



# DENNING King Christian IV coin

Minter Albert Dionysus  
Glückstadt, Denmark

After 1619

*Silver, embossing*

About the project

<https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/>





SELECTED BY  
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I am a Senior Researcher at the museum, I have been on the staff since December 1996. The years passed by in a flash, I did not even notice how I stopped being a young employee and became a member of the old guard...

I could have chosen many peculiar things for the project 'People and Collections', but I opted for a coin from our collection, as I have been interested in numismatics since childhood. Our museum is only a few decades old, and for a long time, we did not have a single interesting item of numismatics. Surprisingly, few coins were deposited in the holdings as a result of archaeological excavations on the territory of the museum-reserve. Some coins were obtained through my efforts, some were given by Moscow archaeologists.

That is why, when in 2007 archaeologists from the Moskomnasledie (Committee on Cultural Heritage of the City of Moscow) offered me and my colleagues to accept items found during excavations in Zamoskvorechye into the museum's collection, I was over the moon. We were promised a large treasure trove found in 2004 by builders digging an excavation pit in Sredniy Ovchinnikovskiy Lane. We brought the coins along with a white clay treasure pot — a type of jug where people of the 17th century kept their money. The particular value of these 9647 small silver coins was that they came from a single hoard. As S.P. Petukhov, a researcher of the Moskomnasledie, suggested, the treasure was hidden during the reign of Tsar Mikhail Fyodorovich by a merchant who traded with the northern lands of Russia.

Coins of this era are called 'wire' coins, and in numismatic jargon also 'scales'. Blanks for coins were made of pieces of cut and flattened wire. After being stamped, they became 'scales' — shiny coins of uneven shape. The government protected its right to mint money. Coins from other countries were

not allowed to circulate, and it was forbidden to export small, but fine coins. The treasury gained considerable profit from the conversion of silver into coins.

We should remember that Russia went through the Time of Troubles in the early 17th century. In 1613, the young Tsar Mikhail Fyodorovich inherited a country devastated by the Troubles. The country's market was flooded with counterfeit coins, low-grade and lightweight, some of which were minted by Swedish invaders.

Even Denmark, by no means a top-tier European power, tried to invade the Russian north during the reign of King Christian IV. In 1619, Denmark began producing dennings, imitating Russian wire money. It was supposed to oust the tsar's money and profit from mintage in addition to northern trade. The early issues of coinage carried the name of King Christian IV, but later the Danes simply counterfeited Russian coins, illegally putting the names of Russian tsars on them. The denning I have chosen belongs to an early set of these coins, with a Gothic inscription in Middle Low German: 'Van G[ottes] Genaden Christian der IIII Konic in Denne-marc' ('By the grace of God Christian IV, king in Denmark').

Though plain in appearance, this rare coin, thanks to the efforts of numismatists, can now tell about Danish swindlers, trade wars and the dramatic history of Russia in the 17th century.