

John J Caulton

This is the story of this Sydney minted half sovereign minted in 1861.

In 1940 I bought it from a roadman - (name unknown) who had dug it out of a ditch at a place called Bonny Glen, near Marton, New Zealand.

I had volunteered for the R.N.Z.A.F. in 1940 and entered camp in April 1941.

I carried the half sovereign in a gold case with a miniature photo of a girlfriend and a St Christopher medal on a chain with my identity tags, from 1941 until the end of my Airforce service in 1946.

For over two years I flew Spitfires in 132 (Bombay) Squadron in England. On the 29th April 1944 I was shot down in a head-on attack with a Messerschmitt at Arnheim. Airman P.O.W.s went down the line which led firstly to the Interrogation Centre called Dulag Luft at Frankfurt. The second day I was taken to a second cell and told to strip. After I started to strip, I suddenly remembered my half sovereign. As I had been injured, I slowly removed my clothes and when I got to the embarrassing stage I turned my back on the German under officer and slowly unclipped my locket and dropped the coin into my half closed right hand. Then I turned round embarrassed, with my legs crossed. This seemed to amuse the soldier who was busy looking for silk maps and tearing a hidden compass button off my battle dress jacket with a pair of pliers but didn't look at my half closed hand where the coin lay.

I had other strip searches to and from hospital and Stalag Luft III so I was henceforth aware, placing the coin in my mouth each time, then returning it to the locket.

So there the story ends.

On my return to New Zealand in 1946 it was laid in a box.

One other small recollection is as a poorly paid sgt pilot at six pound ten shillings a fortnight, until I was commissioned, I had on many occasions been tempted to cash it - not having any idea that a Sydney minted 1861

half sovereign was quite rare and valuable. The mark on Queen Victoria's neck is the mark made by the workman's shovel when he dug it up at Bonny Glen near Marton.

signed.....
J. Caulton

John J Caulton

P.S. F/LT NZ 414243

The most consecutive service number issued to a New Zealand Airman.

The 41 denotes the year of entry.

This is to certify that this is a true copy of the original document, which I have sighted.

[Signature] Date *1.5.86*
Australia Fair Signing Centre




I have numbered and initialled each page of this...2...paged document being a true copy of the original...2...paged document that I have sighted.

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Australian Gold Coins


Perhaps a misnomer, Australian Gold Coins are coins struck at branches of the British Royal Mint in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.



LOT No. 238 Australia 1856 Half Sovereign


Victoria, first type, Sydney Mint, a two-year-type. Most RARE in high grade, this one is much better than usual, with excellent surfaces. **aEF/EF \$3000.00**






LOT No. 239 Australia 1856 Half Sovereign

As previous lot. Scratch in obverse field, slight warp in planchet else **FINE/FINE Plus \$650.00**



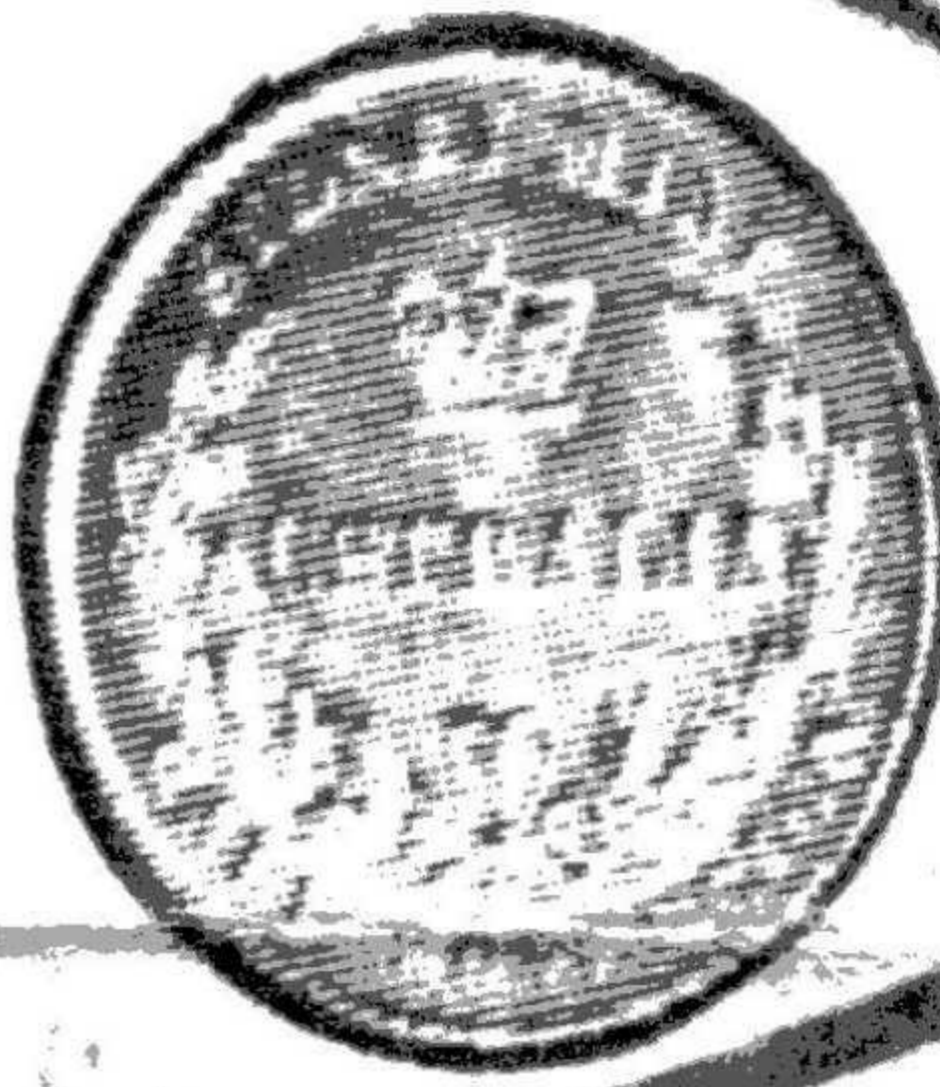
LOT No. 240 AUSTRALIA 1857 HALF SOVEREIGN Victoria, second type, Sydney Mint. **VG \$150.00**

LOT No. 241 AUSTRALIA 1858 HALF SOVEREIGN Victoria, second type, Sydney Mint. Rim nick, slight bend in planchet else **VG \$100.00**




LOT No. 242 Australia 1861 Half Sovereign

Victoria, second type, Sydney Mint. A superior coin and RARE in this quality. Two minute rim nicks, pleasing surfaces. One for either date or type collectors. **EF Plus/aUNC \$1800.00**

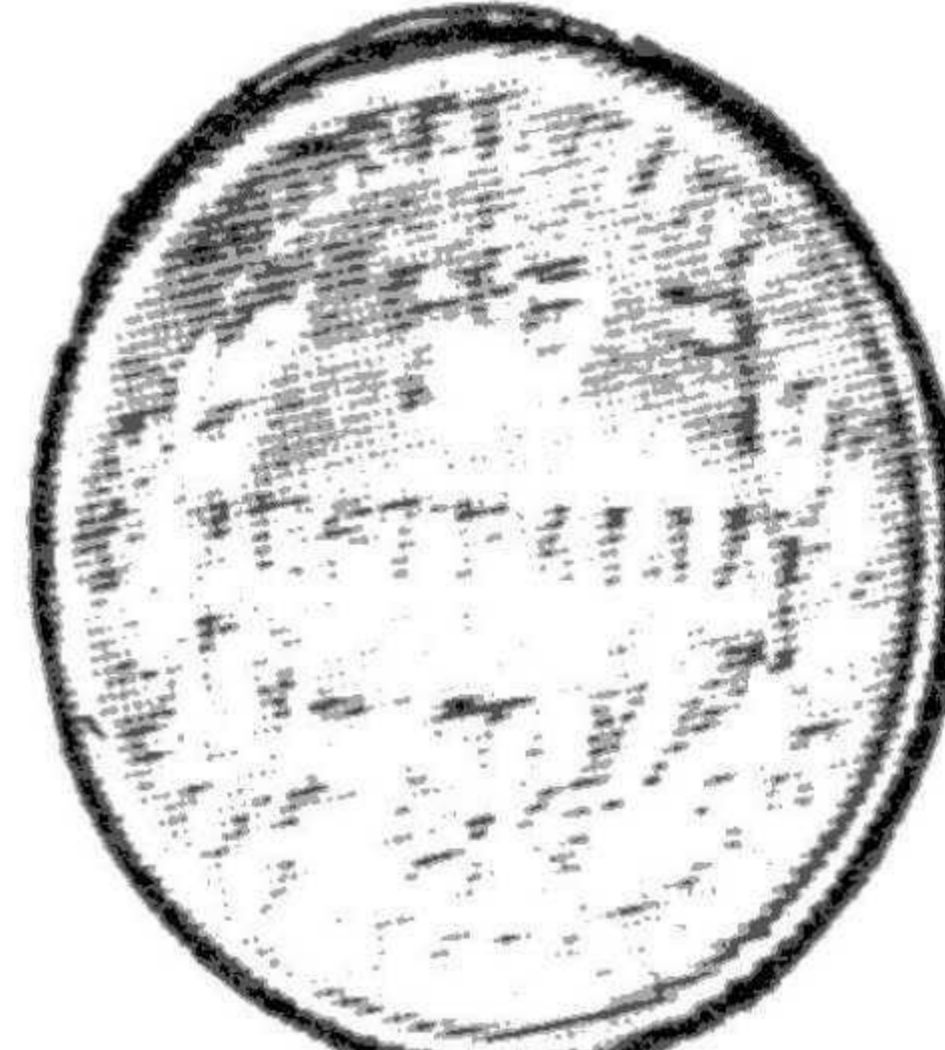


LOT No. 243 AUSTRALIA 1861 HALF SOVEREIGN As previous lot. Small marks on obverse else **aFINE \$140.00**



LOT No. 244 Australia 1862 Half Sovereign

Victoria, second type, Sydney Mint. Lightly cleaned but an attractive coin. **VF/VF Plus \$650.00**



LOT No. 245 AUSTRALIA 1863 HALF SOVEREIGN Victoria, second type, Sydney Mint, Two marks on obverse. **VG \$100.00**

LOT No. 246 AUSTRALIA 1872 "S" HALF SOVEREIGN Victoria, Young Head, Shield reverse. **FINE/aFINE \$120.00**

LOT No. 247 AUSTRALIA 1880 "S" HALF SOVEREIGN As previous lot. **aFINE/FINE \$120.00**

LOT No. 248 AUSTRALIA 1883 "S" HALF SOVEREIGN As previous lot. **VG/FINE Plus \$100.00**

LOT No. 249 AUSTRALIA 1884 "M" HALF SOVEREIGN As previous lot. **aVF \$150.00**