

COIN WORLD

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Special photo technique shows the edge reeding that identifies this piece as a fake, rather than having the appropriate 30TH ANNIVERSARY edge inscription of a genuine Proof 2016-W American Eagle silver dollar.
Coin World Images.

ICTA RESPONDS TO U.S. MINT'S LETTER ON COUNTERFEIT COINS

BY PAUL GILKES / COIN WORLD SENIOR EDITOR

Acting Deputy Mint Director Dave Motl's Nov. 17 response to an Oct. 27 inquiry from two members of the House Financial Services committee regarding the Mint's efforts to combat the rising infiltration of fake U.S. coins into the United States "lacks commitment" on the part of the Mint, according to the Industry Council for Tangible Assets' Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force, spearheaded by former *Coin World* Editor Beth Deisher.

Deisher explains in a Dec. 7 press release from the task force that on Nov. 9, eight days before Motl sent his response to an inquiry from Reps. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and Alex X Mooney, R-W.Va., task force members met with Motl and other senior Mint staff at Mint headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"While the Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (ACTF) appreciates Acting Deputy Director Motl's acknowledgement that counterfeiting represents a serious threat to the nation's coinage, we are nevertheless

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MINT: NO 'COMPLAINTS' RESPONDS TO CONGRESSMEN ON COUNTERFEITING

BY PAUL GILKES / COIN WORLD SENIOR EDITOR

U.S. Mint Acting Deputy Mint Director David Motl claims in a Nov. 17 letter responding to a congressional inquiry into the counterfeiting of U.S. precious metals coins that the bureau has not received any "complaints" over the past two years of fake

current-issue gold, platinum or silver coins.

Motl's statement, however, does not jibe with *Coin World* news coverage over the past three years of a number of instances of counterfeit U.S. American Eagle Proof

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VAM-2C1 1882-CC DOLLAR IS A COMPLEX STUDY PAGE 10

ALLEGORICAL CERES ON MANY OLD NOTES PAGE 12

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COLLECTORS' CLEARINGHOUSE: DID A STRIKE IN BRITAIN LEAD TO AN 'ERROR' STRIKE? PAGE 42

CONCERNS OVER COUNTERFEIT COINS SPREAD AS MORE ENTER THE MARKET FROM CHINA PAGE 30

CHECKING FOR FAKES FROM A PHONE

PAMP APP ALLOWS FOR VERIFICATION AUTHENTICITY OF CERTAIN COINS AND INGOTS

BY PAUL GILKES / COIN WORLD SENIOR EDITOR

Technology exists for the United States to protect its gold, silver, platinum and palladium coins, in the form of an anti-counterfeiting application developed by its supplier for palladium American Eagle blanks, PAMP.

The application allows authentication of PAMP certified products and other issues by using a flatbed scanner and software for a personal computer or an iPhone 6 or more recent smartphone.

Scott Spitzer, chief executive officer for Manfra, Tordella and Brookes Inc., a PAMP subsidiary and authorized purchaser of U.S. Mint bullion products, visited *Coin World's* Sidney, Ohio, offices Dec. 4 to demonstrate the iPhone version of the anti-counterfeiting technology.

Short videos demonstrating the authentication of a 1-ounce gold Australian Kangaroo bullion coin and 5 gram gold PAMP Fortuna bar in CertiPAMP packaging can be found on *Coin World's* website at www.coinworld.com.

The bullion product does not have to be in the CertiPAMP blister-pack style packaging for the VERISCAN technology to function.

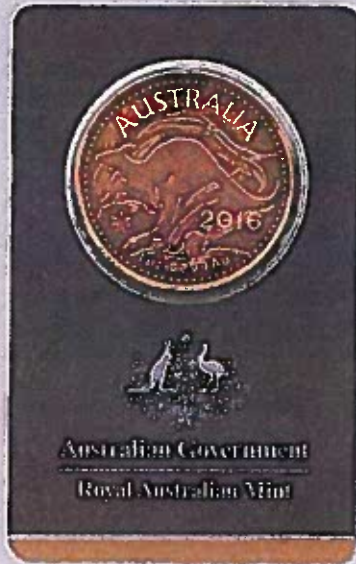
PAMP
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THE WORLD'S ONLY BULLION AUTHENTICATION APP



Illustration graphically demonstrates how the VERISCAN bullion authentication application works.

Image courtesy of PAMP.



Australian Kangaroo 1-ounce gold bullion coins are among the issues from sovereign mints worldwide that benefit from the VERISCAN technology as an anti-counterfeiting application.

Coin World Image.

And the scanning can be done of the obverse or reverse of the coin or ingot. As Spitzer explained, connecting VERISCAN technology to a product begins at an issue's production stage. PAMP is already using the VERISCAN system for a multitude of its own generated products as well as select issues from sovereign Mints around the world.

VERISCAN employs scanning of production dies and bullion pieces struck from those dies to generate a database for the issue so that when a product is later subjected to scanning, either in or out of CertiPAMP packaging, the software will recognize a genuine bullion piece by accessing the appropriate data. The VERISCAN technology has the ability to back-validate provided there is the availability and integrity of the original coin's die. The VERISCAN App for the iPhone can be downloaded from the App Store. The desktop version can be downloaded from pamp.com/veriscan. The technology registers the product brand, fine metal weight, year of issue, coun-



try, shape and design, description, SKU (Stock Keeping Unit) number, and serial number. VERISCAN at its initial stage, with dies and production from those dies, conducts a subsurface examination of the

topography of the pieces, from which data is gathered and put into the authentication system for access later using the specific scanning device.

When the camera of an iPhone 6 or newer model is placed over the intended bullion coin or bar, whether in or out of CertiPAMP packaging, the software prompts the user to indicate whether the item to be scanned is in or out of the packaging, and that option is selected on the phone. If in the packaging, the user scans an identification number for the individual piece as well as the QR code printed on the back of the packaging. The VERISCAN user will be prompted to indicate if a coin or bar is to be checked for authenticity, with an option designating what the issue is. The iPhone camera, now programmed for a specific design issue, is placed over the designated bullion piece with the template design aligned over the actual bullion piece, using a black dot visible on the phone screen for centering. After a few seconds

PAMP ON PAGE



The bullion issue does not have to be in the shape of a round coin, but can be a 5-gram gold PAMP Fortuna bar.

Coin World Image.

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Certificate Number G18444B
Metal Purity Au 999.9
Metal Weight 5g



Certificate Assayer PAMP

MINT LETTER FROM PAGE 1

and bullion coins being fraudulently sold as genuine, including issues of different dates submitted for third-party grading service certification. In preparation for writing those news articles, *Coin World* routinely informed Mint officials of the appearance of the counterfeits in the marketplace.

The fakes reported to the Mint by *Coin World* include American Eagle 1-ounce gold \$50 coins of various dates. Also included were counterfeit versions of the U.S. Mint 30th Anniversary Proof 2016-W American Eagle silver dollar. An example purchased in October 2016 at a flea market in Lynchburg, Virginia, bears a reeded edge instead of the special 30th anniversary incuse edge inscription. The genuine 2016 American Eagle silver bullion coins were struck at the West Point Mint with the standard reeded edge.

All of *Coin World's* news articles were illustrated with examples of the counterfeits discussed.

CONGRESS SEEKS ANSWERS

On Oct. 27, 2017, two members of the House Financial Services Committee, Alex Mooney, R-W.Va., and Frank Lucas, R-Okla., an avid coin collector, sent separate letters to the Mint and U.S. Secret Service seeking information on what is being done by the Mint and Secret Service to protect the integrity of U.S. Mint precious metals coins.

The inquiries were triggered by one of Mooney's constituents being defrauded in the purchase of counterfeit bullion coins offered as genuine U.S. Mint products.

When a congressional inquiry for information is made, the agency from whom the information is requested has 30 days to respond with the information or seek an extension. The Mint provided its response within the required time limit.

A spokesman for Rep. Lucas said his office has not received any response from the Secret Service. *Coin World* has unsuccessfully tried to reach Secret Service officials for public comment about its response, if any.

As of Dec. 5, no response had been received

by Lucas or Mooney from the agency.

In his Oct. 27 response to Lucas and Mooney, Motl states the Mint takes the issue of counterfeiting seriously.

"I want to assure you that the United States Mint shares your concerns about the issue of counterfeiting, and while this topic is not a new one, the increased opportunity and availability of materials to counterfeit precious metals coins have altered this discussion, and made this issue more relevant than ever," Motl wrote in his response to two congressmen. "The Mint is committed to safeguard the integrity and value of United States coinage, including our bullion coin programs. To that end, the Mint has proactively examined this issue through one-on-one discussions in various domestic and international forums, and with industry leaders, sovereign mints, as well as our bullion coin program's authorized purchasers. On Oct. 17, the Mint hosted its second annual numismatic forum, which include 68 industry leaders, to discuss marketplace issues and best practices.

"Additionally, the Mint's leadership is dedicated to working with all stakeholders to study new anti-counterfeiting measures, including next generation laser technology, to ensure that the Mint remains at the forefront of security innovations.

"We also work closely with our customers and collectors to ensure their concerns are being heard and addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, in the past two years, we have not received any complaints about counterfeit current issue gold, platinum or silver coins. When we have received complaints about potential counterfeit coins, deceptive or misleading advertisements by private sector entities, or misuse of the Mint's intellectual property by third parties, we have immediately taken appropriate action, or worked with other federal agencies, (including the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as relevant) to address the issue."

Anti-counterfeiting measures are a stated top priority for U.S. Mint Director nominee David J. Ryder, whose confirmation vote by the full Senate has been delayed by discussions and votes on tax legislation. ☪



PAMP issues bullion products in packaging as small as 1-gram bars on sheets containing 25 pieces in silver (illustrated), gold, platinum or palladium, or 16, with examples of all four metals.

PAMP FROM PAGE 26

the VERISCAN software will indicate whether the bullion item is genuine by illuminating the screen with a green PASS message.

If the piece scanned using an iPhone or flat-bed scanner is counterfeit, the message will be UNABLE TO AUTHENTICATE in yellow.

Spitzer says the verification software is easy to use and allows users to conduct authentication within seconds at a coin show bourse for the fraction of the cost of much more expensive and bulky systems.

For further information, visit pamp.com/. ☪

Announcements

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