

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

AUSTRALIA - COINS - Pre-Decimal - Florin**Lot 2597****2597**

1934/35 Specimen-Pattern Melbourne Centenary Florin, clearly showing *Nipple on Rider's Right Breast*, sharp *Full Laurel Wreath* on rider, *High Relief Eyebrow on Horse* and *Bevelled Rim above CENTENARY denticles*, toning on reverse only, aUnc. Included is a copy of the detailed and informative article from CAB August 2007 'The Enigmatic Proof and Specimen Strikes of The 1934-35 Centenary Florin, The Importance of Nipples, Surfaces and Rims' by *T. Vincent Verheyen*.

The identifying feature of what has become known as the *Specimen-Pattern Florin* is not the presence of a full wreath but a nipple on the left breast of the rider. Only a handful of coins with a nipple have been observed, and no record has been found to date to clarify this small mintage. A plausible explanation offered by *Klaus Ford* for the lack of a prominent nipple on all but the specimen Centenary florins is that they were not accepted by the mint committee/mint master as the final design. Moral standards being vastly different from what they are today may have led to the removal of the "offensive" nipple from the die. This would explain the lack of a prominent nipple on the proof strikes despite the extra care in their preparation and striking. The deliberate removal of the nipple, if correct, implies that the specimen strikes are also technically patterns. Less than twelve '*Specimen-Pattern*' Centenary Florins are known to exist. Source *T. Vincent Verheyen*.

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