

# Early Swedish Coppers

1624 - 1831

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Michigan State Numismatic Society*

**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
- 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Knonor (3 crowns).**



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



**Dalarö 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 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



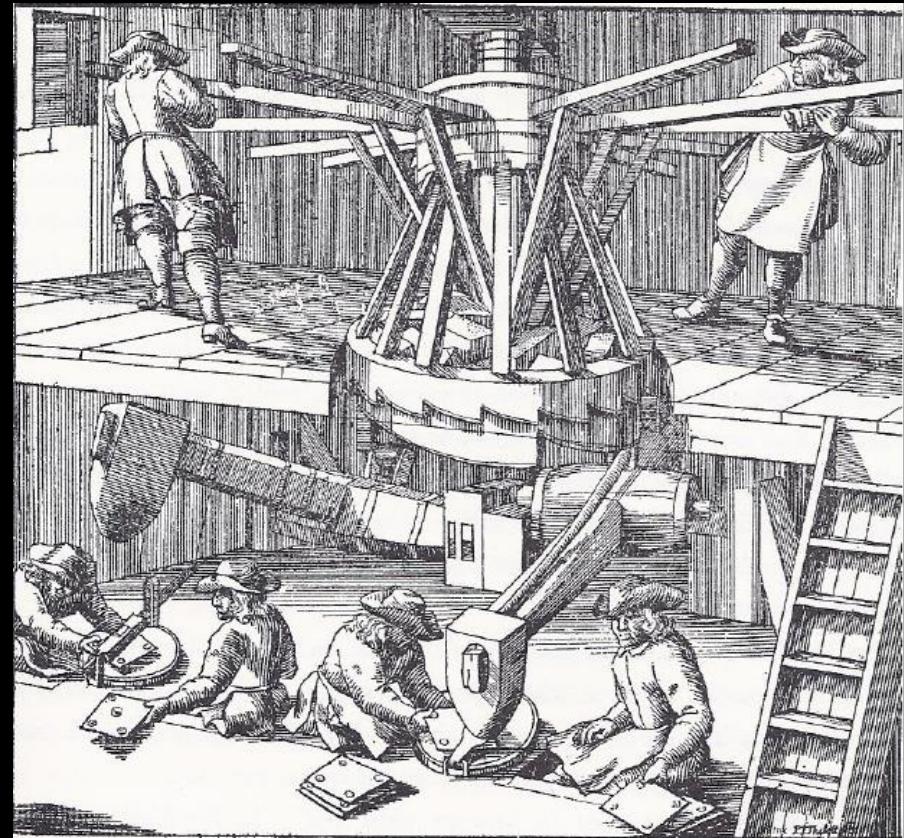
# Great Copper Mountain (Stora Kopparberg)



- 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 redenominations



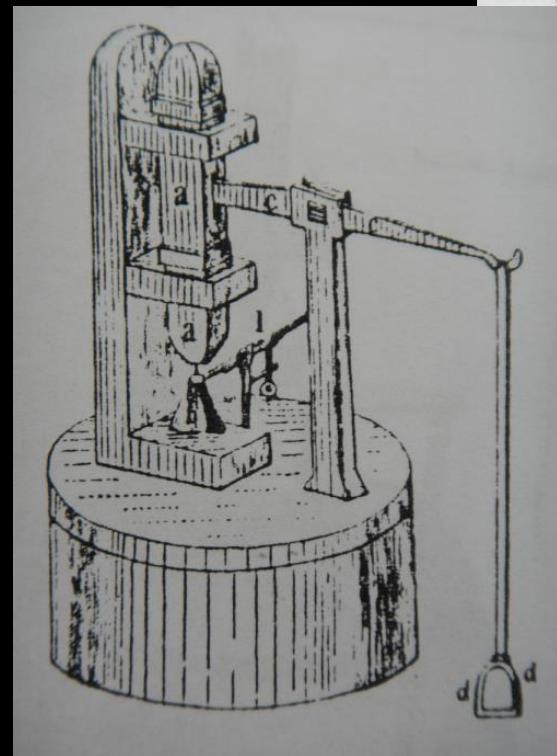
*Stamping cannon metal plate money – c.1714*

# Minting Methods

roller  
mills



*Klipwerk press*



*giant shears*



*Strips of 1/4 Ores*

# First Copper Coins – Klippes, 1624-1626



31



32



33



34



35.



36.



37



38



39



# First Copper Coins – Klippes, 1624-1626



Fyrk, 1624,  
Hammered



½ 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,  
Nykoping mint

# First Round 1 Öres - 1627

Nykoping mint –  
Griffin Wings Up



Nykoping 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.

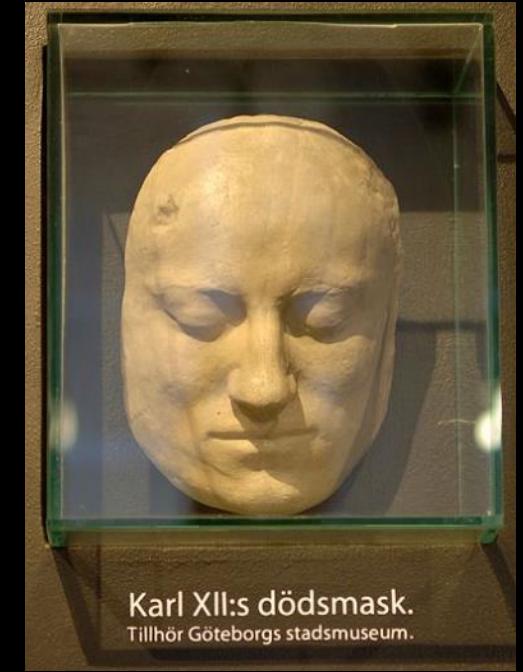


1 Ore S.M. = 3 Ore K.M.  
(silver mynt) (koppar mynt)

# 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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)

# Falun

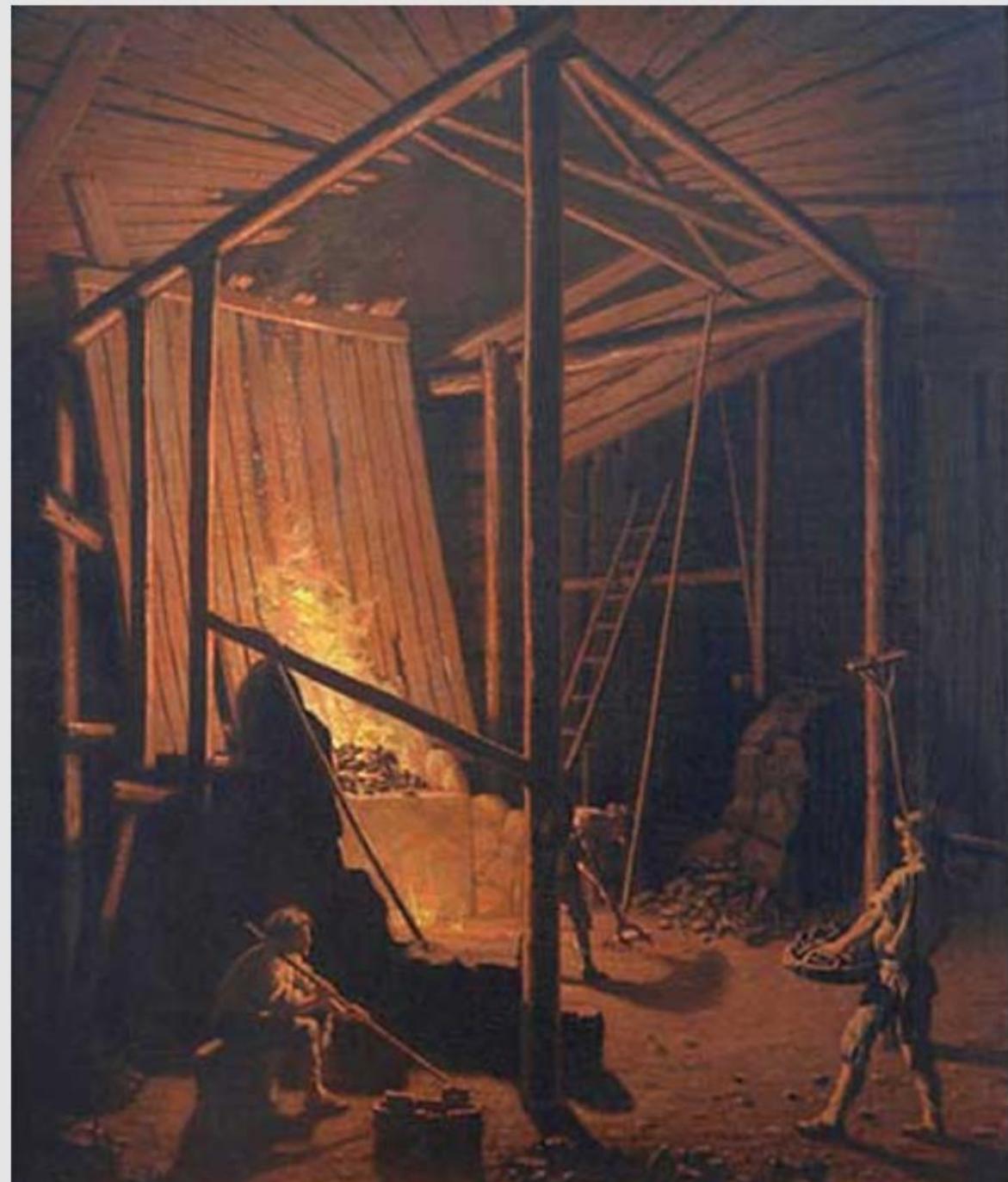
Copper Foundry at  
the Falun Mine

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>



# 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



½ Skilling minted on July 9, 1794 , the day of the kings visit to the Avesta mint. He was age 15. This was the only copper coin struck in the kings 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

Gustav IV Adolf

Karl XIII

Karl XIV Johan



Early ½ & 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.

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This site last updated: February 10, 2014



Welcome to Swedish Coppers, a website about copper coins from Sweden. The main focus of the site is a list of Swedish copper coins by type. There are also articles, links to a variety of interesting numismatic websites and a reference page with information to assist the collector of Swedish coppers. It is a work in progress that started in December 2013.



### WINTER HAVEN

*The pine stays green in winter... wisdom in hardship. - Norman Douglas*

It's been a harsh winter around these parts, one to be endured in many ways. But we should not let it pass without taking up what it has to offer.

*The snowy woods - crisply frozen, it called like a siren;  
And I answered.*

It's been a perfect winter for holing up in the nest and working on a website. I have added many examples to the Type List. There are now pics for coins through Karl XII including an example of each type of [Emergency Money](#). I moved the Why Collect article to the Articles page and I'm fleshing out the Riga piece. More to come. MKJ - 2/10/2014

80%

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**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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### LINKS



This page has links to some of my favorite numismatic websites. Not all sites are in english but don't let that stop you.

Categories - Swedish Coins and History, European Coins, U.S. Coins and Paper Money, Organizations and Miscellaneous

### SWEDISH COINS AND HISTORY

[Sonesgården](#) - I have never met Lennart but his web site is inspiring. Articles on Swedish coppers, European silvers, Sheep genealogy, custom leather products and commentary on Swedish life.

[Kopparmynt](#) - Detailed type info for coppers of Gustav II Adolf and Kristina. Cool site. Many pics of varieties.

[Uppsala University Coin Cabinet](#) - Research, publications and a searchable database. [Money museum](#) too.

[Royal Coin Cabinet](#) - It's in the National Museum of Economy

[Ingemars Myntsida](#) - Ingemars Coinpage, a site about Swedish coins.

[Swedish Numismatic Society](#) - English intro page

[SwedishCoins.net](#) - A variety of information.

[\(Swedish\) \(English\) Dalarna \(Wikipedia\)](#) - Dalarna County Sweden includes the cities of Avesta, Säter (mints) and Falun (Great Copper Mountain).

[Great Copper Mountain](#) - (Wikipedia) - This mine provided the copper for coins and for most of Europe at one time.

[Strandbergs](#) - If you want to go window shopping.

80%

# SwedishCoppers.com

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- MKJ, 12/23/2013

P.S. This site is under construction. Hopefully, it will be for a long time.



My great, great, great grandparents, Sweden, 1892

# 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 **¾, 1 ½ , 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 Riksmynt = 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-18<sup>th</sup> century*
- Ecklund, O.P. & Holmberg, Berta (1962): *Copper Coins of Sweden and Coinage of Swedish Plate Money*
- Hobson, Burton (1970): *Catalogue of Scandinavian 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](http://www.numismatik.se/publikationer/pub_snt.php)
- Kungliga Myntcabinettet (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](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](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>
- Randomons - <http://www.randomons.nl/index.php>