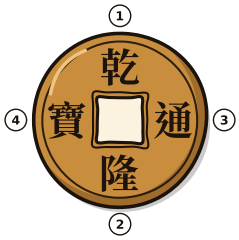
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WORLD COIN DECODER

Use this to read the dates, numbers, markings, and mottos on world coins.

Read in this order: top, bottom, right, left (1 → 2 → 3 → 4).



#	CHARACTER	PINYIN	MEANING
1	乾	*qián*	heaven
2	隆	*lóng*	prosperous, abundant
	Together: the reign name **Qianlong**, 1736–95		
3	通	*tōng*	to pass through, circulate
4	寶	*bǎo*	treasure
	Together: *tōngbǎo*, "circulating treasure" = coin		

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1 · DIGITS

	0 – 9										10 AND UP				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	50	100	500	1000
Western	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	50	100	500	1000
Eastern Arabic Saudi, Egypt, UAE, Ottoman	٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	١٠	٥٠	١٠٠	٥٠٠	١٠٠٠
Persian Iran, Afghanistan · watch ۴ ۵ ۶	٠	۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰	۵۰	۱۰۰	۵۰۰	۱۰۰۰
Devanagari Nepal (+ old India)	०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	५०	१००	५००	१०००
Thai Thailand	๐	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙	๑๐	๕๐	๑๐๐	๕๐๐	๑๐๐๐
Roman no zero	—	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	L	C	D	M
Hebrew Israel · letters add up · no zero	—	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	נ	ק	ת״ק	א׳
Ethiopic (Ge'ez) Ethiopia · no zero	—	፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱	፲	፶	፻	፭፻	፲፻
PRC (on coins) simplified bank numerals	零	壹	貳	參	肆	伍	陸	柒	捌	玖	拾	伍拾	佰	伍佰	仟
PRC (everyday) everyday simplified	〇	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	五十	百	五百	千

Eastern Arabic ٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩ and **Persian** ٠١٢٣۴۵۶۷۸۹ share most shapes; Persian writes 4 5 6 as ۴ ۵ ۶ (Arabic ٤ ٥ ٦). Watch out: ٠ (0) is a dot and ٥ (5) a small circle. Numbers run left to right even in right-to-left text: ١٢١٣ = 1213.

Roman: smaller before bigger subtracts: IV 4 · IX 9 · XL 40 · XC 90 · CD 400 · CM 900. **MCMVII** = M + CM + VII = 1000 + 900 + 7 = **1907**.

Hebrew: more letters: כ 20 · ל 30 · מ 40 · ס 60 · ע 70 · פ 80 · צ 90 · ר 200 · ש 300 · ת 400. Add them up: **ה׳תשנ״א** → (5000) + 400 + 300 + 50 + 1 = 5751 → 1990/91; the thousands are often left off. 15 = **ט״ו**, 16 = **ט״ז**.

Ethiopic: more tens: ፳ 20 · ፴ 30 · ፵ 40 · ፶ 60 · ፸ 70 · ፹ 80 · ፺ 90; ፼ = 10,000. Hundreds are counted with ፻: ፲፱፻፷፱ = (10 + 9) × 100 + 60 + 9 = 1969.

PRC rows: on coins = the simplified bank numerals, used for the value on PRC coins and notes because they are hard to alter: **壹***圓* = 1 yuan, **伍***角* = 5 jiao, **貳***分* = 2 fen (1 *圓* = 10 *角* = 100 *分*). The date on PRC coins is in Western digits. Only **貳參陸** differ from the traditional bank forms **貳參陸**. **Everyday** = the simplified numerals for counting; for every value in this table they are the same characters as traditional Chinese (Taiwan, Hong Kong, older coins) and Japanese. Only the big units change: **萬** → **万** (10,000), **億** → **亿** (100,000,000). Zero is 〇 or **零**; **廿** = 20 on some old coins; **元***年* = "first year" of an era. Both PRC rows print at full weight, like every other row: nothing in this table is shown lighter.

Chinese / Japanese, how to combine: multiply, then add. Digit **before** a place = multiply · digit **after** = add: **二千五百** = 2×1000 + 5×100 = **2,500** · **十二** = 10 + 2 = **12** · **二十** = 2×10 = **20** · **一萬** = **10,000** · **二百零五** = **205** (**零** holds the empty place). A leading **十** means 10 (the 一 is dropped). 萬 and 億 multiply everything in front of them.

Coin examples:

光緒 TEXT · reign name | **二十四** NUMBER · 24 | *年* TEXT · year → 24 + 1874 = **1898**

民國 TEXT · Republic of China | **三** NUMBER · 3 | *年* TEXT · year → 3 + 1911 = **1914**

⟵ RIGHT TO LEFT · ARABIC, PERSIAN, HEBREW

Words in Arabic, Persian and Hebrew script read **right to left**. **Arabic and Persian digits** inside a number still read **left to right**: ١٣٢٠ = **1320**, ١٢١٣ = 1213. **Hebrew letter-numbers** read right to left like words, biggest value first: **ה׳תשנ״א** = (5000) + 751. Western digits on modern Israeli coins read left to right.

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2 + 3 · NAME THE CALENDAR → CONVERT TO CE

Calendar · seen on	Example	Convert
Gregorian (CE) PRC, Hong Kong, most of the world	**1991 · MCMVII** already CE	Nothing to do. Roman numerals: see section 1.
Islamic Hijri (AH) Egypt, Morocco, Ottoman Empire, Saudi Arabia, UAE[1]	١٤٠٨ AH 1408 ≈ 1987/88	CE ≈ AH × 0.97 + 622 · **APPROXIMATE (±1 yr)**, lunar year is 11 days short
Minguo (ROC) Republic of China 1912–49, Taiwan today	中華民國七十年 *Zhōnghuá Mínguó qīshí nián* ROC 70 = 1981	CE = ROC year + 1911 · 1912 = Year 1
Buddhist Era (BE) Thailand	๒๕๒๐ BE 2520 = 1977	CE = BE − 543 · marked *พ.ศ. Phutthasakkarat*
Solar Hijri (SH) Iran (and Afghanistan)	۱۳۵۴ SH 1354 = 1975/76	CE = SH + 621 (+622 Jan–Mar 20; year starts at Nowruz)
Hebrew (AM) Israel	התשנ״א (5)751 → 5751 = 1990/91	CE = year − 3760 (− 3761 Sept–Dec) · thousands often left off: add 5000
Vikram Samvat (VS) Nepal	२०४५ VS 2045 = 1988/89	CE = VS − 57 (− 56 from Jan to mid-April)
Ethiopian (EE) Ethiopia	፲፱፻፷፱ EE 1969 = 1976/77	CE = EE + 7 (Sept 11–Dec 31) · CE = EE + 8 (Jan 1–Sept 10)
Iran 'Imperial' (MS) Iran, 1976–78 only	۲۵۳۵ 2535 = 1976/77	CE = MS − 559 · coins dated 2535–2537 = 1976–78

Sorted by how often each calendar appears on coins, Gregorian first.

[1] Also AH-dated: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen (many also show the CE year).

Most of these calendars start their year on a different day than Jan 1, so one coin year can cover parts of two CE years.

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JAPAN · IMPERIAL ERAS (MEIJI TO REIWA)

Era (TEXT)	*Hepburn*	Year 1	Add	Example coin date	= CE
明治	*Meiji*	1868	**+1867**	明治**三十五**年	Meiji 35 → 35 + 1867 = **1902**
大正	*Taishō*	1912	**+1911**	大正**十**年	Taishō 10 → 10 + 1911 = **1921**
昭和	*Shōwa*	1926	**+1925**	昭和**四十九**年	Shōwa 49 → 49 + 1925 = **1974**
平成	*Heisei*	1989	**+1988**	平成**元**年 (元 = year 1)	Heisei 1 → 1 + 1988 = **1989**
令和	*Reiwa*	2019	**+2018**	令和**五**年	Reiwa 5 → 5 + 2018 = **2023**

Era year + the Add number = CE year. 元 (*gan*) = the first year of an era: 平成**元**年 = Heisei 1. **Pre-1945 horizontal text reads right to left** (see RIGHT TO LEFT, page 7). Change-over years have two names (Shōwa 64 = Heisei 1 = 1989).

CHINA · QING REIGN NAMES

Reign (TEXT)	*pinyin*	Year 1	Add
乾隆	*Qiánlóng*	1736	**+1735**
嘉慶	*Jiāqìng*	1796	**+1795**
道光	*Dàoguāng*	1821	**+1820**
咸豐	*Xiánfēng*	1851	**+1850**
同治	*Tóngzhì*	1862	**+1861**
光緒	*Guāngxù*	1875	**+1874**
宣統	*Xuāntǒng*	1909	**+1908**

Cash coins show the reign name but **no year**. Some later coins do: *宣統**三**年 Xuāntǒng sān nián* = Xuantong 3 → 3 + 1908 = **1911**.

CHINA · 60-YEAR CYCLE DATES

庚子 *gēngzǐ* – 1900
辛丑 *xīnchǒu* – 1901 壬寅 *rényín* – 1902
癸卯 *guǐmǎo* – 1903
甲辰 *jiǎchén* – 1904 乙巳 *yǐsì* – 1905
丙午 *bǐngwǔ* – 1906
丁未 *dīngwèi* – 1907
戊申 *wùshēn* – 1908 己酉 *jǐyǒu* – 1909
庚戌 *gēngxū* – 1910 辛亥 *xīnhài* – 1911

Two TEXT characters naming a year, used on Qing "dragon" coppers (*大清銅幣 Dà Qīng Tóngbì*, 1906–11). The cycle repeats every 60 years, so check the era too.

CHINA · WHO MADE IT?

中华人民共和国 Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó (simplified) + CE date = **PRC**.
中華民國 Zhōnghuá Mínguó (traditional, "Republic of China") + Year N = **ROC / Taiwan** → +1911.

⟵ READING DIRECTION · CHINESE & JAPANESE COINS

Older coins, horizontal text reads RIGHT TO LEFT: Japan before 1945 (Meiji, Taishō, early Shōwa: a coin showing *年**五十三**治明* reads *明治**三十五**年*, Meiji 35 = 1902) · China, Qing and Republic, before about 1949 (e.g. *湖北省造* on the dragon copper, page 7). **Post-war Japanese coins read LEFT TO RIGHT** ⟶ *昭和**四十九**年*. **Vertical text reads top to bottom.** Square-hole cash coins have their own order: page 6.

ISLAMIC (AH) DATES: A WORKED EXAMPLE



Real coin: gold toman of Fatḥ-ʿAlī Shāh Qājār, Tehran (Iran). Photo: American Numismatic Society, CC0.

1. ۱۲۱۳ = **1213** the AH date (bottom of the front)
2. **Back** the mint formula: ضرب دار السلطنة طهران *ḍarb Dār al-Salṭana Ṭihrān*, "struck at Tehran"

Read the digits with the digits table on page 3: ۱ 1 · ۲ 2 · ۱ 1 · ۳ 3, left to right = **1213**.

Convert: CE ≈ AH × 0.97 + 622 → 1213 × 0.97 = 1176.6, + 622 = **1798.6 → 1798/99 CE**. (AH 1213 ran from 15 June 1798 to 4 June 1799.) The Hijri year is lunar, about 11 days shorter than ours, hence × 0.97; the count starts at the Hijra, 622 CE. **Always ±1 year.**
Iran used lunar AH dates until 1925, then solar SH (CE = SH + 621, page 4). Same digits, different maths: check the calendar first.

Words to look for (romanized)

سنة *sana / sanat* "year": often sits next to the date

دار السلطنة طهران *Dār al-Salṭana Ṭihrān* "Abode of the Sultanate, Tehran": the mint on this coin

جلوس *julūs* "accession": Ottoman coins give the sultan's first year, plus a small regnal-year number

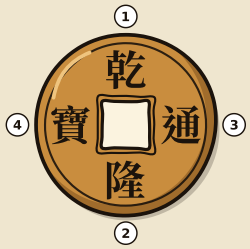
ضرب في *ḍuriba fī* "struck in" + the mint city (Persian coins: ḍarb, said zarb)

السلطان *al-Sulṭān* "the sultan": the ruler's title, then his name

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CHINESE CASH COINS (ROUND, SQUARE HOLE): HOW TO READ THEM

Read in this order: top, bottom, right, left (1 → 2 → 3 → 4).



Drawing: front of a Qianlong cash coin. Read the numbers in order.



Real coin: Qianlong Tongbao, back L = *boo*, R = *ciowan* (Board of Revenue, Beijing). Photo: Jean-Michel Moullec, CC BY 2.0.

#	Character	Pinyin	Meaning	Context
1	乾	*qián*	heaven	Together: the reign name **Qianlong**, 1736–95
2	隆	*lóng*	prosperous, abundant	
3	通	*tōng*	to pass through, circulate	Together: *tōngbǎo*, "circulating treasure" = coin
4	寶	*bǎo*	treasure	

Hold it the right way up: *寶 bǎo* ("treasure") is on the **left** of the hole on most Qing cash.

Common endings: *通寶 tōngbǎo* "circulating treasure" · *元寶 yuánbǎo* "original treasure" · *重寶 zhòngbǎo* "heavy treasure" (big multiple-value coins, e.g. *咸豐重寶 Xiánfēng Zhòngbǎo*).

Back (reverse): usually **Manchu** script = the **mint mark**. Left (L) is always *boo* (= *寶 bǎo*); right (R) names the mint, here *Boo Ciowan*: see the mint table on page 7.

READING ORDER · SQUARE-HOLE CASH COINS

Standard: top → bottom → right → left (*開元通寶*, all Qing cash, and the family below). **Some issues read clockwise: top → right → bottom → left**, e.g. *順天元寶* (759). If the standard order does not give a known reign name + *通寶* / *元寶* / *重寶*, try clockwise.

THE FOUR-CHARACTER FAMILY: SAME LAYOUT, OTHER COUNTRIES

All read top, bottom, right, left unless noted.



開元通寶 ***Kāiyuán Tōngbǎo***
China (Tang) · from 621 · *said in pinyin*
Copied all over East Asia.



寬永通寶 ***Kan'ei Tsūhō***
Japan · from 1636 · *said in Hepburn*
A 文 *bun* on the back marks the Edo issue of 1668.



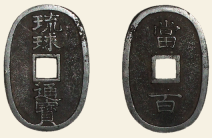
常平通寶 ***Sangpyeong Tongbo***
Korea (Joseon) · 1633; mass-cast 1678 to the 1890s · *said in Revised Romanization*
The back carries the casting office, e.g. *戶 ho* (Treasury), plus a furnace number.



嘉隆通寶 ***Gia Long Thông Bảo***
Vietnam (Nguyễn) · 1802–20 · *said in quốc ngữ*
This one's back reads 七分 *thất phân* ("7 phân", a weight).



明命通寶
Minh Mạng Thông Bảo
Vietnam (Nguyễn) · 1820–41 · *said in quốc ngữ*
Same layout as Chinese cash; the reign name is Vietnamese.



琉球通寶 ***Ryūkyū Tsūhō***
Ryūkyū (cast by Satsuma, Japan) · 1862–65 · *said in Hepburn*
Exception: this oval coin reads top to bottom. Back 當百 *tōhyaku* = "worth 100".

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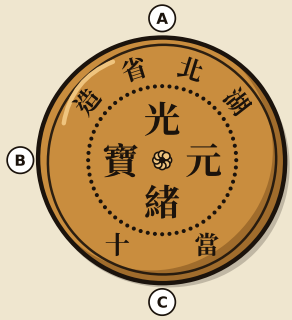
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QING MINT MARKS (BACK, RIGHT OF THE HOLE)

Right side (Manchu, Möllendorff)	Mint bureau	Where
Boo Ciowan	*寶泉 Bǎoquán*	Board of Revenue (戶部 Hùbù), Beijing
Boo Yuwan	*寶源 Bǎoyuán*	Board of Works (工部 Gōngbù), Beijing
Boo Jy	*寶直 Bǎozhí*	Baoding *Bǎodìng*, Zhílì
Boo Jin	*寶晉 Bǎojìn*	Taiyuan *Tàiyuán*, Shānxī
Boo Su	*寶蘇 Bǎosū*	Suzhou *Sūzhōu*, Jiāngsū
Boo Je	*寶浙 Bǎozhè*	Hangzhou *Hángzhōu*, Zhèjiāng
Boo Fu	*寶福 Bǎofú*	Fuzhou *Fúzhōu*, Fújiàn
Boo Cang	*寶昌 Bǎochāng*	Nanchang *Nánchāng*, Jiāngxī
Boo U	*寶武 Bǎowǔ*	Wuchang *Wǔchāng*, Húběi
Boo Nan	*寶南 Bǎonán*	Changsha *Chángshā*, Húnán
Boo Guwang	*寶廣 Bǎoguǎng*	Guangzhou *Guǎngzhōu*, Guaňgdōng
Boo Gui	*寶桂 Bǎoguì*	Guilin *Guìlín*, Guaňgxī
Boo Cuwan	*寶川 Bǎochuān*	Chengdu *Chéngdū*, Sìchuān
Boo Yūn	*寶雲 Bǎoyún*	Kunming *Kūnmíng*, Yúnnán
Boo Giyan	*寶黔 Bǎoqián*	Guiyang *Guìyáng*, Guìzhōu
Boo Ji	*寶濟 Bǎojì*	Jinan *Jǐnán*, Shāndōng
Boo Ho	*寶河 Bǎohé*	Kaifeng *Kāifēng*, Hénán

Left of the hole is always *boo* (寶 *bǎo*). Spellings follow Möllendorff transliteration; books also write Boo Cang as "Boo Chang" and Boo Yūn as "Boo Yonn". Main provincial mints shown; there were more.

QING "DRAGON" COPPERS (FROM ABOUT 1900)



Drawing: front of a Hubei 10 cash.



Real coin: Hubei 10 cash, front A–C, back D. Photo: Scott Semans World Coins (CoinCoin.com), CC BY 3.0.

A · top ring = who made it. *湖北省造 Húběi shěng zào* = "made by Hubei province", read **right to left**. The first two characters are the province.

B · centre = reign name + "coin". *光緒元寶 Guāngxù Yuánbǎo*, read like a cash coin. From 1906 a second type reads *大清銅幣 Dà Qīng Tóngbì* and many carry a 60-year cycle date (page 5).

C · bottom = value. *當十 dāng shí* = "worth ten" (cash), also read right to left.

D · back: a dragon with the province and value in English, e.g. HU-PEH PROVINCE · TEN CASH (old spellings).

Province names to look for in the top ring: *廣東 Guǎngdōng* *福建 Fújiàn* *湖北 Húběi* *湖南 Húnán* *江南 Jiāngnán* *江蘇 Jiāngsū* *浙江 Zhèjiāng* *江西 Jiāngxī* *安徽 Ānhuī* *山東 Shāndōng* *四川 Sìchuān* *奉天 Fèngtiān* *吉林 Jílín* *北洋 Běiyáng*

RIGHT TO LEFT: WHICH TEXT?

⟵ These read **right to left**: **pre-1945 Japanese** horizontal text · **older Chinese** horizontal text, Qing and Republic, before about 1949 (like the dragon top ring) · **Arabic and Persian words** · **Hebrew** words and letter-numbers. **Caveat:** Arabic and Persian **digits** still read left to right: ١٢١٣ = AH 1213. Post-war Japanese coins read left to right; vertical text reads top to bottom; cash coins: page 6.

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BRITISH TRADE DOLLAR (1895-1935)



1902 B (Bombay), obverse and reverse, with a zoom on the mint mark. Photo: Windrain, CC0.

1. **ONE DOLLAR** the value in English
2. **1902** the CE date
3. **B** mint mark in the trident's middle prong (zoom, left)
4. **壹** yī, 1 (formal), top
5. **圓** yuán, dollar, bottom
6. **Jawi** Malay, satu ringgit, "one dollar"
7. **壽** shòu, longevity, centre

Obverse: Britannia with trident and shield, a merchant ship behind. No king or queen on it.

Reverse: **壹** *yī* + *圓 yuán* = "one dollar" in Chinese; ساتو رڠڬيت *satu ringgit* = "one dollar" in Malay (Jawi script); the *壽 shòu* symbol in the centre.

Mint mark: B = **Bombay**, a tiny letter in the trident's middle prong (zoom) · **C** = **Calcutta**, on the ground between Britannia's foot and the shield (bottom of the obverse) · no letter = London (1925, 1930) or a worn die.

HONG KONG COINS



Real coin: Hong Kong one dollar 1867. Photo: VuBrain, CC0.



Victoria one cent 1876. Photo: Jerry "Woody", CC BY-SA 2.0 (this adapted image is CC BY-SA 2.0).

1. *香* top: xiāng
2. *港* bottom: gǎng
3. **壹** right: yī, 1 (formal)
4. *圓* left: yuán, dollar
5. *壽* centre: shòu, longevity
6. **1867** the date, plain CE, in the English ring

First silver dollar (1866–68): *香 xiāng* top, *港 gǎng* bottom, **壹** *yī* right, *圓 yuán* left: *香港壹圓 Xiānggǎng yī yuán*, with *壽 shòu* in the centre.

Queen's head (to 1992): front QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND; back *香港 Xiānggǎng* HONG KONG + **壹***圓 yī yuán* ONE DOLLAR (the $1).

Bauhinia flower (from 1993): front *香港 Xiānggǎng* around the flower; back the value in digits, the **date in normal CE numbers** and the denomination in Chinese + English, e.g. **壹***毫 yī háo* TEN CENTS.

Small change: the copper cent reads *香港*一*仙 Xiānggǎng yī xiān* in the centre, read top, bottom, right, left like the dollar; 一*仙 yī xiān* = one cent. Date in CE on the English ring (1876).

Decode: **壹** *yī* = 1 (formal) · *圓 yuán* = dollar · *毫 háo* = ten cents. The date needs no maths.

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CHOP MARKS



Spanish colonial 8 reales covered in chop marks from Qing China. Bode-Museum, Berlin. Photo: Daderot, CC0.

1. **Symbol chop** a circle with a cross, punched by a money-checker (zoom)
2. **Character chop** a Chinese character; this coin carries dozens
3. **Original legend** the Spanish legend (...GR... of DEI GRATIA) still shows under the chops

What: small punched stamps, usually a Chinese character (e.g. 天 *tiān* "heaven", 利 *lì* "profit") or a simple symbol, struck into silver coins in China.

Why: merchants' money-checkers ("shroffs") tested each coin and stamped it to vouch for good silver; the punch also broke through plating on fakes. Done for about 300 years, until the early 1900s.

Where: Spanish/Mexican 8 reales, US and British trade dollars, and other big silver coins.

Value: once treated as damage (often graded "Details"). Today many collectors **seek them out**: clear, interesting chops add history. Heavy chopping like this, which wipes out the design, usually hurts.

MOTTOS & ABBREVIATIONS · QUICK REFERENCE

DEI GRA · D G
DEI GRATIA, Latin
by the Grace of God

BRITT OMN
BRITANNIARUM OMNIUM, Latin, UK
of all the Britains (TT = plural)

PLVS VLTRA
Latin, Spain
further beyond (on the pillar ribbons)

E PLURIBUS UNUM
Latin, USA
Out of many, one

DEUTSCHER KAISER
German, Germany
German Emperor

REX · REG
REX / REGINA, Latin
King / Queen

IND IMP
INDIAE IMPERATOR / IMPERATRIX, Latin, UK
Emperor / Empress of India (gone from UK coins in 1949)

VTRAQUE VNUM
Latin, Spain
both (worlds) are one

IN GOD WE TRUST
USA
on every US coin since 1938

CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA
Latin, Switzerland
Swiss Confederation (the CH in CHF)

F D · FID DEF
FIDEI DEFENSOR, Latin, UK
Defender of the Faith

HISPAN ET IND REX
Latin, Spain
King of Spain and the Indies

POR LA G. DE DIOS
Spanish, Spain
by the Grace of God

GOTT MIT UNS
German, Prussia
God with us (often on the edge)

LIBERTAS
Latin, Switzerland
Freedom

Worked examples with real coins follow: pages 9–10.

WORKED EXAMPLE 1 · SPANISH COLONIAL 8 REALES ("PIECES OF EIGHT")



Bust type, 1796, Mexico City. Photo: Joe deSousa, CC0.



Pillar type, 1771, Mexico City. Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com), CC BY 4.0.

1. **CAROLUS IIII** Charles IV (IIII = 4): the king
2. **DEI GRATIA** by the grace of God
3. **1796** the date, plain CE
4. **HISPAN ET IND REX** King of Spain and the Indies
5. **Mo** Mexico City mint (o above the M)
6. **8R** 8 reales: the value
7. **F M** assayers' initials (officials who tested the silver)
8. **pillars** Pillars of Hercules; ribbons read PLVS VLTRA, "further beyond"

1. **VTRAQUE VNUM** "both (worlds) are one": two globes between the pillars
2. **Mo · Mo** Mexico City mint, either side of the date
3. **1771** the date
4. **PLUS VLTRA** on the pillar ribbons
5. **CAROLUS III D G** Charles III, by the grace of God
6. **F M** assayers' initials (left of the shield)
7. **8** 8 reales (right of the shield)
8. **HISPAN ET IND REX** King of Spain and the Indies

Two looks: the **pillar type** (globes between two pillars, 1732 to about 1772) and the **bust type** (the king's portrait, from 1772). Both give the date in plain CE numbers; Mo + the value + the assayers' initials sit together in the legend. The small punch marks on the 1796 coin are likely chop marks (see Chop Marks, page 9).

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WORKED EXAMPLE 2 · PRUSSIA · 5 MARK, WILHELM II



Obverse. Photo: Jobel, CC0.

1. **DEUTSCHER KAISER** German Emperor
2. **KÖNIG V. PREUSSEN** King of Prussia
3. **A** mint mark: Berlin

GOTT MIT UNS ("God with us") is lettered on the **edge** of Prussian 2, 3 and 5 mark coins, so a face photo cannot show it: turn the coin.

WORKED EXAMPLE 3 · SWITZERLAND · 20 RAPPEN, 1887



Obverse. Ghent University Library, CC0.

1. **CONFŒDERATIO HELVETICA** Swiss Confederation
2. **LIBERTAS** Freedom, on the headband
3. **1887** the date

WORKED EXAMPLE 4 · UNITED KINGDOM · PENNY, 1897



Obverse and reverse. Photo: Петров Эдуард, CC0.

1. **VICTORIA DEI GRA** Victoria, by the Grace of God
2. **BRITT REGINA FID DEF** Queen of the Britains, Defender of the Faith
3. **IND IMP** INDIAE IMPERATRIX: Empress of India
4. **1897** the date, plain CE

WORKED EXAMPLE 5 · USA · MORGAN DOLLAR, 1878 CC



Obverse and reverse. National Numismatic Collection, Smithsonian (photo: Jaclyn Nash), public domain.

1. **E PLURIBUS UNUM** Out of many, one
2. **1878** the date
3. **IN GOD WE TRUST** the motto, above the eagle
4. **CC** mint mark: Carson City

WORKED EXAMPLE 6 · SPAIN · 5 PESETAS, 1898



Obverse and reverse. Photo: Chencho Q, CC0.

1. **ALFONSO XIII POR LA G. DE DIOS** Alfonso XIII, by the Grace of God
2. **1898** the date (small stars hold the last two digits too)
3. **PLUS ULTRA** further beyond, on the pillar ribbon
4. **REY CONST.L DE ESPAÑA** Constitutional King of Spain

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