

New Guinea Coins, Tokens, Etc.

Brief History/Background of New Guinea's Coinage

Discovery.

Spanish navigator Jorge de Menezes, who landed in the northwest shore in 1527, discovered New Guinea, the world's largest island after Greenland. European interests, attracted by exaggerated estimates of the resources of the area, resulted in the island being claimed in part by Spain, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Germany.

German New Guinea Company.

During the later part of the nineteenth century an international agreement recognized the claim of the German New Guinea Company to the north-east part of the island of New Guinea.

German New Guinea.

In 1889 these lands were transferred to the German government, which issued distinctive copper and silver coins in 1894. Gold coinage was introduced in 1895. These coins were all struck in Berlin and have the mintmark A.

These German issues, in denominations of pfennigs and marks, circulated during the period of German control, which ended in 1914. At the outbreak of World War I Australian troops landed in New Guinea and took possession of the German protectorate. The German New Guinea coins circulated for some time thereafter during the early years of the Australian possession.

Australian Governed Territory.

The League of Nations mandated the Territory of New Guinea to Australia in 1920 where it remained until it became an independent self-governing state in 1973.

Rare 1929 Penny & Halfpenny Issue.

The Currency, Coinage & Tokens Act of 1928 provided for a distinctive issue of nickel bronze pence and halfpence to supplement the Australian coins then in use in the territory. These were dated 1929, struck at the Melbourne mint and were perforated (holed) for ease in stringing the coins together by the natives.

Unfortunately, the new coins were the same size (and similar colour) as the current Australian shillings and sixpences, and they were being substituted for the Australian higher denominations in rolls. For this reason they were withdrawn and most of them were melted.

The entire mintage of 63,000 pennies and 25,000 halfpennies were returned to the Melbourne mint where all except 400 pairs were melted. Only 400 proof pairs minted.

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New Guinea Coins Issued 1935 – 1944.

Another ordinance in 1935 provided for six denominations including the florin, shilling, sixpence, threepence, penny and halfpenny. Only the shilling was struck in 1935, while the sixpence and threepence dated 1935 were struck in 1936. It is of interest to note that the shilling is the only Empire silver coin issued in perforated (holed) form.

Dies for the Edward VIII coins in the four regular denominations were received in Melbourne, but only pennies were struck. After 1945 the minting of distinctive New Guinea coins were discontinued in favour of Australian coins.

Papua New Guinea Independence.

Papua New Guinea began issuing its own coinage in 1975 after gaining full independence in 1973.

German New Guinea Coinage Issues

Consisting of Gold - 20 Marks, 10 Marks, Silver - 5 Mark, 2 Mark, 1 Mark, ½ Mark, Copper 10 Pfennig, 2 Pfennig, 1 Pfennig.

1894A Silver 5 Mark. Nice well struck Obverse. (Mount marks on reverse expertly removed). Genuine & low priced coin in high grade. EF..\$ 975

1894A 1/2 Mark. (Scarce in high grade) aUNC.....\$ 695

1894A 2 Pfennig. (Scarce in high grade) UNC./Choice UNC.....\$ 895

1894A 1 Pfennig. (Scarce in high grade) Choice UNC.....\$ 595

1894A Silver 5 Mark UNC./Ch. UNC. Replica coin in .925 gilt metal. PROOF FDC.....\$ 125

1894A 10 Gold Mark PROOF Replica coin in 22ct gilt metal. PROOF FDC.....\$ 165
(Original coin sells for well over \$25,000)

1894A 20 Gold Mark PROOF Replica coin in 22ct gilt metal. PROOF FDC.....\$ 195
(Original coin sells for well over \$45,000)

Please send your "want" list with grade/s required.

New Guinea Coins

Shillings.

1935, 1936 GEM UNC.....ea.\$ 60
Choice UNC.....ea. 45
UNC.....ea. 30
EF.....ea. 18

New Guinea Coins

Shillings.

1938, 1945 GEM UNC.....ea.\$ 45
Choice UNC.....ea. 30
UNC.....ea. 20
EF.....ea. 14

1935, 1936, 1938, 1945 VF.....ea. 9

Sixpences.

1935 GEM UNC..... 90
Choice UNC..... 65
UNC..... 45
EF..... 25
VF..... 12

1943 GEM UNC..... 120
Choice UNC..... 80
UNC..... 55
EF..... 30
VF..... 10
40% off-centre circle strike. Rare. EF... 295

Threepences.

1935 GEM UNC.....\$ 65
Choice UNC..... 45
UNC..... 35
EF..... 20
VF..... 9

1944 GEM UNC..... 75
Choice UNC..... 50
UNC..... 35
EF..... 18
VF..... 5

15% off-centre circle strike. Rare. VG... 25

Pennies.

1929 (Low issue of just 400 coins) Rare. Proof - Like GEM UNC.....\$ 1,950

1936 GEM UNC..... 35
Choice UNC..... 20
UNC..... 18
EF..... 7
VF..... 4

1938 GEM UNC..... 130
Choice UNC..... 75
UNC..... 50
EF..... 35
VF..... 20

1944 GEM UNC..... 120
Choice UNC..... 75
UNC..... 45
EF..... 18
VF..... 8

Halfpenny.

1929 (Low issue of 400 coins) Scarce.

Proof - Like (near perfect strike and mirror fields). FDC.....\$ 1,950

Proof - Like GEM UNC.....\$ 1,650
Fire Damaged VF..... 325

1929 Penny & Halfpenny Pair (Rare). (Very low issue of just 400 pairs)

Proof- Like FDC.....\$ 3,550

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New Guinea Coins

Complete Sets (Discounted),

1935 - 1945 (11 coins) in special second-hand Dansco Deluxe album (no longer produced). EF - UNC.....\$ 185
As Above, but in presentation pack with descriptive sheet. VF - aUNC.....\$ 95
As Above, High grade. EF - UNC.....\$ 145
As Above, Scarce grade. UNC.....\$ 295
As Above, Rare grade and extremely difficult to source. **Choice UNC..\$ 495**

New Guinea Tokens

Badges & Tokens,

“LULUAI” badge. Uniface.
 (Very Scarce) UNC.....\$ 895
 (Very Scarce) gEF..... 695
 (Very Scarce) EF..... 575
 (Very Scarce) VF..... 395
Brass Uniface (Rare). FINE..... 495
 “TUL TUL” badge. Uniface
 (Scarce Thus). UNC.....\$ 495
As Above. aUNC..... 360
As Above. EF..... 275
As Above. VF..... 195

Brief Background/History on “LULUAI” & “TUL TUL”

Badges

Rank badges produced for the local New Guinea tribes under Australian administration post WWII. Struck by Amors in Sydney they were worn attached to the headdress of the natives as a sign of their authority from the 1940's.

“LULUAI” badges were worn by village head-men or “Chiefs” (the recipients always took great care to ensure their badges were highly polished) and “TUL TUL” badges were worn by their assistants or village “Committee” men. Naturally, the LULUAI badges are scarcer than the TUL TUL badges.

New Guinea Tokens

Head Tax Tokens,

1932-1933. 10/- (Type II) by H.B. Sale
 Birmingham, England. Rare
 Unknown example. EF....\$ 695
 1935-1936 10/- VF..... 295
 1937-1938 10/- Choice UNC..... 395
 UNC..... 350
 gVF..... 245
 FINE..... 145
 1938-1939 10/- FINE..... 195
 1939-1940 10/- Choice UNC..... 375
 UNC..... 295
 FINE..... 145
 1940-1941 10/- VF..... 225
 FINE..... 145

Brief History/Background on “Head Tax Tokens”

When Australia was given the League of Nations Mandate in 1914 over what had been German New Guinea, it became the Australian Territory of New Guinea. Australia introduced a system of indentured labour in the Territory at time when the British Government was recommending its abandonment in the colonies.

With mining operations in New Guinea gearing up and as a shortage of labour was becoming a problem, a form of indentured labour was introduced. The intention of the system was to force those not working to pay for and carry a Ten Shilling “Head Tax” token every year. At the time New Guinea's minimum wage for native labour was just 5 shillings a month. It is easy to see how a head tax of 10 shillings per year coerced many natives into joining the labour force.

The Ten Shilling Head Tax Token is usually pierced so that the natives could wear it around their necks, as the owner had to display it at all times or he was imprisoned.

Village Councillor Badge,

1937 – 1940s VF...(Scarce)....\$ 385

Papua New Guinea Badges

Aviat Social & Sporting Club (Inc.), Port Moresby

Membership badges in the form of “silver” keys for the years - 1985, 1987, 1990 & 1992.

Different membership numbers. Unusual Papua New Guinea memorabilia.

VF – UNC.....ea.... \$ 12

Papua New Guinea Proof/Mint Sets

1975 100 Kina Proof Gold coin in special case with official certificate. 9.57gms of .900 Fine Gold.

Low Mintage. FDC.....\$ 795

1976 Proof Set in special case.
 10 Kina (Silver), 5K, 1K, 20 toetas,
 10t, 5t, 2t, 1t (8 coins). Scarce Set.
 FDC.....\$ 185

1981 Proof Set in special case.
 1Kina, 20 toetas, 10t, 5t, 2t, 1t
 (6 coins). Scarce Set.
 FDC.....\$ 45

Please send your “want” list with year/s required.

Papua New Guinea Banknotes

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