

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 8, Issue 5

June 2008

The President's Corner

We had a room full of members and guests at our last meeting to hear another good program. Our speaker was Radford Stearns, who has been an ANA governor since last August, and his topic was "History of the Western World in 28 Coins."

He brought the coins with him so everyone could see them. He had a very interesting, informative, and unique program. Many of his coins are quite rare.

We had 15 members present and 5 guests. The guests were Theresa Wang, Karen Jozefiak, Radford and Mary Lou Stearns, and Alex Koifman. If our meetings keep growing we may have to consider a larger room. Wouldn't that be great?

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Picture Postcard Set Tells the Story of Early 20th Century British Royal Mint Coin Production

By Richard Jozefiak ANA LM-6087

At the turn of the 20th Century, picture postcard collecting in Great Britain was the rage (Duval & Monaham, p. 23). Photography was not yet easy to do and still expensive. People who visited places would buy picture postcards as a souvenir of their visit.

People of all stations in Britain collected picture postcards, both mailed and not. Picture postcards were put in albums to display and stored in boxes (Duval & Monaham, p. 21).

Most public places sold picture postcards as souvenirs and for collectors. The British Royal Mint (BRM) in London, England was no exception. The BRM was a very popular tourist attraction. It was open for tours and had sold souvenirs.

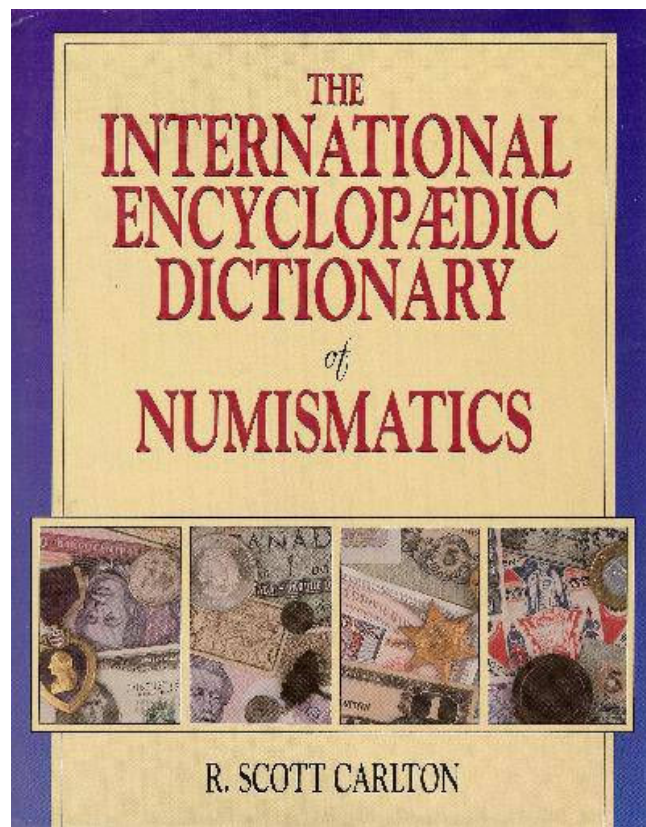
Picture postcards had been sold by the BRM in different time periods, documenting changes in technology used. This article is on the BRM picture postcard set circa 1910. Time period estimate of the BRM picture postcard set is based on BRM photos and descriptions in *A New History of The Royal Mint* (Challis, pages 528, 539-542, 574-575) and *The Royal Mint, An Illustrated History* (Dyer, pages 32-37).

Continued on page 3

From the Library

The International Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatics

By R. Scott Carlton



Need a translation of a symbol or legend on a coin?

Want to research a topic further?

Have a concept in mind but don't know the term?

You'll find the answer to these questions and more in this well organized, easy to use reference. With over 444 pages and more than 7000 entries, this book is a must reference for any numismatist.■

Some Members at the

GNA Show in Dalton, GA (April 18-20, 2008).



*Richard Jozefiak's exhibit won the senior level third prize.
He received a NGC 1941 S 10 cent MS 66 FB slab.*



Bob Jaques manning his booth.

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?

Around 1910, the Head Messenger of The British Royal Mint issued a set of twelve pictorial postcards. The twelve picture postcards showed the coin production at the BRM. The front of each picture postcard has a nice gray tone picture, and the back of each picture postcard has a short description of the mint activity.

Each picture postcard measures 140 mm x 39 mm (5.5 in x 3.5 in). This size standard was set by the British Postal Authority on 1 November 1899 (Duval, p. 19).

The set of picture postcards was sold to help raise funds for the Royal Mint Provident Society. In Challis' *New History of the Royal Mint* (p. 553), he states: "The funds of the Society were usefully supplemented, with the consent of the deputy master, by a share in the profits arising from the sale of cases for Maundy money and of postcards to visitors."

The society was created in March 1900, and lasted until 1938 (Challis, p. 554). The society was a mutual aid group that provided payments to members who left the mint by choice, retirement or death (Challis, p. 553).

The set of picture postcards was sold for one shilling per set. One British shilling was about the size and amount of silver as a U.S. quarter-dollar. With twelve picture postcards in a set, each picture postcard would be one penny each (12 pence = 1 shilling).

There is no printer identification on the picture postcards. It is unknown how many sets were manufactured and sold.

Many sets of picture postcards were sold based on the number of individual picture postcards of this set that have been offered for sale on E-Bay. But a complete set of picture postcards in nice condition is hard to

find. It's likely that most people who bought the set of picture postcards did not keep the outer envelope.

The outer envelope that holds the set of picture postcards has on it the following:

Twelve Pictorial Post Cards

The Royal Mint, Price One Shilling

Sold By The Head Messenger For The Benefit Of The Royal Mint Provident Society

The twelve picture postcards included in the set are listed in Table 1.

In summary, the picture postcard set circa 1910, was sold to the visiting public for a nominal price. Many sets were sold, but few sets survive intact today. The picture postcards provide an interesting historical record of the coin production and operations of the BRM around 1910.■

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Challis, C.E. *A New History of the Royal Mint*,
Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

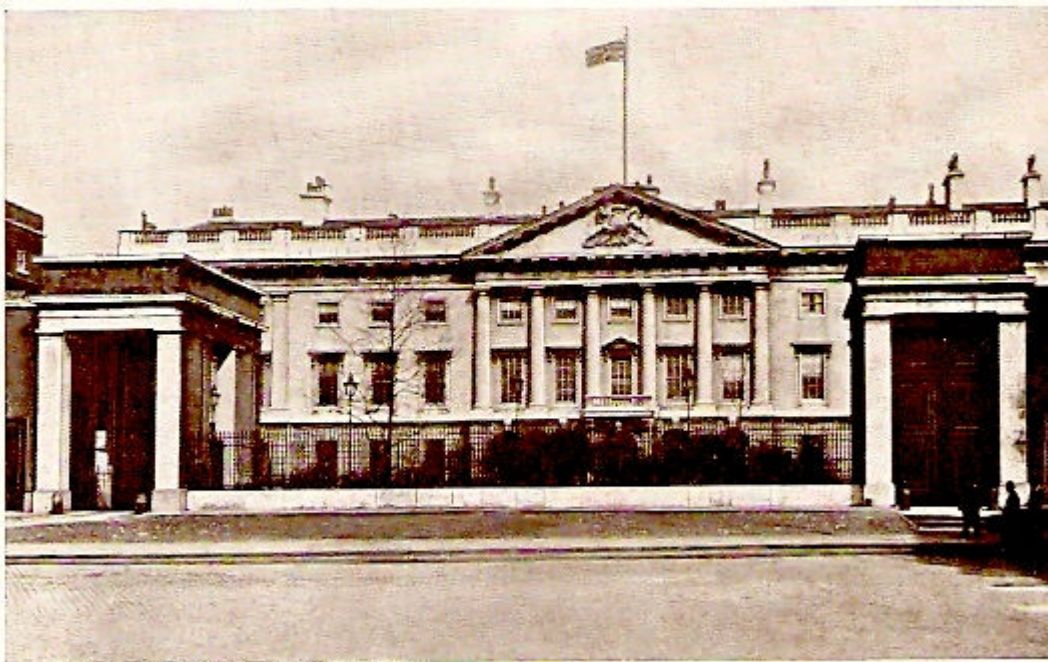
Duval, William and Monaham, Valerie. *Collecting Postcards in Colour 1894-1914*,
Dorset, England: Blandford Press, 1978.

Dyer, G.P. *The Royal Mint, An Illustrated History*,
London, England: The Royal Mint, 1986.

TABLE 1
Description of the Picture Postcards in Circa 1910 Set

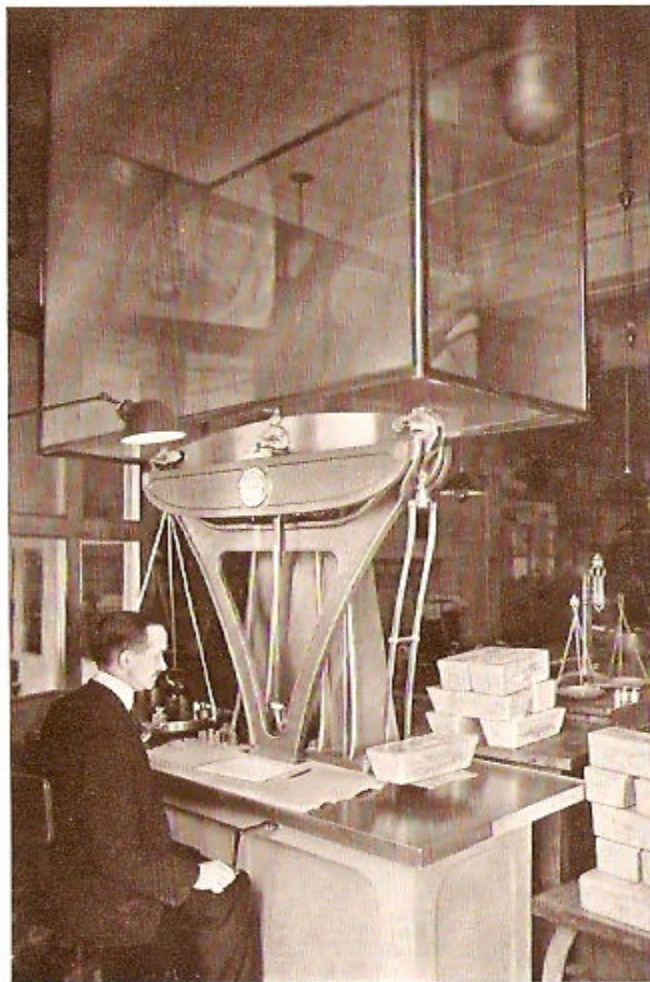
ORDER	FRONT	BACK
A	London. The Royal Mint, Façade.	THE ROYAL MINT- FAÇADE. The London Mint, which had been for many centuries within the precincts of the Tower of London, was, in 1810, removed to its present site on Tower Hill. The buildings were erected from the designs of Sir Robert Smirke.
B	London. The Royal Mint- Pyx Office.	PYX OFFICE. THE CHANCELLOR BULLION BALANCE. Checkweighing ingots of silver as received from the bullion merchant. They weigh about one thousand troy ounces each, and are ready for melting after a Mint assay has been made of them.
C	London. The Royal Mint- Silver Melting House.	SILVER MELTING HOUSE. THE FURNACES. Silver, in the form of ingots or worn coin, is melted with the specified alloys, and poured into moulds to form bars for rolling into strips. The furnaces are gas fired.
D	London. The Royal Mint- Die Sinking Room.	DIE SINKING ROOM. ONE OF THE DIE PRESSES. The coinage and medal dies are formed under this press by forcing a punch, on which is the required design, into specially prepared steel die blanks.
E	London. The Royal Mint- Rolling Room No. 1.	ROLLING ROOM No. 1. THE ROLLING MILLS. The gold or silver bars of appropriate width, prepared in the Melting House, are rolled down into strips of the thickness of the coins to be manufactured.
F	London. The Royal Mint- Cutting Room.	CUTTING ROOM. THE CUTTING-OUT PRESSES. Coin blanks, of a specified weight, are cut out from the rolled strips. The blanks are also edge marked in the Room.
G	London. The Royal Mint- Annealing Room.	ANNEALING ROOM. THE ROTARY ANNEALING FURNACES. The blanks re annealed, or softened, by passing them through these furnaces, where they attain to red heat.
H	London. The Royal Mint. Blanching or Pickling Room and Drying Room.	BLANCHING OR PICKLING ROOM. THE ROTARY EARTHENWARE BARRELS (TOP VIEW). The blanks after annealing, are given a suitable acid treatment in these barrels, until the surfaces of the blanks are quite bright. DRYING ROOM. THE ROTARY HOT AIR DRYERS. After acid treatment, the blanks are dried by revolving them in drums through which hot air is circulated.
I	London. The Royal Mint- Coining Press Room.	COINING PRESS ROOM. SOME OF THE PRESSES. The coining presses, of various sizes, are capable of striking coins of any denomination at the rate of from one hundred to one hundred and twenty per minute.
J	London. The Royal Mint- A Coining Press.	COINING PRESS ROOM. CLOSE UP VIEW OF A COINING PRESS. The blanks are placed automatically in a collar between the top and bottom dies of the press, so that the obverse and reverse impressions and the edge, are obtained at one blow.

A



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT, FACADE.

B



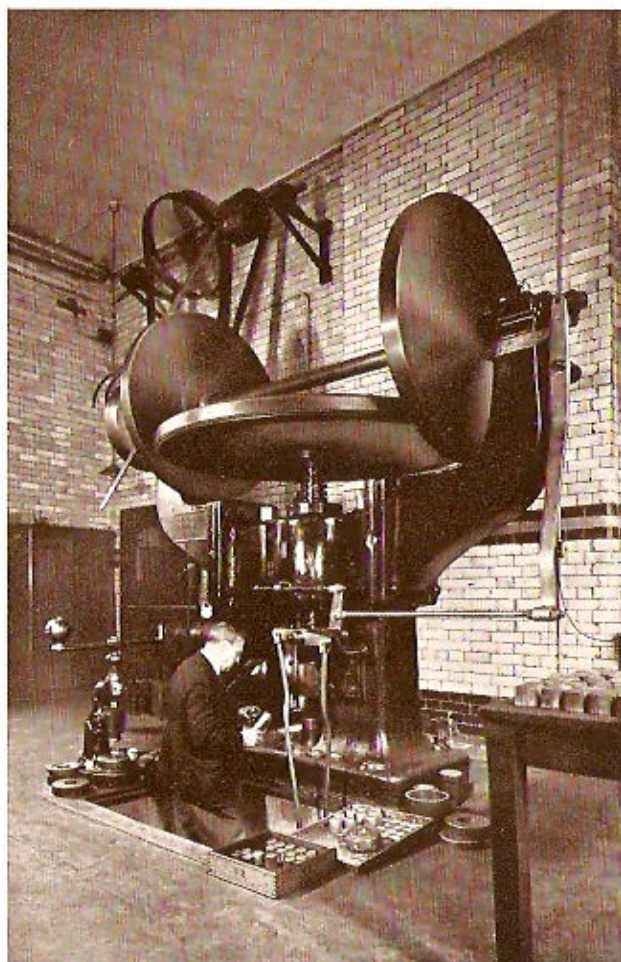
LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—PYX OFFICE.

C



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—SILVER MELTING HOUSE.

D



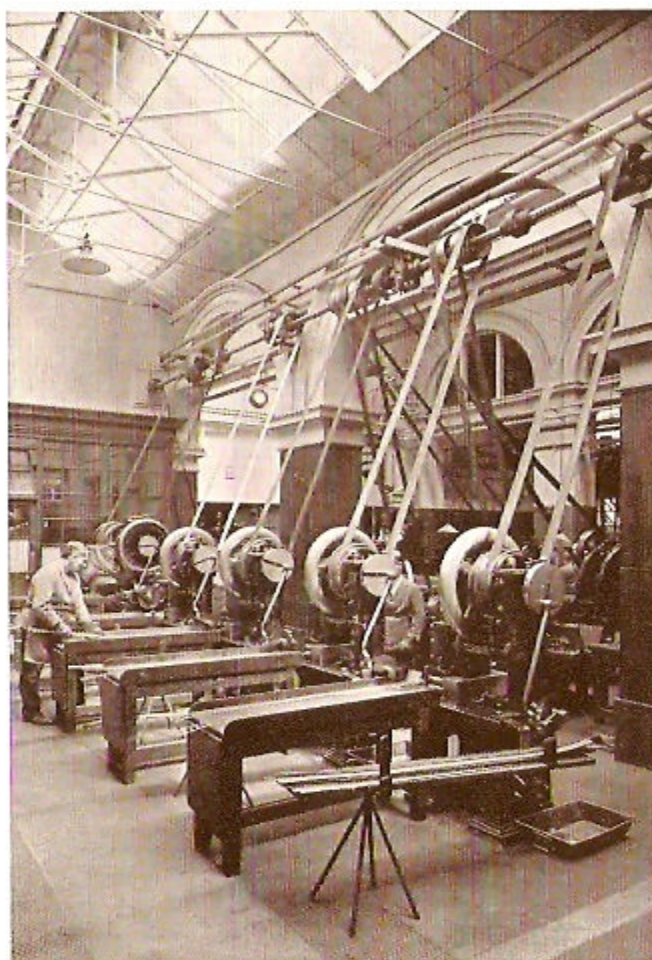
LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—DIE SINKING ROOM.

E



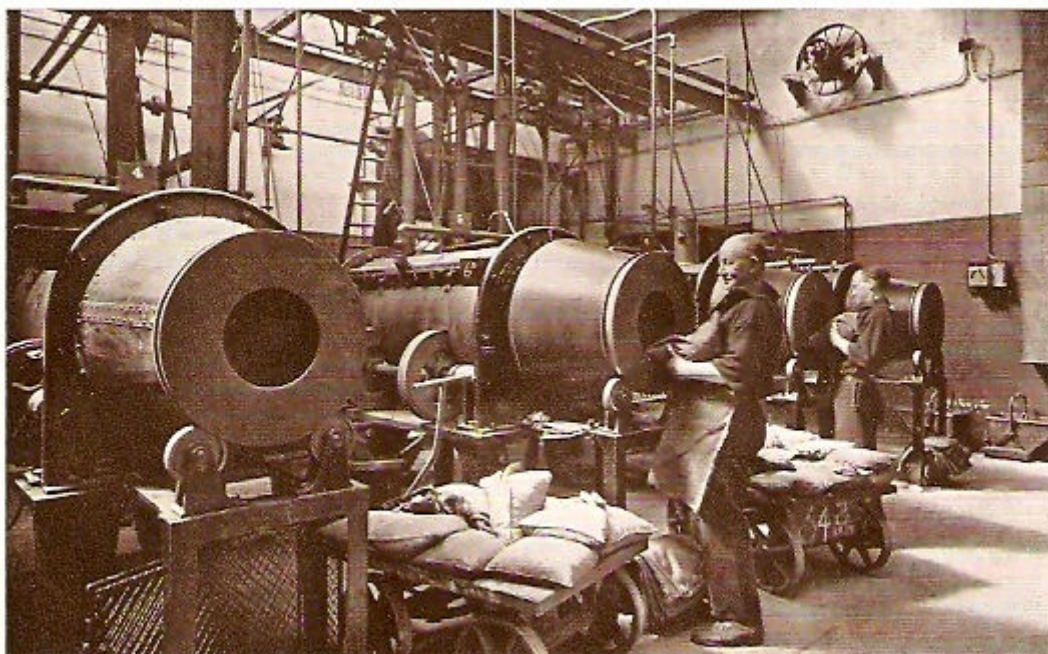
LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—ROLLING ROOM No. 1.

F



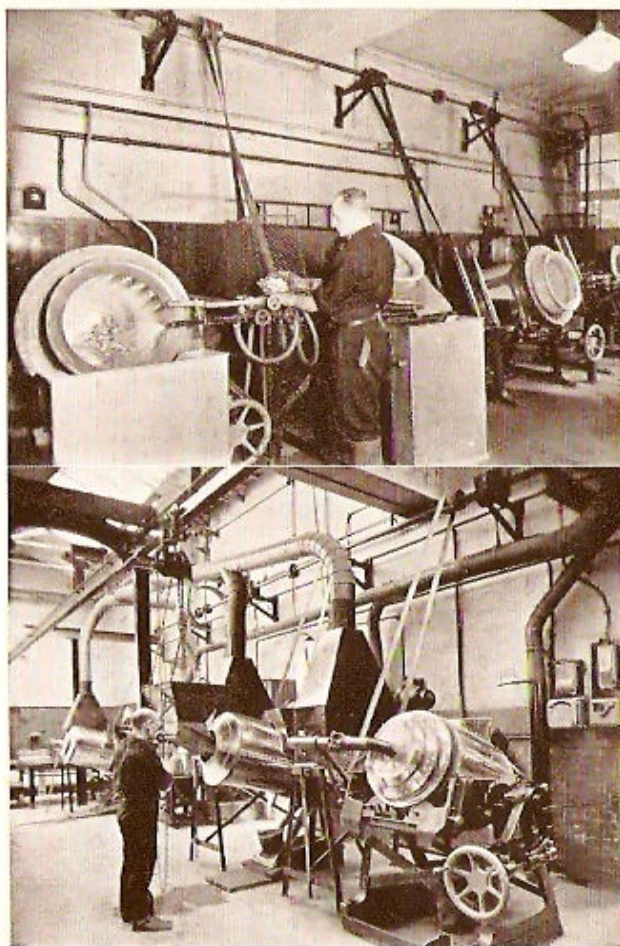
LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—CUTTING ROOM.

G



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—ANNEALING ROOM.

H



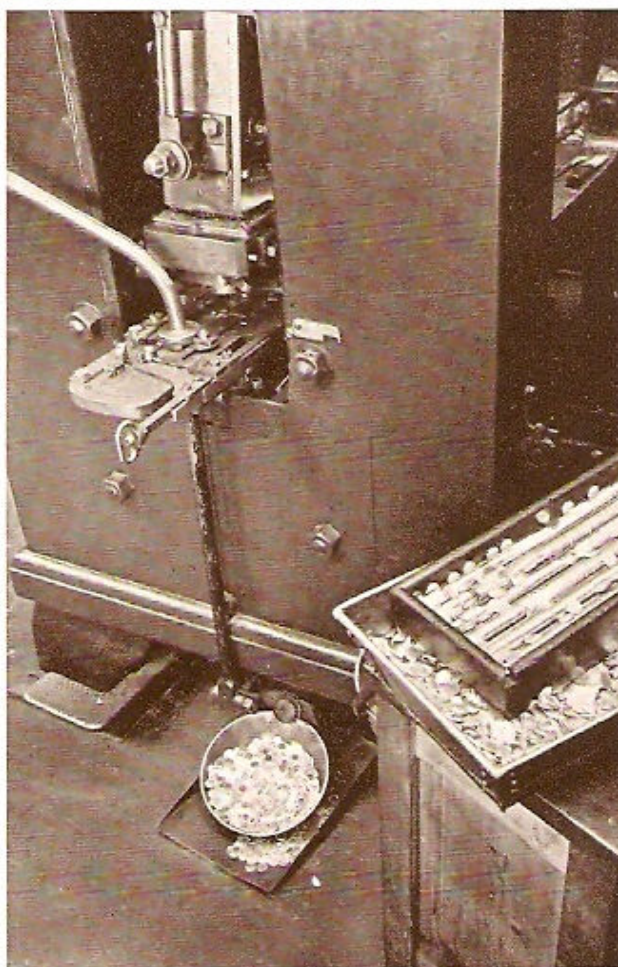
LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT. BLANCHING OR PICKLING ROOM
AND DRYING ROOM.

I



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—COINING PRESS ROOM.

J



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—A COINING PRESS.

K



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—WEIGHING ROOM.

L



LONDON. THE ROYAL MINT—TELLING ROOM.

Envelope containing
the pack of picture
postcards

TWELVE
PICTORIAL
POST CARDS

THE ROYAL MINT
PRICE ONE SHILLING

SOLD BY THE HEAD MESSENGER
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
ROYAL MINT PROVIDENT SOCIETY

POST CARD

THE ROYAL MINT - FACADE.
The London Mint, which had been for many
centuries within the precincts of the Tower of
London, was, in 1810, removed to its present site
on Tower Hill. The buildings were erected from
the designs of Sir Robert Smirke.

Address

Typical back of
picture postcard.

Some Scenes from the April Meeting



The Barber Dime

The first Barber dimes were struck on January 2, 1892. Over half a billion pieces were struck during the next twenty-five years. Some issues have mintages as small as 500,000, while others were struck in quantities as large as 22 million. At one time or another the Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, and New Orleans mints struck these coins.



Gold Coin Production at the New Orleans Mint

Pre-Civil War Issues



Date	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
1839		17,781				
1840		33,580		40,120		
1841				50	2,500	
1842		19,800		16,400	27,400	
1843		364,002		101,075	175,162	
1844				364,600	118,700	
1845		4,000		41,000	47,500	
1846		62,000		58,000	81,780	
1847		124,000		12,000	571,500	
1848					35,850	
1849	215,000				23,900	
1850	14,000	84,000			57,500	141,000
1851	290,000	148,000		41,000	263,000	315,000
1852	140,000	140,000			18,000	190,000
1853	290,000				51,000	71,000
1854		153,000	24,000	46,000	52,500	3,250
1855	55,000			11,100	18,000	8,000
1856		21,100		10,000	14,500	2,250
1857		34,000		13,000	5,500	30,000
1858					20,000	35,250
1859					2,300	9,100
1860					11,100	6,600
1861						17,741

Gold Coin Production at the New Orleans Mint

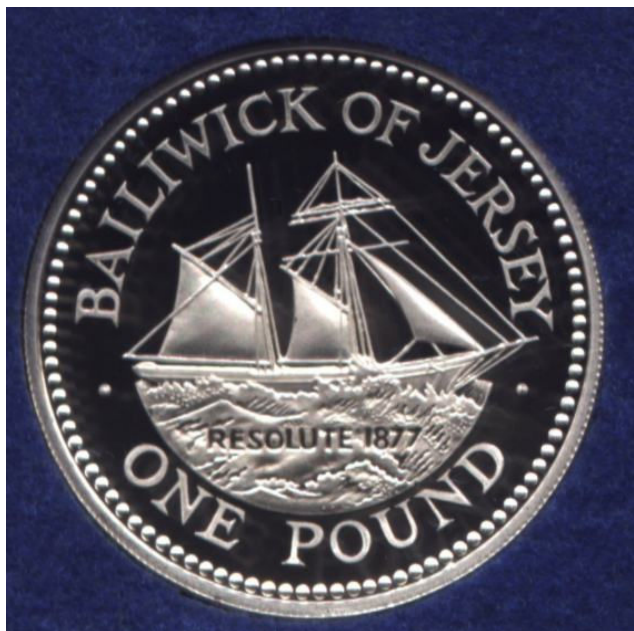
Post Civil War Issues 1879-1909

Date	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
1879					1,500	2,325
1880					9,200	
1881					8,350	
1882					10,820	
1883					800	
1884						
1885						
1886						
1887						
1888					21,335	
1889						
1890						
1891						
1892				10,000	28,688	
1893				110,000	17,000	
1894				16,600	107,500	
1895					98,000	
1896						
1897					42,500	
1898						
1899					37,047	
1900						
1901					72,041	
1902						
1903					112,771	
1904					108,950	
1905						
1906					86,895	
1907						
1908						
1909				34,200		

Jersey's Shipbuilding Series

Part 5: The Resolute

By Harold Fears



The Resolute

The final ship in the Shipbuilding Series is the 63 ton topsail schooner *Resolute* which was built by Thomas Le Houquet at St. Catherine's and owned by George Noel. It was used in trade before the ship was wrecked during a hurricane on August 29, 1905 at the entrance to Harbor Briton, Newfoundland, losing one of her five crew members.

Starting in 1998, Arnold Machin's portrait of the Queen was replaced with a more mature version by Ian Rank-Broadley.

This issue was first struck in 1994 with a mintage of 60,000 normal circulation strike coins, 3000 silver proof coins, and 250 gold proof coins. In 1997, an additional 101,000 coins were released.

Starting in 1998, Arnold Machin's portrait of the Queen was replaced with a more mature version by Ian Rank-Broadley. These coins with the new obverse have been issued in 1998, 2003, and 2006.



Ian Rank-Broadley designed the obverse that now graces the obverse on Jersey's coins.

To review, there are seven reverse types in the Shipbuilding Series. They are:

- The *Tickler* (a schooner)
- The *Percy Douglas* (a vintage full rigged ship)
- The *Hebe* (a brig)
- The *Bailiwick Seal*
- The *Gemini* (a barque)
- The *Century* (a brigantine)
- The *Resolute* (a top sail schooner)

Silver proof coins with a maximum mintage of 3,000 were minted for each issue (only the first year of issue for the *Resolute* coin). Only 250 gold proof coins were minted. These proof coins, which are double the thickness of a normal issue, still measure 22.5 mm in diameter, but weigh 0.5794 ounces. The Jersey Treasury department also released an unknown number of blister packs containing an uncirculated example of each coin in the series.

Continued from page 16



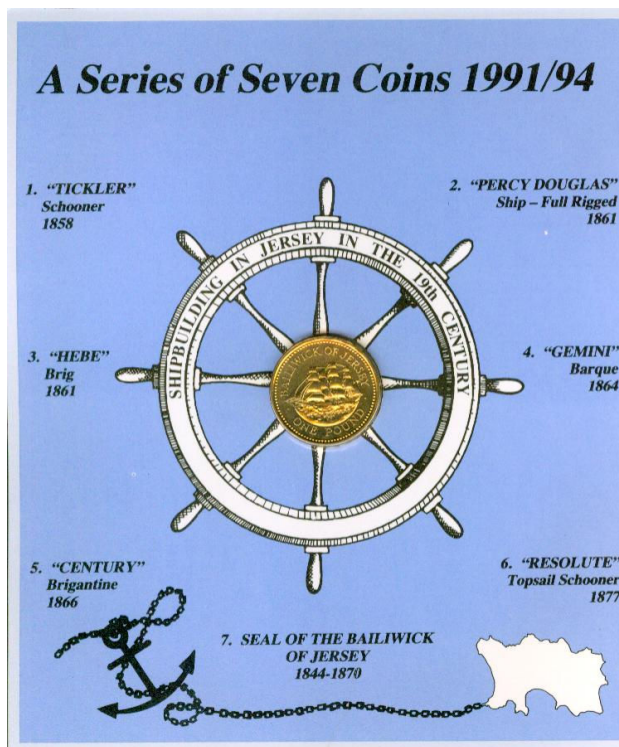
The obverses of Jersey's Shipbuilding Series gold proof set



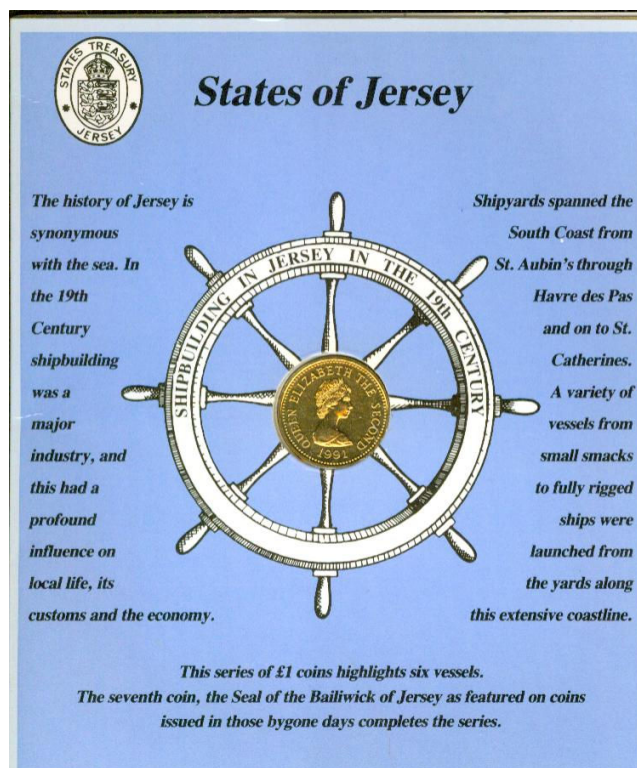
The reverses of Jersey's Shipbuilding Series gold proof set

Building a set of these coins, like all coins from Jersey presents a challenge in just locating the coins. The silver proof coins are the easiest to locate. Expect to spend \$20 to \$40 each. Uncirculated examples when found can be had for a few dollars. The blister packs are rare; I have only seen them once on eBay. The gold coins are hard to find too.

Next month, we will take a quick look at Jersey's Edward VII coinage. ■



Official blister packs were sold by the Treasury containing the circulation coins.



Members' Notices

Rules for users of the member notice page: All notices are free and should be directed to the editor of the Madison County Coin Club newsletter (see back page for address). Notices will be limited to a maximum of 8 lines, including the name and contact information. The person entering the notice must answer all responses to notices. Preference will be given in the following order to notices when the page is oversubscribed in a single month:

1. Research Notices
2. Wanted Items
3. Trades Offered
4. For Sale Items

Looking for world coins or tokens with sailing ships, or dragons. Interested in crowns, and smaller denominations. Silver, Cupero-Nickel, bronze, Aluminum and the like. Contact Mark at TheLarsens@bellsouth.net

Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens. Contact: Richard ANALMRJ@gmail.com or 256-337-5092

Looking for numismatic information concerning the Island of Jersey, Channel Islands. Especially interested in magazine or newspaper articles. Contact: Harold hkfears@knology.net or 256-881-6268.

Neil and Verdery are working on a special type of meeting every 5th Monday. If you have any suggestions that would be fun and interesting, please contact either man.

Remember we will meet again on June 23rd, which is our annual "potluck" dinner meeting. We will eat and have good fellowship.

Be sure to mark your calendar for June 23rd. See you then.

Regards,
Bob



Inclement Weather Notice

If the Huntsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. There will be no club meeting if the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. Local TV and radio stations will give notice of any Huntsville school closure. ■

Visit us on the web at <http://mccc.anacclubs.org/>

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are held at the Senior Center in Huntsville in the Ceramics Room. We meet on the fourth Monday each month except for May and December. Meetings start at 6:30 and typically end around 8:30. The Thomas W. Davidson, Sr. Senior Center is located at 2200 Drake Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35803

JANUARY 28

Speaker: Bob Jaques

FEBRUARY 25

Charles Cataldo presents "*The State of the Coin Market*"

MARCH 24

Speaker: Dennis Schafluetzel, President of Georgia Numismatic Association, presents "*Carpetbagger Promotes, Combines and Rebuilds and Bankrupts AL & Chattanooga Railroad*"

APRIL 28

Speaker American Numismatic Association (ANA) Governor Radford Stearns presents "*The History of the Western World in 28 Coins*"

JUNE 23

Annual potluck and bourse night.

JULY 28

Speaker: Richard Jozefiak presents "*The Modern Sovereign and Half-Sovereign: Gold Coins of the British Empire From 1817 to Today*"

AUGUST 25

Open.

SEPTEMBER 22

Open.

OCTOBER 27

Speaker: Robert Patrick

NOVEMBER 24

Annual Thanksgiving celebration and bourse night.

June is Pot Luck Month



The June meeting is our annual mid-year potluck supper. The club will provide drinks, paper products and utensils. Please bring a dish to share with your fellow club members. It is also our bourse night. Come see what treasure you can find!

CLUB OFFICERS

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