

1978 Cayman Islands Six Queens .925 Silver \$50 Coin

submitted by Judy Blackman



The Cayman Islands is situated in the Caribbean 180 miles northwest of Jamaica. It consists of three islands, Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman. It has a total area of 100 square miles. Its capitol is Georgetown. The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority offers uncirculated proof coins designed to commemorate significant local and international events. They are composed of gold or silver alloy and come with a certificate

of authenticity. They are struck to the highest standards, and have mintage limits. The legal tender in the Cayman Islands is the Cayman Islands currency, issued under section 18 of the Monetary Authority law 1996. Previous laws were the 1971 Currency Law, followed by the Currency Law of 1974, which was repealed and replaced by the 1983 Currency Law Revised. In 1971, the first Cayman Islands currency was issued. There were four denominations of paper currency, the \$25, \$10, \$5 and \$1 banknotes and four coins in 25¢, 10¢, 5¢ and 1¢ denominations. In 1981, two new denominations of bank notes, the \$100 and the \$40, were issued. The \$50 was introduced in 1985.

The issue of currency is accomplished through dealings with the local retail banks. These banks are Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Ltd., FirstCaribbean International Bank, Scotiabank (Cayman Islands) Ltd., Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Ltd., Cayman National Bank Ltd, and the Royal Bank of Canada. The Cayman Islands dollar is divisible by one hundred cents. There are four denominations of circulating coins, the 25¢, 10¢, 5¢ and 1¢. The first circulating coins were issued in 1972. Up until 1977 the coins were minted by the British Royal Mint. It's interesting that the 1978 Cayman Islands Six Queens .925 Silver \$50 Commemorative Coin I purchased was minted by the Royal Canadian Mint (per the authenticity certificate) but the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority makes no mention of the RCM doing any minting for them. Circulating coins dated between 1977 and 1984 were minted by the Franklin Mint, U.S. A. Coins dated from 1986 to the most recent, dated 2005, have been minted at the British Royal Mint. All coins bear a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse side. The coins minted before 1986 feature her portrait done by Arnold Machin. In 1986 an updated portrait by Rafael Maklouf was used. The 1999 coins bear a portrait by Ian Rank-Broadley. The design as it appears on the reverse side of the coin remains unchanged from the original issue. However the composition of the coins was changed once in 1992.

25¢ Design theme: A Two Masted Cayman Schooner

Diameter: 24.26 mm

Weight (Since 1992) 5.10 grammes

Composition: Cupro-nickle



10¢ Design theme: A Hawksbill Turtle
Diameter: 20.96 mm
Weight (Since 1992) 3.45 grammes
Composition: Cupro-nickle



5¢ Design theme: A Cray Fish (Prawn)
Diameter: 18.00mm
Weight (Since 1992) 2.00 grammes
Composition: Cupro-nickle

1¢ Design theme: A Thrush Bird on a Tree Branch
Diameter: 17.00mm
Weight (Since 1992) 2.55 grammes
Composition: Bronze



While older "A" series banknotes have been recalled, no denominations or issues of currency have been devalued. All notes and coins issued by the Cayman Islands Currency Board and the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority remain legal tender and can be redeemed for face value at any of the local commercial banks or at the Authority's offices in Elizabethan Square, George Town. Cayman's currency notes are printed by De La Rue Printing, while the coins are minted by the British Royal Mint.

Policy responsibility for the issue of coins in United Kingdom Overseas Territory rests with the Government of the territory concerned. It is customary for the obverse side of such coins to bear a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen. In addition, some Overseas Territories issue coins with the same physical specification as United Kingdom coins. The coins of Overseas Territories are legal tender within the territory concerned. These coins sometimes find their way into circulation within the United Kingdom, but they are not legal tender within this country. The United Kingdom Overseas Territories include: British Antarctic Territory, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, St Helena and Dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha), Turk and Caicos Islands, Pitcairn Island, and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

I recently purchased the 1978 Cayman Islands Six Queens .925 Silver \$50 Commemorative Coin from two coin club members who are also dealers. I paid \$60 Canadian which was representative of a value in a World Coin book that was nearly 5 years old. I discovered the 1978 year of these had a low mintage and they are actually rare, especially if you have a gold one. I was able to find a recent sale of this silver 1978 coin where it sold in the U.S. for \$75.04 U.S. and was shipped to the far-east. I found another sale that was sold for \$124.50 and shipped to England. So I think my purchase was a worthwhile purchase for this beautiful and interesting coin. It represents the six Sovereign Queens of England and the Commonwealth: Mary I, Mary II, Victoria I, Anne I, Elizabeth I, and Elizabeth II. Of these queens, I found some more interesting than others, and will share below a little info. I acknowledge that much of my information herein my entire story was obtained through the Cayman Islands Government and their Monetary Authority, the Great Britain Mint, the Royal Canadian Mint, and Wikipedia.

Mary was born at Kensington Palace, London, in May 1867, the daughter of Francis, Prince and Duke of Teck and Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge. Through her mother she was a Great-granddaughter of George III¹ and she was a second cousin to Queen Victoria. She was named after the Queen who was also her godmother and given the names Victoria Mary Augusta Louis Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes. However, she was always known to her family as 'May' after the month in which she was born, and she

was to later take the title Princess May. When her godmother first saw the infant future Queen she wrote in her diary, 'a very fine child with quantities of hair – brushed up in a curl on the top of its head! - and very pretty features'.

With a lifetime spanning more than a century, from Queen Victoria’s reign to the present, Britain’s Queen Mother has become a unique national treasure. A degree of mystery surrounds the birth of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. She was born on August 4, 1900, the ninth of ten children of Claude Bowes-Lyon and Cecilia Cavendish-Bentinck, but her father neglected or forgot to register her birth for six weeks. Officially the site of her birth is listed as the family home in St. Paul’s Walden Bury, in Hertfordshire, although it is now accepted that it more likely occurred somewhere in London. One story has it that she was born in the back seat of a horse-drawn ambulance.



Elizabeth II, eldest daughter of Albert, Duke of York (later George VI) and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, was born in London on 21st April, 1926 at 17, Bruton Street, Mayfair, the London home of her maternal grandparents, Claud, Earl of Strathmore and Nina Cecilia Cavendish-Bentinck. In accordance with the accepted custom since the birth of James II’s son, the Catholic Old Pretender in 1688, the Home Secretary was present. The new arrival was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary in the music room at Buckingham Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang. Mary was the name of her grandmother, Mary of Teck and Alexandra that of her great-grandmother, the beautiful Alexandra of Denmark. The baby Elizabeth was not in the direct line of succession and it was at the time

assumed that her father’s older brother the charismatic and popular David, Prince of Wales, would marry and produce children eventually. The York family was completed on the birth of a second daughter, Princess Margaret Rose on 1st August, 1930 at Glamis Castle in Angus, Scotland. Elizabeth was a great favourite with her paternal grandparents, George V and Queen Mary, the King, in particularly, doted on ‘Lilibet’, although inclined to be gruff with others, he was excessively fond of her. She experienced a secluded childhood and was educated by a Scottish governess, Miss Crawford, within palace walls and later by the Provost of Eton. On the abdication of her uncle, Edward VIII, in 1936, her father unexpectedly succeeded to the throne as George VI.

During the Second World War, Elizabeth was allowed by her parents to be called up for national service with the A.T.S., her first experience of being able to mix with ordinary girls. She served as Second Lieutenant Elizabeth Windsor. On VE night in 1945, Elizabeth and Margaret were allowed to mingle with the celebrating crowds outside Buckingham Palace, an experience both thoroughly enjoyed and for once were not recognized as they joined in the spirited revelries with enthusiasm. As a teenager the Princess Elizabeth began to assume some official royal engagements. On the occasion of her twenty-first birthday she made a speech dedicating her life to the service of her future subjects.

Elizabeth II February 1952 to Present>



Victoria June 1837 to 1901...>



Anne I May 1707 to 1714.....>

