



INTERNATIONAL
AUCTION
GALLERIES



The "Blue" Collection

Complete
Collection of
Australian
5 Pound
Banknotes

AUCTION 70_A

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Sofitel Hotel, Gold Coast Queensland



The “Blue” Collection

FOREWORD:

Most people have collections of something; books, CD's, DVD's or childhood mementoes. Then there are collectors. They set out deliberately to collect items which are somehow logically related. Their interest varies from casual to passionate.

Here is my story as a collector.

Like many young boys of my era I collected stamps until the interest waned with the discovery of girls and sport.

With Australia's 1966 change to decimal currency I acquired some of the new proof and mint coin sets from the Royal Australian Mint and subsequently subscribed for these on an annual basis. In that same year, 1966, I moved to the United States and started collecting US proof sets in the same way, plus a few other US coins.

A couple of years after returning to Australia I went to New Zealand for three years. (People who have worked for IBM know the letters actually stand for I've Been Moved.) While in NZ I started the same process there.

At this point experienced collectors will notice two mistakes: an aimless collection with no sense of direction or shape and a dissipation of funds across many minor items. This latter breaks one of the cardinal rules of collecting: always buy the best you can afford. If this means that for a time you have only one item, so be it.

By the early nineties I had disposed of much material to release funds and storage space but these proof sets were still arriving regularly. It was time to get some sense into the activity. I had acquired a number of English crowns along the way and approached Barrie Winsor, a leading dealer, with the idea of becoming a serious collector of crowns and disposing of everything else. Another mistake. He suggested that in my case it would make more sense to build an Australian collection.

Barrie suggested going with Australian pre-decimal banknotes. Fine, I said, firstly get me a set of five pound notes because I like blue (Australian five pound notes are predominantly blue). This proved to be more of a task than I realised at the time and explains why Barrie laughed at the suggestion.

After fifteen years of serious attention my overall collection was nearly finished but I still did not have a complete set of five pound notes. This of course is the challenge and interest for any collector. If one could just go out and put together a complete collection (whatever that means to the individual) then it wouldn't be much fun.

Now the pre-decimal Australian five pound collection is complete it is time to move on and let someone else have the pleasure of owning these notes, most of which are in the best possible available condition.

-A Collector



- 170 1913 Collins-Allen (R 35). Non Mosaic Reverse type. One of the Key banknotes of the whole Pre Decimal series. The note features a unique Reverse design, which was subsequently later changed, and the "mosaic" of 5's was added in to prevent forgery of the issue. 10 genuine issued notes are recorded, this the first example sold publicly for many years. The note is well circulated, with some surface dirt, and a few tiny pin holes, but is a whole example with good appeal and is conservatively graded. Last sold in 1999 as gFINE, which according to record makes it the equal 3rd finest known. A superb rarity and highly desirable. *VG/aFINE*

\$80000-85000



- 171 1914 Collins-Allen (R 36a). Blue serial numbered type. The finest of 2 known examples. A relatively recent discovery, this is the only recorded example, with one other known, and is illustrated in Mick Vort Ronalds "Australian Banknote Pedigrees" book. Some paper thinning and minute pinholes/separations, but with good crisp original paper and strong colour. Overall, looks better than we have graded it. A truly exceptional note and of the highest rarity. *a FINE*

\$85000-90000



172 1914 Collins-Allen (R 36b). Extremely rare in this grade, one of the finest known and a very under rated note. 17 examples recorded, this example probably the equal 4th or 5th finest. Good original paper and strong colour, and with great eye appeal. Very rare. *VF*

\$40000-45000



173 1914 Collins-Allen (R 36c). One of the finest known, being in the top 2 or 3 examples of the issue, and extremely rare in this high grade. Good colour and nearly completely flat paper, with no real traces of folding. A new find, being a previously unrecorded note? A superb type note for the whole Collins-Allen issue. Very rare, especially this nice. *EF*

\$80000-85000



- 174 1918 Cerutti-Collins (R 37a). The finest known of this issue, and rarely seen in any grade, with only 10 examples recorded. Exceptional fresh paper and lovely colour, with only light traces of folding and handling. Ex the Roy Brook collection (lot 479), and the Mick Vort Ronald collection (lot 82). Far, far rarer than the common (R 37b) issue, and a superb note. Extremely rare and a highly important banknote. *EF*

\$110000-120000



175 1918 Cerutti-Collins (R 37b). Very rare this grade, as many issues of this type are in low grade. Lovely bold colour, and some folds with good paper. A great type note, and easily in the top ten notes for this issue. Rare. *aEF*

\$38000-40000



176 1924 Kell-Collins (R 38a). Black signature type. One of the finest known. Crisp paper, with some minor edge folding and a trace of a centre fold. Rare. *gEF/aUNC*

\$45000-47500



177 1924 Kell-Collins (R 38b). Dark blue signature type. Extremely rare this grade. A nice clear example of the “blue signatures”, with good paper. Rare. *EF*

\$48000-50000



178 1927 Kell-Heathershaw (R 39). Note Issue Department type. Crisp and fully fresh paper, a superb original note in as close to perfect condition as I have seen. The finest known example of this rare note. Originally sold by us in sale 66 for \$105,000, where it was previously unrecorded before this. Extremely rare, especially in this superb grade. *UNC*

\$105000-110000

179 1927 Kell-Heathershaw (R 40). Commonwealth Bank type. Crisp, fresh and original, one of the finest known. Recorded here for posterity. Sold by private treaty. *aU/UNC*

SOLD



180 1928 Riddle-Heathershaw (R 41). Note Issue Department type. Extremely rare issue that is rarely offered, especially in this superior grade. Nine examples recorded, with this previously unrecorded note making it ten now. Good fresh paper, a little crinkled with numerous bends and folds, but without too much real heavy wear, and with good colour. Appears to be the rare "white back" example as referred to in the Nicholson Collection catalogue. Probably in the top 5 known. Extremely rare. *gVF*

\$70000-75000



181 1928 Riddle-Heathershaw (R 42). A note from the famous Q/21 255... "hoard". Rare in this grade. *UNC*

\$32000-34000



182 1932 Riddle-Sheehan (R 43). Very rare this grade, with only a handful known in this higher grade. Nice crisp paper with only minor handling and a small corner bend keeping it from being the finest known. Not often offered in high grade. Very rare. *aUNC*

\$55000-57500



183 1933 Riddle-Sheehan (R 44a). Pink face of King type. Crisp, with some light handling and trace of centre bends. A pleasant example. Rare. *gEF*

\$10000-11000



184 1936 Riddle-Sheehan (R 44b). White face of King type. Fresh and crisp, with only a very slight wavy bend through the paper. As good as I have ever seen, and possibly the finest known. Superb. *UNC*

\$45000-47500



185 1939 Sheehan-McFarlane (R 45). Fully crisp and fresh. As good as they come. *UNC*

\$16000-18000



186 1942 Armitage-McFarlane (R 46). Crisp and fresh. *UNC*

\$3700-3800



187 1949 Coombs-Watt (R 47). Consecutive pair. Crisp. *aUNC*

\$2800-3000



188 1952 Coombs-Wilson (R 48). Crisp. *UNC*

\$3800-4000



189 1954 Coombs-Wilson (R 49). Commonwealth issue. *UNC*

\$850-900



190 1954 Coombs-Wilson (R 49f). First prefix TA/00. Scarce this grade. *UNC*

\$5500-6000



191 1960 Coombs-Wilson (R 50). Reserve issue. *UNC*

\$800-850



192 1960 Coombs-Wilson (R 50L). Last prefix TD/09. Scarce. *UNC*

\$3500-4000



193 1960 Coombs-Wilson Sarnote. (R 50s). Rare this grade. *gEF*

\$30000-32000



LOT 173



LOT 174



LOT 178



LOT 170



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Ph: 07 5538 0300
Fax: 07 5538 7296

P.O. Box 1380
Broadbeach Qld 4218 Australia

iagmail@optusnet.com.au
www.iagauctions.com