



Photo 5.



Photo 6.

“Upset” reverse and wait for suckers, including me, to get excited and bid!

With true Upset coins, where the obverse is aligned upright with the Queen’s bust pointing due south as described above, when you turn it over, the reverse looks “upright” as judged by the position of the “20”. NOT rotated to the left! Thus the obverse in these coins is rotated clockwise to about 30 degrees. These coins certainly exist and I have them in dates of 2000 and 2001. See photos 5 and 6 for the obverse and reverse of such a coin. I must apologise for the messy lines on the coin holders I have used as markers. You can tell I was the kid at school who always had ink on his fingers and smudges in his workbooks! I believe there is a fair number of Upset coins of 2000 and 2001 but have not found any other dates. To my pleasure, I found yet another year 2000 example while trawling through an ice cream bucket of 20 cent pieces and testing my method of detection, as outlined next.

#### The test method.

So, this is the method I use to check upset on post 1999 20 cent pieces: Hold the coin between top and bottom with the lower pointed tip of the queen’s bust at the bottom as in photo 5 and rotate the coin. If the platypus and the “20” are rotated anticlockwise as in photo 4, the coin is not Upset so discard it. If the platypus is almost upright as in photo 6, the coin is most likely Upset, retain the coin and investigate further.

Some of you may now be quickly checking that bargain buy of an “Upset coin” and discovering it is not quite as Upset as you thought!

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# Royal Mint of Hutt River Principality issues “Lest We Forget” \$5 Coin

**T**HIS year has been a particularly momentous one in Hutt River. The principality marked 37 years since it seceded, Prince Leonard and Princess Shirley celebrated their Diamond Wedding, and the Prince marked his 84th birthday.

Most recently, on 27 August HRH Prince Leonard authorised the issue of a special five dollar coin to express his concern about the legal standing of Australians born in the country prior to 26th January 1949.

Back in 1948 The Mother Country withdrew citizenship from Australians making them “British Subjects” or

“Commonwealth Citizens”. It would appear that at that point Dinkum Aussies lacked citizenship of any country.

It was not until 26th January 1949 that Australia’s Federal Government got around to the passing of the Citizenship Act and giving citizenship to all those born in Australia after 26th January 1949.

However, in 1973 the Australian Citizenship Act was amended and all reference to “British Subjects without Citizenship” was deleted. Consequently, Prince Leonard argues that unless the 8,000,000 persons born in Australia before 26th January 1949 have since become naturalized, they are by law aliens and legally stateless persons. This includes all Australians ever elected Prime Minister – and the current Governor General.

Anyone curious to follow the legal argument could do worse than check out the Hutt River website. Go to [www.principality-hutt-river.com](http://www.principality-hutt-river.com). While visiting you can also order one of the “Lest We Forget” coins issued to draw attention to this legal poser.

The \$5 nickel-plated zinc alloy \$5 coin is 35 mm in diameter and weighs-in at 16 grams. It comes in a basic perspex case, or in a printed display case with a gold-printed lid that include an Australian 2005 “Coming Home” 20c, or in presented in a plush black velvet case.

The Prince is particularly concerned with those servicemen and women who fought for Australia and who he considers have lost their citizenship due to the legal bungles. The coins’ reverse design deliberately stresses this point.

Dr K.A. Rodgers

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Obverse and reverse of Hutt River Principality’s \$5 “Lest We Forget” commemorative coin.

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