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# Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



# Numismatic Association of Australia Inc.

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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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# Serendipitous noodling<sup>1</sup>

Tyron Pigors

On Sunday 27th November 2016 in the most bizarre circumstances I discovered an amazing 20 cent error coin inside a 2016 'RAM 50th Anniversary of Decimal Currency Changeover' 20c Mint Roll. It is a beautiful piece with a tilted partial collar. It appears to be the first example known, and the fact it is in a special release mint roll is extraordinary since such errors were supposed to be a thing of the past.

I have been a collector of world banknotes and coins for the last 10 years, and only started collecting Australian coins 6 months ago. I heard about the mint sets before they were released. I decided to buy 10 sets and later resell 8 of them at a (hoped for) profit to cover my costs. Things went according to plan with several sales after the release in late October, until I tried to pack a set into a post office box to post to its buyer. While trying to insert the package in its bulky bubble wrapping, I tore the box. Somewhat annoyed, I tried to pack it in another box and moved into the bathroom as it provided better light. I struggled again to fit the coins in (clearly bought the wrong box), only to discover the bathroom counter had water on it and the bottom of the box was wet.

In frustration I tried to clean it up, only to knock the box onto the bathroom floor. The 20c roll split revealing some of the contents. Immediately, I noticed the error coin. It is hard to describe how I felt at the time given the circumstances.

I knew it was something special. Some quick checking on coin posts and with friends and the dealer from whom I bought the rolls brought intense feedback and debate about the value of this coin, and the circumstances in which it could have been produced. It led me to seek further clarity from the Royal Australian Mint and the NAA. It was found to be a tilted partial collar error coin - a first of its kind in these style coins.

It is common for these types of errors to have some sort of bulge or deformity, enough to be visible in a stack of coins, yet this coin resembles a normal coin in a stack. Presumably this is the reason it snuck through and ended up in a mint roll. I am amazed at how lucky I was to find it!

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: We could not resist the opportunity to include this exemplar of noodling in practice!

