**Edward I** (1272-1307), groat, London, variety a (Fox 5), small crowned bust facing, flower at each side by hair within quatrefoil of three lines, flat crown with pellet ornaments, drapery of two wedges with rosette below, flowers in spandrels, rev. long cross, three pellets in each angle (S.1379A; N.1007), minor light scratches on both sides, surfaces slightly rough, now under an even dark toning, a bold very fine or better, very rare in this condition £11,000-13,000

*ex Spink Auction 4018, 6 October 2004, lot 503*

The first groat of Edward I, this is a full, round coin, free from the traces of mounting or gilding that is the norm for most examples usually available. A most attractive example, and in a much better grade than those offered in recent auctions or currently for sale.
1002 † Edward III, fourth coinage, treaty period (1361-1369), noble, London, king with sword and shield stg. facing in ship, saltire before EDWARD, rev. ornate cross, E in centre (S.1502; N.1231), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63
£3750-4250
1003 † Richard II (1377-1399), noble, type IB, London, king with sword and shield stg. facing in ship, annulet over sail, rev. ornate cross, R in centre (S.1654; N.1302), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62 £3750-4250
1004 † **Henry IV**, light coinage (1412-1413), noble, London, king with sword and shield stg. facing in ship, rev. ornate cross, h in centre (S.1715; N.1355), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 58, rare £5500-6500

Three examples graded AU58 or higher by NGC or PCGS.
Richard III (1483-1485), angel, type 2b, mm. boar’s head 1/boar’s head 2, the archangel Michael slaying the dragon, rev. ship holding shield, cross above, R and rose at sides, wt. 4.03gms. (S.2151; N.1676), slight flatness, otherwise well struck, good very fine, rare

£12,000-15,000
1006 † **Elizabeth I**, sixth issue, angel, mm. A (1582-1584), the archangel Michael slaying the dragon, rev. ship bearing shield, cross above, E and rose above (S.2531; N.2005), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 55, on a broad flan, evenly struck with excellent detail, choice surfaces, pleasing old gold tone £3250-3750
James I, first coinage, gold crown, mm. thistle (1603-4), crowned bust r., rev. crowned shield of arms, IR at sides, wt. 2.75gms. (S.2611; N.2068; Schneider 4 [same dies]), slight crease across crown, otherwise good very fine, extremely rare

£8,000-12,000

*ex Bank of England, Sotheby’s, 13 July 1877, lot 22, sold for 14/-
ex W. Brice, collection purchased en bloc by H Montagu, 1887
ex H. Montagu, Sotheby’s, 13 November 1896, lot 160
ex B. Roth, Sotheby’s, 19 July 1917, lot 298
ex R. C. Lockett, Glendining, 11 October 1956, lot 2069
ex R. D. Beresford-Jones, Spink Auction 29, 2 June 1983, lot 82
ex D. Dupree, collection purchased en bloc by Spink, 1989
ex Spink Auction 75, 29 March 1990, lot 200
ex Spink Auction 176, 30 November 2005, lot 465

It is believed that there are only five examples of this denomination in private hands.
James I, third coinage, rose ryal, mm. spur rowel (1619-1620), crowned figure of king enthroned facing, holding orb and sceptre, portcullis at feet, rev. long cross fourchée over shield of arms, mark of value XXX above, all within ornate border, wt. 12.57gms. (S.2632; N.2108; Schneider 77), *good extremely fine with lustre*, in all respects a splendid example of this rarity, boldly struck on both sides with exquisite detail both in the king’s face and throughout the royal shield on the reverse, each letter of the legends crisp, the mintmark on each side showing its recessed circular centre, the flan broad and having nearly complete outer rims, surfaces truly choice and sheathed in a delightful golden tone, in all, a magnificent coin of the English Renaissance! £70,000-80,000

*ex R. E. Rodwell, Sotheby’s, 27 November 1821
ex Lt. Col. Durant, Sotheby’s, 19 April 1847, lot 559
ex T. Brown, Sotheby’s, 26 July 1869, lot 515
ex S Addington
ex H. Montagu, Sotheby’s, Part III, 13 November 1896, lot 138
ex C. A. Watters, Glendinings, 21 May 1917, lot 344
ex Spink Auction 97, 13 May 1993, lot 16
ex DNW Auction 55, 8 October 2002, lot 1169

At the Royal Mint during James’s reign, the Third Coinage extended from 3 September 1619 until 27 March 1625. The gold content varied as per warrants. Gold alloyed to two purity levels was employed, that being .995 fine used for the rose-ryals, spur-ryals and angels out of necessity because they were commonly used for foreign trade, and on these coins, offering ‘political’ messages, the finest engraving was presented; for British homeland use, the unites and smaller denominations contained .917 fine gold. On the obverse of James I’s coins the Latin legend MAG BRI standing for ‘Great Britain’, was introduced in 1604, replacing the traditional ANGL standing simply for ‘the English’. This was a political statement as well as a portion of the king’s official title. The reverse legend on this piece remained steadfastly religious in nature, the Latin (abbreviated) A DOMINO FACTUM EST ISTUD ET EST MIRABILE IN OCULIS NOSTRIS, translating to claim ‘This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvellous in our eyes’ (Psalm 118: 23). The legend was first used on the fine sovereign of Mary Tudor and was generally reserved for use on large gold coins, here on a coin valued at issue at 30 shillings, which was a fortune in its day. While a considerable variety of types and denominations in gold appeared during this reign, a remarkable advancement in accounting also occurred at this time: never before had the details included in Mint documents recorded exactly when each initial mark was used. On the presently offered coin, the initial (or mint) mark called the spur-rowel was used from the beginning of the Third period (3 September 1619) until 23 June 1620, after which a succession of four other mintmarks appeared on this denomination. These details allow us to know exactly when these coins were struck and in their exact die succession. Why this change came about remains a mystery, but King James himself is known to have taken a keen interest in scholarly matters, including overseeing publication of the famous King James Version of the Bible as well as inspecting seals and coins personally to give his approval, so perhaps it was he who caused this information to be recorded. One wonders if he actually touched or inspected this especially well-preserved ‘royal’ coin. It certainly never strayed into circulation, even though its intended use was for foreign trade. The roster of some of its famous former owners testifies to how special it is. Whatever miracle of survival was involved in saving it for us, it would be hard to imagine a much finer specimen or, indeed, a more regal coin!
1009  † Charles I, unite, Tower mint, mm. portcullis (1633-1634), crowned third bust l., wearing ruff and scarf, mark of value behind, rev. crowned, oval, garnished shield, CR at sides (S.2692; N.2153), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63

£15,000-18,000

A spectacular coin and the finest for its type that we have ever seen. The only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.
Charles I, triple unite, Oxford mint, mm. plume, 1642, on larger module flan, improved 'Shrewsbury' crowned half-length portrait l., holding sword and olive branch, plume with bands behind head, rev. declaration in three wavy bands, three plumes above mark of value, date below, wt. 26.96gms. (S.2724; N.2381; B-J III/S2; Schneider 286 [same dies]; JGB 832 [same dies]), certified and graded by NGC at Extremely Fine 45, a superb piece £65,000-75,000

*ex P. H. Ward, Stacks, 30 April 1964
ex Greta Heckett, Sotheby’s, May, 1977
ex Mark Rasmussen, List 9, 2006 (132)
ex Mark Rasmussen, List 15, Spring 2008 (59)
1011 † Oliver Cromwell, crown, by Simon, 1658/7, dr. bust l., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3226; Bull 240), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62

£11,000-13,000

A beautiful coin, this looks undergraded.
Charles II, five guineas, 1668, VICESIMO, first laur. head r., elephant below, rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3329), light surface marks, otherwise almost very fine, evenly struck on each side, reverse better, with a pleasing old-gold colour, featuring the hallmark of the Royal African Company and quite a good portrait, rare as a gold type and historical. £12,500-15,000

'Tis a familiar tale yet it bears repeating, that the gold used to produce this large coin of a then-new denomination (1668 being the first year such a coin was struck) was mined in Guinea, on the Gold Coast of Africa, and imported by the Company, the reason being that this precious metal was in short supply in the Kingdom. It is fair to say that the Royal Mint had quite a job on its hands, producing the first thick gold coins of this size, using modern coining presses. Initially the Company's hallmark was simply the elephant, being the badge of the Company, but a few years hence this distinctive mark would come to feature a castle riding upon the elephant (the symbolism being obvious), and indeed this redesign was seen at the time as being more regal. Historically, these coins were not known as '5 guineas' in their day but rather were valued and called after their weight, the first guinea being worth 20 shillings (thus called a 'pound sterling') and this largest denomination being worth 100 shillings. It was quite a sum of value at the time! In fact almost no subject of the realm ever saw one of these coins aside from the aristocracy and bankers, as the value was equal to months of a labourer's wages, and yet most 5 guineas exhibit commercial wear, so these coins' usefulness in banking and larger commercial activities was clearly significant. Most of the mintages of all the early monarchs who issued milled coins were later melted to produce modern coins. Hence their rarity.
1013 † Charles II, five guineas, 1669, V. PRIMO, first laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3328), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 55, faint wear on the high points of the design, portrait most pleasing, with a light red tone and very attractive in all respects £25,000-30,000

The only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

The second year of issue for this denomination, with no hallmark beneath the royal portrait. This is a distinctly Renaissance style of coin, with its more lifelike image of the king compared to the medieval imagery of recent memory in 1669. And its subject, Charles II, may fairly be said to have been the last of the English kings of great heart, familiar personally with battle and not entirely mired in courtly intrigue. Prince Charles was a lad of twelve when he witnessed the Battle of Edgehill alongside his father, and he remained with his father for some time in exile at Oxford. As the Civil War wore on, and the inevitable end approached, he escaped to France (July 1646) to take up residence at the court of King Louis, where he grew to manhood. Upon his return to his native England, he forgave most of his father’s traitors and sought to unite the land once again as a monarchy. In peacetime he became a patron of the arts and founded what is now the National Art Collection. His personal interest in artistry is certainly evident in the quality of his image on this and his other coins, engraved by mint personnel being watched by the royal eye, which gave final approval.
Charles II, five guineas, 1679, T. PRIMO, second laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3331), some light blank filing on rims, with some obvious wear from commerce, slightly prooflike, certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 53

£22,500-27,500

One other example graded AU55 by PCGS.

As a mere boy, Prince Charles endured one of the most savage acts anyone could experience, the execution of his father, the head of his country, labelled a traitor. The Prince was in Holland when the infamous act occurred, on his way to France and safety at the court. His sense of the divine right of kings was never altered, and by 1650 he had returned to Scotland, where he was proclaimed King of Great Britain, France and Ireland. Shortly, he formed an army of some ten thousand men. The next year he marched into England where he fought Oliver Cromwell's army at Worcester, but the Scots did not prevail and Charles escaped the battlefield with a bounty on his head. While trying to raise another army, he suddenly found he did not have to: Cromwell had succumbed to a painful death from kidney stones, and the Protectorate was doomed. Charles famously landed at Dover and almost immediately issued a proclamation guaranteeing religious toleration as well as a free Parliament. He was proclaimed King at Westminster on 8 May 1660 in absentia and the following day, on his 30th birthday, he entered the capital to a rousing proclamation from the loyalists. Many supporters wanted revenge on Cromwell’s followers but King Charles II was weary of strife, and his famous Act of Oblivion and Indemnity forgave most of his and his father’s enemies. Only the most vicious were executed. In place of the civil badges of the Commonwealth, the royal portrait now appeared on England’s money, opposed on this coin of huge value in its day by crowned shields forming a cross and offset by ‘royal’ sceptres as images of authority, much to the great pleasure of all who had remained loyal to the monarchy during its darkest days.
Charles II, five guineas, 1682, QVARTO, second laur. bust r., elephant and castle below, rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3332), certified and graded by NGC as Extremely Fine 40, evenly struck on a broad flan and exhibiting pleasing gold toning, scarce

£17,500-22,500

The only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

While the coins of the early years of this era reflect a youthful monarch, as Charles aged so did his image on his money, seen here suggesting a maturing man; the change of image is most quickly identified by the rounded bust. Again, though, the final hallmark of the Royal African Company is boldly displayed below the king. The 1680s began with relative peace. Early in his reign Charles and his subjects endured the plague in 1665 and the Great Fire of London of 1666, which happily destroyed the rats which were the source of the plague but also, disastrously, destroyed almost all of the medieval city’s wooden buildings. In the 1670s London was being rebuilt under the guidance of such gifted architects as Christopher Wren. But the decade had been one of war as well. When peace came again, trade increased and the royal treasury swelled, and one result was the creation of large gold coins such as we see in this lot. Two years after this coin was made, its value was legitimately given a boost to 110 shillings as the underlying unit, the guinea, increased in buying power from 20 to 22 shillings (‘The price of gold was not very stable and, although the coins were not formally revalued, they were passing at between 21s 0d and 22s 0d to the guinea by the 1670s’—Peter Woodhead, The Herbert Schneider Collection, volume 2, opposite plate 36). Not long after, in the spring of 1685, Charles II died suddenly aged 54. He is remembered as a courteous, dignified man who possessed good humour, was enamoured of culture and loved art but was not particularly clever nor very good looking, and yet dallied with a number of mistresses. He survived civil war, foreign aggression, a new political brand of governance in which his power was mainly titular, plague and fire, and even the threat of a new civil war caused by the existence of an illegitimate son in the absence of an heir. He restored dignity to the monarchy, and he achieved his final wish that his brother James (their father’s third son) should succeed him to the throne. Curiously, the age was never named after him, but his kingly image has never been diminished.
1016 † Charles II, two guineas, 1676, elephant and castle, second laur. bust r., elephant and castle below, rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3336), certified and graded by NGC as Extremely Fine 45 £5000-6000
A very rare type, and only one other example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

1017 † Charles II, guinea, 1676, fourth laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3344), almost uncirculated with some light toning, rare in this grade £4500-5500
1018 † **Charles II**, half guinea, 1670, first laur. bust r., *rev.* crowned, cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3347), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63, far more sharply struck than most half guineas of this era, with a lovely soft golden red lustre, rare so fine

*£3500-4500

ex M. Kaufman Collection

1019 † **Charles II**, half guinea, 1677, second laur. bust r., elephant and castle below, *rev.* crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3349), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63, an exceptional example of the smallest gold coin of this reign featuring the hallmark of the Royal African Company

£8500-10,500

An exceedingly rare coin and the only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.
1020 † **Charles II**, crown, 1662, first laur. bust r., rose below, *rev.* crowned cruciform shields, interlinked Cs in angles (S.3350; Bull 339), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 61* £14,000-16,000

Only one example graded higher at MS62, this is one of only five crowns of Charles II’s long reign to be graded Mint State by NGC.
1021 † James II, five guineas, 1686, SECUNDO, first laur. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3396), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 53, evenly struck with good detail and a pleasing portrait, only tiny abrasions in the soft gold surfaces, very scarce £20,000-27,500

The rarest coin of the James II series, and only three others graded AU53 or higher by NGC or PCGS.

During the first year of the reign of Charles II’s younger brother, James, coins bearing the date 1685 were mainly tin farthings and halfpennies, shillings and halfcrowns, and two varieties of golden guineas, some of them bearing the distinctive ‘elephant and castle’ hallmark of London’s Royal African Company. The coin offered here was among the first issue of the 5 guineas of King James, with the distinctive ‘second’ year of reign designation in Latin on its edge. Mintage was tiny. Survival was minuscule. Its rarity masks a silent battle that had been raging at the Royal Mint for a couple of years, beginning at the end of the previous reign. It is known in the annals of numismatics as the Slingsby Affair and it involved a scandal over the quality of the gold used for making coins. Mint officials discovered in 1684 that the gold specie supplied to the mint by the goldsmith Jonathan Ambrose had been debased without disclosure, accomplished by adding a small amount of copper to the gold and removing the equivalent weight of gold. The investigation disclosed that a few officers of the mint had been aware of the practice and most likely had received a portion of the profit made by Ambrose. In essence, a payoff. Justice was done and shortly the gold coinage resumed its official intrinsic value. If little gold was coined during 1685 and 1686, it was likely the result of the mint seeking to sort out the quality of all sourced gold, to assure its quality. An overriding fact remains, however: gold was not plentiful during this era, and the vast majority of coins struck during the 17th century were later melted as a source for newer coins.
1022 † James II, five guineas, 1687, TERTIO, second laur. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3397A), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 53, most pleasing and almost identical in quality to the 1686 5 guineas previously

£20,000-25,000

Variations in the portrait of the king were subtle, and clearly mint workers saw no difference as the obverse dies were used interchangeably, as the appearance of the date 1687 on this 2nd bust indicates, while the 1688 dated 5 guineas in this collection bears the 1st bust. The confusion in the sequence of issue occurs, curiously enough, only on James’s largest gold coin. The guinea itself offers two busts in correct order. The 2 guineas and the half guinea feature just one style of portrait. The cause of the slight variations is simple: all dies were engraved by chief engraver John Roettier assisted by his brothers (Joseph and Philip, who left the Mint respectively in 1679 and 1685) and by his sons (James and Norbert, who most likely prepared the second portrait).
1023 † James II, five guineas, 1688, QVARTO, first laur. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3397), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 53+, with a pleasing portrait and surfaces, the scarce first bust out of order of date sequence (as explained above) £25,000-30,000

Only four other examples graded AU53+ or higher by NGC or PCGS.

Caught up in what might have turned into another religious war between Protestants and Catholics, James II abdicated and fled from England on 11 December 1688. The year in effect became an historic turning point, leading to the Bloodless Revolution which solidified the Protestant religion for the nation. This coin, bearing that important date, is a solid reminder of those events, but it holds an irony as well. Had James not removed himself, another war might have divided the kingdom once again. The two decades which followed the Restoration were a time when, inside the Royal Mint, much energy was expended to stamp out all memory of the images of money coined under the Commonwealth. Those coins bore no obeisance to the royal family and had abandoned traditional Latin legends, using generic shields and no portrait. The Civil War was still a sharp and, to many, a painful memory during the 1680s. John Roettier at the Mint had created an elegant and bold portrait of Charles II, facing to the right as if there had been no interruption between his reign and that of his father, following tradition. When James took the throne, the portrait was much the same but reversed, continuing the tradition. The royal shield resumed, dividing sceptres displayed the sense of kingly power, and Latin legends proclaimed all the rights of monarchy. This massive coin offers all that, for historic appreciation.
James II, guinea, 1685, elephant and castle, first laur. bust l., elephant and castle below, rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3401), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 60, very rare and historically significant

This catalogues at £14,000 in EF as a rarity bearing the hallmark of the Royal African Company. Only two other examples graded MS60 or higher by NGC or PCGS.

James II, guinea, 1686, second laur. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3402), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62, mint state with some light toning, very scarce in this certified grade

The only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

James II, half guinea, 1687, laur. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3404), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 64, evenly struck and well centred, clearly among the finest known examples of this type, very rare in this condition

£4000-5000
William and Mary, five guineas, 1693, QVINTO, conjoined laur. busts r., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3422), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 50, well centred and evenly struck, pleasing surfaces and exhibiting a light reddish gold tone

Gold coins were not the currency used by ordinary subjects prior to the 18th century, when commerce flourished for the nation as a whole as the Industrial Revolution changed the course of history forever. At the end of the 17th century, when this coin was struck, its intended use was primarily at court, with the landed gentry, and by banks, just then becoming established as true institutions. The value represented by 5 guineas in gold was just staggering by most people's estimation, equal to the earnings of months of labour for the common man. As a consequence, the Royal Mint gave most of its attention to making 'small change' as we might call it today: coppers and tin for Charles II and James II, and then a more regular production of both types of minor coins under William & Mary. The other focus of the Mint was silver, in the main from halfcrowns down. Gold coins were made in much more limited numbers, the metal itself being scarce, but in fact they offered the finest 'advertising' of the country's wealth both at home and abroad. For this purpose, the portraiture and a new style of reverse (with seashells beside a crowned royal shield, replacing the cruciform of the previous two reigns' large gold) were provided for a pair of monarchs. The engraving was performed by James and Norbert Roettiers, whose father, John, was on the verge of retirement by the early 1690s. There was cause for this kind of special design: old James II's abdication, for the sake of his Catholic vows, paved the way for new blood mixed with the old, Mary II being his eldest daughter, married to the Protestant William of Orange. New faces, a crisp and different royal badge on the reverse of their coins, and fate was sealed: the pair accepted the offer of the throne by signing a Declaration of Rights. This established the supremacy of Parliament, and issued in a new era of politics dominating the old monarchical rights and privileges. And yet, no coin ever looked more royal than this splendidly designed, huge piece of golden money.
1028 † William and Mary, two guineas, 1693, conjoined laur. busts r., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3424), a few light hairlines, about mint state, very rare this choice
£15,000-20,000

A rare piece, far finer than normally seen. The 2-guineas issues are currently not as widely collected as guineas and thus their rarity seems somewhat underrated.

1029 † William and Mary, guinea, 1689, elephant and castle, conjoined laur. busts r., elephant and castle below, rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3427), practically as struck with a rich red tone, extremely rare
£7500-8500
William III, five guineas, 1701, D. TERTIO, ‘fine work’, second laureate bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3456), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 55, sharply and evenly struck with a wonderfully detailed portrait in high relief, well-centred designs with broad denticles outlining the rims, and showing only a slight amount of wear, a fine example of this classic coin £20,000-30,000

The first 5-guineas coins issued for William III varied greatly on the reverse from the coins issued by him with Mary, reverting to the cruciform style seen on the gold of Charles II. The king’s portrait was shallowly engraved. But Isaac Newton, Master of the Mint, who had introduced scientific methods and organizational skills to the Mint, had not finished making changes: next he attempted to complete the transition begun during the Renaissance of departing from the shallow style of portraiture of the monarch to one that demonstrated lifelike qualities. In 1701, he caused a portrait to be engraved that would not be equalled until the 1760s’ patterns of George III. As Mintmaster, Newton’s finest artistic achievement is, without argument, the deeply engraved 5-guineas of 1701, now known as the ‘fine work’ issue, and it has become one of the classics of British numismatics. Its conception arose from another propitious change at the Royal Mint. For about a third of a century, the job of engraving coin dies had been dominated by the Roettier family of Brussels. They were Catholics and fell out of favour after James II abdicated, but continued in their employment. The elder of the family, John, had found favour with Charles II when Thomas Simon, as the former engraver of Cromwell’s coins and seals, saw his own tenure decline. John and his brothers, Joseph and Philip, in the words of Challis, exercised the ‘controlling influence over English engraving’ during the last years of the seventeenth century (A New History of the Royal Mint, page 363) along with John’s sons James and Norbert, who under his guidance completed much of the die-work during the reigns of James II and of William & Mary and then of William alone. But in 1689 the father’s title was given to George Bowers, a Protestant, and the following year (after Bowers died) it passed to Henry Harris, engraver of the seals. Slowly, the Roettiers, despite doing the actual coin engraving, began to fade from the scene: John the master engraver suffered injury, Joseph moved to the Paris Mint, Philip returned to Brussels to work, Norbert left for France in 1695, and James came under suspicion of counterfeiting in 1697 and was dismissed. No one capable of doing the engraving, not just holding the title of chief engraver, was left, save for a young assistant named James Bull, who laboured more or less without acknowledgment. Then suddenly a German jeweller from Dresden named John Croker was brought to the Mint. He soon tired of re-engraving dies made by the Roettiers during 1698-99, and he produced the now-famous ‘flaming hair’ shillings for William III. Newton and others took note and promoted him. His mark on English coinage and medals became indelible, and among his medals may be found exquisite images in high relief, but his greatest achievement was certainly the ‘fine work’ engraving of the king’s portrait used in only one year, 1701, on the gold 5-guineas and 2-guineas coins. These are the ultimate numismatic images of the reign, magnificent gold money created more than three centuries ago and rarely equalled as works of art ever since.
1031  William III, five guineas, 1701, D. TERTIO, ‘fine work’, second laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3456), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 53  £17,500-20,000

1032 † William III, guinea, 1695, first laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3458), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 55, very scarce  £3000-4000
1033 † William III, guinea, 1698, second laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles, large lettering and date (S.3462), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63, with a most pleasing satiny lustre and exceptionally fine surfaces, very rare in this wonderful condition £5500-6500

One of the finest extant examples of this date, and only one other example graded MS63 by NGC.

1034 † William III, half guinea, 1695, early harp, laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3466), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62, sharply struck and perfectly centred within broad rim denticles, also with a pleasing gold tone, very scarce so fine £3000-4000
1035 † William III, half guinea, 1698, laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3468), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 64, a lovely coin indeed with smooth satiny lustre, one of the finest we have encountered, rare so fine £3250-3750

1036 † William III, half guinea, 1701, laur. bust r., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3468), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63, difficult to find in this certified grade £3000-3500
Anne, half guinea, 1703, VIGO, dr. bust l., VIGO below, rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3565), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 55, lustre remaining, well centred and sharply struck overall with a most pleasing portrait and excellent details within the royal shield, very rare, rarely offered for sale £40,000-50,000

*ex Sharps Pixley Collection, Spink Auction 72, 9 November 1989, lot 60

Thought to be the only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

Numismatic historian Christopher Challis states that the Royal Mint had a dire need for specie at the beginning of the 18th century (A New History of the Royal Mint, page 433), and that the ‘most spectacular of these windfalls’ occurred almost by happenstance just as Anne became queen. The year 1702 marked the beginning of the War of Spanish Succession. It was a contest for dominance between two sets of allies, England and the Dutch Republic against France and Bourbon Spain. Old enemies they surely were. The action commenced when a fleet of Anglo-Dutch warships attempted to seize Cadiz in mid-September 1702, but failure ensued. The commander of the fleet, Admiral Sir George Rooke, had turned in disgust to begin his homeward journey when he was informed by spies that a Spanish treasure fleet had recently anchored at Vigo Bay on the northwest shore of Spain. He turned about quickly. What was at hand, he had learned, was an armada of Spanish ships carrying gold and silver mined in colonial Mexico. He was informed that the fleet had sailed from Vera Cruz protected by a French squadron of fifteen warships, and that three galleons were loaded with silver and gold. Frigates and support ships added up to a daunting fleet of 56 vessels, many carrying merchandise intended for sale in Spain, and all were moored in Vigo Bay. Eager for booty, Rooke attacked! A furious naval battle was fought on 23 October and the victory this time was England’s despite a forbidding boom consisting of heavy chain and timber that stretched across the entrance to the bay, and a battery of cannons, meant to block and defeat any attack. But the Dutch and English men o’ war crashed through the boom. To stall the advance, the Spanish set aire a ship alongside the Dutch admiral’s flagship, intending to burn the Dutch ship, but the Spanish ship was loaded with snuff from the Indies and it blew up! The Spaniards’ guns were quickly silenced, the boom was broken through, and the Anglo-Dutch warships sailed right into the heart of the harbour, destroying most of the enemy’s ships and capturing the others. It was a tremendous victory! In a day and a half, the Battle of Vigo Bay had been won, and the booty was up for grabs. Instantly, jubilation reigned, but then the English discovered to their horror that most of the treasure from the New World mines had been unloaded before they arrived at Vigo. Still, winning the battle was of great moment in the war and what remained of the specie was taken and delivered to the Royal Mint. It did not consist of Mexican silver specie but rather it amounted mostly to 4,500 pounds of silver that had been ornaments and ’plate’ belonging to the Spanish and French officers. Of gold there was just 7 pounds 8 ounces (Challis, A New History of the Royal Mint, page 433), and this was the source of all British gold coins given the boasting hallmark VIGO. Humorously, the Spanish king, Phillip V, issued a decree claiming ownership of the precious metals. Queen Anne’s response was to issue a royal warrant, dated 10 February 1703, instructing Mintmaster Isaac Newton to hallmark all coins made from captured bullion so as to ‘Continue to Posterity the Remembrance of that Glorious Action’ at Vigo Bay. What a triumph it was for England, and what wonderful mementoes were created, each proclaiming the naval victory!
1038 † Anne, half guinea, 1705, dr. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3564), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 64, sharp in all details with a fabulous portrait, perfectly centred, and possessing lovely gold toning, an exceptional coin, rare in this state of preservation £10,000-15,000
*ex Slaney Collection

Thought to be the only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

1039 † Anne, half guinea, 1710, dr. bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3575), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62, an excellent portrait, well centred, pleasing gold toning £10,000-15,000
In 1714, the blood-lines of the English monarchs were curiously enriched upon the passing of Queen Anne. All of her fourteen children died before she did, so Parliament was charged with the need to select her successor. But Parliament was divided, especially as concerns the Scots ministers. Anne’s half-brother was James Stuart, and a Catholic, known in his day as both James III and the Old Pretender. The English Parliament wanted nothing to do with the old Jacobite divisiveness which had festered from 1683. Parliament’s selection of William of Orange and his wife, Mary, daughter of the abdicated king, to succeed her Catholic father quashed this new potential for civil war. The ensuing Bloodless Revolution (1688-1689) saved England from strife, but the death of the last Stuart, Queen Anne, in 1714, threatened another potential end to peace. After much debate and even looming battle, Parliament chose her successor to the English throne, a woman of great ancestry including the Stuart line, the Empress Sophia of Hanover. She would have become Queen Sophia I of Great Britain had she not collapsed in her gardens in Germany and died at age 83. But the choice had been made, and the title consequently fell to her son, Prince George, who thus became King George I of England among a long list of his titles, including his most powerful position as Elector of the Holy Roman Empire. His coronation caused rioting throughout England, but he showed himself to be a beneficent king who visited England only occasionally. All of his titles appeared in abbreviated Latin on his English coins, most famously as PR EL on this lovely guinea. His days as the English monarch were brief, however, and in 1727 his English throne was left to his only child, who dutifully became King George II, no longer a German but a true Englishman.
1041 † **George I**, guinea, 1726, fifth laur. head r., *rev.* crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3633), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 61, choice, scarce in this high grade
£3500-4500

1042 † **George I**, half guinea, 1718/7, first laur. head r., *rev.* crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3635), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 61, with a pleasing gold tone
£2000-2500

1043 † **George I**, half guinea, 1725, second laur. head r., *rev.* crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3637), slightly prooflike, extremely fine, rare
£2000-3000
The East India Company, whose famous initials are displayed below the king's portrait on this classic coin, was so heavily engaged in exporting silver to Asian outposts for trading purposes that by the mid-century almost no silver coined for homeland use remained within the country's shores. The relatively new Bank of England (founded in 1694) complicated the shortage even more as it became the principal channel of turning in both silver and gold for re-coinage by the Royal Mint. The procedure facilitated a handy delay, or gap, between owners of the old money relinquishing their funds and receiving replacements. The bank thereby gained a float, a period of time when it possessed more and more money that was not its own, with which it could do business. The procedure also gave the bank increasing control over how much gold entered circulation or was rendered for commerce. The money, of course, was not issued by the bank but by the monarchy. Unlike his Germanic father, King George II lived in Britain and soon embraced English customs, securing the role of royalty for his family. He spoke perfect English and among his keenest interests was the military. He was also the last British monarch to personally lead troops in battle. His coins have become classics of numismatics, with several famed issues bearing distinctive hallmarks. Perhaps the boldest, and chronologically the first, was the series of gold coins marked on their dies with raised letters ‘E.I.C.’ prominently displayed under the king’s portrait. These initials stood for the East India Company, a London-based trading organization chartered in 1600 by Elizabeth I. It reached the peak of its influence and wealth during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, shortly into the reign of Queen Victoria, finally being dissolved in 1874. In the 1720s, though, its reach was expanding throughout present-day Asia into the Indian subcontinent; its full legal name was the Honourable East India Company. It traded for all sorts of commodities. Its owners were merchants of immense wealth as well as aristocratic backers. In time it came to rule vast regions of the Indian continent, maintaining control with its own private armies. The company issued a number of coins over many decades bearing its name and made from ore it supplied. The most historical and desirable of these now-famous coins were the large gold pieces represented by the coin offered here, along with others in the guinea series, all made from specie supplied to the Royal Mint by the company. It was a coin that made an impressive statement for all the world to read. While England became a rich nation during the reign of Elizabeth I, it was not a dominant player on the world scene until the 18th century, when its fleet of warships and its global trading companies turned the islands of Great Britain into an empire. In a manner of speaking, this splendid gold coin in effect served as an ‘announcement’ of the expansive, coming empire on which the sun would never set.
1045 † George II, two guineas, 1738, young laur. head l., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3667B), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63+, a beautiful coin, very scarce this choice £4500-5500

1046 † George II, guinea, 1727, first young laur. head l., small lettering, rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3670), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 61, a very rare early variety £8000-9000

Thought to be the only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

1047 † George II, guinea, 1739, intermediate laur. head l., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3676), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 53 £3000-4000
1048 † **George II**, guinea, 1739, E.I.C, intermediate laur. head l., E.I.C. below, *rev.* crowned shield of arms (S.3677), *almost uncirculated, considerable lustre, sharply struck and choice, very rare in this condition* £7500-8500

1049 **George II**, guinea, 1745, LIMA, intermediate laur. head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms (S.3679), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 61, extremely rare in this grade* £15,000-20,000

This piece is one of the finest to come up for auction in recent years and one of only two graded Mint State by NGC.

1050 † **George II**, guinea, 1746, intermediate laur. head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms (S.3678A), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62, a tiny metal flaw by II on obverse, with a red tone and prooflike with reflective lustre, rare this choice* £4500-5500
George II, half guinea, 1740, intermediate laur. head l., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3683), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 64 £3000-4000

George II, half guinea, 1745, LIMA, intermediate laur. head l., LIMA below, rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3684), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62, a handsome example of this classic with pleasingly mark-free surfaces and a good, balanced strike, extremely rare and desirable £9000-11,000

*ex Norweb Collection

Only one other example graded MS62 or higher by NGC or PCGS.

Piracy at sea reached the peak of activity more than half a century earlier than this famous coin was minted, but buccaneers continued to be threats to ships in the West Indies and elsewhere near colonial outposts well into the 18th century. Crews shared in captured prizes. The spirit of those adventurers still resonated in the British Navy when Commodore George Anson set sail with a squadron of eight warships in the middle of September 1740 hoping to locate and to attack Spanish galleons laden with silver and gold mined in South America. It was a voyage requiring much skill and great courage. Anson’s ships were manned by marines, and the mission was charged by the Admiralty with attacking the Spanish navy in the Pacific. It is doubtful that he realized that his was destined to be a voyage around the world that would become famed for its success. Anson’s ships reached treacherous Cape Horn at the height of a terrible storm and most of the squadron was unsuccessful at clearing the Cape into calmer seas. Two ships gave up and turned back for England. Others were wrecked. Only Anson’s flagship and two warships got through to the Pacific, but the arduous voyage was only just beginning. Months past the Cape, Anson’s force sacked the town of Paita in Peru, but the reward was disappointing. Anson pressed onward, with the original goal firmly in mind despite all his setbacks. He aimed to attack the Spanish Manila-Acapulco fleet and capture its treasure. His crew was shrinking as disease took its toll, and deprivation made the two lesser ships unseaworthy. The entire crew was moved to his flagship, the Centurion, and they immediately set sail west for the coast of China, arriving by the end of summer 1742 at Tinian. After months of rest ashore, Anson’s crew finally steered the Centurion for the Philippines. On 20 June 1743, they spotted the unprotected galleon Nuestra Señora de Covadonga off Cape Espiritu Santo, won the brief sea battle, and took possession of its treasure. To their disappointment, most of the Spanish treasure fleet had already sailed, but the lone Covadonga was no small prize. They discovered in its hold hundreds of thousands of pieces of eight and gold cobs crudely minted from local ore at Lima, Peru. They manned the captured galleon and again set sail. The voyage home was fraught with peril, and after nearly another year at sea Anson and his ships finally anchored at Spithead on 15 June 1744. The tons of silver and gold were offloaded and carried by wagons along a parade route to the mint in London. The total treasure was found to be nearly a million pounds in value, including proceeds from their sale of the Spanish galleon, a staggering haul of riches at the time. Anson was cheered as a national hero and finally promoted to Rear Admiral in 1761. His share of the booty made him a wealthy man, but he was at heart a sailor and he remained at sea in command of warships in 1746 and 1747, after which he oversaw naval reforms and advances in ship designs in the Admiralty Office. Numerous ships of the Royal Navy have been named after him but none has endured as a remembrance of his greatest victory for as long as the silver and gold coins hallmarked ‘LIMA’ in his honour.
1053 † George III, guinea, 1761, first laur. head r., two leaves above head, rev: crowned shield of arms (S.3725), practically mint state, with strong lustre and gorgeous gold colour, choice surfaces, very rare in this wonderful state of preservation

£8000-10,000

This early coin of George III is one of the least seen of all types and dates of guineas, from the first issued in 1663 until the last in 1813, and in this specimen we are looking at one of the finest known. The king aged greatly during his 60-year tenure as head of state, and the portraits of him on his coins changed as he did. This coin shows one of the youngest images of him. The stresses upon him were understandably accountable for his decline in later years: the American war for independence in the 1770s, the French Revolution with its intrigue and its numerous escapees to England from the late 1780s into the 1790s, the wars with Napoleon from the 1790s through 1815, and the king’s own physical ailment which has so often been labelled insanity but in reality was a blood disease that nobody understood when it impacted him from about 1787 onwards. As the king’s image aged, so did the coins upon which it was stamped: by the 1770s most of the earlier gold in circulation was in a terrible state, heavily worn through use and often damaged by being tested and shaved. Peter Woodhead explains succinctly: ‘a treasury order was made in 1773 instructing its officers to assume that all coins under stated weights had been unlawfully diminished and until 21 September 1773 to accept them only by weight at the mint . . . [and] Parliament, in 1774, passed an act to call in all guineas below 128 gr.’ (Herbert Schneider Collection, volume two, page 39). In all, some sixteen and a half million pounds in gold was withdrawn by these measures. Additionally, the 1770s saw significant quantities of recently minted gold shipped to America for the war effort. Considering the rarity of George III’s earliest guineas (1761-1764), can there be any doubt that these dates were largely exported and/or melted during the 1770s? Survivors in any condition are rare. This example is special.

1054 † George III, guinea, 1761, first laur. head r., three leaves above head, rev: crowned shield of arms (S.3725), about extremely fine, reverse better, this variety very rare

£6500-7500

In sharpness, this variety of 1761 guinea is not too different from the example having two leaves at the top of the king's periwig. Its surfaces, also, are excellent for the grade, lacking abuse of any kind. Most of the difference between the two pieces is the degree of lustre. Our comments about the rarity of this date, as given in the accompanying lot, apply equally to this lovely coin, which somehow has unaccountably survived in what is actually a remarkable condition, given the history it experienced. One wonders how many guineas were melted in Philadelphia from the 1790s onward, and the gold therefrom coined into new U.S. gold coins. Such would have been the fate of almost all British gold coins remaining in America after the war concluded. However this coin escaped being melted, it has indeed survived and been cared for. Seldom do both varieties of this date appear even in a single auction season, let alone in one sale. An opportunity for the astute collector!
1055 † George III, half guinea, 1762, first laur. head r., rev. crowned shield of arms (S.3731), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62+, very rare

£4000-5000

The rare early portrait and the first half guinea of this reign.

1056 George III, proof pennies, 1797 (3): gilt copper, copper and bronzed copper, dr. bust r., rev. Britannia seated l. with shield and trident (S.3777), in contemporary Royal Mint velvet- and silk-lined case, all about as struck (3)

£2500-3000
George III, pattern five pounds, 1820.LX, by B. Pistrucci, laur. head r., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3783; W&R.177 [R4]; L&S.207; Montagu 176; Douglas-Morris 145; Selig 1158; KM.Pn84), in contemporary fitted case, this is now catalogued at £350,000 light hairlines across the fields, short scuff on king's cheek, otherwise brilliant with reflective fields, the portrait and St. George motifs in cameo contrast, practically as struck, exceedingly rare with very few in private hands

£250,000-275,000

Boldly signed by Benedetto Pistrucci on each side, this magnificently engraved pattern for a £5 coin that was never issued is one of the truly rare 19th-century English gold coins, and the appearance of one at auction, in any state of preservation, is a collecting opportunity. A major appeal of this coin is its presentation of the largest and sharpest image of the engraver's motif of Saint George slaying the mythical dragon. Master designer Pistrucci was assisted in the difficult and time-consuming engraving process by William Wellesley Pole, whose initials appear on the groundline of the reverse just at the end of the dragon's tail. Pole generally prepared or assisted in sinking reverse dies, and his WWP initials appear, subtly, on other coins of this reign. However, Pole played a much larger role in both advancements and achievements at the Royal Mint at this time - elder brother of the Duke of Wellington (England's most famous military leader at the time), he was appointed Master of the Mint in 1814, holding this position until 1823. It was a critical time, because the older engravers were becoming infirm, unable to produce good die-work, and Pole retired them. He was a stickler for detail who 'threw himself into every aspect of Mint activity' (Challis, A New History of the Royal Mint, page 473) and was accordingly praised by none other than Sir Joseph Banks, the king's closest friend and the richest man in England. Shortly after assuming office, Pole established the Mint's collection of coins and medals (Challis, page 479) and it was Pole who began the practice of having the mint strike tiny numbers of Proof coins each year. These became the foundation of the Mint's collection. It was immensely enhanced in 1818 when Sir Joseph and Lady Sarah Banks gave their fabulous collection (more than two thousand pieces) to the king's collection. Pole was also deeply involved in causing the old machinery at the mint to be replaced with Boulton and Watt's coining presses, and in 1816 his ambitions to introduce a so-called New Coinage became reality. The famous battle of tempers of the day - the object of other engravers' anger being the Italian who loved spelling out his entire last name but finally settled upon 'B.P.' - was settled when Pole decided upon Pistrucci to work on the most important of the New Coinage designs. Most upset were the Wyons, Thomas and William (then only 16 years old but already second engraver under Thomas), who occupied their new posts but had to watch while Pistrucci engraved the king's last portraits and, most famously, created the St. George motif for British gold. Perhaps in gratitude, Pistrucci engraved a superb medal for Pole himself (Challis, page 473, figure 45). The Wyons also possessed great talent as engravers, but once again they had to sit by and allow Pole's champion to engrave perhaps the most important dies of their time, those made to commemorate Waterloo (although the medal itself was never struck). The Duke of Wellington, Pole and Pistrucci thereby became forever intertwined in celebrating one of England's finest moments. Nevertheless, Pistrucci's days were numbered, and his last truly great creation for a gold coin was the one we see here, the 1820 pattern for a gold £5 coin that never came to be. Perhaps the most curious fact about this coin is that it is dated literally at the very end of George III's long reign. It had been close on a century since any gold piece of this size and value had been minted for commerce, and the most recent pattern for a 5-guineas coin had been almost half a century previously. Clearly, the financial world was modernising as banking drew more and more on paper vouchers representing wealth: £5 coins would occur only in proof state or patterns until the Jubilee issue of 1887, and relatively few known examples of 1887, 1893 and 1902 non-Proof £5 pieces show much real wear - again, the reasons included the impractical values of these coins for most subjects. Gone forever would be huge gold coins envisioned for commerce and specially engraved by major artistic talents. The world had changed. Images became flatter, less inspiring, more easily reproduced in small formats. The days of glorious golden images of England's symbolic greatness faded into history.
Here is a gorgeous pin-point sharp example of the first crown issued by the new steam-powered Royal Mint. On the obverse, the bold high relief portrait of the King simply leaps out of the lightly-toned semi-prooflike surfaces. Masterfully and intricately cut by the Italian engraver Benedetto Pistrucci, this laureate bust of George III, the finest of the reign, pictures the King as if he were a powerful emperor of antiquity. On the reverse, Pistrucci's enduring engraving of St. George and the Dragon, symbolic of the British People's ability to overcome all odds, is exhibited for the first time in large size, the epic battle shown greatly detailed in wing, muscle and hoof!

Though the Mint lavished care on these crowns during their minting and distribution, instructing the banks to treat them as works of art, the intervening 200 years have not been kind to the majority of these large coins. Struck with multiple blows to bring up the design, the resulting prooflike surfaces were very smooth and delicate. In addition, many collectors have attempted to remove inevitable toning over the years by wiping them and creating hairlines, hence many lower quality examples are available.

Happily, this coin looks as though it just came off the press, retaining its semi-prooflike, virtually intact surfaces along with a full strike and beautiful pastel gold-greenish toning. Out of 65 uncirculated Crowns of this regnal year (LVIII) graded by NGC, only five have reached the MS65 level with none higher.

This beauty is a tremendous memento from the dawn of the industrial age of coinage. Don't miss the opportunity.
1059  †  George III, pattern crown, 1817, by W. Wyon, the ‘Incorrupta Crown’, laur. head r., date below, W. WyON below truncation, rev. crowned shield of arms, edge plain (Bull 2029; L&S.159), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 65 £75,000-85,000

*ex Willis II, Glendining’s, October 1991, lot 465
  ex Ariagno, Goldbergs, June 1999, lot 1838 (back cover picture)
  ex Kardatzke III, Goldbergs, June 2000, lot 4663 (front cover picture)
  ex St James’s Auction 1, October 2004, lot 520
  ex St James’s Auction 26, March 2014, lot 43

Only 18 silver and 7 gold proof examples struck.

This is one of the two 1817 pattern crowns designed and engraved by a young William Wyon as entries in a competition for the production of a new crown coinage for Great Britain from 1818. This would be the first crown coinage struck by the new Tower Hill Mint’s steam presses which began striking other coins in 1816. As all students and collectors of British coinage know, William Wyon went on to a very successful career as the chief engraver for the British Empire, but at this point in his life, having recently gained an assistantship at the Mint under his cousin, Chief Engraver Thomas Wyon, William was in a competitive battle with a foreigner, Italian gem engraver Benedetto Pistrucci, whose beautiful engravings had caught the eye of Sir Joseph Banks, an influential friend of the Master of the Mint.

After Thomas Wyon’s death in 1817, Banks determined to make Pistrucci his successor as chief engraver but ran into problems as the law prohibited a foreigner from holding the position. Since the government had decided to produce a new Crown coinage in 1818, both men, Wyon and Pistrucci, were tasked with producing samples for the new coinage. As is well known, Pistrucci ultimately won that competition with his design of St. George and the dragon which appeared on the new crown series of 1818-1820. However, William Wyon’s design entries, the Incorrupta crown in this lot, as well as the 1817 Three Graces Pattern, show clearly the talents for design and engraving that would shortly put an end to Pistrucci’s coinage ambitions, catapult William to fame during the reigns of George IV and, most importantly, Queen Victoria, and establish him forever as one of the pre-eminent engravers in the history of coinage.

The popular name of this crown, ‘Incorrupta’, derives from the reverse legend, in Latin, which translates as ‘An Untarnished Faith’, or roughly ‘A Faith that is Beyond Corruption’ or incorruptible. A superb example of this famous rarity with its masterful bust of George III, it exhibits lovely bluish purplish toning acquired over centuries, and its fields and devices show very few distractions and no wear. NGC has graded it PF65, equivalent to gem proof in the American system, FDC in the British. It is the finest graded at NGC and tied for finest at PCGS, the two main US grading services. Its rarity and outstanding condition for a 200-year old coin combine to make this a prize for the advanced collector of British crowns. That this coin’s prior ownership traces to a set of very discriminating collectors also attests to its desirability as does its appearance on the back and front covers of two previous auctions. When bidding on this coin, remember that it is almost impossible to find early 19th century proof coins in such a state of preservation given the sensitivity of proof surfaces and the lack of concern about handling and surface marks that characterized the habits of past generations of collectors.
George III, pattern crown, undated (1820), by Webb and Mills for Mudie, plain edge, laur. head r., rev. crowned, cruciform shields, with rose, thistle, shamrock and prancing horse in angles (Bull 2055; L&S:214), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 65 Cameo, one of the highest-graded specimens we are aware of, and quite a beautiful example of this classic pattern

£10,000-12,000

While this artistically innovative piece is often referred to as ‘medallic’ because it lacks a date, it is classified in English Silver Coinage as a pattern, and Linecar and Stone reached the same conclusion in their 1968 reference. The design is unusually elegant in conception for a coin and the engraving style is more typical of the quality devoted to a medal, with its intricate details and its portrait in relatively high relief, moreover it was made for Mudie, a specialist in medals. Such a portrait, in its depth of strike and its frosted texture, however, strongly resembles the William Wyon bust of George III on the famous Incorrupta pattern crown of 1817. The higher relief portrait style traditionally may have been used on medals but, clearly, during the early 19th century it was coming into its own on coin patterns. On the reverse of the Webb & Mills pattern we see beautifully rendered regal crowned shields forming a disconnected large cross and, between the shields, the emblems of England, Ireland, Hanover and Scotland, all surrounding the central image of St. George within the Order of the Garter. Thematically heralding back to the ‘dividers’ between the cruciform shields seen on 17th-century gold coins, instead of sceptres we see a crossed floriated staff quartering the central motif, variously topped by a thistle, a rose, a shamrock and (unique to this pattern) a large prancing Hanover stallion giving homage to the king’s Germanic family origins. The reverse is prominently signed in raised italics ‘Mills Fecit’ in the field by the left upper rim, an unusual feature among pattern crowns. The portrait also features a signature, beneath its base in the field, again in raised italic script, the initials standing for ‘James Mudie issued it’ and ‘Thomas Webb made it’. Thus the obverse is by Webb and the reverse is by Mills. Mudie is famous for his series of medals celebrating British victories over the French, ending the Napoleonic War late in this reign; he commissioned these artists to produce this pattern privately. Thus, unusually, three distinct artisans worked on this distinctive and famous piece, not particularly rare per se but decidedly historic, finely conceived and executed, and in the case of the presently offered specimen wonderfully preserved and a joy to study. Here is true artistic innovation!
George III, pattern crown, 1820, the 'Hercules Crown', struck in silver, by Droz, after Monneron's pattern by Dupré, Soho Mint, VIS VНИTATE FORTIOR, Hercules seated r. on rock by column at the seashore, club and lion's skin beside him, endeavouring to break a bundle of sticks across his knee, date below, rev. DECVS ET TVTAMEN, crowned royal shield, plain edge (Bull 2057 [R5]; L&S.211), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 63, a choice specimen, only 5 to 10 known in silver £30,000-35,000 *ex Pellegrino collection

Long ago, this delightful pattern was considered to be a medal, not a crown, but in 1968 scholars Howard Linecar and Alex Stone included it, along with the more easily found piece struck in copper, in their reference book on English Proof and Pattern Crown-Size Pieces, and ever since then its status has not been questioned. It is a pattern, and particularly rare are the handful of pieces struck in the intended metal, silver. Aside from its unusual design, another reason this was possibly mistaken for a medal is the fact that it was made and dated in the year of King George III's death. He passed away at Windsor Castle on 29 January, his mind fogged by the blood disease porphyria which in its day was not understood, and accordingly he was said to be insane. Perhaps the intention behind causing this pattern to be made was to confirm the power of the royal family, which could be the reason for the obverse legend, translating from the Latin to mean 'strength is stronger through unity'. The reverse legend, translating as 'an ornament and a safeguard', is often found as the edge legend on a variety of coins, but here it may imply the unity of the monarchy, and indeed the 'legend edge' holds the royal coin together, literally. Thus, we see here a pattern suggesting a smooth transition from one king to the next, despite the 'madness' attributed to the elder. But this coin is also unique among pattern crowns because of the unusually artistic and wonderfully expressive design of its obverse, which depicts a muscular figure of the god Hercules seated against a broken column, struggling to break or stretch a bundle of sticks over his knee, with a club below, and before him we observe a sea bristling with ships; the date is boldly placed below in an especially large exergue with a garland supporting it. The design was inspired by a smaller sized pattern made in France circa 1791-92 by the firm of Monneron Frères, but no such commercial coin ever occurred as it was proscribed by French law of 1793, outlawing private patterns to be made into money. Jean-Pierre Droz, a Swiss engraver of dies for coins and of plates for paper currency, copied the concept of the original design by Augustin Dupré and engraved a set of dies that were used to strike this pattern for Boulton and Watt at the Soho Mint, Birmingham. The bold image captures the sense of the famous god of strength as an enduring, ancient symbol of rebellion against human bondage, and it perfectly expresses the spirit of its time - the Romantic Age in England, when the public cheered Lord Byron daringly swimming the Hellespont, and waited breathlessly for each new poem of John Keats, celebrating the seemingly unlimited power of the English imagination. This famous and extremely rare pattern symbolises the quest for liberty in an age of tyranny, as none other does.
1062  **George IV**, proof five pounds, 1826, bare head l., *rev.:* crowned shield of arms over mantle (S.3797; W&R.213), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 61, very rare £25,000-35,000
1063 **George IV**, proof half sovereign, 1821, laur. head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms (S.3802; W&R.244; Douglas-Morris 147), *certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 64 Cameo* £4500-5500

A stunning piece.

1064 † **George IV**, crown, 1821, SECUNDO, laur. head l., *rev.* St. George and the dragon (S.3805; Bull 2310), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 65* £4000-4500

Boldly struck Mint State, choice surfaces and exquisite 'old cabinet' iridescent grey toning, a great crown!
1065 † **George IV**, proof crown, 1826, SEPTIMO, bare head l., rev. crowned helmet over ornate shield of arms (S.3806; Bull 2336), *certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 64* £12,000-15,000

Virtually as struck, with a full proof impression, mirrored fields, exquisitely detailed portrait, and delightful golden grey toning, very rare and especially so in this state of preservation. Since the founding of PCGS more than 25 years ago, only three examples have graded higher!
1066  **George IV**, pattern crown, undated (1828 or 1829), in white metal, by J. B. Merlen, laur. head l., *rev*. Royal arms with supporters, edge plain (Bull 2353 [R6]), *minor scuffs in obverse field otherwise extremely fine or better*, exceedingly rare

£2500-3000

Only four examples known.
William IV, proof set, 1831, two pounds to farthing
1067 William IV, proof set, 1831, two pounds to farthing, bare head r., rev: various, with original Royal Mint case, all certified and graded by PCGS as follows: two pounds, Proof 63 Deep Cameo; sovereign, Proof 62 Deep Cameo; half sovereign, Proof 64+ Deep Cameo; crown, Proof 63; halfcrown (plain edge), Proof 63; shilling (milled edge), Proof 64+; sixpence (plain edge), Proof 63; Maundy fourpence, Proof 64; Maundy threepence, Proof 64 Cameo; Maundy twopence, Proof 64; Maundy penny, Proof 64; penny, Proof 66; halfpenny, Proof 66; farthing, Proof 67 (14) £55,000-65,000
1068  
*G William IV*, half sovereign, 1836, obverse struck from sixpence die in error, bare head r., *rev.* crowned shield of arms (S.3832), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62*  
£10,000-15,000

Sharply struck on the king’s portrait with a boldly detailed shield, a beautiful example of this very rare error, and only three other examples graded MS62 or higher by NGC or PCGS.

1069  
† *William IV*, proof crown, 1831, bare head r., W.W. incuse on truncation, *rev.* crowned shield of arms over mantle (S.3833; Bull 2462), *certified and graded by NGC as Proof 65 Cameo*  
£30,000-35,000

One other example graded PF65 Cameo by NGC.
1070 G Victoria, proof five pounds, 1887, 'Jubilee' bust l., rev. St. George and the dragon, B.P. in exergue (S.3864), certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 64 Deep Cameo

£14,000-16,000

1071 G Victoria, proof five pounds, 1887, ‘Jubilee’ bust l., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3864), certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 64

£14,000-16,000
Victoria, proof set, 1893, five pounds to silver threepence
1072 *Victoria*, proof set, 1893, five pounds to silver threepence, veiled head l., *rev.* various (S. PS.7), with original Royal Mint case, *some hairlines and scuffs, about mint state* (10)

£27,500-32,500
1073 G Victoria, proof half sovereign, 1893, veiled bust l., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3878), certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 64 Deep Cameo

£3000-3500

1074 † Victoria, proof crown, 1847, UNDECIMO, ‘Gothic’ bust l., rev. crowned, cruciform shields (S.3883; Bull 2571), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 64

£5000-6000

*ex Goldberg Auction 59, 30 May 2010, lot 3850
Victoria, proof halfcrown, 1839, plain edge, young head l., rev. crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3885; Bull 2708), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 64

£5500-6000
1076 † Victoria, halfcrown, 1850, young head l., rev. crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3888; Bull 2733), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 67, a rare date £7500-8500

The early high relief portrait, a superb gem.

Once in a great while, collectors have a chance to buy a coin that defies probability. The present coin is such an example. The popularity of William Wyon's portrait of the young Victoria, the scarcity of any uncirculated examples of this early series, coupled with the difficulty of finding the 1850 halfcrown even in well circulated condition, make the appearance of any uncirculated 1850 a special occasion. However, the eye appeal and unparalleled state of preservation of the present coin boosts this offering into uncharted territory. Simply stated, there is almost certainly no other comparable example and, as this coin has not been sold in the last 22 years, it is very difficult to assign it a value. It is worth whatever it brings. Given that coins issued for everyday spending were not afforded any special care in manufacture or in the marketplace, it is little short of a miracle that this 1850 survived in such splendid condition. To put these sentiments into a numerical context, in over 25 years, a total of just four uncirculated examples of the 1850 have been graded including PCGS and NGC. The top coins are one MS65 and then this coin, the only MS67, the finest graded and most probably the finest known of this date. Moreover, from 1816 to 1901, NGC has graded only two halfcrowns at MS67, this coin and an 1844, a much, much more common date. This early series of halfcrowns struck by the Royal Mint and carrying the delicate and beautiful high relief portrait of their beloved young Victoria were happily embraced by the British public from the start. The extent of their popularity is attested to by the fact, mentioned earlier, that most halfcrowns of this series have come down to us heavily worn. With beautiful green-gold toning on the obverse, and reddish-brown toning on the reverse, the present coin shimmers in the hand and exudes originality. One hundred and sixty-six years after its issue, this is a chance to own a true icon that is so uniquely representative of a bygone age in British history, that it may ultimately find repose in a museum and be forever lost to the collecting fraternity. This opportunity may never come again!
1077 † Victoria, proof Gothic florin, 1871, plain edge, crowned bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, emblems in angles (S.3893; Bull 2876), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 66

£6500-7000

Thought to be the only example graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

1078 † Victoria, pattern florin, 1848, plain edge, laur. head l., rev. ONE CENTUM ONE TENTH OF A POUND, royal cypher interlinked with rose, thistle and shamrock, Prince of Wales’s plumes below, all within quatrefoil (Bull 2931), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 65, a superb gem proof

£5000-6000

With laureate bun head obverse and a reverse featuring the Royal Cypher VR (for Victoria Regina) interwoven with a rose, thistle and shamrock (for England, Scotland and Ireland), this coin is a Superb Gem Proof and fully struck with every tiny detail of Wyon’s complex reverse design visible.

This particular coin type was created as part of a design trial for a new decimal two shilling coin and has the denomination ‘Centum’ on its reverse. Other pattern florin types of this series bear the denomination ‘Decade’ or ‘Florin’. Ultimately, the ‘Florin’ designation was selected for the new circulating two shilling coinage. All of the pattern florins are considered to be very rare.

The technical grade assigned by NGC, PF65, is almost superfluous as this coin is one of the most beautiful silver coins you can imagine, possessing vibrant, iridescent red and blue toning. It is a testament to the infinite colourations that a silver coin can develop when left alone for more than 150 years. Unfortunately, most proof silver coins of this era suffer from the effects of collectors trying to ‘improve’ their looks by ‘shining’ them up. Happily, this coin has evaded such treatment and comes to us with pristine surfaces that colourfully enhance William Wyon’s splendid and delicate portrait of the young Queen Victoria. In such a wonderfully preserved state, the present coin is extremely rare. In fact, after more than 20 years, NGC has only graded three coins of this variety, all at PF65 and, in the cataloguer’s opinion, the present coin is the nicest.

The ‘VR’ reverse design appears very infrequently, so do not miss your chance to own this gorgeous coin.

The most recent appearance of one of the other two NGC PF65 coins of this variety was at a Heritage auction in 2014 where it sold for over $9,000.
Victoria, proof crown, 1887, ‘Jubilee’ bust l., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3921; Bull 2586), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 66, a superb gem proof, beautifully toned in shades of pink encircled by bluish-green borders on both sides

Only 1084 pieces struck, a rare coin and very difficult to find in top grades.

This coin is difficult to photograph accurately as the mirrors are so reflective. To see it in hand is to desire it. As one measure of its appeal, this coin was part of a special group of coins sold by Stacks in 1985 as part of their 50th Anniversary Sale. It was also part of the Peak Collection, a collection of elite coins sold by UBS in 2008. After leaving the Mint as part of Victoria’s 1887 proof sets, most of the crowns were abused in one form or another through the years by overzealous collectors desirous of keeping their treasure ‘shiny’. In addition, many of the public found the Jubilee design to be ludicrous for it featured Victoria wearing a little crown perched on her head like a pill-box. However, this coin obviously was appreciated and cared for, and it is a gorgeous example with superb surfaces, strike and colour. In over 25 years, PCGS and NGC combined have graded only 11 proof 1887 crowns PF66. At this rarified level, coins are mostly distinguished by eye appeal, and this coin is one of the most attractive proof coins you will ever find! A similarly toned specimen, graded only PF65 with spots, sold for $9000 as part of a Heritage sale in August 2014. You will not easily find another as nice if you miss your chance here.

£7500-8500
1080 † Victoria, proof crown, 1887, ‘Jubilee’ bust l., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3921; Bull 2586), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 65 Ultra Cameo

£3000-4000

Only one other example graded PF66DC, by PCGS.

1081 † Victoria, crown, 1892, ‘Jubilee’ bust l., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3921; Bull 2592), certified and graded by PCGS as Mint State 67

£4000-4500

1082 † Victoria, proof double florin, Arabic 1 in date, 1887, ‘Jubilee’ bust l., rev. crowned cruciform shields, sceptres in angles (S.3923; Bull 2698), certified and graded by NGC as Proof 65 Ultra Cameo

£2000-2500

Only one other example graded PF65DC, by PCGS.
1083 **Victoria**, proof crown, 1893, LVI, veiled bust l., *rev*. St. George and the dragon (S.3937; Bull 2594), *certified* and *graded* by PCGS as *Proof 65*  
£4000-5000

1084 † **Victoria**, crown, 1893, LVI, veiled bust l., *rev*. St. George and the dragon (S.3937; Bull 2593), *certified* and *graded* by PCGS as *Mint State 66*  
£2500-3000

1085 **Victoria**, large gold medallion for the Diamond Jubilee, 1897, by de Saulles, veiled, crowned and dr. bust l., *rev.* young head l., dividing inscription, 1837 upon branch tied with ribbon, 56mm., wt. 91.50gms. (Eimer 1817a), in original case, *tiny edge nick at 8 o’clock on obverse, about mint state*  
£3500-4500

The official Royal Mint issue for the Jubilee.
1086  **Edward VII**, halfcrown, 1905, bare head r., rev. crowned shield of arms within Garter (S.3980; Bull 3571), certified and graded by PCGS as Mint State 62, the rarest 20th century halfcrown £8000-10,000

The only example graded MS62 by PCGS.

1087  **Edward VII**, shilling, 1905, bare head r., rev. lion on crown (S.3982; Bull 3591), mint state, certified and graded by PCGS as Mint State 64+, the key date of the 20th century £2500-3000

The highest graded by both grading services, the only one graded MS 64+. Very few specimens known.
1088  **George V**, crown, 1934, bare head l., *rev.* large crown within wreath (S.4036; Bull 3647), *about mint state*  
£3500-4500  

The key date of the series, only 932 pieces struck.

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**A Selection of Sovereigns**

1089  **George IV**, proof sovereign, 1821, laur. head l., *rev.* St. George and the dragon (S.3800; W&R.231), *certified and graded by NGC as Proof 64 Ultra Cameo*  
£8000-10,000  

Only four other examples graded PF64 or higher by NGC or PCGS.

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1090  **George IV**, sovereign, 1821, laur. head l., *rev.* St. George and the dragon (S.3800), *certified and graded by PCGS as Mint State 65*  
£5500-6000
1091 *William IV*, pattern sovereign, 1830, plain edge, bare head r., *rev.* crowned shield of arms (S.3829B; W&R.260; Douglas-Morris 178), *certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 64 Deep Cameo* £15,000-20,000

A beautiful piece and as far as we know the first time this particular coin has been put up for auction. Only one other example has been graded this highly by NGC or PCGS.

1092 *Victoria*, sovereign, 1838, young head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3852), *certified and graded by PCGS as Mint State 65* £5000-6000

The first year of the currency sovereigns of Victoria, and one of the finest known.
1093 **Victoria**, sovereign, 1838, ‘narrow shield’ variety, tops of leaves in wreath closer to crown, young head l., rev. crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3852A), reverse misaligned, certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 53, extremely rare

£7000-9000

Assigned the incorrect Standard Catalogue number by PCGS.

1094 **Victoria**, sovereign, 1842, closed 2 in date, young head l., rev. crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3852), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 65

£3500-4500

1095 **Victoria**, sovereign, 1848, first (small) young head l., rev. crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3852), certified and graded by PCGS as Extremely Fine 40, very scarce

£2000-2500
1096  **Victoria**, sovereign, 1859, Ansell, young head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3852E), *certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 53, scarce*  
£2500-3000

1097  **Victoria**, sovereign, 1863, 827 on truncation, die no. 22, young head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3852F), *certified and graded by NGC as Very Fine 20, extremely rare*  
£4500-5500

This great variety was not discovered for almost a century after it was minted and clearly, as this coin indicates, these pieces circulated widely around the globe as exchange money. A single ‘827’ sovereign appeared in the Hatton Hoard of gold found in Derbyshire in 1954, the first-ever recognition by numismatists of its existence, and since that time collectors have searched far and wide for more examples. By 1980, Marsh knew of so few that he assigned an R6 rarity rating (4 to 8 known). Since then, a few more have been discovered, including a piece finer than any Marsh had seen (a somewhat lustrous coin found by this cataloguer in the 1990s). Any specimen is desirable and incredibly rare, and no collection of Victoria’s sovereigns can be complete without an example.

1098  **Victoria**, sovereign, 1874, die no. 32, young head l., *rev.* crowned shield of arms within wreath (S.3853B), *certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 55, extremely rare*  
£4000-6000
1099 Victoria, sovereign, 1880 S, inverted A for V in VICTORIA, young head l., rev. crowned shield of arms within wreath, S below (S.3855), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 53, rare £1500-2000

1100 Victoria, sovereign, 1871, young head l., rev. St. George and the dragon, horse with long tail (S.3856A), certified and graded by PCGS as Mint State 65, sharply struck with a pleasing gold tone, one of the highest certified grades seen for this date £1500-2000

1101 Victoria, sovereign, 1876, young head l., rev. St. George and the dragon (S.3856A), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 65, sharply struck with pleasing gold toning, an unusually high certified grade £1500-2000
*ex Douro Hoard

1102 George V, sovereign, 1923S, bare head l., rev. St. George and the dragon, S above date (S.4003), certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 58, very rare £11,000-13,000
**Islamic Coins**

1103 **Arab-Latin**, anonymous Two Bust type, gold solidus/dinar, North Africa, undated (c. 80-85h), two imperial busts facing, rev. column on three steps with crossbar on top, wt. 4.23gms. (Walker p. 154: 143; A.115), small dig in reverse field (possibly test mark), otherwise extremely fine and extremely rare £8000-10,000

*ex Credit de la Bourse, Paris, July 1996, and Baldwin's Horus Sale, ICA 24, Lot 4079, 9th May 2013*

1104 **Arab Latin, Umayyad**, temp. al-Walid I (86-96h), gold semissis or ½ dinar, undated c. 95h, Spain, eight pointed star with Latin around, rev. cippus with globe on steps, Latin legend around, wt. 1.93gms. (A.123; cf. Walker HSA9), obverse struck off centre, striking edge split, otherwise extremely fine, very rare £4500-5500

1105 **Arab Latin, Umayyad**, temp. Sulayman (96-99h), gold solidus, al-Andalus 98h, eight pointed star with Latin legend around, rev. Kufic legends Muhammad/ Allāh in centre, mint and date around, wt. 4.08gms. (A.124M), a complete fully centred strike, superb mint state, extremely rare, especially so in this condition £10,000-12,000

This one year bilingual type is the first appearance of the Kufic (Arabic) script on a coin struck in Muslim Spain.
1106 **Umayyad**, temp. Yazid II (101-105h), gold dinar, al-Andalus 102h, wt. 4.27gms. (A.134; Bern 44Aa), fractionally off-centre as usual, good extremely fine and very rare

£15,000-20,000

1107 **Umayyad**, temp. Marwan II (127-132h), gold dinar, no mint name (Damascus) 132h, wt. 4.22gms. (A.141), about extremely fine, very rare

£5000-6000

This is the last year of issue for the Umayyad dinar

1108 **Abbasid**, temp. al-Saffah (132-136h), gold dinar, no mint name (Damascus) 132h, wt. 4.23gms. (A.210; Bern.51), even round strike, lustrous extremely fine, very rare

£5000-6000
1109 **Abbasid**, al-Muqtadir (295-320h), gold dinar, Filastin 299h, wt. 4.06gms. (A.245.2; Bern.242Gn), *a full round striking on a broad flan, lustrous, good extremely fine and very rare* £2000-2500

1110 **Abbasid**, al-Muqtadir, gold dinar, Filastin 304h, wt. 3.90gms. (A.245.2; Bern.242Gn - an unrecorded date by Bernardi), *full broad flan, small edge damage at 3 o’clock, otherwise about uncirculated and extremely rare* £2000-2500

1111 **Fatimid**, al-Amir (495-524h), gold dinar, ‘Asqalan 509h, wt. 3.90gms. (Nicol 2506; A.729), *lustrous good extremely fine, very rare* £5000-6000

This rare dinar comes from the Palestinian mint of ‘Asqalan, south of Acre, which, for a time, was the chief Fatimid port in Palestine before its conquest by the Crusaders.
**Bahri Mamluk**, al-ʿAdil Badr al-din Salamish (678h), gold dinar, al-Iskandariya 678h, wt. 6.09gms. (A.-; Balog -, no gold coins of Salamish have been recorded either by Balog or by Album), *nearly extremely fine and of the highest rarity* £20,000-25,000

Salamish, the youngest son of Baybars I was permitted to remain on the throne for one hundred days only by his regent, Qalaʿun, after which he was deposed.

**Bahri Mamluk**, al-Muzaffar Rukn al-din Baybars II (708-709h), gold dinar, Dimashq, date off flan, wt. 5.05gms. (A.-; Balog -, no gold coins of Baybars II have been recorded either by Balog or by Album), *extremely fine and of the highest rarity* £7000-8000
1114  **Ilkhans**, Sati Beg, Queen (739h), gold dinar, Ardabil 739h, wt. 4.83gms. (A.K2231; Diler -, unrecorded mint), flat around borders, but otherwise very fine and of the highest rarity £5000-6000

A pawn in the power play during the fragmentation of the Ilkhan State, Sati Beg, sister of Abu Sa'id and wife of Arpa Khan was proclaimed Khan in 739h. However her nominal reign lasted for only nine months before she was removed from the throne. Subsequently she was forced to marry Sulayman, yet another claimant to the Ilkhan throne. All gold coins of Sati Beg are very rare.

1115  **Zand**, Ja'far Khan (1199-1203h), gold dinar, Dar al-ilm Shiraz 1202h, wt. 10.96gms. (A.2820), good extremely fine and extremely rare £7000-8000
Foreign Coins

1116  **Australia**, Victoria, sovereign, 1855, Sydney mint, young head l., with fillet in hair, *rev.* AUSTRALIA within wreath, crown above (KM.2; Fr.9), *some scuffs, also some burnishing in obverse field in front of face, otherwise extremely fine or better, extremely rare this choice* £8000-12,000

*ex Bentley collection, lot 629 where it realised £20,400 including premium

1117  **Austrian Netherlands**, Insurrection Coinage, 14 florins, 1790, rampant lion holding sword and shield, *rev. eleven shields around central motif (KM.51; Fr.402 [Belgium]), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 64* £12,000-14,000

*ex Heritage Auction 3012, 2 January 2011, lot 23108

Extremely rare and very choice for type. This was a revolutionary issue during the Insurrection of 1790 and only one coin has been graded higher at MS65 by NGC.
1118 † Belgium, Leopold I, medallie 100 francs, 1853, Marriage of Duke and Duchess of Brabant, bare head l., rev. conjoined bare heads r. (KM.XM3.1; Fr.409), about unci, excellent sharpness in the portraits with pleasing gold surfaces, seldom encountered in gold £5000-6000

Engraved by Leopold Wiener, this attractive commemorative issue for the royal marriage is normally found as a gilt piece, not struck in gold as seen here. The engraver’s talents were honed first in his brother’s studio and then as a pupil of sculptor David d’Angers and finally as assistant to J. J. Barre, chief engraver for the Paris Mint, from whom Wiener learned the skills of sinking dies. Wiener described his employment under Barre as an experience ‘he could scarcely have dreamed of’, so highly regarded was Barre. The young Wiener began working in Belgium in 1847, soon winning distinction as an artist. The piece we see in this lot was one of a series of historical ‘coinage’ medals which he created between 1850 and 1864; in all, he designed and engraved about 150 pieces for the Belgian Mint. This particular issue was made to honour the Duke of Brabant’s marriage, and it was rewarded with the Cross of the Order of Leopold for its outstanding quality.

1119 † Brazil, Joao V, 20000 reis, 1726M, Minas Gerais, crowned shield of arms, value to l., rev. voided cross potent, M in each angle, wt. 53.59gms. (KM.117; Fr.33), extremely fine or better, a spectacular coin £5000-6000

1120 Brazil, Joao V, 20000 reis, 1727M, Minas Gerais, crowned shield of arms, value to l., rev. voided cross potent, M in each angle (KM.117; Fr.33), slight metal flaw at 8 o’clock on reverse, otherwise extremely fine, scarce £3500-4500
† China, Kweichow Province, dollar, year 17 (1928), First Road in Kweichow, automobile, inscription in Chinese around, *rev.* inscription in Chinese (KM.Y428), *certified and graded by NGC as About Uncirculated 55*

£35,000-40,000

This purports to portray the governor’s automobile. Extremely rare in this condition and a superb strike showing clearly all the details of the car door and wheels.
1122 **Czechoslovakia**, Republic, 10 dukats, 1929, Duke Wenceslas on horseback r., rev. shield of arms, denomination and date below (KM.14; Fr.4), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 66* **£4500-5000**

The highest grade for this date, this was the first year of issue for the type and only 1569 were struck.

1123 **Czechoslovakia**, Republic, 10 dukats, 1934, Duke Wenceslas on horseback r., rev. shield of arms, denomination and date below (KM.14; Fr.4), *certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 67* **£10,000-12,000**

The finest known example of this date - no other examples graded this highly by NGC or PCGS - and one of only 1298 specimens struck. A perfect coin!
1124 **Czechoslovakia,** Republic, Medallic coinage, 5 dukats, 1934, St. Catherine kneeling in prayer, rev. mining scene (KM.XM20), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 65

Struck to commemorate the re-opening of the Kremnica mines. Only 70 pieces were struck and the rarity combined with the beautiful design makes it especially popular. Only four other examples graded MS65 or higher by NGC or PCGS.

Allocated incorrect reference number by KM.

1125 **Czechoslovakia,** Republic, Medallic coinage, 2 dukats, 1934, St. Catherine kneeling in prayer, rev. mining scene (KM.XM19), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 66

Total mintage of 159, very rare and choice. Allocated incorrect reference number by KM.

1126 **Czechoslovakia,** Republic, Medallic coinage, dukat, 1934, St. Catherine kneeling in prayer, rev. mining scene (KM.XM14.1), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 66

Only 288 minted, and only one graded higher. Very rare and of superb quality.
1127 † Anglo-Gallic, Edward the Black Prince (1362-1376), pavillion d'or, Prince holding sword, standing under Gothic canopy with two lions at feet and ostrich plumes on each side, rev. foliate cross in quatrefoil over a quadrangle, two leopards and two lis in angles (Fr.5), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 55 £3750-4250

1128 † France, Napoleon III, 5 francs, 1861A, laur. head l., rev. crowned and mantled arms divide denomination (KM.799.1), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 64, very rare £3750-4250

One of the rarest crowns of Napoleon III and in very choice condition for date.
1129 India, Edward VII (1901-1910), silver pattern rupee, 1901, initials KW on bust, for F. K. Wezel, chief engraver at the Calcutta mint, bare head r., rev. Indian tiger to l. within decorative circle, milled edge (SW.7.1; Pr. 1045), certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 63, very rare £10,000-12,000
An India Edward VII Original Proof Set 1908

1130  **India**, Edward VII (1901-1910), original proof set, 1908, Calcutta mint, comprising silver rupee; ½ rupee; ¼ rupee & 2 annas; bronze ¼ anna; ½ pice and 1/12 anna, the first three pieces with milled edge, the others plain edge (SW.7.40/7.67/7.89/7.110/7.179/7.204/7.226; KM.508/507/506/505/502/500/498), the silver coins with superb iridescent toning, the bronze with full original colour, a superb brilliant matching set, FDC and exceedingly rare as such

£12,000-15,000

Sold with two original tickets for A.H. Baldwin & Sons with the date 23rd March 1909; an indisputable original set.
An Outstanding and comprehensive collection of coins from the Maldive Islands

The Maldive Islands consist of 26 natural atolls comprising 1192 islands, their nearest neighbours being India and Ceylon. The islands are located on the major marine routes of the Indian Ocean and are famous as the greatest source of cowrie shells used as currency throughout Asia and Africa from ancient times until the end of the 19th century. The influence of the Arab traders led to the adoption of Islam in the year 1153h and the converted Buddhist Kings adopted the title of Sultan.

The first Arab influenced coinage for the Maldives was the larin, a strip of silver, doubled over and stamped with the name of the issuing ruler. The name originates from Lar in the Persian Gulf where it was originally struck. By the late 16th century it was one of the standard currencies of the Indian Ocean. The first larin struck in the Maldives was believed to have been during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim III (1585-1607AD/993-1016h), although the earliest known example was issued by his successor Muhammad Imad al-Din I (1620-1648AD/1030-1058h). An example of this exceedingly rare piece is in this collection.

Coins of every ruler who issued coinage for the Maldive Islands are to be found here, details of which are as per the listing below. Of particular note is the Imad al-Din V silver pattern 4 lariat of 1320h.

This is certainly the most comprehensive collection of Maldive Islands coins to be offered at auction.
A Collection of Maldives Coinage - all coins were minted at Mahle

Muhammad Imad al-Din I (1030-1058h), silver larin, ry 17, wt. 5.47gms. (KM.1), good very fine and exceedingly rare

Ibrahim Iskandar I bin Muhammad (1058-1098h), silver larin (4); 1070h; 1074h; no date (KM.2.1); 1096h, (KM.2.2), very fine or better (4 pcs)

Muhammad Muhi al-Din bin Fulan (1102-1103h), silver larin, undated (KM.6), good very fine

Muhammad Shams al-Din al-Hamawi (1103-1104h), silver larin, no date (KM.8); silver half larin, no date (KM.-), the half larin unrecorded, both very fine (2 pcs)

Muhammad al-Hajji bin Ali (1104-1112h), silver half larin (Kuda), no mint 105h (KM.9); silver larin, no date (KM.10), good very fine (2 pcs)

Muhammad Imad al-Din II (1116-1133h), silver larin (6): 116h; 1121h; 1122h; 1123h; 1129h; 1131h (KM.14.1/14.2); silver half larin (Kuda) (3): 1129h; 1131h; 113xh (KM.13.2); silver quarter larin, 113xh (KM.12), generally very fine or better (10 pcs)

Ibrahim Iskandar II (1133-1163h), silver two lari (Bodu) (2): 1146h; 1154h (KM 17.2/17); silver larin, 1134h; silver/billon larin, 1153h; billon larin, 1164h [2] (KM.19.1); silver/billon larin (2): 1163h; 1166h (KM.19.1), all very fine (8 pcs)

Hasan Izz al-Din (1173-1180h), silver/billon two lari (4): 1173h; 1173h; 1177h; 1178h (KM.23.1/23.2); silver/billon larin, 1173h; billon larin, 1173h (KM.22), mostly good very fine (6 pcs)

Muhammad Ghiyas al-Din Iskandar (1180-1187h), silver/billon two lari, 1182h (KM.26); billon larin, silver/billon larin (2): 1184h; 1186h (KM.24), mostly about extremely fine or better (5 pcs)

Muhammad Mu'izz al-Din (1188-1192h), silver/billon two lari; billon two lari, 1189h (KM.28.1/28.2); billon half larin, 1188h (KM.27), good very fine (3 pcs)

Hasan Nur al-Din I (1192-1213h), billon two lari (4): 1197h; 1200h; 1207h; 1207h (KM 30.1/30.3); copper half larin (4): 1194h; 1197h; 1200h; 1202h (KM.29); billon half larin (4): 1194h; 1197h; 1200h; 1202h (KM.29.2), generally good very fine or better (12 pcs)

Muhammad Mu'in al-Din (1213-1250h), billon two lari (2): 1214h (KM.33.2); billon half larin (2): 1216h; 1219h (KM.32); copper half larin (7): 1221h; 1221h; 1226h (unrecorded date); 1230h; 1248h; 1248h (variety 1); 1248h (variety 2) (KM.32), good very fine or better (12 pcs)

Muhammad Imad al-Din IV (1250-1300h), copper two lari (2): 1294h; 1298h; brass two lari, 1298h (KM 36.1/36.2); copper half larin (17): 1257h; 1276h [6]; 1286h [2]; 1292h [3]; 1294h [2]; 1298h [2] (KM.35.1) and 1286h, very rare type (KM.35.3), all very fine and extremely fine (20 pcs)

Ibrahim Nur al-Din (1300-1318h), copper half larin (3), 1300h (KM.37.1), all very fine (3 pcs)

‘Imad al-Din V (1318-1322h), silver pattern four lariat, 1320h (KM.Pn3); copper four lariat (4), 1320h (one example reeded edge); copper two lari (3): 1318h (unrecorded date); 1319h (2), struck in silver (RR); 1319h (9); copper larin 1318h (2), mainly extremely fine (19 pcs)

Shams al-Din III (1322-1353h), copper four lariat (2); copper larin (2), 1331h (KM.42/41), all uncirculated (4 pcs)

Miscellaneous, silver two lari 1168h, one larin 113xh, billon larin, date illegible, all with Djawa = Java countermark together with brockages (2) and anonymous bronze larin (5), generally very fine (10 pcs)

The condition of the coins overall is very fine or better, with many extremely fine to uncirculated, an exceptional and extremely rare offering (126)

£10,000-12,000
1132 † Netherlands, Holland, 3½ ducats, 1673, knight stg. r., shoulderingsword, rev. inscription within square, small shield of Amsterdam below (Fr.258), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 58, nicely centred and struck, with an old gold tone, scarce £4000-5000

1133 † Poland, Danzig, Jan Casimir, ducat, 1662DL, crowned bust r., rev. city arms, engraved by Daniel Lesse (KM.41.2; Fr.24), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 62, retaining considerable lustre and struck on a broad flan, well centred, bold legends and a good portrait, scarce so fine £2000-3000
Russia, Alexander I, rouble, 1802, St. Petersburg, crowned double-headed eagle with shield of arms on breast, rev. crown above inscription within wreath (KM.C125), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63
£2750-3750
With a 19thC? piece of paper in which the coin was originally wrapped.

Russia, Nicholas II (1894-1917), large gold award medal ‘For Zeal in Services to the Government’, undated, by A. Vasyutinsky and Klenov, bust of Nicholas II l., rev. FOR ZEAL in Cyrillic, within cascading partial wreath, 51.5mm., 75.05gms. (Diakov 1138.1 [R’]), integral suspension loop, struck with a light matt surface, minor handling marks and scratch on reverse near the loop, extremely fine, rare, and a particularly handsome image of the last tsar!
£4500-5500

Nikolai Aleksandrovich Romanov was born near St. Petersburg on 18 May 1868. He was the eldest son of Tsar Alexander III, and when he succeeded his father in 1894 he had no real experience in governing. He married Princess Alexandra of Hesse-Darmstadt in the same year he gained the throne, and within a few years they had four daughters and a son, Alexis, who suffered from haemophilia, a disease of the blood. It was a time of colonial expansion by European powers, and not to be outdone by rivals Tsar Nicholas encouraged Russian expansion into Manchuria, which provoked war with Japan in 1904. Russia was defeated and this led to internal strikes and riots until, in January 1905, on ‘Bloody Sunday’, the army in St. Petersburg shot into a crowd demanding radical reforms. The coming storm would alter Russian history forever. In quick succession, the renegade priest Rasputin, who exerted excessive influence over the Romanovs, was murdered by irritated nobles in late 1916, and just two months later demonstrations disrupted in the renamed capital, Petrograd. The army deserted Nicholas, who was forced to abdicate, grant a constitution, and watch the Duma (parliament) take control that had always been the right of the monarchy. The royal family was imprisoned and moved to a number of secret locations, finally being held at Yekaterinburg in the Urals. By October of 1917, the Bolsheviks seized control of the shaky, provisional government. Civil war erupted. In the middle of July 1918, the former tsar and his entire family were infamously executed by their captors as anti-Bolshevik forces grew nearer to Yekaterinburg. It has long been believed that the leader of the Bolsheviks, Vladimir Lenin, personally ordered the last of the Romanovs to be put to death.
1136 **Sarawak**, C. Brooke, Rajah, silver 50 cents, 1900, Heaton mint, Birmingham, milled edge (KM.11), certified and graded by NGC as Mint State 63, with a light even toning, the finest graded and exceptionally rare as such, an important coin

£8000-10,000

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1137 **Straits Settlements**, Victoria, copper specimen/proof set comprising 1, ½ and ¼ cent, 1872H, Heaton mint Birmingham, diad. head l., rev. value within beaded circle, plain edge (KM. 9/8/7), all certified and graded by NGC as follows:

- ¼ cent, 1872H, Specimen 63 Red Brown
- ½ cent, 1872H, Specimen 62 Brown
- 1 cent, 1872H, Specimen 63 Red Brown

the cent and ¼ cent with considerable original lustre, the ½ cent with traces of lustre around the lettering, an impressive, virtually matching set and very rare (3)

£10,000-12,500

*ex Barrett Collection*
An Exceedingly Rare and Important Straits Silver Proof Set 1882H

1138 **Straits Settlements**, Victoria, silver specimen/proof set comprising 20, 10 and 5 cents, 1882H, Heaton mint Birmingham, diad. head l., rev. value within beaded circle, milled edge (K.M.12/11/10), all certified and graded by NGC as follows:
- 20 cents, 1882H, Specimen 66
- 10 cents, 1882H, Specimen 66
- 5 cents, 1882H, Specimen 66

*a magnificent matching mid-grey toned set with iridescent colouring, exceedingly rare (3)* £20,000-25,000
1139 **Straits Settlements**, Victoria, bronze proof set comprising 1, ½ and ¼ cent, 1891, Calcutta mint, diad. head l., rev. value within beaded circle, milled edge (KM.16/15/14), all certified and graded by NGC as follows:

1 cent, 1891, Proof 63 Red Brown
½ cent, 1891, Proof 63 Red Brown
¼ cent, 1891, Proof 63 Red Brown

*a superb fully matching set, the ½ and ¼ cent proof-only issues and therefore key dates to the series, very rare* (3) £12,000-15,000

*ex Barrett Collection*
Straits Settlements, Victoria, VIP proof set comprising 1, ½ and ¼ cent, 1891, struck in silver, Bombay or Calcutta mint, diad. head l., rev. value within beaded circle, milled edge (KM.Pn9/7/5), all certified and graded by NGC as follows:
1 cent, 1891, Proof 63
½ cent, 1891, Proof 64
¼ cent, 1891, Proof 61
*a superb matching set of the highest rarity, possibly unique (3) £50,000-75,000

*ex King Farouq, Remick and Barrett Collections

This is the only set to have been graded by either NGC and PCGS. A second set is rumoured to have been seen in Singapore during the 1990s.
1141 **South Africa**, George V, proof ¼ penny, 1928, crowned bust l., *rev.* oat sprig and berries divide birds within circle (KM12.2), certified and graded by PCGS as Proof 66, Blackened, exceedingly rare, the only proof graded by PCGS in a very high grade

£8000-10,000

1142 † **Spain**, Philip V, 8 escudos, 1712SM, crowned Bourbon coat of arms, *rev.* cross in quatrefoil with mintmark, assayer’s initial and 8s in angles (KM.260; Fr.247), certified and graded by PCGS as About Uncirculated 53, struck on a broad flan and unusually well centred and preserved, very rare

£4000-5000

An excellent and particularly well-struck example of this early 8 escudos. We can locate few pieces at auction of remotely similar quality. An opportunity for the aware specialist.

*End of Sale*
Notes