

LAG's Benchmark Sale sets the benchmark!

INTERNATIONAL Auction Galleries in conjunction with Strand Coins' Benchmark Collection Sale in January was a massive success, and despite some technical server-side setbacks, realised nearly \$900,000 all up in what was one of the largest and most successful ever single sale of Australian Commonwealth Copper and Silver that is sure to stand as a Benchmark for many years.

Comprising a total of 380 lots, the Benchmark Collection contained many of the finest known and highest third party graded Australian Commonwealth

Silver and Copper coinage, with new record auction prices achieved on some of the finest gem grade coins seen in many years. Whilst some of the key coins did ultimately fail to sell, this is symptomatic of the current market for high end numismatics, rather than the quality of the coins in this collection.

Top price in the sale went to the superb deeply toned MS 66 1915 Florin, which realised \$53,622, with a beautiful near matching MS 65 1915 Shilling selling for \$29,812. Whilst the finest known 1930 English Obverse Penny did not attract a bid, the XF 45 Indian Obverse 1930 Penny with a good band sold for \$47,770.

The Florins included possibly the finest run of George V coins assembled in the one collection, with the MS 64 1932 Florin realising \$35,775, whilst a fully struck up "Specimen" 1934/5 Melbourne Centenary Florin with a clearly visible nipple of the rider was knocked down for \$20,868. Other Florins of note include a beautifully toned MS 65 1919 Florin which sold for \$19,318, whilst the tough



1930 Penny graded XF 45 Sold for \$47,770

date 1913 MS 64 example brought \$17,887, and an MS 65 1922 Florin realised \$11,925 and an MS 66 1925 Florin achieved a high \$10,732. A superior MS 65 1937 Crown likewise set a benchmark price, being knocked down for \$2,027.

The superb selection of Shillings were strong, with some lovely deep toned, well struck coins well sought after, with an



1920 Double Dot Penny sold for \$23,850



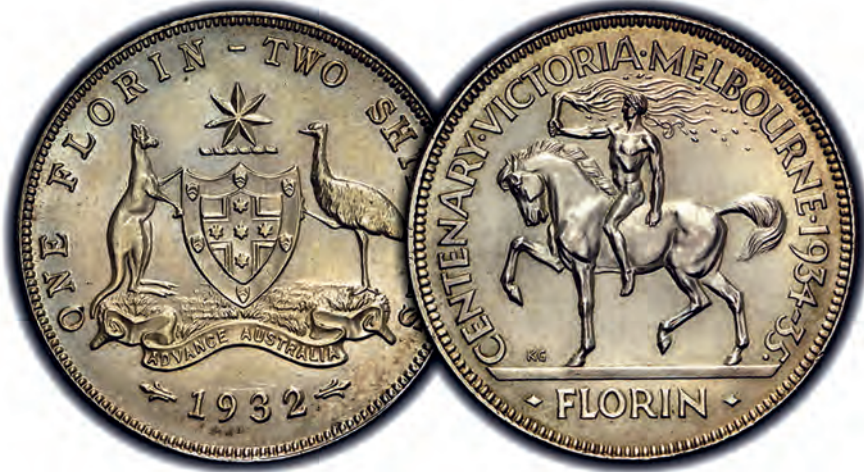
Superb 1915 Shilling and Florin Pair sold for \$29,812 and \$53,662



Three Key Shillings sold for \$11,925 \$14,906 and \$11,925



1924 and 1931 Halfpennies sold for \$12,879 and \$9,778



Key Date and Specimen Melbourne Centenary Florins sold for \$35,775 and \$20,868.

MS 65 1913 Shilling realising \$14,906, and a beautifully toned MS 65 1920 Shilling achieving \$11,925, a sharply struck MS 64 1921 Star Shilling realised \$14,906 and an MS 66 1922 Shilling brought \$11,925. Sixpences were likewise comprised of many fully struck up examples, with an MS 67 1917 Sixpence taking top honours at \$14,906, along with a sharp MS 65 1924 Sixpence selling for \$7,155, an MS 67 1936 Sixpence achieving \$3,875, and the finest MS 66 1952 Sixpence hammered for \$2,981. The

Threepences also contained many fully struck up examples, with the equal finest MS 66 1934/5 Overdate bringing \$20,868, a key date MS 65 1915 Threepence selling for \$14,906, an MS 66 GEM 1924 realising \$10,732, and an MS 64 1942 Threepence was strong at \$11,925.

The copper again contained many of the finest known examples, and none better than the MS 65 RB 1924 Halfpenny. This tough date sold to spirited competition for \$12,879, whilst an equally tough mint red MS 64 RD 1931 Half-

penny sold for \$9,778. A number of high grade mint varieties were included in this sale, and three such Pennies, an MS 63 RB 1920 Double Dot, an AU 58 BN 1920 Indian Obverse dot above and an MS 64 BN 1927 Indian Obverse realised \$23,850, \$10,374 and \$14,906 respectively. A rare MS 65 BN 1942I Penny - Missing 'I' achieved \$6,678 and an MS 64 BN 1943I Penny with Long Reverse Denticles sold at \$8,943, whilst a superior Baldwin MS 66 RD 1911 Penny was hotly contested, finally realising \$5,087.

The full Benchmark Catalogue and Prices Realised with complete coin Obverse and Reverse Type data on every single coin type can still be downloaded free from IAG's website.

IAG's next major Sale is Sale 82, their 30th Anniversary Sale in September 2015. This sale already has a dazzling array of highlights set to mark this important milestone in proper fashion! An Online only Postal Sale will also be held in June. For catalogues, full prices realised or more information on this or upcoming sales, prices realised and highlights, visit IAG's website: www.iagauctions.com or phone (07) 55 380 300.

(Note: All prices quoted include the 19.25% buyer's premium on the Hammer price rounded down).

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Gem Florin sold for \$19,318



Three Threepences sold for \$14,906 \$10,732 and \$20,868