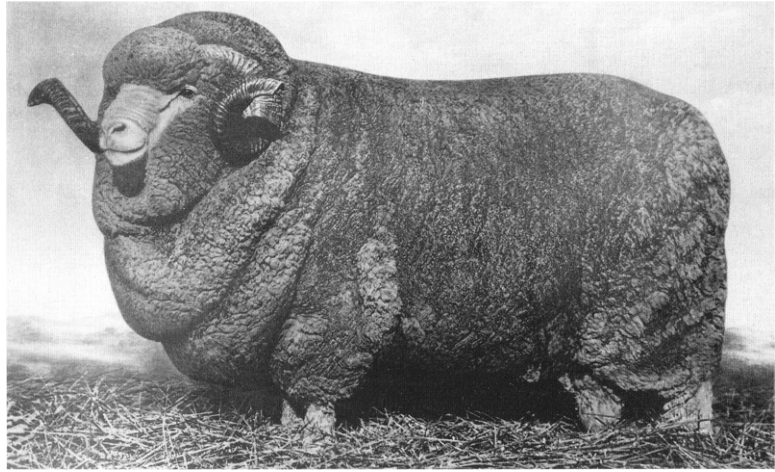


The Shilling Ram

The Shilling Ram as it came to be known was the grand champion Merino ram at the 37th Annual Sydney Sheep Show conducted from 23 to 25 June 1932 in which 366 Merino sheep were exhibited.

The grand champion was exhibited by Charles Mills (Uardry) Pty Ltd, Uardry Merino stud, Hay, in the NSW Riverina district.



Uardry 0.1, Grand Champion Ram of the 1932 Sydney Sheep Show.

Uardry 0.1 won his class (under three years old) and went on to be judged the champion strong wool ram and ultimately the grand champion. *The Sydney Mail* (29 June 1932) reported "this was generally acknowledged to be one of the most magnificent Merinos ever seen in Sydney."

In quoting the judge the paper reported, "He has all the characteristics of greatness in his splendidly-modelled body, his strong head and horns, and his beautiful, soft, richly-crimped fleece."

So correct was the head and horn placement on 0.1 that six years later in 1938, this famous Merino's effigy was immortalised on the reverse of the Australian one-shilling coin, a place of honour held until decimal currency was introduced in 1966. Thus was popularised the expression, 'the Shilling Ram.'

In 1923, the grandsire of Uardry 0.1 had also been grand champion ram of the Sydney Sheep Show.

Following its win in Sydney, Uardry 0.1 was named 'Hallmark' after noted Western Australian sheep-classer, Tom Atkinson, wrote to owner of Uardry, A A Neilson Mills, saying "The most magnificent ram I have ever seen. Why don't you call him Hallmark?"

Uardry 0.1 was pictured again on the obverse of the 50 cent coin in 1991 commemorating the 25th anniversary of decimal currency.



An Australian shilling showing the obverse and Uardry 0.1 on the reverse

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