

THE AUSTRALIAN GOLD COINS STRUCK AT THE
SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, AND PERTH MINTS.

BY ALFRED CHITTY.

HAVE lately obtained from the above Branches of the Royal Mint detailed accounts of the number of sovereigns and half-sovereigns issued for circulation in each year since the opening of the mints, as follows :—

Sydney, May 14th, 1855.

Melbourne, June 7th, 1872.

Perth, June 20th, 1899.

It will be noticed that in the subjoined accounts the Sydney mint returns no half-sovereigns in 1862, 1864, and 1866. This is curious, as it is well known that these dates are in circulation, and the only suggestion I could offer to account for it was that they were struck on those respective dates, but not issued until the following year in each case. On further enquiry from the officials they informed me that in the fifties and early sixties it took so long to send to London and get the dies sent out, that they used to be ordered a long time before they were required, and even then sometimes they did not arrive in time to be used during the year for which they were dated.

It is to be regretted that at both the Sydney and Melbourne mints no return has been kept of the separate issues of the "Shield" and "St. George and Dragon" varieties of the sovereign; and the only information to be given is that they were mostly of the "St. George and Dragon" variety, and that the "Shield" type was issued for export to India, where the people had been accustomed to that pattern.

ACCOUNTS.

THE SYDNEY MINT.				Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.
Year.	Sovereigns. Number.	Half-sovereigns. Number.	Year.	Number.	Number.
DESIGN BY J. WYON.			1875	2,122,000	—
<i>Reverse</i> :—SYDNEY MINT, AUSTRALIA, ONE SOVEREIGN (or) HALF-SOVEREIGN.			1876	1,613,000	60,000
1855	502,000	21,000	1877	1,590,000	—
1856	981,000	478,000	1878	1,259,000	126,000
DESIGN BY L. C. WYON.			1879	1,366,000	94,000
<i>Reverse</i> :—Similar.			1880	1,459,000	80,000
1857	499,000	537,000	1881	1,360,000	62,000
1858	1,101,500	483,000	1882	1,298,000	52,000
1859	1,050,500	341,000	1883	1,108,000	220,000
1860	1,573,500	156,000	1884	1,595,000	—
1861	1,626,000	186,500	1885	1,486,000	—
1862	2,477,500	—	1886	1,667,000	82,000
1863	1,255,500	558,500	1887	1,000,000	—
1864	2,698,500	—	JUBILEE DESIGN BY J. E. BOEHM, R.A.		
1865	2,130,500	282,000	<i>Reverses</i> :—Sovereign, "St. George and Dragon." Half-sovereign, "Shield."		
1866	2,911,000	—	1887	1,002,000	134,000
1867	2,370,000	62,000	1888	2,187,000	—
1868	2,319,000	—	1889	3,262,000	64,000
1869	1,202,000	154,000	1890	2,808,000	—
1870	1,220,000	—	1891	2,596,000	154,000
DESIGN BY W. WYON, R.A.			1892	2,837,000	—
<i>Reverses</i> :—Sovereign, "St. George and Dragon" (mostly) or "Shield." Half-sovereign, "Shield."			1893	1,498,000	—
1871	2,814,000	—	DESIGN BY T. BROCK, R.A.		
1872	1,815,000	356,000	<i>Reverse</i> :—Sovereign and half- sovereign, "St. George and Dragon."		
1873	1,478,000	—	1893	1,346,000	250,000
1874	1,899,000	252,000	1894	3,067,000	—
			1895	2,758,000	—
			1896	2,544,000	—

Year.	Sovereigns. Number.	Half-sovereigns. Number.
1897	2,532,000	—
1898	2,548,000	100,000
1899	3,259,000	130,000
1900	3,586,000	260,000
1901	3,012,000	—

EDWARD VII. DESIGN BY
G. W. DE SAULLES.

Reverse :—" St. George and Dragon."

1902	2,813,000	84,000
1903	2,806,000	231,000
1904	2,986,000	—
1905	2,778,000	—
1906	2,792,000	308,000
1907	2,539,000	—
1908	2,017,000	538,000

THE MELBOURNE MINT.

DESIGN BY W. WYON, R.A.

Reverses :—Sovereign, " St. George and Dragon " (mostly) or " Shield."
Half-sovereign, " Shield."

1872	748,180	—
1873	752,199	165,034
1874	1,373,298	—
1875	1,888,405	—
1876	2,124,445	—
1877	1,487,316	80,016
1878	2,171,457	—
1879	2,740,594	—
1880	3,053,454	—
1881	2,325,303	42,009
1882	2,465,781	107,522
1883	2,050,450	—
1884	2,942,630	48,009

Year.	Sovereigns. Number.	Half-sovereigns. Number.
1885	2,967,143	11,003
1886	2,902,131	38,008
1887	1,916,424	—

JUBILEE DESIGN BY J. E. BOEHM,
R.A.

Reverse :—Sovereign, " St. George and Dragon."
Half-sovereign, " Shield."

1887	940,000	64,013
1888	2,830,612	—
1889	2,732,590	—
1890	2,473,537	—
1891	2,749,592	—
1892	3,488,750	—
1893	1,649,352	110,024

DESIGN BY T. BROCK, R.A.

Reverse :—" St. George and Dragon."

1893	1,914,400	—
1894	4,166,874	—
1895	4,165,869	—
1896	4,456,932	218,946
1897	5,130,565	—
1898	5,509,138	—
1899	5,579,157	97,221
1900	4,305,904	112,920
1901	3,987,701	—

EDWARD VII. DESIGN BY
G. W. DE SAULLES.

Reverse :—" St. George and Dragon."

1902	4,267,157	—
1903	3,521,780	—
1904	3,743,897	—
1905	3,633,838	—
1906	3,657,853	82,042
1907	3,332,691	—
1908	3,080,147	405,036

THE PERTH MINT.			Sovereigns. Half-sovereigns.		
Year.	Sovereigns. Number.	Half-sovereigns. Number.	Year.	Number.	Number.
DESIGN BY T. BROCK, R.A.			EDWARD VII. DESIGN BY G. W. DE SAULLES.		
<i>Reverse</i> :—" St. George and Dragon."			<i>Reverse</i> :—" St. George and Dragon."		
1899	690,992	—	1902	4,289,122	—
1900	1,886,089	119,376	1903	4,674,783	—
1901	2,889,333	—	1904	4,506,756	60,030
			1905	4,876,193	—
			1906	4,829,817	—
			1907	4,972,289	—
			1908	4,875,617	24,668