

CHANGE[®] Checker 200 YEARS OF THE MODERN SOVEREIGN

1817

THE FIRST 'MODERN' SOVEREIGN

After the Great Re-coinage of 1816, the Sovereign was reintroduced, replacing the guinea. It was the first coin to feature Pistrucci's iconic St George and the Dragon design and was the first gold Sovereign struck for 214 years.



1821

THE FIRST SOVEREIGN OF KING GEORGE IV'S REIGN

The first Sovereign of George IV's reign also featured Pistrucci's engravings but the King was not happy with the realistic portrait of himself. Pistrucci refused to re-engage his designs leading to the coins being removed from circulation in 1825.



1825

ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON REPLACED BY WYON'S SHIELD

William Wyon replaced Pistrucci's St George and the Dragon design with the Wyon Shield while he was chief engraver of the Royal Mint. The design continued to be used for William IV and into Victoria's reign.



1871

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION 1871 - 1932

Between 1871 and 1932, Sovereign production was spread over North America, Australia, Africa and Asia, with branches of The Royal Mint in a number of major international cities. In order to distinguish where the Sovereigns were minted, The Royal Mint used a letter as a mintmark to show its origin.



1893

THE FINAL PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA

In 1893 the last portrait of Queen Victoria was featured on the Sovereign for the first time. It continued to be used up until the last Sovereigns of her reign in 1901.



1932

GOLD SOVEREIGN PRODUCTION STOPPED

Following the First World War and the financial depression of the 1920's, the production of Sovereigns stopped and would not start again until 1957. However, a proof Sovereign was issued for George VI in 1937.



2016

QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY SOVEREIGN

On the 21st April 2016, the Queen celebrated her 90th birthday. To mark this momentous year, the 2016 Sovereign featured a celebratory effigy by James Butler MBE RA, a one-year-only portrait of Her Majesty the Queen.



2015

NEW JODY CLARK PORTRAIT

A new portrait of the Queen was featured on the 2015 Sovereign. 33 year old Jody Clark is the youngest artist to have portrayed the Queen but unlike his predecessors, he created the portrait digitally working from photographs of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



2012

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE

To mark the Diamond Jubilee year, the 2012 Sovereign featured a one-year-only design. The modern interpretation of the St George and the Dragon was designed by sculptor Paul Day.



2005

TIMOTHY NOAD REDESIGNS THE SOVEREIGN

The 2005 Sovereign featured a one-year-only design by Timothy Noad. The St George and the Dragon design was given a more contemporary look making it more animated and dynamic.



2002

QUEEN ELIZABETH II GOLDEN JUBILEE

To mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the design of the Sovereign was changed for one-year-only to the shield design. This design was last seen in 1887, the year Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee.



1979

FIRST QEII PROOF SOVEREIGN

The first QEII Proof Sovereign is struck in 1979 and continues to happen annually to this day.



2017

THE BICENTENARY SOVEREIGN



2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the 'modern' Sovereign. To celebrate the rich history of this iconic coin, Pistrucci's original 'garter' design has returned for this important anniversary, using the tools that have been carefully remastered from the 1817 originals. This is the first time that the Sovereign has been struck with this original design since 1820 and the first time the date has been struck on the obverse since 1887.