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Front cover: Scottish silver ryal of Mary and Henry, Regular issue (not to scale); from dies A19/55, weight 468.3 grains. (See article "The Silver Ryals coinage of Mary, Queen of Scots")

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Valuable Coins in Change

Kathryn Harris and Mark Nemtsas

Abstract

Noodling, or looking through bulk lots of coins, is a time-honoured part of coin collecting, and is often the way that new coin collectors enter the hobby. This paper introduces collectors to the art of 'noodling' Australian decimal coins. It explains how to source coins and know which tools and references are helpful. A list of sought-after coins by denomination is provided with aids to their identification and approximations of current value.

Keywords

[coin noodling] [error coins] [coin varieties]

Introduction

Coin noodling, coin hunting, coin fossicking, it's all the same thing. It is the act of looking through a large number of coins for unusual errors, varieties, low mintage coins, or simply one of each coin design to make a full set. It is often the perception among experienced coin collectors that noodling decimal coins in Australia is largely a waste of time and that true noodlers only bother to look through hoards of pre-decimal silver and bronze coins. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the last few years looking at decimal coins for errors and varieties has grown in popularity because of the value to be found in those coins. As an added bonus, the cost of getting into this rewarding hobby is essentially zero. All that is needed to get started is a pair of functional eyes, a stack of loose change to look through, a handy reference such as this, and some enthusiasm. So why wait, let's get started!

Where to Find Coins

The most common place to find coins to noodle is your change. New noodlers often come to the hobby when they receive an odd looking coin in their change. They will then start taking closer notice of their change and be amazed at the sheer number of different designs that can be found on various coins. Enthusiasm will grow and they will want to look through more coins than can be found in a pocket, purse, or money box. To keep moving forward those enthusiasts will want to source some bulk coin lots. This will increase the chance of finding something special.

Coin rolls or bags are most commonly found at banks or retailers. Retailers are going to be reluctant to hand out their bulk change as they have paid for that convenience. If you work in retail or know someone who does then this could be a good way of finding coins to look through.

Banks

Banks are the most popular place to obtain bulk coins. The routine goes something like this. Go to a branch where you have an account, ask for an amount of change (say \$500 in \$1 coins), take those coins home, noodle through them and redeposit the coins you do not keep in *another* branch. It is important to switch your branches or you will end up looking at the same coins over and over.

Many new collectors think that banks will be a great source of new shiny uncirculated coins direct from the mint. But do not be fooled into thinking that they will have new coins as different branches have differing demands usually due to their location. For example, banks in large shopping centres receive huge quantities of circulated coin from surrounding retailers which is then sent out of the bank. Those branches almost never receive new coins. Other banks may be next to popular gaming venues and act as clearing houses for thousands of circulated dollar coins pulled from gaming machines. It is really a matter of luck and the only way to know is to ask at the bank. A word of warning though, if you do not have an account at the bank they are likely to be unhappy providing you with coins to feed your hobby, so be polite, think about opening an account, and be willing to try different branches.

Security Companies

Some lucky noodlers have connections to the security companies who deliver coin to their clients – usually banks, businesses and retailers. These security companies are the means by which coins move from bank to bank, from the Royal Australian Mint (RAM) to banks, and then from banks back to the Royal Australian Mint. Given that the RAM uses security companies to deliver new coin means that they are the best chance of getting new coin to look through. A noodler without direct contacts within a security company must resort to trying to work out what banks they deliver their new coins to. Find out where they are and then you have a chance of finding new coins. Remember it is the Royal Australian Mint and security companies who determine when, where, and to whom new coin is delivered.

The Club, the Pub, or the Casino

If you have not got a spare few hundred dollars to make bulk coin purchasing worthwhile why not visit the local club, take a \$50 note out of your wallet, feed it in a poker or gaming machine and press 'COLLECT'. Hey presto, you have \$50 in coins to look through. Do not be tempted by the flashing lights and music to play the game; this is not what you are here to do. Choose a well-lit machine in a quiet corner of the club and check each coin from the machine before feeding it back in to another machine. Many hundreds of the 2000 dollar mule coins have been found this way.

The Tools You Will Need

One of the true delights of noodling for interesting or valuable coins is that you have all the tools you'll need to get started right now. That is because all you will need is a comfortable place to sit, your eyes, and adequate light. As you get deeper into the hobby you will probably want to purchase a few tools to make your job a little easier. These tools could include:

- A loupe or magnifier.
- A dedicated light source.
- An illuminated magnifier on a moveable arm.
- Some black felt to cover your work surface to make stacking and viewing your coins easier.
- A current coin catalogue or list of coins to look out for.

There are a couple of less tangible tools you will need to enjoy this pastime. The first of these is patience as sitting at a table for an hour or more while peering closely at several hundred or even thousands of coins can be tiring and often, you will spend your time fruitlessly without finding anything of interest. Without patience and persistence it is unlikely you will keep that up for long. The second tool that any seasoned coin collector possesses is knowledge. To be successful you need to read and learn as much about types of varieties and how to identify them, and to be able to distinguish a genuine error coin from mere post-mint damage. With the plethora of information available online (and from papers like the one you are reading right now) growing your knowledge is free and only takes time!

An Incomplete List of Target Coins

It is not possible within the space given to us here to provide a complete list of interesting coins that can be found in circulation here in Australia. The focus will be on some key coins or types of coins that are either easy to spot, worth more than face value, or hold a prominent place in local coin noodling 'folklore'.

Non Circulating Legal Tender (NCLT)

A huge array of coins is produced each year by the Royal Australian Mint for the collector market. These coins are Australian legal tender and often have the same specifications as circulation coins but were not ever intended to get into circulation and be spent. Of course, sometimes they do and you can occasionally find these types of collector coins in change. This is all a bit odd because their value as collector coins is usually much more than their face value. Examples of collector only dollar coins that might end up being found in change can be seen in Figure 1.

While not quite non circulating legal tender it is not too unusual to find coins intended for mint sets or proof sets in circulation. While these coins might bear the same design as normal circulating coins their lustre and quality of strike makes them stand out from the norm. Proof coins, of course, have a frosted/mirrored appearance and are even more distinctive when found in circulation.



Figure 1: The 2012 Coloured Sumatran Tiger, 2011 Census, 2012 Wheat Sheaf (seen with Bluebell counterstamp) and 2011 Presidents Cup.

Circulating Designs with added mintmarks not Issued for Circulation

From time to time the Royal Australian Mint will place a special mark on a standard design coin that you would normally find in circulation. This is simply so that they have another product to market to coin collectors who find such things attractive. In 1993 the Landcare dollar was minted for circulation but coins with that same design were issued to collectors with C, S and M mintmarks via various agricultural shows around

the country.¹ It is quite possible to find one of those coins in your change (where it was never meant to be). Another example is from 2009 when the Mint put a 'Master Mintmark' in the shape of a kangaroo within a C on the regular 'mob of roos' dollar coin.² This is a slight change to a circulating coin that could easily be overlooked and passed on in change. You can see this Master Mintmark dollar coin in (Figure 2), the mintmark can be found at about 2 o'clock on the reverse of the coin.



Figure 2: The 2009 Master Mintmark Dollar Coin.

Silver in Circulation

It has been almost 50 years since Australia issued a circulating coin that contained any silver, and that was the iconic 1966 round 50 cent coin (Figure 3). That coin was hoarded out of circulation by the Australian public as the silver value quickly outstripped the face value of the coin.³ Despite this the round silver coins (which contain about a third of an ounce of silver) are still spent in shops for 50c and cashed in at banks for face value. The authors are continually amazed by stories of people asking bank tellers “Do you have any strange looking 50 cent coins?” and then being able to buy one or several 1966 rounds for face value. Right now those coins are worth about 14 times face value so that is a bargain.

1 McDonald (2014): 150

2 McDonald (2014): 166

3 Australian Fifty Cent Coins - 1966 Round Silver 50c: <http://www.cruzis-coins.com/50c/1966.html>



Figure 3: Reverse of the 1966 Round 50 Cent

There is one other source of silver in circulation and that is from pre-decimal silver coins: florins, shillings, sixpences and threepences. The authors have in the last several years received both a 1960 florin and a 1963 shilling in change, and still hear of noodlers finding florins in rolls of 20 cent coins and rogue threepences in bags of 5 cent coins. Sure it does not happen often, but it does happen and it is something to look out for.

One Dollar Coins

2000 \$1/10c Mule

A 'mule' coin is created when the dies used to mint the coin were never intended to be used together. The most famous Australian 'noodlers delight' is the year 2000 \$1/10c mule. This coin in Figure 4 was struck on a regular aluminium bronze dollar coin planchet and the reverse shows the familiar 'mob of roos' design. The obverse however, is a bit different because that side was struck with an Australian 10c obverse die. That die is slightly smaller than the dollar obverse die and this leads to the key identifier of the 2000 \$1/10c mule, the rather obvious thicker rim around the portrait of the Queen.

With an estimated mintage of 6,000 coins,⁴ these surfaced initially in Perth where they were found in their hundreds by keen noodlers who spent many weeks at the Burswood Casino looking for them. They are still found today by people who hunt for them, and the authors hear stories of people finding them in their change quite frequently.

4 Mule Madness! <https://downies.wordpress.com/tag/2000-1-mule/>



Figure 4: The 2000 \$1/10c Mule

2001 Centenary of Federation Dollar – Rotated Die Error

While striking the 2001 Centenary of Federation (COF) dollar coin there was a problem during the production run of one pair of obverse and reverse dies.⁵ The problem was that the obverse die wasn't fastened correctly and it slowly rotated as it struck more coins. This meant that instead of the produced coins having the usual medal alignment (obverse and reverse oriented the same way) they were produced with all manner of angles between the obverse and reverse dies. These coins are known as 'upset' or 'rotated die' coin errors and anyone who finds a 2001 COF dollar in change should spin it between their fingers to see if the sides are correctly aligned. If they are not you have found yourself a nice little error! Some people have found enough of these upset Federation dollars with various angles of upset to create an entire clock-face of errors. That is, a 1 o'clock upset, a 2 o'clock upset, and so on.

Rabbit Ears Dollar (Various Years)

It has been proposed by various collectors that the area around the ear of the top kangaroo on the mob of roos dollar coin is inherently weak. This is suggested because that area of the die has broken off from time to time while it was striking coins leading to a cud in that area. This cud often takes a form that resembles the ear of a rabbit lying flat against the back of the kangaroo (Figure 5). This leads to the name of this interesting error: 'the rabbit ear dollar'. To-date rabbit ear dollars have been found on coins dated 1984, 1985, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2013. If you see a dollar of any of those years make sure to flip it over and look at the top kangaroo.

⁵ McConnelly (2015): 125

In addition to this a coin may have a cud in front of the top kangaroo's mouth known as a 'spew roo', or the rabbit ears may appear further down the kangaroo's back on its own making a 'backpack roo'.



Figure 5: The Rabbit Ear Dollar

1992 Mob of Roos Dollar

Hidden away on the website of the Royal Australian Mint is a mintage table showing how many dollars were minted each year. 1992 reveals that the RAM minted 8,000 'mob of roos' dollars.⁶ This is not that interesting until you find out almost no-one has ever seen one. The 1992 'mob of roos' dollar is a mythical beast which was not issued in mint sets or to collectors, and as far as is known, it was never released into circulation. The authors only know of two people who have seen one and eagerly sought a picture to confirm its existence, only to be told that the coin was accidentally spent buying a cup of coffee!

50 Cent Coins

Double Bar 50 Cent Coins

There is a design feature on the reverse of the 'Coat of Arms' 50 cent coins that appears on some years and not on others. Immediately behind the head of the emu, two lines can be seen joining the head to the swirl of Mitchell grass. The two lines are known as 'double bars' and can primarily be seen on 50 cent coins of 1966, 1979, and 1980

⁶ One dollar. 2015. One dollar. <http://www.ramint.gov.au/designs/ram-designs/1dollar.cfm>

(Figure 6). It is assumed that these lines initially formed part of the design but were removed because they caused die weakness and were subsequently removed by the Royal Australian Mint.⁷ Generally 'Double Bar' 50 cent coins are not worth more than face value unless the condition of the coin is excellent.



Figure 6: Double Bars (left), No Double Bars (Right)

1977 Coat of Arms 50 Cent

The circulating 1977 50 cent uses a non-standard reverse design that celebrates the silver jubilee of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II. The attractive radial design was sculpted by Stuart Devlin (who designed the reverses of all Australian decimal coins to that point in time) and should be familiar to most people in Australia. However, some 1977 50 cent coins were minted with the standard Coat of Arms design and these escaped the mint. Technically these coins are 'mules' as the 1977 obverse was never intended to be used with the Coat of Arms reverse. They are valued at several thousand dollars each.⁸

2000 "Incuse Flag" Millennium 50 Cent

In the year 2000 the RAM released a commemorative 50 cent with a reverse design that included a large Australian flag with the usual Union Jack in the top left and 7 pointed Federation Star below. In mid-2006 it was noted by some collectors that the central Cross of St. George and the diagonal Cross of St. Patrick of the Union Jack was different on some of the 2000 Millennium 50 cent coins. On the majority of the coins the two crosses are in relief and the incuse surface of the Federation Star had a rough texture. A few of the coins were different - the Crosses of St. George and St. Patrick were incuse and the incuse surface of the Federation Star was smooth. This is the so called 'Incuse Flag' Millennium coin that has an estimated mintage of 200,000 coins. Figure 7 shows a comparison of the incuse flag against the regular relief flag on the 2000 Millennium 50 cent.

⁷ 1980 Double Bar Australian Fifty Cents. <http://www.cruzis-coins.com/50c/1980d.html>

⁸ Rodgers, K. Mules Fetch Top Dollar in Downies Sale. <http://www.numismaster.com/ta/numis/Article.jsp?ad=article&ArticleId=26697>

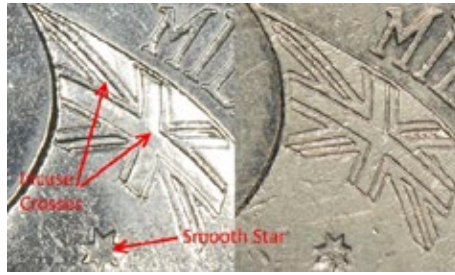


Figure 7: Incuse Flag (left), Regular Flag (Right)

A recent Freedom of Information claim made to the Royal Australian Mint suggests that two pairs of ‘incuse’ reverse dies were prepared to strike high quality coins for mint sets. However, this never eventuated and the dies were used to strike coins for circulation.⁹ The ‘Incuse Flag’ 50 cent is a favourite coin among noodlers and values range from a few tens of dollars for a well circulated coin to a thousand dollars or more for an uncirculated example.

2010 Coat of Arms 50 Cent – Rotated Die Error

Figure 8 shows the 2010 Coat of Arms ‘Rotated Die Error’. At some stage during the production process the obverse die was upset by one of the 12 sides of the iconic shape of the 50 cent coin. Perhaps the obverse production die was wrongly hubbed, or perhaps the die was simply installed incorrectly. The exact reason is unknown but the result is that there are a number of 2010 Coat of Arms 50 cent coins that have the obverse and reverse dies rotated by 30°. Noodlers have been finding these coins for the last few years and circulated coins are worth between \$30 and \$50.



Figure 8: 2010 50 Cent Rotated Die Error

⁹ Royal Australian Mint (2013):6

20 Cent Coins

1966 “Wavy Baseline” 20 Cent

The 1966 ‘Wavy Baseline’ 20 cent is among the most desirable coins a noodler can reasonably expect to find. In 1966 some 30 million 20 cent coins were minted by the Royal Mint in London and some of those coins showed a distinctive curve at the top of the baseline of the ‘2’ on the reverse. On genuine ‘wavy’ 20 cent coins there’s a corresponding curve in the water wave above the base line and a thinning of the down-stroke of the 2.¹⁰ It is important to look for all these characteristics to determine if your coin is genuine as fabricated versions of this variety are not unknown. It is no surprise that attempts have been made to pass off fabrications of this interesting coin, with average circulated Wavy Baseline 20 cent coins worth at least \$200, and uncirculated coins worth several thousands of dollars. Figure 9 compares the Wavy Baseline 20 cent with a standard coin.



Figure 9: Wavy Baseline 20 Cent (left), Regular 20 Cent (right)

2001 Platypus 20 Cent – Rotated Die Error

It is not a well-known variety, but some 2001 20 cent coins are upset by about 160°. The authors are aware of fewer than 10 examples of this variety. It is difficult to say whether this is due to the scarcity of the coin or the lack of awareness of the variety, and hence noodlers are simply not looking out for it. Regardless, it is a dramatic looking coin and can sell for upwards of \$100.

¹⁰ Crellin, A. One of the Rarest Australian Decimal Coins Issued Into Circulation - the 1966 Twenty Cent With the Wavy 2. <https://www.sterlingcurrency.com.au/research/one-rarest-australian-decimal-coins-issued-circulation-1966-twenty-cent-wavy-baseline>.

10 Cent Coins

1966 10 Cent – Rotated Die Error

Due to the demand for new coinage during the changeover to decimal coins in 1966, manufacture of coins was split between the Royal Mint in London, the Royal Mint branch in Perth, and the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra. 10 cent coins were minted in London and Canberra. It appears that at least one of the die pairs used in London had a loose obverse die and this resulted in London minted 1966 10 cent coins with all manner of rotated die errors. The authors have seen degrees of rotation ranging almost the full clock face of upsets. As usual with any upset die error, the most spectacular are those at or around 180 degrees. This variety is rare and sells for \$100 or more.

5 Cent Coins

1972 5 Cent

Valuable only because of the relatively low mintage of 8.256 million coins the 1972 5 cent is a favourite coin to look for among noodlers new and old.¹¹ They can still be found with some regularity and will often realize \$5-\$10 on online auction sites.

2007 “Double Headed” 5 Cent

Double headed (and tailed) Australian decimals are not unknown. The coins are struck in the coining press while there are two obverse (or two reverse) dies installed and it is often thought these coins are ‘mint sport’.¹² They are usually found in top grades suggesting they were removed from the mint by means other than getting put into circulation.¹³ However, somewhat unusually, a number of double headed 2007 5 cent coins were put into circulation and have been found from time to time by coin noodlers and members of the public who noticed something odd with a coin in their change. A genuine 2007 ‘double header’ 5 cent will have the two sides upset at 180 degrees and would be worth \$1,000 or more even when circulated.

2 Cent Coins

1968 2 Cent

The 1968 2 cent was minted at the Royal Mint branch in Perth and had a relatively low mintage of just under 17 million coins. They are keenly sought by collectors and circulated examples can sell for \$5 to \$10 via online auctions.

11 Harris K., Nemtsas, M. Australian 1966-1984 Standard 5 Cent Mintages. <http://www.australian-coins.com/australian-coin-mintages/type/7/1966-1984-standard-5-cent/>

12 McConnelly (2015): 36

13 McConnelly (2015): 36

No SD Two Cent

The initials of Stuart Devlin can usually be found on the reverse of 2 cent coins just to the left of the front right paw of the frilled neck lizard. However, on some coins minted for 1967, 1968, 1973 and 1981 the initials cannot be seen. It is beyond the scope of this paper to go into the exact details why they are missing, but sufficient to say that the initials are believed to have been omitted (that is left off of the design) rather than just missing (due to die fill or weak strike).¹⁴ In circulated grades a 'No SD' two cent would be worth \$10-\$20 while a full red uncirculated coin would be worth over \$1000.¹⁵

1977 2 Cent – Doubled Obverse Die

There are very few known examples of true hub doubled coins in the Australian decimal series. As far as the authors are aware, the 1977 2 cent with the double die obverse is the only recorded decimal variety of the type. The type is rare and the authors are only aware of one selling recently, a full red uncirculated coin that realized \$500 plus commission in Downies Auction#315 in October 2013.¹⁶

Low Mintage Coins

Various coins were released in low enough numbers to make them worth a little more than face value regardless of their condition. Table 1 provides a list of lower mintage coins that are worth putting to one side if you have found them in change or are noodling.

Table 1 - Low Mintage Coins

1968 1 cent – Perth Mint	1966 2 cent – Perth Mint	1968 2 cent
1973 2 cent – Perth Mint	1972 5 cent	1985 1 cent
1981 20 cent – 3 ½ claws	1988 Platypus 20 cent	1995 United Nations 20 cent
2001 Bradman 20 cent	2001 Centenary of Federation 20c x 9	1985 50 cent
1988 First Fleet 50 cent	1991 'Rams head' 50 cent	2001 State Centenary of Federation 50 cent x 9
2012 'Poppy' \$2 Coin	2013 Purple Coronation \$2 Coin	2014 Green Remembrance \$2 coin
2015 'Lest We Forget' ANZACs Red \$2 Coin		

14 Hartshorn, I. Missing SD. 2015. Missing SD. <http://www.aussie-coins.com/fa4.htm>.

15 Eigner, E. Australia, 1981 Two Cent without SD initials - PCGS MS65RD. <http://www.drakesterling.com/coins-for-sale/products/1981-two-cent-without-sd-initials-1>

16 Australian Coin Auctions - Auction 315 - Decimal Errors and Varieties. 2013. http://downies.com/aca/Auction315/Catalogue_014.html

Error Coins

Error collecting is a broad area of interest with many different types of possible errors. Furthermore each error coin is typically unique as it is usually the result of manufacturing problems at some stage during the coin production process. There are so many errors that it is not possible to provide a complete listing here. Nor is it possible to provide a complete explanation of how each error comes about. If you are interested, we suggest you read McConnell's Australian Pre-Decimal & Decimal Coin Errors or Herbert's Official Price Guide to Mint Errors.

Following is a non-comprehensive list of some of the types of coin errors that might be found while noodling.

Wrong Planchet Errors

In 2010 a lucky shopper was handed a dollar coin from the till as her change. It was very different indeed, struck on a completely wrong planchet, the bi-metal type, this coin had the edge lettering of a Venezuelan Bolivar.¹⁷ This coin has not been offered for sale but we would expect it to fetch many thousands of dollars at public auction today. This sort of find is truly exceptional but not without precedent. Other decimal coins have been struck on foreign blanks such as 1981 20 cent coins struck on wavy flan Hong Kong \$2 blanks, 1995 United Nations 20 cents struck on Thai temple token blanks,¹⁸ and \$2 coins struck on Euro 10 cent planchets (Figure 10).¹⁹



Figure 10: \$2 Coin struck on Euro 10 Cent Planchet

It is more usual (but by no means common) to find Australian wrong planchet errors struck on planchets intended for other Australian denominations. The authors are aware of almost every combination you could imagine: \$1 on 10c planchets, 50c on 20c planchets, 20c on 10c planchets, 50c on \$1 planchets, 5c on 1c planchets (Figure 11), and 2c on 1c planchets. The value of these sorts of errors is dependent on scarcity, with

17 The Australian Coin Collecting Blog, Exciting New Dollar Discovery, The Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine Vol 13 No.3:10.

18 McConnell (2015): 133

19 McConnell (2015): 134

a 2 cent on 1 cent planchet worth several hundred dollars and values for other variations scaling upwards to several thousands of dollars per coin.



Figure 11: 1989 5 Cent struck on 1 Cent planchet

Clipped Planchet Errors

One of the most common errors to be found in change or while noodling is the clipped planchet, edge bite, or incomplete planchet error. In the case of this type of error the planchet is underweight due to being incorrectly punched at the time the blanks were manufactured. Clips come in various types including curved clips, straight clips, elliptical clips, and end of bar clips. Some coins may have more than one clipped area (double or triple clips) and the 50 cent coin with a dodecagonal shape has uniquely shaped clip errors (Figure 12). The value of clipped planchet errors varies greatly depending on the year of the coin, the grade, the denomination, the type of clip and the number of clips on the coin.



Figure 12: 1983 50 Cent with Clipped Planchet

Multiple Strike Errors

If a coin fails to leave the coining chamber after it is struck it can be struck again (double strike), or twice more (triple strike) or even more times. The most spectacular multiple struck coins are those struck outside of the collar resulting in radially offset strikes. Less visually exciting are those that are struck multiple times in the collar. These coins can

be a little hard to pick if they do not rotate between strikes (the 'rotated' multiple strike) but are nonetheless interesting.



Figure 13: 2008 Two Dollar – Double Struck

The double struck coin was a rare error indeed until 2009 when double struck two dollar coins began to turn up in circulation in Sydney (Figure 13).²⁰ All the coins were dated 2008 or 2009 and generally were removed from circulation early and are thus found in higher grades. The authors are aware of other double struck coins, especially earlier dated 1 cent and 2 cent coins. Later dates are rarer as are the larger denominations. Some two cent coins from the early 1980s have been sighted that were struck multiple times (5 times or more) in collar (Figure 14).²¹

Coin hunters should be aware that fake double struck coin errors are among the most common 'shed job' errors manufactured to dupe the unwary. Familiarisation with the indicators of both real and fake multiple struck errors should be a priority for any keen collector.

20 The Australian Coin Collecting Blog, Dramatic \$2 Coin Errors Appearing, *The Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine* Vol 13 No.7: 10-11.

21 The Australian Coin Collecting Blog, 2010. A Striking Partial Collar 2c Error. *The Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine*, Vol 16 No. 4:12.



Figure 14: - 1981 2 Cent – Struck Multiple Times in Collar

Partial Collar/ Out of collar/ Broad-struck / Off Center Coin Errors

Partial collar, out of collar, broadstruck and off-centre coin errors are collected here into one category as they occur largely due to the same reason - partial or improper engagement with the collar die.²² It is not unusual for a coin noddler to find one of these types of errors, but most often they are rejected at the security companies as they get separated during the rolling and bagging process because they are not the usual size or shape. The authors are aware of many people finding partial collar 5c and minor broadstrikes in security bags. One only needs to take a quick look at online auction sites to realize that 21st Century 5 cent broadstrikes are common. These types of 5 cent coins can be worth around \$50, while other denominations can be worth more depending on grade and the degree of the error. An off-centre dollar like the one in Figure 15 would be worth several thousand dollars.



Figure 15: Off Centre Dollar Coin Error (ND) 1985-1998

²² Herbert, Alan (2002): 177

Where to Now?

If you have reached this point and you are still interested then it is time to get looking. Start off with the change in your wallet, crack open the kids' money boxes (hopefully they won't notice) and think about heading in to the bank to do a bulk withdrawal of change. In the beginning at least you will get tired eyes and a sore neck but as soon as you find your first error or variety or upset coin or even your first 2000 \$1/10c mule, you will get that singular rush of adrenaline the seasoned coin noodler knows well. Welcome to our world - now you're hooked!

About the Authors

Kathryn and Mark are the authors of the Australian Coin Collecting Blog (<http://www.australian-coins.com>), owners of The Purple Penny (<http://www.thepurplepenny.com>) and regular contributors to the Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine. They have a particular interest in error coins, how they are manufactured, and love to collect unusual types of errors. They also scan their change any chance they get hoping for a unique error.

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