

Fijian Predecimal Silver Coins 1934-1967

Tom Schumann



First Edition - 2021

In memory of Elwyn Matthew 'Digger' Schumann

First of all, please use this book at your own risk - accuracy is the intention but it is not guaranteed. I have attempted to be accurate but mistakes happen, and there is a lot of commonly accepted and believed knowledge which new discoveries may invalidate. Also note that this book mentions coins that I have not viewed myself or cannot confirm the existence of. If you notice a mistake, error or omission I would very much appreciate being informed so that it can be rectified - I can be reached at schumann.tom@gmail.com.

This book is a good-faith attempt to document all known varieties of these denominations (however some have been intentionally omitted - particularly off-metal strikes, irregular/non-standard planchets, early patterns and or proofs whose attributes deviate drastically from the usual, and also circulating coins with designs that deviate drastically from the norm). It will not attempt to document overdates, errors, flaws or anything of that nature.

The knowledge contained within this book is thanks to numerous great names in numismatics who have come before me and documented the small differences in seemingly similar coins. To quote Sir Isaac Newton, "if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants".

Enjoy

For each denomination there is a table of obverses, reverses, compositions and dimensions.

The first column of each table includes an identifier used within this book (mostly in the **Number** column in the coin listings); the **Details** column includes a description; the **Use** column lists the years in which it was used and the **Reference** column includes cross-references to other identification schemes.

Following these tables is a list of all coin varieties. The **Year** column shows the year on the coin or the year in which the coin was struck; the **Obverse** and **Reverse** columns show images (where available) of an actual example of that variety; the **Mint** and **Mintmark** columns are self explanatory; the **Mintage** column shows the mintage which may be split across multiple varieties (but each mint will have a yearly total that all coins from that mint contribute to); the **Number** column uniquely identifies a coin and is explained below, and the **Reference** column includes cross-references to other identification schemes.

An example number is FJ.2S.1942S.S.3A/2A

The breakdown is as follows:

FJ: country code (Fiji)

2S: denomination (two shillings i.e. florin)

1942S: dated 1942 with mintmark S

S: struck in the city of San Francisco

3A: obverse 3 and reverse A

2A: composition 2 and dimension A

The rarity ratings are suggestive based on available information and are being phased out in favour of more empirical data - common means the coin can be easily obtained while extremely rare means there are only a handful of examples known.

??? indicates something which is unknown.

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Fiji

The significantly increased mintages in 1942 and 1943 were to combat a chronic shortage of currency that began in the second half of 1940 with the arrival of large numbers of New Zealand troops (p28, Rodgers & de Young, *Fiji's WWII Surcharged £5s Revisited* in *Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine*, December 2019/January 2020).

It is not clear why the fineness of the silver alloy was increased in 1942 and 1943 but it seems probable that it was easier to align with the alloy in predominant use at the San Francisco Mint at that time, especially for coins which had comparatively low mintages.

SIXPENCE

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
1	Design: Portrait of King George V surrounded by the legend GEORGE V KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1934 - 1936	
2	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1937	
The trefoils touch the arches of the crown.			
3	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1938 1940 - 1943	
The trefoils don't touch the arches of the crown.			
4	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1953	
The trefoils touch the arches of the crown.			
5	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1958 1961 - 1962 1965 1967	
The trefoils don't touch the arches of the crown.			

Specifications

Composition	Details	Use
1	Ag: 50% Cu: 40% Sn: 5% Zn: 5%	1934 - 1938 1940 - 1941

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
A	Design: A turtle dividing the year with FIJI above and the denomination SIXPENCE below Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1934 - 1938 1940 - 1943 1953 1958 1961 - 1962 1965 1967	

Dimensions	Details	Use
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Composition	Details	Use
2	Ag: 90% Cu: 10%	1942 - 1943
3	Cu: 75% Ni: 25%	1953 1958 1961 - 1962 1965 1967

Dimensions	Details	Use
A	Mass: 2.83g Diameter: 19.5mm Edge: reeded	1934 - 1938 1940 - 1943 1953 1958 1961 - 1962 1965 1967

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1934			Royal Mint, London		160,000	FJ.6D.1934.L.1A/1A	
Proofs were struck.							

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1935			Royal Mint, London		120,000	FJ.6D.1935.L.1A/1A	
1936			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.6D.1936.L.1A/1A	

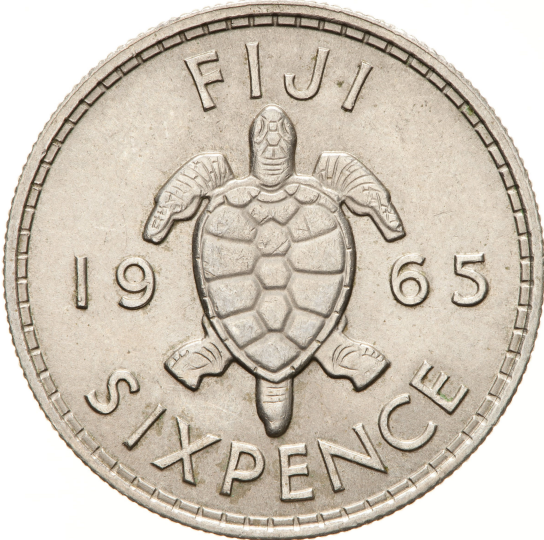

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1937			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.6D.1937.L.2A/1A	
Proofs were struck.							
1938			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.6D.1938.L.3A/1A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1940			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.6D.1940.L.3A/1A	
1941			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.6D.1941.L.3A/1A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1942			San Francisco Mint, San Francisco	S	400,000	FJ.6D.1942S.S.3A/2A	
1943			San Francisco Mint, San Francisco	S	400,000	FJ.6D.1943S.S.3A/2A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1953			Royal Mint, London		800,000	FJ.6D.1953.L.4A/3A	
Proofs were struck.							
1958			Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.6D.1958.L.5A/3A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1961			Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.6D.1961.L.5A/3A	
1962			Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.6D.1962.L.5A/3A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1965			Royal Mint, London		800,000	FJ.6D.1965.L.5A/3A	
1967			Royal Mint, London		800,000	FJ.6D.1967.L.5A/3A	

SHILLING

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
1	Design: Portrait of King George V surrounded by the legend GEORGE V KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1934 - 1936	
2	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1937	
KING is on the left of the portrait. The crown's trefoils extend over the arches.			
3	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1938 1941 - 1943	
KING is on the right of the portrait. The crown's trefoils do not reach the arches.			
4	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1957 - 1958 1961 - 1962 1965	

Specifications

Composition	Details	Use
1	Ag: 50% Cu: 40% Sn: 5% Zn: 5%	1934 - 1938 1941
2	Ag: 90% Cu: 10%	1942 - 1943
3	Cu: 75% Ni: 25%	1957 - 1958 1961 - 1962 1965

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
A	Design: A drua (outrigger) dividing the date with the denomination SHILLING above and FIJI below. Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1934 - 1938 1941 - 1943 1957 - 1958 1961 - 1962 1965	

Dimensions	Details	Use
A	Mass: 5.66g Diameter: 23.5mm Edge: reeded	1934 - 1938 1941 - 1943 1957 - 1958 1961 - 1962 1965

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1934			Royal Mint, London		360,000	FJ.1S.1934.L.1A/1A	
Proofs were struck.							
1935			Royal Mint, London		180,000	FJ.1S.1935.L.1A/1A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1936			Royal Mint, London		140,000	FJ.1S.1936.L.1A/1A	
1937			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.1S.1937.L.2A/1A	
Proofs were struck.							

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1938			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.1S.1938.L.3A/1A	
1941			Royal Mint, London		40,000	FJ.1S.1941.L.3A/1A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1942			San Francisco Mint, San Francisco	S	500,000	FJ.1S.1942.L.3A/2A	
1943			San Francisco Mint, San Francisco	S	500,000	FJ.1S.1943.L.3A/2A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1957	 The reverse of the 1957 Fiji 1 Shilling coin features a central illustration of a traditional Fijian sailing vessel, the qaqaya, with its sails set. The word "SHILLING" is arched across the top, and "FIJI" is at the bottom. The year "1957" is split on either side of the vessel.	 The obverse of the 1957 Fiji 1 Shilling coin shows the profile of Queen Elizabeth II facing right, wearing the Crown of St Edward. The inscription "THE SECOND QUEEN ELIZABETH" is around the border.	Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.1S.1957.L.4A/3A	
1958	 The reverse of the 1958 Fiji 1 Shilling coin is identical to the 1957 version, featuring the qaqaya sailing vessel, "SHILLING", "FIJI", and the year "1958".	 The obverse of the 1958 Fiji 1 Shilling coin is identical to the 1957 version, showing the profile of Queen Elizabeth II and the inscription "THE SECOND QUEEN ELIZABETH".	Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.1S.1958.L.4A/3A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1961			Royal Mint, London		200,000	FJ.1S.1961.L.4A/3A	
1962			Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.1S.1962.L.4A/3A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1965			Royal Mint, London		800,000	FJ.1S.1965.L.4A/3A	

FLORIN (TWO SHILLINGS)

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
1	Design: Portrait of King George V surrounded by the legend GEORGE V KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1934 - 1936	
2	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1937	
KING is on the left of the portrait. The crown's trefoils extend over the arches.			
3	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGE VI KING EMPEROR Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1938 1941 - 1943 1945	
KING is on the right of the portrait. The crown's trefoils do not reach the arches.			
4	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND Designer: Percy Metcalfe Engraver:	1957 - 1958 1962 1964 - 1965	

Specifications

Composition	Details	Use
1	Ag: 50% Cu: 40% Sn: 5% Zn: 5%	1934 - 1938 1941 1945
2	Ag: 90% Cu: 10%	1942 - 1943
3	Cu: 75% Ni: 25%	1957 - 1958 1962 1964 - 1965

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
A	Design: Shield of arms of Fiji dividing the year with FIJI above and the denomination FLORIN below Designer: George Kruger Gray Engraver:	1934 - 1938 1941 - 1943 1945 1957 - 1958 1962 1964 - 1965	

Dimensions	Details	Use
A	Mass: 11.3g Diameter: 28.5mm Edge: reeded	1934 - 1938 1941 - 1943 1945 1957 - 1958 1962 1964 - 1965

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1934			Royal Mint, London		200,000	FJ.2S.1934.L.1A/1A	
Proofs were struck.							
1935			Royal Mint, London		50,000	FJ.2S.1935.L.1A/1A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1936			Royal Mint, London		65,000	FJ.2S.1936.L.1A/1A	
1937			Royal Mint, London		30,000	FJ.2S.1937.L.2A/1A	
Proofs were struck.							

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1938			Royal Mint, London		20,000	FJ.2S.1938.L.3A/1A	
1941			Royal Mint, London		100,000	FJ.2S.1941.L.3A/1A	
A portion of the mintage was lost as a result of World War II (p80, Patterson, <i>The Australasian Handbook of Coin Collecting</i> , 1983).							

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1942			San Francisco Mint, San Francisco	S	250,000	FJ.2S.1942S.S.3A/2A	
1943			San Francisco Mint, San Francisco	S	250,000	FJ.2S.1943S.S.3A/2A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1945			Royal Mint, London		100,000	FJ.2S.1945.L.3A/1A	
1957			Royal Mint, London		300,000	FJ.2S.1957.L.4A/3A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1958			Royal Mint, London		220,000	FJ.2S.1958.L.4A/3A	
1962			Royal Mint, London		200,000	FJ.2S.1962.L.4A/3A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1964			Royal Mint, London		200,000	FJ.2S.1964.L.4A/3A	
1965			Royal Mint, London		400,000	FJ.2S.1965.L.4A/3A	

Glossary

Coin orientation

The tops of the designs on each side of the coin face opposite directions.

Exergue

The space below the main design.

Ghosting

The impression of the design on one side of the coin showing through on the other side of the coin. It is caused by a disparity between the size or relief of the designs on opposite sides of the coin.

Hob/hub

A die with a relief design produced from a master die. It is used for the production of working dies

Medal orientation

The tops of the designs on each side of the coin face the same direction.

Punch

See hob/hub

Working die

A die with an intaglio design produced from a hob/hub. It is used for the production of coins.

References

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Photo credits

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- 1934 Fiji Sixpence: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/56296>
- 1935 Fiji Sixpence: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/75806>
- 1936 Fiji Sixpence: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/52584>
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- 1942S Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61200>
- 1943S Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61192>
- 1957 Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61395>
- 1958 Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/75663>
- 1961 Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/74430>
- 1962 Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/66137>
- 1965 Fiji Shilling: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/64023>
- 1934 Fiji Florin: <http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/64153>
- 1935 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/70410>
- 1936 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61391>
- 1937 Fiji Florin: <http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/61365>
- 1938 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/61374>
- 1941 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61373>
- 1942S Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61372>
- 1943S Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61371>
- 1945 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/61370>
- 1957 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/74433>
- 1958 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/61369>

- 1962 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/74451>
- 1964 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/74434>
- 1965 Fiji Florin: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/74435>

Thanks

Diggy, for setting a fine example.

Mum, Dad and Lise for their support.

Lise, Dad and Pavel Kalinov (<https://onlinecoin.club>) for proof-reading.

John, Jill, Stephen, Marina and all the others who have let me look the coins they have put aside.

Technology

This book has been layed out using HTML, CSS and Javascript using Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox on Microsoft Windows. It also makes use of the jQuery library and [Liberation font](#) by the Ascender Corporation.