

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

MYSTERIOUS FIND

Shedding Light on a Puzzling Piece

Help is needed to authenticate a cast copy of an Edward VIII threepence.

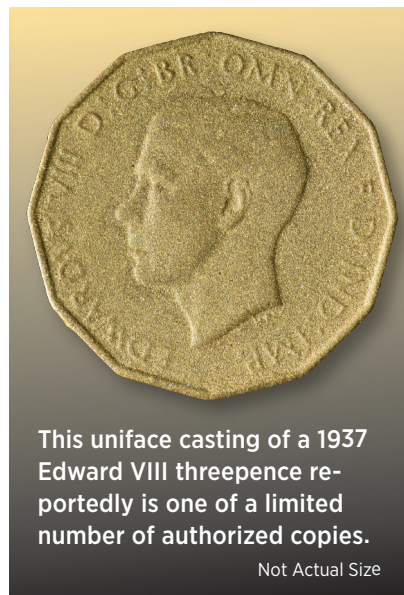
➤ MY INTEREST in Edward VIII coinage goes back to 1995, the year I acquired my first Edward VIII coin—a 1936 East Africa 10-cent piece—in a small hoard of British specimens a neighbor gave me. I was not familiar with the mysterious monarch, as most of my British coins featured either George V or George VI. It became a challenge to learn more about this king and the pieces bearing his image. A friend in my local coin club loaned me a book titled *Coins of England* by Peter Seaby and P. Frank Purvey, which features two pages on Edward VIII.

Edward VIII reigned as king of England from January through December 1936, when he abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson, an American socialite and divorcee. After

he relinquished the throne, he remained part of the Royal Family and held the title Duke of Windsor. He and his wife lived in Paris, France, until his death in 1972.

Because of his short tenure as king, no circulating coins were minted with Edward's name and portrait. The Royal Mint started work on the new dies just before his abdication, and only a few pattern pieces were made. The mint also produced a few experimental 12-sided threepence dated 1937. A few of these coins somehow managed to enter circulation. Today, they are extremely rare and valuable. Other issues bearing his name and the date 1936 were meant for use in the colonial territories of British East Africa, British West Africa, Fiji and New Guinea.

In 2013 a friend from the Madi-



This uniface casting of a 1937 Edward VIII threepence reportedly is one of a limited number of authorized copies.

Not Actual Size

son County Coin Club in Huntsville, Alabama, who knew of my interest in Edward VIII coins, sold me his collection. (He was more than 90 years old at the time and decided to part with the pieces.) Not only did the collection contain complete sets by both type and mintmark, but it also featured a very rare "mule," with an East Africa 10-cent obverse and a British West Africa reverse.

Another unusual coin, a cast copy of the 12-sided threepence, also was in the collection, along with a typed note that reads, "Obverse uniface cast copy of rare Edward VIII threepence coin. Design by T.H. Paget. Seaby says 'exceedingly rare'—about 18 known copies of original. Cast is one of a limited number of authorized copies."

My hope is that a reader with knowledge of Edward VIII coins can help authenticate this cast copy. Who made it? When was it made? Together, we might solve the mystery.

—Bob Jaques



▲ **EDWARD VIII**, who reigned as king of England from January to December 1936, abdicated the throne to marry American socialite Wallis Simpson (right).

