



HEPTONSTALL MUSEUM

Group 2 – Creative activity – making and clipping coins.

Workshop 2 (15 children)

Workshop Leader Input:

- What was coining? Brief explanation as covered in other workshops.
- Silver and gold coins wore easily due to their soft material so the impressions on the faces were not clear. Show pictures and examples.
- Size reduced with wear and tear
- Most coins were well worn so it was easier to get away with coining.
- High Treason to commit a coining offence with gold and silver coins so taking a risk! Punishment for coining lower denomination coins was not as severe but also they couldn't make as much money.

How did they do it?

- The Coiners then clipped and filed coins to a weight that was still in an acceptable limit.
- Coin blank placed between a pair of engraved dies and hammered to produce a raised pattern (show video taken from the Gallows Pole if possible.)
- Show the die, the clippers and Moidore coins from the museum.
- Spanish and Portuguese coinage were used at the time and easier to counterfeit as they had a geometric pattern rather than a person's head.

Why did they do it?

- Common man didn't handle much money so it was hard to tell if it was tampered with.
- Coiners pay 22 shillings for a full size coin clip and shave 40p worth of gold and return it to circulation for 21 shillings.
- 1 shilling = 12 pence.
- Collect gold from 7-8 coins to create a Portuguese moidore worth 27 shillings.
- They would only use 22 shillings to make a new coin so profit of 5 shillings each time.
- Trade of woven produce meant there were gold coins in circulation in the area and used by coiners.
- Poor transport links (can't get caught) no law enforcement and poor state of coinage meant the coiners could prosper.
- The financial reward and the belief that they would be hard to catch lead these areas as becoming a hotbed for coining.



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Activity 1: Artefact Handling

- Artefact handling / show and tell / coins / die from display cases.
- Explain the process of clipping coins and the effect that had on the economy.
- How did the coiners make this work for them?

Activity 2: Model how to use playdough and stamps to make a coin.

Challenge: How many coins can you make in 5 minutes? Discuss how many were made. Would it have been a process that needed some skill?

Fact: Someone would have had to see you do this to be able to report you to the authorities and have you arrested.

How do we clip the coins? Demonstrate.

We must ensure that it is not easy to detect that they have been clipped but we also need enough to make another coin.

Practise clipping one coin. How many will you need to clip to make a new coin? Can't be too noticeable as the coins would be weighed. A skill they clip the perfect amount off each coin.

Challenge: Timed activity.

How many new coins can you make in 10 minutes? Which team of coiners won? How much money did you make doing it?

How do we stop this today? How could we change the coins to ensure that they were difficult to clip? – grooves around the coin. Put grooves around your coin. Clip it. Can you tell if it has been clipped or not?

Join the other group to self-guide around the museum if time or meet them outside to go for lunch.

Walk the class to lunch and visit David and Grace Hartley's grave on the way.

Put a coin on the grave (s)

Lunch

Option 1 – to eat at the Church

Option 2 – to eat in the Undercroft

Afternoon – self guided tour of Heptonstall

- We can provide information for teachers to help with tour.