Portrait Gallery of Australian Monarchs

Images and the names of the coin designers compiled by Peter Lane, Honorary Numismatist, Art Gallery of South Australia

To celebrate the Queen's Birthday 2020

The Queen's birthday 8 June

NSW, SA, NT, ACT, Tasmania and Victoria celebrate her birthday on 8 June WA on 28 September and Queensland 5 October

The first King's birthday toast in Australia was held on 4 June 1788

George III (1738-1820) King from 1760 to 1820 (Regency 1811-1820).

His reign covers the period of Captain Cook, First Fleet, the establishment of Sydney, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land.



- 1) Lewis Pingo b. 1743, probably in London, d. 1832 Camberwell, nationality British.
- 2) Conrad Heinrich Küchler b. C 1740 Flanders, 1793 arrived in Birmingham, d. 1810 Handsworth near Birmingham, nationality German.
- 3) Not known struck at the Tower Mint London
- 4) Thomas Wyon the younger b. 1792 Birmingham, d. 1817 Hastings, nationality
- 5) Benedetto Pistrucci b. 1783 Rome, migrated to London 1815, d. 1855 near Windsor, nationality Italian

George IV (1762-1830) Regent from 1811 to 1820, and king from 1820 to 1830.

Penal settlements established at Moreton Bay, Macquarie Harbour and Port Macquarie. Crossing the Blue Mountains. Van Diemen's Land made a separate colony. Settlement established at Swan River Settlement. The name 'Australia' officially adopted.



- 1) Benedetto Pistrucci b. 1783 Rome, moved to London 1815, d. 1855 near Windsor, nationality Italian.
- 2) Ditto.
- 3) William Wyon RA b. 1795 Birmingham, d. 1851, nationality British.
- 4) Ditto.

William IV (1765-1837) king from 1830 to 1837.

The South Australian Company formed and South Australia European settlement commenced. Melbourne established.



1) William Wyon RA b. 1795 Birmingham, d. 1851, nationality British. The effigy based on a model by Sir Francis Leggatt Chantrey b. 1781 near Sheffield, d. 1841 London, nationality British.

Victoria (1819-1901) Queen from 1837 to 1901.

Cessation of Transportation, Victoria and Queensland separated from NSW, Gold Rush, and formation of the Commonwealth of Australia.



- 1) William Wyon b. 1795 Birmingham, d. 1851 London, nationality British.
- 2) Leonard Charles Wyon b. 1826 London, d. 1891 London, nationality British.
- 3) ditto.
- 4) Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, 1st Baronet, RA, b. 1834 Vienna, migrated to London in 1862, d. 1890 London, nationality Austrian.
- 5) ditto.
- 6) Leonard Charles Wyon b. 1826 London, d. 1891 London, nationality British.
- 7) Sir Thomas Brock KCB RA, b. 1847 Worcester, d. 1922 London, nationality British.

Edward VII (1841-1910) King from 1901 to 1910.

White Australia Policy, Street lighting, petrol cars, cinemas, Bureau of Meteorology established and introduction of Australia coins. Douglas Mawson Reaches the South Magnetic pole.



- 1) George William de Saulles b. 1862 Birmingham, d. 1903 London, nationality British.
- 2) Ditto.

George V (1865-1936) King from 1910-1936.

South Australia relinquished the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth Government, WWI, Spanish Influenza Pandemic, Soldier Settlement scheme, Federal Parliament House opened in Canberra by Duke of York who later became George VI, Depression, and Sydney Harbour Bridge open.



- 1) Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal KCVO RA b. 1863 Melbourne, 1882 migrated to London, d. 1931 Devon, nationality Australian.
- 2) Thomas Humphrey Paget OBE, b. 1893 Watford, d. 1974, nationality British.
- 3) George Kruger Gray, b. 1880 London, d. 1943 Chichester, nationality British.
- 4) Percy Metcalfe, b. 1895 Wakefield, d. 1970 London, nationality British.

Edward VIII (1894-1972) King from 20 January 1936 to 11 December 1936.

He was not crowned and no coins struck for circulation bearing his effigy. The below image is from a British pattern penny - not issued. This effigy breaks tradition and faces the same way as his predecessor. It was Edward VIII's preferred profile.



1) Thomas Humphrey Paget OBE, b. 1893 Watford, d. 1974, nationality British.

George VI (1895-1952) King from 1936-1952

WWII, Snowy Mountains Scheme established, European displaced persons started to arrive. In 1947 India became a republic and George VI title, Emperor of India (IND IMP) was removed from coins but his effigy remained the same. As Edward VIII following protocol should have faced right George VI faces left.



- 1) Thomas Humphrey Paget OBE, b. 1893 Watford, d. 1974, nationality British.
- 2) Percy Metcalfe, b. 1895 Wakefield, d. 1970 London, nationality British.

Queen Elizabeth II (1926-) Queen from 1952-current

Decimal currency and metric measurements introduced, White Australia Policy abolished, voting and land rights given to Aboriginals, conscription and Vietnam War. Australian population grows from 8.6 to 25.5 million in 2020





- 1) Mary Gaskell Gillick OBE, b. 1881 Nottingham, d. 1965 London, nationality British
- 2) Arnold Machin O.B.E., R.A., b. 1911 Trent Vale, d. 1999, nationality British.
- 3) Raphael David Maklouf, b. 1937 Palestine, migrated to UK post WWII, nationality British.
- 4) Ian Rank-Broadley, FRBS, b. 1952 Walton on-Thames, nationality British.
- 5) Vladimir Gottwald, born overseas (?) a former employee at Royal Australian Mint's Design and Engraving Section. Nationality?
- 6) Jody Clark, b. in 1981 in the Lake District, Cumbria, nationality British.

The above images are a near complete range of effigies of British monarchs from the time of European Settlement in Australia, as depicted on coins and with the coin designers' details listed below them.

For an Aboriginal effigy of Mary I, by Darren Siwes, go to the Art Gallery of South Australia's collection page: https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/collection-publications/collection/?q=Darren%20Siwes&type=work&has-images=yes&on-display=no

Images courtesy Noble Numismatics Sydney & Melbourne, Spink London and members of the Australian Numismatic Society