2063 g **Victoria**, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1871, 1872, 1873, engraved after William Wyon, young head left, \( \textit{ww} \) buried in thin truncation in relief over trace of another \( \textit{ww} \), finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, legend reads **VICTORIA D: G: BRITANNIAR: REG: F: D:**. \( \textit{rev} \) engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with long tail, three strand end to tail, one spur of extra hair on curve of tail, date in exergue, tiny \( \text{b.p.} \) to upper right (Bentley 306, 307, 308; Marsh 84, 85, 86; MCE 532, 534, 536; S 3856A). **Generally scuffed with surface marks and hairlines, the second more severe with evidence of cleaning and reverse rim abrasion, otherwise good fine, the others better, about very fine.** (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 8,767,250; 13,486,708; 2,368,215 respectively
These Calendar outputs no doubt consist mainly of the shield reverse die number sovereigns. 1871 marks the first year for the revival of the St George and dragon reverse since last used for the Sovereigns dated 1825.

2064 g **Victoria**, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1874, 1876, 1878, young head left, \( \textit{ww} \) buried in thin truncation in relief, \( \textit{rev} \) St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with long tail, date in exergue, tiny \( \text{b.p.} \) to upper right (Bentley 309, 310, 311; Marsh 87, 88, 89; MCE 538, 539, 540; S 3856A). **Generally scuffed with surface marks and hairlines, the first two cleaned with rim nicks, second with rim bruise on reverse, otherwise generally good fine, last very fine.** (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 520,713; 3,318,866; 1,091,275 respectively
The 1874 Calendar output is very low, and is only marginally more than that of 1839. There was no issue of London mint Sovereigns in either 1875 or 1877.

The Extremely Rare Victoria 1879 London St George Reverse Sovereign

2065 g **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, 1879, by William Wyon, young head left, ponytail complete, \( \textit{ww} \) buried in thin truncation in relief, \( \textit{rev} \) St George slaying dragon with sword, hem of cloak doubled, horse with long tail, three strand end to tail, one spur of extra hair on curve of tail, dragon with four claws to left and three to right arm, one detached, date in exergue, date double struck, tiny \( \text{b.p.} \) to upper right (Bentley 312; Marsh 90 R4; MCE 541; S 3856A). **Cleaned, scuffed with surface marks and hairlines, otherwise good fine and very rare.** £500-700

Calendar year mintage 20,013
This incredibly low mintage for the calendar year is perhaps indicative of how rare the 1879 Sovereign really is. This is one sixth of the 1841 output and only six times higher than in 1819. 1879 marks the year where Resident Engraver T J Minton dies and this post is then abolished.
2066 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1880, 1884, 1885, young head left, 1880 with *ww* buried in thin truncation in relief, others with *ww* complete, *rev* St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with short tail, three strand end to tail, last piece with dragon with three claws to left and four to right arm, others with one less claw to right arm, date in exergue, tiny indistinct *bp* to upper right (Bentley 314, 317, 319; Marsh 91, 92, 93; MCE 542, 544, 545; S 3856B, 3856F). Last two once cleaned, all with surface marks and hairlines, first with hairline scratch on neck and reverse rim nicks, last with one obverse and one reverse rim nick, otherwise generally good fine. (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 3,650,080; 1,769,635; 717,723 respectively
There were no dated Sovereigns from the London Royal Mint for 1881, 1882 or 1883. The total calendar year output for the whole London young head issues both shield and St George reverse = 165,312,976 pieces.

**Victoria Jubilee Type Sovereigns**

For a narrative of this issue from 1887-1892 at London, please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 291

2067 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, 1887, tiny initials on truncation, engraved by Joseph Edgar Boehm, Jubilee veiled bust left, top cross on crown meets border, tiny *j.e.b.* initials fully on truncation with stops in straight line, slightly off-set from mid-point of large truncation, hooked type *J*, first type legend further from crown, *VICTORIA D:G: BRITT: REG: F: D: P: D:*, *rev* St George slaying dragon with sword, with helmet streamer, hemline of cloak incomplete, horse with short tail, broken lance on groundline to left, *wwf* in relief under lance, date in exergue, tiny *b.f* without final stop (Bentley 324; Marsh 125A; MCE 547; S 3866A). Some surface marks and nicks, otherwise pleasing extremely fine and extremely rare. £800-1000

Calendar year mintage 1,111,280
The small curved initials with hooked *J* on the truncation are extremely rare. Further study since the sale of the Bentley Collection has shown that this first legend variety additionally has a much larger truncated portion to the bust, than the second legend type with “angled” *I.E.B.* initials which are depicted on a smaller truncated portion of the bust. Only a small proportion of the calendar year output must have carried this hooked *J* obverse variety.
2068 Victoria, Gold Sovereigns (5), 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, all with second legend, Jubilee veiled bust left, angled J in normal J.E.B., second repositioned legend closer to crown, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, with helmet streamer, horse with short tail, last two with long tail and full B.P., date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right (Bentley 325, 326, 327, 332, 333; Marsh 126, 127, 128, 129, 130; MCE 548, 549, 550, 551, 552; S 3866B, 3866C). First cleaned, all with surface marks and hairlines, some scuffed, otherwise generally fine to good fine, the 1889 very fine. (5) £900-1100

Calendar year mintages 2,277,424; 7,257,455; 6,529,887; 6,329,476; 7,104,720 respectively
The total calendar year output for Jubilee bust Victoria London Mint Sovereigns = 31,110,242 pieces

Victoria Old Head Sovereigns
For a narrative on the last coinage of Queen Victoria, please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 300

2069 Victoria, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896 narrower date, engraved by Thomas Brock, old veiled bust left, t.b. below, VICTORIA D.G: BRIT: REG: F: D: IND: IMP:, toothed border surrounding, rev struck en médaillé, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, three strand streamer on helmet, horse with long tail, three strand end to tail, two spurs of extra hair on curve of tail, dragon with four claws on each arm, broken lance on groundline to left, wwp in relief under lance, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim (Bentley 337, 338, 339, 340; Marsh 145, 146, 147, 148; MCE 553, 554, 555, 556; S 3874). Second and last once cleaned, first with dig at centre of reverse and other tiny nicks, generally all scuffed with surface marks and hairlines, good fine to nearly very fine, the first very fine. (4) £700-900

Calendar year mintages 6,898,260; 3,782,611; 2,285,317; 3,334,065 respectively
Note the 1896 Sovereign has different treatment of the streamer on the helmet of St George and a narrow date figure arrangement. There are no London Sovereigns dated 1897.
2070 G  **Victoria**, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, old veiled bust left, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue (Bentley 341, 342, 343, 344; Marsh 149, 150, 151, 152; MCE 557, 558, 559, 560; S 3874).  *First two once cleaned, last with rim nicks, all with surface marks, scuffs and hairlines, otherwise generally good fine to very fine.* (4) £700-900

Calendar year mintages 4,361,347; 7,515,978; 10,846,741; 1,578,948 respectively
This output for 1900 represents the zenith of the old head coinage of Victoria.
The year that Queen Victoria died, 22 January 1901, represents the lowest mintage of Sovereigns no doubt as work would have transferred to preparing new coinage of Edward VII for 1902. Even though the mintage is lower, the 1901 Sovereigns do survive, as many well-to-do people would have kept such coins as keepsakes of the late Queen.
The total calendar year output for older veiled bust Victoria London mint Sovereigns = 40,603,267 pieces.
The whole reign of Queen Victoria London mint totalled an output of 237,026,485 Sovereigns.

Edward VII Gold Sovereigns
For a narrative on the London issue of Sovereigns for King Edward VII, please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 303

The Matt Proof Sovereign of Edward VII 1902

2071 G  **Edward VII (1901-1910)**, Gold Matt Proof Sovereign, 1902, engraved by George William De Saulles, bare head facing right, des. below, toothed border and raised rim, **EDWARDVS VII D: G: BRITT: OMN: REX: F: D: IN: IMP:** rev struck en médaillé, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, cloak with complete hemline, three stand helmet streamer, horse with long tail, ending in three strands, with one spur higher up at curve, broken lance on groundline to left, *www* in relief under lance, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim (Bentley 345; WR 408; S 3969).  *Cleaned and burnished with associated hairlines, otherwise good extremely fine.*  £350-450

According to tables of mintages in Appendix One in *English Silver Coinage* (latest edition published by Seaby 1992), just over 15,000 matt proof sets of coinage were issued of one formation or the other in celebration of the Coronation 9 August 1902. Such sets included a matt proof gold Sovereign as presented here, and additional single coins may well have been available on request too, so the final mintage figure could be circa 15,500 struck.
2072  Edward VII, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, bare head facing right, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue (Bentley 347, 348, 350, 351; Marsh 175, 176, 177, 178; MCE 622, 623, 624, 625; S3969). First extremely fine with some light surface marks, the second with heavy surface marks and hairlines, otherwise about very fine, the third with red tone, a few nicks and light surface marks, otherwise very fine, the last scuffed with surface marks and nicks, about very fine, reverse better. (4) £700-900

Calendar year mintages 8,888,627; 10,041,369; 5,910,403; 10,466,981 respectively

2073  Edward VII, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, bare head facing right, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue (Bentley 352, 353, 354, 355; Marsh 179, 180, 181, 182; MCE 626, 627, 628, 629; S 3969). Generally all with surface marks and hairlines, heavier on the last two which are both about very fine, the first two generally very fine. (4) £700-900

Calendar year mintages 18,458,663; 11,729,006; 12,157,099; 22,379,624 respectively

1907 represents the highest output from the mint of gold Sovereigns for 35 years being nearly five million higher than 1872s record mintage. This was shortly trumped by the massive output of 1910, but higher figures were still to come in the reign of George V.

The whole reign of King Edward VII London mint totalled an output of 104,769,568 Sovereigns.

King Edward VII died 6 May 1910

George V Gold Sovereigns
For a narrative on the London issue of Sovereigns for King George V, please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 306

The Proof Sovereign of King George V for 1911

2074  George V (1910-1936), Gold Proof Sovereign, 1911, designed by Edgar Bertram Mackennal, bare head left, b.m. on truncation, toothed border and raised rim, GEORGIVS V D: G: BRITT: OMN: REX: F: D: IND: IMP:, rev struck en médaille, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with three strand streamer, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, WWIP in relief under lance, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim (Bentley 356; WR 416; S 3996). Some hairlines both sides, otherwise practically as struck. £600-800

According to tables of mintages in Appendix One in *English Silver Coinage* (latest edition published by Seaby 1992), 3764 proof sets were issued of one formation or the other, in celebration of the Coronation 22 June 1911, which included a proof gold Sovereign as presented here. Single coins may well have been available on request too, so the final figure could be circa 4000 struck.

The reverse design continues from the reign of Edward VII still carrying the same outer border treatment as instigated in the reign of Queen Victoria.
2075 George V, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1911, 1912, 1913, bare head left, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue (Bentley 357, 358, 359; Marsh 213, 214, 215; MCE 639, 640, 641; S 3996). First with light surface marks, about extremely fine, the second cleaned with some nicks and hairlines, otherwise about extremely fine, the third with light surface marks, extremely fine. (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 30,044,105; 30,317,921; 24,539,672 respectively
More record breaking outputs for the mint in 1911 and 1912 respectively, with 1912 being the highest ever output of gold Sovereigns.

2076 George V, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1914, 1915, 1925, bare head left, 1925 with B.M recut on truncation, note lack of last stop, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, raised die flaw in cloak and helmet streamer, date in exergue, 1925 with coarser milling on edge with higher rims (Bentley 360, 361, 364; Marsh 216, 217, 220; MCE 642, 643, 646; S 3996). First two with light surface marks and hairlines, extremely fine, the last with some bagmarks only, good extremely fine. (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 1914=11,501,117; 1915=20,295,280. Total output dated 1925 = 4,406,431 which breaks down as 1925=3,520,431; 1949=138,000; 1951=318,000; 1952=430,000.
Following the outbreak of WWI the Government issued Treasury banknotes to the value of Sovereigns and Half-Sovereigns which were convertible to gold on demand at the Bank of England. However the public were encouraged not to do this, as the gold was no doubt needed elsewhere for purchases of vital supplies from overseas.
The high mintage of 1915 marks the end of higher production of gold at the mint as Great Britain strengthened its reserves for payments under the duress of war. Most of the Sovereigns will not have been used by the public.
It is very interesting to note in the ten years from 1905 to 1915 mint output was at its highest ever, and this total ten year production was of a similar figure to the total of all the years of output from the Sovereign’s inception in 1817 until the previous record production total in 1872, a full 55 years of mintage.
Later when collectors started to seek out the modern gold Sovereign just after WWII, the 1925 Sovereign was always a challenging coin to find as its issue was for Bank of England gold reserves only. This coupled with the Gold Standard Act of 1925 meant that the Treasury banknotes were no longer convertible to gold coin on demand, but the Bank was compelled to sell 400 ounce fine gold bars to any purchaser who asked for it at a price of £3/17/10½d per ounce in legal tender money.
The reissue of 1925 dated Sovereigns in the reign of George VI occurred because of a need for more coins in the gold reserve of the Bank of England, and totalled 886,000 pieces from 1949 to 1952, without any issued in 1950. George VI Sovereign dies could not be used as their Proclamation and issue was only as commemorative patterns with plain edges in 1937, and therefore not authorised for currency, hence the 1925 George V designs being used again. These later coins eventually started to find their way into the hands of collectors and any premium on 1925 dated coins as a great rarity was soon eradicated.
The 1925 Sovereign as we have here has a high rim and recut initials on the truncation. If an original 1925 Sovereign could be found we would expect it to have a less prominent rim and more shallow initials.
2077  **George V**, Gold Sovereign, 1916, bare head left, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue (Bentley 362; Marsh 218; MCE 644; S 3996). *A few surface marks and hairlines, otherwise good extremely fine and rare.*

£400-500

Calendar year mintage 1,554,120

Two years into war and still over one million Sovereigns were produced for the reserves of the Bank of England. Most of the 1916 issue and nearly all of the following 1917 issue were exported to America in lieu of payments. These exported pieces were held probably at Fort Knox for many years until the USA passed the Gold Reserve Act at the time of the Great Depression in 1934 where all coin was converted to bars.

Most residual Sovereigns of earlier dates left in the Bank of England may not have survived long, as the Gold Standard Act of 1925 meant that the Treasury banknotes were no longer convertible to gold coin on demand. However the Bank was compelled to sell 400 ounce fine gold bars to any purchaser who asked for it at £3/17/10½d per ounce in legal tender money.

This meant each bar would sell for £3560 each, and there was a demand, as in 1929, and again in 1930 the Bank of England had to melt down a total of 91,350,000 Sovereigns from their stock, which no doubt included any 1916 or 1917 Sovereigns left and many other earlier dates or varieties. Seemingly each 400 ounce gold bar would account for at least 1,421 sovereigns on the basis of this weight alone.

The Extremely Rare George V 1917 London Mint Sovereign

2078  **George V**, Gold Sovereign, 1917, bare head left, B.M. on truncation, latter stop weak and smaller, toothed border and raised rim, **GEORGIVS V D: G: BRITT: OMN: REX F: D: IND: IMP:**, rev struck en médaille, St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, **WIP** in relief under lance, date in exergue, tiny b.r. to upper right, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim (Bentley 363; Marsh 219; MCE 645; S 3996). *Some bagmarks, surface marks and hairlines, one small dig above snout of horse on the reverse, otherwise extremely fine and finer than the recent Bentley example, the rarest London mint Sovereign of the 20th Century.*

£10,000-12,000

Calendar year mintage 1,014,714

Three years into war and still over one million Sovereigns were produced for the reserves of the Bank of England. Nearly all the 1917 issue were exported to America in lieu of payments and most were never seen by the public. They were held probably at Fort Knox for many years until the USA passed the Gold Reserve Act at the time of the Great Depression in 1934 where all coin was converted to bars. The scant few genuine survivors we have today, were those that ended up in overseas payment to other nations other than the USA, and before 1925 for the reasons set out in the previous lot.

The London mint totalled an output of 122,787,360 Sovereigns across a mere eight dates during the reign of George V. This was over 18 million more than were produced in London during the whole reign of Edward VII which was for nine different dates.

King George V died 20 January 1936
Edward VIII (accessed 20 January, abdicated 10 December 1936, died 25 May 1972), Gold Proof Sovereign, 1937, bare head of King facing left, HP initials below for engraver Thomas Humphrey Paget, legend surrounding reads EDWARDVS VIII D: G: BR: OMN: REX F: D: IND: IMP:, finely toothed border within twin concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev struck en médaille, St George with flowing cloak and helmet with streamer, slaying dragon with sword, broken lance on ground to lower left, date in exergue, engraver initials B.P. to upper right for late Benedetto Pistrucci, edge finely milled, 8.04g (Bentley -; Marsh -; Dyer p.23-24 and plate D; WR 434 R6; Giordano P11; cf S.4063 p.506). Light hairlines peppering field on both sides, deeper hairline from bridge of nose into field, cloudy patch on the reverse field in front of horse’s head with short scratch within, further light scratch in field above lance, otherwise brilliant with a frosted cameo design and lettering, practically as struck and of the highest rarity, the only solo example currently available to collectors and the first opportunity to obtain this coin in a London sale in nearly 30 years. £250,000-300,000

ex Spink, bought privately, October 1981
ex Professor R E Gibson, Collection of Sovereigns and Half-Sovereigns, Spink Auction 40, 6-7 December 1984, lot 640 and inside front cover illustration, sold for £40,000 hammer, by far the highest price in the sale
ex “100 Choice Coins”, Ginza Coin 20th Anniversary Auction, Tokyo, Japan, 22 November 2008, lot 949

For further specific reading please see:
The Proposed Coinage of King Edward VIII, by G P Dyer, published 1973
A King’s Story, The Memoirs of HRH The Duke of Windsor KG, published 1951

Of the greatest rarity in the modern Proof Sovereign series, Edward VIII who controversially abdicated his throne for the woman he loved, was about to authorise a new coinage to be ready in time for his Coronation in 1937, and subsequently no British currency coin was issued for use by the public.
This example of his proof Sovereign is the only single coin available to collectors. There being only one other example in private hands as an integral part of a complete set of the proposed coinage of King Edward VIII. Notably the recent Bentley Collection did not possess an example. This is only the third time this actual coin has ever been publicly auctioned, and the first time it has been seen for sale in the UK since its first auction outing in 1984.
The coinage was controversial from Edward’s refusal to follow coinage tradition in facing in the opposite direction to his predecessor, his father King George V who had faced left. This tradition started with King Charles II who wished to face the opposite way to Oliver Cromwell, and has been followed ever since, except for Edward VIII who preferred his left facing profile. An account of the King’s own discussions with the Deputy Master, Sir Robert Johnson is detailed in his memoirs (pp.293-294), and reveals that the mint went as far as instructing the artist in favour, T H Paget, to transfer the King’s left side facial features to a right facing portrait (the hair was not included in this swap) before the King had to insist on his left portrait only for coins and stamps, as was his privilege. These meetings, portrait sittings and presentation of plaster models occurred between 21 February and 28 April 1936 (Dyer pp.2-4), at which point the Deputy Master had to report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the King insisted on facing left, which was approved.
Looking back at contemporary reports about a proposed new coinage for King Edward VIII, it is interesting to quote one of the earliest announcements by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Neville Chamberlain in the House of Commons from the 9 July 1936, where “in accordance with custom” specimen sets, of the first issue of coins of King Edward VIII would be issued to collectors and others requiring them. Sets of gold coins would be available at special prices to all who applied. Full details would be publicly announced and the issue would be available to applicants both at home and overseas. Most significantly the report ends with news that “A Coronation set of gold coins consists of four pieces - £5, £2, £1 and a half-sovereign” (reported in the Daily Telegraph, 10 July 1936, repeated in the Spink Numismatic Circular August 1936, p.283).
Within the miniscule number of existing proof sets of Edward VIII’s coinage (only one of which is in private hands), there is of course no physical Half-Sovereign, none ever being struck, but this announcement shows that it was at least proposed as of July of 1936, even though the final designs had not been approved at that date. As time was of the essence, trial strikes of proposed obverse portraits and reverse designs were shown to the King for final approval 24 July 1936, where he chose the bare head left facing effigy by T H Paget to represent him on the obverse of British coins, and a crowned bust by Percy Metcalfe for the Dominions.
The classic St George and dragon design after Pistrucci was chosen for gold coinage reverses, and a series of heraldic designs for the reverses of the silver denominations by Kruger Gray. The new dodecagonal brass Threepence with a thrift plant design was by
Madge Kitchener, the Penny by C W Coombes, the Halfpenny design was adapted from a Halfcrown proposal by T H Paget, and the Farthing with the wren by H Wilson Parker (Dyer pp.12-19).

In the interim between the House of Commons announcement, and the manufacture of dies and striking of the extremely rare proof coins, the decision was made to omit the gold Half-Sovereign from the proposed Coronation gold sets, the denominations of which all have milled edges, and that the sets were to be priced high enough to keep orders at a modest level (Dyer pp.23-24). This decision to not have a Half-Sovereign was viewed as numismatically controversial of the mint, and the later Coronation gold sets issued by King George VI did include all four gold coins, albeit all with plain edge to emphasise that they were “patterns” and not meant to circulate.

King Edward VIII abdicated 10 December, at which point in time a set of the new coins was almost ready for final approval (Dyer p.1) all with the portrait by T H Paget, who had so impressed the King previously with his left facing portrait on the Master Mariner medal (Giordano CM139) when Prince of Wales.

The Royal Mint reports for 1935-1936 from Deputy Master Sir Robert Johnson (issued December 1937; reported in The Times 23 December 1937 and repeated in the Spink Numismatic Circular March 1938, pp.96-97), revealed that at the time of the abdication in December 1936, some 200 dies for coins, medals, and seals that had been prepared for use, had to be scrapped. The whole process of preparation for a new coinage, medals and seals, started all over again for King George VI, though the chosen artists for the obverse portraiture remained the same as for Edward VIII, being Mr Paget and Mr Metcalfe.

In his publication, Giordano has tried to trace the whereabouts of all the sets and singles of the actual proof coins, and they are listed in a table on page 254. In relation to the gold Sovereign, Giordano gives a total of six examples in existence (with which we concur), two of which are held privately (one being an integral part of a complete set), the other four Sovereigns are all in institutions and integral parts of complete sets. The locations of the four sets in institutions are listed as Royal Family, British Museum and two in the Royal Mint. The Royal Family acquired their set as of 1 June 1938 (Giordano letter A, p.256). The Royal Collection Trust currently list an entry for their Sovereign on their website with identification number RCIN 443664, but an illustration is yet to appear in the public domain.

The Royal Mint took an inventory of what they had 12 September 1950 after the discovery of a group of coins in a sealed box in the late Deputy Master’s safe, and found they had three complete sets, one of which later went to the British Museum (Giordano p.253 and letter B, p.257), and the Department of Coins and Medals there have so far listed online only the silver coins, again all yet to be illustrated in the public domain.

An interesting epilogue revealed in the Giordano publication, is that the Duke of Windsor later tried to obtain a set of the proof coins for himself from the Royal Mint, as evidenced from a Deputy Master memorandum of 3 December 1951 (Giordano letter C, p.258), which eventually had to be deferred for an answer from the King himself, who said “no” to his elder brother’s request. The Duke died 25 May 1972, presumably having never owned or handled one of the finished coins depicting his left facing portrait, over which such great effort was expended. An unrivalled opportunity occurs now to bid for and own a piece of history that not even the Duke of Windsor had the privilege to own or handle. This is the only King Edward VIII gold Sovereign available that is not an integral component part of a proof set.

The George VI Gold Sovereign

For a narrative on the commemorative issue of George VI, please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 309

The Coronation Proof Sovereign of King George VI Dated 1937

2080 g George VI (1936-1952), Gold Proof Sovereign, 1937, by Thomas Humphrey Paget, bare head left, HP in relief below, GEORGIVS VI D: G: BRITT: OMN: REX F: D: IND: IMP:, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, NEW struck en médaille, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, four strand streamer from helmet, no mane hair over rein hand, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, date in exergue, tiny R.P. to upper right, edge plain (Bentley 365; Marsh plate 50; WR 439; S 4076). Quite hairlined, otherwise good extremely fine.

£1500-1800

It is known that 5501 gold Sovereigns were issued for the Coronation year

A report from “The Times”, 3 October 1955, about the rarity of the 1953 gold coins examined more fully in the next lot, goes on to mention that the plain edged George VI gold Coronation sets were “probably illegal” as the Royal proclamation of 18 March 1937 had stated that they “shall have a graining upon the edge”. The Spink Numismatic Circular of November 1955 and the Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin of December 1955 reproduce this article.

Sovereigns dated 1925 of the design of George V were produced from all years 1949-1952, except 1950, totalling 886,000 pieces. See lot 2076 for an example for sale, and for more information.

King George VI died 6 February 1952 whilst his daughter Princess Elizabeth was away in Kenya
The Greatest Rarity in The Coinage of our Current Queen
The 1953 Coronation Proof Sovereign

2081 £ Elizabeth II (accession 6th February 1952), Gold Proof Sovereign, 1953, young laureate head facing right, tiny incuse M. G. on truncation for engraver Mary Gillick, legend surrounding reads +ELIZABETH II DEI GRA: BRIT: OMN: REGINA F: D:, finely toothed border within twin concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev struck en médaille, St George with flowing cloak and helmet with streamer, slaying dragon with sword, broken lance on ground to lower left, date in exergue, engraver initials B.P. to upper right for late Benedetto Pistrucci, edge coarsely milled, 7.97g (Bentley -; Marsh p.103 and plate 51; Duveen and Stride p.92; Norweb Collection (Part I), lot 300; WR 448 R5, this coin illustrated; S 4122). Tiny black pinhead-sized spot in obverse field, cloudy tone with bright elements over underlying proof fields, frosted design and lettering, otherwise as struck and the only example available for private ownership, with an official Institutional provenance, as detailed in an accompanying letter of authenticity. This is a one year only type with different legend and punctuation compared to the later young head issues, of the highest rarity.

£250,000-300,000

ex National Museum of Wales, Institutional Collection sold privately with official permission from the Department of Trade and Industry circa 1990 via Spink, as detailed in accompanying letter from Mark Rasmussen Numismatist.

This complete set then sold privately via Mark Rasmussen mid-2005, component coins shortly after dispersed individually in late-2005 at which time the letter of authentication was issued.

One of the greatest rarities in the modern Proof Sovereign series, the Elizabeth II 1953 Proof Sovereign for the Coronation year was not issued for sale to private collectors and has a “classified” mintage. Gold four-coin sets of Five Pounds, Two Pounds, Sovereign and Half-Sovereign were made only for National and Institutional Numismatic Collections to display for the Coronation, as well as the Royal Family.

This is only the second occasion an example of the 1953 Proof Sovereign has ever been offered for sale at public auction, the first ever publicly sold being the Norweb Family example in 1985, which had reportedly emanated from Seaby circa 1960. At that time their catalogue estimated that ten examples existed (the mintage being classified). It sold for £24,000 hammer 29 years ago, taking “bronze medal” position behind two of the greatest and celebrated gold and silver rarities in the British Series, the Henry III gold Penny and the Charles II Petition Crown. However, this Norweb provenanced coin was in later years reported missing within the British coin trade, and has not been seen or heard of since the late 1980s, and perhaps no longer exists.
Therefore this is the first opportunity in a generation, for nigh on three decades, for anyone to bid at auction for such a fabled rarity, and one with an excellent proven pedigree. This coin is the plate example as illustrated in the Wilson and Rasmussen reference on the subject, and there was no example present in the recent Bentley Collection. No guide price is currently given for it in the Spink Standard Catalogue which merely quotes each of the 1953 gold coins as being of the highest rarity, however they were once listed in this publication with prices in FDC condition as recently as the 2007 and 2008 editions with the Sovereign quoted at £150,000 retail.

The significant pedigree for this coin only adds to its eminence, it having once been part of the set that was housed in the National Museum of Wales, as certified in an accompanying letter “To whom it may concern” dated 16 December 2005 from Mark Rasmussen Numismatist, who certified its origin in brokering the sale of the set and subsequent dispersal in 2005 when the Hemisphere collector acquired it. The component coins of this National Museum of Wales set are all the actual examples illustrated in English Pattern Trial and Proof Coins in Gold 1547-1968 by Wilson and Rasmussen (WR 444, 446, 448, 454).

Though the mintage is not known, recent research with the mint has shown that the 1953 gold coins were originally produced in two batches, the primary group consisting of six of the four-coin sets to supply the Royal and most senior National collections first, with a second batch later for other Numismatic Institutions with an additional set for the Royal Collection. The Royal Collection Trust website lists their two sets online under identification numbers RCGN443790-443797, there being only one of the Five Pounds obverses currently illustrated. It seems this second “batch” is the more classified and unknown element as to how many were struck, and seems to account for the Norweb coin which does not seem to have any Institutional provenance.

Contemporary news and anticipation of the new coinage for the new Queen can be followed through the pages of the Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin (SCMB) who repeat articles from the Press. The first mention of proof gold coins dated 1953 is in the Sunday Express of the 14 December 1952, reproduced in the SCMB for February 1953 where it reports there is an intention to produce six sets of Coronation gold coins of £5, £2, £1 and 1s which will be struck for the “Royal Family and various museums” but so far officialdom has indicated that none will be issued to the public. The note adds that this is the first time since the inception of a successful gold coinage in the 14th century reign of Edward III, that “no gold coins have been issued to commemorate a new monarch.” What the comment really should have said, is that this was the first time that gold coins were to be produced only for institutions and not for issue to the public. This report no doubt refers to what became the first “batch” of gold coins, with six complete sets issued for respectively The Royal Family, The Royal Mint, The British Museum, The National Museums of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This is reiterated in the SCMB for May 1953, where it is emphasised that no British gold coinage will be available for collectors, and that the South Africa mint will produce the only gold coins for the public dated 1953 with the Queen’s portrait, being the gold One Pond and Half Pond which they hoped to supply to their clients. The fact the public could not own a set of gold 1953 coins caused some contemporary comment, which was published in The Times letter pages in August of 1953, and reproduced in the SCMB of October 1953, being a “Plea for Gold Coins” detailing that an issue of some 10,000 sets for public consumption would be most desirable for the correspondent (this being nearly double the George VI gold set mintage – 5501).

The next mention actually of a gold set presumably on display, is that, in what is today the National Museum of Northern Ireland in Belfast, as reported in the Belfast Telegraph of the 4 January 1954, reported in the SCMB for February 1954. This National collection was curate by Mr WA Seaby, who was related to the Directors of the famous coin firm, and the exhibition was displayed as a geographical “Royal Tour” with one paragraph of the report mentioning that “the coins are arranged in order of the tour, and the first group is a proof set of English coins which had not been shown before at the Museum.”

The Scotsman newspaper of 19 October published in Edinburgh and repeated in the SCMB of December 1954 reiterates that a “small number” of 1953 gold coins, specifically £5 and £2 in the report, have been made by the Royal Mint for British numismatic museums, which could perhaps by now refer to the second batch production. The report goes on that they were made as per Royal Proclamation and that none will be available to private collectors, or for circulation.

Much later on, the June 1955 SCMB gives details of the 84th Royal Mint report for 1953 that relates to the new Elizabethan coinage, wherein it mentions that a “very small number of gold sets (Five Pounds, Two Pounds, Sovereign and Half-Sovereign) bearing Her Majesty’s portrait and St George and dragon reverse were struck. None of these were available to collectors but one set has been placed in the British Museum.” The November edition of the SCMB repeats a report from The Times of 3 October 1955 that reiterates the rarity of these 1953 sets, of which none were issued for collectors. It mentions that one was for the Royal Family, one for the British Museum and one for the Royal Mint and concludes that “a few – probably less than half a dozen – have been struck”. Interestingly this report goes on to say that the plain edged George VI gold Coronation sets were “probably illegal” as the Royal proclamation of 18 March 1937 had stated that they “shall have a graining upon the edge,” and that the pursit (numismatist) should rejoice that the 1953 sets “have no such irregularity” being correctly grained. The Spink Numismatic Circular only contains one contemporary comment from November 1955 that repeats this word for word transcription of the same report.

Contemporary reference books make small mention of the rarity of the 1953 gold coins. The History of the Gold Sovereign, published in 1962 by Sir Geoffrey Duveen and H G Stride who was Chief Clerk of the mint at the time, mentions a “small number of Sovereigns were struck for the national collections” though their mintage tables record the number for 1953 production as “Nil” and they did not mention Edward VIII’s coinage at all. Seaby British Coin expert Peter Alan Rayner in his 1954 pamphlet on “the Designers & Engravers of the English Milled Coinage 1662-1953” does not tabulate or even mention the gold coins, though he did mention proof sets of Edward VIII exist. No mention is made by Capt J J Cullimore-Allen in the 1965 publication, Sovereigns of the British Empire, of the 1953 proof Sovereigns apart from saying that no 1953 Sovereigns were issued. The more recent New History of the Royal Mint, edited by C Challis, published 1992, notes on page 589 that the mint decided in 1953 that gold coins for issue to the public would be “too much of an extravagance.”

It is of the greatest significance that approximately 25 years ago, the Director of the National Museum of Wales made a decision to sell their 1953 gold set privately, and that as there was already another set in Wales housed at the Royal mint, the request was granted by the Department of Trade and Industry. This historic flow of events back then has resulted in an unrivalled, once in a generation opportunity for collectors to secure a piece of numismatic history of the highest rarity at this auction.
First Bust Sovereigns with Second Type Legend of Queen Elizabeth II

2082 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1957, edge coarse milling, 1958, 1959, regular milling on edge, by Mary Gillick, young laureate head right, tiny incuse m.g. on truncation, second type legend, +ELIZABETH. II. DEI. GRATIA. REGINA. F:D:; finely toothed border both sides, rev struck in plaque, by Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with streamer, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right (Bentley 367, 369, 371; Marsh 297, 298, 299; S 4124). *First two toned, uncirculated, the last with surface marks and hairlines, mainly on obverse, good extremely fine.* (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 2,072,000; 8,700,000; 1,385,368 respectively

The 1957 Sovereign has coarser edge milling than later issues and therefore seems to have the same edge treatment as the 1953 proof gold Sovereign. The issue of 1957 marks the first time a gold British coin lacks the title BRIT: OMN: in the legend.

With 1959 for once it is known how much of this calendar year output was dated 1959, and how much was the overflow from 1958, due to the efforts of H G Stride in his co-authorship of the *History of the Gold Sovereign* with Sir Geoffrey Duveen. It turns out a mere 140 Sovereigns of this total were dated still as 1958 before the dies were changed over to 1959 dated coins.

2083 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1962, 1963, 1964, young laureate head right, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right (Bentley 372, 374, 375; Marsh 300, 301, 302; S 4125). *All with light nicks, bagmarks and hairlines, otherwise generally good extremely fine.* (3) £550-650

Calendar year mintages 3,000,000; 7,400,000; 3,000,000 respectively

The Calendar outputs from here onward are taken from Michael Marsh’s *The Gold Sovereign*.

2084 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, young laureate head right, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right (Bentley 376, 377, 378, 379; Marsh 303, 304, 305, 306; S 4125). *First uncirculated, the others generally with bagmarks on bust, surface marks and hairlines, good extremely fine.* (4) £700-900

Calendar year mintages 3,800,000; 7,050,000; 5,000,000; 4,203,000 respectively

The highest mintage year of this lot happens to be 1966, the year that England won the World Cup for football.

The 1968 Sovereign is the last year for the Mary Gillick portrait upon this denomination.

The total calendar year output for the young head portrait Sovereigns of Queen Elizabeth II = 45,610,368 pieces.

From 1969 to 1973 inclusive there are no dated British Sovereigns, the next issue being the 1974 decimal issue.
The Decimal Type Sovereign of Elizabeth II Issued 1974-1884

2085 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Sovereigns (4), Post-Decimalisation, 1974, 1976, 1978, designed by Arnold Machin, second crowned and draped bust right, *ELIZABETH. II. DEI. Gratia. REGINA. F: D:*, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, *RE* struck en médaille, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with streamer, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, date in exergue, tiny B.P. to upper right; with Isle of Man, Gold Proof Sovereign, 1973, similar bust, *ISLE OF MAN ELIZABETH II*, finely toothed border, *RE* Viking equestrian figure prancing left, rocks beyond, date in exergue, small engraver initials PM to upper right, ornate outer border surrounding with Isle of Man triskeles at top, edge milled (cf Bentley 1238; Marsh 307, 308, 309; S 4204; KM 27). The Isle of Man piece practically as struck and a touch lighter in official weight than the British pieces, others generally as struck, the second prooflike, last with one small metal flaw at end of obverse legend. (4) £700-900

Calendar year mintage 5,002,566; 4,045,056; 6,555,000; respectively, Isle of Man=40,000

The Royal Mint moves from London to Llantrisant, Wales from 1969, to be ready to issue new decimal coinage by 1971. Decimalisation comes into being on 14 February 1971, and the currency Decimal Coinage contained new reverse designs for the new denominations apart from the more ceremonial gold coinage (Sovereigns 1974, other gold 1980) and the Maundy coins. The obverse carried the new “decimal” portrait engraved by Arnold Machin (1911-1999), which had been in gestation since circa 1963, and was first used on the 1968 issue of cupro-nickel Ten New Pence, and Five New Pence coins which were released into circulation first as their physical dimensions and value equated with the Florin and Shilling in the pre-decimal series. He also designed the bust used for postage stamps from 1967 in the transition from pre-decimal to decimal values.

There being no British Sovereign for 1973, the Hemisphere Collector purchased an Isle of Man piece to fill that date, though this issue does not have the same legal tender value as the British Sovereigns.

There were no British Sovereigns for 1975 or 1977, the latter being an opportunity missed for the Royal Mint perhaps, as it was Silver Jubilee year for Queen Elizabeth II.

2086 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Proof Sovereigns (3), 1979, 1980, 1981, second crowned and draped bust right, with frosted design elements, *RE* St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue, tiny B.P. to upper right (Bentley ‒; cf Marsh 310, 311, 312; S 4204). *Generally as struck, without certificates or boxes.* (3) £550-650

Numbers issued 50,000; 81,200; 32,960 respectively

In modern decimal times the mint has released figures of how many examples of a commemorative proof coin are actually “issued” rather than a calendar year output. These figures are useful as often certificates with such coins describe them as a “Limited Edition” figure, giving the maximum number that could exist. The issue figure is often less than the limit of the edition, if an edition of a coin is not sold out. Currency Sovereigns were issued concurrently with the proof issue for 1979 to 1982 inclusive.

It is interesting to note how the number issued of these proof Sovereigns follows the public interest in gold at that time. Gold was approaching an all-time high in real terms of spending power through 1979 to 1980, reaching a peak on the 21 January 1980 at US$850 an ounce, thus explaining the massive demand translated as sales of the Proof Sovereign dated 1980 as well as new four coin gold sets with the component coin of the Sovereign with the Five Pounds, Two Pounds and Half-Sovereign. Gold price then declined throughout that year, at times quite dramatically, with limited recovery, resulting in declining sales for the upcoming 1981 Proof that were less than half the 1980 issue. This then followed on to even lower issue numbers in succeeding years.
Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereigns (3), 1982, 1983, 1984, second crowned and draped bust right, with frosted design elements, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right (Bentley -; cf Marsh 313; S 4204). Generally as struck, first with some light spots on reverse, this and the second with evidence of light fingerprint, last toned, without certificates or boxes. (3) £550-650

A currency issue Sovereign also exists for 1982, but from 1983 to 1999 inclusive there are only proof issues, perhaps due to the low uptake by the public as gold price rode through the doldrums in price level throughout the 1980s and 1990s, only becoming once more “profitable” for the mint as gold price increased in the early part of this century.

1984 is the last date the “decimal” head by Arnold Machin was issued and total production of “currency” British gold Sovereigns with this bust totalled 37,732,622 from 1974-1982, with an additional issue of 218,290 Proof Sovereigns from 1979-1984.

Third Crowned Bust Sovereign of Elizabeth II by Maklouf Issued 1985-1997

Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereigns (4), 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, with frosted design elements, third crowned portrait right, engraved by Raphael Maklouf, RM incuse on truncation, legend reads ELIZABETH II DEI. GRA. REG. F. D, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev struck en médaillé, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with streamer, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, date in exergue, tiny B.P. to upper right (Bentley -; S 4271). Generally as struck, third with a few light spots on the reverse, last toned, without certificates or boxes. (4) £750-850

From 1985 a new updated portrait of Queen Elizabeth II is adopted for coinage, engraved by Raphael Maklouf (b.1937) depicting her wearing a necklace and earrings. Our postage stamps meanwhile continue to carry the Machin portrait.

The 500th Anniversary of the Sovereign 1489-1989

Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereign, 1989, 500th anniversary edition, design styled in the form of the Henry VII Sovereign, engraved by Bernard Sindall, full figure of Queen seated on throne, holding sceptres, throne back breaks inner beaded circle, legend reads ELIZABETH, II. DEI. GRA. REG. FID. DEF, raised rim both sides, rev struck en médaillé, crowned quartered shield of arms, upon blooming rose, top ornament of crown breaks inner beaded circle, legend reads ANNIVERSARY. OF. THE. GOLD. SOVEREIGN. 1489-1989, edge milled (Bentley -; S 4272). Toned, as struck, without box or certificate. £400-500

Number issued 10,535 proof Sovereigns

A one year only type on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Sovereign, engraved by sculptor Bernard Sindall (1925-1998). The Royal Mint also published the book Royal Sovereign in celebration of this event in 1989 which is still one of the best references for the history of the gold Sovereign.
2090 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Proof Sovereigns (4), 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, with frosted design elements, third crowned portrait right, engraved by Raphael Maklouf, RM incuse on truncation, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, the horse tail is further from the border than those dated in the 1980s, date in exergue (Bentley -; S 4271). *Generally as struck, first with cloudy tone patch behind bust, second toned on the obverse, without certificates or boxes.* (4) £750-850

Numbers issued 4,767; 4,713; 4,772; 4,349 respectively
The output of regular Proof Sovereigns issued for 1993 is the lowest figure to date in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. A new decade from 1990 meant a new reverse die matrix was required, the whole reverse has slight differences to those produced in the 1980s. The tail is further from the rim border, the strands of hair within the tail are of a more curved arrangement with no extra spur of hair in the upper curve. The B.P. initials have moved slightly closer to the recut groundline. The helmet streamer is broader and slightly shorter. The dragon has less definition of the detail in the wings and claws with a distinct gap between its outstretched tongue and the wing, which on previous reverses nearly touched the said wing.

2091 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Proof Sovereigns (4), 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, with frosted design elements, third crowned portrait right, engraved by Raphael Maklouf, RM incuse on truncation, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, date in exergue (Bentley -; S 4271). *Generally as struck, without certificates or boxes.* (4) £750-850

Numbers issued 5,000; 4,900; 5,730; 7,500 respectively
1997 is the last date for British coins upon which the Maklouf bust was portrayed. The total output of proof issue Maklouf portrait Sovereigns = 80,220 pieces.

The Fourth Crowned Bust Sovereign of Elizabeth II by Broadley
Issued Since 1998

2092 **Elizabeth II**, Gold Proof Sovereigns (4), 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, with frosted design elements, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, legend reads, ELIZABETH. II. DEL. GRA. REGINA. FID. DEF, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev struck en médaillé, engraved after Benedetto Pistrucci, St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with streamer, horse with long tail, broken lance on groundline to left, date in exergue, tiny B.P. to upper right (Bentley -; S 4430). *Generally as struck, the second slightly cloudy in tone, without certificates or boxes.* (4) £750-850

Numbers issued 10,000; 10,000; 9,909; 8,915 respectively
1998 introduces a new crowned portrait by Ian Rank Broadley (b.1952), the reverse continues with the 1990s St George reverse discussed in detail in lot 88. Our postage stamps meanwhile persist to this day with the crowned portrait by Arnold Machin. 2000 marked the dawning of a new Millennium, and the Royal Mint start to issue “bullion type” Sovereigns once again.
**2093** Elizabeth II, Gold Sovereigns (5), 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, bullion type, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with streamer, date in exergue (Bentley -; Marsh 314, 315; S 4430). Generally as struck, the fourth with cloudy tone and with light fingerprint, last a little clouded. (5) £900-1100

Numbers issued 129,069; 49,462; 43,230; 30,668 respectively. The 2006 production figure issued is no longer published for bullion type, but the edition limit was 75,000.

According to the Standard Catalogue, the year 2000 was a bumper year for the bullion piece due to the public interest in the change of century and a new Millennium.

The 2006 dated Sovereign has a slightly taller date configuration than the earlier pieces.

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**The Golden Jubilee Sovereign issue of Elizabeth II**

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**2094** Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereign, 2002, frosted design elements, with bullion type Gold Sovereign, 2002, Golden Jubilee Issue, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev crowned quartered shield of arms, laurel wreath surrounding, date below, TN monogram to lower right of dexter wreath, designed by Timothy Noad (Bentley -; Marsh 316, plates 58 and 59; S 4431). Proof issue as struck, the bullion issue with a cloudy tone, otherwise practically as struck, without box or certificate. (2) £350-400

Numbers issued Proof=12,500; Bullion=75,264

Golden Jubilee Year 2002 ensured a great interest in the coinage with a one off special design by Timothy Noad of the reverse reminiscent of the Victoria shield back Sovereign giving a one year only type for collectors. Marsh illustrates an image of Timothy Noad’s original artwork for the reverse design on plate 58.

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**2095** Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereigns (3), 2003, 2004, 2006, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet with streamer, date in exergue (Bentley -; S 4430). All practically as struck, without boxes or certificates. (3) £550-650

Numbers issued 12,433; 10,175; 9,195 respectively, including those included in gold proof sets

The 2006 dated Sovereign has a slightly taller date configuration than the earlier pieces.
One Year Stylised St George Reverse Sovereign of Elizabeth II Dated 2005

2006 € Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereign, 2005, frosted design elements, with bullion type Gold Sovereign, 2005, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev modern interpretation of armoured St George slaying dragon with sword at close quarters, date below, TN monogram to right of dragon wing, designed by Timothy Noad, toothed border (Bentley -; S 4432). Both practically as struck, without box or certificate. (2) £350-400

Numbers issued Proof=12,500; Bullion=45,542
Another departure from the normal design of the Sovereign has Timothy Noad’s modern depiction of St George, our patron Saint, creating another one year only type.

For the First Time Fully Described
A Revised St George Reverse Sovereign of Elizabeth II Dated 2007

2007 € Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereign, 2007, frosted design elements, with bullion type Gold Sovereign, 2007, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev re-engraved St George slaying dragon with sword, extra fold in cape to previous reverses, longer helmet streamer with different strand arrangement, horse with longer fuller tail nearly touching lance, flatter shallower design with less sinew detail to bodies of St George, horse and dragon, longer thicker broken lance on left side of ground-line, more definition to ground, dragon tail with extra curl onto ground, dragon with very curved claws, extra claw on lower arm, date in deeper exergue, very tiny BP doubled and touching ground above without stops (Bentley -; S 4430). Both practically as struck, the differences in the design not noted in the Standard Catalogue, without boxes or certificates. (2) £350-400

Edition limited to Proof=12,500, the 2007 production figure issued is no longer published for bullion type, but the edition limit was 75,000
This different reverse appears to be of cruder workmanship to previous years with its “shallow” appearance to the main elements, but has more detail in more minor elements of the ground and lance. Perhaps in years to come this will be delineated separately in the standard catalogues as a one year only type.
For the First Time Fully Described
St George Reverse Sovereign of Elizabeth II with Further Revision Dated 2008

2098 £ Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereign, 2008, frosted design elements, with bullion type Gold Sovereign, 2008, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev re-engraved St George slaying dragon with sword, different helmet streamer, last strand curves upward, longer tail to horse nearly touches lance, some strands curve away from horse, larger date figures in deeper exergue, small B.P. to upper right (Bentley -; S 4430). Proof issue as struck, the bullion issue with a cloudy tone, otherwise practically as struck, the differences in the design not noted in the Standard Catalogue, without boxes or certificates. (2) £350-400

Edition limited to Proof=8,199; Bullion=75,000
Another slightly different reverse that appears to be of cruder workmanship to previous years, this time with larger date figures, and different treatment of the helmet streamer and other minor elements in the horse tail. The B.P. initials are at least readable and are of a similar size to the usual seen earlier in this decade. Perhaps in years to come this 2008 issue will also be delineated separately in the catalogues as a one year only type as we transit to yet another new treatment of St George from the 2009 issue.

2099 £ Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereigns (4), 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, frosted design elements, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet without streamer, date in more regular exergue, widely spaced B. P. to upper right (Bentley -; S 4433). All practically as struck. (4) £800-1000

Edition limits 16,000; 16,000; 15,000; 10,295 respectively including those included in gold proof sets
Another revision of the reverse suggests total new cutting of the reverse die, the re-engraved versions of 2007-2008 highlighted in print for the first time in lots 2097 and 2098 previously did not continue for 2009. The new reverse returns to a version of St George without a streamer upon his helmet for the first time in over 120 years. This was how Pistrucci rendered his second St George design, used for the reign of George IV from 1821-1825 and was later used upon the Victoria young head St George Sovereigns from 1871-1887.

2100 £ Elizabeth II, Gold Sovereigns (4), 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet without streamer, date in exergue (Bentley -; S 4433). All practically as struck. (4) £700-900

Edition limits 75,000; 250,000; 250,000 respectively, 2013 edition not yet published
See footnote to lot 93 for the historical significance of the use of a St George reverse without helmet streamer
The total issue of Broadley portrait “currency” gold Sovereigns from 2000-2013 inclusive is circa 1,438,235 pieces
The total issue of Broadley portrait Proof gold Sovereigns from 1998-2013 inclusive is circa 178,970 pieces
The total issue for Queen Elizabeth II to 2013 is in the region of 85,289,240 pieces
The Diamond Jubilee Sovereign Issue of Elizabeth II

2101  Elizabeth II, Gold Proof Sovereign, 2012, frosted design elements, with bullion type Gold Sovereign, 2012, fourth crowned portrait right, engraved by Ian Rank Broadley, IRB raised below head, finely toothed border within twin linear concentric circles and raised rim both sides, rev new artistic rendition of armoured St George on horseback slaying dragon with lance, date at lower left, PJD below horse hoof, thick raised rim only surrounding, designed by Paul Day (Bentley -: S 4434). Both as struck, without boxes or certificates. (2)

Edition limited to Proof=8,144; Bullion=250,000
The significant year for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II gives another one year only type for collectors of the gold Sovereign.
The total output of gold Sovereigns from the Royal Mint in the UK from 1817 till 2013 – nearly 200 years of production – has just exceeded 600 million pieces.

OFFICIAL BRANCHES OF THE ROYAL MINT LONDON

Australia

Sydney Mint
Application and legislation to construct a mint begins 1851
Ratified by Order of Council in the presence of Queen Victoria, 19 August 1853
Built on the site of the Old Rum Hospital, Macquarie Street, Sydney, opening on 14 May 1855
Last date used upon Sydney mint Sovereigns 1926
Sydney mint closed on 31 December 1926
For further reading please Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 323

2102  Victoria (1837-1901), Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1855, first type, engraved by Joshua Payne, obverse designed by James Wyon, first young head left, with double fillet, small date below, toothed border and raised rim both sides, VICTORIA: D: G: BRITANNIAR: REGINA: F: D: struck with inverted die axis, reverse designed by Leonard Charles Wyon, AUSTRALIA at centre, crown above, within laurel wreath tied with bow at bottom, SYDNEY MINT above, ONE SOVEREIGN below, edge milled (Bentley 629; McD 102; QM 25 R3; Marsh 360 R; KM 2; Fr 9). Some heavy scuffs and surface marks both sides, about very fine and rare. £800-1000

Calendar year mintage 502,000
This is the first full year of output for currency sovereigns from the Sydney mint. For a narrative about the opening of the mint please see the Bentley Collection special edition catalogue, page 323.
2103 **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1856, first young head left, with double fillet, small date below, *rev* AUSTRALIA at centre, crown above, within laurel wreath tied with bow at bottom, SYDNEY MINT above, one SOVEREIGN below (Bentley 630; McD 103; QM 27 R3; Marsh 361 R; KM 2; Fr 9). Cleaned with heavy scuffs and surface marks both sides, about fine, reverse better, rare. £600-800

Calendar year mintage 981,000
The total mintage of the first type design at the Sydney mint from 1855-6 = 1,483,000 pieces

**The Second Type “AUSTRALIA” Sovereign**

The second incarnation of the Sydney mint Sovereign occurs in 1857 for currency after a pattern submitted by Leonard C Wyon, dated 1855. It seems Leonard’s Father, William Wyon, perhaps influenced this portrait style of hair, as the gathered hair is very similar to that seen on the British Gothic Florin and Crown from 1847 onward.

2104 **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1857, engraved by Joshua Payne, designed by Leonard Charles Wyon, second young head left, with hair gathered and plaited, looping under the ear and entwined into a looped bun at rear, wreath of banksia in hair, date below, toothed border and raised rim both sides, VICTORIA D: G: BRITANNIAR: REG: F: D: PD struck with inverted die axis, AUSTRALIA at centre, crown above, within laurel wreath tied with bow at bottom, SYDNEY MINT above, one SOVEREIGN below, edge milled (Bentley 631; McD 104; QM 29 R3; Marsh 362 R; KM 4; Fr 10). Scratch to right of crown on the reverse, some scuffs, nicks and surface marks, otherwise very fine. £200-300

Calendar year mintage 449,000

2105 **Victoria**, Gold Sovereigns (4), Sydney branch mint, 1858, with low 5 in misaligned date, 1860, 1861, 1865, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, *rev* crown and laurel wreath arranged around AUSTRALIA at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 633, 635, 638, 645; McD 105, 107, 108, 112; QM 30 R3, 32 R3, 33 R2, 38 R2; Marsh 363 R, 365 R, 366, 370; KM 4; Fr 10). Generally all heavily scuffed with surface marks, first fine, the second ex-mount with rim bruises and abrasions, digs in field and scratches on cheek, fine, the third with rim bruise, good fine, the last good fine. (4) £800-1000

Calendar year mintage 1,101,500; 1,573,500; 1,626,000; 2,130,500 respectively
2106 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1859, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, *rev* crown and laurel wreath arranged around Australia at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 634; McD 106; QM 31 R2; Marsh 364; KM 4; Fr 10). *Scuffed with surface marks, otherwise very fine.*

Calendar year mintage 1,050,500

£200-300

2107 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1862, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, *rev* crown and laurel wreath arranged around Australia at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 641; McD 109; QM 35 R3; Marsh 367; KM 4; Fr 10). *Some surface marks and scuffs as per usual, otherwise pleasing very fine.*

Calendar year mintage 2,477,500

£400-500

2108 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1863, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, hooked sharp 6 without bulb at top, *rev* crown and laurel wreath arranged around Australia at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 642; McD 110; QM 36 R2; Marsh 368; KM 4; Fr 10). Once cleaned, *surface marks and scuffs, otherwise good very fine.*

Calendar year mintage 1,255,500

For 1863 and 1864 a sharper hooked 6 date figure punch seems to be used most regularly.

£400-500

2109 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1864, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, hooked sharp 6, *rev* crown and laurel wreath arranged around Australia at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 644; McD 111; QM 37; Marsh 369; KM 4; Fr 10). *Some surface marks and scuffs, otherwise very fine.*

Calendar year mintage 2,698,500

For 1863 and 1864 a sharper hooked 6 date figure punch seems to be used most regularly.

£300-400

2110 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1866, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, curvy 6’s with bulb top, *rev* crown and laurel wreath arranged around Australia at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 648; McD 113; QM 40 S; Marsh 371; KM 4; Fr 10). *Some scuffs and surface marks, very fine.*

Calendar year mintage 2,911,000

£200-300
**2111** G *Victoria*, Gold Sovereigns (3), Sydney branch mint, 1867, 1868, struck in 22 carat gold alloyed with 8.33% silver, 1870, struck in 22 carat gold alloyed with 8.33% copper, second young head left, with wreath of banksia in hair, date below, rev crown and laurel wreath arranged around *australia* at centre, denomination below, legend above (Bentley 650, 651, 653; McD 114, 115, 117; QM 41, -; 44; Marsh 373, 374, 375; KM 4; Fr 10). *Generally with scuffs, surface marks and hairlines, the second with scratch at back of neck and another on reverse below T in central legend, scuff above centre, the first fine to good fine, the second about very fine, the last very fine with red tinge of copper showing.* (3) £600-800

Calendar year mintages 2,370,000; 2,319,000 to which should be added that for calendar year 1869 of 1,202,000; 1,220,000 respectively. The Sydney mint type Sovereigns are all struck in 22 carat gold and usually alloyed with 8.33% silver as demonstrated here with the 1867 and 1868, from late 1868 onwards the mintage was alloyed with 8.33% copper instead of silver as with the 1870 dated piece here. The Quartermaster Collection did not contain the 1868 with silver alloy as we have here. The total output of the Australia type coins of the Sydney mint dating from 1855 to 1870 totalled 25,867,500 pieces. The second design from 1857-1870 accounts for 24,384,500 Sovereigns of this total.

**Imperial Type “Shield” Sovereigns of the Sydney Mint**

For further reading about this issue from the Sydney mint please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 332

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**2112** G *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, Sydney branch mint, 1871S, engraved after William Wyon, third young head style left, with double fillet, *ww* incuse without stops on truncation date below, toothed border and raised rim both sides, *victoria dei gratia*, *rev* struck with inverted die axis, engraved after Jean Baptiste Merlen, crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below, emblems below (Bentley 654; McD 118b; QM 46; Marsh 69; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855). *Some scuffs and heavy surface marks, very fine.* £200-300

Calendar year mintage 2,814,000, includes St George reverse design This obverse bust is the same as the second young head in the London series in use from 1848 to 1869 inclusive. It is therefore a very late usage of this bust and this die may have been made much earlier than 1871 in anticipation of the new mint opening at Sydney, perhaps engraved during 1869 when this head was still in common use at the Royal Mint in London.

**2113** G *Victoria*, Gold Sovereign, 1872S, third young head left, *w.w.* in relief on truncation, date below, die flaw from letter C to rim, *rev* crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 656; McD 119; QM 47; Marsh 70; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855). *Surface marks and hairlines, good very fine.* £300-400

Calendar year mintage 1,815,000, includes St George reverse design
2114 **Victoria**, Gold Sovereigns (5), 1873S, 1875S, 1877S, 1878S, 1879S, third young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation, date below, first with raised die flaw at RI of Queen’s name, *rev* crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 657, 658, 659, 660, 661; McD 121, 123, 124, 125, 126; QM 50, 52, 53, 54, 55; Marsh 71, 72, 73, 74, 75; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855). All with surface marks and hairlines, first very fine, the second with series of digs on bust, bold very fine, the third and fourth toned, about very fine to very fine, the last about very fine. (5) £1000-1500

Calendar year mintage 1873=1,478,000; 1875=2,122,000; 1879=1,366,000, all include St George reverse design. 1877=1,590,000; 1878=1,259,000 dates which both consist of shield type Sovereigns only. There were no 1874 S or 1876 S shield reverse Sydney Sovereigns minted.

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2115 **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, 1880S, third young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation, date below, *rev* crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 664; McD 127; QM 57; Marsh 76; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855). Two light scratches on bust and one on reverse shield, otherwise scuffed with surface marks, good very fine. £350-450

Calendar year mintage 1,459,000, includes St George reverse design.

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**Rare Earlier Type Young Head 1882S Sovereign**

Not listed in Bentley or *The Standard Catalogue*

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2116 **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, 1882S, third young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation, date below, *rev* crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley -; McD 131; QM 62; Marsh 78; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855). Short scratch on neck, surface marks and hairlines, otherwise toned, good fine, reverse better, the rarer earlier bust variety for the date, no example present in the Bentley Collection. £200-300

Calendar year mintage 1,298,000, includes both bust varieties. The latest Spink catalogue only lists the bust varieties as three types, when there are really four as defined in the Bentley Collection. This date is unlisted in the latest Spink catalogue for this final use of the obverse bust variety. It is interesting to note the Bentley Collection did not contain an example of the earlier third head obverse 1882S shield Sovereign, listed as the rarer variety within the Quartermaster Collection.
2117  **Victoria**, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1881S, 1885S, 1886S, fourth young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation which is more truncated with a pointed tip at front, hair behind ear with longer strand, hairline higher on forehead, date below, rev crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 666, 670, 671; McD 129, 137, 139; QM 60, 68, 70; Marsh 77, 81, 82; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855B). *All with some scuffs and surface marks, first bold very fine, the second toned, good very fine, the last very fine. (3)*

Calendar year mintage 1,360,000; 1,486,000; 1,667,000, includes St George reverse design

£600-800

2118  **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, 1883S, fourth young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation, date below, rev crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 668; McD 133; QM 64; Marsh 79; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855B). *Heavily hairlined with some scuffing, otherwise extremely fine with residual brilliance.*

Calendar year mintage 1,108,000, includes St George reverse design

£300-400

2119  **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, 1884S, fourth young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation, date below, lightly die flawed date and legend both sides, rev crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 669; McD 135; QM 66; Marsh 80; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855B). *Scuffed with light surface marks, about extremely fine.*

Calendar year mintage 1,595,000, includes St George reverse design

£250-350

2120  **Victoria**, Gold Sovereign, 1887S, fourth young head left, w.w. in relief on truncation, date below, rev crowned quartered shield of arms within laurel wreath, mint letter S below (Bentley 672; McD 141; QM 72 S; Marsh 83; KM 6; Fr 11; S 3855). *Some scuffs with surface marks and hairlines, otherwise practically extremely fine.*

Calendar year mintage 1,000,000, includes St George reverse design

£300-400
Imperial Type “St George” Sovereigns of the Sydney Mint
For further reading about this issue from the Sydney Mint please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 340

2121 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1871S, 1872S, 1873S, 1874S, long tail horse, young head of third style left, letter S below close to neck, *w.w.* buried in truncation in relief, *rev* St George slaying dragon with sword, first and last with eight claws on dragon arms, other two with only partial claws, horse with long tail, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right (Bentley 674, 675, 676, 677; McD 143a, 144, 146, 148; QM 75 R2, 76, 78, 80; Marsh 110, 111, 112, 113; KM 7; Fr 15; S 3858A). *First and third once cleaned, all with heavy hairlines and surface marks, some scuffing, second and fourth very fine, the others good fine or better.* (4) £750-950

Calendar year mintages 2,814,000; 1,815,000; 1,478,000 respectively, all include shield reverse design pieces. 1874 mintage =1,899,000 presumably St George reverse as there were no shield sovereigns of Sydney dated 1874.

2122 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1875S, 1876S, 1879S, 1880S, young head of third style left, letter S below, quite low S on fourth coin, *w.w.* buried in truncation in relief, *rev* St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with long tail, date in exergue, tiny b.p. to upper right, last stop distant (Bentley 678, 679, 680, 681; McD 150, 152, 156, 158; QM 82, 84, 88, 91; Marsh 114, 115, 116, 117; KM 7; Fr 15; S 3858A). *Last two previously cleaned, all with heavy surface marks and hairlines, first two good fine or better, the third about very fine, the last fair to fine with a weak legend.* (4) £750-950

Calendar year mintages 1875=2,122,000; 1879=1,366,000; 1880=1,459,000, all include shield reverse design pieces. 1876=1,613,000 presumably St George reverse as there are no shield type sovereigns of Sydney dated 1874. There are no St George reverse Sydney mint Sovereigns dated 1877 or 1878.

2123 *Victoria*, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1881S, without b.p. in exergue, 1882S, 1883S, with b.p., all short tail variety, young head of third style left, letter S below further from neck, *w.w.* complete on truncation in relief, *rev* St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with short tail, date in exergue (Bentley 685, 687, 689; McD 160, 162a, 164; QM 95, 101, 105 R; Marsh 118B, 119, 120; KM 7; Fr 15; 3858D, 3858E). *All with scuffs, hairlines and surface marks, first with nick by Queen’s eye and one by horse head, otherwise about very fine, the second with scratch on cheek and two reverse rim nicks, otherwise very fine, the third with dark patch on reverse, two obverse rim nicks, otherwise good very fine.* (3) £600-800

Calendar year mintages 1,459,000; 1,298,000; 1,108,000 respectively, includes shield reverse design pieces.
2124 Victoria, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1884S, 1885S, 1887S, short tail with w variety, second young head of third style left, letter S below, higher on first coin, w.w. complete truncation in relief, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, horse with short tail, date in exergue, w with indistinct stops (Bentley 690, 691, 693; McD 166, 168, 172; QM 109, 112, 118; Marsh 121, 122, 124; KM 7; Fr 15; S 3858E). All with scuffs and surface marks, first about very fine, the second very fine, the third good very fine. (3) £650-850

Calendar year mintages 1,595,000; 1,486,000; 1,000,000 respectively, includes shield reverse design pieces. This 1885 reverse die has a different treatment to the 1884 in the preceding lot, the thin strand spur of hair halfway up the tail is angled more outward with a thin short strand above it, unlike the 1884 which is less angled and a mere stump of hair above. The tail terminates in three strands of hair at the bottom and to the left of this is a strand of shorter hair and folded towards the three strands at termination. This 1887 reverse has the same tail arrangement as the 1884.

One of only two gaps in the date run of the Hemisphere Collection is the 1886 S St George reverse, this gap remained as the collector was oblivious to one existing in preparing a want list for the collection. The other gap is the exceedingly rare 1920 Sydney mint piece. A total of 26,929,000 Sovereigns emerged from the Sydney mint dated from 1871 to 1887 with the Young head obverse be they shield or St George reverse pieces.

Victoria Jubilee Type Sovereigns of the Sydney Mint
For further reading about this issue from the Sydney Mint please see the Bentley Collection Special Edition Catalogue, page 347

2125 Victoria, Gold Sovereigns (4), 1887S, first legend with G: further from crown, larger initials j.e.b. fully on larger truncation in a straight line, hooked J with large stops, B.P. in exergue, 1888S, 1889S, 1890S, second legend with G: closer to crown, J.E.B. initials with angled J, Jubilee crowned bust left, VICTORIA D.G. BRITT: REG: F: D: REX St George slaying dragon with sword, with helmet streamer, horse with short tail, broken lance on groundline to left, S mintmark at centre of ground, WWP in relief under lance, date in exergue, tiny B.P. without final stop at upper right (Bentley 697, 700, 702, 704; McD 174, 176c, 178a, 180a; QM -, 132, -, 140-1; cf Marsh 138A, 139, 140, 141; KM 10; Fr 19; S 3868). All with light scratches, digs and nicks, heavy scuffs and surface marks, first good fine, the second very fine, the third about extremely fine with a die flaw, the last with some deposits of old sellotape residue, very fine. (4) £800-1000

Calendar year mintages 1,002,000; 2,187,000; 3,262,000; 2,808,000 respectively

2126 Victoria, Gold Sovereigns (3), 1891S, 1892S, 1893S, long horse tail, Jubilee crowned bust left, J.E.B. fully on truncation with right-angled J, second type legend, light die flaws in Queen’s name, rev St George slaying dragon with sword, helmet streamer consists of longer strands, horse with long tail, different strand arrangement, S mintmark at centre of ground, date in exergue, tiny complete B.P. to upper right, second coin with latter stop very weak (Bentley 706, 707, 708; McD 182, 184, 186; QM 143, 146, 148-9; Marsh 142, 143, 144; KM 10; Fr 19; S 3868C). All generally scuffed with surface marks and hairlines, very fine to good very fine, first a little better. (3) £600-800

Calendar year mintages 2,596,000; 2,837,000; 1,498,000 respectively

The legend type from 1891-1893 is always of the second repositioned type. The Jubilee head at Sydney and Melbourne both occur dated 1893, whereas at London it does not, having swapped to the new old head design entirely. The Colonial Branch mints in Australia did not receive their old head dies until much later than the local demand dictated for the striking of gold. Therefore these two mints carried on with the Jubilee head production in 1893. At Sydney there were more Jubilee head pieces dated 1893 than the new old head pieces. It was the other way around for these types at Melbourne. A total of 16,190,000 Jubilee type Sovereigns emanated from the Sydney mint dated 1887-1893 for Queen Victoria.