

Silver Coins

Mintmarks first started to appear under the reign of Edward III and have continued to be used even on the very latest modern decimal issues. Like the older coin inscriptions system of moneyers and town/city names these marks were intended to be used as a way of holding moneyer's accountable for the quality of their coins. Initially this new idea was used in tandem with the older inscriptions system but eventually only the new mintmarks system would prevail. As mintmarks were used to distinguish a coin, who struck it, where and when, it has left us with considerable information in historical archives which we can use to help identify a coin even if it is not dated, or its origin is not immediately known.

Hammered coins were produced by placing a blank piece of metal (a *planchet* or *flan*) of the correct weight between two dies, and then striking the upper die with a hammer to produce the required image on both sides. The planchet was usually cast from a mold. The bottom die (sometimes called the *anvil die*) was usually counter sunk in a log or other sturdy surface and was called a *pile*. One of the minters held the die for the other side (called the *trussel*), in his hand while it was struck either by himself or an assistant.

In later history, in order to increase the production of coins, hammered coins were sometimes produced from strips of metal of the correct thickness, from which the coins were subsequently cut out. Both methods of producing hammered coins meant that it was difficult to produce coins of a regular diameter. Coins were liable to suffer from "clipping" where unscrupulous people would remove slivers of precious metal since it was difficult to determine the correct diameter of the coin.

Coins were also vulnerable to "sweating", which is when silver coins would be placed in a bag that would be vigorously shaken. This would produce silver dust, which could later be removed from the bag.

Love Token

For years, love token coins have been carried for luck, but on occasion were accidentally spent. To try and prevent this from happening, various techniques were employed to more effectively mark the coins.

British love tokens, also sometimes referred to as 'crooked coins', were coins which were given by young men to the object of his affections. The suiter would bend the coin to create a wave, in a bid to prevent it from being used. If the coin was kept, it was a sign that the young man's affections were reciprocated. If the coin was rejected on the other hand, this was a sign of rejection.

Love tokens were smoothed down almost 'obliterating' the monarch's head, before being bent out of shape. They were also hand-engraved with special initials as well as love signs, including hearts and knots. Some love coins were also struck with little holes, allowing the owner to attach it to a chain and wear it.

Frisian Coin

c.700-765

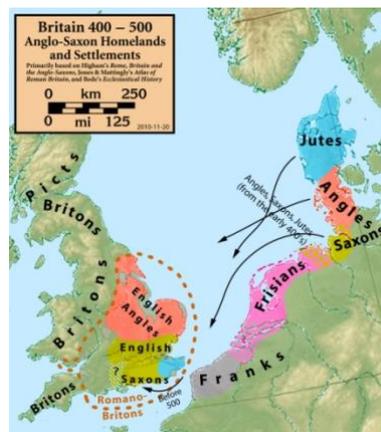


A silver early medieval penny or sceat from Frisia (Netherlands).

Obverse - quilled crescent with triangular head enclosing pellet eye, bars and a chevron below

Reverse - beaded standard with central annulet and angular symbols within and pseudo-legend around

The medieval Frisians are considered a maritime-focussed Germanic people, who made a name and fame for themselves before and during the Viking Period through seafaring and trade. Though impossible to know exact numbers and migration patterns, research has indicated that many Frisians were part of the wave of ethnic groups to colonise areas of present day England alongside the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, starting from around the fifth century when Frisians arrived along the coastline of Kent.



Henry III: 1216-1272



Example of whole Henry III Irish Penny

Ireland had its own supply of silver which was extracted as a by-product from lead mining. By coining money in Ireland the English administration had a way of extracting silver from the country,

The Irish coins of Henry III, with their characteristic triangle, were all struck in Dublin, with dies made and sent from London.

The coins were the last to bear the moneyer's name, and the last type that were officially cut into halves and quarters in order to provide small change, both practices having originated in Anglo-Saxon times.

Edward II: 1307-1327



Example of Edward II Farthing

Obverse – +EDWARDVS REX·

Reverse - CIVI TAS LON DON

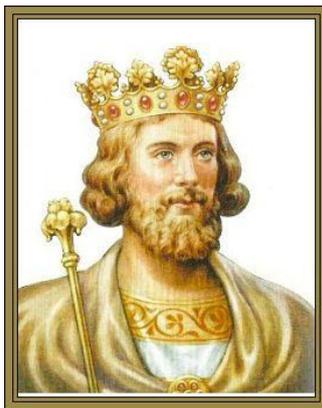
"Long Cross" with three pellets in each quarter

Mint - London

Coins of this reign were minted in two places – Berwick and London. These coins are frequently struck on oval flans.

Edward II was King of England from 1307 until he was deposed in January 1327. He was the sixth king of the House of Plantagenet. He married Isabella, the daughter of the powerful King Philip IV of France, in 1308, as part of a long-running effort to resolve tensions between the English and French crowns.

He was forced to relinquish his crown in January 1327 in favour of his 14-year-old son, Edward III, and he died in Berkeley Castle on 21 September, probably murdered on the orders of the new regime.



Henry VI: 1422 - 1427



Example of Henry VI half-groat

Hammered silver, Annulet Issue, Calais Mint, Half Groat

Obverse – Crowned facing portrait of Henry VI, annulets at neck
HENRIC DI GRA REX ANGL Z FRANC

(Henry, by the Grace of God, King of England and France)

Reverse – Long cross with pellets in angles, annulets linking pellets in two opposing angles.
Legend around in two circles

POSVI DEVM ADIVTOREM MEVM / VILLA CALISIE

(I have made God my helper/Town of Calais)

Henry VI became King at the age of nine months. He was King of England from 1422-1461 and again from 1470-1471, and disputed King of France from 1422-1453. Henry inherited the long-running Hundred Years' War (1337–1453), in which his uncle Charles VII contested his claim to the French throne.

Unlike his father, Henry is described as timid, shy, passive, well-intentioned, and averse to warfare and violence; he was also at times mentally unstable. His ineffective reign saw the gradual loss of the English lands in France.

Starting in 1453, Henry had a series of mental breakdowns, and tensions mounted between Margaret of Anjou (his wife) and Richard of York over control of the incapacitated king's government, and over the question of succession to the throne. Civil war broke out in 1455, leading the Wars of the Roses. Henry was deposed on 29 March 1461 after a crushing defeat at the Battle of Towton by Richard's son, who took the throne as Edward IV. Despite Margaret continuing to lead a resistance to Edward, Henry was captured by Edward's forces in 1465 and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Henry was restored to the throne in 1470, but Edward retook power in 1471, killing Henry's only son and heir in battle and imprisoning Henry once again.

Having "lost his wits, his two kingdoms, and his only son",^[2] Henry died in the Tower during the night of 21 May, possibly killed on the orders of Edward. Miracles were attributed to Henry after his death, and he was informally regarded as a saint and martyr until the 16th century. He left a legacy of educational institutions, having founded Eton College, King's College, Cambridge, and (together with Henry Chichele) All Souls College, Oxford.



Henry VIII: 1507-1549



Example of Henry VIII Half Groat

Henry VIII was King of England from 1509 until his death in 1547. He was the second Tudor monarch, succeeding his father Henry VII. Henry is best known for his six marriages, in particular his efforts to have his first marriage (to Catherine of Aragon) annulled. His disagreement with the Pope on the question of such an annulment led Henry to initiate the English Reformation, separating the Church of England from papal authority. He appointed himself the Supreme Head of the Church of England and dissolved convents and monasteries, for which he was excommunicated. Henry is also known as "the father of the Royal Navy," as he invested heavily in the navy, increasing its size from a few to more than 50 ships, and established the Navy Board.



Mary I: 1553-1558



Example of Mary I Groat – 1553-1558

Mary I also known as Mary Tudor, was the Queen of England and Ireland from July 1553 until her death in 1558.

Bloody Mary: She is best known for her aggressive attempt to reverse the English Reformation, which had begun during the reign of her father, Henry VIII. The executions that marked her pursuit of the restoration of Roman Catholicism in England and Ireland led to her being known as "Bloody Mary" by her Protestant opponents. During her 5 year reign, Mary had over 280 religious dissenters burned at the stake.

Mary had 2 female court jesters – one of whom was named Lucretia the Tumbler.



Elizabeth I: 1558-1603



Example of Elizabeth I Threepence

Elizabeth I was Queen of England and Ireland from 17 November 1558 until her death on 24 March 1603. Sometimes called the Virgin Queen, Gloriana or Good Queen Bess, Elizabeth was the last of the five monarchs of the House of Tudor.

She was a firm believer in astrology: The Queen kept a personal advisor named John Dee—a renowned mathematician, astronomer, astrologer, and professed alchemist—in her regular company. Elizabeth relied on Dee’s counsel in the scheduling of important events and, as one rumor suggests, in the removal of a troublesome “death curse.”

She could speak many languages: In addition to her native English, Queen Elizabeth I was known to be fluent in French, Italian, and Latin, going so far as to translate collections of lengthy texts into these languages. The Queen is also believed to have spoken Spanish, Welsh, Irish, Flemish, Greek, and the now nearly defunct tongue of Cornish.

Her looks were quite deceiving: Following a bout with smallpox in the early 1560s, Elizabeth I suffered facial scarring and hair loss... but nobody would have known it. She kept up appearances with an ample supply of gallant wigs and the application of white makeup over her face, which was in keeping with the style of the era.

She cursed like a sailor: Elizabeth was infamous for her proclivity for colorful language, a characteristic she is said to have inherited from her father, King Henry VIII.



Charles I: 1625 - 1649



Example of Charles I Penny

Coin Inscription:

Obverse - *Charles by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, France and Ireland*

Reverse - *Justice strengthens the throne*

Silver Hammered Coin – Minted in 1641 Tower

Charles I was monarch of the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland from 1625 until his execution in 1649. He had a turbulent relationship with the Parliament of England which led to the English Civil War

Charles was a weak and sickly child and his speech development was slow. With age he was able to overcome his physical infirmity and became an adept horseman, marksman and fencer. However he retained a stammer for the rest of his life

From 1642, Charles fought the armies of the English and Scottish parliaments in the English Civil War. After his defeat in 1645, he surrendered to a Scottish force that eventually handed him over to the English Parliament. Charles refused to accept his captors' demands for a constitutional monarchy, and temporarily escaped captivity in November 1647. Re-imprisoned on the Isle of Wight, Charles forged an alliance with Scotland, but by the end of 1648 Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army had consolidated its control over England. Charles was tried, convicted, and executed for high treason in January 1649. The monarchy was abolished and a republic called the Commonwealth of England was declared. The monarchy would be restored to Charles's son, Charles II, in 1660.

Charles I: Rose Farthing 1638-1642



Example of a Rose Farthing

- Obverse:** Two sceptres through a crown
CAROLVS DG MAG BRIT
(Charles, by the grace of God, of Great Britain)
- Reverse:** Crowned rose and the continuing inscription
FRAN ET HIB REX
(France and Ireland, King)
- Issued:** 1638-1642

Lord Maltravers was asked to introduce a new style denomination which came to be called the *Rose farthing* — it was much smaller and thicker than previous Maltravers farthing, but the revolutionary development was the metal and construction of the coin; most of the coin was copper, but a small "plug" of brass was inserted into part of the coin. This made the Rose farthing an early example of a bimetallic coin and also almost impossible to counterfeit, and the production of forgeries soon ended.



James II: 1685 - 1688



Example of James II Shilling

James was a Stuart king of England, Scotland and Ireland who in 1688 was overthrown in the 'Glorious Revolution' by William III.

During the English Civil War he was captured but fled to exile on the continent. He distinguished himself a soldier, returning to England at the Restoration of his brother, Charles II, in 1660.

In 1669, James converted to Catholicism and took a stand against a number of anti-Catholic moves, including the Test Act of 1673. This did not impede his succession to the throne on Charles' death in 1685.

James's attempts to give civic equality to Roman Catholic and Protestant dissenters, led to conflict with parliament. In 1685, James prorogued it and ruled alone. He attempted to promote Catholicism by appointing Catholics to military, political and academic posts.

In June 1688 a group of Protestant nobles appealed to William of Orange, husband of James's older, and Protestant, daughter Mary. William landed with an army in Devon. Deserted by an army and navy who he had completely alienated, James completely lost his nerve and fled abroad. In February 1689, parliament declared that James's flight constituted an abdication and William and Mary were crowned joint monarchs.

In March 1689, James landed in Ireland where, with French support, he raised an army. He was defeated by William at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690. James died in exile in Saint-Germain, France, in 1701.



William III: 1689 - 1702



Example of William III Shilling

William III inherited the principality of Orange and became the sovereign Prince of Orange when he was born. He became the King of England, Ireland and Scotland when he took the throne from James II following his invasion of England. He reigned from 1689 until his death in 1702. His wife was given joint reign by English Parliament; an event which became known as the 'Glorious Revolution'.

William of Orange and his wife Mary II, daughter of James II, became king and queen of England in 1689. They were both Protestants. The pair had been invited to come from the Netherlands, where William was the official head of state, to rescue England from the Catholic rule of James II.

William was an unpopular king, who was more concerned with issues in the Netherlands. However, Mary was well liked by her people. Mary died in 1694 and William continued to rule alone as William III.



George III: 1760 - 1820



Example of George III Shilling

George III was born premature and wasn't expected to survive and was baptized. However, he defied the odds and despite experiencing bouts of mental illness, he lived a long life until the age of 81

He married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in 1761. The couple were crowned at Westminster Abbey and they went on to enjoy a long and happy 50 year marriage together. They had fifteen children in total; 9 sons and 6 daughters.

He experienced episodes of mental illness and insanity throughout his life. The cause of his suffering is not fully understood, it may have been a result of porphyria, a genetic disease. As he grew older, he became blind and weak. What had once been bouts of mental illness took over his mind permanently and by 1811, he wasn't mentally or physically fit to continue his responsibilities as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Prince George had the unfathomable responsibility of taking over his father's duties whilst still being governed by his decisions.



George III: 1760 - 1820



Example of Cartwheel Penny – 1797

- Obverse** laureated right-facing bust of George III
GEORGIUS III D G REX
- Reverse** Britannia seated on a rock, facing left, holding an olive branch and trident
BRITANNIA 1797.

Although Britannia had long appeared on the halfpenny and 1797 coinage was the first time she was depicted ruling the allegory for Britain's status as a maritime power. The word seen in fine print on the face of the rock just below the shield.



farthing, the waves, an SOHO may be

In the reign of King George III (1760–1820) counterfeiting was rampant, and in 1771 the issuance of counterfeit copper coin became a serious crime; this however had little effect and for the next twenty years or so the majority of copper so-called coins in circulation were forgeries. In March 1782 a female counterfeiter was hanged, then fixed to a stake and burned before the debtor's door at Newgate prison in London.

The industrialist Matthew Boulton constructed the Soho Mint in Handsworth, West Midlands, containing eight machines, to his own patent design, driven by steam engine, each capable of striking 70 to 84 coins per minute. In 1797, the government gave Boulton a contract to strike 480 tonnes of copper pennies and 20 tonnes of copper twopences. The first official British coins of those denominations to be made of copper, they were also the first official British coins to be struck by steam rather than by muscle power.

It was believed that the face value of a coin should correspond to the value of the material it was made from, so each coin was made from two pence worth of copper (2 ounces). This requirement means that the coins are significantly larger than the silver pennies minted previously and the Twopence was the largest ever UK minted coin. The large size of the coins, combined with the thick rim where the inscription was punched into the metal, led to the coins being nicknamed "cartwheels". All "cartwheel" twopences are marked with the date 1797. In total, around 720,000 twopences were minted

Trade Token: George III Gaming Token



This token is a copy in brass of George III gold coin. It was made to look like a gold spade guinea.

They were used as chips in various card games and board games. These tokens were also given out to theatre audiences as a memento or keepsake.

William IV: 1830 - 1837



Example of 1834 Silver Sixpence

William IV sixpences have a simpler reverse, composed of the words SIX PENCE in the middle, with a crown above, the date below, and a wreath surrounding.

During the early 1600's it was customary for the Lord of the Manor to give his bride a piece of silver as a wedding gift. This was symbolically represented by a sixpence coin. It later became a tradition to include a sixpence in the dowry that was given by the bride's family to the groom. That tradition of the sixpence as a symbol of good luck continues today.

William served in the Royal Navy in his youth, spending time in North America and the Caribbean, and was later nicknamed the "Sailor King"

At the time of his death William had no surviving legitimate children, but he was survived by eight of the ten illegitimate children he had by the actress Dorothea Jordan, with whom he cohabited for twenty years.



**Victoria:
1837 - 1901**



Queen Victoria coins were produced with both the "young head" (1838–87) and "Jubilee head" (1887–93).

Victoria became Queen at 18 and, until recently, was the longest reigning monarch.

Assassination Attempts: During her reign, several attempts were made at Queen Victoria's life, all of them unsuccessful. Despite the chaos and fear that followed the many assassination attempts, Queen Victoria became more and more popular with the public after each attempt.

She began more than one popular wedding trend: At the time of her wedding, it was common for wedding dresses to come in a variety of colors. Queen Victoria, however, wished to show off the lace embroidery of her dress and requested it in white. She also asked that none of her guests wear white so as not to draw attention away from her, and she even had the pattern for her dress destroyed so that it could not be copied.

Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert popularized the custom of Christmas Trees, in 1848, when Albert sent decorated trees to schools and army barracks around Windsor. An image of the royal family decorating a tree was also published that year, inspiring other British families to do the same.

In 1842, Victoria became the first monarch to ride a train. The ride from Slough, near Windsor Castle, to Paddington in West London took about 30 minutes to complete. The 23-year-old Queen found the ride delightful and said the "motion was very slight, and much easier than a carriage—also no dust or great heat,"



George V: 1910 - 1936



Example of George V Florin & Sixpence

George joined the Royal Navy at the age of 12 and visited the Caribbean, Australia and South Africa. In 1893 he married Princess Victoria Mary, nicknamed May, after the month she was born in.

Soon after he married, it was claimed that he had already married another woman earlier. The journalist who started the rumour was sent to prison for a year.

King George V loved stamp collecting, helping to make the Royal Philatelic collection one of the world's best. He has been featured on many stamps issued by several countries.

King George V enjoyed shooting and once shot 21 tigers on a trip to Nepal. Another time, he and some friends shot over 1,000 pheasants in just a few hours.

George made over 300 visits to hospitals during World War I, visiting injured soldiers. He also visited soldiers in the field over 450 times and insisted that German prisoners be treated properly.

During one of these visits, the King fell from his horse. He spent several months recovering in Bognor which became known as Bognor Regis, *regis* being Latin for king.

He died on January 20, 1936 from complications from smoking.



George VI: 1936 - 1952



Example of George VI Sixpence

At around age eight, the future King George VI developed a stammer, and he suffered the indignity of wearing leg braces to correct his knock knees

In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, violating the Munich Pact, and war was declared. With the help of his speech therapist and his wife, King George successfully made one of the most important speeches of his life, announcing to the citizens of Britain that the country was at war.

During World War II, the royal couple were resolved to stay in London at Buckingham Palace despite intense German bombing raids. King George and Queen Elizabeth undertook many morale-boosting visits to Britain's bombed-out cities, touring hospitals and visiting with wounded troops.

After World War II, the stress of war began to catch up with King George VI and his health began to deteriorate rapidly.

In 1951, following years of heavy smoking, King George was diagnosed with lung cancer and arteriosclerosis. On September 23, 1951, his left lung was removed.

Despite his reluctance to be king, George VI was a conscientious and dedicated sovereign who assumed the throne at a time when public faith in the monarchy was at an all-time low. Armed with strong determination and the help of his wife, he became a modern monarch of the 20th century. During his reign, George VI endured the hardships of war and the transition from an empire to a commonwealth of nations, and restored the popularity of the British monarchy.



British Token Coinage

A token is a 'coin' like object, which usually has no legal tender status, but is intended to circulate as currency, usually in very limited circumstances to pay for the goods and services sold by the issuer, but during the 17th and 18th century, a chronic dearth of small change issued by the Royal Mint meant that tokens became an important part of day to day commerce.

By the 17th century, inflation had devalued English currency to the point where it was no longer feasible to mint the smallest denominations in silver, although demand amongst the public for coins in the lowest denominations for everyday transactions remained considerable. Despite this however, it was for a long time considered beneath the dignity of the Crown to mint coins for use as currency in base metal. When King James I finally acquiesced to producing copper coins to fulfil the demand for small change in the early part of the 17th Century, he delegated the task to Lord Harrington, who issued copper farthings under licence for a considerable profit. In due course, others were granted similar concessions to supply copper farthings.

These token issues were unpopular with merchants, because of the refusal of those issuing them to redeem them in silver or gold, and they were suppressed by Parliament during the Civil War. However, demand for small change proved to be too much, and merchants began to issue their own tokens from 1648 onwards. These privately-issued copper and brass farthings and half-pennies were generally crudely-struck pieces giving the name of the person issuing them and the phrase 'His Half-Penny/Farthing' along with a description or coat of arms denoting his profession or trade.

This state of affairs continued throughout the Commonwealth Period and the early part of Charles II's reign until 1672, when it was decided that an official issue of farthings and half-pennies in copper and tin would be issued, to replace the unofficial tokens which were in widespread circulation at this time. The superior quality of the new official coinage, and a law which was passed to suppress the old token issues ensured that they disappeared rapidly from circulation. Unfortunately, despite the success and widespread use of the new official subsidiary regal coinage, the Royal Mint ceased production of the half-penny and farthing in 1775, in spite of a growing shortage of small change. The situation was aggravated by the indifference of the upper and ruling classes for whom the smallest denominations were an irrelevance in their personal transactions. Part of the shortfall was made up by widespread counterfeiting, which although illegal, was generally tolerated by the authorities (or at least, not pursued with particular enthusiasm), partly because it provided a service that was needed, but which they were reluctant or unable to provide. The forgery or clipping of precious metal issues however, was still taken much more seriously by the government, and subject to the most gruesome punishments as it was considered a form of High Treason.

By the 1780s however, not even the large quantities of counterfeit coins in circulation could supply demand for small change, and their varying quality caused exasperated merchants and others to start issuing their own private tokens once again. These tokens were machine milled, and of vastly superior quality, both to the hand-struck issues of the previous century and to the official circulating currency of the day. Merchants took the opportunity to use these tokens as advertisements for their businesses, as well as a form of personal promotion. These late 18th and early 19th Century tokens are often known as 'Conder' Tokens (after James Conder, an Ipswich drapery owner who in addition to issuing his own tokens, collected and catalogued those of others from all over the country).

Private tokens however, continued to be issued until about 1815.

Trade Token: Coventry Halfpenny



Example of Coventry Halfpenny Token

Halfpenny Token struck for the City of Coventry.

Obverse – Lady Godiva

Reverse - Castle-clad elephant. The phrase 'Pro Bono Publico'
(For The Public Good)

This is a Conder token, so named for James Conder who was an early collector and cataloged interesting coins privately minted in response to British coin shortages in rural areas. Usually pennies and half pennies, Conder tokens were minted by towns, businesses, and organizations of all types to meet a need for low denomination coinage that was not being provided by government. Thousands of varieties of tokens were minted, many are beautiful and intricate works of art.

The elephant is seen, not only as a beast so strong that he can carry a tower - Coventry's castle - full of armed men, but also as a symbol of Christ's redemption of the human race. The elephant is also seen as a dragon slayer in Medieval thinking. There is a now forgotten tradition of dragon-slaying in this neighbourhood - and Coventry to be the birthplace of St. George, who slew the dragon.

Godiva, Countess of Mercia, was an English noblewoman who, according to a legend dating at least to the 13th century, rode naked – covered only in her long hair – through the streets of Coventry to gain a remission of the oppressive taxation that her husband, Leofric, Earl of Mercia, imposed on his tenants. The name "Peeping Tom" for a voyeur originates from later versions of this legend in which a man named Thomas watched her ride and was struck blind or dead.

Trade Token: Weedon Grocers Token

Obverse – Martin Parker around beaded inner circle. Grocers Arms within.
Reverse – In Weedon 1652 around twisted wire inner circle. P.M.M. in two lines within.

Grocers Arms

The company was founded in the 14th century by members of the Guild of Pepperers, which dates from 1180. The Company was responsible for maintaining standards for the purity of spices and for the setting of certain weights and measures.

The guild was known as the Company of Grossers from 1373 until 1376 when it was renamed the Company of Grocers of London. In 1428, two years after building its first hall in Old Jewry, the Company was granted a Royal Charter by King Henry VI of England.^[2] One of the Great Twelve City Livery Companies, it ranks second in the Companies order of precedence after the Mercers' Company. It is said that the Grocers' Company used to be first in the order, until Queen Elizabeth I, as Honorary Master of the Mercers' Company, found herself in procession, after her coronation behind the Grocers' camel which was emitting unfortunate smells; as a result, the Mercers were promoted.

The Grocers Coat of Arms shows a shield with nine cloves on it around a chevron, and a bridled camel with two bags of pepper powdered with cloves.



Trade Token: Coalbrookdale Halfpenny



Coalbrookdale Halfpenny Token, Shropshire - 1792

- Obverse** - View of the The Iron Bridge in the Ironbridge Gorge near Coalbrookdale with a boat or ship sailing underneath it.
Inscription above- *erected anno 1779 span 100 feet*
Inscription between inner circle and outer rim –
iron bridge at coalbrookdale
- Reverse** - A man working at a machine –
Inclined plane at Ketley 1789

The Iron Bridge is a bridge that crosses the River Severn in Shropshire, England. Opened in 1781, it was the first major bridge in the world to be made of cast iron, and was greatly celebrated after construction owing to its use of the new material.

These tokens were struck after the death of Abraham Darby III in 1789, at a time when the affairs of the Coalbrookdale Company were largely controlled by the Quaker ironmaster Richard Reynolds and his son William. The Iron Bridge was built over the River Severn between 1777 and 1781. The iron ribs were put into place in the summer of 1779, which is the year generally quoted as the date of the erection of the bridge. Its construction was due largely to Abraham Darby III, and the Reynolds family had little connection with the project until after its completion.

Trade Token: John Rennals Halfpenny



Example of a John Rennals Token 1668

There are two lace-related merchants recorded for Buckingham.

John Rennals, Buckingham, 1668.

John Reynolds was a lace buyer; married firstly Elizabeth Goodman, September 1653; his second wife's name was Elitia and she was still living in 1673. This one seems to have come in three variations.

All have "Of Bvckingham, his halfe-penny" on the front.

1. On the reverse, one variation has a strip of lace and a cinquefoil on the rim.
2. A second example has the cinquefoil and initials I.E.R.
3. A third example has the I.E.R. and a sexfoil

Peter Reynoldes, Buckingham:

Reynold's name is on one side with a strip of lace on one side. On the reverse, 'of Buckingham 58' is written around the circumference, RPF in the center. Peter Reynoldes was recorded in 1671 as a lace buyer and churchwarden. He married Frances Woodcocke in December 1637, so the 'F' on the coin would be her first initial.



John Hartley Trade Token - 1650



Example of a John Hartley Token 1660

Buckingham Draper and Mercer

Draper is one who sells cloths; a dealer in cloths; *Mercer* is a merchant dealing in fabrics and textiles, especially silks and other fine cloth.

Obverse – *John Hartley 1650*

Reverse – *In Bvckinggam*

Trustee Savings Bank Coin Week Token 1960



Obverse: Head facing left.

Lettering: Dr Henry Duncan The Father of Savings Banks

Engraver: Christopher Ironside

Reverse: Castle in Elipse lettering below.

Lettering: Trustee Savings Bank 1960

Henry Duncan was a Scottish minister, geologist and social reformer. The minister of Ruthwell parish church in Dumfriesshire, he founded the world's first commercial savings bank. He was also an author, publisher and philanthropist.

The first savings bank was instituted at Ruthwell in 1810, and Duncan was unceasing in his efforts to promote the cause throughout the country. His influence was used to procure the first act of parliament passed to encourage such institutions. By speeches, lectures, and pamphlets he made the cause known far and wide. The scheme readily commended itself to all intelligent friends of the people. Great though his exertions were, and large his outlay in this cause, he never received any reward or acknowledgement beyond the esteem of those who appreciated his work and the spirit in which it was done.

Between 1970 and 1985, the various trustee savings banks in the United Kingdom were amalgamated into a single institution named TSB Group plc, which was floated on the London Stock Exchange. In 1995, the TSB merged with Lloyds Bank to form Lloyds TSB, at that point the largest bank in the UK by market share and the second-largest by market capitalisation