



1813 HOLEY DOLLAR

THE FORMER PROPERTY OF
HOLEY DOLLAR AUTHORITY,
PHILIP SPALDING



1813 Holey Dollar struck from an 1805 Mexico Mint Silver Dollar.

1813 HOLEY DOLLAR. STRUCK FROM AN 1805 MEXICO MINT SPANISH SILVER DOLLAR.

When William Henshall created this Holey Dollar, he began the process by grabbing a Spanish Silver Dollar that had been struck in 1805 at the Mexico Mint in South America. The dollar featured the legend and portrait of Charles IV.

Committed to the task of creating holey dollars from silver dollars, Henshall cut a hole in the coin and continued the minting process by over-stamping the inner circular edge of the hole with the words New South Wales, the date 1813 and the value of Five Shillings.

It is at this point, the over stamping of the holed silver dollar that Henshall created this 1813 Holey Dollar.

There is an immeasurable pride in owning an example of Australia's first coin, the Holey Dollar.

And if you can open two of the most respected reference books on Holey Dollars and see your coin detailed and illustrated, then the feelings go even deeper.

It is an affirmation of the proud history that accompanies your coin.

And so, it is with this Holey Dollar. The coin is illustrated in Philip Spalding's esteemed book, "The World of the Holey Dollar".

And the internationally respected "The Holey Dollars of New South Wales" by Messrs. Mira & Noble.

It is a fact that only a handful of collectors can ever lay claim to having their Holey Dollars featured in both books.





1813 Holey Dollar struck from an 1805 Mexico Mint Silver Dollar.

1813 HOLEY DOLLAR.

DEFINED BY QUALITY AND A REVERED PROVENANCE.

PRICE

\$265,000

QUALITY

This Holey Dollar was created from a Spanish Silver Dollar that was minted in 1805 at the Mexico Mint.

The original Spanish Silver Dollar is graded in the upper quality levels of Good Very Fine indicating that the coin had undergone only slight circulation before it came into William Henshall's hands.

The extent of wear of the counter-stamps, New South Wales, Five Shillings and 1813 reflects the use of the coin after it was converted to a Holey Dollar. The counter-stamps are graded Extremely Fine which indicates that as a Holey Dollar, this coin underwent minimal circulation.

Formerly owned by four leading collectors, this Holey Dollar has been well cared for and has toned to a glorious soft, gun-metal grey.

PROVENANCE

The first recorded owner of this Holey Dollar was British collector Maurice Eschwege, jeweller and pawnbroker, located at 47 Lime Street, Liverpool. His collection was sold by Sotheby's London, March 1931. The next recorded owner was British Royal Naval Officer, Captain H. E. G. Paget. His collection was sold at Glendining London, June 1944.

The coin traversed the globe when it was acquired in 1944 by American collector Albert E. Bagnall whose collection was sold in 1964 by Spink London. Renowned British collectors and a renowned American collector and then eventually back to Australia through the illustrious hands of its fourth recorded owner, Philip Spalding.

Philip Spalding is unequivocally one of the most revered names in Australian numismatics and his book, 'The World of the Holey Dollar' is one of the finest contributions to the study of numismatics. This 1813 Holey Dollar is featured on page 195 and 196 of Philip Spalding's book, "The World of the Holey Dollar". And is also featured on page 51 of "The Holey Dollars of New South Wales" by Messrs. Mira and Noble. Only a handful of collectors can ever lay claim to having their Holey Dollars in both books.



HISTORY

That Australia was settled in 1788, and the Holey Dollar and Dump not struck until 1813, raises the question about the medium of currency operating in the intervening years.

No consideration had been given to the monetary needs of the penal settlement of New South Wales. It was planned on the assumption that it would be self-supporting, with no apparent need for hard cash for either internal or external purposes.

Even if it had been theoretically planned for, it would have been physically impossible for the British Government to fund this new venture.

Britain's own currency was in a deplorable state and the Royal Mint's priorities were clearly set at making improvements on the home front, not diverting hard cash offshore.

Foreign coins arrived haphazardly in trade, and acquired local acceptability and brief legal recognition, but what was received quickly left the colony to pay for imports.

The essence of all business is a medium of exchange. Having very little hard cash, the inhabitants, from governor to free settlers and convicts, improvised by issuing hand-written promissory notes, in denominations as low as 3d, to settle their debts.

Commercial transactions were also facilitated through barter of goods and services. Liquor was the prime commercial force and medium for barter in the colony

and for almost forty years was part of the wages received by a considerable section of the population.

By 1812 the social fabric of Sydney as a community was emerging. It was no longer a redistribution point for convicts, with only the military as permanent residents.

Streets were being named. Macquarie, Phillip, Elizabeth, Castlereagh, Pitt and George Street. A post office was established and the Common had been christened Hyde Park. Houses had to be aligned and numbered and heavy industry was being re-located out of the city centre to the suburbs.

Despite the social improvements, there was no bank and liquor remained the most commonly negotiated medium of currency exchange. Rum, which cost 7/6 a gallon was being sold for up to £8 and its use as a negotiating medium was utilized by all sections of the community, including government.

And the highest levels of Government at that. Even Lachlan Macquarie used rum to buy a house. The cost was 200 gallons. He furthermore gave the Government contract to construct the Sydney Hospital in 1811 to Messrs. Riley and Blaxcell and paid for it by granting a three-year monopoly in the spirit trade and the right to import 45,000 gallons of rum.

By 1812, the penal colony of New South Wales had shaken off the shackles of being a receptacle for convicts. It was no longer a 'jail'. And was emerging as a structured society and a commercial hub.

The stage was set for Governor Lachlan Macquarie to introduce Australia's first currency.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie etched his name into numismatic history forever when in 1812 he imported 40,000 Spanish Silver Dollars to alleviate a currency crisis in the infant colony of New South Wales.

Macquarie's order for silver dollars did not specify dates. Any date would do. He wasn't concerned about the various mints at which they were struck. Nor was he fussy about the quality of the coins. The extensive use of the Spanish Silver Dollar as an international trading coin meant that most were well worn.

Concluding that the shipment of 40,000 Spanish Silver Dollars would not suffice, Macquarie decided to cut a hole in the centre of each dollar, thereby creating two coins out of one, a ring dollar and a disc. It was an extension of a practice of 'cutting' coins into segments, widespread at the time.

Macquarie needed a skilled coiner to carry out his coining project. William Henshall, acquired his skills as an engraver in Birmingham, where the major portion of his apprenticeship consisted of mastering the art of die sinking and die stamping for the shoe buckle and engraved button trades. He was apprehended in 1805 for forgery (forging Bank of England Dollars) and sentenced to the penal colony of New South Wales for seven years.

Enlisted by Lachlan Macquarie as the colony's first mint master, Henshall commenced the coining process by cutting out a disc from each silver dollar using a hand-lever punch.

He then proceeded to re-stamp both sides of the holed dollar around the inner circular edge with the value of five shillings, the date 1813 and the issuing authority of New South Wales. Other design elements in this re-stamping process included a fleur de lis, a twig of two leaves and a tiny 'H' for Henshall.

The holed coins were officially known as ring, pierced or colonial dollars and although 'holey' was undoubtedly applied to them from the outset, the actual term 'holey' dollar did not appear in print until the 1820s.

We refer to the coins today as the 1813 New South Wales Five Shillings (or Holey Dollar).

The silver disc that fell out of the hole wasn't wasted. Henshall restamped the disc with a crown, the issuing authority of New South Wales and the lesser value of 15 pence and it became known as the Dump. The term 'dump' was applied officially right from the beginning; a name that continues to this day.

In creating two coins out of one, Macquarie effectively doubled the money supply. And increased their total worth by 25 per cent.

Anyone counterfeiting ring dollars or dumps were liable to a seven-year prison term; the same penalty applied for melting down. Jewellers were said to be particularly suspect.

To prevent export, masters of ships were required to enter into a bond of £200 not to carry the coin away.

Of the 40,000 silver dollars imported by Macquarie, records indicate that 39,910 of each coin were delivered to the Deputy Commissary General's Office by January 1814 with several despatched back to Britain as specimens, the balance assumed spoiled during production.

The New South Wales colonial administration began recalling Holey Dollars and Dumps and replacing them with sterling coinage from 1822.

The Holey Dollar and Dumps remained as currency within the colony until 1829. The colony had by then reverted to a standard based on sterling and a general order was issued by Governor Darling to withdraw and demonetise the dollars and dumps.

The recalled coins were eventually shipped off to the Royal Mint London, melted down and sold off to the Bank of England for £5044.

It is estimated that 300 Holey Dollars exist today of which a third are held in public institutions with the balance owned by private collectors.

Suite 17, 210 Toorak Road South Yarra **T:** 03 9642 3133 **W:** coinworks.com.au
E: belinda@coinworks.com.au or paul@coinworks.com.au

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