numismatic cherry for the Italian master of design, Benedetto Pistrucci, as his iconic St George and the Dragon creation which graced (and still graces) the reverse of the gold sovereign has been a previous subject of this popular series. Pistrucci's extraordinary design of the Allied leaders from the Battle of Waterloo of 1815 as depicted on this reverse creation (however, this is the obverse design of the original concept), was approved by the Palace but never struck. From a promising start, the attempts to bring this piece of medallic art to fruition was fraught with tensions and set backs (see *Pistrucci's Waterloo Masterwork*, page 55 for a more in depth look at its troubled history). Fast forward to today, and collectors have a chance to secure the design as part of the Great Engravers Collection. The piece is issued in a range of issues from a 2oz silver Proof to a whopping 2 kilo gold coin (only one issued) with a denomination of £2.000. The obverse depicts the current effigy of His Majesty King Charles III. There is to be a second release in 2025 which will in all likelihood, depict Pistrucci's equally impressive reverse of his Waterloo Medal design.





SIX DECADES OF 007

Theme: Bond Films of the 2000s
Denomination: £200, £100, £25 (gold); £10, £5, £2—silver; £5—cupro-nickel
Metal: Gold Proof, silver Proof, cupro-nickel (Unc)
Diameter: Various issue sizes depending on denomination and metal
Designer: Obv. Martin Jennings; Rev. Matt Dent and Christian Davies
Details: This issue comes hot on the heels of the previous design in the series released in March and featured on these pages in the June edition. The new collection, as the name implies, celebrates six decades of the global success of the James Bond 007 films based on the novels by Ian Fleming, and featuring everyone's favourite spy. This latest design does bear a striking resemblance to the previous issue in overall appearance, however, closer inspection or to those of a nautical bent, clearly the craft depicted is a hovercraft (the previous issue was a speed boat). The hovercraft took centre stage in the opening scene in *Die Another Day*, the last Bond film to feature Pierce Brosnan in the lead role before the baton passed to Daniel Craig.

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



Charles II Unite coin sold for £26,000, exceeding its estimated value.



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



Charles I Halfcrown achieved a hammer price of £11,000, well above its estimated value.



China Fukien silver 10 Cents coin broke a world record and sold for an astounding £4,800.



Alexander the Great AV stater, sold for a hammer price of £8,500.

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DR GRAHAM BENNETT

Early summer sensations

Let's start this month with a visit to **NOONANS** and their World Banknotes online auction held on May 29 where 849 lots were available to bidders. Part of the auction was the Laurence Pope Collection of Portuguese Colonial Banknotes (Part V) which made a hammer total of £55,415. The highest price achieved overall was for a rather unassuming Government of India 1 Rupee of 1917 with Gubbay signature on superb original paper, EF, and a lovely example which was estimated at £200–260. It sold for a hammer price of £8,000 after some very keen bidding! The note was recovered from the wreck of the SS *Shirala* which was sunk by a German U-boat on July 2, 1918. Many notes floated to shore and some found their way to private hands, so there was an interesting history attached to this particular note. Another India note did well, although this one had a higher estimate of £2,000–2,600. This was a 10 Rupee note dated 25 May 1918 which was unsigned on superb original paper, about EF and very rare. This, too, had been recovered from the wreck of the *Shirala*. It reached an impressive £6,500 when the hammer fell. £7,500 was the hammer price paid for a Hong Kong Chartered Bank specimen $1,000 dated January 1979 with Gedhill and Brown signatures, red SPECIMEN overprint, in PMG holder 66 EPQ, in gem uncirculated and very attractive. It had been expected to reach a high of £4,000. A Portuguese India Banco Nacional Ultramarino 8 Tangas dated 1 October 1917, in PMG holder 55 EPQ, was about uncirculated and exceptional in such condition. Estimated at £3,000–4,000, it hammered on a strong £6,000. Back to India, and a Government of India 10 Rupees from Rangoon dated 25 May 1918, unsigned and of superb quality with rubber band residue on reverse. In GVF to about EF and very rare, this one reached £5,500 at hammer from an estimate of £2,000–2,600 and was another one rescued from the *Shirala*. We finish with a very rare specimen 200 Riyals from 1999 of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency with red SPECIMEN overprint in uncirculated and very rare. Priced between £2,000 and £2,600, the hammer came down on £4,400. The sale made a total hammer price of £299,800 (plus the buyers' premium of 24 per cent). A thoroughly wide-ranging auction of World banknotes.



▲ *EF Government of India 1 Rupee of 1917 with Gubbay signature found a new home for £8,000.*



▲ *Hong Kong Chartered Bank specimen $1,000 dated January 1979 with Gedhill and Brown signatures sold for £7,500.*

EF and rare Sicily, Syracuse, silver 16 Litrai hammered on £2,900. ▶





◀ *GVF and extremely rare contemporary copy Eid Mar Denarius of Brutus dated to late summer/autumn 44 BC sold for £8,000.*

On the same day, **BALDWIN'S** held their Auction 115 of Ancient Coins which consisted of 545 lots—so a lot to attract buyers. A Sicily, Syracuse, silver 16 Litrai had bust of Philistis (wife of Hieron II, 275–15 BC) on obverse and Nike driving quadriga on reverse. In EF with stunning cabinet tone and rare, it hammered on £2,900 from an estimate of £1,500–2,000 (plus BP of 20 per cent). The highlight of the sale was the plated Eid Mar Denarius of Brutus dated to late summer/autumn 44 BC. This was a contemporary copy from the Mint moving with Brutus in northern Greece. It had the bare head of Brutus on obverse and EID MAR on reverse with two daggers. It had some breaks to the silver plating and a couple of scratches but was otherwise GVF and extremely rare. Estimated at £8,000–12,000, it only managed to find the hammer on the lower figure which was rather surprising for such a rare item. A Cleopatra and Mark Antony (32 BC) Denarius from a

Auction highlights



▲ *Denarius of Lugdunum (Lyon), GVF, hammered on £3,500.*

moving mint had draped and diademed bust of Cleopatra on obverse and head of Antony on reverse. In GVF or better with a couple of light edge chips and pleasing cabinet tone, this rare coin found the hammer on £4,800 from an estimate of £4,000–6,000. Coins of Caligula (AD 37–41) always attract buyers and this one did so, although it only reached its lower estimate of £3,500. This was a Denarius of Lugdunum (Lyon) with laureate bust of Caligula on obverse and draped bust of Agrippina on reverse. In GVF, well-centred with pleasing cabinet tone, it had two excellent portraits so someone went home happy. We finish with a Sestertius of Titus (AD 79–81) from Rome with laureate head on obverse and Felicitas standing on reverse. In VF and expected to reach between £100 and £150, this unassuming piece did very well because it hammered on a strong £2,500! A great sale for collectors of ancient coins.

A third sale which took place that day was conducted by **SOVEREIGN RARITIES** and was their Auction 13. The highest price realised was for a William III 1696 "fine work" silver pattern Sixpence with more finely engraved laureate bust on obverse with toothed border and, on reverse, inverted die axis crowned cruciform shields, Lion of Nassau at centre and date either side of crown at top. In EF with cabinet tone and of the highest rarity and importance, one of only three known to exist (one of which is in the British Museum), it realised a hammer price of £13,000 plus BP of 20 per cent. Closely followed in price was a Charles II 1676 Guinea with 4th laureate head on obverse and crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles and four interlinked "C"s in centre on reverse. Attractively toned with a copper hue and graded by NGC as MS61, a rare date especially in this condition, it realised a hammer price of £12,000. Next, some more modern issues. An Elizabeth II 2021 gold proof 5oz Gothic Crown of £500 with quartered arms from The Great Engravers series commemorating the superb Gothic Crown by William Wyon. One of only 181 issued, it had bust of the late Queen on obverse with name, titles, date and denomination whilst the reverse had an ornate quartered shield design and Latin script in Gothic style taken from the original crown of Victoria, apart from the modern date in Roman numerals. In brilliant proof-as-struck condition, graded by NGC as PF70 Ultra Cameo, it hammered on a strong £9,500. Another Elizabeth II coin was the 1990 gold proof Five Pounds with Maklouf bust and Pistrucci's St George and the Dragon, date below, on reverse. This was in brilliant proof-as-struck condition, graded by NGC as PF70 Ultra Cameo, and it found a happy buyer for the hammer price of £5,400. Finally for this auction, we have an Elizabeth II Alderney Una and the Lion gold proof 5-coin set comprising Five Pounds, Two Pounds, Sovereign, Half Sovereign and Quarter Sovereign with Wyon's justly famous and much admired Una and the Lion reverse originally used on the gold Five Pound piece of Victoria issued in 1839 as part of the proof set of that year. These coins had their respective denominations in the exergue on the reverse with date below bust on obverse. All graded by NGC as PF70 Ultra Cameo, except the two pounds which was graded PF69 Ultra Cameo, it sold at hammer for £5,300. A cracking sale! Many thanks to Emma Hulme for the information.



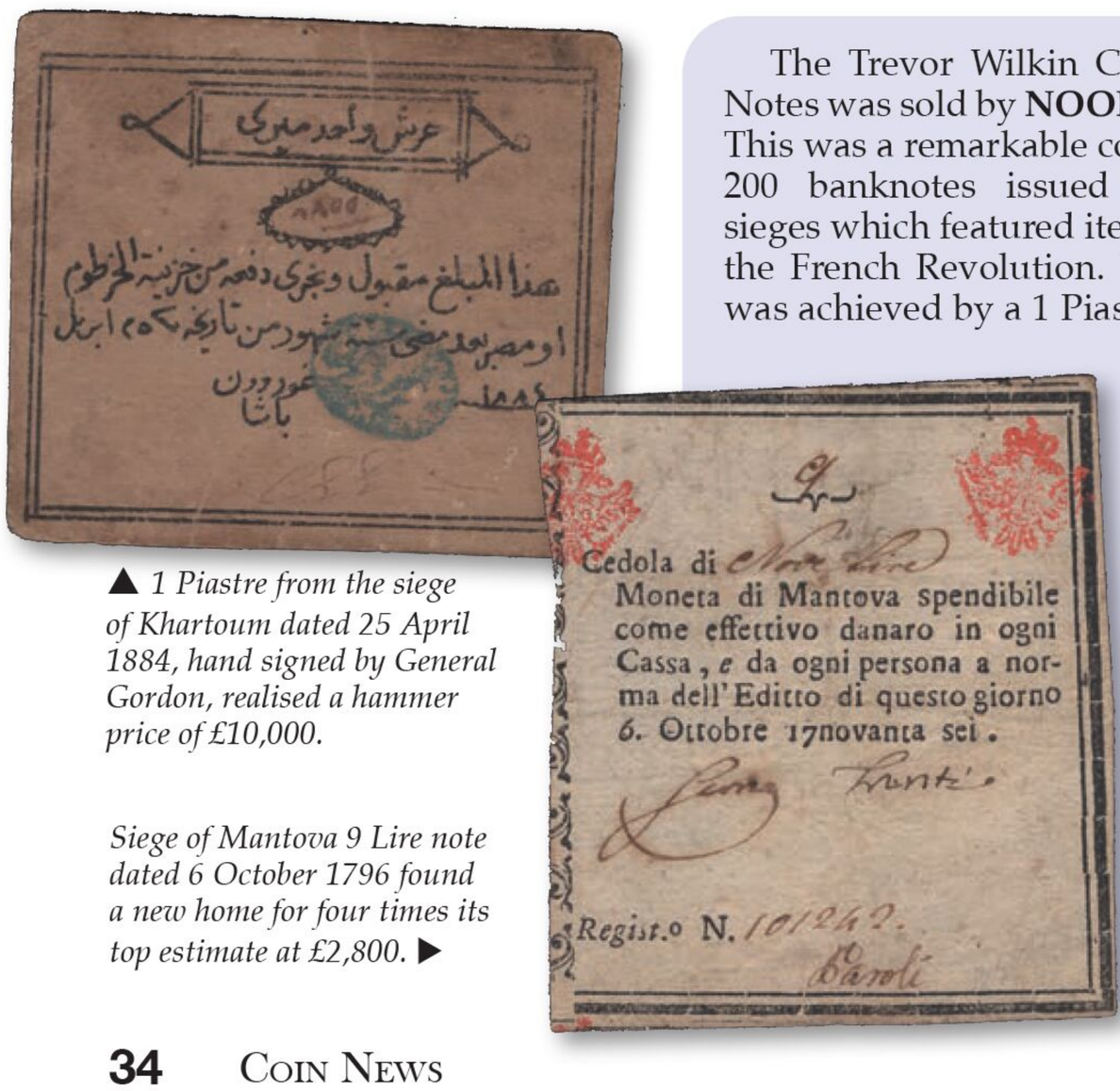
William III 1696 "fine work" silver pattern Sixpence, in EF and of the highest rarity and importance, realised a hammer price of £13,000. ▶



◀ *Charles II 1676 Guinea graded by NGC as MS61, and with rare date, found a buyer for £12,000.*



▲ *Elizabeth II 2021 gold proof 5oz Gothic Crown of £500 with quartered arms from The Great Engravers series, one of only 181 issued, in brilliant proof-as-struck condition, realised a strong £9,500.*



▲ *1 Piastre from the siege of Khartoum dated 25 April 1884, hand signed by General Gordon, realised a hammer price of £10,000.*

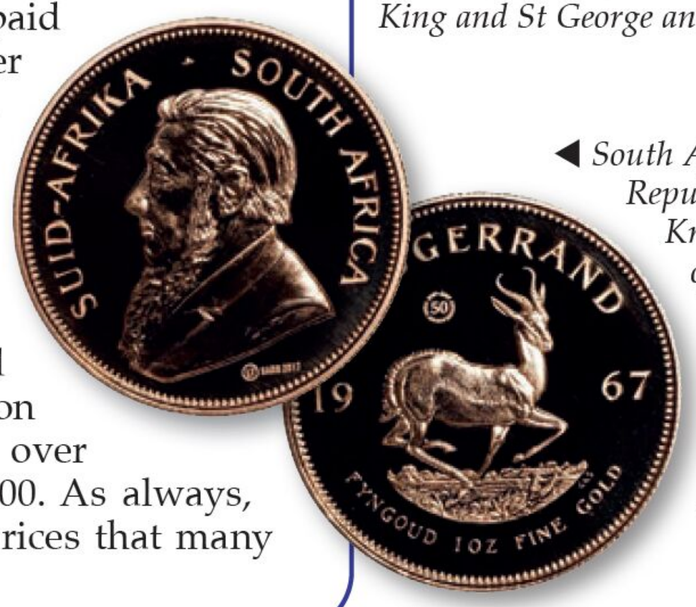
Siege of Mantova 9 Lire note dated 6 October 1796 found a new home for four times its top estimate at £2,800. ▶

The Trevor Wilkin Collection of Siege Notes was sold by **NOONANS** on May 30. This was a remarkable collection of almost 200 banknotes issued during military sieges which featured items dating back to the French Revolution. The highest price was achieved by a 1 Piastre from the siege of Khartoum and believed to be the only one in private hands. Dated 25 April 1884 and hand signed by General Gordon, it realised a hammer price of £10,000. A 1 Franc note from the siege of Zara (Croatia) in 1813 sold for £6,500 from an estimate of £1,000–1,500. The successful buyer acquired it after a protracted bidding session. Two Italian notes attracted much interest—these were, firstly, from the siege of Palmanova in North East Italy, a 2 Lire dated to 1814 which realised a hammer price of £4,000 (double its estimate) and, secondly, a 9 Lire note from the siege of Mantova dated 6 October 1796 which realised a total of £2,800 at hammer (four times its top estimate). The former was bought by a UK collector and the latter by an Italian collector. The earliest specimens in the sale were what have been called "paper coins" created from using pages from prayer books pressed into coin dies made during the siege of Leyden in 1574. These sold for between £600 and £1,100. Quite a sale of historical importance which realised a hammer total of £96,455 from a pre-sale estimate of £65,000. Many thanks to Rachel Aked for the auction figures.

It was another Argentum sale for **ST JAMES'S AUCTIONS** on June 1 where a wide variety of reasonably-priced items was available to bidders. Starting with a George III Sovereign of 1817 featuring laureate bust of the King and St George and the Dragon, this was in VF to GVF and expected to make between £1,000 and £1,500. The hammer came to rest on £1,300 (plus BP of 24 per cent). A similar Sovereign, but dated 1820 (the last year of the reign), was in GVF and reached £1,200 from an estimate of £700–900. This was the variety which had the large date with open 2 close to 8 which may explain why it did so well. The highest price achieved was for an Elizabeth II gold proof 2010 three-coin set celebrating the 2012 Olympic Games. The coins were £100 and two £25 featuring the gods Neptune, Diana and Mercury on their reverses respectively. In its official Royal Mint case with certificate and all in FDC, it realised a hammer price of £2,000 from an estimate of £1,750–2,250, so exactly mid-way between those two figures. From India was a Native or Princely States gold 1/16th Mohur in VF and with it a Nepal early Half Mohur, one side disfigured and having been mounted. These two were moderately priced at £80–120 but someone was keen enough to get their hands on it and paid £1,100 when the hammer fell. Lastly, a South Africa Republic Krugerrand of 1967 (50th anniversary of the Krugerrand) with Springbok on reverse. In its South Africa Mint case with certificate and in FDC, it hammered on £1,520 which was just over its lower estimate of £1,500. As always, an interesting sale with prices that many collectors could reach.



▲ *The hammer came to rest on £1,300 for this George III Sovereign of 1817 featuring laureate bust of the King and St George and the Dragon.*



◀ *South Africa Republic Krugerrand of 1967 hammered just over its lower estimate to sell for £1,520.*



▲ *Henry V Noble from London, in nearly EF, hammered on £6,400.*



Yorkshire gold Half Guinea from Sheffield dated 1812 with Phoenix rising from flames on obverse, in EF, very rare and certified by NGC as Mint State 61, realised £7,200. ▶



◀ *Exceedingly rare USA silver Quarter Dollar of 1870 realised £13,000 from an expectation of £12,500–15,000.*

Staying with **ST JAMES'S AUCTIONS** and their Premier Sale held on June 5, we have an opportunity to see a number of special items for those with deeper pockets. Firstly, a Henry V Noble, type D, from London with King standing on ship on obverse and ornate cross with "h" in centre. In nearly EF with an excellent portrait, it hammered on £6,400 from a pre-sale estimate of £5,000–5,500. Perhaps the most unusual piece in the sale was a Yorkshire gold Half Guinea from Sheffield dated 1812 with Phoenix rising from flames on obverse and issuer's name, whilst the reverse had date below and value (10 Shillings and sixpence) at centre. In EF with golden lustre, very rare and certified by NGC as Mint State 61, it realised £7,200 at hammer from an expectation of £6,000–7,000. The catalogue stated: *"This is one of the rarest of all British tokens which deserves to be a centrepiece of any gold collection."* The highest price was achieved by a George III Sovereign of 1818 with laureate head on obverse and St George and Dragon within garter on reverse. Certified by NGC as Mint State 64 with none graded higher, it was expected to achieve a best of £9,500 but bidders were keen to acquire it and the hammer stopped on a strong £21,000. A William IV proof Crown of 1831 with bare head on obverse and "WW" on truncation accompanied on the reverse with shield of arms on crowned mantle, had a plain edge. Unfortunately, the obverse had been polished and there were some digs in the field, but otherwise it was in NEF and estimated at £2,500–3,500; despite these imperfections, the hammer reached a strong £7,000. Lastly, a USA silver Quarter Dollar of 1870 with Liberty standing on obverse and eagle with shield on breast on reverse. Certified by NGC as Very Fine 25, this exceedingly rare coin (the first to have been offered by St James's) managed a hammer price of £13,000 from an expectation of £12,500–15,000. All these prices were subject to a BP of 24 per cent. Yet another eclectic Premier sale from St James's with much to attract a wide variety of collectors.

Over to **LOCKDALES** for their Auction 265, The Banknote Sale, held over the two days of June 4–5. Strong demand was noted for certain countries including French Algeria, Belgian Congo, early Egypt, Greece, India and Pakistan. There was heavy interest in the English error notes such as a Peppiatt £1 issued in 1940, a rare emergency wartime issue with extra paper fishtail at bottom right. In VF and estimated at £70–100, it hammered on £290 (plus BP of 19.5 per cent). A Gill £50 of Elizabeth II issued in 1988 was a scarce first run with C01 prefix. In uncirculated, it was expected to reach between £300 and £400 and managed to exceed the top figure by £40. An Axminster, Dorsetshire Bank, £5 dated 14th April 1890 issued for a number of individuals, had inked numbers top left and two cancelled stamps. In F+ and a very rare issued note, it hammered on a strong £560 from a top estimate of £400. A 20 Francs from Algeria dated 12th August 1903 had some pinholes but was an original F+ and exceptionally scarce, so no surprise when it soared past its estimate of £300–400 to settle on a hammer price of £1,250. An Iraq ¼ Dinar issued in 1942



▲ *Rare emergency wartime issue, Peppiatt £1 of 1940, in VF, hammered on £290.*

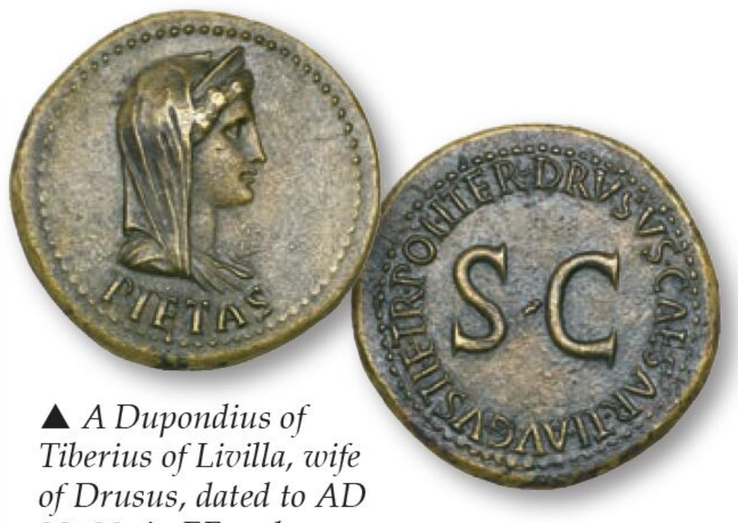
Auction highlights



▲ *20 Francs from Algeria dated 12th August 1903, F+ and exceptionally scarce, sold for more than three times the higher estimate at £1,250.*

with portrait of King Faisal II as a child and signed "Kennet & Daoud al Haidari" (the scarcer signature variety) in about VF reached £420 when the hammer fell from a pre-sale estimate of £150–200. From Pakistan comes a 1948 note with "Government of Pakistan" engraved in the watermark area of a Reserve Bank of India 2 Rupees. In about fine and estimated at £100–150, it found a happy buyer on £400 hammer. To conclude, we have a Portuguese India 1 Rupia dated 1st January 1924 with small holes, dirt and about fine. This, too, did well because it hammered on £440 from an expectation of £100–150. The total realised for this auction, including BP, was £136,540. Thanks to Chris Elmy for the information.

Our last sale this month is **MORTON & EDEN** and their auction of Coins, Medals and Banknotes held on June 12 where some high prices were achieved. A Dupondius struck by Tiberius of Livilla, wife of Drusus, dated to AD 22–23 had diademed and veiled bust on obverse and legend around large "SC" on reverse. In EF with a brown Tiber patina and very rare, this stunning coin reached £24,000 hammer (plus 20 per cent BP) from an estimate of £20,000–25,000. An Umayyad Islamic Arab-Byzantine Solidus of c. 72–74h had Byzantine Emperor Heraclius flanked by his two sons on obverse with vertical shaft and globe on a set of four steps on reverse. Slightly clipped and with faint traces of mounting, it was otherwise in GVF and extremely rare, thus a price of £150,000–200,000 was placed on it. It almost reached its lower estimate by hammering on £140,000. That perennial favourite, the Victoria Gothic Crown made an appearance at this sale. This one was the 1847 variety struck in pure silver in medallic alignment. It had a slight surface blemish behind the bust but was otherwise attractively toned and extremely rare. In NGC holder and graded PF62 Ultra Cameo, it reached £17,000 when the hammer fell from a pre-sale estimate of £20,000–30,000. Perhaps the blemish made the difference. Amongst a number of world gold coins was an Austrian States Ducat of Albrecht von Wallenstein, Duke of Mecklenburg (1625–34) dated 1631 over 1630 with bust facing three quarters on obverse and arms of the Collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece on reverse. In GVF with a couple of minor scuffs, it did particularly well because it doubled its top estimate to find the hammer on £20,000. The last lot to be considered here raised more than one eyebrow. From the Qing Dynasty of China (1875–1908) comes a silver boat-shaped 1 Tael Sycee with Fu sign for good luck in rectangular stamp. Weakly struck in parts, otherwise in VF, it was accompanied by Peace under Heaven brass cash and a large crudely-cast copper amulet, some other Oriental pieces including Siamese silver bullet money in mostly VF or better. This group was priced at £600–800 but bidding took off and just kept on going until it reached an astounding £110,000! Interestingly, a similar 1 Tael Sycee sold for £1,000, so perhaps the extra pieces made all the difference? A sale with a lot to offer a wide variety of collectors—and na total hammer of £750,770. Thank you to Alex Inkin for the auction report.



▲ *A Dupondius of Tiberius of Livilla, wife of Drusus, dated to AD 22–23, in EF and very rare, reached £24,000 when the hammer fell.*



◀ *Umayyad Islamic Arab-Byzantine Solidus of c. 72–74h, in GVF and extremely rare, almost reached its lower estimate and sold for £140,000.*



Austrian States Ducat of Albrecht von Wallenstein, Duke of Mecklenburg (1625–34) in GVF with a couple of minor scuffs, doubled its top estimate to realise £20,000. ▶

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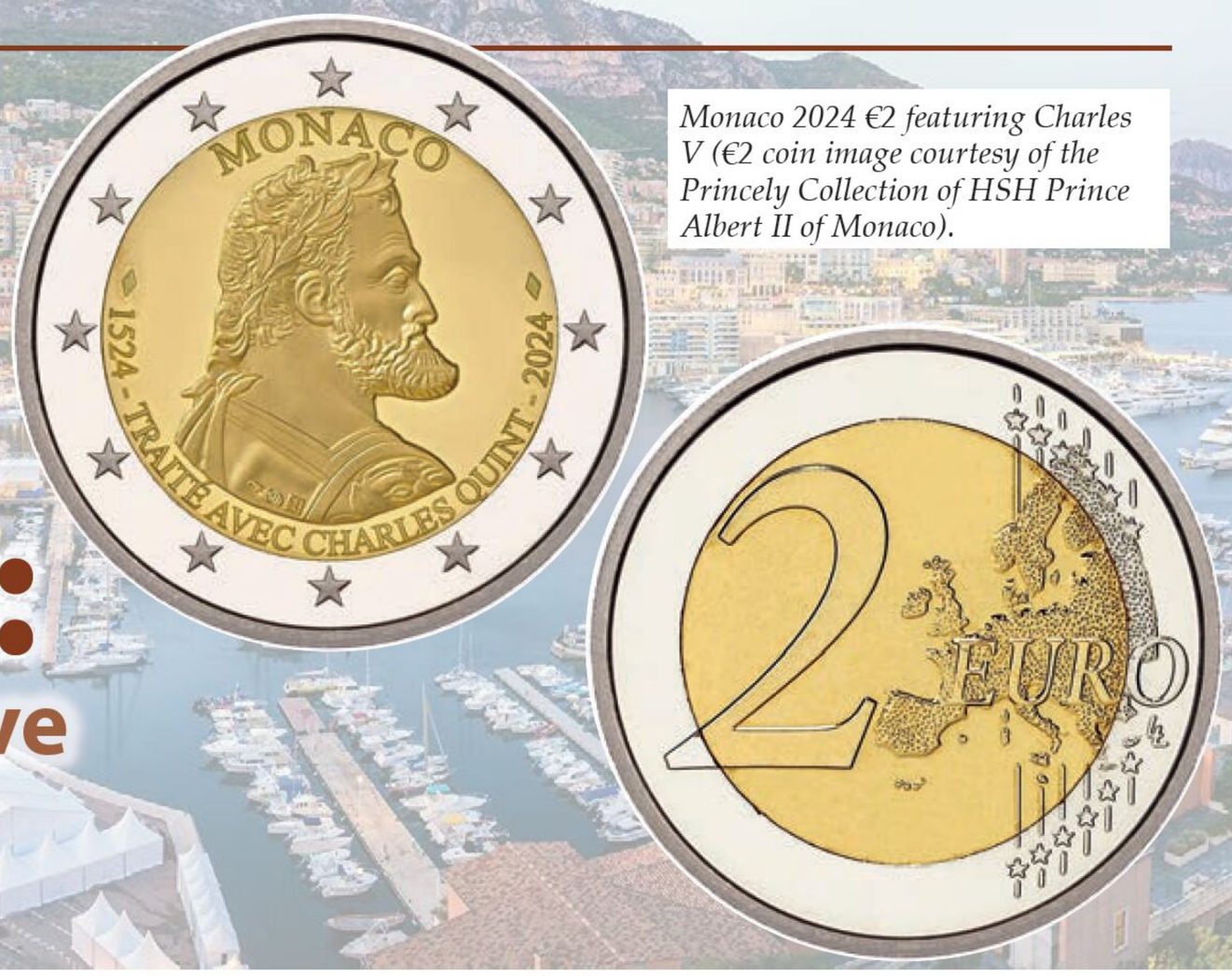


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Monaco 2024 €2 featuring Charles V (€2 coin image courtesy of the Princely Collection of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco).

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Monaco:
Latest Commemorative €2 Coins

THE Trésorerie Générale des Finances du Gouvernement Princier de Monaco have announced the release date for the 2024-dated commemorative €2 coins. This year marks the quincentenary anniversary of the Treaties of Burgos and Tordesillas which resulted in greater recognition and status of the Principality. For all intents and purposes, ratification of the Treaty of Burgos at Tordesillas is regarded as the declaration of full independence in terms of Monegasque history.

The path of what was to become an independent principality arose with the assassination of Lucien Grimaldi, Lord of Monaco on August 22, 1523. As a result, he was succeeded by his infant son, Honore, with Lucien's younger brother, Augustine, appointed Regent. He held this position for over eight years, until his death at the age of 50 in 1532. As a measure to more effectively avenge his brother's murderers, namely Bartholomew Doria (d. 1525) and Andrea Doria (1466–1560), Augustine abandoned both the agreement with and protection of Francis I, King of France, with whom the Dorias were allied to. Augustine, as head of Monaco's Government, swore allegiance to Francis' rival, Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, by the signing of the Treaty of Burgos.

On November 15, 1524, the Treaty of Burgos was ratified in Tordesillas, Spain, which included the protection of Augustine Grimaldi and explicitly mentioned that Monaco was absolutely independent from any superior powers, with any contrary disposition being void. Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, thereafter considered the Lord of Monaco and successive Lords as his close ally. On April 10, 1525, Augustine Grimaldi ratified the Treaty by way of sealed letters patent, an act which for the next 118 years would place Monaco in the orbit of Habsburg politics. This act brought Monaco under direct Spanish protection, an alliance which formally lasted until 1641.

Augustine, Regent of Monaco, did avenge the murder of his brother Lucien with the capture of Bartholomew Doria. Augustine had him tried and sentenced in Monaco to capital punishment. However, Pope Clement VII was opposed to this sentence and Bartholomew was released. However, Doria was found to have fallen off the face of a cliff when he attacked the castle of La Penna owned by Augustine Grimaldi. In time, this alliance of convenience weighed heavily on the Principality's finances and, shortly before his death, Augustine was said to have admitted his regret for his actions in this regard. During Augustine's Regency, Charles V paid a visit to Monaco in 1529 while on his way to Bologna to meet with the Pope who presented him with the Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire. The Regent Augustine escorted Charles V and the Spanish fleet as far as Genoa, along with seven-year-old Sovereign Prince Honore. Augustine died in 1532 and, after a succession of Regents, Honore finally came to power himself in 1561 at the age of 39 and ruled his country for another 20 years.

As part of the year-long anniversary observations in the Principality, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco was guest at the Monnaie de Paris' facilities in Pessac on November 10, 2023, where he was invited by Monnaie de Paris CEO, Marc Schwartz, to strike the first example of the coin which is to be available from June 17.

The new €2 commemorative coins are produced by the Monnaie de Paris at their facilities in Pessac and on behalf of the Trésorerie Générale des Finances. Designed by the Monnaie de Paris' Chief Engraver and artisan Joaquín Jimenez, the obverse includes a depiction in profile of Charles V and shown in the style of a traditional cameo portrait. Just under and along the inner border is the commemorative inscription "*1524 TRAITÉ AVES CHARLES QUINT 2024*" ("Treaty with Charles V") Above the profile is the text "*MONACO*" with the mintmark of the Monnaie de Paris and the insignia of the general engraver seen just at the bottom of the portrait. The overall design is surrounded by an outer ring with 12 stars representing the European Union. The reverse design is that of a standard €2 coin, found throughout all countries of the Euro Zone. The face value of €2 appears in front of a map of Europe.

Available from June 17, each Proof-quality coin is encapsulated and presented in a genuine red leather custom case with the Princely crest on the top applied in gold foil and includes a certificate of authenticity. Interested collectors are advised to visit the website of the Musee des Timbres et des Monnaies—the official distributors—at https://www.mtm-monaco.mc/



Monnaie de Paris CEO, Marc Schwartz (left) with HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (right).

Denomination	Metal	Weight	Diameter	Quality	Mintage limit
Two Euro	Bi-metallic	8.5g	25.7mm	Proof	15,000

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TED FLETCHER

Hard Cash … Interest Lives On

SEARCHES for lost loose change . . . headlines about rarities that sell for thousands . . . reports of metal detectorists digging up golden guineas . . . People do still enjoy COIN NEWS, even though the practice of exchanging metallic money, when we buy and sell, shrinks by the day.

I felt greatly heartened when, at their teacher's invitation, I showed a few pre-decimal denominations to a class of five and six-year-olds during their history lesson on Coins In Use During World War II. Although they seemed understandably puzzled by 12 pence making one shilling, their eyes lit-up with glee as I passed a few Victoria farthings, Edward VII silver sixpences, and dodecagonal George VI brass threepenny bits around the table. At that point, a chirpy, pigtailed girl piped up with, "My Mum poked down the back of our settee and found a 50p with a picture of a wrestling match on one side. She told me it's worth £20." Feeling the wind momentarily taken out of my sails, I managed to regain control of my audience as I hit back with, "Did you hear about the Oxfam charity shop volunteer who sorted through a bag of half-pence, one-pence, and some change leftovers from foreign holidays? He spotted an odd coin with the words NEW SOUTH WALES and the date 1813 marked on it. The man had collected coins as a schoolboy, and he recalled 1813 as the year in which New South Wales issued its first coins carrying the colony's name. That made him think the coin he had found in the bag probably had more worth than the charity shop's manager might imagine. The shop boss agreed, and made a phone call to Noonans, a well-known auction house that specialises in antique and ancient coins. One of their staff members visited the Oxfam premises and immediately identified the coin as a rare New South Wales 15 pence. A few weeks later Noonans offered it in one of their auctions. The selling price: an astonishing £7,500."

Another news item that culminated in a Noonans auction success would have attracted those young people's interest just as magnetically if I had mentioned the Battle of Hastings, a conflict with which this next high value coin is closely related. Two seasons of diligent and methodical detecting work on a site near Braintree, Essex, yielded more than 100 Anglo-Saxon pennies from a scattered hoard. The finders, a duo of experts who have enjoyed the hobby together for several years, had discovered a hoard issued by England's last two Anglo-Saxon Kings–Edward the Confessor and Harold II. Silver pennies issued by those Monarchs circulated throughout much of England during 1066. Warriors heeding King Harold's order to assemble near Hastings would most certainly have hidden much of their wealth in a hoard they could return to after gaining a victory. This unrecovered money suggests, however, that its owner probably died at Hastings. The total value of all the Braintree Hoard coins sold in the Noonans auction amounted to £325,560. A single Harold II penny among them had been minted at Hastings, probably just a few weeks before the famous battle. When auctioned, it sold for £24,000.



This 1813 15 pence piece—popularly known in the early 19th century as a "dump"—was spotted by Oxfam volunteer John Turner while looking through a bag of coins that had been donated to the Orpington charity shop. The coin had been created in New South Wales when the Governor of the colony ordered circular discs to be cut from the Spanish silver dollars which served as NSW 5s 0d pieces in those days. The hole deterred foreign merchants from carrying away the silver dollars. As a bonus, the colony could then use the small silver discs as 1s 3d pieces. This one sold in a recent Noonans auction for £7,500 (image courtesy of Noonans).



A silver penny of Harold II, struck at Hastings in 1066. Its owner probably buried it in a large hoard recently discovered near Braintree, Essex. In 2024, it sold in a Noonans auction for £24,000 (image courtesy of Noonans).



Carausius, ruler of a breakaway Empire that included the Roman province of Britannia, struck this eye-catching silver denarius as part of his propaganda programme. At auction, it sold for £17,360 (image courtesy of TimeLine Auctions).



This Hadrian aureus with Africa reclining on its reverse recently sold for £7,250.



Despite the ravages of long burial in the ground, this Britannicus sestertius recently sold for £4,400.



This Charles I—Bristol Declaration shilling was estimated to reach £4,000–6,000 in bidding. In fact, it sold for £13,750.



Commonwealth (1649–60) double crown or half gold unite, dated 1651. In a TimeLine Auctions 2023 sale, the estimated price was £12,000; the hammer price reached £17,000.



Scarborough siege piece; recently sold at auction for £7,590.

People who don't collect coins usually put far too high a value on any Roman specimen they happen to encounter. Regardless of its metal, age or condition, they estimate its worth in hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds. When I show them late 4th century Roman bronze coins displaying only moderate wear, then mention that they can be purchased on UK internet sites for less than the cost of a takeaway coffee and sandwich, they simply do not believe that an ancient coin made more than 17 centuries ago can be bought for so little. On the other hand, I am occasionally just as surprised to learn of Roman coins that sell for the same price as a new small car.

Born in a region of the Roman Empire we know today as Belgium, Marcus Aurelius Carausius went to sea as a youngster and made progress though several promotions to become a qualified naval pilot. He helped Roman cargo vessels to navigate the tricky waters we call the North Sea and the English Channel. In AD 284, Diocletian and Maximian came to power as joint Roman Emperors, with Maximian ruling in the West. When pirate raids disrupted shipping in the Channel, Carausius found himself appointed commander of a Roman fleet sent to engage and destroy them. His successes at recovering stolen booty fuelled a desire for further riches. Instead of handing over the recovered goods to Maximian, Carausius sold them and used the money to increase his own fighting fleet. Within a year or two, he had complete control of the coasts of Britain and northern Gaul. Further temerity spurred him to form the breakaway Empire of Britannia and Northern Gaul.

He held those territories for seven years, gaining the loyalty of several Roman legions with coin issues carrying

"When coins struck by Charles ran out, castle commanders asked loyal families to contribute family silver to the King's cause"

propaganda that aimed to legitimise his Imperial claims. One of his silver denarii depicted on its reverse a radiate lion with a thunderbolt in its jaws. An example came to light as a Hampshire detectorist's find in 2015. Expected to sell for £5,000 at auction, its hammer price reached £17,300. Ironically perhaps, Carausius died in 293, a victim of assassination by his Imperial treasurer who also usurped his Empire.

Renowned for his incessant travels around the Empire, he ruled from AD 117–38, Emperor Hadrian issued a number of coins with reverses depicting emblems of many of the provinces through which he journeyed. A striking aureus example commemorating a prolonged visit to Egypt carried an image of Africa personified as a woman reclining on a couch. She wears an elephant hide head-dress as she strokes an attendant male lion; while her other hand arranges a display of corn ears. The coin recently sold at auction for £7,250.

Some ancient coins do indeed fetch high selling prices despite wear or unattractive appearance, simply because rarity and historical interest also tempt collectors to bid. Such was the case with a worn bronze sestertius of Britannicus, son of Claudius and Messalina. The child was originally named Germanicus after the brother of Claudius. His name was altered to celebrate his father's invasion of Britain in AD 44. His short life ended by poisoning in AD 55, a fate almost certainly ordered by Agrippina II, the ruthless wife, and also probable murderess, of Claudius. She was determined that her son, Nero, would succeed as Emperor. The coin sold at a recent auction for £4,400.

The English Civil War (1642–51) produced some unusual coins following the flight of King Charles and his court from the Capital to Oxford. They left behind most of the Tower Mint's dies and tools. Relatively few of the coins struck at temporary

Royal mints across the country sell for unexpectedly high price—with notable exceptions.

A Charles I shilling struck at the Bristol Mint in 1644, if in F-VF condition, would usually rate a selling price in hundreds of pounds; but the detector-found example illustrated here was described in the sales catalogue as: "*Superb extremely fine; almost as struck on a full flan with just a touch of double strike, fields almost lustrous. A magnificent coin; at least one of the best in existence. Found near Coleford, Gloucestershire, UK, May 2019. A much finer example than any of the Bristol shillings [..] coming to the market for many years.*" It sold at auction for £13,750.

On the Commonwealth side, the Roundheads made-do with the King's money until they had executed the Monarch in January 1649. Then they issued their sparse "GOD WITH VS" designs. I spotted a double crown, or half unite, example, dated 1651, with a sun mintmark. It started in a 2023 auction at £12,000 and the hammer price reached £17,000.

In almost all wars, diehards often refuse to surrender, even in the face of impossible odds. On the Royalist side, a number of castles were garrisoned by such fanatics. When coins struck by Charles ran out, castle commanders asked loyal families to contribute family silver to the King's cause. The platters, jugs, spoons, and other wares were then hammered flat, cut to convenient size, and countermarked with a value equivalent to the weight of each cut piece. When the stronghold eventually fell to enemy fire, many pieces discovered by victors probably went into melting pots. A few were carried away as souvenirs, which may have become the fate of the lot I have shown here—a 5*s* 0*d* piece bearing signs of pocket wear. It began its adventure as a substitute coin at Scarborough Castle, where the garrison held out until July 1645. We next hear of its discovery by a detectorist in the mid-1990s on a Lincolnshire farm more than 50 miles to the south of Scarborough. At a recent TimeLine Auction, it sold for £7,590.

The few coins bearing Oliver Cromwell's bust (Arms of the Protectorate on the reverse) circulated in limited numbers in the years 1657 and 1658. All were machine made and include gold 50 and 20 shillings, silver crowns, halfcrowns, shillings and sixpences, as well as a copper farthing. In a recent TimeLine Auction, an example of a 1658 halfcrown estimated at £2,000–3,000 sold for £5,800.

Page space limits me to the briefest of comments on the last three on my recent high selling price list:

An Anglo-Saxon Kings of Kent three-line penny, struck at Canterbury, was estimated at £4,000–6,000 in a 2022 auction. It sold for £9,750.

An Anglo-Saxon Offa portrait penny, struck at London, was estimated at £3,000–£4,000 in a 2022 auction. It sold for £5,700.

An Edward III Second Period gold half noble, estimated at £5,000–7,000 in a 2022 auction, sold for £15,600.



Oliver Cromwell 1658 halfcrown recently sold at auction for £5,800.



Three-Line Anglo-Saxon penny sold for £9,750.

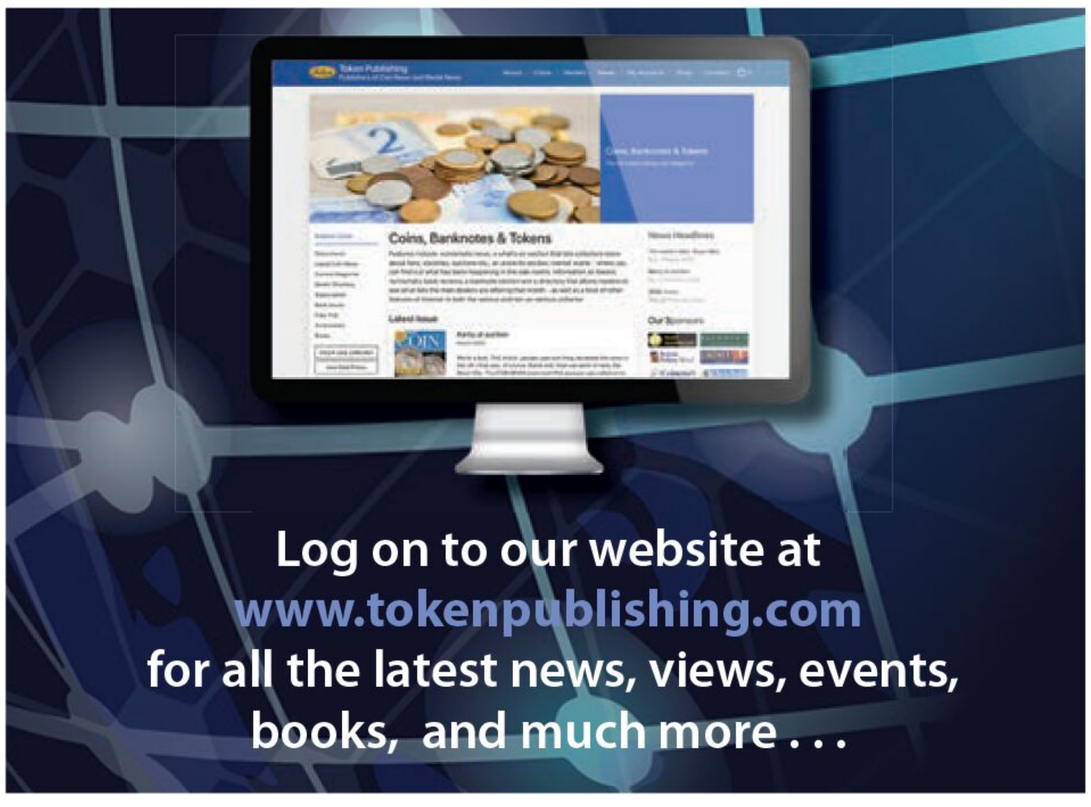


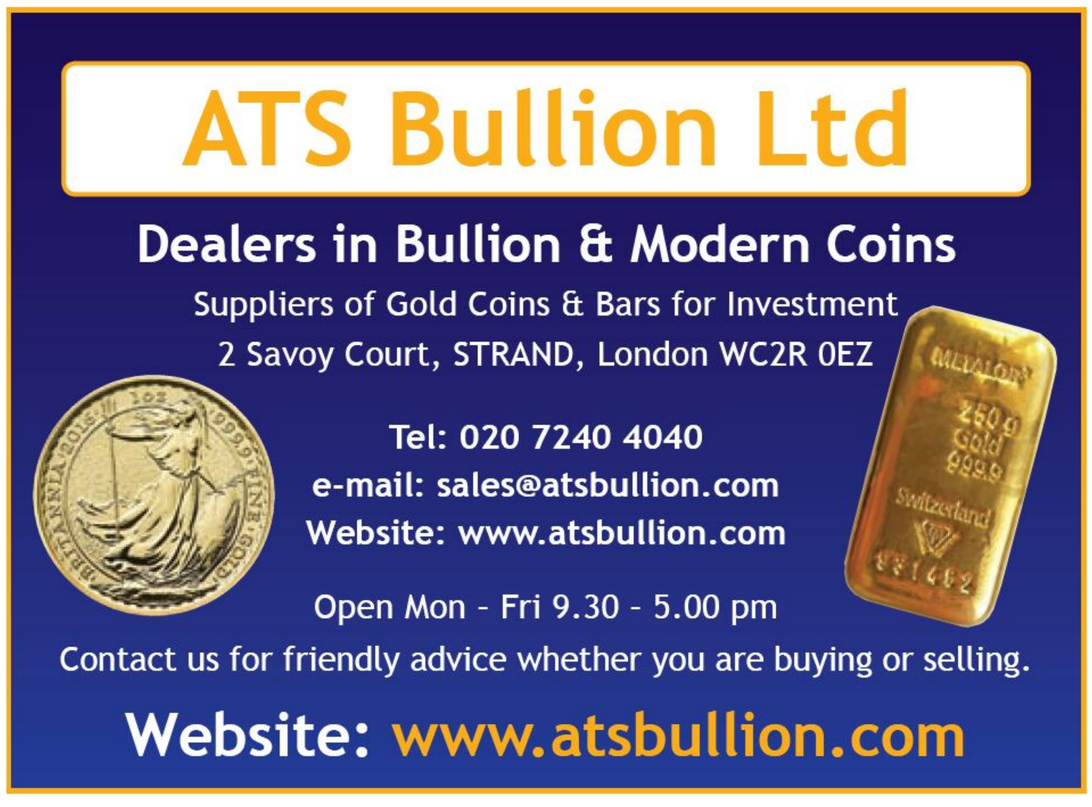
Offa portrait penny struck at London sold for £5,700.



Edward III gold half noble sold for £15,600.

Images are not to scale.





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DAVID ROWE

TIPS FOR THE COLLECTOR

FLORINS

Florins of George V

AFTER a refreshing break from the heraldic tradition, in the form of the standing Britannia on the Edward VII florin, the accession of his son George V saw it return with a vengeance. The reverse of the florin reverted to the rather unpopular design used in 1887 for the Jubilee florin (and double florin), itself based on the design of coins that circulated in the reign of Charles II.

For the effigy of the new king on the obverse of all the coins, the work was entrusted to the Australian sculptor and medallist Bertram Mackennal. George V despised modern art in general and Mackennal was one of the few contemporary artists whose work he admired. The resulting portrait followed the fine example set by George de Saulles with Edward VII, showing the king without a crown. Following long-established tradition, George faces left while his predecessor had faced right. This portrait was used throughout the reign of George V, largely unaltered except for a lower relief version introduced in 1920 and a change in the artist's initials, "B.M." until 1926 and "BM" (with no stops) for the new coinage from 1927.

The high relief of the original portrait caused problems at the Mint, particularly for the florin. The coins were struck *en medaille* (i.e. with the obverse and reverse the same way up) and so the area of the obverse with the highest relief, the dome of the King's head, backs onto the top shield on the reverse. This reduced the pressure exerted by the reverse die at that point, and so the lions in the top shield are almost always weakly struck on florins of 1911–19, especially when compared with the same lions in the bottom shield. Ghosting was also a problem, with the outline of the bust sometimes appearing on the reverse in mirror image.

The problem was partially resolved in 1920 by recutting the portrait in slightly lower relief. A much more significant change occurred the same year, with the debasement of the silver currency from .925 fineness to .500 (see box overleaf).

Otherwise, the reverse design remained unaltered until the Mint's Standing Committee on Designs observed that, "*The designs at present in use […] have failed to secure the suffrages of judges of Artistic Design, and, moreover, have presented difficulties in manufacture which have frustrated the production of really presentable coins*", (Royal Mint Annual Report 1926). The Advisory Committee concluded that the existing designs were, "*quite unworthy*" and "*unsuited to give good impressions from the dies*".

After inviting several artists to submit new designs, the Committee settled on those of George Kruger Gray (who had already produced the designs for the coinage of South Africa). Born plain George Kruger, he was educated at Bath School of Art and the Royal College of Art. He added his wife's surname on marriage and started his artistic career as George Kruger Gray, watercolourist. He soon turned his hand to numismatics, however, and his output in that field was prolific. He produced designs for the coins of Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Mauritius, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Southern Rhodesia, and even Greece. At least one of his designs, the iconic beaver on the Canadian 5 cents, is still in use today.

His design for the florin was still firmly in the heraldic tradition, again featuring four shields, sceptres and crowns, but rotated through 45 degrees so that the sceptres are upright and the shields at an angle, and with the addition of a "G" for George at the centre. This design seems to be a source of confusion for photographers and publishers, who often portray it with the wrong orientation: the "G" at the centre should, of course, be horizontal, with the engraver's initials "KG" at the bottom.

The obverse was largely unaltered apart from part of the legend being transferred to the reverse and the omission of stops in the designer's initials as mentioned above.

This design was used until the death of George V in January 1936.

First design 1911–26

There are three varieties for the obverse used from 1911 to 1926.

Obverse 1 is found only in 1911 (including the proof) and is much rarer (especially the proof) than the same year with Obverse 2.

Obverse 2 was used for all years up to 1920 when the lower relief portrait in Obverse 3 was introduced and used for all years up to 1926 (though with a surprise re-appearance of Obverse 2 on some coins of 1923).

The difference between the three is quite difficult to spot with the naked eye. A good indicator is the left leg of "N" in "OMN", which points to either a bead or a space. Otherwise, there is the more laborious technique of counting the beads (see Figure 1).



Obverse 1 (1911 only): N points to space, 172 beads.



Obverse 2 (1911–20, 1923): N points to bead, 169 beads.



Obverse 3 (1920–26): N points to space, 175 beads.

Fig. 1: the three obverse types found on florins of 1911 to 1926.

The 1911, as usual for the first year in a new series, is quite easy to find in good condition. The rarer Obverse 1 is more tricky, but often goes unnoticed by dealers and auction houses and does not usually command a premium. As usual, specimen sets were issued, this time using highly polished dies (unlike the matte proofs that had disappointed some collectors in 1902). The proofs were produced to a high standard, without the weak strike on the top shield that mars the other early years in the series. For the proof, Obverse 1 is extremely rare (the only one seen in the salerooms recently was sold by Noonans in February 2020). The more common Obverse 2 proof is relatively easy to find, and at a modest price given its low mintage.

From 1912, only Obverse 2 appears. The 1913 commands a higher price by virtue of its comparatively low mintage, and there are two minor reverse varieties identifiable by the spacing of the 1 and 3 in 1913 (Figure 2).



Fig. 2a: 13 spans six whole beads.



Fig. 2b: 13 spans seven whole beads.

Fig. 2: 1913 reverse varieties.

The outbreak of war in 1914 resulted in huge demand for silver coins, reflected in very high mintage figures in the war years, especially when measures were taken to remove gold coins from circulation in August 1915. There are three minor varieties for the reverse of the 1914 florin (see Figure 3) and two for the 1918 (see table below).

Summary of main varieties 1911–26. "Davies" refers to the numbering in *British Silver Coins Since 1816*, "Bull" to the numbering in *English Silver Coinage Since 1649* (7th edition).

Year	Mintage	Obverse (see Fig. 1)	Reverse varieties	Davies	Bull	Comments
1911	5,951,284	1		1730	3755	Scarcer of the two
		2		1731		
1911 proof	6,007	1		1730P	3756	Very rare
		2		1731P		
1912	8,571,731	2		1732	3757	
1913	4,545,278	2	see Fig. 2a	1733	3758	
		2	see Fig. 2b	1734		Scarcer of the two
1914	21,252,701	2	see Fig. 3a	1735	3759	
		2	see Fig. 3b	1736		
		2	see Fig. 3c	1737		
1915	12,367,939	2		1738	3760	
1916	21,064,337	2		1739	3761	
1917	11,181,617	2		1740	3762	
1918	29,211,792	2	Thin rim	1741	3763	
		2	Smaller design with thick rim	1742		Scarcer of the two
1919	9,469,292	2		1743	3764	
1920	15,387,833	2	see Fig. 4a	1744	3765	More common than Obv. 3
		2	see Fig. 4b	1745		
		3		1746	3766	
1921	34,863,895	3		1747	3768	
1922	23,861,044	3			3769	
1923	21,546,533	3		1751	3774	
		2		1752		Scarcer of the two
1924	4,582,372	3		1753	3775	
1925	1,404,136	3		1754	3777	
1926	5,125,410	3		1755	3778	

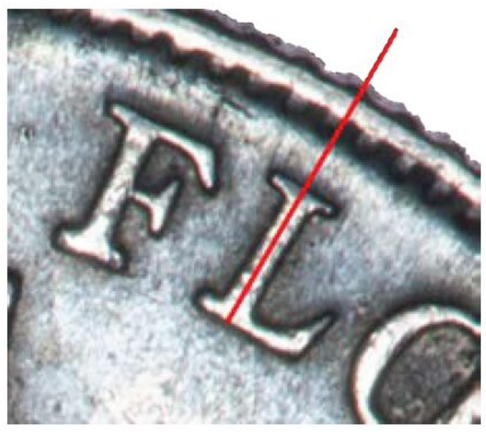


Fig. 3a: F misaligned, L to right of bead, thin rim.

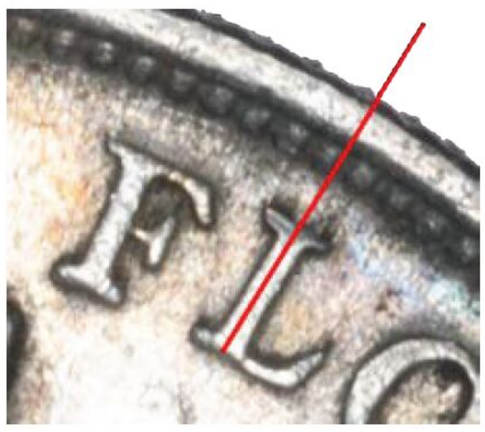


Fig. 3b: F misaligned, L to right of bead, thick rim.

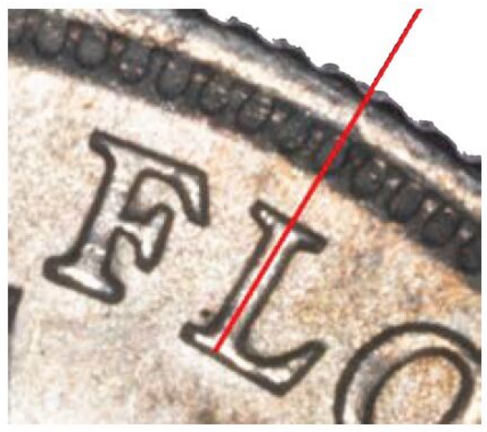


Fig. 3c: F correctly aligned, L to centre of bead.

Fig. 3: 1914 reverse varieties.

The 1915 is ascribed a rarity of R2 ("very rare") in *English Silver Coinage* (Maurice Bull, Spink, 7th edition) which must surely be a misprint, as it had a large mintage and is quite easy to find today in good condition.

1920 was the year of debasement. Unlike some other denominations (sixpence and threepence), where 1920s can be found in both alloys, all 1920 florins are in .500 silver. Both Obverse 2 and the new Obverse 3 are found in 1920 and there are two reverse varieties paired with Obverse 2 (see Figure 4).



Fig. 4a: small rounded beads.



Fig. 4b: larger elongated beads.

Fig. 4: 1920 reverse varieties paired with Obverse 2.

Obverse 3 is then used for the rest of the series, apart from some quite rare examples of 1923 that feature Obverse 2.

Mintage figures remain high in 1921–23 and drop off sharply in 1924–26, especially the key date in the series, 1925, which is quite difficult to find in top condition and thus commands a high price.

Five trial florins were struck in gold of varying fineness in 1922 as part of an experiment to determine the ideal gold content for Egyptian coins to be produced by the Mint. They have made rare appearances in the salerooms (e.g. London Coin Auctions, February 29, 2004, Lot 577, £8,054 hammer price).

Second design 1927–36

The new design with a reverse by George Kruger Gray was introduced in 1927 with an issue of specimen coins only. While the Mint said that they were produced from selected blanks and carefully examined for blemishes before issue, these proofs are not up to the standard achieved in 1911 (or that achieved subsequently in 1937). Presumably the dies were not polished to the same standard, as the coins lack the mirror-like fields normally associated with proofs and are barely distinguishable from uncirculated specimens of the regular strikes from 1928 to 1936.

For the rest of the series from 1928 to 1936 (no florin was struck in 1934) the coins can be found in top condition at a modest price, with the notable exception of 1932. This has the lowest mintage of any George V florin and, while fairly common in lower grades, commands a high price in EF and above. There are no major varieties in this series, except that extremely rare proofs exist for most if not all years.

Great debasement of 1920

When George V was crowned in 1911, the Royal Mint was buying silver at just under 25*d* (old pence) per troy ounce. Since the Coinage Act 1816, the standard weight for silver coins had been based on 66 shillings per troy pound of sterling silver (.925 fineness), which equates to 66*d* per troy ounce. The silver coinage in the UK had long been a fiat currency (i.e. its face value was not dependent on the intrinsic value of the metal). In 1911, for example, the value of the silver in a florin was about 10d compared with its face value of 2 shillings.

So long as the silver price fluctuated within a fairly narrow range, it simply made it more or less expensive for the Mint to produce coins. The system breaks down, however, when the intrinsic value of the silver equals or exceeds the face value of the coin.

The silver price increased steadily over the course of the 1914–18 war and then rose sharply towards the end of 1919, breaking through the face value of 66*d* and peaking at 89½*d* on February 11, 2020 (see graph). This meant that circulating silver coins had an intrinsic value nearly 36 per cent above their face value. At this level it became profitable (though illegal) for the unscrupulous to melt them down for their silver content.



The Treasury considered this situation untenable and set up a sub-committee to come up with a solution. Various recommendations were made, including the issue of nickel threepences and sixpences while keeping fine silver for the higher denominations, though possibly with a reduction in size. In the end, however, it was decided to reduce the silver content of all denominations from .925 to .500 while keeping the same sizes and weights.

To this end, legislation was rushed through Parliament in February 1920 and passed into law as the Coinage Act 1920 on

Great debasement of 1920: *continued*

March 31. While this specified that the coins should contain only 50 per cent silver, it made no mention of what metal or metals should be used to make up the rest of the alloy.

In addition, the Government decided to take immediate steps to withdraw the fine silver coin in circulation for melting down and recoining at .500, asking the Mint to produce new coins to the value of £4 million to be issued by October the same year.

This represented a huge challenge for the Mint. They had to begin immediate production of coins in an alloy of which they had no previous experience, and at the same time melt down vast quantities of old coins. As the Deputy Master observes in his 1920–21 report, it was "*an operation of a magnitude unparalleled in the history of the Mint*."

There was no time for the careful experiments that would usually precede the introduction of coins in a new alloy: the Mint had to press ahead with all speed. Emergency measures were taken, including more than doubling the number of coin presses from 19 to 45, and calling on the services of the Woolwich Arsenal to produce blanks.

The Mint succeeded in meeting the Government target, striking £5.5 million in new silver coin in 1920 and £8.5 million in 1921, and melting approximately £7.5 million in withdrawn coins at .925.

Issue of the new silver coins started on December 13, 2020—by which time the price of silver had fallen to 41*d*, well below the 66*d* threshold.

The first coins struck in .500 silver were far from satisfactory, however, and were prone to rapid discolouration. The Mint started by using an alloy of 50 per cent silver and 50 per cent copper (alloy A), but this was quickly abandoned. Secondly, they tried alloy B, 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper and ten per cent nickel. The 80–20 cupronickel required for this alloy was identical to that used for bullet envelopes, and the Ministry of Munitions Disposal Board had large quantities available in the form of ingots (the source of the myth that actual shell cases were melted down to make coins). The nickel in alloy B made it whiter, but more difficult to melt and coin. Almost all the coins struck in 1920 and 1921 are in alloy B.

Towards the end of 1921, experiments took place with a third alloy, 50 per cent silver, 45 per cent copper and five per cent manganese (alloy C), but it proved difficult to roll, hardened very rapidly on working, and was quickly rejected.

By 1922, the Mint was having doubts about alloy B, as these coins too were showing signs of discolouration. It was decided to return to alloy A, 50–50 copper and silver, but after intensive pickling of the blanks. Pickling is a chemical treatment which, in simple terms, creates a layer of fine silver on the surface of the coin and thus makes it less prone to discolouration on circulation.

As a result, alloy B was definitively abandoned in June 1922 in favour of alloy A + pickling. Experimentation continued, however, with various alloys containing a proportion of aluminium (too light and prone to dull on oxidation) and "stainless silver" (a proprietary alloy of 50 per cent silver and four other metals) but none was found suitable for coinage.

Use of alloy A combined with deep pickling continued until the introduction of the new designs in 1927. Over time, it had been found that the surface layer of fine silver wore off, showing traces of the underlying copper-coloured metal. After three years of experimentation, alloy Z was found to give much better results and was used from 1927 onwards. The Mint was initially reluctant to reveal the composition of alloy Z, but later announced that it was 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper, five per cent nickel and five per cent zinc. This alloy was used with success on all the silver coins from 1927 to 1936.



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ANTOINE SCRIVENER

Numismatic Myths & THE SOHO MINT

MOST British collectors are aware that the beloved cartwheel pennies were struck in the Soho Mint. Unfortunately, all too often the ownership and location of that Mint gets confused by entrenched numismatic myths. These myths abound in printed books and throughout web land. They flourish most strongly in auction catalogues.

And they prove particularly hard to kill. Indeed, in some quarters they are so deeply entrenched in literature and numismatic thinking that they have achieved a mantra-like status of "everybody knows". This, however, is no reason for not highlighting them and hoping for their eventual demise.

The Soho Mint was the world's first steam-powered mint. Confusion over its ownership and location are the results of misunderstandings. These abound in many highly respectable quarters.

For example, the Mint gets brief mention in *A Guide Book to United States Coins*. In a short paragraph on the Myddelton tokens, these are described as being: "*struck at the Soho Mint of Boulton and Watt near Birmingham, England.*" Implicit in this statement is that these two industrialists were joint owners in the Soho Mint. They were not.

Wikipedia states: "*Soho Mint was created by Matthew Boulton in 1788[1] in his Soho Manufactory*". It was not. Indeed, a picture of the Manufactory occurs at the top of the article labelled "*Soho Mint in 1773*"—although the opening sentence ascribes the creation of the Mint to 1788.

Sometimes we get both myths for the price of one. In an August 2019 COIN NEWS article on the great re-coinage of 1816, the author states: "*Starting in 1804 the Bank contracted Matthew Boulton and James Watt's Soho Manufactory in Birmingham to completely overstrike the Spanish dollars with a new design.*" The Soho Manufactory did not "*overstrike the Spanish dollars*". In fact, it never struck any coins—or tokens. These were produced by an entirely separate company, the Soho Mint that was the exclusive preserve of Boulton. Nor was James Watt nor any other business partners involved with the Mint. Nor was the Mint housed in the Manufactory.

And, by the way, I don't recall Watt ever being a partner in the Manufactory although I stand to be corrected on this.

Richard Margolis highlights the ownership error in endnote no. 8 of his 1999 paper on the Soho Mint's striking of the Myddelton token: "*It should be noted that Matthew Boulton was the sole owner of the Soho Mint, and on a number of occasions specified that he had no partner in the coinage business. Because of the justly famous Boulton and Watt partnership in the steam engine business, innumerable writers have referred incorrectly to the early Soho Mint as 'Boulton and Watt's Soho Mint'*".

In this statement, Margolis neatly encapsulates how the error likely came about. Writers have conflated Boulton's and Watt's business partnership in the manufacture of steam engines with ownership of the Mint in which Boulton happened to use these engines.

That conflation is perhaps understandable. Boulton's business empire was complicated at best. Partnerships came and partnerships went. It is necessary to digest H. W. Dickinson's book *Matthew Boulton* published in 1937 and reprinted in 1999 to get a firm handle on them all. A brief summary is given here. Both chronology and background are important.



Bust of Matthew Boulton as it appears on an 1819 medal by G.F. Pidgeon and struck by Matthew Robinson Boulton to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his father's death.

Soho Manufactory

Boulton left school in 1745 and joined his father's manufacturing business, aged 17. He became a partner and general manager in 1749. This same year he had the good sense to marry a distant cousin who happened to be an extremely wealthy heiress.

In 1766, he founded what would be his core business, The Soho Manufactory, in conjunction with business partner John Fothergill. It occupied a site in Soho, West Midlands, then outside Birmingham.

These were the early days of the Industrial Revolution. The new factory was one of the pioneers of assembly line mass production. It produced buttons, buckles, sword hilts, boxes, japanned-ware and, later, silverware, ormolu and clocks.

The products were recognised as of high quality and artistic workmanship. They were patronised by King George III. However, come 1774, Fothergill believed the business was living on the edge of bankruptcy. It had sustained losses for many years.

This was not an unusual circumstance for a Boulton business. Many teetered on the edge of a financial catastrophe curve at some time during their history before Boulton turned them around to reap a handsome return.

Certainly, the Manufactory was still going strong in 1781 when Boulton dissolved the partnership effective December 31 and split this business into two new firms in the New Year.

James Watt

In 1767, Boulton had recognised the Manufactory needed a better power supply than the water-driven metal-rolling mill he employed. About this time, he built and installed a primitive steam engine based on the designs of Thomas Savery.



Copper token by Peter Kempson, 1797, depicting Matthew Boulton's Soho Manufactory.



Conjoined busts of Boulton and Watt figure on a 37mm bronze medal by Joseph Moore and struck for James Watt & Co.



*Engraving of The Soho Manufactory from Stebbing Shaw's "*History and Antiquities of Staffordshire*" published in 1801. The caption details the "Annex'd Firms" stating their owners and products: "M Boulton & Buttn. Co.—Buttons in General. M. Boulton.—Medals, Roll'd Metals &c. Boulton & Smith.—Buckles, latchets &c. Do. Mercantile Trade in Birmingham..—M. Boulton & Plate Co..—Silver & Plated Goods. Boulton Watt & Sons - Iron Foundy. & Steam Engines. M. Boulton.—Mint for Govermt. Coin. J Watt & Co..—Letter Copying Machines." Note: Boulton is given as the sole owner of the Mint.*

He also approached James Watt with a view to employing one of his new improved engines. Watt saw the advantages of being associated with a well-known firm such as Boulton's, but it would be some years before the two entrepreneurs would join forces.

Watt was already in partnership with Dr John Roebuck. While Watt was an undoubted genius when it came to steam, he was financially inept—as was Roebuck. In 1772, Roebuck was in serious financial difficulties. Among others, he owed Boulton £1,200. Boulton took over Roebuck's two-thirds share in Watt's steam engine patent in satisfaction of that debt.

Three years later, in 1775, Boulton and Watt formally entered into partnership as Boulton & Watt. The business of the new firm was to assemble steam engines at the Soho Manufactory. Boulton owned two-thirds of the business and agreed to pay any and all costs of development. Watt had a one third stake and provided designs for steam engines while taking a £300 salary.

The eventual success of the steam engine business is commonly credited to Boulton's business acumen, application and generosity. He certainly devoted all the capital he had to this particular project—plus all he could borrow. But Boulton also possessed extensive technical knowledge and skills. He used these both to support Watt as well as grow the business.

Within 15 years, over 500 Boulton & Watt rotative steam engines were powering British factories.

Up to this point, many of the main components for Boulton and Watt engines were produced by external suppliers. These included cylinders, piston rods, flywheels and boilers.

In 1795, Boulton commenced work on a purpose-built steam engine factory, the Soho Foundry. It was sited about a mile from the Soho Manufactory at Smethwick. Here, the two partners and their three sons would make and sell complete engines. It opened in 1796 as Boulton, Watt & Sons.

Steam-powered coining

Back in 1788, Boulton had conceived the notion of using one of the new-fangled rotative steam engines to drive a coining press.

He had many reasons to do so. By no means the least was that as a considerate employer he valued his workers. He had a large workforce and such was the state of the nation's coinage that, over the years, he had often struggled to find sufficient genuine coins to meet his wage bill.

Counterfeit coins were commonplace. There was no way Boulton would allow any of his workers be paid in bad coin; these would either be refused at local shops or accepted only at discount.

For a number of years, Boulton had studied all aspects of coining. He presented evidence on the state of the national coinage to a Privy Council Committee.

Using the power of steam, he saw the opportunity to mass produce a high-quality uniform coinage that would be difficult to counterfeit. Steam would be used not just to drive the coin press but in all aspects of coin production including metal rolling and blank-cutting.

In typical Boulton fashion, once he had thought through the project and decided it was feasible, he promptly set about bringing it to fruition. He started building his new mint in 1788. It was a separate single story building some 120 yards from



Back of Bank of England £50 showing Boulton and Watt along with the oldest surviving of their rotative steam engines, the Whitbread Engine, built in 1785, and, in the background, The Soho Manufactory. Watt was not involved in the Manufactory but designed the Whitbread Engine (image courtesy & © Bank of England).

the Soho Manufactory in Boulton's garden, tucked in behind a menagerie, tea house, fossil room and laboratory.

Its location was chosen for security—not only of the raw materials and coins but also to frustrate industrial espionage that was rife in the late 18th century. Initially, the engine house contained a single 8hp Boulton & Watt double acting sun and planet engine.

All coining operations were concentrated on one site. This enabled Boulton to control all aspects of the coining operation. The Mint was his baby from go to woe. There was never any partner, nor was it ever part of the Soho Manufactory or Soho Foundry.

The history of the Soho Mint and its coins has been detailed in a number of publications. Sufficient to comment here that like many of Boulton's businesses, the Mint was not an initial financial success. It lost money for some years but subsequently it became one of his more profitable enterprises.

By 1809, it had struck over 600,000,000 coins—demonstrating the effectiveness of Boulton's technology, much of which was his own design. Understandably, it was one of Boulton's proudest achievements. It was responsible for changing the way coins were manufactured throughout the world. From being a simple coin and token factory, the Mint eventually became a supplier of steam-driven presses and other coining equipment worldwide.



Spectacular example of one of Boulton's best known coins: George III twopence of 1797 [S-3776; KM-619] struck in 2oz of copper. Note the 2mm-long depression to the right of the King's nose. It indicates an early striking prior to all the kinks being ironed-out of the new methodology (images courtesy www.ha.com).

Unless stated otherwise, images courtesy and © Chris Leather www.sohomint.info. (Images not shown to size or scale.)

The Next Generation

In 1800, both Boulton and Watt retired from their steam engine business. It was handed over to their sons: Matthew Robinson Boulton and James Watt Junior. The new company was known as Boulton, Watt & Co.

Boulton lived only nine more years. He died on August 18, 1809. His Mint was taken over by his son, Matthew Robinson Boulton. His home, Soho House, has become a museum.

The successful development of the Soho Mint was the subject of a 2010 PhD thesis by Sue Tungate. Importantly, she had full access to the Soho Archives. She is very clear about the Mint's ownership.

In an assessment of Richard Doty's *British Numismatic Society Special Publication No 2*, 1998: "*The Soho Mint and the Industrialisation of Money*" she observes, "*He credits the Soho Mint to Boulton and James Watt, but in fact, it was solely Boulton's enterprise*" (p.5).

And, on p.38: "*The Soho Mint, which contained the first steam-powered press was run successively by Matthew Boulton from 1788–1809, Matthew Robinson Boulton between 1809–41, and Matthew Piers Watt Boulton from 1841–50.*"

Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to Chris Leather for information and images. His website: www.sohomint.info is a mine of information on the life and times of Matthew Boulton—and his Soho Mint.

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DR K. A. RODGERS

PISTRUCCI'S Waterloo Masterwork





Portrait of a genius: Benedetto Pistrucci *by Raphael Maklouf on a silver medallion produced by the Royal Mint in 1993 to mark the centenary of the adoption of Pistrucci's St George and the dragon on the half-sovereign. Maklouf's design is based on a cameo engraving by Pistrucci's daughter Elisa (image courtesy and © www.ha.com).*

ON March 6, Noonans conducted their sale of Part I of The Silich Collection of Historical and Art Medals. Lot 316 consisted of a massive 133mm, 680.40g original, filled copper electrotype copy of the proposed Waterloo Medal by Benedetto Pistrucci, Chief Medallist to the Royal Mint from 1828 to 1848. [Eimer-57; BHM-870].

The history of this extraordinarily fine example of European medallic art is a most convoluted tale. Not the least is the explanation as to why would-be collectors today must resort to seeking-out the rare complete filled copper electrotypes that occasionally come on the market—as in Noonans, sale.

It all started in 1815 shortly after Napoleon had met this Waterloo at the hands of the Duke of Wellington, the Prince of Orange, the Duke of Brunswick and Field Marshal Blucher. At the time, The Master of the Royal Mint was William Wellesley-Pole, elder brother of the Duke of Wellington. He received instructions to produce a Waterloo campaign medal to be awarded to all the Duke of Wellington's officers and troops. He was also directed to strike a second …

> *". . . in gold, of the largest size, to embrace the exploits of the allied army under the Duke of Wellington, the Prince of Orange and the Duke of Brunswick, and of the Prussian Army under Field Marshal Blucher. This Medal will probably be given to each of the sovereigns in alliance with the Prince Regent, to their ministers and generals."*

As he did with the Silver campaign medal, Pole first commissioned possible designs for this second medal from the President of the Royal Academy who recommended the work of respected sculptor John Flaxman. However, Pole also chose to go in-house. He opted to commission a design from that temperamental genius, Benedetto Pistrucci, who had arrived in London shortly after Waterloo.

In the event, the Prince Regent approved the design submitted by Pistrucci.

1819

It took Pole some time to reach this point and Pistrucci did not receive his commission to produce the Medal until 1819. He had originally been asked to develop the models produced by Flaxman, but refused to do so. Instead, he insisted on making new models, promising to deliver the required dies for the astonishing fee of £3,500.



Electrotype (copper shell, base metal interior) of Pistrucci's Waterloo Medal (1815), 133mm, 680.40g [BHM-870], sold by Noonans in March this year for £620 (image courtesy Noonans).

London art consultant Carlo Milano stresses Pistrucci's proposed Waterloo Medal cannot be compared to any previous medal: it was to be much bigger and, in its iconography, more complicated than had ever been attempted before in medallic art. Pistrucci believed that it could be done and began work.

Pistrucci, however, had a slight flaw in his character. Milano sums it up elegantly, *"[he] suffered from a persecution complex and could be moody, unpredictable, immodest and intolerant."* He yearned to be named Chief Engraver of the Royal Mint. He long claimed Pole had promised him this role shortly after his arrival. Pole denied doing so and, in October 1815, had appointed Thomas Wyon to the position.

This circumstance became exacerbated in 1817 when Wyon died. Pole recognised Pistrucci's genius and was one of the few prepared to put up with the Italian's unprofessional behaviour. He had considered appointing Pistrucci to the vacant office but found legislation prevented aliens from occupying senior positions at the Mint.

Pole spent much time and effort trying to circumvent this law, but to little avail. As a consequence, Pole opted to leave the position vacant and to give Pistrucci an official residence, an annual salary of £500, working space, and access to the Mint equipment which he was free to use in private commissions. In effect, Pistrucci *was* Chief Engraver of the Royal Mint in all but name. This would have satisfied many, but not Pistrucci.

1820–48

Ongoing friction, all on Pistrucci's part, would bedevil the medal project for years. The prestigious award became a pawn Pistrucci used to obtain whatsoever he desired. He was unwilling to face reality.

In fact, it was the medal commission that would save him. In 1822, the Mint told George IV that the dies were well underway, although this was not the case. When they had not eventuated by 1824, moves were put in place to get shot of Pistrucci, genius or no. But by then, £1,700 had been spent on dies that never were.

Pistrucci was allowed to stay on the condition he continued to work on his medal. To underline the Mint's position, in 1828 William Wyon was appointed as Chief Engraver, with Pistrucci to be known as Chief Medallist. The new title did not mollify him. Two years later, only part of one die had been cut and by then he had received a further £5,300—much of it for other projects he had been working on at the same time as the Waterloo Medal.

In 1832, Lord Auckland took over as Master of the Mint. He tried but failed to get delivery of the dies. He was replaced in 1841 by William Gladstone who liked and admired Pistrucci but could not progress the dies. In the circumstances, Gladstone refused repeated requests for new commissions from Pistrucci until the medal dies were finished.

In 1844, it was agreed that Pistrucci would be paid £350 a year to work solely on the Waterloo Medal. He left his Royal Mint apartment and moved to Windsor.





Pair of uniface gilded gutta-percha obverse and reverse impressions taken from Pistrucci's original dies (images courtesy and © Spink, UK).

1849

Finally, on January 1, 1849, the dies were delivered, almost 30 years since the original commission had been let. By now, all the intended prominent recipients were dead—bar the Duke of Wellington.

Now, a new problem arose. The dies were massive, 138mm in diameter. The gold medal they were intended to strike would weigh-in at 677.5g.

The Mint made a judgement call that the dies were too large to be hardened. Pistrucci disagreed. To overcome the difficulties, he had prepared them as two concentric discs and had written an essay on a new technique of hardening he had devised. The Mint would not buy it and the dies were never hardened.

Despite the vast expense of the project, it now suited the Mint and its political masters not to strike the medals. Not only had they become pointless, but they had the potential to be politically damaging in the new, post-Napoleonic, world order.

All that was done at this stage was the preparation of a limited number of copper electrotypes and the taking of gutta-percha impressions.





Royal Mint's 2015, 80mm silver version of Pistrucci's masterwork bearing the original inscriptions intended by the master engraver, but never before featured on any reproduction of the medal (images courtesy and © the Royal Mint).

Pistrucci was bitter. As he wrote in 1850 to antiquarian and diplomat William Richard Hamilton:

> *" . . . I have nobody in the world to tell about my frustrations. It is not by chance that I put my name [on the Waterloo Medal] under the thread that the Fate is cutting. I knew that after the completion of the medal this would have happened. I have done more than my duty, the dishonest will have their triumph over me for a brief time, and I hope that one day their names will be covered in shame. My daughters are looking after the dies of the great medal from time to time to make sure that they don't rust, I can swear that I have not looked at them for more than six months because I don't have the strength of doing so. They have ruined my good health and they are the reason of all my troubles . . . "*

Regardless of his own frustrations—and the many he had caused others—Pistrucci's Waterloo Medal is up there alongside the very finest examples of European medallic work.

2014–15

That was then. 166 years down the track in 2015, the Royal Mint revisited Pistrucci's conceptual drawings and original tools. They completed the original design in all its glory so that it bears the inscriptions envisaged by the Master Engraver. The result was struck as an 80mm medal in 250g of .999 fine silver. Mintage was an appropriate 1,815.



The Waterloo Roll, the Pistrucci dies, and a Waterloo Campaign Medal (image courtesy and © the Royal Mint).

Meanwhile, a year earlier, the London Mint Office, a division of Samlerhuset, set about producing the Medal for the very first time in its original intended size and format, 138.5mm diameter and 14.5mm thick, albeit struck in 2,000g .999 fine silver. The maximum relief of the obverse is 2.7mm and the

reverse 2.54mm. The edge is plain, but each medallion is individually numbered. Mintage is 2,015. These proof medals were struck by Worcestershire Medal Service and carry the hallmark of the Birmingham Assay Office.

At a ceremony held on Remembrance Day 2014 at Apsley House, home of the Duke of Wellington, representatives of the various members of the 7th Coalition that put paid to Napoleon were finally presented with the Waterloo commemorative that they were intended to have and to hold shortly after the glorious victory.

Other medals were given to Angela Pistrucci, third great niece of the late engraver, Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter on behalf of the Waterloo Association, the Royal Mint Museum, and the Waterloo Committee from Belgium.

The Medals were presented by Lord Douro, son of the present Duke of Wellington, who also received one on behalf of his father. The presentation followed a two minute silence observed in honour of Remembrance Day.

At a later date, Lord Douro presented one to Her late Majesty the late Queen for her personal collection.



London Mint Office has had two other versions of the Medal struck by Worcestershire Medal Service. The first is bronze layered with .999 fine silver. It is 88.9mm across, 8mm thick and weighs-in at 400g. It comes with a numbered milled edge and the relief on both sides is 1mm. Mintage is a trendy 1,815.

The second is of similar size and character. It is also struck in bronze but layered with gold. Mintage is 5,000.

These replicas are by no means the first produced of Pistrucci's masterwork. In 1972, John Pinches struck a version in .925 fine silver, 64mm across, and 4mm thick. It weighed approximately 4.5oz and carries the edge lettering: "*WATERLOO JUNE 18, 1815-JP-1114*".

And for the 175th anniversary of the battle, in 1991, the Royal Mint produced 63mm versions in gold, silver and bronze.

All of which brings us to Noonans' March 6 sale. That on offer was adjudged to be in EF condition. It went to the block with an estimate of £500–700 and was bid up to £620 including commission.

A similar example was sold by Heritage Auctions in September 2008 for US$4,312 (£3,420).

Obverse of the 2015 version of Pistrucci's medal struck in silver-layered bronze by Worcestershire Medal Service for the London Mint Office (image courtesy London Mint Office).



All images are not shown to size or scale.



PISTRUCCI'S DESIGN

Obverse: At the design's centre are effigies of the leaders of the four nations of the 7th Coalition decked in their victors' wreaths: The Prince Regent (later George IV), Francis II of Austria, Alexander I of Russia, and Frederick William III of Prussia. These busts are enclosed in an allegorical representation of their triumph.

At the top, Helios crowned with sun's rays drives his chariot across the sky. The flaming torch in his left hand represents the dawning of a bright new day following the dark of the Napoleonic Wars.

He is accompanied by Iris, the goddess of the rainbow and messenger of the gods, and her winged husband, Zephyr, the gentlest of the winds and harbinger of spring. They scatter garlands of flowers symbolising the peace that is to come. Helios advances towards Castor and Pollux, standing for June when the battle took place. Below them, Themis, goddess of Justice, sits in judgement ready to reward virtue with palm branches or punish wrong-doing with her sword. She sits alongside the four sovereigns stressing that Justice provides greater security than does Power as represented at the right by Heracles. With club in hand, he sits astride a rock covered by the pelt of the Nemean lion.

Beneath Themis, the Fates spin the thread of life and serve as a reminder of human frailty as seen in the great losses of the battle. They are complemented under Heracles by the Furies who, as subjects of his Power, provide the ultimate promise of war.

At the bottom, Night, daughter of Chaos, drives her chariot back into darkness from whence she came, departing the peace and calm of post-Napoleon days.

The Latin inscription reads "*FŒDERE JUNCTIS*" ("Joined in Accord") and alludes to the Coalition.

Reverse: Around the edge, the Napoleonic Wars are symbolised in the mythical battle between the Titans and the Olympian gods, the ultimate battle between barbarism and civilisation, between chaos and order. 19 snake-legged Titans, one for each year of the Napoleonic Wars, are struck by thunderbolts hurled by Zeus riding in his chariot above their twisted bodies.

At the centre, Wellington and Blücher are depicted mounted and clad in classical armour. Their positions describe the final action of the battle, when Blücher arrived in Wellington's hour of greatest need. Both carry a sword and a staff, the symbols of authority. Their progress is guided by Nike, winged goddess of victory.

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THEMATIC COLLECTING WITH 17TH CENTURY TOKENS

Birds and Beasts

TOKENS from the 17th century are a wonderful source for the thematic collector. There is such a large variety of devices—heraldry, men at work, ships, windmills, astronomy. Animals are another popular collecting area and this article will look at this subject. The examples illustrated are all from Surrey and Southwark, with occasional references to London and elsewhere, but nearly every county will have a similar spread.

Fish



Fig 1.



Fig 2.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.

Fish make occasional appearances on 17th century tokens. The token of John Borgeine of Lambeth in figure 1 [E.177, BW.159] shows a single fish, presumably because he was a fishmonger, but groups of three fish are more common. Figure 2 shows three fish swimming in a circle from the token of Edward Buldwin of Kingston upon Thames [E.146, BW.140]. The coat of arms of Kingston showed three salmon (though not swimming like this!) which is why Edward chose this design. The punch had already been used for the Three Salmons pub belonging to Richard Ely in Oxford [BW.134]. The Kingston borough arms had three salmon in rows like that shown on the halfpenny of Stephen Feilder in figure 3 [E.158, BW.143]. A similar design is used by John Fish of Angel Alley in London [D.285A] and Bartholmew Fish in Queenhithe, London [BW.2301 and 2303], both in reference to their surname.

Dolphins are, in fact, more common on 17th century tokens than fish. A pair feature on the town arms of Tetbury in Gloucestershire [BW.163–4], and a single dolphin appears on at least half a dozen tokens of London. There is the token of John Fish of Aldersgate Street [BW.33], the Dolphin Tavern at Cornhill [BW.719], the Dolphin at Temple Bar [BW.3071–2] and the Dolphin Tavern in Tower Street [Norweb 7769, cf BW.3225] for examples. Surnames and pub signs are the main reasons for these design choices. Figure 4 shows three dolphins on the token of William Bates of Rotherhithe Wall [E.825, BW.244] but it is uncertain if this, too, is a pub sign or an indicator that William was a fisherman.

Birds



Fig 5.



Fig 6.



Fig 7.

There is a surprisingly wide variety of birds pictured on the tokens. Cockerels (cocks) and swans are the most common, both occasionally used in relation to surnames like Marcke Cocke (sic) at Morris's Causeway in Lambeth [E.204, Dickinson 322B] and Elizabeth Swan in Rotherhithe [E.815, BW.284]. Generally, though, they relate to the sign used by the issuer. Figure 5 shows a cock on the token of Thomas Cockayne at The Cock(e) in Southwark [E.424, BW.20]. Figure 6 shows a swan on the token of Edward Shales at the Swan Inn in Leatherhead [E.195, BW.175]. The Swan was a well known coaching inn which had been in existence for at least 100 years prior to the issuing of this token. It closed in 1936.

Figure 7 shows a large bird on the square token of Robert Ballard of Kingston [E.144, BW.138]. This was identified as a



Fig 8.



Fig 9.



Fig 10.



Fig 11.



Fig 12.

crane by Williamson, although I have seen it identified as an ostrich elsewhere. A little local research shows that Robert Ballard was innkeeper at The Crane Inn in Kingston, which confirms Williamson's identification. Cranes, like many other signs, more usually come in threes, like the three cranes on a token of the Three Cranes Tavern in Southwark [E.415, Dickinson 17D] shown in figure 8. There was another Three Cranes inn in Tooley Street, Southwark [E.998, B.414], and one at Poultry in London where George Twine issued a token [BW.2278].

Devices on tokens in sets of three is a references to the Holy Trinity. In Surrey and Southwark, for example, there are nearly 30 signs which are sets of threes such as bells, kings, horseshoes, tuns, etc. A pair or set of two only occurs two–three times, usually with two brewers or porters. Figure 9 shows three doves, carrying olive branches in their beaks, on a token of Ric(hard) Bull of Southwark [E.411, BW.16]. These are flying, but doves are more often seen side on. The olive branches in their beaks are a reference to Noah's Ark. See Thomas Butterfeild in Chertsey [E22–3, BW.23], Thom(as) Stiver in Kent Street, Southwark [E.682–3, BW.293], the Three Doves Inn in St Olave's, Southwark [E.871–2, BW.420], etc.

The token of James Rushell of Putney in figure 10 shows a bird in flight which could be a dove or pigeon, but luckily the token tells us that it is the sign of The Falcon [E.221, BW.213]. The Falcon's claim to fame is that it was probably the first public house in Putney to serve coffee! Figure 11 shows the token of Caleb Bigg, a thread maker in Southwark whose sign was a large-billed bird, generally agreed to be a raven [E.399, BW.8]. The last of our more unusual birds is that illustrated in figure 12. This token of William Thompson of Winchester Street, Southwark, shows a large bird of prey which might initially be thought to be an eagle, but closer inspection of a good example shows a bare head much more reminiscent of a vulture [E.1033, BW.500]. So far, no information has been discovered to explain the use of a vulture on this token.

Beasts

Beasts often appear in an heraldic form like lion rampant or bear and ragged staff. I will not cover those here. Nor will I cover those beasts which have been decapitated for the sake of a pub sign; bull's head, stag's head, boar's head, ram's head,



"…There are many more animals to find out there (including elephants and monkeys!) and you certainly don't have to restrict yourself …"



Fig 13.



Fig 14.



Fig 15.



Fig 16.



Fig 17.



Fig 18.



Fig 19.



Fig 20.



Fig 21.

etc. You may wish to count them as part of a thematic collection but I will just deal here with whole animals!

Let us start with man's best friend, the dog. Dogs come in many shapes and sizes. Figure 13 shows a fine greyhound from the inn of the same name in Croydon in Surrey [E.47, BW.43], an establishment which can trace its history back to 1493. There was another Greyhound Inn at Peckham in Surrey with a similar design [E.210, BW.199]. Figure 14 shows a very pretty dog from a punch by David Ramage, the prolific token issuer of the 1650s. From Southwark, the token [E.465, BW.53] helpfully tells us that this is a Water Spaniel, whose job it was to pick up ducks which had been shot in the water. A token which pairs up the dog and duck, a frequent pub sign, is shown in figure 15 [E.510, BW.224]. This piece is also from Southwark. The duck is being held in the dog's mouth. There is another dog and duck token from Mitcham which cheekily shows the duck sitting on the dog's back [E.203, BW.184]! Other animals on tokens are nearly always connected to the sign of the inn or other establishment. The stag or hart and boars frequently appear. Figure 16 shows an example from Chobham in Surrey [E.29, BW.30], where the local inn was the White Hart. Figure 17 shows a boar on the token of the Blue Boar Inn in Croydon [E.180, BW.162]. Figure 18 shows another boar on a token from the Bankside in Southwark [E.306, BW.126]. This is not so well drawn and Williamson thought it might be meant to be a hedgehog! More obscure animals are rabbits which appear in sets of three on two tokens in Surrey. Figure 19 shows three rabbits on a token of Robert Pearson of Kingston upon Thames [E.168, BW.150]. His establishment was a brick works which also sold beer called the Three Conies, conies being an old name for rabbits. The other token is that issued by Ann Broad in Blackman Street, Surrey [E.361–2, BW.183]. Her establishment was also known as the Three Conies. Another lady issuer was Elizabeth Milner whose token is shown in figure 20. She was based in Pepper Ally in Southwark at the sign of The Goat [E.771, B.338]. The last one I will mention is not based on a sign but on the issuer's name. Andrew (ANDRA) Ranols issued the token shown in figure 21 featuring a fox [E.336, BW.152] in Bell Yard of the Borough High Street in Southwark. Ranols was an alternative name for Reynard, a fox who appeared in medieval fables. The stories about him remained very popular right through the period of the token issues.

There are many more animals to find out there (including elephants and monkeys!) and you certainly don't have to restrict yourself to one county as I have with this article. If you are a thematic collector, then 17th century tokens is an area not to be forgotten.

Main Source and all figures

EVERSON, Tim, *Seventeenth Century Trading Tokens of Surrey and Southwark*, Galata (2015).



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The Plague and Anglo-French Rivalry

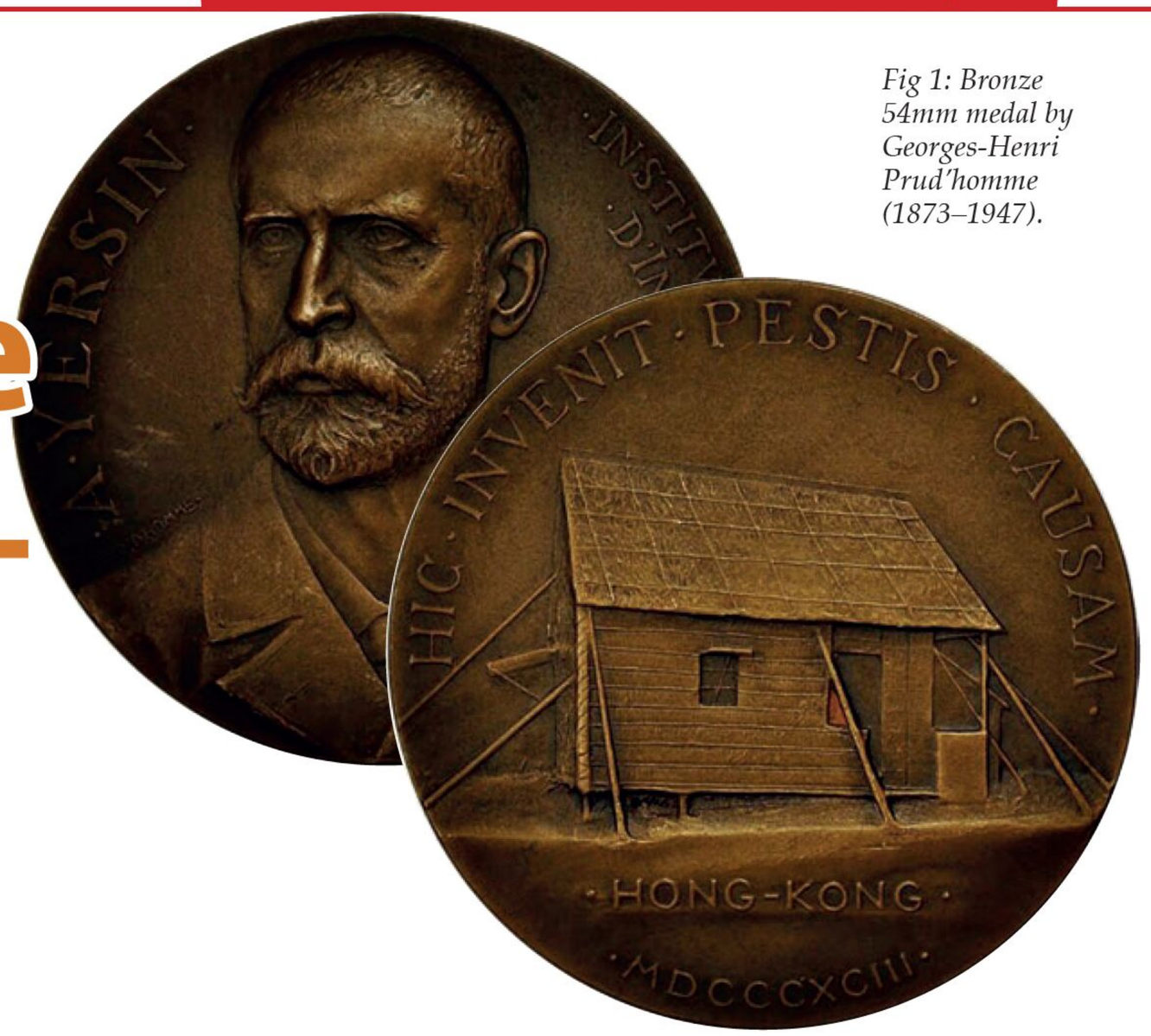


Fig 1: Bronze 54mm medal by Georges-Henri Prud'homme (1873–1947).

THE reverse on figure 1 shows the small bamboo shack in Hong Kong where, in 1894 (not 1893, as on the medal), one of the great discoveries of modern medicine was made: the pathogen which causes the bubonic plague was identified for the first time in the British colony—but by a Frenchman.

The coccobacillus responsible for the plague manifests in different forms, of which bubonic is the most common and results usually from the bite of an infected flea. Symptoms include fever, body pains, vomiting and nausea followed by painful swollen lymph nodes, and is fatal in 50–90 per cent of cases.

The cause was discovered by, and named in honour of, Alexandre Yersin (1863–1943) who is portrayed on the obverse of the medal in figure 1. Born in the Swiss canton of Vaud, Yersin studied in Paris at the Louis Pasteur research laboratory at the École Normale Supérieure. In order to practice medicine in France, Yersin took French nationality in 1888. In 1890, he left for French Indochina (now Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) in South-East Asia as a physician for the Messageries Maritimes shipping line.

Sent to Hong Kong by the French Government and the Pasteur Institute to investigate the plague outbreak, Yersin was viewed with deep suspicion by the medical authorities in the British colony and denied access to hospitals. Yersin was only able to obtain bodies of plague victims by covertly bribing English soldiers responsible for disposing of them.

Three Plague Pandemics

The first recorded bubonic plague occurred between 541 and 543, under the Emperor Justinian, killing an estimated 100,000,000 people in the Byzantine Empire and, especially in its capital, Constantinople. The second plague pandemic, the Black Death (1347–51), originated in Asia and swept into Europe along the trade routes of the medieval Silk Road, killing an estimated 200,000,000 people, or some 30 per cent of the European population. It lingered until the early 19th century—with notable outbreaks in London (1665–66) and Marseilles (1720–22).

The third plague pandemic originated in the middle of the 19th century in China. It spread to the British colony of Hong Kong in 1894. The pandemic then reached Japan, Singapore, India and spread around the world.

Hong Kong

James Lowson, Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, in May 1894, declared Hong Kong to be infected. The Sanitary Board immediately adopted laws to take action in the best interests of the public. Reporting of cases became compulsory, and the authorities were permitted house-to-house searches, entering private property to identify the contagious, and remove infected persons for quarantine and disinfection. Clothes, bedding and fabrics suspected of being contaminated were sent to be steam disinfected, or were burnt. The houses of victims were sprayed with a solution of perchloride of mercury or fumigated by chlorine gas, the floor and furniture cleaned and walls lime-washed ("whitewashing").

However, Chinese residents had a deep mistrust of Western medical science and of the Colonial Government. The Chinese hid their sick from the authorities, and infected dead bodies would be thrown out at night to avoid detection. An anti-Government poster campaign in Hong Kong asserted the English doctors were making medicine with the bodies of plague victims. Other rumours spread, accusing British soldiers of molesting Chinese women. The "Whitewash Brigade" was, at first, often pelted with stones, bricks and rubbish. Violent protests erupted in the city. Doctors had to carry pistols to protect themselves. The riots led to the temporary plague hospital becoming overcrowded and sanitary conditions worsened.

Whitewashing could only continue after a great deal of persuasion and explanation by both the Government and some esteemed members of the Chinese community.

The house-to-house search teams tried to discover and isolate as soon as possible all persons suffering from plague and to clean the buildings in which plague was present.

Initially, the work was carried out by the European police inspectors and sergeants accompanied by Chinese constables and detectives, but, as the epidemic spread, volunteers were called in from the First Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry regiment that was stationed in Hong Kong. Officers and men of this garrison were involved with the cleansing and disinfection process.

The work was unpleasant; removing the dead as soon as possible for burial was potentially hazardous. The ill were identified during house-to-house searches, from hospital admissions lists, and a register of sufferers with their correct addresses was compiled. As soon as a house had three plague patients, all occupants were evicted and the house cordoned off.

A notice was given by the police to all occupants of the homes where plague victims had been found to be living and they were warned to move their furniture into the street. The following day, the cleansing team proceeded to the residence. The floors of these buildings were first sprinkled with a disinfecting fluid and chlorinated lime. All old paper was torn

off the walls and partitions, and the dirt and rubbish removed by shovels and brooms. The walls and partitions were then lime washed and the floors washed down with disinfectant. All furniture and clothes outside the houses were aired, and old and cheap clothing burnt. Buckets of lime-wash were thrown over the belongings to ensure everything was washed.

The plague saw a mass exodus of panic-stricken Chinese workers back to China, causing a severe economic recession in the city. At the height of the plague, around 1,000 persons were fleeing Hong Kong every day. In May and June, it was estimated that 85,000 Chinese, out of a population of 200,000, left Hong Kong Island. The colony suffered a severe labour shortage. Businesses closed. Trade between Hong Kong and China collapsed; the plague was declared, "an unexampled calamity."

The volunteers lived in quarantine in tents and were given extra rum rations. Remarkably, only one officer and one other died of plague.



Fig 2: Hong Kong plague 36mm silver medal: obverse, soldier fending off Death who is pointing his spear at a plague victim on a stretcher. A nurse, right hand on the patient's heart, carries in her left a bottle of medicine. On the left, "Hong Kong" in Chinese; in the exergue, the date: 1894. The reverse legends reads: "FOR SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE PLAGUE OF 1894/PRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY".

The medal in figure 2 was commissioned by the Government of Hong Kong to recognise the efforts of all those volunteers who helped the medical staff and sanitation authorities during the outbreak to clean up, transport patients to hospital and disinfect plague-affected areas.

The medal was paid for by the grateful community of Hong Kong and awarded to all who had contributed beyond the call of duty to the effort; it was struck in gold for officers and senior civilians, and in silver for other recipients. 183 gold medals were awarded (including 46 to officers of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry), and 819 silver medals. Of these, 605 were presented to men of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry; the rest went to volunteers from the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, Army Medical Service, Medical Staff Corps; and civilians (doctors, nurses, policemen, and colonial administrators).

Colonial rivalry

In June 1894, Yersin, a bacteriologist of the Pasteur Institute in Saigon, arrived in Hong Kong. Despite being invited by the colony's authorities, Yersin found himself working from

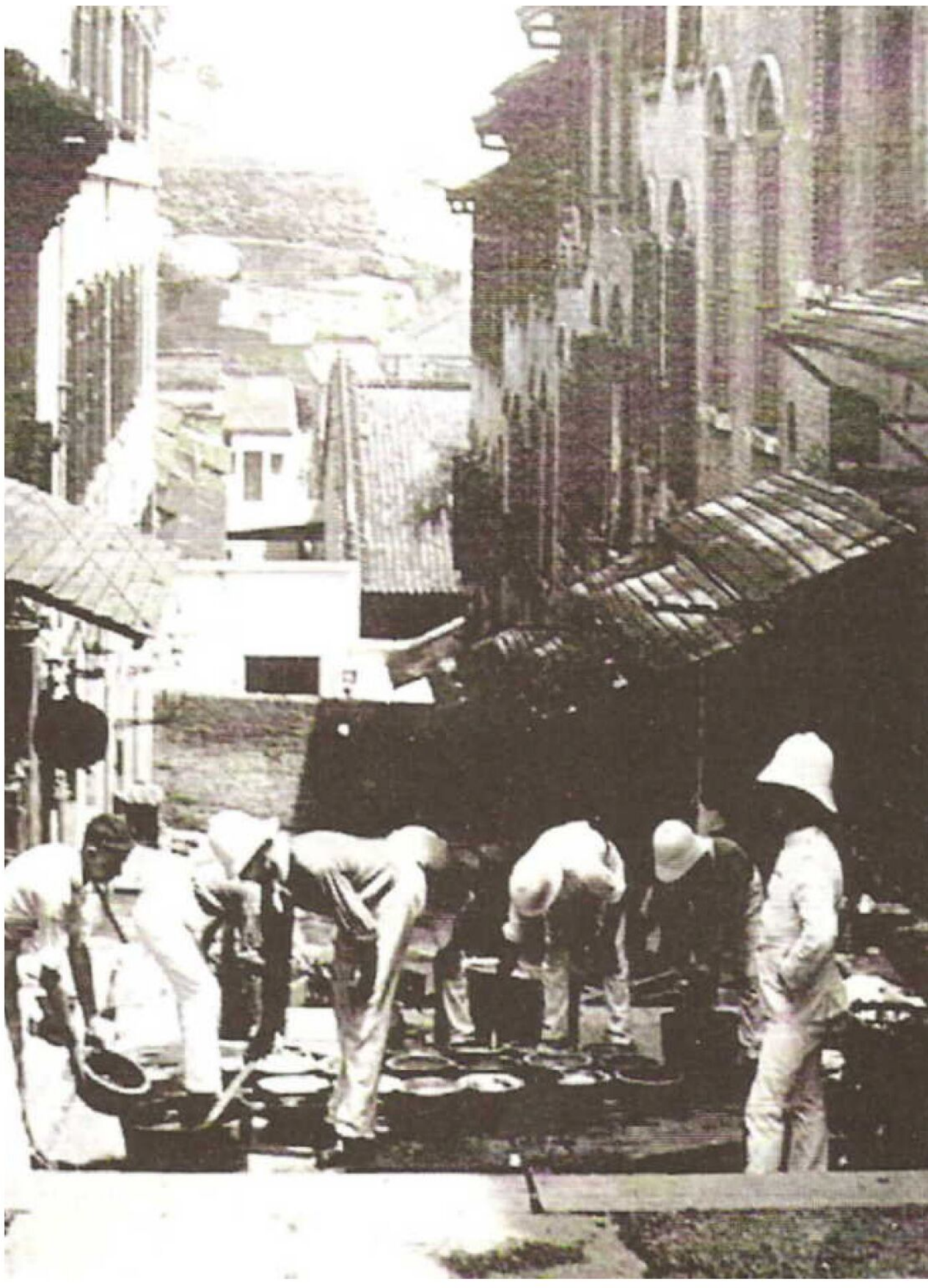


Fig 3: British whitewashing the plague.

a shed. This reflected the deep insecurity among the British rulers of the colony about their tenuous hold on the strategic port. Lowson did not offer Yersin any support, as Lowson considered France, having recently occupied Indochina, to be a rival to Great Britain in Asia.

Nevertheless, Yersin had identified the bacillus responsible for the pandemic within a fortnight of arriving in the British colony, and had largely pinned down the manner of its transmission.

From 1895 to 1897, Yersin pursued his studies on the bubonic plague. In 1895, he returned to the Pasteur Institute in Paris and prepared the first anti-plague serum. Yersin tried this treatment out in Canton and Hong Kong in 1896, and in Bombay in India in 1897, with disappointing results. He still found British hospital officials deliberately unco-operative and unhelpful.

He returned to Indochina and, having decided to stay permanently to tackle tropical diseases, he established a laboratory at the coastal town of Nha Trang. He also helped established the Medical School of Hanoi in 1902, and was its first director.

"Yersinia pestis"

Yersin was a pioneer in the cultivation of rubber trees imported from Brazil into Indochina in 1899, the first crop of which was bought by the Michelin tyre company in 1904.

Yersin had less success in trying to acclimatise the quinine tree, also imported from South America, and which, as an ingredient of tonic water, produced an effective treatment for malaria, still to this day a major disease in South-East Asia. The gin and tonic remained a British tipple.



Fig 5: Bronze 58mm medal by Émile Lindauer (1869–1942) commemorating Indochina for the 1931 "Exposition Coloniale" held in Paris.



Fig 4: Bronze 72mm medal: obverse, bust of Yersin in front of a local deity with multiple heads and arms; on the right signature; reverse, "INSTITVTS. PASTEVR. COLONIAVX". Around a cross showing a microscope, a mosquito, a rat and a flea, the inscription "DOCTEUR YERSIN".

Conclusion

But forget Agincourt, Trafalgar and Waterloo.

Yersin died at his home (now the Yersin Museum) in Nha Trang in 1943 and is still remembered fondly in Vietnam, where his tombstone describes him as a "*Benefactor and humanist, venerated by the Vietnamese people*".

Even though he did not definitively pin down all the means of transmission, Yersin found that the plague bacillus was present in rodents as well as in humans, thereby indicating the probable way the infection spread. Once the central role of rats in this was understood, the Hong Kong Government offered reward money for rat carcasses. This policy promptly ended when it was discovered that rat-catchers had been importing dead rats from Canton.

The flea-borne bacteria bacillus was named "Yersinia pestis" in his honour. Yersin was also credited with helping to found the Indochinese hill station of Da Lat in 1893. Because of its altitude, above the intense tropical heat and humidity of the coastal regions, the town enjoyed a pleasant climate and, free from tropical diseases, rapidly became popular among French colonialists.

Despite Vietnam's current rapid modernisation, Da Lat is still well preserved. But go soon, to enjoy the town's eclectic offering of architectural delights reflecting Gallic sub-tropical imperialism. Its hotel lounges and cafe terraces also are fine places to sample the more ephemeral yet lasting benefits of French colonial legacy: good local wine, tasty baguettes, and the delicious breakfast aroma of coffee and croissants!

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LETTER FROM
AMERICA

By
Fred Liberatore

Non-business Standard Coin Strikes
that are *not* proofs

COIN collectors visiting the Royal Mint on the Deluxe Tour have the opportunity to strike a coin. The blanks are polished; from the look of the coin, as are the dies. Each coin is struck FOUR times with a vertical press and not the usual high speed, single strike, horizontal business press.

These special strikes are carefully handled and packaged for the visitor/collector. There are no bag or contact marks.

For the grading service PCGS, these special strikes are somewhat problematic. It would be an easy default to call them MS 70 but they are better than that. However, they are NOT proofs since the blanks are not mirror polished from mirror polished dies under extra pressure to produce superb detail and wire rim edges, the standard requirement for most modern proofs PR graded.



NGC has published the following on their web site: "*NGC uses two-letter codes before a coin's numeric grade to describe its method of production and overall appearance. The most common are MS for Mint State coins (those struck for circulation) and PF for Proof coins (those struck for collectors). Another strike type is SP for Specimen, which describes a coin that falls short of the definition for actual Proofs but are superior to the normal currency issues.*"



Courtesy of www.usacoinbook.com.

The United States Mint has managed to add to the grading confusion with special issues, for example, Jefferson nickels issued in 1994 and 1997, from Philadelphia, as part of commemorative sets. The *Red Book* describes them as, "Matte Finish" but in a footnote calls them Special "Frosted"; they are uncirculated pieces resembling matte proof coins. PCGS does not see them as anything special but NGC does give them an SP which seems most appropriate since they are not ordinary business strikes and are specially handled.

United States Special Mint sets from 1965–68 are classic examples of coins that cry out for an SP designation. The coins were struck once on unpolished planchets but had a special finish due to polished dies. They can be semi-brilliant to satiny, sometimes approaching the brilliance of a proof coin. They did not receive special handling so some abrasions and bag marks can be seen. These are not ordinary circulation strikes and are instantly recognizable.

The United States Mint sets from 2005–10 are unusual in that the coins have a special finish which in the *Red Book* is referred as a Satin Finish. These coins are easily recognized as different from standard uncirculated business strikes but are clearly not proofs. The SP status as specimen strikes would clearly apply to them.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Kennedy half dollar, the United States Mint produced a 90 per cent silver set of Kennedy half dollars. There is a reverse proof with mirror polished devices and a frosted field from the West Point Mint (W). From the Philadelphia Mint, actually mintmarked (P), there is a frosted mirrored field proof. Both of these coins are clearly proofs but the mint clouds things with the half dollar from the San Francisco Mint (S) which is designated Enhanced Uncirculated. It clearly is special with a frosted portrait and semi mirrored fields. In fact, it could easily be mistaken for a proof by an inexperienced collector. For PCGS to call this coin a simple MS uncirculated totally misses the considerably enhanced methods used in its production. Finally, from the Denver Mint (D) is an example of a what is supposed to be a standard circulation strike except the detail and clear field mark it as a special strike. Again, the coin would easily stand out in a group of typical uncirculated Kennedy half dollar business strikes.

There are enhanced uncirculated coins issued to commemorate the San Francisco Mint as well as enhanced uncirculated "gold" dollars in special sets of the native American dollar series. These, too, are much better than a typical uncirculated coin but clearly are not proofs.

I have no doubt that the Royal Mint has more than just the special collector strikes that would qualify for NGC's SP specimen category. For sure, collectors of special strikes desiring slab encapsulation should use NGC which recognizes this category of coins .

Specimen strikes do lead to Happy Collecting.

Reference: This article is based on a presentation by Kurt Bellman and subsequent conversations with him at the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar Series in Colorado Springs, 2023.



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Horse Trading II

DR K. A. RODGERS contemplates a sale or two or three . . .

A COIN NEWS reader recently asked for advice about selling coins, such as the dupes in his collection. The best people to ask are other collectors who do just that. I am not one of those folk. I am a writer. These days, I sell relatively little from my collection.

Any dupes I have, I prefer to save to use as trade swaps either with other collectors or as part-payment with dealers for current or future purchases. That said, some points made last month concerning buying coins or notes are relevant here.

Firstly, buy the book and establish what is the precise market value of the item you are offering for sale in its current condition. Be ruthless in your grading.

It pays to be fully informed. It helps not only to know what the current selling price range is on the open market, but also what is the lowest price that you will accept. Most importantly, you must know how the particular grade of your coin or note relates to these prices. At the very least, such knowledge may help avoid your being taken for a ride.

Be realistic. For example, if what you wish to sell is a modern coin that was produced in many thousands, don't expect to be offered much for it. If such an item—and its container—is not in "as-issued" condition, it is worth little more than its melt value. That is the minimum market value for the piece, be it gold, silver or even bronze.

With 99 per cent of made-for-collectors coins, your precious dupe is simply one of thousands available on the market. Any dealer who requires an example to plug a shortfall in their stock can easily do so at the next bourse where dealers provide discounts when buying and selling to one another. That discounted price is the best they will offer you. As such, collectors wanting to sell into the market are at a disadvantage. Those unwilling to accept this reality can always turn to eBay—and the charges involved there—or, perhaps, try the next club auction.

On the rare occasions when I have sold made-for-collectors coins struck within the last 50 years to dealers, I simply shopped around and took the best offer on the table with no haggling. It was always well below current market retail.

There is a substantial difference between dealers' buying and selling prices. That is another reality. Dealers have rent to pay and like to eat regularly. They are in business to make a profit. They are not a charity.

The American market is blessed with two versions of its standard catalogue of US coins: The *Red Book* and the *Blue Book*. One gives dealers' standard selling prices for a range of grades, the other their standard purchase prices. The difference is considerable. Try to get your hands on a recent copy of each to understand that variation.

Selling anything involves the same basic sales techniques, be it house or coin. You can check these out on the web. Do a little Googling.

For example, when selling to a dealer, remember that their primary focus is not on what you have to sell but what they have to gain. In trying to complete a satisfactory sale, it is helpful to continually put yourself in the dealer's shoes. See your coin or note in terms of what it is worth to them—in the long run.

And never gild the lily. Don't clean your coins—or iron your notes. Never come the big con. Never argue. Never overgrade.

In shopping around, you may learn valuable information.

Many moons ago, a friend showed me an extremely rare Australian sovereign. They did not know how rare. I explained and was inevitably asked the question, "How much is it worth?" I took it round several dealers. Two who did not know me at the time both offered the then current melt value of the coin. The market value was several thousand times that.

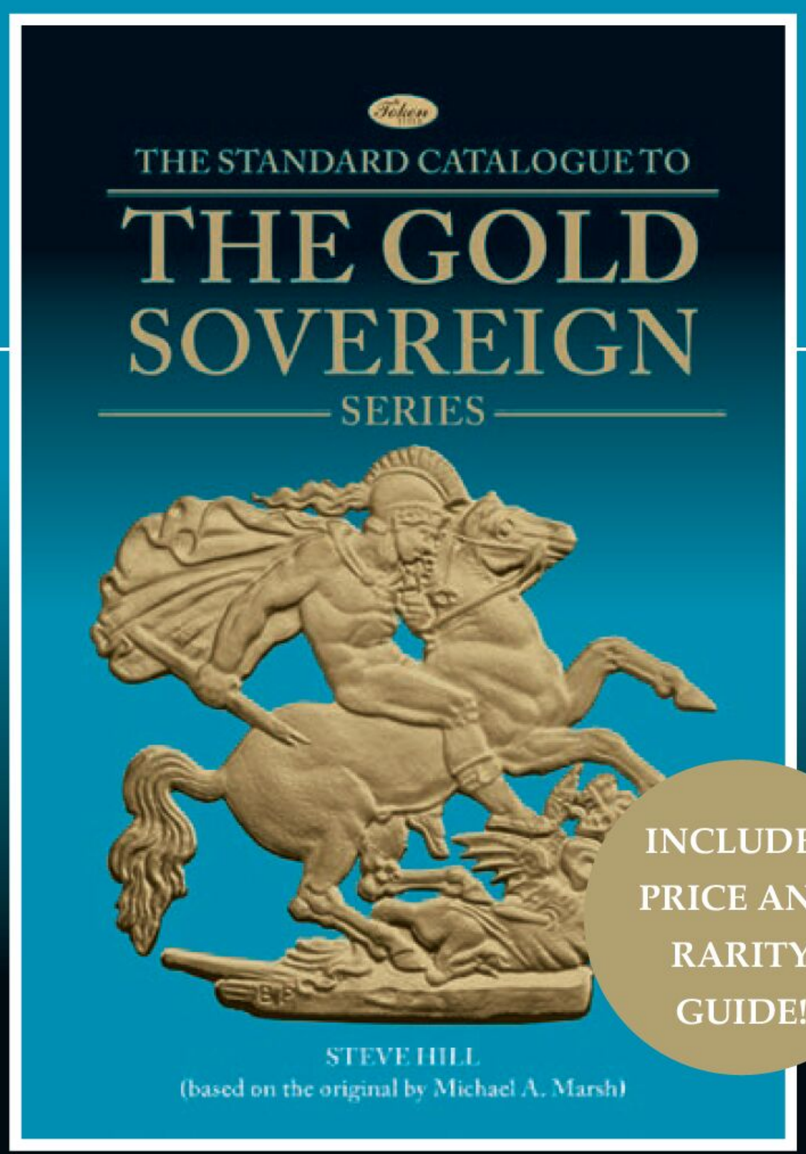
I squirrelled away what I learned that day. Those dealers who were straight-up-and-down got a lot of repeat business from me over subsequent years.

As I said last month, my experience is that 99 per cent of dealers are straightforward and honest. They have to be. Their reputation is their livelihood. And I repeat, I have had more hassles with fellow collectors than with dealers. Honesty is the best policy in every instance of buying or selling.

And, if you get into selling coins regularly, never forget the taxman cometh.

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MY COLLECTION AND ME



Each month we invite readers to tell us about their collection and maybe tell us about a particular coin, medal, token or banknote in the collection— maybe ones you once owned and wish you still did, or even ones you'd like to have but haven't been able to locate. This month, Dr Anthony Holmes shares his story about the. . .

Musings of a Grumpy Old Collector

IN the early 1950s when I was at Primary School in Ayr, nobody collected coins. We collected Dinky toys, plastic soldiers and comics.

Or so it seemed. However, inspired by a visit to Bowes Museum in Durham, I decided to start my own museum—in a wooden cupboard with three shelves on our upstairs landing. Beginning with various eclectic curiosities found around the house (souvenir spoons, grandfather's medals and some old foreign coins brought back from India by my father), it expanded to include fossils (from National Coal Board core samples, also supplied by my father) and exotic rocks, courtesy of my godmother who worked for the Geology Department at Edinburgh University.

Gradually, the coins started to take precedence. Visitors to our house were marched upstairs, charged one penny to view the exhibits and made to sign the Visitors' Book. This book, (inscribed "*Bowes Museum, founded October 1957*") containing 179 signatures, represents a useful income of around 15 bob. However, the main value of the visitors was as a source of old coins that they didn't want. As nobody was really interested in keeping them, they could readily present them to the strange little boy who put them in empty matchboxes in his cupboard!

Another useful source of free supplies was the two auctioneers in Ayr: Callan's and Afflecks. I befriended some kind-hearted employees in both establishments and developed a system whereby they would bag any coins left rattling around in the furniture brought in for sale which I then collected on a weekly basis. At the same time, I kept any interesting coins from my rather miserly pocket money and, for a while, after moving to Edinburgh in 1962, I had an extra source of income procuring large numbers of Coronation crowns from the Bank of Scotland head office for five shillings each and selling them on to an increasingly suspicious local jeweller for 7/6*d*.

Unfortunately, things changed during the late 1960s. People started looking at their old coins and loose change a bit more closely. The rot may have begun when one of the banks (Clydesdale or TSB?) held a competition to collect pennies of every date from 1860. By this time, I had a fair number of them but not enough to win!

The looming prospect of decimalisation also increased people's interest in their currency. The one readily available book on numismatics (*Coin Collecting* by Milne, Sutherland and Thompson, which I got for Christmas) was overtaken by a plethora of "Check Your Change" booklets, newspaper articles and exhortations to scrutinise our soon-to-disappear pounds, shillings and pence in order to cash in on alleged "rarities". The donations of old discarded coins dried up, but I could still add to my collection by checking coins in circulation myself, and persuading friends and shopkeepers to do the same.

In 1976, I went overseas for about 40 years, leaving my coin collection behind. During this time, I picked up some foreign currency but by now my focus was on British coins



(Image courtesy of DrAnthony Holmes.)

and their historical context. I had an ambition to collect at least one coin from every British monarch, starting with William the Conqueror. While living in Hong Kong, I designed an enormous coin cabinet with 136 drawers mounted on a desk. I had it built in Macau and eventually shipped it back home to Scotland where, luckily, it fitted under our coomb ceiling with less than an inch to spare.

Back home in Edinburgh, and retired, I retrieved my coin collection from storage and my collecting resumed. The Covid pandemic, and my new coin cabinet, gave me the opportunity to catalogue, organise, house and value my collection. By now, I had a few coin books and, of course a COIN NEWS subscription which proved very useful! It rapidly became apparent from the price guides that my collection wasn't worth very much, consisting mostly of circulated coinage—a lot of it quite worn. The coins were probably worth less than the magnificent cabinet! However, the magazine was (and is) still a good read, especially the articles delving into history (take a bow, Dr K. A. Rodgers) and there are always beautiful illustrations of interesting coins, often beyond the means of ordinary mortals.

It has been interesting to see how the hobby has changed during those intervening 40 years. Coin collecting has become much more popular, and an increased obsession with condition and grading has resulted in huge prices for top grades, with lesser grades a tenth of the price. This suits me, given that the only way to fill gaps in my collection now is to buy. As I am more interested in the history associated with the coins rather than obtaining them in pristine condition, it is sometimes possible to buy lower grade coins and still be able to afford essentials, such as food.

As well as being more expensive, it has got more and more difficult to find interesting dates or varieties in circulation. More collectors are on the look-out and, of course, coins are being used less.

As a very general collector/hoarder concerned largely with monarchs and dates, I applaud those collectors who can specialise in one denomination or type, who can distinguish dies and catalogue varieties by spacing of numerals, or whether the leg of an "H" points to a space or a bead. We need these people. Others buy, at great expense, Piedforts, collectables minted in the wrong metals, slabbed coins, mint sets presented in expensive containers, or coins with technicoloured reverses. I wish them the best of luck with their investments. However, none of these items fulfil my desire to touch a piece of currency which was designed to be spent or saved by ordinary folk in times past.

Perhaps contact with other collectors might have resulted in more specialised or focussed collecting, but why is there only one coin club in Scotland (co-incidentally in Ayr)?

Collecting now means purchasing, and has become big business. Numismatists now support a huge industry of dealers, auctioneers, slabbers and sellers of accessories (and magazines!). Judging by the frequency with which some valuable coins change hands, many are being withheld from genuine enthusiasts by speculators. Bargains may occasionally appear, but so, too, do more scams and forgeries. The days of "collecting" in the old sense are no more. Unless, that is, anyone has a Petition Crown they don't want rattling about in an old chest of drawers?

Whatever your story, we'd like to hear about it, so please get in touch by emailing:

louise@tokenpublishing.com or write to us at 8 Oak Tree Place, Manaton Close, Exeter, Devon EX2 8WA



FIFTY PENCE

Introduced as legal tender for 10 shillings to replace the banknote of that value prior to decimalisation, coins of the original size are no longer legal tender. Unless otherwise stated, i.e. for commemoratives, the reverse design is of Britannia. The reverse legend of NEW PENCE became FIFTY PENCE from 1982.

The description of "Unc" has been used against some 50 pence pieces dated 2009 and 2011 (for Olympic and Paralympic sports) to distinguish them from coins minted to circulation standard and BU standard, being a standard between the latter two. The uncirculated standard coins have a more even rim than the circulation standard examples, particularly observable on the obverse.

Since the surge of interest in collecting 50p coins prices have increased. The following values are for uncirculated coins. Any found in change will of course have been circulated and will not command such a high premium but the rarer ones will still be worth more than face value.



DATE	Mintage	UNC
1969	188,400,000	£2
1970	19,461,500	£5
1971 Proof	—	£10
1972 Proof	—	£12
1973 Accession to EEC	89,775,000	£3
1973 — Proof	—	£8
1973 — Silver Proof Piedfort	About 24	£3250
1974 Proof	—	£15
1975 Proof	—	£15
1976	43,746,500	£2
1976 Proof	—	£7
1977	49,536,000	£2
1977 Proof	—	£6
1978	72,005,000	£2
1978 Proof	—	£6
1979	58,680,000	£2
1979 Proof	—	£6
1980	89,086,000	£2
1980 Proof	—	£6
1981	74,002,000	£2
1981 Proof	—	£8
1982	51,312,000	£3
1982 Unc	—	£6
1982 Proof	—	£8
1983	62,824,000	£2
1983 Unc	—	£6
1983 Proof	—	£8
1984 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	158,820	£7
1984 Proof	—	£10
1985 ***New portrait***	682,103	£2
1985 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1985 Proof	—	£8
1986 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1986 Proof	—	£12
1987 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1987 Proof	—	£12
1988 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1988 Proof	—	£12
1989 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1989 Proof	—	£12
1990 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1990 Proof	—	£12
1991 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£7
1991 Proof	—	£12
1992 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£10
1992 Proof	—	£12
1992 Presidency of EC Council and EC accession 20th anniversary (includes 1993 date)	109,000	£25
1992 — BU	—	£50
1992 — Proof	—	£55
1992 — Silver Proof	26,890	£70
1992 — — — Piedfort	10,993	£90
1992 — Gold Proof	—	£1500
1993 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£10
1993 Proof	—	£12
1994 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings	6,705,520	£3
1994 — BU (also in presentation folder)	—	£8
1994 — Proof	—	£10
1994 — Silver Proof	40,000	£30
1994 — — — Piedfort	10,000	£50
1994 — Gold Proof	—	£1500
1995 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£9
1995 Proof	—	£12
1996 BU (only issued in Year Sets)	—	£9
1996 Proof	—	£12
1996 Silver Proof	—	£25
1997 BU	—	£8
1997 Proof	—	£10
1997 Silver Proof	—	£25
1997 ***New reduced size***	456,364,100	£2
1997 BU	—	£5
1997 Proof	—	£6
1997 Silver Proof	—	£20
1997 — — Piedfort	—	£35
1998 ***New portrait***	64,306,500	£2
1998 BU	—	£5
1998 Proof	—	£8
1998 Presidency and 25th anniversary of EU entry	5,043,000	£3
1998 — BU	—	£5
1998 — Proof	—	£8
1998 — Silver Proof	8,859	£30
1998 — — — Piedfort	8,440	£40
1998 — Gold Proof	—	£850
1998 50th Anniversary of the National Health Service	5,001,000	£3
1998 — BU	—	£5
1998 — Silver Proof	9,032	£30
1998 — — — Piedfort	5,117	£40
1998 — Gold Proof	—	£850
1999	24,905,000	£2
1999 BU	—	£5
1999 Proof	—	£10
2000	27,915,500	£2
2000 BU	—	£5
2000 Proof	—	£7
2000 150th Anniversary of Public Libraries	11,263,000	£2
2000 — BU	—	£6
2000 — Proof	—	£9
2000 — Silver Proof	7,634	£30
2000 — — — Piedfort	5,721	£40
2000 — Gold proof	—	£850
2001	84,998,500	£2
2001 BU	—	£5
2001 Proof	—	£7
2002	23,907,500	£2
2002 BU	—	£5
2002 Proof	—	£7
2002 Gold Proof	—	£850
2003	23,583,000	£2
2003 BU	—	£5
2003 Proof	—	£6
2003 Suffragette	3,124,030	£6
2003 — BU	9582	£9
2003 — Proof	—	£15
2003 — Silver Proof	6,267	£35
2003 — — — Piedfort	6,795	£45
2003 — Gold Proof	942	£850
2004	35,315,500	£2
2004 BU	—	£5
2004 Proof	—	£8
2004 Roger Bannister	9,032,500	£3
2004 — BU	10,371	£8
2004 — Proof	—	£10
2004 — Silver Proof	4,924	£35
2004 — — — Piedfort	4,054	£45
2004 — Gold Proof	644	£850



Accession to the EEC 1973.



Presidency of the EC Council 1992.



1994



1998 EU Presidency



1998 NHS



2000 Public Libraries



2003 Suffragettes

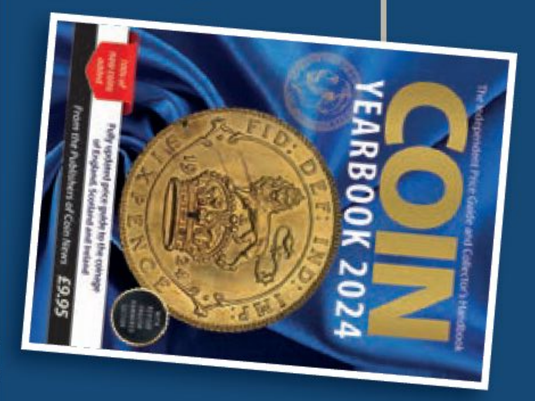


2004 Roger Bannister

Coin prices

Coin price guide to: Decimals—50 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.



CUT OUT AND KEEP

DATE	Mintage	UNC
2005	25,363,500	£2
2005 BU	—	£6
2005 Proof	—	£8
2005 Samuel Johnson	17,649,000	£3
2005 — BU	—	£8
2005 — Proof	—	£10
2005 — Silver Proof	4,029	£35
2005 — — — Piedfort	3,808	£45
2005 — Gold Proof	—	£850
2006	24,567,000	£2
2006 Proof	—	£8
2006 Silver Proof	—	£25
2006 Victoria Cross, The Award	12,087,000	£3
2006 — BU	—	£6
2006 — Proof	—	£8
2006 — Silver Proof	6,310	£30
2006 — — — — Piedfort	3,532	£50
2006 — Gold Proof	866	£850
2006 Victoria Cross, Heroic Acts	10,000,500	£3
2006 — BU	—	£6
2006 — Proof	—	£8
2006 — Silver Proof	6,872	£30
2006 — — — — Piedfort	3,415	£50
2006 — Gold Proof	804	£850
2007	11,200,000	£2
2007 Proof	—	£8
2007 Centenary of Scout Movement	7,710,750	£3
2007 — BU	—	£8
2007 — Proof	—	£12
2007 — Silver Proof	10,895	£35
2007 — — — Piedfort	1,555	£65
2007 — Gold Proof	1,250	£850
2008	3,500,000	£2
2008 — BU	—	£8
2008 — Proof	—	£10
2008 — Silver Proof	—	£25
2008 — Gold Proof	—	£850
2008 — Platinum Proof	—	£1550
2008 ***New Shield Rev.*** Obv. rotated by approx. 26⁰	22,747,000	£5
2008 BU	—	£8
2008 Proof	—	£10
2008 Silver Proof	—	£25
2008 Silver Proof Piedfort	—	£45
2008 Gold Proof	—	£850
2008 Platinum Proof	—	£1550
2009 BU	—	£30
2009 Proof	—	£35
2009 Silver Proof	—	£35
2009 250th Anniversary of Kew Gardens	210,000	£150
2009 — BU	128,364	£175
2009 — Proof	—	£200
2009 — Silver Proof	7,575	£250
2009 — — — Piedfort	2,967	£350
2009 — Gold Proof	629	£3500
2009 Olympic and Paralympic Sports (Track & Field Athletics) Unc (Blue Peter Pack)	19,751	£125
2009 16 different reverses from the past marking the 40th Anniversary of the 50p coin. Proof	1,039	£500
2009 — Silver Proof	1,163	£800
2009 — Gold Proof	70	£15,000
2009 — — — Piedfort	40	£30,000
2010 BU	—	£25
2010 Proof	—	£30
2010 Silver Proof	—	£35
2010 100 years of Girl Guiding UK	7,410,090	£3
2010 — BU	99,075	£7
2010 — Proof	—	£12
2010 — Silver Proof	5,271	£30
2010 — — — Piedfort	2,879	£35
2010 — Gold Proof	355	£850
2011 BU	—	£30
2011 Proof	—	£40
2011 Silver Proof	—	£50



2005 Samuel Johnson



2006 Victoria Cross—the Award



2006 Victoria Cross—Heroic Acts



2007 Centenary of Scouting



2009 Kew Gardens

DATE	Mintage	UNC
2011 50th Anniversary of the WWF	3,400,000	£4
2011 — BU	67,299	£10
2011 — Proof	—	£25
2011 — Silver Proof	24,870	£45
2011 — — — Piedfort	2,244	£80
2011 — Gold Proof	243	£850
2011 Olympic & Paralympic Sports Issues:		
Aquatics Unc, head clear of lines	2,179,000	£4
— Head with lines BU (as illustrated below)	—	£1100
— Head clear of lines. BU	—	£5
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Archery Unc	3,345,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Athletics Unc	2,224,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Badminton Unc	2,133,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Basketball Unc	1,748,000	£3
— BU	—	£5
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Boccia Unc	2,166,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Boxing Unc	2,148,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Canoeing Unc	2,166,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Cycling Unc	2,090,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Equestrian Unc	2,142,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Fencing Unc	2,115,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Football Unc	1,125,000	£10
— BU	—	£15
— Silver BU	30,000	£35
Goalball Unc	1,615,000	£4
— BU	—	£7
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Gymnastics Unc	1,720,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Handball Unc	1,676,000	£4
— BU	—	£7
— Silver BU	30,000	£30
Hockey Unc	1,773,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Judo Unc	1,161,000	£10
— BU	—	£15
— Silver BU	30,000	£35
Modern Pentathlon Unc	1,689,000	£3
— BU	—	£5
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Rowing Unc	1,717,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Sailing Unc	1,749,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Shooting Unc	1,656,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Table Tennis Unc	1,737,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20



2010 100 years of Guiding



2011 WWF Anniversary



Archery
by Piotr Powaga



Athletics
by Florence Jackson



Aquatics—the rare error coin
by Jonathan Olliffe

Coin prices



Volleyball
by Daniela Boothman



Weight Lifting
by Rob Shakespeare



Wheelchair Rugby
by Natasha Ratcliffe



2013 Christopher Ironside



2013 Benjamin Britten

DATE	Mintage	UNC
Taekwondo Unc	1,664,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Tennis Unc	1,454,000	£4
— BU	—	£7
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Triathlon Unc	1,163,000	£10
— BU	—	£15
— Silver BU	30,000	£30
Volleyball Unc	2,133,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Weightlifting Unc	1,879,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Wheelchair Rugby Unc	1,765,000	£3
— BU	—	£4
— Silver BU	30,000	£20
Wrestling Unc	1,129,000	£10
— BU	—	£15
— Silver BU	30,000	£35

Note—Each of the artists of the 29 Olympic sports above was presented with a gold proof coin with their own design. The Track & Field Athletics design coin was dated 2009, the Cycling was dated 2010, and the remaining issues 2011.

2012	32,300,030	£2
2012 BU	—	£8
2012 Proof	—	£10
2012 Silver Proof with selective gold plating	—	£50
2012 Gold Proof	—	£850
2012 Olympic Gold Proof Piedfort. *The 11 Olympic sports in which the Team GB achieved a Gold Medal was celebrated with an issue limit of only 27 Piedfort coins for each sport, some in sets, some as individual coins (see under Proof and Specimen sets)*	27	—
2013	10,301,000	£2
2013 BU	—	£10
2013 Proof	—	£15
2013 Silver Proof	2,013	£55
2013 Gold Proof	198	£850
2013 100th anniversary of Birth of Christopher Ironside	7,000,000	£8
2013 — BU	4,403	£15
2013 — Proof	—	£20
2013 — Silver Proof	1,823	£45
2013 — — — Piedfort	816	£100
2013 — Gold Proof	198	£850
2013 Centenary of the Birth of Benjamin Britten	5,300,000	£8
2013 — BU	—	£25
2013 — Silver Proof	717	£200
2013 — — — Piedfort	515	£250
2013 — Gold Proof	70	£850
2014	49,001,000	£2
2014 BU	—	£10
2014 Proof	—	£15
2014 Silver Proof	—	£55
2014 XX Commonwealth Games	6,502,918	£8
2014 — BU	14,581	£10
2014 — Proof	—	£15
2014 — Silver Proof	2,610	£45
2014 — — — Piedfort	792	£100
2014 — Gold Proof	—	£850
2015	20,101,000	£2
2015 BU	—	£8
2015 Proof	—	£10
2015 Silver Proof	—	£30
2015 Gold Proof	—	£850
2015 Platinum Proof	—	—
2015 Battle of Britain 75th Anniversary BU (no denomination)	35,199	£5
2015 — Proof	—	£15
2015 — Silver Proof	2,839	£30
2015 — — — Piedfort	1,422	£80
2015 — Gold Proof	389	£850

NEXT MONTH: PRICE GUIDE TO DECIMALS—50 PENCE FROM LATE 2015 ONWARDS

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

CUT OUT AND KEEP

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HENRY III (1216-1272)
Irish Cut Half-Penny (S6243) Richard on Dublin VF £44
EDWARD I (1272-1307)
Irish Farthing (S6255) Dublin AVF-VF £295
Irish Farthing (S6255) Dublin GF £150
Irish Farthing (S6256) Dublin Fair £55
Irish Farthing (S6256) Waterford GF £160
Irish Farthing (S6256) Waterford F £110
Irish Farthing (S6256) Waterford NF clipped £75
Irish Farthing (S6268) F Broken & repaired & sl. chipped £35
Irish Half-Penny (S6250) AVF sl. ragged £125
Irish Half-Penny (S6254) Waterford F £75
Irish Penny (S6246) Second coinage GF sig. Chip £44
Irish Penny (S6247) Dublin VF £140
EDWARD IV (1461-1483)
Irish Cut Half-Penny (S6395) Dublin VF sl. chipped £32.50
Irish Penny (S6393) Dublin GVF sl.clipped £750
Irish Penny (S6395) Dublin AVF sl.clipped £295
Irish Penny (S6395) Dublin VF sl. chip £240
Irish Penny (S6395) Dublin Abt.VF 30% chip missing £140
Irish Penny (S6396) Dublin AVF sl.clipped £195
HENRY VII (1485-1509)
Irish Groat (S6453) AVF £350
HENRY VIII (1509-1547)
Irish Sixpenny Groat (S6484) Bristol F for issue sl. creased ..£140
EDWARD VI (1547-1553)
Irish Threepence (S6491) AVF scarce £450
ELIZABETH I (1558-1603)
Irish Groat (S6504) GF-AVF £225
Irish Groat (S6504) GF £175
Irish Shilling (S6503) F Chipped & patina £125
Irish Shilling (S6503) Poor-Fair £75
1601 Irish Half-Penny (S6511) AVF sl.clipped £140
JAMES I (1603-1625)
Irish Shilling (S6512) mm Bell Poor+ £32.50
Irish Shilling (S6512) mm Bell Poor-Fair creased £25
Irish Shilling (S6515) mm Martlet VF £350
Irish Shilling (S6515) mm Martlet Poor-Fair cr/ms £32.50
Irish Shilling (S6515) mm Martlet Poor-Fair £32.50
Irish Shilling (S6515) mm Rose Abt.VF £295
Irish Sixpence (S6514) mm Bell Poor+ £22.50
Irish Sixpence (S6517) mm Escallop GF/AVF £175
CHARLES I (1625-1649)
Irish Farthing (S6525) Richmond VF £49.50
Irish Half-Penny (S6555) Kilkenny Poor £95
GUNMONEY
1689 Irish Half-Crown (S6579D) Oct: Nfair £32.50
1689 Irish Shilling (S6581B) Aug: GF-AVF sl. edgy £69.50
1689 Irish Shilling (S6581D) Oct: AVF/VF £95
1689 Irish Shilling (S6581G) Jan: F-GF £65
1689 Irish Shilling (S6581I) Mar: GF £75
1690 Irish Half-Crown (S6579J) Mar: F sl. green £49.50
1690 Irish Shilling (S6581J3) Mar F £44
1690 Irish Shilling (S6582B) Fair £29.50
1690 Irish Shilling (S6582B) May Poor-Fair serated edge £15
1967 Irish Set Pennies (70) ABU in album £95
1969 Irish Mint set -1971 UNC in COI £22.50
1994 Irish mint set -1998 50p - 1p (6) UNC in case £25
1805 Irish 10p Bank Token VF+ £49.50
1805 Irish 5p Bank Token AVF £29.50
1808 Irish 6 Shillings Golden alloy UNC £25
1808 Irish Crown Proof Pattern FDC £25
1813 Irish 10p Bank Token EF £110
1813 Irish 10p Bank Token Proof Abt.FDC £650
1969 Irish 10p ABU £6
1978 Irish 5p BU £5
1980 Irish 1p UNC £5
1980 Irish 5p UNC £5
1982 Irish 1/2p UNC £5
1985 Irish 5p BU £5
1986 Irish 20p UNC £6
1986 Irish 5p UNC £5
1988 Irish 50p Dublin UNC £7.50
1990 Irish £1 EF £6
1994 Irish £1 AUNC £7.50
1995 Irish 10p UNC £5
1995 Irish £1 AUNC £7.50
1996 Irish 10p UNC £5
1996 Irish 5p UNC £5
1997 Irish 10p UNC £5
1998 Irish 10p UNC £5
1998 Irish 50p UNC £9.50
1998 Irish 5p UNC £5
1998 Irish £1 AUNC £7.50
1999 Irish 10p UNC £5
2000 Irish 10p UNC £5
2000 Irish 2p BU £5
2000 Irish 5p UNC £5
2000 Irish £1 AUNC £7.50
1966 Irish 10 Shillings UNC in COI £25
1930 Irish Half-Crown EF £260
1931 Irish Half-Crown NEF £175
1931 Irish Half-Crown Slabbed by NGC AU-50 .....£325
1933 Irish Half-Crown EF £260
1933 Irish Half-Crown Slabbed by PCGS AU-55 .....£375
1934 Irish Half-Crown GVF-NEF £95
1934 Irish Half-Crown Slabbed by PCGS AU-55 .....£225
1937 Irish Half-Crown Slabbed by PCGS XF-45 .....£550
1939 Irish Half-Crown GVF £17.50
1940 Irish Half-Crown AUNC £55
1941 Irish Half-Crown Slabbed by PCGS AU-55 .....£75
1942 Irish Half-Crown AUNC £49.50
1955 Irish Half-Crown Abt.UNC £22.50
1961 Irish Half-Crown Mule AVF £95
1961 Irish Half-Crown Mule Slabbed by PCGS AU-50 .....£450
1963 Irish Half-Crown AUNC £12.50
1964 Irish Half-Crown EF £6
1928 Irish Florin AUNC £44
1933 Irish Florin EF+ £225
1935 Irish Florin EF £140
1939 Irish Florin GVF £15
1943 Irish Florin Forgery GVF £65
1964 Irish Florin UNC £12.50
1965 Irish Florin AUNC £9.50
1930 Irish Shilling GEF £175
1935 Irish Shilling GEF £55
1940 Irish Shilling VF £11
1954 Irish Shilling Slabbed by NGC MS-65 .....£55
1955 Irish Shilling EF £9.50
1963 Irish Shilling UNC £9.50
1968 Irish Shilling UNC £6
1928 Irish Sixpence AUNC £19.50
1934 Irish Sixpence AUNC £49.50
1935 Irish Sixpence EF+ £29.50
1939 Irish Sixpence ABU £39.50
1940 Irish Sixpence EF £11
1942 Irish Sixpence AUNC £39.50
1945 Irish Sixpence UNC £175
1946 Irish Sixpence AUNC £295
1947 Irish Sixpence AUNC £125
1948 Irish Sixpence GVF £9.50
1949 Irish Sixpence GVF £11
1950 Irish Sixpence EF £22.50
1952 Irish Sixpence NEF £9.50
1956 Irish Sixpence ABU £29.50
1958 Irish Sixpence UNC £39.50
1959 Irish Sixpence AUNC £19.50
1960 Irish Sixpence UNC £19.50
1961 Irish Sixpence UNC £15
1966 Irish Sixpence UNC £6
1933 Irish Threepence AUNC £160
1934 Irish Threepence AUNC £29.50
1935 Irish Threepence EF £22.50
1939 Irish Threepence Slabbed by CGS AU-78 .....£295
1940 Irish Threepence GEF-AUNC £32.50
1943 Irish Threepence AUNC £39.50
1946 Irish Threepence AUNC £29.50
1948 Irish Threepence VF+ £5
1949 Irish Threepence AUNC £22.50
1950 Irish Threepence NEF £7.50
1956 Irish Threepence UNC £15
1962 Irish Threepence UNC £9.50
1964 Irish Threepence AUNC £6
1968 Irish Threepence UNC £5
1805 Irish Penny Fair £9.50
1805 Irish Penny Gilt Proof AFDC e/b gilt sl. worn £260
1816 Irish Penny Token Edward Stephens Fair £9.50
1818 Irish Penny Token Luke Fair £7.50
1822 Irish Penny AVF few marks above head £32.50
1928 Irish Penny AUNC £29.50
1928 Irish Penny Slabbed by NGC MS-63 BN £55
1931 Irish Penny NEF £9.50
1933 Irish Penny GEF £22.50
1935 Irish Penny Abt.UNC £19.50
1935 Irish Penny EF £9.50
1937 Irish Penny GEF-AUNC £19.50
1940 Irish Penny AUNC scarce £325
1941 Irish Penny AUNC £29.50
1942 Irish Penny AUNC £15
1943 Irish Penny AUNC £39.50
1946 Irish Penny AUNC £15
1948 Irish Penny UNC £12.50
1949 Irish Penny UNC £15
1950 Irish Penny AUNC £25
1965 Irish Penny AUNC £5
1967 Irish Penny UNC £5
1968 Irish Penny UNC £5
1680 Irish Half-Penny GVF-NEF few sur. marks Rev. £240
1681 Irish Half-Penny GF £65
1682 Irish Half-Penny Small letters GF £59.50
1683 Irish Half-Penny Abt.VF £125
1686 Irish Half-Penny GF £85
1688 Irish Half-Penny NF-F £75
1691 Irish Half-Penny Limerick AVF sl. porous £140
1692 Irish Half-Penny NF £39.50
1692 Irish Half-Penny Slabbed by ANACS EF-40 .....£295
1693 Irish Half-Penny Fair £25
1694 Irish Half-Penny GFair £29.50
1696 Irish Half-penny VF+ £325
1700 Irish Half-Penny Voce Populi Forgery GF unusual £75
1722 Irish Half-Penny NF weak date £25
1723 Irish Half-Penny AVF £95
1723 Irish Half-Penny R's altered from B's NFair £19.50
1724 Irish Half-Penny AVF deep patina £85
1724 Irish Half-Penny F holed where demonetised £19.50
1737 Irish Half-Penny GFair-NF £15
1741 Irish Half-Penny F £12.50
1742 Irish Half-Penny NF £11
1743 Irish Half-Penny Forgery (6.46g) Poor £12.50
1744 Irish Half-Penny /3 NF £19.50
1746 Irish Half-Penny NFair £7.50
1747 Irish Half-Penny Poor-Fair £6
1749 Irish Half-Penny NF £9.50
1750 Irish Half-Penny NF £11
1751 Irish Half-Penny Fair £7.50
1753 Irish Half-Penny NF £9.50
1760 Irish Half-Penny Abt.F £19.50
1760 Irish Half-Penny Slabbed by NGC XF-40 BN £240
1760 Irish Half-Penny Voce Populi GFair £65
1766 Irish Half-Penny NEF nice £260
1769 Irish Half-Penny F/+ £15
1775 Irish Half-Penny GF £35
1775 Irish Half-Penny Forgery (5.47g) Fair £15
1776 Irish Half-Penny GF some cor. £25
1781 Irish Half-Penny NF £11
1781 Irish Half-Penny Forgery NF £15
1782 Irish Half-Penny NF £11
1782 Irish Half-Penny Evasion "George Rules" Fair £19.50
1783 Irish Half-Penny Forgery (4.94g) NFair £32.50
1783 Irish Half-Penny looks genuine GF £65
1805 Irish Half-Penny VF £15
1820 Irish Half-Penny Token Fair £12.50
1822 Irish Half-Penny AVF £19.50
1822 Irish Half-Penny GF £12.50
1823 Irish Half-Penny GF-AVF £19.50
1823 Irish Half-Penny NFair £6
1928 Irish Half-Penny UNC £35
1928 Irish Half-Penny Slabbed by NGC MS-65 BN £69.50
1933 Irish Half-Penny Abt.UNC RARE £275
1933 Irish Half-Penny EF £59.50
1935 Irish Half-Penny AUNC scarce £150
1935 Irish Half-Penny EF+ £32.50
1937 Irish Half-Penny GEF-AUNC £22.50
1939 Irish Half-Penny UNC scarce £140
1940 Irish Half-Penny AUNC £125
Irish Farthing (S6566) Armstrong GF £85
Irish Farthing (S6569) St. Patricks Fair £55
1723 Irish Farthing NEF £325
1738 Irish Farthing GF £35
1760 Irish Farthing GVF-NEF £125
1806 Irish Farthing VF £15
1806 Irish Farthing Proof No Stop Rev. AFDC £325
1931 Irish Farthing AUNC £25
1932 Irish Farthing AUNC £29.50
1933 Irish Farthing Abt.UNC £19.50
PENNIES
Scottish Cut Half-Penny (S5027) Raul on Roxburgh AVF ...£69.50
Scottish Cut Half-Penny (S5029) GF £35
Scottish Cut Half-Penny (S5031) Henri Roxburgh VF £75
Scottish Cut Half-Penny (S5043) GF £35
Scottish Cut Half-Penny (S5057) F/+ £35
Scottish Cut Half-Penny (S5058) AVF £29.50
Scottish Groat (S5131) F £125
Scottish Half-Groat (S5143) Perth GF chipped £150
Scottish Half-Penny (S5152) AVF sold with ticket £325
Scottish Half-Penny (S5152) Abt.VF 25% chip missing nice .£225
Scottish Groat (S5164B) Heavy coinage AVF sl. chipped £450
Scottish Half-Penny (S5186) GF sl. clipped VERY RARE £350
1582 Scottish 10 Shillings (S5490) GF/AVF £495
1588 Scottish Hardhead Twopence (S5517) Undated AVF ...£240
1601 Scottish Merk (S5497) Poor-Fair £65
Scottish 12 Shillings (S5561) 3rd coinage GVF £550
Scottish 30 Shillings (S5541) 1st coinage F/GF £195
Scottish Forty Pence (S5548) 2nd coinage F/GF £140
Scottish Forty Pence (S5575) GF sl. cr/m & die crack £75
Scottish Twenty Pence (S5590) GF £110
Scottish Twopence (S5602) NF £19.50
1808 Scottish Crown Copper Pattern UNC £19.50
1830 Scottish Crown Proof Pattern FDC £22.50
1799 Scottish Halfcrown Fullerton Silver (28mm) AUNC £1400
1669 Scottish Merk Rotated die axis 90 degrees F RARE £295
1670 Scottish Half-Merk No stops Obv. AVF RARE £395
1670 Scottish Half-Merk No stops Rev. F £140
1670 Scottish Merk Fair £65
1671 Scottish Merk GF-AVF sl. ragged edge £150
1671 Scottish Merk F/GF £140
1671 Scottish Merk NF-F £95
1672 Scottish Half Merk F £125
1672 Scottish Half-Merk F sl. weak date £85
1676 Scottish 1/4 Dollar F/GF £175
1676 Scottish 1/8 Dollar GF-AVF £210
1677 Scottish 1/8 Dollar GF £140
1679 Scottish 1/8 Dollar NF scarce £150
1680 Scottish 1/4 Dollar F/GF £125
1680 Scottish 1/4 Dollar GF stained Rev. £110
1681 Scottish 1/4 Dollar AVF-VF £350
1681 Scottish 1/4 Dollar GF-AVF £260
1688 Scottish 10 Shillings GFair £140
1691 Scottish 10 Shillings (S5659) J in date F £195
1691 Scottish 40 Shillings TERTIO AVF £595
1692 Scottish 40 Shillings TERTIO GF-AVF £550
1695 Scottish 10 Shillings NF-F £140
1696 Scottish 5 Shillings GFair-NF £75
1697 Scottish 10 Shillings inverted die axis GF-AVF £350
1705 Scottish 5 Shillings ANNA GF-AVF £110
1678 Scottish Bawbee NF patina £55
1678 Scottish Bawbee Fair £35
1692 Scottish Bawbee Fair £55
1692 Scottish Bawbee S5670 mm Star F sl. edge crack £85
1695 Scottish Bawbee F £125
1663 Scottish Twopence GF £49.50
1663 Scottish Twopence NF patina £22.50
1677 Scottish Turner Poor+ £12.50

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BANKNOTE NEWS

Amazing results—all in a good cause



THE first two Charity Auctions of King Charles III banknotes have taken place at Spink in Bloomsbury with some stunning results. The sale of £5 notes took place on June 13 and the highlight has to be lot 1, note number CA01 000003, the first time a note with serial number 03 has ever been offered at first issue—it hammered at £11,000, that's 2,200 times face value. Other notable notes included lots 42 and 110 (number 88 and 888) which sold for £2,200 and £2,400 respectively and lot 153, an uncut sheet of 60 notes which hammered at £11,000. The £10 note sale, which featured for the very first time a 02 numbered note, took place on June 27. The aforementioned HB01 000002 sold for £17,000 whilst the next note in the series hammered at £5,500. Other highlights included, once again, number 88 and 888 (£2,200 each) and an uncut sheet of 54 notes that sold for £5,800. We'll detail highlights of the £20 note sale (July 11) and £50 note sale (July 24) next month. Proceeds from all the sales are being donated to a range of charities, including The Childhood Trust, Shout (powered by Mental Health Innovations), The Trussell Trust, Carers UK, Demelza Hospice for Children, WWF-UK, Child Bereavement UK, Samaritans, London's Air Ambulance Charity and The Brain Tumour Charity. For further details, visit www.spink.com.

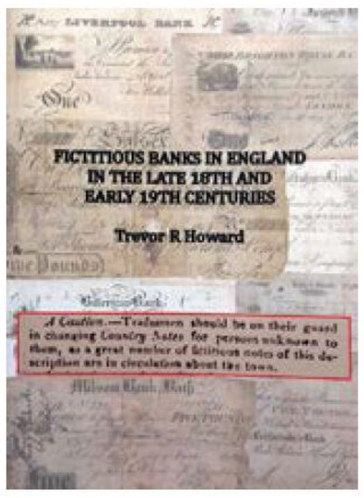
Vincent Duggleby 1939–2024

IT is with sadness that we learn of the death, on June 27, of Vincent Duggleby, financial journalist and probably best known in our hobby as the author of *English Paper Money*. Vincent started his career as a sports reporter for the BBC and went on to work for Radio 4 becoming the Founding Editor of *The Financial World Tonight*, a spin off from *The World Tonight* programme on which he worked. From there he went on to develop a programme about personal finance. The programme, entitled *Money Box*, first aired in October 1977 and is still running on BBC Radio 4 today. Vincent became a co-presenter of the show in 1981 and remained so until his retirement 10 years ago. By this time, he had already published the first *English Paper Money* and the book, now published by Pam West, is in its 10th edition. He also wrote on personal finance for numerous national newspapers and received a host of honours and awards for his work in financial journalism; he was awarded the MBE for services to financial services in 2005. His interests weren't confined to paper money and personal finance though, and he served on both the Royal Mint Advisory Committee and the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society. Philately in particular was one of his passions. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and their two daughters to whom we send our condolences.

All's fair

DON'T forget the NEW London Paper Money Fair taking place on Saturday, October 5, at the Novotel Hotel, Hammersmith, W6 8DR (the same venue that the London Coin Fair has recently moved to); this replaces the IBNS London Branch World Paper Money fair that's usually held in the autumn in Bloomsbury.

Not what they seem



PAM WEST (www.britishnotes.co.uk) has recently published a fascinating new book by Trevor R. Howard entitled *Fictitious Banks in England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries*. The title is fairly self-explanatory, and the book looks at the "fantasy" pieces that circulated in the late 1700s/early 1800s when provincial or private banks were issuing their own notes.

The banks that issued notes did so in the knowledge that they had a "lender of last resort" able to back up paper money with gold, and notes were able to circulate with the recipient safe in the knowledge that the paper he had was literally as "good as gold". That's all well and good if the bank that "issued" the note you received in payment of goods actually exists, but there were many instances where conmen simply invented their own banks and produced notes that had no backing whatsoever. Because of the nature of private banks (and communication during the period in question), not everybody knew of every bank so it was perfectly possible to take a note "issued" by a bank in the next town over that simply did not exist, leaving the recipient seriously out of pocket. For the first time, these notes of fictitious banks have been catalogued and examined and the result is a fascinating read! Copies of the book are being made available, free of charge, through your local banknote club/society. Do get a copy if you can.

Notes at Noonans





WEDNESDAY, June 26, saw Noonans sale of British and Irish Banknotes. The highlight of the day was the £32,000 paid for the extremely rare 1855 £100 banknote from the Liverpool branch of the Bank of England. The note, signed by Matthew Marshall, who was Chief Cashier of the Bank of England between 1835 to 1864, had been cut in half and then taped back together, a common practice for the time as £100 was a considerable sum (around £15,000 today) and the note was kept in two halves and then put back together when it was used. Another of several rare Liverpool notes on offer was the December 1882 £10, signed by Chief Cashier Frank May (who later left the Bank in disgrace when a number of financial irregularities were found), which sold for a hammer price of £26,000 against an estimate of £15,000–20,000. Also worthy of mention was the fascinating Bank of England, Ernest M. Harvey, specimen £1,000 from September 1922, a particularly rare thing as there is only one issued Harvey £1,000 note recorded! This sold for £28,000 against £18,000–20,000. Visit www.noonans.co.uk for more details on these or their next sale of World Banknotes that takes place on August 28.

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

LATEST ISSUES

This month, Michael Alexander of the London Banknote Monetary Research Centre (LBMRC) focusses on new banknotes from Mozambique . . .

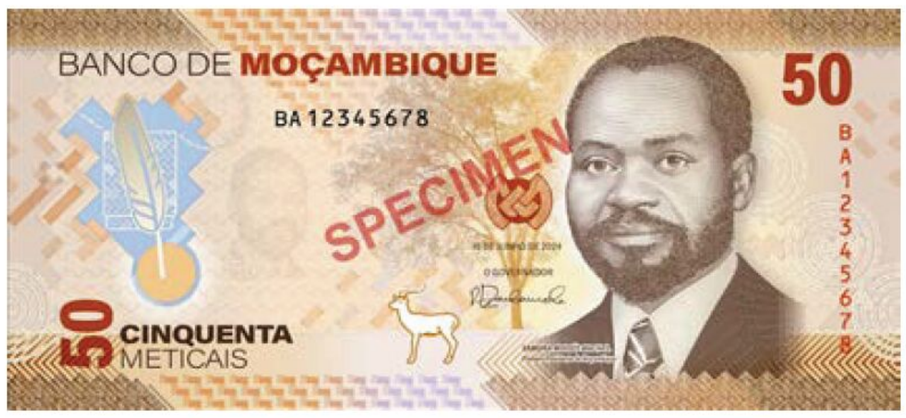
MOZAMBIQUE—New series of banknotes and circulation coins introduced.

The Banco de Mocambique has released their fourth series of Metical banknotes which was announced to co-incide with the 45th anniversary of the introduction of the first metical currency. The Banco de Mocambique itself are preparing for year-long celebrations in 2025 on the occasion of their 50th anniversary of establishment. The Banco de Mocambique is the successor to the colonial branch of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino of the time when Mozambique was governed by Portugal, and was established on May 17, 1975, with the Metical officially introduced in June 1980. The name "Metical" is derived from the Arabic word *mithqāl* which is a unit of weight and an alternative name for the gold Dinar coin used throughout much of Africa until the 19th century. The MZN Metical, currently trading at a rate of MZN 64 to one USD, is divided into 100 Centavos and replaced the Escudo at par in June 1980. After a lengthy period of hyper-inflation, the Metical was re-calibrated at a rate of 1,000 old to 1 new from July 2006 with new coins and banknotes introduced that month. A third series of Metical banknotes, first introduced in 2006, issued again in 2011.

The new series consists of the presently issued six denominations of banknotes from 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 Meticals all commonly dated "*16 JUNHO 2024*". The three smaller denominations of 20, 50 and 100 Meticals are printed on a polymer substrate; the other three higher values of 200, 500 and 1,000 Metical are printed on 100 per cent cotton paper. The dimensions and colour schemes of the new series corresponds to the 2011-dated banknotes. Each banknote features a front-facing portrait of Mozambique's first President after independence, Samora Michel (1933–86), who served from 1975 until his death in 1986. The logo of the Banco de Mocambique is shown above the date. Design elements common to all denominations on the reverse side include images of the Hunter-gatherer rock art paintings found in Chinhamapare Hill within Vumba Mountain Range in Manica, Mozambique. These figures are located to the lower left and right corners. An outline map of Mozambique is shown near the upper right half. Geometrical figures are shown along the upper and lower edges on the right half.

















The polymer denominations are as follows: The 20 Metical is purple in colour and measures 141 / 65mm with the reverse side featuring the image of a mountain range; the 50 Metical is brown and measures 144 / 65mm with the reverse side featuring a herd of gazelles; the 100 Metical note is red and measure 147 / 65mm with the reverse side focusing on agricultural products. The paper denominations as as follows: the 200 Metical is blue in colour, measuring 150 / 65mm with the reverse side including an image of a pride of lions; the 500 Metical note is mauve and measures 153 / 65mm with a traditional wooden dhow sailing boat featuring on the reverse; the largest paper note, the 1,000 Metical, is green in colour and measures 156 / 65mm with a herd of elephants featuring on the reverse side.

Security features of the polymer notes include: (i) Watermark—a simulated watermark which replicates the portrait of President Machel is placed just to the right of the clear transparent window; (ii) Transparent window—a clear window with the image of an iridescent feather and grass mat is placed to the left half near the edge; (iii) Embossed Tactile Marks—each polymer denomination is represented by a series of two to six tactile dots which are located to the left of the transparent window and used to identify each denomination for visually impaired persons.

Security features of the paper notes include: (i) Watermark—viewed from the front, and located on the left half side, is a replicated portrait of President Machel along with the denomination's numeral which can be seen when the note is held up to a source of light; (ii) Animated Security strip—shown on the obverse side is a vertical windowed security strip whose colour corresponds to the note's denomination. A dynamic animated effect can be seen that includes the note's numeric denomination and bank logo; (iii) Tactile Print—a series of chevron lines (left side) and diagonal lines (right side) are located on the edges of each paper-printed denomination which is used to identify the note's value for visually impaired persons; (iv) Optically Variable Ink (OVI)—located to the left of the watermark field is a small OVI application representing the primary design on the reverse side which changes colour when the note is tilted under an ordinary source of light.









Security features of both the polymer and paper notes include: (i) Latent image—shown on the obverse, or front side, and located on the left lapel on the President's portrait are the initials BM and visible when the note is tilted under an ordinary source of light; (ii) Aligned Print—shown on the obverse, each denomination includes the small image of an animal or shape which, when held up to a source of light, corresponds to a similar image on the reverse side and depicts a completed image; (iii) Iridescent print—seen on the reverse side of all denominations is a vertical iridescent print stripe illustrating the bank's logo and numeral representing the denomination.

The Banco de Mocambique advises the public that all banknotes dated 2011 remain legal tender and will co-circulate with the new series until further notice. An entirely new series of circulation-type coins ranging from 10 Meticals to 1 Centavo are also being introduced.

London Banknote and Monetary Research Centre

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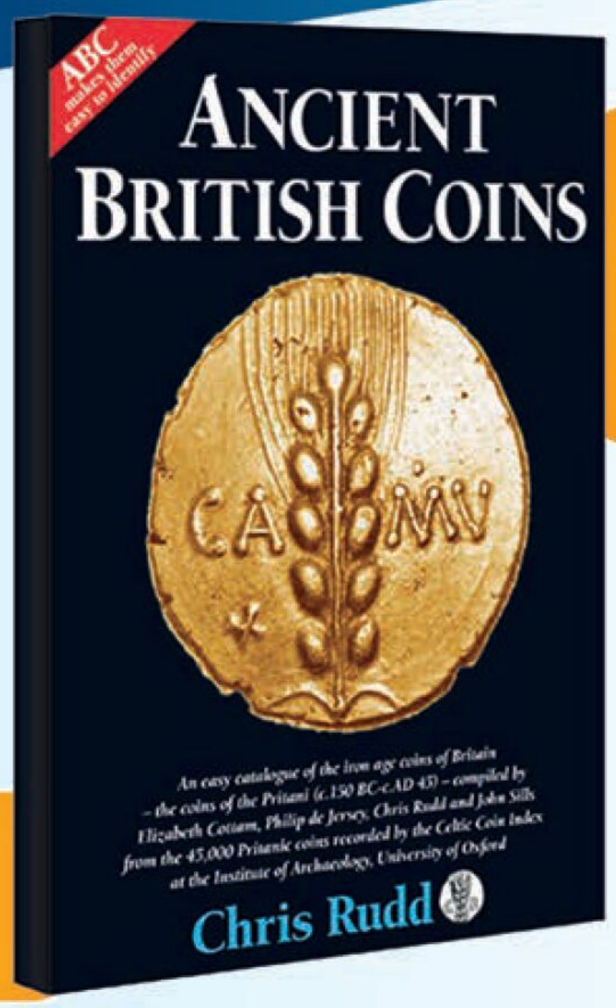
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BANKNOTES FOR Edward Windsor



EDWARD Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David was born on June 23, 1894, heir to the throne of the United Kingdom and the Dominions, Dependencies and Colonies of the British Empire. In 1911, on his 16th birthday, he was created Prince of Wales, seven weeks after his father, George V, succeeded as King. Following the death of his father on January 20, 1936, he ascended to the throne as Edward VIII. He would reign for 326 days.

The story of Edward's few coins has often been told. The story of his banknotes less so. An excellent compendium of Edward's banknotes can be found in Spink's *Portraits of a Prince* compiled by Joseph S. Giordano Jr. It includes issued notes, specimens, proofs and essays.

The notes of few countries are involved. Just Canada, Australia and India are included in Giordano's listing as having produced Edward-related banknote items. In the first half of the 20th century, not all parts of the Empire had got around to including portraits of the British Royal Family on their notes, let alone that of the Monarch.

Assembling a set of these items is a lifetime challenge that requires considerable disposable income. It is a collecting area for the dyed-in-the-wool, well-heeled enthusiast. High-grade examples of Edward's issued notes are expensive. Vignettes come up occasionally, and commonly generate heated and highly competitive bidding. Few of the specimens, essays and proofs involved are in private hands.

In the following account, the various items of paper money involved are identified by their *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* [P#] and/or their *Portraits of Prince* reference [CC#].

Imperial Bank of Canada

The Dominion of Canada has had a long love affair with its Royal Family. Portraits of numerous royals, not just the current monarch, began appearing on Canada's national banknotes within a few years of federation in 1867—as did those of the nation's Governors-General and their spouses. A number of private banks of issue also got into the act. It was one of the latter that created Edward's first banknote appearance.

In 1902, that first note was released by the Imperial Bank of Canada, a $5 dated "1 October 1902" ([P-S1130a] and [CC-1b]).

The issued note was printed by Waterlow & Sons in black with an ochre background tint and signed by Thos R Merritt. The central vignette shows a three-quarter profile of seven year-old Edward in a sailor suit. The genius accompanying him at left has been variously identified as Knowledge and Wisdom.

The note was re-issued dated "1 May 1906", signed by D. R. Wilkie ([P-S1130a] and [CC-2]) and later dated "1 January 1910" ([P-S1130b] and [CC-3]) signed by D. R. Wilkie and another.

The 1902 and 1906 issues are seldom seen at auction. Most recent sales are of the 1910 date, of which only 25 are believed extant.

In 1914, The Imperial Bank of Canada commissioned an updated version of their $5 ([CC-4]). It was similar in design to that of 1902 but with a revised border and an older vignette of Edward, presumably in his late teens.

An essay was produced by Waterlow & Sons but no further printings of this note are known. The outbreak of war may have got in the way.

The Merchants Bank of Canada

In 1919, The Merchants Bank of Canada issued a $5 dated "1 November 1919" showing a central vignette of Edward wearing the uniform of a colonel of the Welsh Guards ([P-S1172]; [CC-7]).

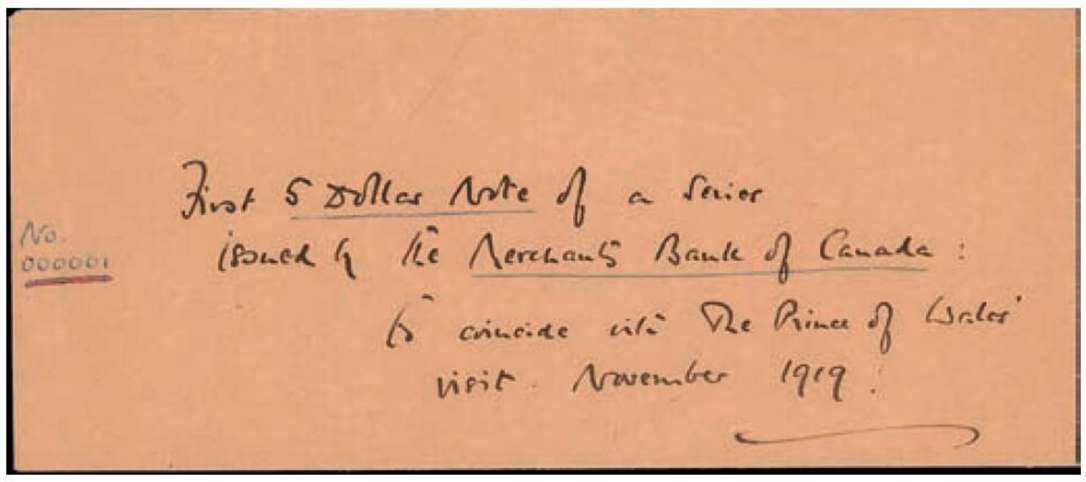
The Merchants Bank vignette, as with others used on Canadian notes over the next decade, is cropped from a one-of-a-set of studio photographs taken during Edward's visit to



The future Edward VIII's first banknote appearance, age seven. Imperial Bank of Canada $5 printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd, London ([P-S1130]). This note was first issued on October 1, 1902 ([P-S1130a]; [CC-1b]), and reissued on May 1, 1906 ([P-S1130a]; [CC-2]) and January 1, 1910 ([P-S1130b]; [CC-3]). The first two dates are very rare, particularly in high grade (image courtesy & © Heritage Auctions).



Block A, serial number 000001, Merchants' Bank of Canada $5 of 1 November 1919. It shows a central vignette of Edward, age 25, wearing the uniform of a colonel of the Welsh Guards ([P-S1172]; [CC-7]). It was printed by American Banknote Company in Ottawa. Today, this note is very rare and seldom seen at auction in high grade. That shown came certified PMG Extremely Fine 40 EPQ (image courtesy & © Stack's Bowers).





The envelope that contained the block A Merchants' Bank of Canada $5 dated 1 Nov 1919 with serial number 000001, along with the accompanying vignette of Prince Edward. As is obvious, this is not the vignette that occurs on the Merchants' Bank $5 but is that used on the Dominion of Canada $2 (see next image) (images courtesy & © Stack's Bowers).

Canada and the United States in 1919. Many of these can be viewed on Wikimedia.

The $5 note was printed in black with the background tinted olive-green by the American Banknote Company in Ottawa. The face design is characterised by two large green Roman "V"s, for five, either side of Edward. It came signed by D. C. Macarow & H. Montagu Allan.

Today, this note is very scarce. It is seldom seen at auction in high grade. Banknote 000001 complete with plate letter "A" was offered in August last year (2023) by Stack's Bowers certified PMG Extremely Fine 40 EPQ. With an estimate of US$40,000–60,000 it was passed-in when bids failed to reach the US$40,000 reserve.

The note came enclosed in an envelope on which was written *"First 5 Dollar Note of a series issued by the Merchants Bank of Canada: to coincide with the Prince of Wales visit November 1919."* It was accompanied by an ABNC vignette of the Prince. This is not that used on the Merchants Bank $5 but that which appears on the Dominion of Canada $2 described below. The vignette card mount carries the hand-written date of "7/2/24".

Dominion of Canada

Canada produced two nationally circulating banknotes exhibiting vignettes of Edward as Prince of Wales.

The first is part of a 1923–25 Dominion of Canada issue featuring Edward and his parents ([P-33] to [P-37]): $1 King George V, $2 Prince Edward, $5 Queen Mary, $500 King George V, $1,000 Queen Mary.

This 1923 $2 has a central vignette showing Edward in his Welsh Guards uniform, an image cropped the series of



Serial number A-000001, Dominion of Canada $2, dated 23 June 1923, and displaying further vignette of Edward in his Welsh Guards uniform ([P-34a] to [P-34l]; [CC-8] to [CC-18]). The note has been hand-signed "Edward P" at the left. This signing occurred during the Prince's 1923 tour of Canada. Subsequently, Edward presented this note to his aide-de-camp, Edward Dudley (Fruity) Metcalfe (image courtesy & © Stack's Bowers).





English and French language varieties of undated Bank of Canada/Banque du Canada $5 engraved by HP Dawson and first issued in 1935 ([P-42], [P-43]; [CC-25], [CC-26]). The bare-headed, three-quarter profile of Prince Edward again shows him in his Welsh Guards' uniform facing to display his preferred left profile ([CC-22]). A similar vignette exists of him seemingly facing to his left ([CC-21]) that was used for a Bank of Canada $5 essay ([CC-23]). This gave a better balanced note. However vignette [CC-21] is simply a mirror image of [CC-22] with the Prince's parting and jacket ribbons now appearing on his right. The ribbons were largely cropped from the vignette used on the essay (images courtesy & © Heritage Auctions).

photographs taken on his 1919 visit. The note was engraved by Robert Savage and printed in black with an olive-green undertint by the Canadian Bank Note Company. The first issue of "23 June 1923" was signed by Geo Hyndman & J. C. Saunders ([P-34a]; [CC-8]).

Following the notes' issue, the photographer responsible for the image used for Edward's vignette claimed the Canadian Bank Note Company had infringed his copyright. The CBNC stated it was unintentional and a friendly settlement helped resolve this matter.

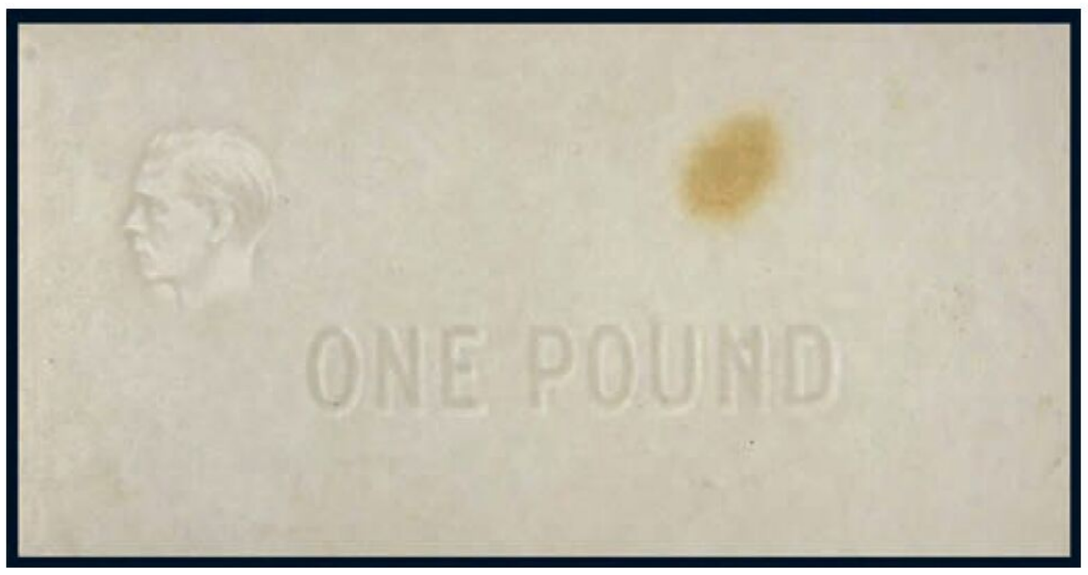
A large number of varieties are known of this $2. They differ as to signatures, series designation letters and seal colour [P-34a] to [P-34l]; [CC-8] to [CC-18]).

"... Canada produced two nationally circulating banknotes exhibiting vignettes of Edward as Prince of Wales ..."

Banknote A-000001, hand-signed by Edward, was offered at auction by Stack's Bowers on August 12, 2016. It went to the block with an estimate of US$40,000–60,000 but was passed-in when it failed to meet its US$40,000 reserve.

The consigner's family history describes the note as being presented to The Prince of Wales during a visit to Canada in 1923. After he had signed the note, he gave it to his aide-de-camp, Edward Dudley (Fruity) Metcalfe.

The note made its way to England where it was traded between friends of Metcalfe. In 1986, a friend of the then owner took it Expo '86 in Vancouver. Subsequently, that friend made an offer to purchase that was accepted.



Blank form watermarked with a prolife image of Prince Edward and "ONE POUND". It differs in several aspects from that used by Australia's Note Printing Branch to produce one pound banknotes of his father George V from 1933 to 1938 ([P-22]; [CC-36]) (image courtesy Noble Numismatics).

Essays are known for a planned 1935 issue in both English and French of a similar $5 note using the same vignette, but displaced to the note's left ([CC-19], [CC-20]). Possibly this note was intended to be part of the planned new series described below.

The second national note was part of a new series for the Bank of Canada released in 1935 and featuring members of the Royal Family ([P-38] to [P-47]): $1 King George V, $2 Queen Mary, $5 Prince Edward, $10 Princess Mary, $20 Princess Elizabeth.

Each denomination came in an English and a French version, a first for any Canadian banknote issue.

The face of the $5 shows the Prince bare-headed in three-quarter left profile at left. Again, he is in his Welsh Guards uniform, a further image from the 1919 series of portraits. The design is the work of H. P. Dawson ([P-42], [P-43]; [CC-25], [CC-26]).

The note was printed by the British American Bank Note Co. in Ottawa in black with a beige and orange-tinted background. It was signed by J. A. C. Osbourne and G. F. Towers.

Following Edward's accession to the throne, plans were put in place for a new note issue in 1937 with Edward replacing his father on the Bank of Canada's $1 note. A series of vignettes, essays and one proof were prepared in June and July 1936, engraved by Robert Savage and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co. ([CC-27] to [CC-32]).

On the face, the central vignette of Edward shows him dressed as Colonel-in-Chief of the Seaforth Highlanders. The image is cropped from a series of portraits by photographer Bertram Park taken c. 1934. Yet again, Edward is shown in left three-quarter profile.

Several of the trial printings of the $1 became publicly available as part of the American Banknote Archive sale by Christies in 1990. An example of the tintype proof ([CC-31]) was exhibited in Canada at the Regina Coin Club Show in April 2018. This proof does not show the full final design of the note's face. It was part of Giordano's personal collection. He had purchased it from R. M. Smythe for $1,625.

Commonwealth of Australia

Down Under, a bareheaded profile of Edward Prince of Wales was used in Australia by the Note Printing Branch as a watermark to produce the paper used for printing the 1933, 1934 and 1936 Commonwealth of Australia issues of his father, George V ([P-19] to [P-24]; [CC-33] to [CC-38]). Several possible designs for this profile were prepared by Portals and personally inspected by Edward. He chose that used, making it clear no other was acceptable.

The denominations involved included Half Sovereign/Ten Shillings (1933–39), One Pound (1933–38), Five Pounds (1933–39) and Ten Pounds (1934–40). (Note that these Australian banknote issues showing George V with an image of his son serving as the watermark continued to be released long after one King's death in 1936 and the other's abdication in the same year.)



Commonwealth of Australia blank papers for (a) £1 and (b) £5 featuring the profile effigy of Edward—either as Prince of Wales and used on 1933 issue notes or as King for a proposed 1936 issue (images courtesy Noonans).

Two unused (blank) One Pound note forms showing Edward' watermark have appeared at auction in Australia. Andrew Crellin of Sterling & Currency has published a detailed comparison of the position and size of Edward's watermark, as well as that of the associated "ONE POUND" watermark, both on these blank forms and those of the corresponding watermarks on printed George V pound notes. He does not regard either of the two blank forms as those used for printing the One Pound notes. The effigies differ in size as do the words "ONE POUND". (See Sterling & Currency website: https://www.sterlingcurrency.com.au/blog/news-research/ and search on Edward VIII).

Earlier this year, Noonans sold seven Australian lots each consisting of two unused banknote papers, a £1 and a £5, both featuring a watermark portrait of Edward. All had been sourced directly from Portals Paper Archive.

The description of the first of these lots contains the comment: "*These watermarked papers represent the only publicly obtainable trace of the intended [Commonwealth of Australia] issue of 1936, as all other proofs and specimens are held by institutions.*"

That said, the possibility exists that those on offer were examples of the papers used for the 1933 George V issues that also bore Edward's watermark.

Certainly, the arrival of the new Monarch in January 1936 saw Australia's Note Printing Branch gear up to prepare a new Edward VIII issue. With new George V issues having been introduced just three years earlier, full new designs were deemed unnecessary. The notion was to simply swap the vignette of George V for that of the new Monarch—and, of course, use the same watermarked papers!

Australia, like Canada, opted to use an image cropped from one of Park's portraits of Edward showing the then Prince in his Seaforth Highlanders' regalia. The result was a bareheaded, three-quarter profile bust of Edward facing right and hence showing his preferred left profile.

The resulting essay can be seen on display in the Museum of Australian Currency Notes in Sydney ([CC-38.1]). The note is engraved in green with an off-white and pink background. The geometric lathe engravings and wording on the note are

identical with those of the last pound issue of George V—as are the signatories, EC Riddle and HJ Sheehan ([P-22]).

A pencil notation in the upper margin reads "*N.P.L. 11/11/36*", presumably the date of completion or of official approval of the essay. In the event, the abdication took place 30 days later and the essay was filed to become part of Australia's banknote history. No examples are known in the public domain.

Reserve Bank of India

The relatively newly formed Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had no hesitation with getting on with creating new Edward VIII notes. The intent was to have issues of the new Monarch in circulation by the summer of 1937, presumably to mark the Coronation if not a post-Coronation durbar.

A comparison of the subsequent issues of George VI with those of George V shows that the opportunity was being taken to completely redesign some issues. This had already commenced in 1935 with the smaller RBI denominations.

Just one note for Edward VIII is known to have been prepared to the essay stage. Giordano illustrates and details a RBI 100 Rupee essay showing a crowned effigy of Edward at the right ([CC-38.2]). He credits this item to Note Printing Australia (NPA). Presumably, given the 1936 date of the essay production, he is referring to the NPA's predecessor, the Note Printing Branch.

And initial enquiry of the Reserve Bank of Australia produced a response that the illustrated 100 Rupee was not held in their collection. They did observe that Australia had printed banknotes for the Reserve Bank of India in subsequent years and the relevant RBA records imply this had occurred previously.

A second enquiry, this time to the archivist at NPA, failed to locate any evidence that Note Printing Branch had been involved with production of the 100 Rupee essay nor that either the NPA or its predecessor had ever done any work for the RBI, including consultations.

And there that matter must rest unless any reader has solid information and, especially, an image that might shed light on this matter. It can be noted that Giordano also credits Note Printing Australia for the image of the Edward VIII Pound essay but the essay and its records are held by The Reserve Bank of Australia.

As a footnote, when a new RBI 100 Rupee did appear in 1938 ([P-20]) the design's engraving and wording was exactly that of the proposed Edward VIII 100 Rupee but with Edward's portrait replaced with that of his brother George VI. The design is in sharp contrast to the earlier George V 100 Rupee ([P-10]).

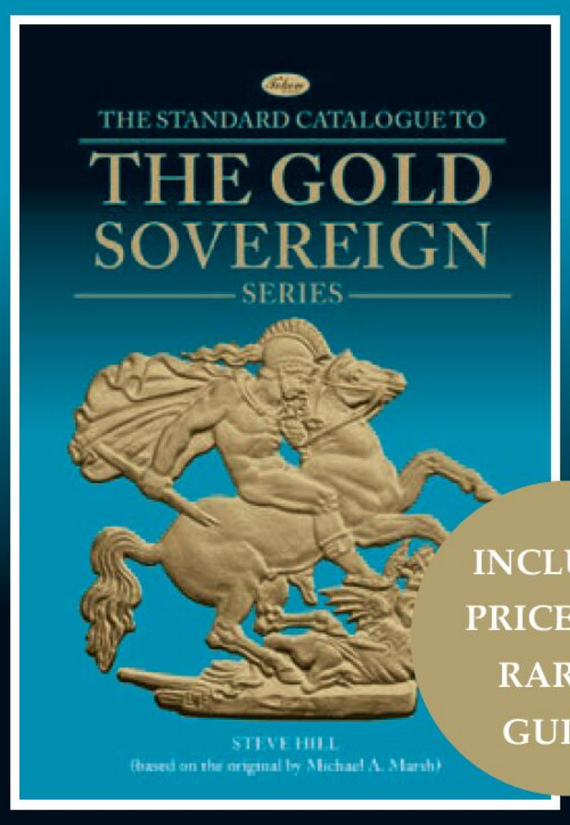
"... In the first half of the 20th century, not all parts of the Empire had got around to including portraits of the British Royal family on their notes, let alone that of the Monarch ..."



Essay for planned Commonwealth of Australia one pound issue of Edward VIII ([CC-38.1]). The engraving, lettering and signatories are the same as those on the then existing pound note of George V ([P-22]; [CC-36]). The bareheaded, three-quarter profile vignette of Edward shows him dressed as Colonel-in-Chief of the Seaforth Highlanders. It is based on a photo taken c. 1934 by Bertram Park (image courtesy & © Reserve Bank of Australia).



Choice Edwardiana: face of Bahamas Government pound of George VI ([P-11]) hand signed by Edward Duke of Windsor during his World War II stint as Governor of the Bahamas from 1940 to 1945—a role Edward detested (image courtesy & © Heritage Auctions).



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OUR "just for fun" feature—the coffee break quiz—poses 12 numismatically-related questions this 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 coinage of King Charles III includes a salmon on the 50p, so it seems appropriate to look further afield for other fishy coins!

1. What spectacular fish is on the 50 cents that was made of silver 1966–1973 and copper nickel thereafter for a group of Atlantic islands?
2. Which Mediterranean island had a lampuki (or dolphinfish) on its 10 cents from 1986 onwards?
3. From 2003, a landlocked African republic had a Nile perch on its coins of what denomination?
4. To commemorate the World Fisheries Conference in Rome in 1984, which island country off the west coast of Africa had a white seabream on its 50 escudos coin?
5. A rabbitfish was on the Fiji 5 cents in which year?
6. What fish is on the 1 and 5 cents of the Seychelles 1976 to 1977?
7. Apparently at home in the air and the sea, what was on the 1 dollar of Barbados from 1973?
8. Bonito fish are on the 5 laari coins from where?
9. Where in the Pacific do the 2 cents display a whiptail stingray and the 5 cents a tiger shark?
10. From 1970, which Atlantic island has had a Queen Angelfish on its 5 cents?
11. Which mint manufactured the Comoros 5 francs which carries an endangered species of fish, the coelacanth?
12. Could it be a fish or an animal? What was on the 50 cents of Singapore, 1967 to 1985?

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mra25@cam.ac.uk

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Cheshire CW6 9PB.
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2nd Tuesday of the month, except January and August
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Crewe CW2 8ER.
07828 602611

DEVON & EXETER NS
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07835 800894
haveringcoins@hotmail.com

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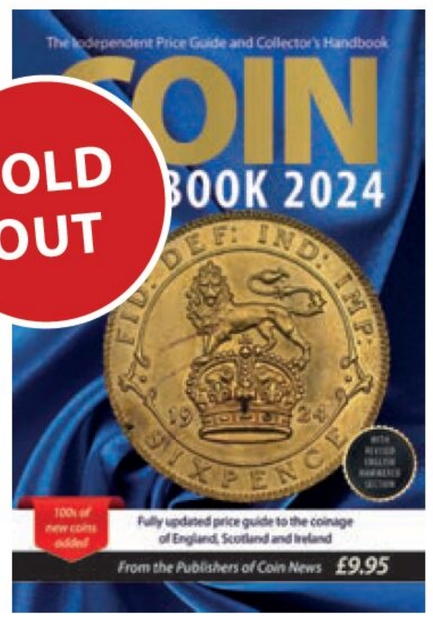
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