

Early Swedish Coppers

1624 - 1831

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Sverige



Outline

- Overview of Swedish copper coinage types
- Coin types change with monarchs – Overview of Swedish history
- Nice old Swedish coppers are reasonably collectable

Geographic History



The Swedish Empire was at the height of its power in the 1600's.
Politically it is now a constitutional monarchy and Parliamentary democracy, primarily social democratic.

Timeline – Rulers & Events

Monarchs

Gustav II Adolf (1611-1632)
Christina (1632-1654)
Karl X Gustav (1654-1660)
Karl XI (1660-1697)
Karl XII (1697-1718)
Ulrika Eleonora (1718-1720)
Frederick I (1720-1751)
Adolf Fredrik (1751-1771)
Gustav III (1771-1792)
Gustav IV Adolph (1792-1809)
Karl XIII (1809-1818)
Karl XIV Johan (1818-1844)

Major Events

Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)
New Sweden Colony (1638-1654)
Treaty of Roskilde (1658)
Scanian War (1674-1679)
Great Northern War (1700-1721)
Plague and Frost (1708-1712)
Treaty of Nystad (1721)
Age of Liberty (1719-1772)
Russo-Swedish War (1741-1743)
Pomeranian War (1757-1762)
Coup of Gustav III (1772)
United Kingdom of Sweden and Norway (1815-1905)

Timeline - Coinage

- ~ 825 A.D. – Earliest coinage introduced due to Viking Age
- ~ 1000 A.D. – Pennies in the names of Scandinavian kings
- 12th century – Development of bracteates
- ~1521 – Introduction of silver coins by Gustav Vasa marked the end of medieval Scandinavian coinage
- **1624 – Introduction of copper coins**
- 1644 – 1776 – Plate money used until Coinage Act of Nov. 27, 1776
- 1715 – Emergency money issued
- 1799 – Redenomination from Ore to Skilling
- **1832 – First use of collars in minting process**
- 1855 – Return to Ore
- 1873 – 1 Krona = 100 Ore

Symbols



A version of the Swedish coat of arms and the lesser coat of arms. Both use the Tre Kronor (3 crowns).



House of Vasa coat of arms – a sheaf of wheat.



Dalarna coat of arms. This region in central Sweden includes Avesta, Säter, sites of mints and Falun where the big copper mine is.



Sverige: a conjunction of the words Svea and rike meaning the kingdom of the Svear (Swedes).

Gustav II Adolf (1611-1632)

- Gustav Vasa descendant – House of Vasa
- “Lion of the North”
- Led his nation toward military supremacy during the Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648).
- Died in battle of a gunshot
- Started the use of copper as currency, 1624



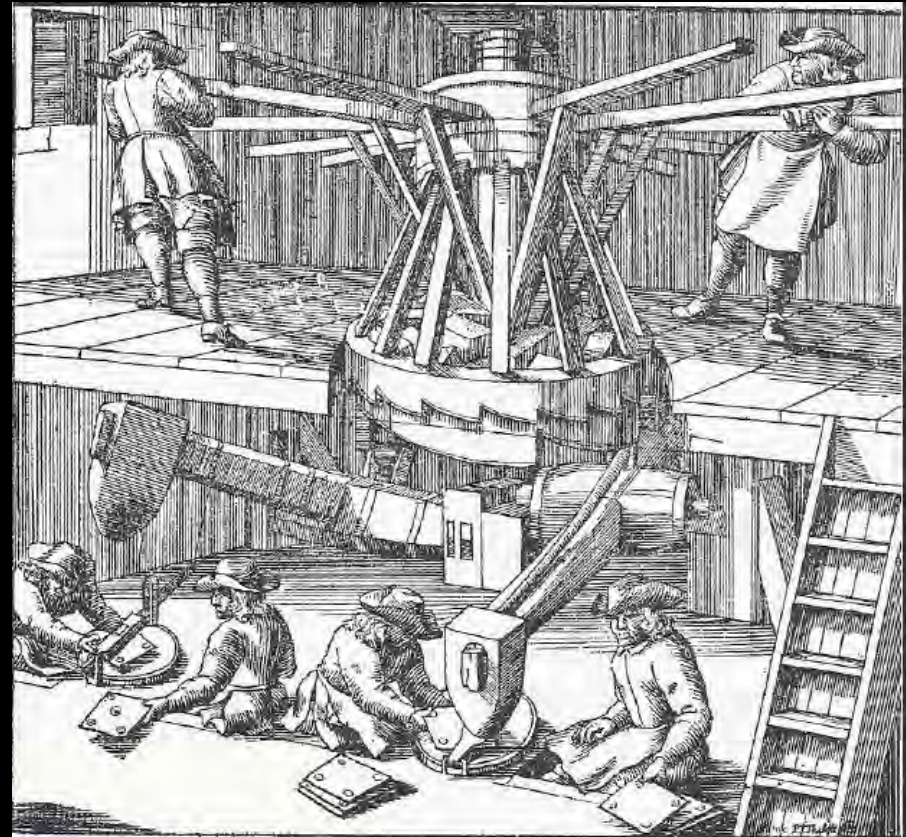
Great Copper Mountain (Stora Kopparberg)



- at Falun, Dalarna County, Sweden
- 1000 years of continuous copper mining operation
- 1687 collapse created the “Great Pit”

Minting Methods

- Hand hammered coins
- Klippes
- Roller mill - rolled in strips then punched out
- Hammer press
- Screw press
- Lever press
- Stream press
- Overstruck redemominations



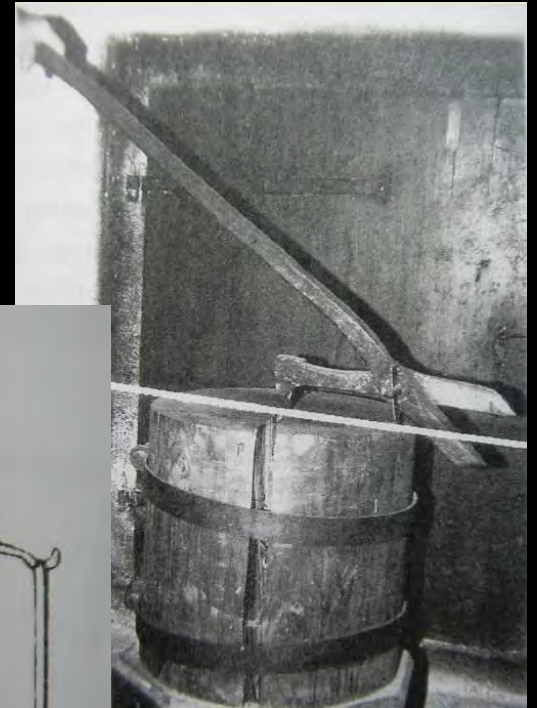
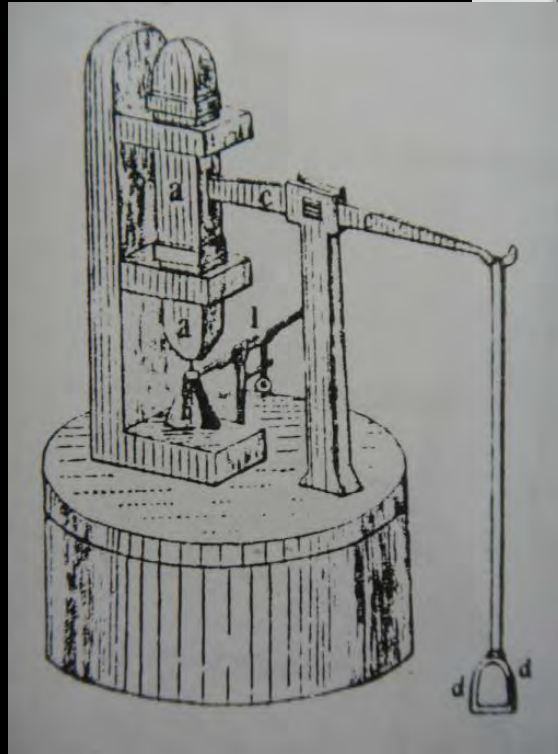
Stamping cannon metal plate money – c.1714

Minting Methods

roller
mills



Klipwerk press



giant shears



Strips of 1/4 Ores

First Copper Coins – Klippes, 1624-1626



First Copper Coins – Klippes, 1624-1626



Fyrk, 1624,
Hammered



$\frac{1}{2}$ Ore, 1624,
Hammered



1 Ore, 1625,
Hammered



1 Ore, 1626,
Roller Milled



Klippe Closeups



First Round Copper Coins - 1627



1627 Fyrck (1/4 Öre),
Arboga mint



1627 1/2 Öre,
Nyköping mint

First Round 1 Öres - 1627

Nyköping mint –
Griffin Wings Up



Nyköping mint –
Griffin Wings Down



Säter mint – crossed
arrows of Dalarna



Christina (1632 – 1654)

- Age 6: became queen
- Age 18: took control of gov't
- Age 28: abdicated the throne and position as head of the Protestant church, converted to Roman Catholicism.
- Age 28-67, lived in Rome in and was a leader in the art community.
- Last in Vasa line



Christina - Later Years

- Post-abdication maintained her status as Queen Regnant
- Scholar, Patron of Arts, Political firebrand, Lesbian, Coin collector
- Buried in the Vatican
- Had many medals made in her honor



Italian Baroque medal ca. 1680



Queen Christina (1632 – 1654)



1646 1 Öre

~ 75 million total
mintage 1 Öre

~ 200 million total
mintage 1/4 Öre

(7000 tons of copper, 1.2M people,
11 pounds each)

1/4 Öre, 3 varieties



Karl X Gustav (1654-1660)

- Christina's cousin, he took the throne after her abdication
- House of Palatinate-Zweibrücken
- A military leader, warred with Poland, Russia, Denmark
- Died at 37 after bad medical treatment



1/4 Öre, 1657
~ 30 million total
1/4 Öre mintage
but they're scarce.

Karl XI (1660-1697)

- Son of Karl X Gustav, given the throne at 5, coronated at 17, died of illness at 42
- Bank of Sweden (Sveriges Riksbank) started in 1668, it's the oldest central bank



Karl XI (1660-1697)

1/6 Ore S.M.

1 Ore K.M.

2 Ore K.M.

1 Ore S.M.



1 Ore S.M. = 3 Ore K.M.
(silver mynt) (koppar mynt)

Karl XII (1697-1718)

- Son of Karl XI, took the throne at 15.
- Invaded Russia and Norway during the Great Northern War
- Killed in the trenches in Norway under mysterious circumstances
- Baron Geortz (Görtz), advisor to Karl, debased the currency and was beheaded in 1719



Karl XII:s dödsmask.
Tillhör Göteborgs stadsmuseum.

Karl XII, 1/6 Öre S.M.



1707
XII in C

1718
C. XII



Karl XII,

Emergency Money (1715-1719)

- aka Necessity Money, Goertz Dalers
- 1 Daler fiat money coins
- Worth 32 Ore S.M. – about 1 ½ pounds of copper
- 50 cents on the dollar was paid back
- Baron Goertz was sentenced to death for his part in the fiat money scheme
- Very collectable, \$10 - \$100+

Karl XII, Emergency Money (1715-1719)

1715 –
Crown type



1716 –
Publica Fide –
Public Faith
(in Gov't)



Karl XII, Emergency Money (1715-1719)

1717 –
WETT OCH
WAPEN
(Reason and
Arms)



1718 –
FLINK OCH
FARDIG
(Agile and
Ready)



Karl XII, Emergency Money (1715-1719)

1718 –
IVPITER
(Jupiter with
Lightning
and Eagle)



1718 –
SATVRNVS
(Father Time
w\ scythe and
baby)



Karl XII, Emergency Money (1715-1719)

1718 –
PHOEBVS
(Sun God)



1718 –
MARS
(War God)



Karl XII, Emergency Money (1715-1719)

1718 –
MERCVRIVS
(Mercury,
holding
caduceus)



1719 –
HOPPET
(Hope)



Ulrika Eleonora (1718-1720)

- Daughter of Karl XI
- Redenomination of fiat Dalers to 1 Öre K.M.



Frederick I (1720-1751)

- Husband of Ulrika Eleonora
- Beginning of Age of Liberty



Adolf Frederick I (1751-1771)

- Start of Holstein-Gottorp line
- Freedom of Press act



Gustav III (1771-1792)

- Son of Adolf Frederick
- Ended Age of Liberty in bloodless coup
- A fan of the American Revolution



Frederick I (1720-1751), Adolf Frederick (1751-1771) and Gustav III (1771-1792)



1 Ore K.M.



1/2
Ore
S.M.



1 Ore S.M.



2 Ore S.M.

A.F.R.S. - Adolf Frederick Rex Sveciae (King of Sweden)

A.F.S.G.V.R. – Adolf Frederick Svecorm Gotorum Vandelorumque Rex
(King of the Svear, Goths and Wends)

V.E. – Ulrika Eleonora - F.I. - Frederick I, G III - Gustav III



Falun

Prince Gustaf Gallery
at the Falun Mine

c. 1784

by

Hilleström the Elder
(1732-1816)

<http://www.universal-prints.com/english/fine-art/images/artist/pehr-hillestroem-der-aeltere/20718/1/index.htm>

Falun

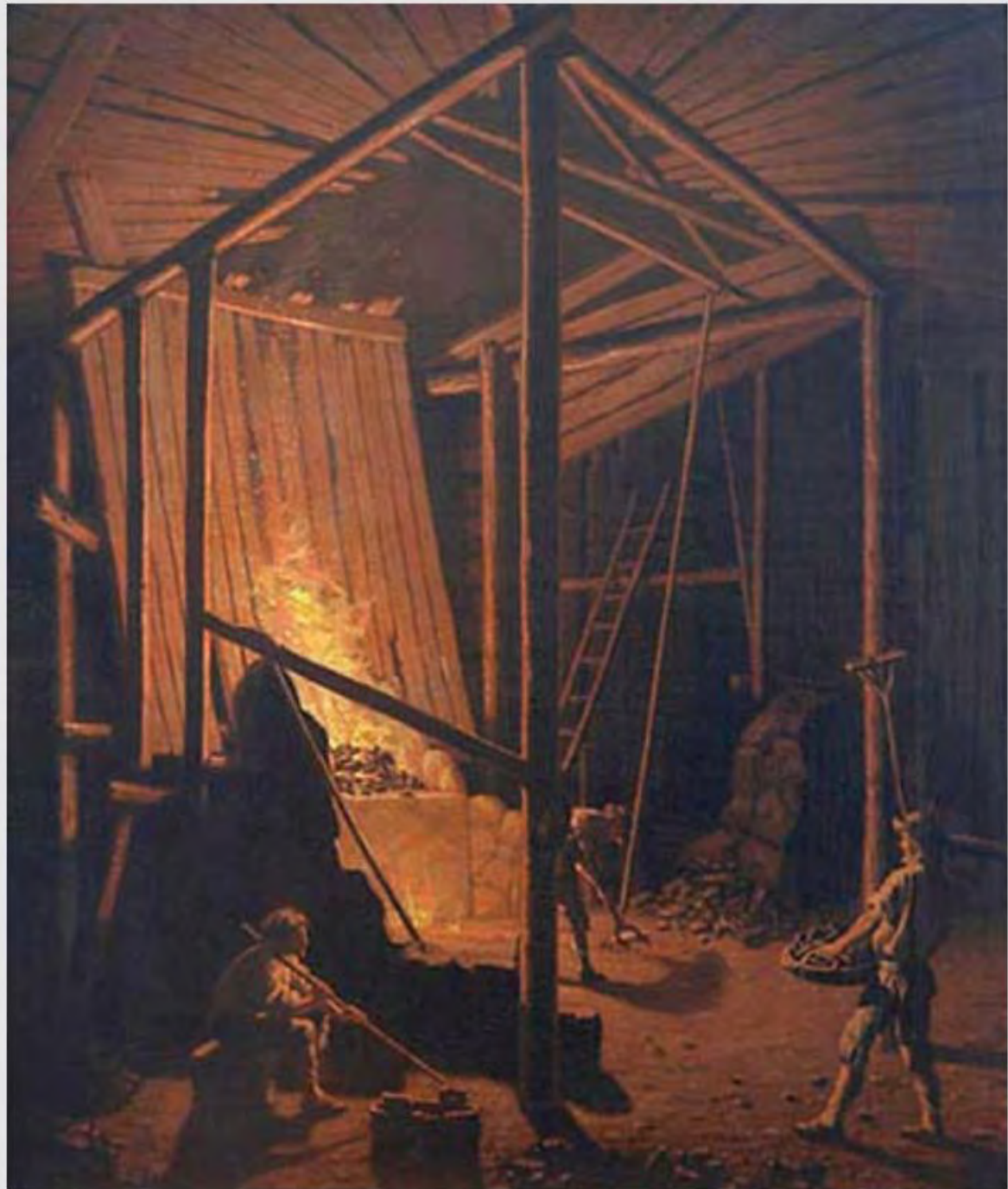
Copper Foundry at
the Falun Mine

c. 1784

by

Hilleström the Elder
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Gustav IV Adolf (1792-1809)

- Son of Gustav III
- Lost Finland to Russia, was deposed
- Died 1837



Karl XIII (1809-1818)

- Uncle of Gustav IV Adolf elected king by the Riksdag of the Estates
- 1814 - King of Norway



Karl XIV Johan (1818-1844)

- Jean Bernadotte was a Marshal of France under Napoleon I
- Elected Crown Prince in 1810 and made General of the Army



Gustav IV Adolf visits the Avesta Mint



$\frac{1}{2}$ Skilling minted on July 9, 1794, the day of the king's visit to the Avesta mint. He was age 15. This was the only copper coin struck in the king's name from 1778 to 1802.

Skillings

Gustav IV Adolf (1802-1809) Karl XIII
(1809-1818) , Karl XIV Johan (1818-1844)



1/12, 1/6, 1/4, 1/2, 1
Skillings



Karl XIII



Karl XIV Johan



Early 1/2 & 1 Skillings
were struck over
1 & 2 Ore S.M.



1802
1 Skilling
struck on a
1764
2 Öre S.M.



← 2 Öre S.M.
orientation →



← 1805 1 Skilling →



Great Copper Mountain Token



National Debt Office Token



Striking Problems



Swedish Coin Grading System

Equivalents

0 = 10 = Unc.

01 = 8 = EF

1+ = 6 = VF

1 = 4 = F

1? = 2 = VG

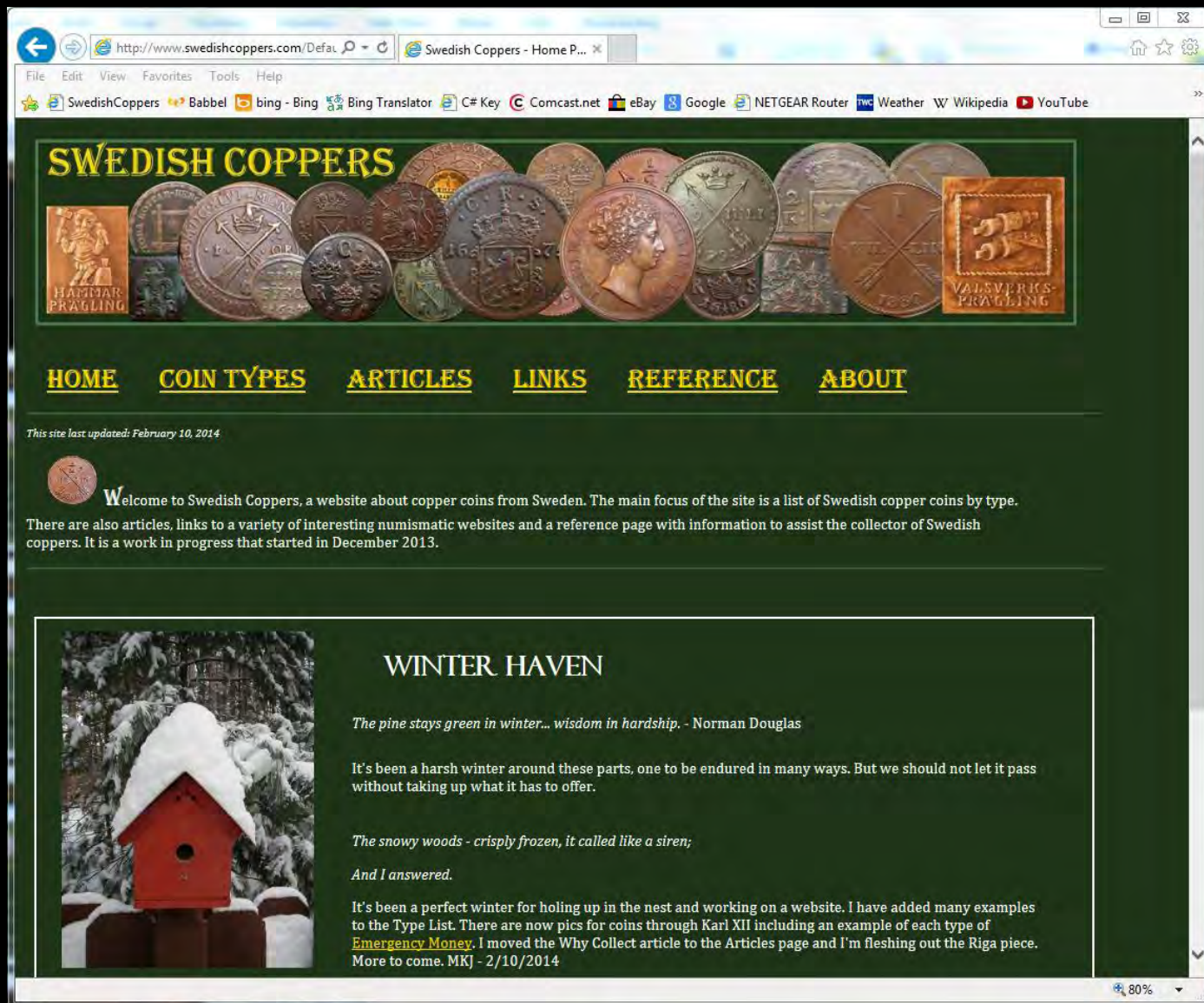
2 = 0 = Poor

Obverse\Reverse grading is used.

Example: A grade of 01\1+ is EF on the obverse and VF on the reverse.

Grading of old copper coins is net grade based on wear, strike and surface condition.

SwedishCoppers.com



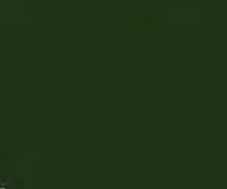


KARL XI, 1660-1697

Karl XI was the only son of Karl X who died when he was five. He formally took the throne at age 17 in 1672.

List of Copper Coin Types - Karl XI, 1660-1697

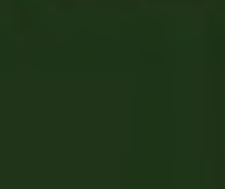
#	Denomination	Yr Beg	Yr End	Mint	KM#	SM#	Type
36	1/6 Öre S.M.	1666	1673	Avesta	254	356-363a	No Star in date
37	1/6 Öre S.M.	1673	1686	Avesta	254	363b-372	Star in date
38	1/2 Öre K.M.	1661	1664	Avesta	231	340-3	
39	1 Öre K.M.	1661	1664	Avesta	232.1	335-9	
40	2 Öre K.M.	1661	1665	Avesta	234.1	330a-4	
41	1 Öre S.M.	1669	1673	Avesta	264	344-345e	49.4 gm, rose and stars varieties
42	1 Öre S.M.	1675	1680	Avesta	264a	346-351	42.5 gm
43	1 Öre S.M.	1683	1686	Avesta	264b	352-5	40.5 gm



1/6 Öre S.M. -- 1666 - 1673 -- No Star in Date -- Type #36

Mint: Avesta; References: KM 254, SM 356-372

25-26 mm, 7.1 gm



1/6 Öre S.M. -- 1673 - 1686 -- Star in Date -- Type #37

Mint: Avesta; References: KM 254, SM 356-372

25-25.5 mm, 7.1gm (1674-80), 6.7 gm (1681-6)



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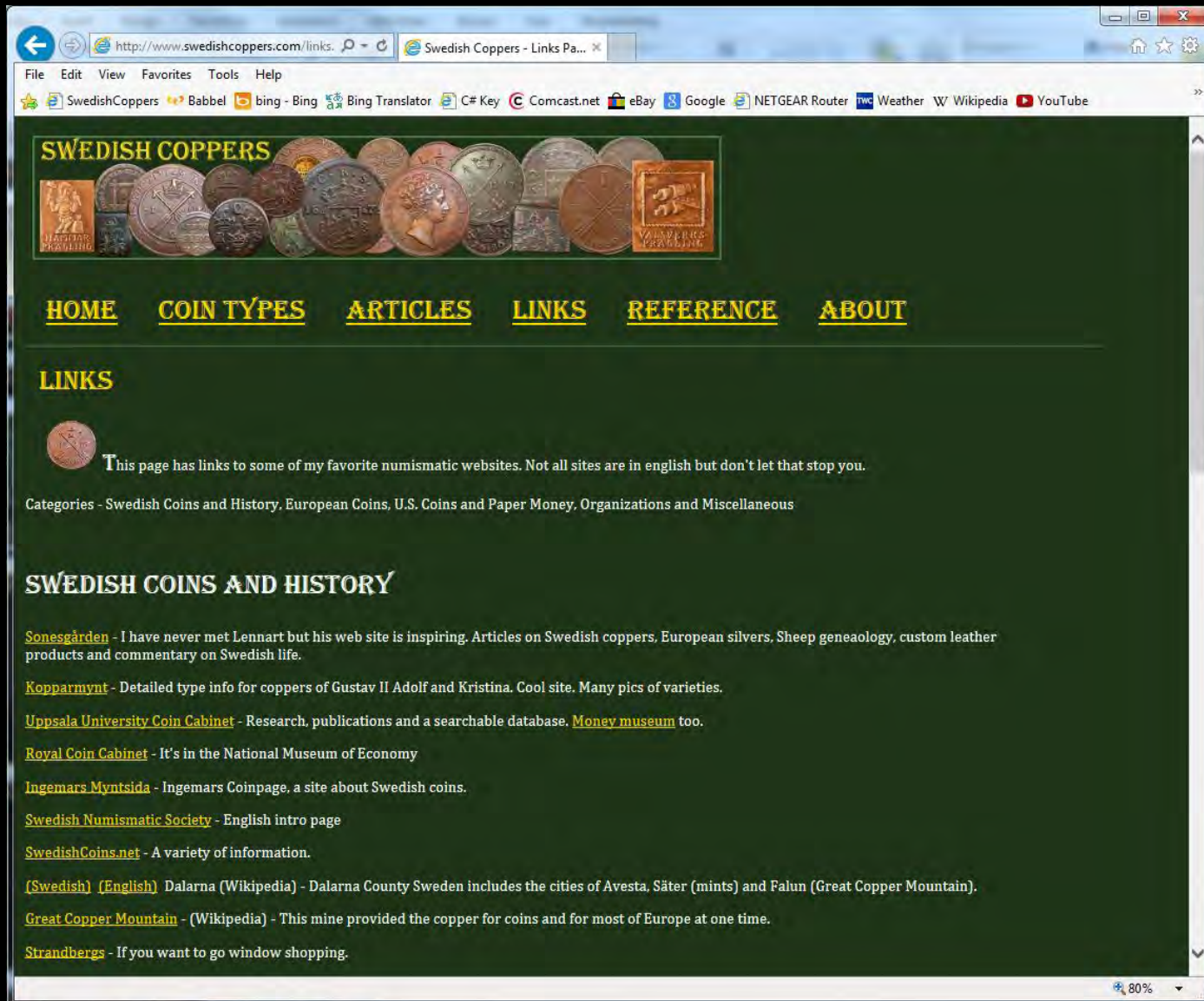


1/6 Öre S.M. -- 1673 - 1686 -- Star in Date -- Type #37

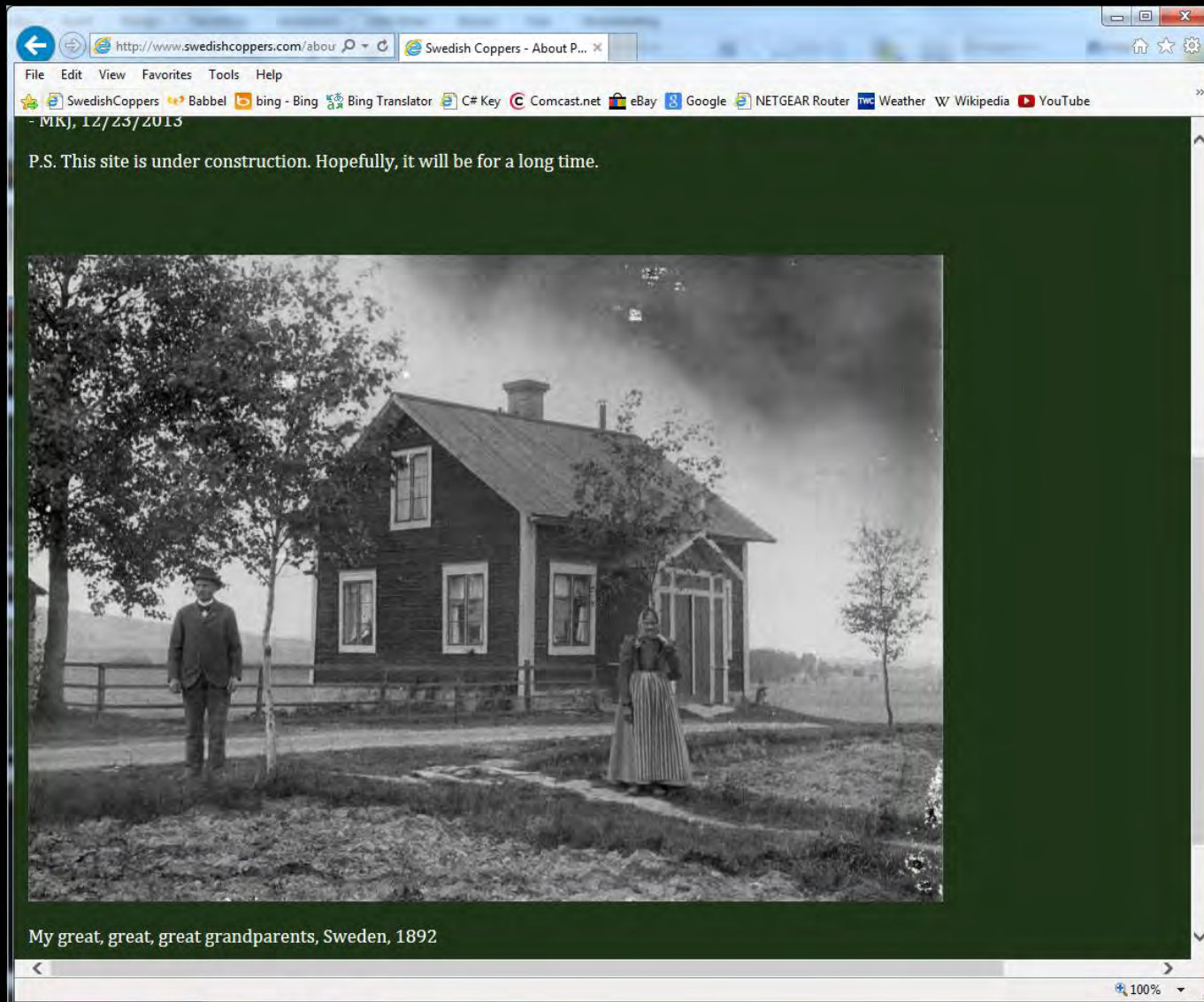
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25-25.5 mm, 7.1gm (1674-80), 6.7 gm (1681-6)

SwedishCoppers.com



SwedishCoppers.com



Denominations

Copper denominations:

Ore K. M. (Koppar Mynt) : $1/6$, $1/4$ (Fyrk.), $1/2$, 1, 2, 3

Ore S. M. (Silver Mynt) : $1/6$, $1/4$, $1/2$, 1, 2, 3

Skilling: $1/12$, $1/6$, $1/4$, $1/2$, 1

Skilling Banco: $1/6$, $1/4$, $1/3$, $1/2$, $2/3$, 1, 2, 4

Daler (emergency Money)

Ore: 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50

Silver Denominations:

Gyllen, Ore: 4, 5, 8, 10, 16

Mark: 1, 2, 4, 8 **Caroliner (= 2 Mark):** 2, 4

Riksdaler : $1/32$, $1/24$, $1/16$, $1/12$, $1/8$, $1/6$, $1/4$, $1/3$, $1/2$, $2/3$, 1

Riksdaler Riksmynt: 1, 2 and **Riksdaler Specie (= 4 Riksdaler Riksmynt):** 1

Daler S.M.: $1/2$, 1, 2, 4 and countermarked to $3/4$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 3 for plate money

Krona (pl. Kronor): 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200

Current: Ore and Kronor (\$1 = 7 Kr)

Copper was plentiful and “silver” coins contained anywhere from 4% - 100% silver content. The smaller the coin, the lower the content

Reckonings

A system of “reckonings” was used to identify the numerous relationships between the denominations.

Early: 1 Mark = 8 Ore = 24 ortugar = 64 penningar

1604-1776: 1 Daler = 4 Mark = 32 Ore S.M. = 96 Ore K.M.

Ratio of S.M. (silver money) to K.M. (copper money) varied in this period.

1 Riksdaler = 3 Daler = 288 Ore K.M. (added 1748?)

1776-1855: 1 Riksdaler = 48 Skilling

1855-1873: 1 Riksdaler Specie = 4 Riksdaler Riksmünt = 400 Ore

1873-?: Krona (pl. Kroner) = 100 Ore

Reference - Books

- Tonkin, Archie & Henrik (2012), *Myntboken*
- Krause Publications (2012): *Standard Catalog of World Coins 1600-2012*
- Ahlstrom, Bjarne (1976): *Sveriges Mynt 1521-1977. The coinage of Sweden*
- Ahlstrom, Bjarne (1967): *Coins of the Swedish possessions, 1561-1878*
- Tingstrom, Bertel (1969): *Swedish Coins, 1521 - 1968*
- Rucker, David : *The Coins of Sweden to Queen Christina*
- Haljak, Gunnar (2012): *Livonian Coins, Part II, Kingdoms 16th-18th century*
- Ecklund, O.P. & Holmberg, Berta (1962): *Copper Coins of Sweden and Coinage of Swedish Plate Money*
- Hobson, Burton (1970): *Catalogue of Scandanavian Coins*
- Royal Coin Cabinet, Museum of National Antiquities (1964), *The Monetary History of Sweden*
- Mynt Tidningen (Coin Magazine), # 4,5,6 – 1996
- Denis Cooper, Spink & Son (1988), *The Art and Craft of Coinmaking – A History of Minting Technology*

Reference - Websites

- **Informational Sites**

- Swedish Numismatic Society - http://www.numismatik.se/publikationer/pub_snt.php
- Kungliga Myntkabinettet (National Museum of Economy's Royal Coin Cabinet, began c.1630) - <http://www.myntkabinettet.se/web/English.aspx>
- Kopparmynt (Variety Cataloging; Gusaav II Adolf, - 1 Ore (1627-31), Kristina - ¼ Ore (1633-54)) - <http://www.kopparmynt.com/>
- Sonesgården (Lennart Castenhag, swedish life and essays on coppers)- <http://sonesgarden.se/>
- Swedish Coins: Type Collecting - <http://www.islandnet.com/~kpolsson/coins/sweden/>
- History of the Swedish Monetary System - http://www.algonet.se/~hogman/slmynt_eng.htm
- Medieval Coinage (Central Utah Coins) incl. Saurmasche Collection (Germany 1280-1620) - <http://www.medievalcoinage.com/saurma/someoldcoins.org/saur/intro.htm>
- Metal Detecting World – “Enhancing” Copper Coins - http://metaldetectingworld.com/cleaning_copper_coins_p1.shtml
- Falcoin - <http://www.falcoin.se/pages/startsidan.php>
- Medieval Livonian Numismatics - <http://department.monm.edu/history/urban/articles/coins.htm>

- **Stores and Auction Houses**

- Strandbergs Mynthandel & Aktiesamlaren - <http://www.aktiesamlaren.se/ukweb/english.htm>
- Myntauktioner i Sverige - <http://www.myntauktioner.se/index.php>
- Myntauktioner - <http://www.myntauktionen.se/>
- Norrtelje Coin Dealer - <http://www.mynt.se/en/Productlist/default.asp>
- Ingemars Collection and Store - <http://ingemars.se/coins/>
- Swedish Coins - <http://www.swedishcoins.info/skilling>
- Rondonons - <http://www.rondonons.nl/index.php>