

Bahamas Mule Coin

This is a Slide Show showing the events that unfolded in N.Z and the U.K after the Bahamas Mule was discovered in N.Z on the 10th of July 1967 .



By Paul Lawrence Bicknell
3rd – 6th July 2014

The New Zealand Event

Bahamas Mule coins discovered in New Zealand

4 Bahamas Mule coins were found by the public on New Zealand Decimal Currency Day Monday the 10th of July 1967 .

This Mule coin had the Obverse of a 1966 Bahama Island 5 cent coin, designed by Arnold Machin ,who also designed the Reverse of this coin for the Bahamas Decimal Currency Day on the 25th of May 1966 .

The Reverse of the Mule coin was that of a 1967 New Zealand 2 cent coin designed by Reginald George James Berry .

1966 Bahamas 5 cent coin



Arnold Machin
30/9/1911-1999

1967 New Zealand 2 Cent coin



Reginald George
James Berry
20/6/1906-1979

.83 inches in Diameter Weight 64
Grams

Official Response

On the 11th of July 1967 after the Mule coin sightings were confirmed .John Searle the Secretary of the Decimal Currency Board rang Thomas Macdonald the New Zealand High Commissioner in London and asked Mr Macdonald to ask the Royal Mint to please explain how such a major coin error was released in New Zealand .

The Royal Mints reply to the New Zealand Government was a full Inquiry would take place immediately .

There could be 100,000 of these faulty coins circulating in New Zealand .Therefore the Royal Mint assured the New Zealand Government that 100,000 replacement coins would be sent to New Zealand at no cost to the New Zealand Government .

Also on the 11th of July 1967 the New Zealand Minister of Finance Robert Muldoon, gave a press statement saying the faulty “2 cent coins were not legal tender but the Government would exchange them for genuine coins of the same face value.” Not many people took this offer up .

Official Response



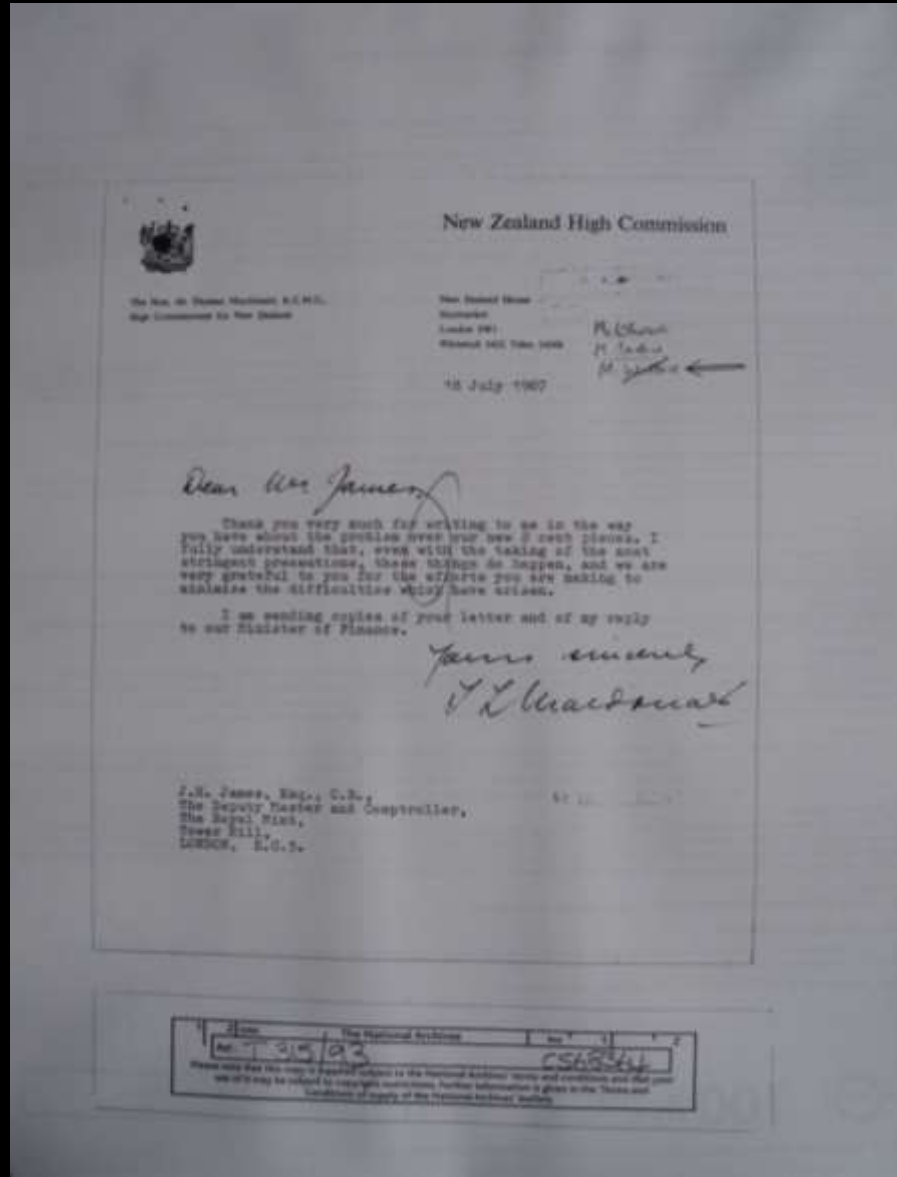
John Newton Leon (Jack) Searle
Secretary of the Decimal
Currency Board in 1967.

Above is the Secretary of the Decimal
Currency Board Mr Searle on the
Telephone to the New Zealand High
Commission in London enquiring about the
error coins .This photograph comes from
the Dominion dated the 11th July 1967.



Thomas Lachlan MacDonald
New Zealand High
Commissioner to the United
Kingdom 1961-1967.

A Letter from the New Zealand High Commissioner, Thomas MacDonald to the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint John James, in response to John Searle's enquiry about the Mule coins .

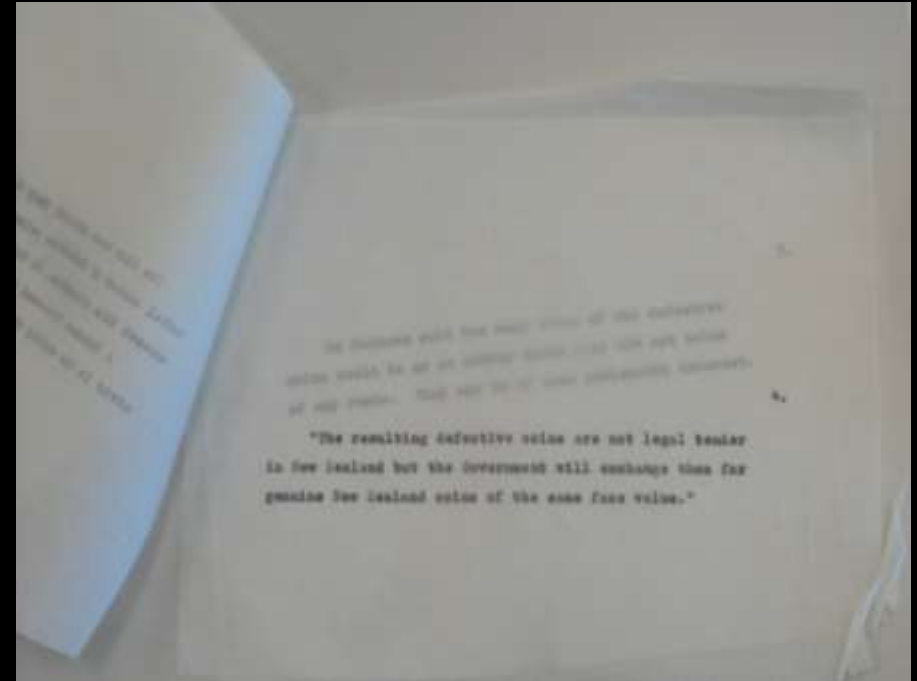
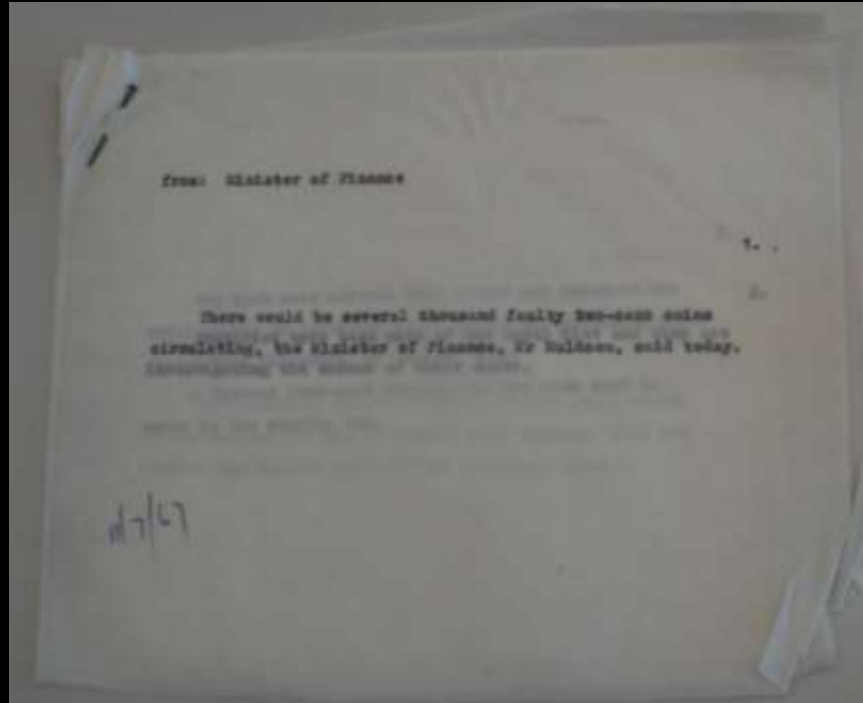


Supply of defective 2 cent coins by the
Royal Mint to New Zealand : Enquiry into
and subsequent action.

File T315/93

The National Archives U.K.

Shown below are two pages from the official release given by the New Zealand Minister of Finance Mr Robert Muldoon to the Press .This document is now held in Archives New Zealand Wellington .



Archive reference : Archives New Zealand /Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga
Wellington Office
[ADRK 17454 T79/7 10/5 (R21908433)].

The troubled 1967 New Zealand Currency Coinage

Bahamas Mule coin was not the only error to be found in New Zealand's new Decimal Currency :

- Coins were found clipped including Clipped Bahamas Mule coins .
- Off centre coins were found .
- 2 cent coins struck on the wrong metal flan such as the 2 cent cupro nickel coin shown in the next slide .
- Different serial numbers on the same Bank Notes.
- A Five cent coin was spotted at the head office of the ANZ Bank with only the Queens head on the coin ,the other side of the coin was blank .

Examples of troubled New Zealand 1967 Decimal Currency



Dominion 14th July 1967



Cuppro Nickel 2 cent error coin .



Clipped Bahamas Mule

The above image was reproduced for this slide with the kind permission show by Scott de Young .

Media Response to the Mule coin

- Within days of the Mule coins release into New Zealand there was a media frenzy with :
- Sensational Newspaper headings appearing in all the major New Zealand and International Newspapers .
- Mr Hamlin the President of the Royal Numismatic of New Zealand in 1967 and Alistair Robb were interviewed for their knowledge on the coin.
- Cartoons from Nevile Lodge and Menhinnick were in all the major Newspapers .

Media Mule Coin frenzy

MINT BUNGLE COULD MAKE 2c COIN WORTH

HAVE a close look at all two-cent coins in your pocket or purse. They could be worth up to \$200 each!

\$200

An obverse die at the Royal Mint. Mr. Bobb, professor of numismatics, said yesterday.

Freak 2c coin of no legal value

The freak "Bahama Islands" 2c coins were not legal tender in New Zealand, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Muldoon, said yesterday.

But the Government would exchange them for genuine coins of the same face value.



"YOU MEAN IT ISN'T IN THE BAHAMAS?"

CAN WE SELL THEM TO BAHAMAS?

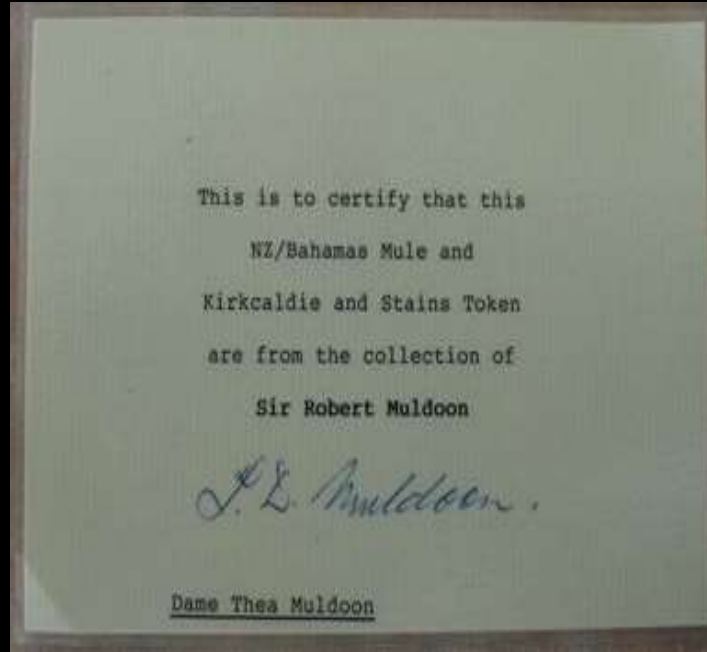


The above cartoon, by Neville Lodge, appeared in the Evening Post Newspaper on the 13th of July 1967, is a copy of the original drawing reproduced by National Library.

Shown below is a Sam cartoon drawn by the Cartoonist Menhinnick who drew cartoons for the New Zealand Herald and his character "Sam" was Soldier Sam a type of common man character .



Robert Muldoon's coins presented on NZ Decimal Currency Day



Sir Robert David Muldoon born 25/9/1921 died 5/8/1992. He was Minister of Finance from 1967-1972 and Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1975 to 1984.



The above Bahamas Mule coin and Kirkcaldie and Stains Token, were for sale on a TradeMe Auction, at listing number 509841368. This auction closed on the 9th of September 2012.

Robert Muldoon gifted 2
Bahamas Mule Coins to
the :

(1) Wellington Born
Governor of the Bahamas
Ralph Grey .

(2) Governor General of
New Zealand Bernard
Fergusson .

A Mule coin was also given
to 78 Members of
Parliament .



The New Zealand Treasury gifted of a Mule coin, to members of Numismatic Societies and Coin Clubs



Mr Michael Collins 1923-2013

- Secretary of the Waikato Numismatic Society in 1967.
- This photograph is from a 1967 edition of the *Waikato Times*.



Mr Frank Clarke

- Secretary of the Auckland Coin Club in 1967.

Shown below on the left hand side is an image of the original Bahama's Mule presentation envelope that was given by the New Zealand Treasury in 1967, along with a Mule coin to members of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand.



This presentation envelope and the Mule coin on the right hand side, that was presented with the above envelope has been reproduced for this side show with the kind permission of Scott de Young.

STOP PRESS

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The New Zealand Treasury has made two items available to members of the Society and the following is the policy that is to be followed by the Society; read carefully.

CASED 1967 DECIMAL COIN SETS:

Two hundred sets of the Polish Standard specimen grade of the 1967 decimal souvenir coins in royal blue plush-lined leatherette cases have been made available to members of numismatic societies, but as demand exceeds the supply it is necessary for the Treasury to ballot them. Accordingly the Society has submitted a list of all its members as at 4th August, 1967, both within New Zealand and overseas, for inclusion in the ballot.

Each person successful in the ballot will be written to direct by the Treasury and advised that a cased set of coins will be forwarded on receipt of the remittance of the required amount of NZ\$9.00 and on the understanding that the set will not be offered for sale for a period of 2 years unless there are special reasons for an earlier sale.

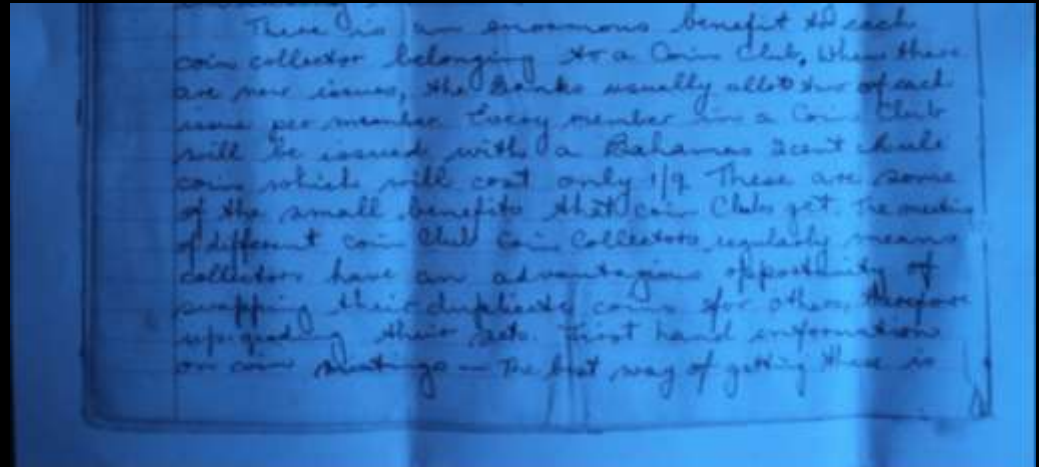
MULE "BAHAMA" 2 CENT COINS:

Most members will be aware of the existence of the New Zealand 2 cent piece with the "Bahama Island" obverse. The Royal Mint has requested that "Bahama" coins should not be sold by the Government. Accordingly, the majority of these coins retrieved by the Treasury are to be melted down. However, realising the interest these "mules" have to numismatists, the Government has decided to make ONE sample available to each member of New Zealand's numismatic societies, as at 4 August 1967, at no charge, on the condition that such will not be sold.

To obtain your specimen you must apply in writing giving the guarantee "that such will not be sold." Failure to give such will render your application void.

To cover the cost of postage, etc., members are asked to forward a postal note to the value of NZ 20 cents.

ADDRESS applications to: Secretary, Royal Numismatic Society of N.Z., G.P.O. Box 23, Wellington, N.Z.



The above archive on the right is from page 3 of the inaugural meeting minutes, of the Wanganui Coin Club, 22nd of August 1967. The 3 pages from this inaugural meeting were kindly sent to me by post from the Secretary of the Wanganui Numismatic Society, Mr R Kidd.

Shown above on the left is page 79 of the New Zealand Numismatic Journal : Proceedings of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated . Volume 12 Number (44) May 1967.

The conditions that New Zealand Treasury placed on the free gift of a Bahamas Mule coin to members of coin organizations

For Members of Numismatic Societies and Coin to qualify for the Treasury Gift members had to :

- Be a registered member of a Numismatic Society or Coin Club on the 4th of August 1967 .
- Members had to sign written promises not to sell the gifted coins.
- These promises were sent back to Treasury by the organisations Secretaries .
- Unfortunately the gifting of Bahamas Mule coins only to people who were registered with a coin organization on the 4th of August 1967, caused a lot of dissatisfaction by non registered Coin Collectors because these people were also unable to purchase the Bahamas Mule coins direct from the New Zealand Treasury .

Bahamas Mule Coin put up for Auction

To determine the true value the Mule coins, which had been selling between \$ 1 to \$ 50. An example was put up for auction. The first mule coin to be sold at auction, was at Alistair Robb Coin Auction on the 5th of August 1967. This Bahamas Mule coin sold for \$32 , the same price that Dunbar Sloane Auctions later achieved on the 15th of September 1967.



Evening Post articles dated from the 14th to the 21st of September 1967 .

60,000 Bahamas Coins Are To Be Melted Down

TREASURY officers recovered nearly 60,000 of New Zealand "Bahamas" two-cent pieces, and most of them will be melted down. It is believed there were between 65,000 and 100,000 of these coins minted.

Approximately 60,000 coins are defective coins. The Mint have already replaced the coins at no cost to the New Zealand Government. Many requests for samples have been received from members of the public wishing to buy them.

"When asked for their views on disposal, the Mint was strongly of the opinion that the Treasury holdings should not be offered for sale since they

are defective coins. The Mint has already replaced the coins at no cost to the New Zealand Government.

Not Proper

"In addition, the die used belongs to another Government and it is hardly proper to offer these coins for sale," said the Minister of Finance (Mr Muldoon).

It is estimated that thousands of the defective coins have gone into circulation.

Banks are on the alert for them and will withhold any bags bearing the appropriate batch numbers for return to the Treasury.

ent Must
confidence'

Meltdown

B. 12

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Latter in the day, the Minister, the Chairman, and the Chief Executive Officer were interviewed for the evening's television news.

An official dinner was held in the evening for the Board and representatives of all groups which had taken a leading part in the changeover preparations.

The Bahamas Islands "Mule"

During the afternoon of D.C. Day, a report was received of a 2c coin having been discovered bearing a Bahamas Islands obverse. Treasury officials checked this report, and it was found to be correct. Other

reports came in, and causing some concern. The Royal Mint was contacted later in the evening for the purpose of obtaining Royal Mint comments on the likely cause and volume of the "mule" coins.

It appeared that a full run of about 100,000 was likely, since the Mint had not previously detected the fault, and this was the number struck between the changes. This was confirmed in the next three days after Treasury officials had traced the mule coins to two main bank sources. After identifying the batch, and bag numbers, some 600,000 coins were hand-inspected to produce just on 60,000 mules which were withdrawn and later melted down. However, some thousands of mules went into circulation, and were keenly sought after.

To change demand, it was decided to present samples to members of the Executive, the Board, the Chairman, and the Chief Executive Officer, including His Excellency the Governor of the Bahamas (Sir Ralph Gray) who is a New Zealander.

The Royal Mint apologized for this rare error, not only replacing the coins without charge, but also covering New Zealand recovery expenses.

The Bank Changeover

All banks reported very little difficulty in the changeover. Standby arrangements for machine servicing had been made with machine companies in view of the switch over of about 3,000 machines, many of which were pre-converted or found new and apart from lost running had not been used on routine work. The service was barely used.

Ample supplies of coins and notes were reported in all areas, and no shortages occurred. All 600,000 budget accounts were successfully converted, and there was no delay in bank premises on D.C. Day. Very few reports were received of E & A. d. cheques being drawn on D.C. Day, and these were quickly corrected. This was widespread evidence of the effectiveness of the publicity and training work of the Board and the banks, business, and industry, in changeover procedures.

The Post Office

The largest single business in New Zealand had no problems on D.C. Day, apart from queries of stamp collectors anxious to secure first day covers. The Post Office had provided facilities for purchase of decimal stamps before D.C. Day, but the day itself proved a busy one. Staff were well trained and confident, and this added greatly to the public's confidence.

60,000 Bahamas Mule coins were discovered, by hand sorting through 600,000 2 cent coins from two main banks . Branches of the ANZ near Wellingtons CBD had a large number of error coins .The error coins were then melted down in Auckland .

The United Kingdom Event



The image shown above is Queen Elizabeth II examining Decimal Coin designs. The Deputy Master of the Royal Mint in 1967 John (Jack) James is on the Queen's left.

John Hasting James



- John Hasting James was the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint from 1957 to 1970 .
- He joined the Mint from the Admiralty replacing Sir Lionel Thompson at the end of August 1957.
- Mr James was the first Deputy Master for nearly 40 years not to come directly from Treasury .
- He brought a more energetic attitude towards the striking of coins from other countries .
- By 1966 coin production at the Mint had reached 1400 million coins 3 times larger than when Mr James had started with the Mint in 1957.

Key Research Document

- British Treasury File T315/93 held at National Archives in Kew, England.
- One of 318,545 Treasury documents in British Archives.
- This document could not be viewed by the public from 15th of January 1968 to the 1st of January 1999 .
- A certified copy of this document is now in the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, Library collection.
- A number of letters inside this document, on the findings of the Royal Mint Enquiry were written by the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint John Hasting James .

TREASURY						
FILE NUMBER 2FH(3) 1/89/02	FOR DISPOSAL ADVICE SEE INSIDE COVER		FILE BEGINS	11-7-67	ENDS	15-1-68
	DISPOSAL DIRECTION	SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE TITLE		
	DESTROY AFTER	YEARS	SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE 2 CENT COINS BY THE ROYAL MINT TO NEW ZEALAND. ENQUIRY INTO AND SUBSEQUENT ACTION.			
	PRESERVE					
FOR REGISTRATION USE ONLY		REFER TO	DATE	REFER TO	DATE	
				T315/93		
FOR RECORDS SECTION USE ONLY						

•The findings of the Royal Mint Enquiry on Bahamas Mule coin

•The Bahamas Mule coins were found in Batch 73, which consisted of 100 bags each containing a 1000 coins. Mule coins were found in 18 bags from Batch 73 .

•Batch 73 was bagged on the morning of Thursday the 19th of January 1967, during production week 42 (January 12th to January 18th) .

•Further investigation by the Royal Mint, narrowed the production dates of the error coins to the Night shift of Wednesday the 18th of January and the Day shift of Thursday the 19th of January 1967.

- 20 people worked on the Night shift of Wednesday the 18th of January and the Day shift of the 19th of January 1967.
- 9 coin Presses were in use at the start of the Night shift on Wednesday the 18th of January, reducing to 6 Presses at the end of the Night and 6 Presses continued to be in use throughout the Day shift of Thursday the 19th of January 1967.
- No Bahama coins were minted within the week of the error ,although up to week 42 Bahama Island and New Zealand coins were being minted on the same days in different Presses .
- The Royal Mint Enquiry could find no evidence to suspect that more than 1 wrong Die was used .
- The actual Stocks of unused New Zealand and Bahama Island Dies agree precisely with the Stock Books.

Royal Mint.
London, E.C.3.

NEW ZEALAND COINS

1. A number of defective New Zealand 2 cent coins have been produced by the Royal Mint. These coins have the proper reverse, but the obverse of the Bahama Islands 5 cent coin.
2. All the defective coins so far discovered are in batch 73, consisting of 100 bags, each containing 1,000 coins. Defective coins have been found in 18 bags from this batch. No figures are available showing the total number of defective coins discovered.
3. Batch 73 was 'bagged' on the morning of Thursday 19th January. It is therefore probable that all the defective coins were made during week 42 (January 12th to January 18th). During this week up to nine presses were in use on New Zealand coins at any one time and 34 dies were used.
4. No Bahama Island coins were produced during this week, although Bahama 5 cent dies were being held in the die stronghold. The conclusion appears to be that a Bahama Island 5 cent obverse die was issued in error from the die stronghold instead of a New Zealand 2 cent obverse die.
5. In spite of detailed investigations in the Royal Mint, it has not so far been possible to discover how the lapse was allowed to occur. Actual stocks of unused New Zealand and Bahama Island dies agree precisely with book stocks. There is an elaborate system of checks which should in theory make any such mistake impossible. The staff involved have been questioned, but no sufficient clue has been discovered. An immediate work study is being carried out of the system for checking dies at all stages of their manufacture and use and for the inspection of coins, in order to determine whether any weakness exists in the systems.
6. There is no evidence to suggest that more than one wrong die was used. This means that the maximum number of defective coins produced from this one die could be as high as 150,000, although a figure of 100,000 is probably more likely. Since nine presses were in use for New Zealand coins during the week in question, a total of 100,000 defective coins could be included in a total of up to 900,000 coins sent to New Zealand. The New Zealand authorities have therefore been told that in addition to batch 73, which covered 100,000 coins, batches 72 and 74 should also be regarded as suspect and should be subjected to special scrutiny.

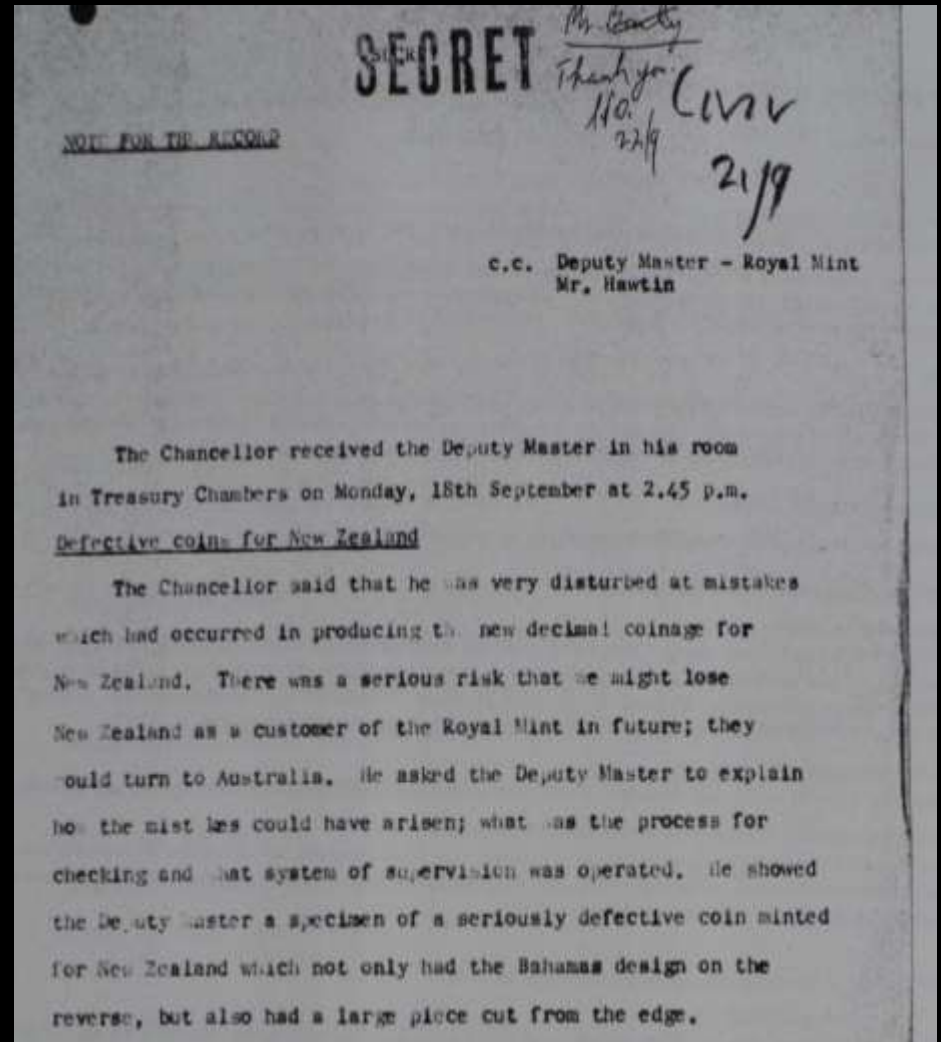
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A Letter written on the 17th of July 1967 by John James, the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint to R. G Lavelle, the Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This letter which is included in British Treasury Document T 315/93 mentions a lot of the information on the Mule coin in the previous slide.

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Clipped Bahamas Mule Coins



Top coins: Scott de Young's

Bottom left coin: Tom Taylor Young's

Bottom right coin: sold on Trade Me to an unknown buyer.

Correspondence dated the 18th of September 1967, from P. R. Baldwin, the Principal Private Secretary, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in British Treasury document T315/93.

The Royal Mint Strike (6 -7 Jan, 1967)



Work commencing on
the New Mint in 1967.

- On Friday the 6th of January 1967 there was an unofficial strike in the Coinage Room of the Royal Mint by members of the Transport and General Workers Union .
- 600 workers were involved.
- Their concerns were over staff grading and promotion, and rumours that the Mint would be relocated to Llantrisant near Cardiff. These rumours were confirmed ,when Royal Mint management made an announcement in April 1967 and work started on the New Mint in August 1967 .
- Workers returned but remained dissatisfied .

MINT STRIKE WON'T HIT COIN SUPPLY

When the Deputy Master John James was first asked if the error coins had been made as a protest action to discredit the reputation of the Royal Mint .

Mr James said in this letter dated 26th of July 1967 .That it was the view of Mint management ,that dissatisfied people would not risk being detected minting defective coins but rather resort to physical force directed at the Mint's equipment or machinery .

36/3
14/7

Mr. Higgins
Mr. Radcliffe
Mr. Lavelle

Mr. Hay
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Giddens

New Zealand Coins

... I submit for consideration a draft reply to the attached letter dated July 17th from Mr. James.

2. The note on the striking and issue of a number of defective New Zealand coins tells us very little. In discussion Mr. James has confirmed that so far some 55,000 defective coins have been traced. He has also discounted the possibility that the striking was the deliberate act of a disaffected Mint employee. This possibility has been considered but the Mint view is that any such employee would be more likely to sabotage equipment or machinery than to run the risk of detection in striking a hybrid coin.

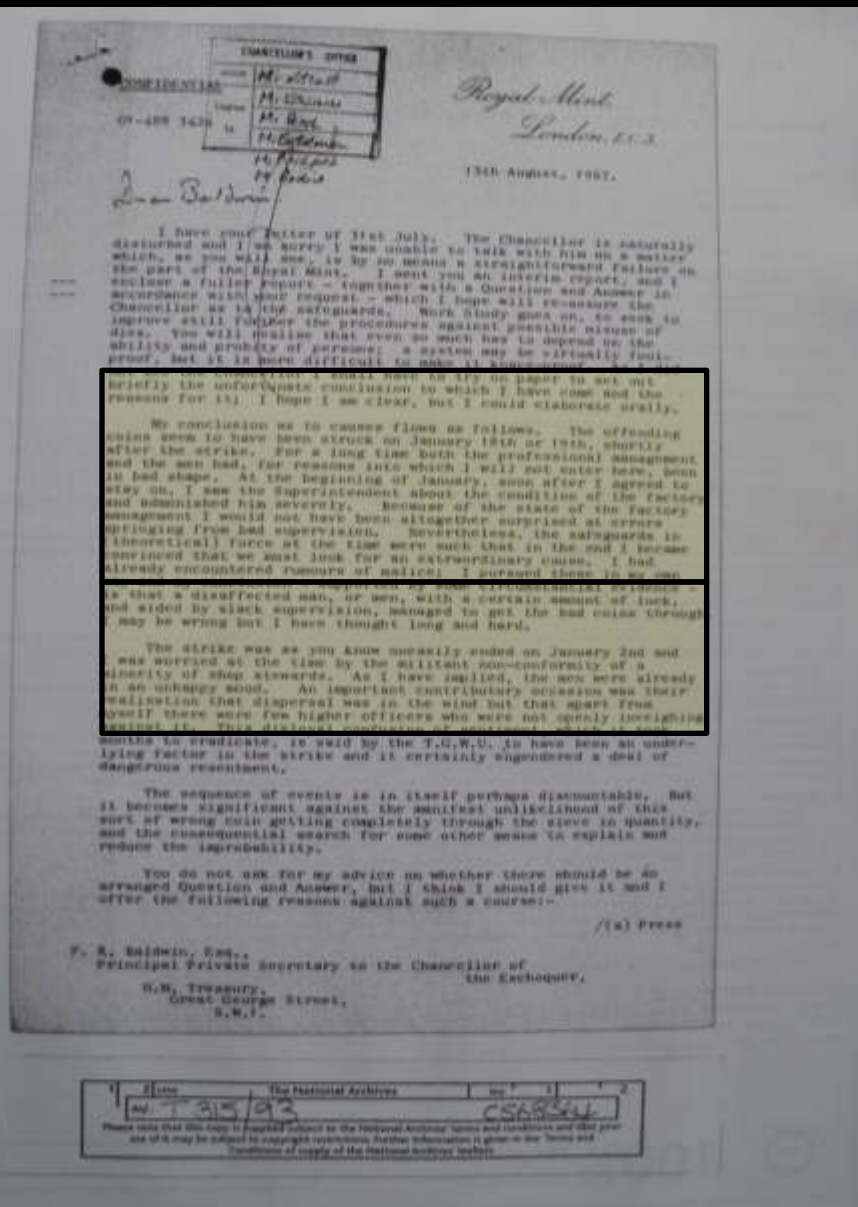
3. The issue of the defective 2 cent pieces was headline news in New Zealand for a day and news for a week; reports have continued in Press Association tapes up to as late as Friday 21st July. These press reports also mention complaints of 2 cent pieces too thick for stamp vending machines and public telephone boxes and of a 50 cent piece which broke in half when dropped. The Royal Mint have had no official confirmation of these complaints.

4. The risk is that this lapse will not only adversely affect the Royal Mint's image in other countries to the detriment of its export trade, but that in New Zealand some of these adverse effects might attach to our general export trade to that territory. Because of these risks and the publicity given to the defective coins in the press it is important to make it quite clear to interested parties that this was an isolated incident; and that steps have been taken to prevent a similar mistake being made in the future. This might be done in a reply by a Treasury Minister to an inspired P.M. after Mr. James' letter.

Don't mention 55,000 as being only more important to the public (ie. the public) and the fact that it is only a small number of coins. The fact that it is only a small number of coins is not a good point to make. The fact that it is only a small number of coins is not a good point to make.

R. J. Wallack
(R. J. WALLACK)
26th July 1967
26/7/67

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Ref: T 315/93			CSA 63/14		
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A letter from the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint John James to the Principal Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer P. R. Baldwin on the 15th of August 1967 .

In August 1967 ,when the Deputy Master of the Royal John James was writing this letter, he has thought more deeply about the events in January 1967 ,that lead to the minting of the Bahamas Mule coin ,his conclusions were :

That when he had visited the factory in the beginning of January ,he had found the supervision of the factory to be substandard and Mr James had warned the factory Superintendent severely . Because of the state of the factory management Mr James would not have been surprised that errors might have sprung from the bad factory supervision ,But Mr James also conceded that in theory the Die checking procedures at the Royal Mint ,which consisted of 14 identification checks to prevent the wrong Die reaching the Press Room and another 5 in the Coining Room should have been sufficient to prevent the Mule coins being produced. Unfortunately Security Services at Mint had also not been up to standard because Scotland Yard had just finished investigating the theft of a number of gold Sovereigns .

Mr James also recalled that the Strike at the beginning of January 1967 had ended uneasily and that he had encountered rumours of malice .

Therefore sophisticated sabotage was first proposed as a realistic option to explain the error .

No single culprit or group of individuals was ever officially recognised .

No person or group of individuals was ever found guilty of producing the Mule coin ,because the Enquiry found the length of time from when the error coins were manufactured in the United Kingdom , in January 1967 and their discovery in New Zealand in July 1967 .Made it impossible to identify the people who worked particular Presses
Because:

- A Press Setter did not work on a particular Press ,but was available when their services were required .
- The records of workmen operating particular Presses , were destroyed once the Bonus calculations were made ,to avoid the accumulation of large masses of paper .
- The Enquiry found no discrepancies in the Die records ,because likely these records have been altered .

No Disciplinary Action was taken

No disciplinary action was taken by the Enquiry over the manufacture of the Bahamas Mule coin ,although British Treasury document T 315/93 mentions the Chancellor of the Exchequer was considering a range of disciplinary measures from :

- A formal reprimand recorded on a workers record .
- Dismissal without a Pension .
- Court-martialing the Superintendant of the factory .

Some of the reasons that disciplinary action was being considered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer James Callaghan were :

- The British Government had to cover the additional costs of an extra 100,000 2 cent coins to replace Bahamas Mule coins sent to New Zealand .
- Pay people within New Zealand to search through coin Stocks in Banks and retrieve as many Mule coins as they could find .
- Pay people in the United Kingdom to conduct a full 6 months Enquiry into the error coin release into New Zealand .
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer was very concerned that the New Zealand Government would give future coin contacts to the Australian Mint.
- The Royal Mint had lost international creditability caused by New Zealand and international media ,which could affect foreign coin export markets .

Several new rules were put in place by the Royal Mint

New rules were introduced on the 9th of August 1967 ,some of these procedures mentioned in British Treasury document T 315/93 are :

- Introduction of a Progress and Routing Card .
- Visual Inspection Cards that show the Obverse and Reverse designs at Presses and Die Store .
- Additional check was introduced at the time the Die was to be destroyed ,to positively identify the Die as regards to it's denomination .
- The Die Checking System was changed from one person doing a number of checks ,to each check being done by a different man.

The next 3 Slides are pages from British Treasury document T 315/93 on Control of Die Issue and Use .

CONTROL OF DIE ISSUE AND USE

1. The purpose of this note is to set out in detail the procedures for controlling the issue and use of dies, as they existed earlier in the year, and the changes introduced to tighten them as a result of the detailed work studies and other examinations that were undertaken after the discovery that defective New Zealand 2 cent coins had been minted. The note deals with the controls which are applied to finished dies. The checks and controls in operation during manufacture of dies were carefully covered by work study but no need for change was found; particulars can be given if required but they are quite long.

2. The procedures applied earlier this year can be summarized as follows.

(a) After sinking and turning the dies were sent to the die strugghold. The quantity and identity of the dies were then checked, both by a H.C.O. or C.O. and by a Senior Artificer.

(b) Dies were issued to the Coining Press Room on a written requisition. Each batch of dies before issue was checked for quantity and identity by a H.C.O. or C.O.

(c) On receipt in the Coining Press Room die store, dies were again checked for quantity and identity by a Tech. III and were placed in a cupboard in the C.P.R. die store. Dies which were similar either in size or design were segregated.

(d) Dies were issued for use in presses on requisitions and the identity of each die was checked before issue by a Tech. III. A record card was issued for each die.

(e) Dies were set up in the presses by a setter who was required to be satisfied with the quality of the coins produced. The coins were then submitted to an examiner for approval. A roving examiner also checked the quality of the coins produced at intervals during the coining process.

(f) When dies were worn out or became unfit for use for any other reason they were returned to the C.P.R. die store. A Tech. III was responsible for recording the number and identity of the dies so returned and for completion of the individual die record cards.

(g) The used dies were returned in batches to the die strugghold from the C.P.R. die store. Here the H.C.O. or C.O. and a Senior Artificer jointly checked the quantity and identity of the dies returned.

/(b) The

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Supply of defective 2 cent coins
by the Royal Mint to
New Zealand : Enquiry into and
subsequent action.
File T315/93
The National Archives U.K.

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(h) The returned dies were then annealed (i.e. softened) in order to facilitate the process of destruction and a further identity check was carried out by a C.O.

(i) Dies were then destroyed and the quantity of dies destroyed was recorded by a C.O.

3. It had been thought that these controls were such that it would have been impossible for either an incorrect die to have been issued or for the wrong die to have been set up in a coining press. In spite of a detailed investigation it has not been possible to discover how in fact the wrong die was set up in the course of manufacture of the New Zealand 2 cent coins.

4. An intensive study has been made of the existing procedures and a number of changes have been or are being introduced. These have been designed to ensure that all the checks are in fact carried out, that even if an incorrect die reaches a coining press the error must be discovered, and that the names of the setters and examiners responsible for setting up individual presses and for examining 'first off' coins are known.

5. The following are the changes which have been or are being introduced into the die control procedures.

(a) New Visual Inspection Cards have been introduced. These cards contain full details of the specifications and designs of individual coins, together with a standard coin enclosed in a plastic pack. These cards will facilitate visual identification of the dies at all stages, and will be used at all stages of the life of a finished die.

(b) A new die store in the C.P.R. with new racks and greatly improved lighting is being introduced as quickly as possible. The layout will be such that control will be centralized and die users will have no direct access to the die store. The die store will be in charge of a die storeman who will issue dies only on requisition by section controllers in the C.P.R. All issues will be noted on the bin cards and dies will be checked before issue against the Visual Inspection Card. Random checks on stocks of dies held will be carried out at intervals, and at least one such check will be made during each shift.

(c) Each press is now provided with a Visual Inspection Card for each coin being struck at that press. The setter must ensure that the dies being set up in the press are in accordance with the Visual Inspection Card and should compare the first coins produced after any change of die with the Visual Inspection Card. He then

/signs

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signs the die record card. Before the press is allowed to run an inspector is also responsible for checking the quantity and identity of the first coins produced. As soon as he is satisfied he signs the die record card before a production run is started. The die record cards will be preserved until all the coins have reached the customer and there has been adequate time for any complaints to come forward.

(d) Inspectors now come under the control of the Chief Inspector who will be directly responsible to the Superintendent. (Previously inspectors were responsible to the production engineers.)

(e) During the production run the section controller will inspect the coins produced as often as possible. The overlooking of coins will continue as at present. (This is primarily designed to ensure that coins produced are of good quality and do not contain any obvious defects.) But responsibility for overlooking has also now become the responsibility of the Chief Inspector and not of the production engineer.

(f) A new method of destroying used or defective dies is being introduced. When dies are returned to the C.P.R. they will be positively identified by a C.O. and will then be defaced in such a way as to ensure that they cannot be used again. This will eliminate the need to anneal and hammer used dies with a consequential saving of time. The defacing of dies will be the responsibility of the storeman in charge of the C.P.R. die store room and the quantity and identity of the dies so destroyed will be checked by a C.O. who will initial the die card.

25th October, 1967.

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The story of the Bahamas Mule coin is an interesting event in modern Numismatic history, that saw vast amount's of documentation produced by a 6 month investigation carried out by the Royal Mint Enquiry into the events surrounding the manufacture of a probable 100,000 Bahamas Mule coins at the Royal Mint in January 1967 and the months of New Zealand and international media hype following the discovery of the Bahamas Mule coin in New Zealand, on New Zealand's Decimal Currency Day, the 10th of July 1967 .

The End



This image of a Clipped Bahamas Mule has been reproduced for this Slide Show with the kind permission of Scott de Young .

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