

NIE

SAY WHAT?

The other side of the coin – a different and usually opposite idea or opinion about a situation.



DID YOU KNOW?

Coins have an obverse (heads) and reverse (tails) design.

COMMEMORATING COINS | Part Two

ABOUT COINS



The first coins

A COIN is an object, usually metal, of standard size and weight, with marks upon it, used as a form of money.

Since about 600 BC coins have been made from metals and have come in many different shapes and sizes.

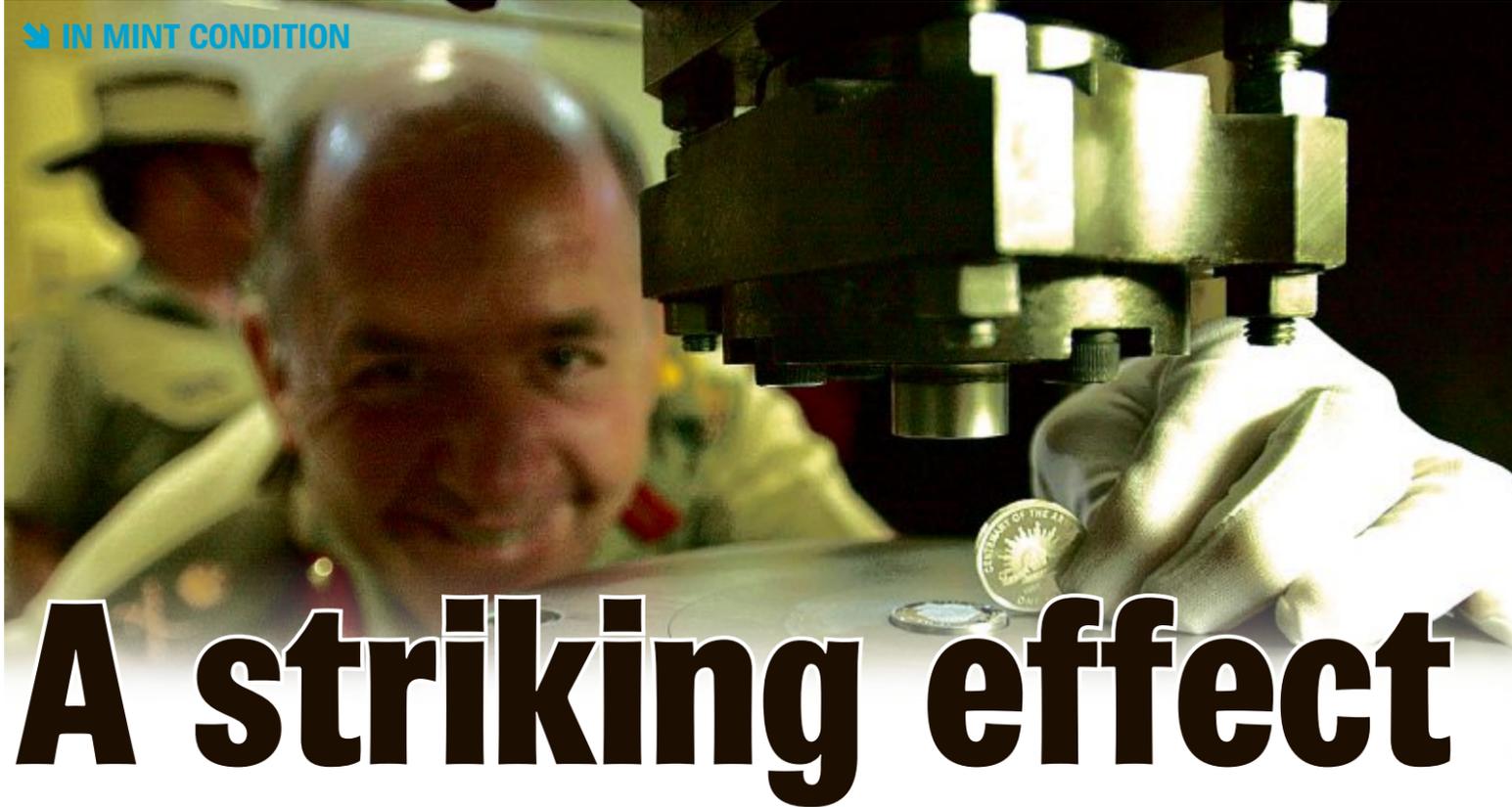
These early coins were made or struck using a hammer. After the metal was poured into moulds to make coin blanks, the hammer method was used to render an image on the coin.

With industrialisation and technical progress, a coin press was invented and the process became faster.

Coins were very useful as they were easy to carry and highly durable, lasting a long time.

They had an agreed value and people could use them to compare prices and work out what things were worth.

However, if you wanted to purchase something expensive you needed a lot of them. Large amounts of coins were heavy to carry around and were an easy target for robbers. The answer to these problems came in the form of notes.



IN MINT CONDITION

A striking effect

MODERN minting technique entails a sequence of artistic and mechanical procedures.

The coin-making process (minting) takes many days of work to get from the initial idea to the finished coin.

It begins with coin design. An artist sketches ideas and uses computer design software to create a picture of what the coin will look

like. Once the selected design is approved, dies are prepared.

The details of the design are transferred on to a 3-D plaster model much bigger than the size of the actual coin.

A laser scanner captures all the details from this plaster cast and sends them to a computer.

This large-scale representation is then placed on a reducing machine to trace the design into steel. The result of this process is the 'reduction punch'.

The reduction punch contains a positive (raised or relief) impression of the complete design of the coin. During the 'hobbing'

process, a hydraulic press exerting many tonnes of pressure is used to press the reduction punch into a steel billet, which is machine finished, engraved and hardened to form the master die (negative impression of the coin design).

From the master die, a working hob (positive impression of the design) is

produced and used to create the production die (negative impression of the design).

Two sets of dies are needed to produce a coin – one for the obverse, the other for the reverse of the coin.

The production dies are then installed on to the minting machines ready to strike.

COLLECTING COINS

Keeping the Anzac story alive

COMMEMORATIVE coins with special designs depicting anniversaries or marking significant events, people or organisations are produced as pieces for collections.

News Corp Australia is offering an exclusive and limited edition 'Legends of the ANZACS' collection of legal tender coins produced by the Royal Australian Mint.

Honouring and recognising the Anzac

Centenary commemorative period each coin explores a different piece of Australia's military history.

The 14 coin collection includes four unique issued 25 cent coins plus 10 silver 20 cent coin, each themed with a different design.

The coins representing significant military decorations are exact replicas of the medals with stories covering 100 years of Anzac, from WWI to current deployment.

The coin's backing card explains the origin of the medal and their significance as well as the story of a recipient of the medal and how they earned it.

Available for purchase through your newspaper, the coins can be collected at participating newsagents from April 9 to April.

The first coin, the Victoria Cross, and collector's album are free on day one and the remaining 13 coins will be available for \$3 each.

Interesting Facts

- The Military Cross was originally awarded to commissioned junior officers for distinguished and gallant service on the ground during the First World War.
- Bars worn on the medal's distinctive white and purple ribbon denote instances where the recipient has received the award a second or third time.
- Almost 3000 Australians have been awarded the Military Cross since it was established in 1914.
- Captain John Mott was the first of two Australian officers to escape from German captivity during the First World War, for which he was awarded the Military Cross.
- Mott went back to his battalion and spent the rest of the war fighting in France. For leading his men in a successful attack, Mott was awarded a Bar to his existing Military Cross.



MEDAL OF HONOUR: The Military Cross, silver 20 cent coin. PHOTO: THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

TOMORROW: Commemorating coins Part 3



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