

great monarchs of the world. It is traced to a little valley in Bohemia, called Joachimthal (Joachim-dael). In this dale or valley the Counts of Schlick, about the year 1519, worked a silver mine and coined silver into ounce pieces, which were a little larger than the American dollar, an ounce containing 480 grains and the dollar 412½ grains. On account of their convenient size, purity, and uniform weight, these pieces became very popular and came into general use. It is not stated that any name was stamped upon them, but a popular coin, passing from hand to hand, and being constantly referred to in business and trade, could not long remain without a name. The name given them was Joachim-thaler, from the name of the valley where they were coined. William Jacobs in his "Precious Metals," published about 1830, refers to these mines, but says there is now no record of their workings, showing when work commenced or how much was produced. He mentions however, that they had been worked to great depth. In Kohl's "Austria" (1843), a "Book of Travels," he says, "Coins may be seen here of all the great Bohemian families that at various time have enjoyed the privilege of coining money. Among these families the most distinguished are the Schlicks, the Rosenbergs, and the Waldsteins, or Wallensteins, as Schiller, for the convenience of his rhythm, has thought proper to call them. Of the Waldstein family, however, none have exercised the right of coinage since the days of their great ancestor, of whom some very beautiful gold coins still exist.

The Counts of Schlick exercised the privilege longer than any other of the old Bohemian families. Coins of a very recent date may be seen with their effigy. Their celebrated silver mines at Joachimberg were so productive that in the beginning of the sixteenth century they coined what were called "Joachimthaler," which weighed a full ounce, and which may still be found in circulation in Russia, where they are known sometimes by the name "Thalera," and sometimes by that of "Yefimki."

Coins called "Joachimdalers" were in circulation in Denmark as early as 1531. In a Register of King

Frederick's Orders, published in Danish (1789), the following entry is made :

1531. Bishop Iver Muncck loaned the King 2,000 gylders, consisting of Rheinisch gylders, Joachimdalers Skreckenbergers, Mark-Stycker, double Lubske and Skillingers, for which the King mortgaged his palace. The word "daler" in Danish (pronounced dahler) corresponds very nearly in sound to the word "thaler," in German. This word was in use in Denmark, employed in their coinage, and adopted into the language at a very early date. Snowden, in his "Manuel of Coins," commences his notice of the Danish coinage with the reign of Christian IV. (1588 to 1648). "The silver coinage," he says, "was based on the old 'species daler' as a unit." The standard is said to have been adopted in the beginning of the sixteenth century by Frederick I. Frederick I. reigned from 1523 to 1533. C. F. Allen, in his "Handbook and History of the Fatherland," says King Hans (John) was the first who struck the larger coins, such as nobles, gylders and "dalers." King John reigned from 1481 to 1513. From this it might be inferred that the word "daler" was used in Denmark previous to 1519, the time of its supposed Bohemian origin. But upon this point we find further testimony. Lorenzo Praetorius, a Danish numismatist, published in 1791, at Copenhagen, two large folio volumes, containing plates and descriptions of the coins and medals of Denmark from the earliest times. Under the reign of King Hans he gives a silver coin which in his description he calls a "daler." The plate does not, however, show this to have been its mint designation, and he expressly says in a note that it is not called a "daler" until after 1519, when the word first came into use. This plainly indicates his opinion of the Bohemian origin of the word. The Danish coin was struck about 1512. Some years after this the German thalers were in circulation, and became so popular that the name was adopted by the Danes, used to denote their unit of coinage, and even applied to other coins of corresponding size and value.

[To be continued.]

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