

3. The New Queensland Mint Issues 1985-95

Detailed information concerning the precise nature of this shadowy corporation, and of the Province's relationship to it continues to elude this researcher, however it is probable that the association was facilitated, if not instigated by Kevin Gale (aka Prince Kevin)—the charismatic personality whose long, complicated and ultimately acrimonious involvement with the Hutt River Province is explored in more detail at http://www.imperial-collection.net/hutt_river_main.html.



Crusaders Cross of Jerusalem



President and Mrs Reagan

HRPC 024. 1985 .999 silver (1 oz) Condition: Proof. Designer: Hal Reed. Mint: New Queensland Mint. Mintage: ? Diameter: 39 mm Denomination: \$25. Edge Type: reeded

The period began with a steady stream of new commemorative releases, but this very quickly became a flood as the various firms subcontracted by the Mint to market its coins throughout the United States aggressively ramped their sales activities. Commemorative themes became almost entirely US-flavoured, mintages surged into the tens of thousands, and a dizzying array of coin denomination and composition variations emerged with each new issue, as the Mint sought to corner every possible market—from bullion speculators at one end of the spectrum, to "joe average" buyers who had probably never bought a collectable coin before, at the other.

The frenzy of coin releases from the New Queensland Mint reached its high watermark in the early 1990s with the release of a 46-coin set commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II, and a set of similar size celebrating Operation Desert Storm. The latter series alone, with all of its variations, added over one hundred new unique coin types to an Hutt River catalogue already groaning at the seams.

Such was scale of the business that it eventually came to the attention of the United States Postal Service—and they, for reasons that remain unclear, determined to shut it down. The New Queensland Mint's marketing activities, whilst ubiquitous and no doubt often intrusive, were probably no worse than those of other mass market collectables promoters - but in any event, in 1995 a court case was brought by the USPS against Continental Coin Company, who were at that time marketing the Desert Storm series.



Kangaroos



Celebrations on New York Harbour

HRPC 027: 1986 .999 silver (1 oz) Condition: Proof. Designer: Hal Reed. Mint: New Queensland Mint. Mintage: ? Diameter: 39 mm. Denomination: \$25. Edge Type: reeded



State Arms of Hutt River Province



B-52 "Stratofortress"

Desert Storm: HRPC 058A. 1991. \$5 Uncirculated cupro-nickel
HRPC 058B—\$20 Proof 22 carat gold-plated
HRPC 058C \$25 Proof .999 silver



Hutt River Province State Crown



Downing of Admiral Yamamoto

A coin from World War II - Series A. 1992
Designer: Hal Reed. Mint: New Queensland Mint.
Mintage: ? Diameter: 39 mm. Edge Type: reeded

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