

The 1946 “dot S dot” Shillings.

Perth and Melbourne mints.

Both the Melbourne and Perth mints produced shillings of the 1946 date. The Melbourne mint was content with a dot between the word “shilling” and the date. The Perth mint had an extra dot placed between the word “shilling” and the left hand star. The execution of punching the dot on the working dies was a little less than perfect and the actual position of the dot varies a discernable amount. I had the opportunity to trawl through a fair number of “dot S dot” Perth coins and have determined four positions of the dot. This gives the Australian Pre Decimal variety set collector a total of five varieties of 1946 shilling to collect.

Overall, the Melbourne 1946 mint issue was fairly large at about 10 million, the Perth mintage much less with a little over 1 million. Plain “dot S” coins in about fine condition sell for about \$5 and similar grade “dot S dot” coins sell for about \$15

I have listed four positions from the sample size of only 100 in total. This means that there may be other positions in the thousands I have not seen! If there were a million “dot S dot” coins to start off with and 90% of these have been melted down that leaves about 10 thousand existing. My sample of 100 does not represent a significant portion of the original mintage.

The dot positions

The positions I have set out in this list, with the description adopted, approximate representation and the reference number.

Photo	Description	Percent	Ref
1	dot low left	40%	SH46C
2	dot low centre	30%	SH46B
3	dot low right	25%	SH46D
4	dot close left	5%	SH46E



An Error!

Not to leave the error collectors out of this, I also spotted a progressive die break on one variety of dot position. Coincidentally, this is on the lowest numerically represented coin, the #4 “dot close left”. I have called the break progressive, based on two of five coins only. Statisticians would be horrified at this presumption! One coin has the break from the dot to the “S” and then bridging to the “H” of the word “shilling”. This coin is illustrated as photo #5. The second coin had the faintest traces of further cracking through the word “shilling” and thence to the date. The other three were possibly too weathered, dirty or worn so that traces of cracking were obscured, or simply had no cracking. I wonder if the die actually failed early on in production and that is reason for the small representation in my sample?

Could the “S” be closer?

As well, the “S” on this #5 coin appears to be fractionally closer to the star than the other coins. After viewing and comparing many times I’m still not sure whether this is an optical illusion caused by the position of the dot or a result of a slight difference in the position of the major elements of that die. The sketch above to the right of the list shows the parts of the design that you need to pay attention to. Note that this sketch is not in proportion and is exaggerated in some respects to emphasise the relative differences of the dot position.



1 dot low left



2 dot low centre



3 dot low right



4 dot close left



5 Dot scoin with die crack