

HOW

NAMES OF BRITISH COINS REVEAL THEIR ORIGIN.

The origins of the names of English coins are most interesting, constituting, as they do, a historical record.

The first coin, and for many years practically the only one, was the Roman denarius, whence the sign "d" now used for a penny.

The denarius was a silver coin weighing originally 24 grains Troy. The copper penny was in the beginning merely a token, a pledge to be redeemed in goods to the value of a denarius.

The word "penny" is derived from "pand," which is Dutch, and means a pledge. The earlier forms were "pendang," then "penning."

In Ethelred's time it became the custom to divide these tokens into half and quarter wedge-shaped pieces. These were the origin of the terms halfpenny and farthing—the fourthing of a penny.

The pound sterling is from the Latin "pondus," a weight. From a pound of pure silver 240 denarii were made. Hence the word as applied to the coin.

The fourpenny piece, or groat, was so called because it was a "great" penny, from the Dutch word "grote," meaning great.

The guinea derived its name from being minted from the Guinea coast of Africa.—Montreal Family Herald.

How Air Currents Are Tested for Flying Men

In the present days the demands of aviation make it desirable that a pilot should have a knowledge of the force and direction of the wind at different heights before he starts on his journey. Therefore a systematic exploration of the upper atmosphere is necessary. These explorations are made by small balloons less than three feet in diameter, technically known as pilot balloons. The extent to which they are inflated causes them to rise at a uniform speed of 500 feet per minute, and while rising they float in the same direction and at the same speed as the air current they are in. Their course is followed by a theodolite which gives the angles of direction and elevation. These being known, also the height, which depends on the time the balloon has been up, the speed and direction of the wind at different altitudes can be arrived at by a few simple rules in mathematics. The use of this knowledge to the modern aviator is obvious. For instance, if he "takes off" in a ten-mile wind on the surface and knows that at 3,000 feet there is a gale blowing at 60 miles an hour, he will, if this wind is adverse, naturally keep below that altitude.

How Fish Sleep

Fish are unable to close their eyes, and they do not sleep like animals, that is, by relaxing and losing all sense of what is going on about them. The United States bureau of fisheries reports in a bulletin on the subject that close study of the habits of fish show that they follow periods of great activity with periods of repose in which they rest and are indifferent to what goes on about them unless approached by an enemy. It has been observed that fish in swift streams appear to keep up a continuous battle against the current so they will not be swept away from a favorite haunt.

How to Remove Tight Ring

One simple method suggested for taking a ring off a finger when the finger has grown and ring has not been off the finger for some time is to rub the finger with soap and cold water to help the removal of the ring. Another way is to begin at the end of the finger and wind a strong thread around it, with close coils, until the ring is reached, then slip the end of thread through ring and unwind so as to carry off the ring. If the finger is very much swollen or the ring is very tight, it may be necessary to have the ring cut.

How to Cut Glass Easily

The bureau of standards says that glass can be cut more easily under water because the vibration is less than in the air, and the glass is therefore less liable to crack. Pure water attacks all glasses to a greater or lesser degree, and in the less perfect kinds extracts the alkali. In certain kinds of glass the action of water is not confined to the surface only, but penetrates and causes a partial hydration of some of the silica or silicates.

How Much Brain Weighs

The average weight of the human brain is about 45 ounces. Generally speaking the brains of men are heavier than those of women, although the relative weights of the brain and body are about the same in the two sexes. The average weight of the male brain is 48 ounces; that of the female, 43.

How to Overcome Shyness

Shyness can best be cured by the development of self-confidence, which calls for the power of thinking, the power of acting on the thought, and the power of self-control.

English Post Laureates

Long Lived but Prosy

Poet laureates of England have been a long-lived race. Doctor Bridges—he was a physician, too—was eighty-five when he passed on. The ages of his three immediate predecessors in the office—Alfred Austin, Tennyson and Wordsworth—averaged eighty. Among the distinguished laureates of an earlier period, Ben Jonson lived to be sixty-three and Dryden to be sixty-nine. But the record among laureates is held by the actor-manager Colley Cibber, who died in 1757 at the age of eighty-seven.

As a poet Colley Cibber was terrible and King Edward had no great opinion of the poetry of Alfred Austin, poet laureate at the time he ascended the throne. He was not alone in that opinion.

"I always thought that Mr. Austin's appointment was not a good one," he wrote to Lord Salisbury, then prime minister, "but as long as he gets no pay it would, I think, be best to renew the appointment in his favor."

A few months later King Edward sent to Salisbury some verses and pointedly called his attention to the "trash which the poet laureate writes"—the letter is quoted in Sir Sidney Lee's "Life of Edward."

Possibilities of Paper

Showers Pointed Out

It was the skyscraper that evolved the idea of showers of bits of paper to welcome distinguished guests in triumphant procession in the street below. Who threw the first handful? He was a pioneer in that kind of pageantry; and the fluttering particles confer an air so festive that nothing else can equal it.

In earlier eras flowers may have been thus cast from windows and balconies, but never in the prodigious volume with which the paper cascades descend; nor from the impressive height. We have often thought that this new feature of enthusiastic salutation to heroes and joy-inspiring guests should be developed and elaborated.

If we may not bestow rose-leaves on the heads of the distinguished, tissue paper simulation of rose-leaves—perhaps somewhat larger for festive effect—in crimson, pink and yellow might be thickly sifted through the air; or still more gorgeous, mingled with stars of silver and gold paper. We don't half realize the possibilities of this showy and enlivening innovation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Proof of Friendship

A telephone call came to the superintendent of a sanitarium near Chicago.

"Say," queried the caller, "have you got a fellow named B— out there?"

"Why, yes."

"Is he paying you any board?"

"No; he's a charity patient."

"Say, that guy hasn't got any more right to be a charity patient than I have. Why, he's got \$400 in one bank and \$600 in another and he owns a bungalow out in Waukegan. You'd better hide his clothes before you give him a bill, though, or he'll skip out on you. He's that kind of a crook."

"Say," demanded the superintendent, "who are you and how do you come to know so much about B—'s affairs?"

"Oh," replied the unknown caller, "I'm a close friend of his."—Chicago Evening Post.

Misled by Sign

Pat, the Irishman, had agreed to accompany his wife on a shopping expedition.

"There's a good pair of boots," said the latter, as they stood looking in the window of a boot and shoe shop. "I'll get those for little Jamesy."

Pat looked at the articles indicated and a murmur of surprise left his lips as he saw the price and the notice, "Last Seven Days" displayed on a card above them.

"But, surely, Martha," he said, "you don't want to buy those things."

"Why not, Pat?" asked his wife wonderingly.

"Begorra," gasped her husband, "but you want them to last longer than a week."—London Answers.

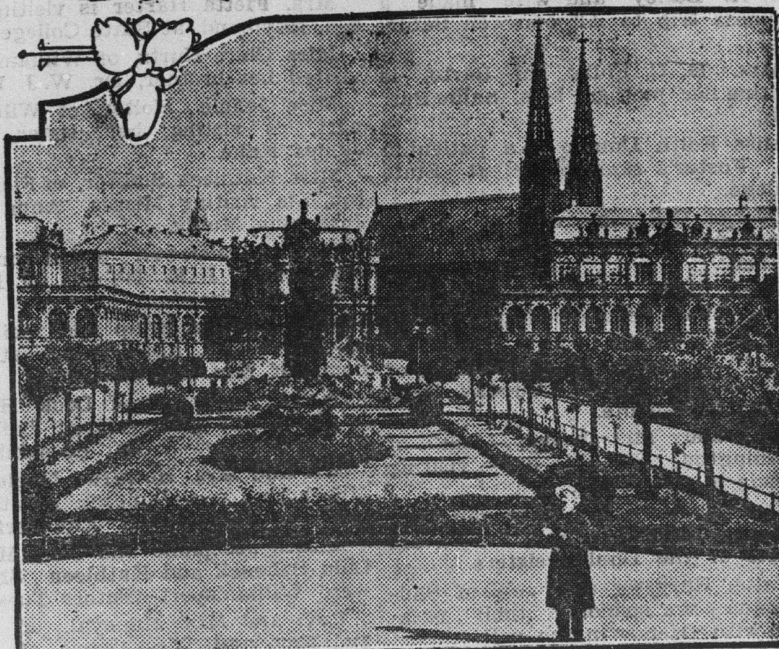
New Brunswick Legend

New Brunswick, largest of Canada's maritime provinces, was first settled by the French and its history is filled with romance. New Brunswick was part of Evangeline's land and in the early days of strife sheltered Evangeline's friends in its forests. From the Indians of the province come interesting legends of the country and of their hero, Gluskap. Once upon a time the beaver was a huge beast and threatened man's existence. Then came Gluskap in his canoe, which was an island, and hunted the wicked beaver and shattered the dams which he had built to flood the country. So they made him chief of all the tribes.

An Interruption

A ludicrous incident occurred during a parley between high officers of the British and Turkish armies, says Compton Mackenzie in "Gallipoli Memories." The discussion—it concerned a truce of eight hours for the Turks to bury their dead—took place in a tent on the beach at Anzac. Suddenly the flap of the tent was lifted at the back and a New Zealander or Australian batman put his head through to call out in a voice of indignant contempt: "Heh! Have any of you blighters pinched my kettle?"

TWO ART CAPITALS



Galleries and Gardens of the Zwingergärten, Dresden.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

TWO capitals of German states, Dresden in Saxony and Munich in Bavaria, are capitals, as well, of art, and annually draw their thousands of art-loving tourists.

Dresden is filled with artistic wonders. Its picturesque setting, astride a beautiful bend in the Elbe river, about 110 miles south of Berlin, caused Herder, the poet, to call it the Florence of the Elbe.

From an approaching river steamer, the Saxon capital is a city of graceful spires and huge domes and cupolas, but inside the Altstadt (old city) on the left bank of the Elbe, the picture changes to one of artistically embellished buildings, handsomely sculptured monuments, galleries of famous paintings, numerous museums with choice collections of all sorts, spacious squares and parkways, and canyonlike streets where Kunst (German for "art") is heard among the throngs nearly as often as some of the common verbs.

A large portion of the Altstadt lies near the Augustus bridge, one of the five spans that connect the old town with Neustadt, on the other bank of the river. The Hof-Kirche, facing the bridge with its 272-foot tower, is a huge structure, whose parapets are topped with 50 statues of saints and, inside, Raphael Mengs' "Ascension" looks down upon the high altar. A covered passage connects the church with the old Saxon palace; whose walls are decorated with fine mural paintings; and in the various rooms, large collections of Chinese vases and Dresden china are on display. Even the stable adjoining the palace is embellished with a cavalcade of Saxon princes, in porcelain tiles.

Treasures in Many Buildings.

Within a few blocks of the palace numerous buildings contain the collections that have made Dresden famous as the German art center. Between the church and the palace the Grunes Gewölbe (Green Vault) contains a dazzling array of jewels—diamonds, rubies and sapphires—and works of art in gold, ivory, bronze and Limoges enamels. On a single ivory tusk one artist has carved 142 angels and another ivory piece depicts an organ grinder fighting a robber. The Saxon crown jewels, a 40-carat green diamond, jeweled trinkets of all kinds, a golden tea service and the largest known onyx are displayed. Bronze work includes statues, pedestals and vases. A striking bronze piece depicts Charles II of England fighting off a dragon.

Across the street, surrounded by gardens, the Zwingergärten, built by Augustus the Strong and intended to house banquet and dance halls, promenades and gardens befitting royal life of the Eighteenth century, is a treasure of art. The building is a fine example of Italian Renaissance, adorned with figures of Greek deities, vases and flowers. Once in the court which the Zwingergärten encloses, the traveler feels that the rose gardens and promenades should fulfill the most regal whim.

The Zwingergärten museum contains a half million engravings, many drawings, mathematical instruments, and a picture gallery where some of the finest works of the most eminent Italian, Spanish, Dutch and German artists are on exhibition. Raphael's "Sistine Madonna" occupies a prominent place in the collection. It was purchased in 1754 from Italian monks and smuggled out of Italy by painting and landscape over the canvas. There are also works of Rubens, Van Dyck, Rembrandt and others.

The Johanneum museum, formerly stable buildings, contains an interesting collection of war material and more than 20,000 pieces of Chinese, Japanese and Dresden porcelain, and Italian majolica, a glazed pottery. The Albertinum, once an arsenal, now is a sculpture museum with many historical and modern pieces. Delicately painted limestone reliefs dating back to 2700 B. C. are displayed there, while a mummy still reposes in a coffin it has occupied more than 2,500 years.

Collections and Churches.

These and numerous other exhibit places, including the Municipal museum with a fine collection of etchings; the Academy of Art; the School and Museum of Industrial Art; the Zoological and Ethnographical museum,

containing a large collection of stuffed birds and ethnological specimens; the Mineralogical and Prehistoric museum with interesting fossils; draw art lovers from all parts of the world and earn for Dresden the right to be called one of the world's important art centers.

Among the churches the Frauen-Kirche, a Protestant edifice, is the largest. It can accommodate 5,000 worshippers. The church occupies a whole city block. The lantern above its huge dome is 312 feet from the pavement. A magnificent organ and numerous statues are interesting features of its interior.

Between trips to this almost endless array of exhibits, travelers enjoy the Dresden parks and drives. Grosse Garten is nearly half as large as Central Park in New York City. Within its confines are zoological and botanical gardens and the Museum of the Saxon Antiquarian Society, where there are 3,000 objects in porcelain, pewter and carved wood.

In Neustadt, across the river, the Japanese palace, so called from the Japanese porcelain collection it once contained, now houses the Saxon State Library with more than a half million volumes and thousands of manuscripts and maps. Dresden's market place is also in Neustadt, and houses to accommodate many of the city's 620,000 inhabitants.

In point of population Munich (Munich) is exceeded only by Berlin and Hamburg among German cities. With 680,000 inhabitants it is somewhat larger than San Francisco and smaller than Boston.

Munich is Magnificent.

In physical aspects Munich is one of the most impressive of modern cities. Its royal palaces, its magnificent national theater, its great royal library containing 1,100,000 volumes and 50,000 rare manuscripts; its broad thoroughfares, particularly the Ludwigsstrasse and Maximilianstrasse, bordered by the great office buildings of the Bavarian government, and its famous university which ranks first among the German institutions of its medical learning in the number of its Berlin students and second only to Berlin in the number of students of all classes—all these and many other buildings and institutions make the municipality one of the chief prizes of the Teutonic people.

Most of the modern improvements and practically all of its architectural splendor Munich owes to Louis (or Ludwig) I and his art-loving successors. Louis came to the throne in 1825 and ruled for more than 20 years. One of the impressive monuments of his reign is the beautiful Propylaea, modeled after the gate to the Athenian Acropolis, and the reliefs which decorate this structure quite fittingly tell the story of Greece's war of independence and the events transpiring in that kingdom during the eventful reign of King Otto I, Louis' son who was elected to the throne of Greece in 1832 but was finally expelled after 30 years. Another beautiful Munich gateway is the Siegestor (Gate of Victory), modeled after the Arch of Constantine in Rome.

One Munich gallery exhibits such works as Titian's "Christ Crowned with Thorns," Rembrandt's "The Descent from the Cross" and a Raphael "Madonna," and contains works of Rubens, Van Dyck, Holbein the Elder, Perugino, Botticelli and Fra Filippo Lippi, from which it will be seen that Louis did not hesitate to acquire the masterpieces of other nations.

Louis II saw Bavaria gradually absorbed in the Empire, but, before madness drove him to suicide, he furthered the art development begun by his grandfather. His reign was notable for his encouragement of Wagner's development of the music drama, and to his royal generosity, which would add more to his fame had it not been for the oppressive taxations it imposed and its later excesses, were due the Bayreuth productions.

Its Commerce and Science.

The commercial life of Munich is scarcely less interesting than its artistic side. In America the name of the city was once indelibly associated with its most important article of export, its beer. In scientific circles Munich's optical and mathematical instruments have a world-wide reputation; while the art of lithography had its birth there.

NOTABLE TREE

A tree which has a godfather, a bank account and a given name of its own is growing in a public park at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Myrica Cerifera Davey, the tree, is under the care of a trust fund of \$100, deposited in a local bank, and has a passbook in her name for computation of interest and entry of additional deposits. Her godfather is James A. G. Davey, vice president of the Davey Tree Expert Co. of Kent, Ohio, who established the trust fund.

The tree should live several hundred years. At the age of 200 it will be worth \$732,852.21 if no withdrawals from the trust fund have been needed. This represents accumulation at 4 per cent interest compounded semi-annually.

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