

INTRODUCTION FOR BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (w/Change 3)

The British Virgin Islands comprise the eastern part of the group that includes the U.S. Virgin Islands. Originally, as with all the other West Indian islands, they were recorded and claimed by Spain, by Christopher Columbus in this particular case. The British seized and settled Tortola, the principle island of the group, in 1666 and have been there ever since. Buck Island is a small privately owned island near Tortola.

As with all the other West Indian islands, the British government neglected to provide a stable currency in the pre-modern area. Foreign coinage was given legal tender status early on, and in the early nineteenth century the island government issued a substantial number of cut and counterstamped foreign coins. Private individuals quickly supplemented the government issues with their own output, many with spelling errors for "Tortola". Only one of these counterstamped issues has been attributed to a specific source. A counterstamp consisting of "H" inside a square or diamond stamped on the French colonial 2 Sous from Cayenne and sols marques have been attributed to Arthur Hodge, a notorious local planter in the first decade of the nineteenth century. More recently, a lack of documentation has caused this attribution to be questioned. In addition to the many contemporary counterfeits intended to deceive the public, these counterstamped issues have been more recently copied with intent to deceive the collector.

The French 2 Sous coins were originally issued as billon. Billon is an alloy of copper with a small amount of silver, officially 0.208 fine for the 2 sous from Cayenne. When new, coins struck in billon appear to be silver. In circulation, the silver look quickly disappears and the coins appear to be copper. This is what mints used for low value coins between inconveniently too large copper coins and inconveniently too small silver coins before the various copper-nickel alloys were developed in the mid-nineteenth century. The copper appearance of these coins was an open invite to every contemporary counterfeiter in sight, and counterfeited they were, in enormous numbers. Some of the counterfeits were well made; more were blundered in various ways with mis-spelled legends, never issued dates and mints that make these pieces an interesting series to collect in their own right.

The cut and counterstamped pieces are popular both here and in England and have been included in catalogues and articles on both sides of the Atlantic. For that matter, so have the Buck Island issues. Although many of the facts are still somewhat uncertain, the information that is known has mostly been published and both the "Hodge" counterstamps and the Buck Island issues are described in currently available catalogs. An interesting aspect of what little is known is the Ralph C. Gordon article published in the back of the Henry Christensen, Inc. auction sale catalog for December 11 and 12, 1981. This article describes using an X-ray fluorescence spectrograph to test the various counterstamped Cayenne 2 Sous for silver content. For the counterstamped coins believed to be contemporary, most were found, by a margin of eleven to one, to be stamped on contemporary counterfeits. Of the four "Arthur Hodge" counterstamps tested, all four, every one, were found to be placed on a counterfeit coin.

Because this checklist has only four pages and four issuers, no country index is prepared for this territory.

Entered at Mishawaka, Indiana, 10 November 2008

David E. Henkle

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- 2 [Bruce3\(/photo-page#--\)#---](#)
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- 3 [Bruce5\(/photo-page#--\)#000](#)
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- * A: STOCKER, Ronald
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- 17 Ulex#----
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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDSBUCK ISLAND

1 (_____) ?) BUCK ISLAND (38)

* Obv: **BUCK ISLAND** / 18°25'45" N (to left) (map of Buck Island) 64°33'30" W (to right) / **B. V. I.**Rev: **EIRENE** / Ξ (Greek letter "Xi") / (goat head) / **HALF-a-BUCK**

28mm bronze

Info: Bruce2/photo-page#33, Rulau(LA1)/photo-page#114, Bruce3/photo-page#39, Rulau(LA2)/photo-page#129, Bruce5/photo-page#41, exchanged for half dollar United States, 2,500 struck in 1961 (both metals) by Osborne Coinage Co., Cincinnati, Ohio

Ref: Remick/James3#T1/\$3U, World-Coin-News/9Oct79/page#8, Lyall#136(C), Bruce2#XTn1/\$3U, Rulau(LA1)#Bvi3/\$25U, Bruce3#XTn1/\$3U, Bruce5#XTn1/\$20U, Rulau(LA2)#Buk3/\$32½U, Genualdi/990/COL, #1UNK/563/\$1½U, #2SEM/782/\$6½U, #3CRS/1082/\$5U, #4STB/283/\$4U, #5DOR/383/\$4U, #6LBN/583/\$3½, #7QUL/783/\$4U, #8CAB/783/\$6½U, #9SBY/983/£?EF, #10CAB/184/\$7U, #11LBN/984/\$3½U, #12B&B/185/\$9U, #13CDN/385/\$5U, #14MIC/685/\$3U, #15SEM/885/\$6½U, #16BOS/885/\$1½AU, #17QUL/985/\$2U, #18ANY/1285/\$3½U, #19QUL/886/\$3U, #20QUL/1286/\$2½U, #21SZG/1186/\$5½U, #22QUL/187/\$3U, #23SZG/787/\$7½U, #24B&B/1187/\$13U, #25SZG/588/\$7½U, #26STB/988/\$5AU, #27SZG/389/\$7½U, #28B&B/389/\$8U, #29EYE/589/\$3½U, #30SZG/190/\$6½U, #31STB/1290/\$5AU, #32PET/1290/\$2U, #33STB/591/\$5AU, #34B&B/591/\$12U, #35STP/792/\$7½U, #36STB/892/\$5AU, #37STB/693/\$5AU, #38STB/394/\$5AU, #39STB/695/\$5AU, #40SHM/895/\$9eEF, #41SHM/495/\$8U, #42HAR/796/\$6U, #43SHM/1198/\$6U, #44SHM/599/\$4U, #45ANY/1101/12½U, #46DOR/702/\$7U, #47YOU/1203/\$25U, #48HJB/708/\$30U,



2 (_____) ?) BUCK ISLAND (7)

* Obv: **BUCK ISLAND** / 18°25'45" N (to left) (map of Buck Island) 64°33'30" W (to right) / **B. V. I.**Rev: **EIRENE** / Ξ (Greek letter "Xi") / (goat head) / **HALF-a-BUCK**

28mm brass

Info: exchanged for half dollar United States, 2,500 struck in 1961 (both metals) by Osborne Coinage Co., Cincinnati, Ohio

Ref: Remick/James3#T2/\$14U, World-Coin-News/9Oct79/page#8, Bruce2#XTn2/\$9U, Rulauj(LA1)#TnBuk4/\$25U, Bruce3#XTn2/\$9U, Rulau(LA2)#Tn4/\$32½U, Bruce5#XTn2/\$25U, #1ALP/182/\$11U, #2CRS/879/\$?AU, #3LOR/1082/\$16U, #4STB/283/\$4U, #5CDN/385/\$7½U, #6HAR/796/\$7U, #7LBN/397/\$7½U,



3 (?) (_____) ?) BUCK ISLAND

Obv: **BUCK ISLAND** / 18°25'45" N (to left) (map of Buck Island) 64°33'30" W (to right) / **B. V. I.**Rev: **EIRENE** / Ξ (Greek letter "Xi") / 19 (goat head) 61 / **HALF-a-BUCK**

28mm brass (goldene)

info: description only, does not exist as a dated token??

Ref: Bruce2#XTn3/\$8U, Bruce3#XTn3/\$8U,

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDSBUCK ISLAND

- 4
* () BUCK ISLAND (39)
Obv: BUCK ISLAND / 18°25'45" N (to left) (map of Buck Island) 64°33'30" W (to right) / B. V. I.
Rev: EIRENE / Ξ (Greek letter "Xi") / (goat head) / ONE BUCK
36mm copper-nickel
Info: Lyall/photo-page#47, Bruce2/photo-page#33, Rulau(LA1)/photo-page#114, Bruce3/photo-page#39, Rulau(LA2)/photo-page#129, Bruce5/photo-page#42, exchanged for one dollar United States, 350 struck in 1958 by Osborne Coinage Co., Cincinnati, Ohio for a test run (patterns)
Ref: Remick/James3#T3/\$10U, World-Coin-News/9Oct79/page#8, Lyall#134(C), Bruce2#XTn4/\$7½U, Rulau(LA1)#Buk2/\$35U, Bruce3#XTn4/\$7½U, Bruce5#XTn4/\$30U, Rulau(LA2)#Buk2/\$45U, Genualdi/990/COL, #1LBN/481/\$10U, #2CRS/879/\$?AU, #3ALP/182/\$2U, #4SHK/782/\$9U, #5SEM/782/\$8½U, #6CRS/1082/\$6U, #7STB/283/\$6U, #8QUL/783/\$10U, #9CAB/783/\$22½U, #10CAB/184/\$20U, #11SHK/684/\$7½U, #12CDN/385/\$5U, #13MIC/685/\$5U, #14SEM/885/\$8½U, #15BOS/885/\$3½AU, #16QUL/1286/\$7½U, #17SZG/287/\$8½U, #18QUL/288/\$10AU, #19SHM/388/\$8eU, #20STB/988/\$7AU, #21EYE/589/\$9U, #22STB/1190/\$7½AU, #23STB/791/\$7½AU, #24SHM/293/\$10eVG, #25LBN/893/\$10U, #26SHM/994/\$6AU, #27HAR/796/\$7U, #28PAN/1197/\$9U, #29HAR/298/\$5U, #30LBN/998/\$10U, #31LBN/1099/\$10U, #32DOR/702/\$9U,



- 5
* () BUCK ISLAND (21)
Obv: BUCK ISLAND / 18°25'45" N (to left) (map of Buck Island) 64°33'30" W (to right) / B. V. I.
Rev: EIRENE / Ξ (Greek letter "Xi") / 19 (goat head) 61 / ONE BUCK
36mm copper-nickel
Info: Bruce2/photo-page#33, Rulau(LA1)/photo-page#114, Bruce3/photo-page#39, Rulau(LA2)/photo-page#129, Bruce5/photo-page#42, exchanged for one dollar United States, 5000 struck in 1961 by Osborne Coinage Co., Cincinnati, Ohio
Ref: Remick/James3#T4/\$7U, World-Coin-News/9Oct79/page#8, Lyall#135(C), Bruce2#XTn5/\$6U, Rulau(LA1)#Buk1/\$20U, Bruce3#XTn5/\$5U, Rulau(LA1)#Buk1/\$27U, Bruce5#XTn5/\$25U, Genualdi/990/COL, #1UNK/563/\$3U, #2TMC/378/\$2½EF, #3SHK/782/\$6U, #4SEM/782/\$10U, #5DOR/383/\$7U, #6CAB/783/\$16U, #7SBY/983/£?EF, #8CAB/184/\$15U, #9SEM/885/\$10U, #10SHM/1085/\$?EF, #11SZG/787/\$8½U, #12QUL/288/\$7½U, #13SZG/588/\$8½U, #14SZG/389/\$8½U, #15SZG/190/\$8½U, #16SHM/1291/\$4F, #17STP/792/\$7½U, #18LBN/893/\$7½U, #19SHM/994/\$5VF, #20SHM/295/\$3F, #21HAR/796/\$7U, #22HAR/298/\$5U, #23ASP/1198/\$14½U, #24SHM/1198/\$6U,



BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDSTORTOLA (Island)

- 1 (_____) (Tortola) (11)
 Obv: France (24 deniers) Louis XV (1739-1764) / ctsp. H
 (small) (in square) (stamped incuse)
 Rev: France (24 deniers) Louis XV
 22mm copper? (over contemporary counterfeit?)
 Info: Glendining/981/plate#VIII/203 & 204, Pridmore/photo#19A
 & 19B, Brunk89/photo-page#72, Brunk03/photo-page#332, Pridmore says for
 Arthur Hodge, a planter in the 1792 - 1811 period, but more recent opinion
 suggests that the counterstamp is earlier and not a token
 Ref: Zay/page#17, Ulex#2586, Pridmore#19A & 19B/£3, Burzio(II)page#410,
 Byrne#1174/\$25VG, Byrne#1175/\$30VF, Spink-Colonial#KM-11/\$12½F,
 Krausel9th#11/\$25F, Brunk89#52005/\$50, Rulau(LA1)#Trt3/\$20F,
 Rulau(LA2)#Trt3/\$25F, Brunk03#H1/page#332, #2SPK/379/£18F, #3GLN/981/£65F,
 #4GLN/981/£35G, #5WHT/1182/£22EF, #6WHT/1183/£20EF, #7WHT/584/£20EF,
 #8CRS/584/\$?F, #9PLT/784/\$70VF, #10FOR/1084/£15G, #11PET/985/\$25VF,
- 2 (_____) (Tortola) (6)
 * Obv: Cayenne 2 Sous / ctsp. H (large) (in diamond) (stamped incuse)
 Rev: Cayenne 2 Sous (1780A - 1789A)
 22½mm copper (over contemporary counterfeit)
 Info: Glendining/981/plate#VIII/205 & 206, Pridmore/photo#19C,
 Brunk89/photo-page#72, Brunk03/photo-page#332, the Gordon
 article notes that all (4) Hodge tokens tested contained no
 silver, also known on France (24 deniers/Sols Marqués) Louis XV (1739 - 1764)
 Ref: Duffield#1209, Burzio(II)/page#410, Pridmore#19C/£3, Gordon/page#2,
 Spink-Colonial#KM-12/\$22½F, Brunk89#52000/\$50, Rulau(LA1)#Trt5/\$35VF,
 Krausel9th#12/\$37½F, Rulau(LA2)#Trt5/\$35VF, Brunk03#H2/page#332,
 #1LIM/387/\$37½VG, #2SPK/180/£20F, #3GLN/981/£35F, #4GLN/981/£25VG,
 #5FOR/384/£15F, #6STP/491/\$75F, #7FOR/991/£20F,
- 3 (_____) (Tortola?) (2)
 Obv: 50 / WH (all stamped incuse)
 Rev: (blank)
 rectangle w/cut corners, 27mm x 33mm, bronze w/silver wash on reverse
 Info: Byrne-photo#1176 and 1177, Rulau(LA1)/photo-page#114,
 Sprink/1090/plate#707, Rulau(LA2)/photo-page#129, (Spink &
 Byrne#1177 are the same), Byrne says circa 1910 - 1920
 Ref: Byrne#1176/\$16F, Byrne#1177/\$10VF, Rulau(LA1)#Trt8&9/\$30VF,
 Rulau(LA2)#Trt8&9/\$30VF, #2SPK/1090/£8½EF,
- 4 (?) (_____) (_____)
 Obv: United States large cent 18--
 Rev: United States large cent / ctsp. H (in square) (stamped incuse?)
 30mm copper
 Info: description only, attribution by source, or a modern fantasy?
 Ref: #2RUB/900/\$30G, #3RUB/201/\$30G,
- 5 (_____) (_____) (_____)
 Obv: Spanish Colonial ½ real 1808 / ctsp. H (in diamond) (stamped incuse)
 Rev: Spanish Colonial ½ real
 16mm silver
 Info: Spink/1090/plate#707, (a modern fantasy!)(#2 and #3 are the same)
 Ref: #2SHL/366/20F, #3SPK/1090/£8½G,



BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDSTORTOLA (Island)

6 (?) (_____ ?) (_____ ?),
Obv: **T.V.I.** / (Indian head to left) / **\$1⁰⁰**
Rev: **T.V.I.** / (Indian head to left) **W** (in monogram)
 / **\$1⁰⁰**
36mm copper-nickel
Info: Rulau(LA2)/photo-page#129, T.V.I. = Tortola
 Virgin Islands?
Ref: Rulau(LA1)#Mav51/\$11U, Rulau(LA2)#Trt20/\$15U,