

**THE SHIELD-SHAPED 1902 CORONATION MEDALS
STRUCK BY STOKES & SONS, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
FOR BOTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**



PAUL HAYWARD, JUNE 2026

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The Shield-Shaped 1902 Coronation Medals Struck by Stokes & Sons, Melbourne, Australia
for both Australia and New Zealand

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Paul Hayward

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INTRODUCTION

This is perhaps the third time that I have decided to try and write a comprehensive booklet about this group of nearly 50 medals produced in 1902 by the Stokes and Sons mint in Melbourne, Australia.

My previous efforts initially suffered from a lack of medals in my own collection and relied primarily on what previous cataloguers had found and written about, especially my first effort back in 2018-19 when I really only owned perhaps 15 of the possible 47 – 48 medals.

By 2025 I had been able to find examples of well over 30 medal varieties of this series and so felt more comfortable in my endeavour. However, by mid-2026 I now have examples of the entire Australian series on hand, and perhaps the only New Zealand medal type that I do not own is a probably unique medal used as an award for an athletic event in 1902.

In other words, I now feel I can make assessments and discuss possibilities firm in the knowledge that I can speak about medals that I can personally touch, feel and study. My collection includes well over 200 pieces, so I have many examples to pick and choose from.

This series of medals was specifically meant for either Australian or New Zealand populations. I doubt whether most, or even any, of the series were ever intended for sale back in England, where the coronation of Edward VII finally took place on 9 August 1902, after it had been postponed from 26 June. This 'dual-date' Coronation, occasioned by the king's appendectomy, resulted in many commemorative medals being issued in two or more versions, and this was certainly true of the Stokes mint.

The Stokes medals were minted in Melbourne, Victoria, a state of the newly federated Commonwealth of Australia. The city had a population of just around 100,000 in 1902. These shield-shaped medals were mostly minted either for Australia in general or for towns or shires in Victoria and beyond, including some seven types for New Zealand.

A collector who decides to see what this series has to offer will find that there are few standard texts to help guide them in their new venture. There are also fairly few auctions that offer any of this material. Back in the late 20th century the only place that I found these medals was on eBay, plus a very few in mainly Australian auctions.

So when I was first beginning to collect this series I noted that sometimes Australian medals were listed with a description that included the 1902 date and Capital C in front. Sometimes New Zealand medals appeared with the same date but with a capital M in front. A little research led me to realise the 'C' stood for Carlisle and the 'M' for Morel. These Cataloguers were the pioneers in their respective countries in recording and cataloguing these, and many other medals. To this day they remain the basic and almost only sources of cataloguing this series of medals produced during 1902 by the Stokes and Sons mint.

In his original 1983 book Carlisle offered no mintage figures for any of the different medals minted by Stokes. Nor did Morel in his 1996 publication, though his 'availability' numbers are useful in a comparative manner within the New Zealand series.

My own trail of discovery regarding the literature describing this Stokes series next involved becoming aware that Les Carlisle had published a much larger and more definitive Catalogue of Australian Commemorative medals in 2008. I tried to find where I could purchase this rather enormous work but to little avail. At one point I wrote to a London-based dealer in Antiquarian and Numismatic literature to see if he had a copy or knew where there might be one. He did not have a copy, but he did offer to send me an email address for Les Carlisle. So I wrote with not too much hope of even a response, but I was happily surprised to hear back from Les within a few days. He no longer had any copies left that he could sell me, but this was the beginning of an exchange of emails that will be discussed at length further along in this booklet. He did mention that he thought that

my best chance was to find a copy at auction and in this he was correct. That took over a year to find, however long before that he was kind enough to copy the pertinent pages from his book that covered the Stokes 1902 Coronation medals and to mail them to me. What I found initially when I looked through the pages that Les Carlisle had kindly forwarded to me was that a) quite a number of new varieties had been added and that b) there were mintage figures for perhaps 60% of the towns and shires with recorded medals. I found this very interesting and queried him about where he had come up with these figures. He replied that back when he was writing his original 1983 publication he had written to Stokes asking them if there were any records in existence regarding mintages of these and other medals that they had produced around this time period. They had answered that there were not. However several years later they contacted him to tell him that some papers with mintages HAD been found when they were moving or renovating their buildings. So a trip to Melbourne ensued and Les and his wife literally did some 'dumpster diving' and came up with these numbers. Later he was kind enough to mail me copies of all the pertinent information that he had found in the mid to late 1980s. Not only is this group of 120-year-old notes fascinating reading, but much of what I have to write about in future chapters is based upon these historical records.

So in Australian numismatic literature I found the works by Les Carlisle. In New Zealand Leon Morel was the first cataloguer to cover these 1902 medals by Stokes. Both authors dealt solely with their native countries with no mention of the pieces minted for the other nation. In 2017 Galata Press published a revision of Royal Commemorative Medals 1837-1977 Volume 4 covering the reign of Edward VII. To date this is the only publication that I have found that covers the Stokes medals as an entirety – with examples from both countries in the same listings. Authors John Cumbers and Andrew Whittlestone must be commended for this approach, I feel. Unfortunately since they could not find a copy of the newer Carlisle work they had to rely on the original 1983 text by Carlisle which itself contained a few errors that were corrected in his 2008 book. Plus they were unaware of at least some of the new listings that appeared in Carlisle's 2008 work.

The three works listed above constitute most of the literature I have found in my pursuit of knowledge about these 1902 Coronation medals minted in Melbourne, Australia. They are really listings of medals; only the 2008 Carlisle work offers some additional information about the series.

In other words as my knowledge base and my collection grew I felt the need to try and formulate a more coherent picture of the possible chronology of Obverses and how each identified Obverse fitted with the medals for the National series of both countries and, for Australia in particular, which Obverses were used most often and – if possible – to try and explain WHY.

BACKGROUND

Thomas Stokes was born near Birmingham, England, in 1831. As a young man he trained with a well known Birmingham Medallist, John Taylor.

However, he became infected with the news of gold being found in Australia and in the early-mid 1850s he went to Australia to try his hand at gold prospecting. This was not a success. In Melbourne he returned to his early training as a die sinker and by 1856 he had established himself in business. For a period of 20 years (1873 -1893) he was in partnership with a George Martin. Collectors of late 19th-century Victorian and Australian commemorative medals will be aware of quite a number medals of this period bearing the name Stokes and Martin.

This partnership collapsed in the mid-1890s and from then on it was simply Stokes and Sons. Thomas Stokes lived till 1910, but in the 1890s it was his son Harry who seems to have been the driving force – and chief engraver – of the business. Harry was active through at least 1901-02 and he was probably instrumental in creating these unusually shaped medals for the coronation of Edward VII. An article found in the records of the Victoria Museum, and available electronically, states that the artistic peak of the medals produced fell off after about 1911, so this Harry Stokes appears to have been the most renowned of the 20th-century engravers in the family.

In 1901 Stokes issued a medal to commemorate both the death of Queen Victoria and the 4 May celebration of Empire Day. This small medal might be a stylistic forerunner to the 1902 shield-shaped coronation medals. This little medal is only 20mm at its widest point with a maximum height of 30mm. Like its larger cousins of a year later this medal (C1901/18) included a royal crown at the top. For the Federation of Australia, also in 1901, Stokes issued at least two versions of yet another shield-shaped medal (C1901/1 and 2) which was larger, 30mm x 33mm. While the mint seemed to discontinue the shape used in the Federation medals, they created over 40 of the 1902 shield-shaped coronation medals and reused this design at least twice more. Once for a memorial medal for the death of the NZ Premier, Richard Seddon, who died in June 1906 (M1906-07/1), and again for the 50th anniversary of Footscray (C1909/1), a town that is now an inner part of Melbourne. Both of these medals are identical in size and shape to the large run of 1902 medals.

In 1908 to commemorate the arrival of the US fleet to Australia Stokes produced a shield-shaped medal (C1908/11) of a comparable size to the Queen Victoria memorial medal of 1901.

In 1902, leading up to what turned out to be the wrong Coronation date of 26 June, Stokes & Sons made efforts to market these medals throughout both Australia and New Zealand. In material Les Carlisle sent me in 2018 he included letters and notes written by the company relating to this marketing effort. They only managed to sign up one New Zealand town – Nelson, at the north of the South Island, but they managed to get medals specifically designed for more than 30 Australian towns.

For both countries their initial products were what may be termed National Celebration medals and, while the mintages of these Nations medals is sadly still unknown, it is fair to say that they constituted by far the largest number of medals produced by Stokes in this design. In a future chapter I will introduce more thoughts on the possible numbers of medals minted for these National series of Australia and New Zealand.

A note about the rationale behind my new classification:

Once I had decided that the most understandable method of looking at this group of medals was to start with Obverse types, i.e. the side with the Monarchs' portraits on it, I began to feel that the listing in Carlisle, especially, was difficult to work with, since the numbering part of his classification was purely sequential – the higher numbers were simply the later discoveries. Since my main interest was in understanding how the different

Obverse dies related to the various Reverses, I found a classification based on Obverse types more useful.

I find nothing wrong with Carlisle's approach and see it as the logical sequence of his own discovery trail. But I did find the mixture of National Series medals with the Town and Shire medals confusing when I tried to apply my four-Obverse starting-point model.

I decided to list the National Series medals of each country first and in what I believe is the logical chronological order, and then I added the 30-plus Town medals using an alphabetical progression. There are probably other variants that make equally good sense, and I do not claim that my approach is the only valid one.

The Australian series can be found between H1 and H36. Then I leave three spots in case new Town medals from Australia are uncovered. While I doubt this will happen, it is not impossible. I would point out that in the ten years between the publication of the Carlisle book and when I first contacted Les Carlisle I did in fact add one new variety to the series – from a rather surprising place in that I discovered a silver version of the Melbourne series medal that is paired with Obverse D.

Anyway, I have left a bit of room to 'expand' the story of these medals as needed. Then I start the New Zealand series with the H40 medal. There is room to add new specifically NZ medals in the '40' series. Finally I place the newly recorded 'Sports award' medal by itself in the H50 series. Since it is uncertain (at least to me) whether this medal was awarded in Australia or in New Zealand I feel more comfortable assigning it to an 'uncertain' origin category.

THE FOUR BASIC OBERSE TYPES IN POSSIBLE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

In my introductory pages I have noted three principal catalogues that cover this series of 1902 Coronation medals: one from Australia, one from New Zealand, and one from the United Kingdom. I must note here that within these three catalogues there is no one universally accepted convention for identifying the Obverse and Reverse.

Having collected coins and medals for over 60 years, I have observed that some authors of catalogues prefer to call the side of a coin or medal that has the Royal effigies the Obverse. In the context of this work, two of the references used throughout my presentation take this approach.

However, this is not universal. Morel treats the side showing the issuing location or event detail as the Obverse, while Carlisle and the UK catalogue by Cumbers and Whittlestone align in treating the effigy side as the Obverse. I am merely noting this in case any reader gets confused when trying to follow the tables in this booklet.

For the record, I am calling the Royal effigy side of the medals described here the Obverse. This is simply my preference, and it is the basis of my discussion of what I term the four basic Obverse types in the following pages.

In the plate on the next page I show examples of the four Obverse types of this series of Coronation medals. All four have identical portraits of the King and Queen facing left, within a defined circle. All examples have a Crown above the shield part of the medal, and all four distinct types have legends both above and below these portraits. The differences in these legends define the four Obverse types.

Note that the four medals pictured are all examples of Specimen strikes. As such they are extremely well struck and the top flange of the medal has NOT been drilled out for a suspension ring (and ribbon) to be fitted.

PLATE 1 – The four basic Obverse or portrait sides



Upper left:
OBVERSE A
ALEXANDRA . CORONATION . EDWARD VII
1902 (small numerals)
*

Upper Right:
OBVERSE B
EDWARD VII. AND ALEXANDRA
CROWNED 26 JUNE
1902

Lower left:
OBVERSE C
EDWARD VII. AND ALEXANDRA CROWNED
1902 (large numerals)

Lower right:
OBVERSE D
EDWARD VII. AND ALEXANDRA
CROWNED 9 . AUG.
1902

As Plate 1 shows, the four types of Obverses of this series of medals differ in their legends. Clearly, Obverse Types B and D include the two different Coronation dates on the Obverse side, while Obverses A and C only show the year date of 1902 on this side of the medal.

It is therefore clear that Type B was minted earlier than Type D. Similarly, the Reverse of the Type A medal carries the 26 June date, while the Reverse of Type C refers to 9 August. We can thus conclude that Types A and B both predate the minting of Types C and D.

TABLE 1 – Introducing the Hayward reference option and how it relates to the Carlisle and Morel (2023) references. All Obverse types and metal types are provided.

KEY: AE = Bronze; gAE = gilt Bronze; sAE = silvered Bronze; AR = Silver; AU = Gold.

New Ref. No.	Obv. Type				Metal Type					Carlisle Ref. No.
					1 AE	2 gAE	3 sAE	4 AR	5 AU	
	A	B	C	D						
H1 Aus. Celeb.	x				x	x	x	x	x	1902/1
H2 Aus. Celeb.	x				x	x	x			1902/1a
H3 Aus. Celeb.		x			x	x	x	x		1902/12
H4 Aus. Celeb.			x		x	x	x	x		1902/7
H5 Aus. Celeb				x	x	x	x	x		1902/12a
H6 Annandale NSW		x			x	x	x			1902/13
H7 Ballarat VIC	x					x	x	x	x	1902/2
H8 Ballarat VIC		x				x				1902/2a
H9 Ballarat Shire VIC		x				x				1902/27
H10 Bendigo VIC		x				x	x	x		1902/10
H11 Bungaree NSW				x		x				1902/33
H12 Camberwell & Boroondara VIC		x				x	x	x		1902/28
H13 Concord NSW		x				x				1902/14
H14 Coonamble NSW		x				x		x		1902/16
H15 Creswick VIC		x				x				1902/9
H16 Doncaster VIC		x			x	x			x	1902/29
H17 Fern Tree Gully VIC		x				x				1902/21
H18 Geelong VIC		x				x	x	x		1902/18
H19 Geelong VIC				x		x				1902/18a
H20 Hawthorn QSLD		x				x				1902/23
H21 Hawthorn / Annandale mule	-	-	-	-	x	x				1902/30
H22 Healesville VIC		x				x				1902/24
H23 Kerang VIC		x				x				1902/20
H24 Launceston TAS		x				x	x	x		1902/22
H25 Lithgow VIC		x				x				1902/19
H26 Melbourne VIC		x				x	x	x		1902/25
H27 Melbourne VIC				x		x		x		----
H28 Melbourne Mayor's VIC				x		x				1902/32
H29 Meredith VIC				x		x				1902/31
H30 Morwell VIC		x				x				1902/26
H31 Parramatta NSW		x				x				1902/17
H32 Queenscliff VIC		x			x	x	x	x		1902/8
H33 South Melb. VIC		x				x				1902/11
H34 Subiaco, Perth W. Aust.		x				x	x			1902/35

New Ref. No.	Obv. Type				Metal Type					Carlisle Ref. No.
					1 AE	2 gAE	3 sAE	4 AR	5 AU	
	A	B	C	D						
H35 Ula Ula QSLD				x		x		x		1902/34
H36 Willoughby NSW		x				x				1902/15
TOTALS:	3	24	1	7	7	36	13	15	3	

Adding to the 35 listed types of the Australian series with one of the four Obverse types there is the no-Obverse, double-Reverse mule that somehow was minted. This rare piece is much sought after by the collecting public. It is extremely difficult to find an example.

For New Zealand we can add another 7 or 8 medals for the collector to try and find. The last medal is presumably unique. It lacks a confirmed New Zealand provenance in that there is no Event or Town name found on what I would call the Reverse of the medal. As I have previously mentioned, this medal is part of the new reworking of the Morel listings.

New Ref. No.	Obv. Type				Metal Type					Morel (2023) Ref. No.
					1 AE	2 gAE	3 sAE	4 AR	5 AU	
	A	B	C	D						
H40 NZ. Celeb.	x				x	x	x			1902/12A
H41 NZ. Celeb.	x				x					1902/14
H42 NZ. Celeb.		x				x	x		x	1902/12
H43 NZ. Celeb.			x			x				1902/15
H44 NZ. Celeb				x		x				1902/15A
H45 Nelson South Isl.		x			x	x	x	x		1902/17 / 1902/17A
H46 Nelson South Isl.				x			x	x		1902/17B
H50 Unique Sporting Reverse		x					x/?	x		1902/17C
TOTALS:	2	3	1	2	3	5	4/5	2/3	1	

Apart from calibrating my current numbering system with the 2008 edition of Carlisle and the revised 2023 edition of Morel, the chart above provides information that tells us which of the four Obverse types was used most often and how the different Reverse types relate to them.

MORE ON THE POSSIBLE CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF THE OBTVERSE TYPES

I'm sure that the Obverse type that I refer to as 'A' was the original Obverse minted by Stokes & Sons, in part because – within the Australian series – it is the only Obverse that includes the term 'Ascension', which occurs in the third line of the Reverse legend.

In a letter from Stokes to their Wellington, New Zealand distributor in July 1902 they wrote that "the word Ascension has been questioned, that while Ascension is not actually wrong ... but [it is] not applied for this event."

In the Australian series the use of the term 'Ascension' is only found on those medals that are of the Obverse A type that I refer to as H1. The other Obverse A type for Australia has a Reverse with the term Accession replacing Ascension. This is the medal I refer to as H2. A dictionary definition for Ascension suggests that this term has a more spiritual or religious meaning than Accession which is more often used to refer to the passing of power, whether in the case of political power or from one Monarch to their successor, as in this case. Certainly Accession is far more prevalent in the hundreds of British medals minted for this same event.

The legend on Obverse A reads "Alexandra * Coronation * Edward VII". This legend is NOT repeated on the other three Obverses in the series. In the same material sent to me in 2018 it seems that Stokes were made aware by their clients that it was not necessarily considered appropriate to locate the name of the Queen BEFORE that of the King. So Stokes prepared to make a change to the Obverse prior to the original Coronation date of 26 June. Of course at the time they did not know that this date would be cancelled because of the King's illness.

So a new Obverse, which I call Obverse B, was created which changed the order of how one read the names of the Monarch and the Queen, and also included what was intended to be the Coronation date on the lower 'point' of the Obverse. Both the initial Obverse A and the new medal – Obverse B – have this June date on either the Reverse, as in the case of type A, or on both the Obverse and Reverse of type B. With the minting of this new Obverse B Stokes and Sons 'fixed' the various medallic 'errors' noted on either the Obverse or the Reverse of their first medal.

I believe that the evidence to list the first two Obverse types as A and B is convincing. On the other hand, distinguishing the chronology between the Obverse types associated with the 9 August 1902 coronation date is not as solid.

The Obverse that I have termed 'C' is clearly the scarcest of the four known types. A quick look at Table 1 shows that only a small number of medals were struck using this Obverse, one each for the National Celebrations of Australia and New Zealand.

This Obverse type aligns in legends more like Obverses B and D – that is, with the King's name being the first one read, cf. Obverse A which shows the name of Alexandra first. However, in one way the Obverse that I term C is more like Obverse A. At the bottom of this Obverse type there is only the date 1902 as is the case in Obverse A. But in this case the 1902 date is larger than the one in Obverse A, and there is no * symbol below the date.

Only on the Reverse is there evidence that it postdates Obverses A and B, as it gives the correct date of 9.8.1902. I call this type 'C' since I think it was probably an attempt to create a quick fix after the world was told of the postponement of the Coronation. This happened on 25 June – so actually 26 June in the eastern part of Australia – which allowed Stokes and Sons to produce a Coronation medal with the corrected date on the Reverse and continue selling medals while they geared up to produce what I believe was their final stylistic Obverse in this series.

It is perhaps worthy of note here to say that this Obverse C medal was the first appearance of the term Accession on the Reverse of any medal specifically for New Zealand (M1902/15 & 15A).

While in Australia there were two National series medals minted that had the term Accession replacing Ascension (H2 and H3 or C1902/1a and C1902/12), and despite the letter mentioned previously that the Stokes company wrote to their distributor in Wellington, they did NOT mint any new medals for Obverses A and B that corrected the term on the Reverse of New Zealand Celebration medals. Apparently it took the entirely new Obverse C to 'justify' the change in the New Zealand series. I am fairly sure this was simply a matter of economics. While there are no hard and fast mintage figures for how many shield-shaped Coronation medals were made for New Zealand specifically, in a later chapter I will introduce numbers that provide us with a reasonable estimate. These figures will show that they accounted for only a fraction of their total output.

The Obverse I call 'D' is very similar to the Obverse B type, which was the most widely used Obverse of all the types. I would hazard a guess and say that Stokes produced Obverse B thinking that this Obverse would be their final one for this series of Coronation medals, before the postponement made another change necessary.

They produced 27 medals with Obverses of this B type. That is three times greater than the next largest group of medals linked to a given Obverse. The Obverse with the second largest number of associated Reverses is, in fact, the Obverse D type which had nine different medals linked to it. Two of Obverse D were the National Celebration medals for both countries, while the other seven medals were produced for local towns. Three of these Obverse D 'Town' medals were for towns which had already had medals produced using Obverse B. There are four Australian varieties found only with a D style Obverse.

Quite apart from possible chronologies of Obverse types another informational look that Table 1 allows is to show what Metal types are associated with which Obverse types. Were all Obverse types equally represented across all Metal types? If not, why not? Does the data for Australia remain the same for New Zealand?

Obverse A, our first type, does show up in all five of the metal types, at least in its first version (H1 or C1902/1). There are known examples across all metal types, including Gold. The town of Ballarat, Victoria was the only town in either country to have a medal struck in Obverse A and it is known to have examples in four of the five metal types – missing in regular AE, at least as far as we know to date. It is not impossible that there are genuine AE examples of Obverse A Ballarat medals extant, but I and others simply have not seen any so far.

To date I am unaware of any New Zealand Obverse A medals in either AR or AU. Again there well may be examples but I have not seen or read of any.

Obverse B, quite decidedly the most used Obverse type, is also the type that was predominantly struck in gilt AE. All 36 Australian medal varieties in this series are reported in this metal type, including the ultra-rare "mule" of Hawthorn and Annandale (H21 or C1902/30). Carlisle lists this medal only in gilt AE, though I have not seen this medal/metal combination. Both of my own examples are regular AE medals in Unc. condition. In the New Zealand series only the Nelson medal in Obverse D has not shown up in AE gilt.

I have seen photos of a gold NZ Obverse B medal in the collection of the Nelson Provincial Museum. Interestingly this is an example of the NZ Celebrations type (H42 or M1902/12) rather than of either of the Nelson town medals (H45, 46 or M1902/17-17A or 17B).

The least used Obverse – C – shows a country difference. That is, it shows up in my own collection in all metals save AU in the Australian series whereas it appears in the New Zealand equivalent medal only in gilt AE, and in very small numbers.

Obverse D in the Australian Celebration series appears in at least four of the five metal types – I have not seen any reference to an AU example, but I suspect it is out there somewhere. However of the six Australian towns that commissioned Stokes to make

medals with this Obverse the predominant metal type is gilt AE. All six towns that had this medal struck had it made in gilt AE, with a smattering of other medals made in AR or AU. In New Zealand the very rare National series medal H44 or M1902/15A seems to be known only in gilt AE and the other NZ Obverse D type, from the town of Nelson, seems to only show up in silvered AE.

OBVERSE A and B DIE VARIETIES

PLATE 2 – The A1 and A2 die varieties



The photographs above show three Type A Obverses. The medal on the left is the variety I call A1. Note the clean rims: as the eye travels upwards from the bottom point along both the left and right sides of the Obverse, there is a clean, unobstructed edge or rim until reaching a circular stop at the end of each side.

Compare this with the medal on the right. This medal has small spurs extending inwards from the rim towards the legends. These spurs occur just below the rounded termination of the rim features. This is the A2 die variety.

The middle medal is also an example of A1. Close examination shows, however, that the rim feature is less clearly defined as it runs upwards on both sides. On the left rim, it actually disappears for approximately 5-6 mm below the rounded end feature. I have included this example because it is very common to find National Series medals from both Australia and New Zealand displaying this particular die flaw on Obverse A.

I am confident that Obverse A medals were among the most extensively produced in the entire series – if not the most numerous, then probably the second most numerous. The Obverse dies were presumably beginning to deteriorate, and the rim flaw appears to have developed progressively. I have examples in my collection in which this flaw is apparent on both the left and right sides of the medal.

I suggest that the addition of the spurs was intended to reinforce the rims at the points where this defect was developing. It is worth noting that all four Obverse types of the National Series medals have two spurs per side on the upper rim as an integral part of the Reverse design. I have not seen any examples of comparable rim flaws on the Reverses of National Series medals from either country.

The appearance of the defect would presumably have been noticed by the engravers. They may therefore have considered that adding one spur per side to the Obverse would not detract from the intended design while providing some additional strength to the rim.

There are five known medals that have an Obverse A type, three for Australia and two for New Zealand. Of these five medals, four are National Celebration types and only one is a town or shire medal – in this case Ballarat, Victoria. In 1902 Ballarat was still in its first flush as a Gold town and I suspect that it was relatively easy for Stokes and Sons to convince the town fathers that they “should” have their own medals for the forthcoming Coronation. As such they seem to be the only town or shire from either nation that hired Stokes and Sons very early in the minting process – so that they ended up with an Obverse that would not receive universal accolades because of the placing of the Queen’s name ahead of the King’s.

The Ballarat Obverse A medal (H7 or C1902/2) seems to show up only with Obverse A1. My own number of pieces of this medal is small, so more verification is needed. I do own a Ballarat Obv. A medal in my Specimen strike collection which was, in fact, struck from the A2 die.

The two Australian National Celebration medals (H1 and H2 or C1902/1 and C1902/1a) are both found with Dies A1 and A2, probably a testament to the large numbers of these medals produced, i.e. with the original “Ascension” and the subsequent “Accession” on the Reverse. However both the New Zealand National Celebration Obverse A medals are only found (to the best of my knowledge) with Obverse type A1. I have already mentioned that Stokes did NOT replace the Reverses of these NZ medals with a medal using “Accession” until the advent of Obverse C. Probably the NZ medals were all struck from original dies of the type I call A1. These New Zealand medals are H40 and H41 or M1902/12A and M1902/14. Morel thought that his M1902/12A was merely scarce (R4), whereas he designated the medal M1902/14 as being the rarest of the New Zealand series (R7, i.e. 2-3 known). In June 2026 correspondence with Martin Purdy we actually accounted for four known pieces, but my point here is that they are exceptionally rare no matter what a ‘modern’ accounting may find. Both of my own examples are Obverse type A1.

PLATE 3 – The B1 and B2 die varieties



The photograph above shows the two varieties found within Obverse Type B. The B2 variety has two features that are absent from B1: first, the inward-curving spurs close to the top of the main section of the shield; and secondly, the 'stops' placed before EDWARD and after ALEXANDRA in the upper legend.

The two photographs also show the differences found in the lower legends of the Obverse B medals. The medal on the left has a larger 1902 date than the medal on the right. These lower-legend types are not necessarily paired with the B1 and B2 die varieties; the situation is rather more complicated.

A quick review of Table 1 shows that 27 different medals were struck with Type B as their Obverse, by far the largest number of different Reverse dies associated with any Obverse. An analysis of my own collection, which includes multiple examples of all 27 medals, shows that only five of them are found with the B2 Obverse variety. Of these, the only town medal I have found with a B2 Obverse and no B1 Obverse is Annandale, now an inner suburb of Sydney, NSW.

The other four medals found with B2 are the Australian National Celebration medal (H3 or C1902/12), Lithgow, Victoria (H25 or C1902/19), Morwell (H30 or C1902/26) and Nelson, New Zealand (H45 or M1902/17A).

I have seen the other 22 Obverse B medals only with the B1 die variety. While this conclusion is based on my own collection, the ratio of 22 to 5 suggests that, in general terms, B1 was the die variety that dominated production in mid-1902, leading up to the postponement of the Coronation that was originally scheduled for 26 June.

Returning to the two versions of the lower legend found with Obverse B, the situation is again not as simple as one type being universal to B1 and the other to B2.

Within my own collection, I can identify ten medals with B1 Obverses that have what is sometimes termed the '2 under the 2 of 26' type of lower legend. In this version, the 2 of 1902 is small and appears directly below the 2 of the 26 in the date above. In many cases, as this B1 die became worn, the entire 1902 date became increasingly degraded and faint. The other 17 Obverse B medals have the '2 under the 26' type of lower legend. Here, the enlarged 1902 year date is shifted to the right, so that the 2 falls between the 2 and 6 of 26 June in the line above.

Of the five medals in which I have found examples with the B2 Obverse, three have the smaller 1902 date and two have the larger date. I can therefore find no clear pattern linking the two lower-legend varieties to B1 and B2.

PLATE 4 – The C and D Obverses



As Table 1 shows, Obverse C, which is shown above on the left, is the least used Obverse type of the Stokes Shield series of 1902 Coronation medals. I believe only small numbers of medals were issued using this Obverse. I have previously mentioned that I have placed this medal AFTER both Obverses A and B since the Reverse of this medal both uses the term Accession and has the correct Coronation date. Morel described the rarity of the medal I am calling Obverse C (his M1902/15) as R-6, meaning 4-10 medals known. I suspect this number is low as I own six examples myself. Nevertheless, even the Australian National Celebration medal that is the only other medal struck using this Obverse is very much less numerous than the other three Obverse types found in Australian National Celebration medals. In the context of Obverse die varieties the salient point here is that I do not believe that there are any varieties of this Obverse.

Table 1 outlines that there were nine medals struck using Obverse D, so it was actually the second most used Obverse. However I am quite sure that IF we had accurate numbers of medal mintages for the National series medals of both countries we would discover that Obverse D was used in vastly smaller numbers than the original Obverse A.

This would account for there also being no known die varieties for Obverse D.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE MINTAGES OF THIS SERIES OF MEDALS

The fact that we have any mintage figures for this series at all is due entirely to the determination and persistence of Leslie Carlisle, with assistance from his wife, Margaret. In a letter to me dated 15 December 2018, Carlisle noted that, before the publication of his 1983 book *Australian Commemorative Medals and Medallions from 1788*, he had contacted the then still-trading Stokes management to enquire whether any records of medal mintages from this period still existed. He was told that the records had been destroyed in a factory fire 'some years back'.

After publication of the book, however, he received another telephone call informing him that some 'Day Logs' from this period had been found and that he was welcome to come to the Melbourne area to examine the material. In 1985, he and his wife spent part of a week going through an old garage and taking material to be copied.

When his 2008 work was being compiled, these records enabled him to add substantially to his account of what is known about this particular series of medals, minted by Stokes & Sons during the Australian winter of 1902. Table 2 presents the mintage figures found in Leslie Carlisle's 2008 *Australian Historical Medals 1788-1988*.

TABLE 2 – Known mintage figures for the Australian series:

New Ref. No.	Medal type	Carlisle Ref.	Mintages
H1	Aust. Celeb.	1902/1	-----
H2	Aust. Celeb.	1902/ 1a	-----
H3	Aust. Celeb.	1902/12	-----
H4	Aust. Celeb.	1902/7	-----
H5	Aust. Celeb.	1902/12a	-----
H6	Annandale, NSW.	1902/13	gAE 1,700; AR 36
H7	Ballarat, VIC.	1902/2	g+sAE 6,000; AR 25; AU 3
H8	Ballarat, VIC.	1902/2a	-----
H9	Ballarat Shire, VIC.	1902/27	gAE 1,300
H10	Bendigo, VIC.	1902/10	g+sAE 700
H11	Bungaree, NSW.	1902/33	gAE 800
H12	Camberwell/ Boroondara, VIC	1902/28	g+sAE 3,500; AU 1
H13	Concord, NSW.	1902/14	g+sAE 1,000
H14	Coonamble, NSW.	1902/16	gAE 2,700; AR 36
H15	Creswick, VIC.	1902/9	gAE 3,050
H16	Doncaster, VIC.	1902/29	gAE 400; AU 18
H17	Fern Tree Gully, VIC.	1902/21	gAE 1,000
H18	Geelong, VIC.	1902/18	g+sAE 4,500; AR 24; AU ??*
H19	Geelong, VIC.	1902/18a	-----
H20	Hawthorn, QSLD.	1902/23	gAE 3,500
H21	Hawthorn/ Annandale mule	1902/30	-----
H22	Healesville, VIC.	1902/24	gAE 600
H23	Kerang, VIC.	1902/20	gAE 2,000
H24	Launceston, TAS.	1902/22	g+sAE 2,000
H25	Lithgow, VIC.	1902/19	gAE 2,500
H26	Melbourne, VIC.	1902/25	gAE 10,000; AR 20; AU 27
H27	Melbourne, VIC.	-----	-----

New Ref. No.	Medal type	Carlisle Ref.	Mintages
H28	Melbourne Mayor's VIC.	1902/32	-----
H29	Meredith, VIC.	1902/31	gAE 216
H30	Morwell, VIC.	1902/26	gAE 1,000
H31	Parramatta, NSW.	1902/17	gAE 1,130; AU 5
H32	Queenscliff, VIC.	1902/8	g+sAE 1,050; AR 36
H33	S. Melbourne, VIC.	1902/11	gAE 2,000
H34	Subiaco, Perth, WA.	1902/35	-----
H35	Ula Ula, QSLD.	1902/34	gAE 1,000; AR 24
H36	Willoughby, NSW.	1902/15	gAE 2,000

*** On the previous page: in Carlisle's 2008 work, on page 165, the listed number of AU medals struck is 100 pieces. In the Day Logs that Carlisle salvaged in 1985, of which he kindly sent me copies, I noticed that his reading differs from mine.**

The figures help us understand the small production runs for many Australian towns, which were themselves very small communities in 1902. The fact that Stokes was willing to mint only 216 medals for Meredith, Victoria, or 418 for Doncaster, Victoria, suggests a firm operating close to the limits of what was financially viable. By contrast, the total of 10,063 medals for Melbourne with the Obverse B type makes considerably more economic sense. The only other state capital to order medals from Stokes was Launceston, Tasmania, for which 2,000 medals were minted.

From the collector's perspective, the difference in availability between the Melbourne Obverse B medal (H26 or C1902/25) and the Meredith medal is immediately understandable from the mintage figures. Finding a Meredith medal is an exceptionally rare event. Even the Melbourne medal in gilt AE is not encountered particularly often, although some persistence should eventually result in one being added to a collection.

Perhaps more striking is the absence of mintage data for what are clearly the most numerous medals in the series from the perspective of collectors today: the five varieties struck for the general Australian population, the Australian National Celebration medals (H1-H5).

The Day Logs contain many mintage figures that Carlisle did not include in his 2008 book. Simply totalling the figures recorded in these documents produces a total of approximately 242,000 medals sent out from the Stokes mint.

It is possible to identify approximately 14,551 medals sent to New Zealand. I consider it reasonable to assume that this total included medals struck specifically for the New Zealand public, rather than Australian medals.

It is also possible to account for approximately 55,000 medals sent to Australian towns and shires that had medals struck for them.

There were five Australian town medals for which the Day Logs provide no mintage information. One is Subiaco, a Perth suburb (H34 or C1902/35), which used a modified H3 or C1902/12 Obverse B Australian National Celebration medal. Two others are the Obverse D types for Ballarat and Geelong, both Victorian towns that had previously had medals minted with Obverse B bearing the original Coronation date. I have seen these two medals only in Specimen Strike format, rather than in forms clearly intended for public distribution.

That leaves two Melbourne medals: H27, which was not catalogued by Carlisle, and H28 or C1902/32, a variant of H27 presumably produced in small numbers for the Mayor of Melbourne to distribute to 'worthy' recipients.

In addition to these five town medals lacking mintage figures, there is the famous Hawthorn and Annandale double-Reverse 'mule'. I very much doubt that more than 100 of

these error strikes passed through the mint before the workers realised that this was not what they were attempting to produce and stopped the process.

We therefore have six town medals for which no mintage figures are known. If I were to make a tentative estimate of the total represented by these six medals, I would suggest a broad range of 1,000 to 5,000, although even that may be generous.

Finally, if we begin with the total of 242,000 medals recorded in the Day Log material supplied by Carlisle, deduct the known quantities – approximately 55,000 for the Australian towns for which mintages were recorded and 14,551 sent to New Zealand – and use the upper end of the estimate for the six remaining town medals, we arrive at approximately 167,500 medals.

If this reasoning is followed, my tentative conclusion is that the five Australian National Celebration medal varieties may account for approximately this theoretical total of just under 167,500 medals.

Refining this figure further becomes difficult and would be largely conjectural. However, from the evidence discussed earlier in this booklet, I believe it is clear that the Australian National Celebration medals with Obverses C and D were produced in very small numbers compared with those using Obverses A and B.

Several factors contribute to this conclusion:

- a) the existence of two die varieties for each of Obverses A and B;
- b) the signs of die wear found on examples of both types, particularly B;
- c) the much greater frequency with which these types (H1-H3) are encountered on the market.

I will not attempt to propose theoretical figures for the individual breakdown of the five Australian National Celebration medal types. I believe it is clear that Obverses A and B accounted for the great majority of the somewhat tentative total of approximately 167,500 medals. Initially, I did not believe that the available evidence would allow the reasoning to be taken this far, and I leave it to readers to decide whether the methodology is sound or suspect. I hope, however, that I have provided some new and interesting information previously unavailable to the collecting public concerning the mintage figures for this particular series of 1902 Coronation medals from an Australian private mint.

The five pages of copies of the Stokes Day logs contain more information than just mintage figures. The notes are all handwritten and seem somewhat cryptic 120 years or so after they were written.

It does appear that, between May and August 1902, Stokes prepared dies and minted close to 250,000 shield-shaped medals. They also produced other, more common round medals relating to the Coronation, but in much smaller numbers than the shield-shaped medals, which appear to have been their main focus during this period.

The Day Logs show that Stokes charged the same amount per 1,000 medals for both gilt and silvered bronze medals: £8 per 1,000. Genuine silver medals are much rarer than either type of bronze medal, and the Day Logs indicate a price of £1 per dozen. 9ct gold medals were offered at £1 each, while 15ct gold medals cost £1/7/6d each. Twelve- and 18-carat gold medals were also available. Probably the largest recorded order of gold medals, although the fineness is not specified, was the 27 ordered for Melbourne.

Silver medals are very rarely seen. I would note that the one medal that appears to have escaped Carlisle's notice was the Obverse D version for Melbourne, which is H27 in my classification. I have noted a gilt AE Specimen strike among the holdings photographed by the Museum of Victoria. I found my own silver example on eBay UK about ten years ago, but despite keeping an eagle eye out I have never seen another example in any metal. I have never seen a gold example either on display or for sale, although I recently discovered that one is held by the Nelson Provincial Museum.

Returning to the note concerning the Geelong medal (H18 or C1902/18) on page 17, when Les Carlisle first sent me copies relating to this series of Stokes medals, before I was able

to find and purchase my own copy, I was surprised to see that he had recorded 100 examples of the medal for Geelong, whose population was about 25,000 in 1900, as having been made in gold. Later, when he sent me copies of the Day Logs, I looked for this entry and noticed that the word he had interpreted as 'gold' appeared to me to read 'gilt'. It seemed that this unit of 100 gilt medals had been added later to the original order of 4,500 pieces.

Logic would suggest that it was unlikely that a town such as Geelong would have nearly four times as many gold medals minted as Melbourne, then Australia's second-largest city. However, setting 'logic' aside and simply reporting what is recorded in the Day Logs, there is an entry showing that the Stokes mint sent 4,500 Bronze medals and 24 Silver medals to the Geelong town agent.

Using the costs recorded in the Day Logs for the various metals, the invoice for these two metal types should have totalled £36/15/-. The notes record this exact amount. No gold medals are mentioned, let alone 100 pieces, which would have increased the invoice to £136 even if they had been made in the less expensive 9ct gold. With all due respect, therefore, I suggest that the particular notation concerning C1902/18 on page 165 of Carlisle's 2008 book may be misleading. If 100 gold examples from Geelong had been produced, it seems likely that at least some would still be extant. Readers are invited to provide any information they may have concerning this question.

I previously indicated that the records showed 14,551 medals sent to New Zealand. Some additional detail can now be provided. Of these, 9,500 medals were unspecified, but they may have included National Celebration types, since the records also indicate that 5,000 medals were sent specifically to Nelson. It is entirely possible that this figure included medals of both varieties of the Nelson City medal, together with some proportion of the National Celebration medals. In the absence of further information in the Day Logs, we will probably never know. Finally, the Logs record that one medal sent to Dunedin was made in gold, although its fineness is not specified. Morel makes no mention in his catalogue of any pieces made in gold. However, while researching New Zealand museum databases for this booklet in 2025, I discovered that the Nelson Provincial Museum has one gold medal in its collection. This is an example of the Obverse B National Celebration type, H42 or M1902/12, rather than either of the Obverse B or D Nelson City medals.

SPECIMEN STRIKE MEDALS AND OTHER UNUSUAL STRIKINGS OF THIS SERIES

For quite a long time I was unaware that specially struck medals existed for this series. There was no mention of 'Proof' or 'Specimen' strikes in any of the literature available to me. It was only in the past two years that I noticed that I had a number of very well-struck examples in my collection that did not have the hole drilled in the top flange above the Crown of the shield-shaped medal.

During one of my many online searches for information and photographs of medals in this series, I came across a link to the holdings of the Victoria Museum archives. When I requested photographs of 1902 Coronation medals by Stokes & Sons, I was directed to a very large section containing multiple examples described as Specimen strikes. These photographs were fascinating to see and are well worth seeking out. Table 4, at the end of this booklet, provides a detailed listing of what is available. This includes Specimen strikes, some uncirculated specimens and even some clearly circulated medals.

Why these medals were called Specimen strikes rather than Proofs I really do not know. To me, they appear to be proofs. However, I will continue to call them Specimens, as this is the terminology used by the museum and in the records available to me. They clearly represent medals struck to the highest quality available to Stokes in 1902.

I was soon offered, and purchased, several more 'no-hole Specimen' examples from this series. Within about a year I was pleased to have a total of ten pieces that were struck to this standard, mostly Australian examples with one from New Zealand.

Early in 2026, however, the floodgates seemed to open. I was able to purchase an entire collection of 42 medals, comprising 30 Specimen strikes and 12 medals that I would describe as Proof-like Uncirculated. These 12 medals were virtually identical in appearance to the Specimens, but had had a hole drilled in their top flanges.

All 42 medals had remained in the Stokes holdings until 1935, when they were donated to a rural museum following one of Stokes' fairly numerous relocations to a new factory in Brunswick, Victoria. The group remained at this museum for approximately 70 years, until the museum closed and sold off most of its holdings.

This group provided me with the opportunity to own a collection representing more than 90% of the entire series struck by Stokes in 1902 and subsequently preserved in excellent condition. A few medals are not in my collection but can be seen in the Victorian Museum collection, while one or two varieties do not appear in either collection. I will show photographs of some of my own examples later in this section.

Neither the Victoria Museum nor my own collection of Specimen strikes contains examples of two medals that I do not expect were produced as Specimens. The first is the obvious minting error comprising two Reverses: H6 Annandale and H20 Hawthorn. It seems highly unlikely that Stokes would have 'immortalised' a clear minting error with a specially struck Specimen.

The other Australian medal absent from both collections is H34 – Subiaco, now an inner suburb of Perth, Western Australia. As previously mentioned, this is essentially an example of the Obverse B H3 National Celebration medal that has been engraved with **Subiaco** on the Reverse. The fact that this medal is absent from both collections may provide further evidence for the theory that the engraving of this word was carried out outside the Stokes mint.

The Victoria Museum collection contains only Australian medals, with none of the New Zealand series represented in this group. I provide photographs of the New Zealand examples in my own collection on the following pages.

I mention this because, taking the series in these two countries as a whole, there is a third medal that does not appear in my Specimen collection and which I very much doubt was ever made as a Specimen strike by Stokes. This is the Obverse A National Celebration

medal H41, or M1902/14 in Morel. Its Reverse has a small fern overstamp that obscures the 26.6 date of the Coronation. As with the Subiaco medal, I suspect that this was the work of an enterprising local jeweller rather than the Stokes mint. I therefore do not expect that a Specimen strike of H41 will emerge.

Nor would I expect a Specimen strike of the most recently catalogued medal found in New Zealand, H50 or M1902/17C, or 'Obv. 5' in the 2023 update to the New Zealand commemorative medals chapter.

I identify 44 different medals in this booklet. If the four varieties just mentioned are excluded, the question becomes whether examples exist of all the remaining 40 medals. Alternatively, one could say at least 42 varieties if the two die varieties found within Obverses A and B are included.

The Victoria Museum, with only Australian Specimens, has around 27 varieties of actual Specimens, excluding the Proof-like Uncirculated examples, out of a possible 36 varieties.

My own collection contains 37 varieties of Specimen medals from a possible total of 46 when the Obverse A and B die varieties are counted. The Victoria Museum collection includes two varieties missing from my collection. I can therefore account for 39 of the 46 varieties known to occur in Specimen strike quality. If the four examples discussed above, which I do not believe will exist in Specimen condition, are excluded, I have accounted for 39 of the remaining 42 medals.

In other words, I am fairly sure that Stokes did, in fact, create 'proofs of record', or Specimen strikes, for every shield-shaped 1902 Coronation medal that they minted during the winter of 1902.

Perhaps further proof, if any were needed, is that my collection includes Specimens of both types of the Australian National Celebrations medals that are paired with Obverse B. That is, both the type that has NO spurs near the top of both the left and right Obverse rim, and the B2 type which not only has these spurs but also has stops before Edward and after Alexandra. The collection also hosts examples of both the Ballarat medals paired with Obverse A and with Obverse B.

The 42-medal collection I bought also has at least one other medal of special interest. There is one medal of the Obverse D type, i.e. the crowned 9 Aug. 1902 date, which superficially looks quite different from all other gilt Specimens and Proof-like Uncirculated medals in the collection. It has a deeper orange colour and looks decidedly more gold-like than any other medal in my collection. I had this piece XRF tested and it came back as 85% copper and 15% gold. Rather than the normal bronze this copper medal was coated with what can only be described as a very healthy layer of gold plating. Since this medal was kept by Stokes for 33 years after minting and passed on to a museum I can only conclude that they felt that it had some importance. It may have been an experiment to produce a medal with a stronger gold appearance.

Specimen strikes make a lovely addition to the spectrum of what is collectable with the range of medals found in this shield-shaped 1902 Coronation series.

PLATE 5 – Obverses (upper) and Reverses (lower) of five Specimen strikes of New Zealand medals



Left to Right:

H40 or M1902/12A

H42 or M1902/12

H43 or M1902/15

H44 or M1902/15A

H46 or M1902/17B

Obverse A National medal

Obverse B National medal

Obverse C National medal

Obverse D National medal

Obverse D Nelson 9 Aug. medal

Other than the Obverse B version of the Nelson medal I think that the five medals pictured above constitute a 'near set' of Specimen strike medals for the New Zealand series. As mentioned in the foregoing pages I doubt that a Specimen strike for H41 or M1902/14 will exist.

PLATE 6 – Reverses of five Australian town medals in Specimen grade



Left to Right:

H10 or C1902/10

H12 or C1902/28

H15 or C1902/9

H29 or C1902/31

H32 or C1902/8

Bendigo, Victoria

Camberwell & Boroondara, Victoria

Creswick, Victoria

Meredith, Victoria

Queenscliff, Victoria

PLATE 7 – Two Proof-like Uncirculated examples and two Specimen strikes. Left: H3 or C1902/12 in AR; next: H5 or C1902/12a in copper with 15% gold plating; then the Reverse of the Melbourne Mayor's gift medal, H28 or C1902/28, in Specimen grade; right: H35 or C1902/34, Ula Ula, Queensland, in Specimen grade.



CONCLUSIONS AND COMMENTS

When Edward VII was crowned in 1902 as King and Emperor of the British Empire, the population of Australia was about 3.85 million, while New Zealand had only around 816,000 inhabitants. These figures contrast with the population of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, which together exceeded 40 million at the time.

The Commonwealth of Australia had been formally ratified only one month before Edward's accession to the throne. It was only in 1868 that the last convicts were sent from 'the Homeland' to Australia. The twentieth century was just beginning, and Edward VII's coronation was the first such event in more than two generations.

Stokes & Sons were therefore in a strong position to become the dominant private Australian mint for medals commemorating the Coronation, and they took full advantage of the opportunity. Even a quick survey of the medals listed in Carlisle's 2008 work shows that the great majority of the medals listed for 1902 were minted by Stokes & Sons. They also produced a substantial number of medals for the New Zealand public.

Early in my collecting of Stokes & Sons medals, I found myself enjoying the 'foreign' feel, at least to my British ear, of so many Australian town names represented on the medals: Ula Ula and Boroondara, Fern Tree Gully and Kerang, alongside names that clearly reflected their British origins, such as Doncaster, Willoughby, Creswick and Concord, as well as Nelson in New Zealand.

The fact that so many of these towns had such small mintages is indicative of their relatively small populations. Yet their communities considered the Coronation important enough to commission Stokes & Sons to produce commemorative medals for what was the first Coronation of the new twentieth century.

The decision to create my own classification for this series was a reluctant one. I adopted this approach only because I was finding it difficult to organise the medals using the 'listing' approach of Carlisle or Morel. I hope that readers will recognise that I hold the work of both men in the highest regard. Their classifications, however, felt to me more like listings than a thematic approach.

In the Australian series, the medals that I believe had the largest mintages, and which I further believe were minted for an Australia-wide audience, were mixed together with medals produced in very small numbers. Much the same applies, although on a much smaller scale, to the Morel classification, which records only seven medals.

I was pleased to see that Cumbers and Whittlestone combined their listing to include medals struck for both Australia and New Zealand. Nevertheless, I still found it difficult to identify quickly which medals belonged to the National Series, which were town medals, and so on.

I hope that this work will ease the way for current and future collectors who choose to study this series. Maybe this booklet will give rise to more and different questions than those that struck me during my own exploration.

TABLE 3 – A cross-reference guide between the new reference system and the Carlisle, Morel (2023 revision) and Cumbers & Whittlestone reference systems.

HAYWARD ref.	Carlisle or Morel (2023) ref.	Cumbers & Whittlestone ref.
H1	C1902/1	CW 4570 A
H2	C1902/1a	-----
H3	C1902/12	CW 4573 D
H4	C1902/7	CW 4571 A
H5	C1902/12a	CW 4572 A
H6	C1902/13	CW 4573 C
H7	C1902/2	CW 4570 C
H8	C1902/2a	-----
H9	C1902/27	CW 4573 E
H10	C1902/10	CW 4573 F
H11	C1902/33	CW 4572 C
H12	C1902/28	CW 4573 G
H13	C1902/14	CW 4573 H
H14	C1902/16	CW 4573 I
H15	C1902/9	CW 4573 J
H16	C1902/29	CW 4573 K
H17	C1902/29	CW 4573 L
H18	C1902/18	CW 4573 M
H19	C1902/18a	-----
H20	C1902/23	CW 4572 N
H21	C1902/30	CW 4575 A
H22	C1902/24	CW 4573 O
H23	C1902/30	CW 4573 P
H24	C1902/22	CW 4573 Q
H25	C1902/19	CW 4573 R
H26	C1902/25	CW 4573 T
H27	-----	-----
H28	C1902/32	CW 4572 E
H29	C1902/31	CW 4572 D
H30	C1902/36	CW 4573 U
H31	C1902/31	CW 4573 Z
H32	C1902/8	CW 4573 S
H33	C1902/11	CW 4572 G
H34	C1902/35	CW 4571 B
H35	C1902/34	CW 4572 G
H36	C1902/15	CW 4573 AA

HAYWARD ref.	Carlisle or Morel (2023) ref.	Cumbers & Whittlestone ref.
H40	M1902/12A	CW 4570 D
H41	M1902/14	CW 4573 X
H42	M1902/12	CW 4573 W
H43	M1902/15	CW 4571 C
H44	M1902/15A	-----
H45	M1902/17-17A	CW 4573 V
H46	M1902/17B	CW 4572 F

TABLE 4 – A listing of the photographs of Specimen strikes of the Stokes shield-shaped 1902 Coronation medals available on the Museum of Victoria website. Search the Collections for ‘1902 Coronation medals by Stokes’.

Hayward 2026 ref.	Victoria Museum ref.	Carlisle 2008 ref.
H1	NU33091 Spec. of Obv. A	1902/1
H2	NU33092 Unc of Obv. A	1902/1a
–		
–		
H5	NU33094 Spec. of Obv. D	1902/12a
H6	NU20325 Spec. of Annandale	1902/13
H7	NU21086 Unc. of Ballarat Obv. A	1902/2
H8	NU20477 Spec. of Ballarat Obv. B	1902/2a
H9	NU20476 Spec. of Ballarat Shire	1902/27
H10	NU20478 Spec. of Bendigo	1902/10
H11	NU20479 Spec. of Bungaree	1902/33
H12	NU20241 Spec. of Camberwell	1902/21
H13	NU20326 Spec. of Concord	1902/14
H14	NU20324 Spec. of Coonamble	1902/16
H15	NU20242 Spec. of Creswick	1902/9
H16	NU20243 Spec. of Doncaster	1902/29
H17	NU20244 Spec. of Fern Tree Gully	1902/21
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H20	NU20246 Spec. of Hawthorne	1902/23
–		
H22	NU20247 Spec. of Healesville	1902/24
H23	NU20248 Spec. of Kerang	1902/20
H24	NU34796 Spec. of Launceston	1902/22
H25	NU20327 Spec. of Lithgow	1902/19
H26	NU20249 Spec. of Melbourne Obv. B	1902/27
H27	NU20250 Spec. of Melbourne Obv. D	– – –
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H29	NU20251 Spec. of Meredith	1902/31
H30	NU20252 Spec. of Morwell	1902/26
H31	NU20328 Spec. of Parramatta	1902/17
H31	NU20339 PL-Unc of Parramatta	1902/17
H32	NU20253 Spec. of Queenscliff	1902/8
H33	NU20254 Spec. of South Melbourne	1902/11
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H35	NU35224 Spec. of Ula Ula	1902/34
H36	NU20330 Spec. of Willoughby	1902/15



PLATE 8 – Additional illustrations

Upper photograph: a Reverse die for the Ballarat city medal, either H7 (C1902/2) or H8 (C1902/2a). Both medals, whether struck with Obverse A or Obverse B, used the same Reverse die.

Lower photograph: two different examples of H21 (C1902/20), showing both Reverse sides of the Annandale, NSW, and Hawthorn, QLD, error-struck 'mule' medal.



PLATE 9 – The Reverse of H34 (C1902/35), the Subiaco (Perth), WA, medal. In my opinion, this medal was clearly re-engraved after leaving the Stokes mint.

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