
The Coinage of the House of Brunswick-Calenberg-Hannover During the Period 1714–1837

Otherwise known as the Anglo-Hannoverian-House

By
Richard Smith



Foreword

It is now more than a decade since 'The Coinage of the Anglo Hanoverian Personal Union 1714-1837' was published. Basically, this book consisted of two major halves. The first half dealt with the politics of the succession of George I to the British throne and subsequent brief history of the ruling family; the second half listed all the coinage and other numismatic material issued during the period 1714-1837.

Obviously, the content of the first half has been relatively stationery but the basis of the second half has grown significantly because, by publishing the original book, interest in this series has been significantly stimulated. New discoveries and types have come to light, new years of issue identified and some numismatic conundrums have been exposed. Overall, in the Anglo-Hanoverian coinage much new information has been discovered and is recorded in this book.

Dealing with the coinage only, it was decided to re-name the book. It is not strictly a 'second edition' of the first book but a new stand-alone volume which could be augmented in future years as knowledge accumulates. The new title reflects its aim and form as 'The Coinage of the House of Brunswick-Calenberg-Hannover During the Period 1714-1837' and I commend it to the enthusiastic numismatist studying this period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard B. Smith

Contents

	Page
About the books and Acknowledgements	4
Mints, Mint Masters and Officials	15
Rarity	37
Security	37
Key to the symbols and decorations used for the coin lists	39
Sophia Dowager Electress of Brunswick-Luneburg (1714)	41
George Ludwig – Electoral period (1714/1715)	47
George I (1714-1727)	75
Ernst August II, Bishop of Osnabruck (1716-1728)	133
George II (1727 – 1760)	151
George II for Lauenburg (1736-1740)	259
George II for Caroline of Ansbach (1737)	268
George II for university of Göttingen	274
George III (1760-1820)	277
Frederik, Duke of York and Albany, Prince bishop of Osnabruck (1766)	356
Hieronymus Napoléon, King of Westphalia (1807-1813)	363
George IV (1820-1830)	391
Charles II of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, under the guardianship (tutelage) of George as Prince Regent (1815-1820)	411
Charles II of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, under the guardianship (tutelage) of King George IV (1820-1823)	421
George IV for East-Frisia (1823-1825)	428
William IV (1830-1837)	431
Appendix and Glossary	455
Bibliography	463
Illustrations	466

About the books

In 1970 I published a small booklet entitled “The Anglo-Hanoverian Coinage” in response to encouragement from friends and professional numismatists since there was nothing readily available at that time written in English which treated this important series of coins as a separate entity. In 1971 Welter’s monumental treatise entitled “Die Münzen der Welfen seit Heinrich dem Löwen” (The coinage of the Welfs since Henry the Lion”) appeared. This work listed all the coins issued by the various members of the Welf (Guelph or Brunswick) dynasty from the Twelfth to the Nineteenth centuries. It therefore incorporated the so-called Anglo-Hannoverian series but in a fractionated fashion since it was interspersed within the descriptions of all the other coins issued by the various rulers of this House of both Brunswick-Lüneburg and Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel branches.

Since 1971 and with increasing study many features of the Hannoverian-British series not mentioned by Welter have become apparent. Previously unrecorded denominations and types have been recognised and additional dates of issue and over dates have been recorded as interest in these coins has spread. On the other hand, issues and denominations, which were widely thought to exist, have been shown not to exist either due to misreporting or as the result of expectations that they should exist when they did not.

A definitive clarification of what types and issues form this series and the years in which they were produced together with the mints from which they emanated was overdue. It was in the spirit of a definition of current knowledge that the books have been written. It must be remembered that the regal sovereign coinages issued in both Hannover and Great Britain during the years 1714 – 1837 were parallel coinages. This is to say that there was some cross fertilization from Britain, but it certainly was not extensive. The Hannoverian coinage of this period, previously entitled the Anglo-Hannoverian coinage, was not a colonial or subsidiary coinage in any sense. It was the coinage of a sovereign monarch ruling his own domains in his own right. It is nonetheless true that he was absent for a large part of his reign, but this does not lessen the fact of the independence since the Electorate was administered by the Elector’s ruling council, largely separately from Great Britain.

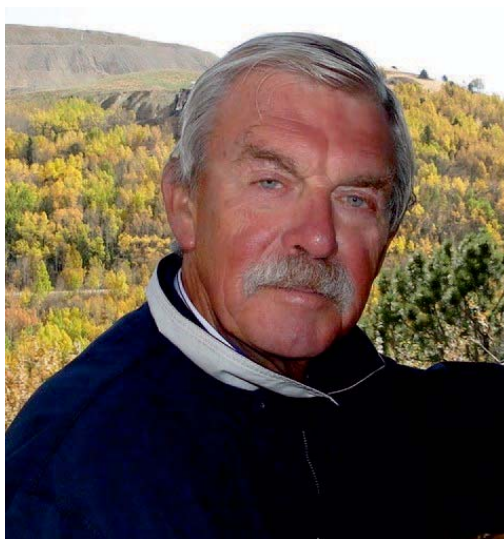
Unlike Welter’s book, the scope of this study has been widened and it has been written as a definitive examination of all the numismatic material issued for currency purposes in the Electoral territories between the years 1714 – 1837. It therefore encompasses the Napoleonic coinage of the Kingdom of Westphalia, the coinage issued for Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel under the guardianship of George firstly as Prince Regent and later as King of Great Britain during the minority of Karl II, coinage issued in Osnabrück bearing British devices and the Brunswick-Lüneburg coinages issued in Saxe-Lauenburg and Ost-Friesland. All of the numismatic material having to do with the German-British Welfs or Guelphs or their dominions between 1714 and 1837 is incorporated within the volume.

The Hannoverian coinage was a regal coinage continuing as before but with some British designs and titles grafted on to it after the union of the two territories in the person of George Louis. The British coinage also continued as before but with the German titles and armorial bearings only, not the designs, incorporated on it. A chapter has been included in the first “2009-book” which compares and contrasts these two coinages which were issued in Britain and Germany respectively over the same period of time. It is interesting that no attempt was made to bring them into closer contact. They were struck to different gold and silver standards and weights, and they were therefore entirely separate coinages having the same ruler.

The formats of the two books have been chosen to bring as much information as is possible into one place so that the reader does not have to go back and forth to assemble essential facts. Of primary importance to this is the principle of supplying an illustration for each coin type (so that the reader is immediately assured that it exists) coupled with a list of the years during which the type was issued together with notes of the major variations and a view of rarity. Material of a more general nature

dealing with genealogy, heraldry and other subjects is assembled in the first section of the “2009-edition”, since it sets the scene for the coinage. A perusal of this section will lead to a fuller appreciation of the information presented under the coinage lists.

The Electoral or Hannoverian regal coinage was an important contemporary series. Not only in terms of the commercial life of Northern Germany itself but also as a result of the importance of such seaports as Hamburg and Bremen from which sailors transported the currency round the world. Indeed, it was through a pawnbroker in another seaport – Liverpool – that the author first became aware of this fascinating coinage by examining a coin slightly smaller than a shilling (a one-sixth thaler) which exhibited a combination of the (to British eyes) well tried and tested four shields in cruciform or quatrefoil arrangement startlingly combined with a wildman as a reverse design! Thus started an odyssey which has lasted a lifetime.



At the time of the untimely death of Richard Smith in August 2021, the second book on these series was only in draft form and incomplete. Working closely with Richard’s wife, Amanda, this new publication has been completed using the authors own handwritten notes and his draft manuscript, all carefully collated by Arne Kirsch, a long-standing numismatic friend and highly respected fellow enthusiast.

This book is therefore dedicated to the memory of Richard Smith, who made such a significant contribution to the knowledge and identification of coinage produced during the Anglo-Hanoverian period, 1714-1837.

The Literature – an overview

The basis for this examination of the Hannoverian Regal coinage during the period 1714 – 1837 is derived from works by Atkins and Welter but the coinage has been remarked upon and examined with varying degrees of thoroughness over many years.

The first mention by an English author of the King’s German coinage appears to be by Stephen Martin Leake in 1745 when he refers briefly and in very complimentary terms (this is perhaps not surprising as he was Clarenceux King of Arms) to the coins of the King’s German possessions. Indeed, he said that they were handsome and better executed than the corresponding English pieces! Leake also comments that the Prince Elector title was rapidly abandoned on the British gold coinage (the famously withdrawn Prince Elector guineas) but was continued on the Great Seal of the Realm. Although, as is noted below, the use of this title for a reigning monarch was unequivocally wrong, it

appears that the parsimonious British administration did not want to incur the expense of cutting a new Great Seal!

Leake also described a two-thirds thaler ascribed to George's brother. Ernest August was a Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, Duke of York and Albany and (secular) Bishop of Osnabrück. What is particularly interesting is that this coin shows at first glance the British Royal Arms with supporters but the shield and supporters are properly differenced with a label of three points each of which would have been charged with three human hearts although these are not represented on the coins themselves, but this label indicated that the arms were not those of George, the King. Further close inspection reveals that it is indeed a version of the Royal Arms but with the wheel of Osnabrück substituted for the Crown of Charlemagne in the centre of the fourth quarter. In a purely German context the arms would not have been shown differenced, but clearly British heralds had some influence on the heraldic designs of coins issued by the King's brother in his capacity as Bishop of Osnabrück. The See of Osnabrück had the mint right from early times and the sovereign coinage of Ernest Augustus as Bishop of Osnabrück is fully described below.

14 FOREIGN SILVER COINS. [Plate 10.]

No.	Name.	Assay.	Weight.	Sterling Value.
		oz. dwt. oz. dwt. gr. l. s. d.		
1	The Thaler, or Dollar of the Bishop of Bamberg.....	W 1 5 10	17 13 0	3 9 1
2	A 12 Carlin Piece of Naples.....	W 1 4 0	17 0 0	3 9
3	The Consular Ecu, or Piece of 5 Francs.....	W 0 7 0	15 12 0	3 10 1
4	A Gulden of the Elector of Hanover.....	B 0 14 0	8 6 0	2 3
5	A ditto of ditto.....	B 0 15 0	8 12 0	2 3 1
6	The Silver Ducat of Ragusa.....	W 4 8 0	9 0 0	1 3
7	The ditto of Venice +.....	W 1 6 10	14 12 0	3 1 1
8	The Brabant Krone of the Emperor Francis II.....	W 0 12 10	19 0 0	4 5

* There are the smaller pieces in proportion.

+ Of these also there is the Half, or 4 Lire Piece, the $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ in proportion.

PL. 10.

1. BAMBERG. 2. NAPLES. 3. FRANCE. 4. HANOVER. 5. RAGUSA. 6. VENICE. 7. EMPEROR FRANCIS II. 8. BRABANT KRONE.

London: Published by J. Ede, 1808. 1. 1808. 2. 1808. 3. 1808. 4. 1808. 5. 1808. 6. 1808. 7. 1808. 8. 1808.

A little known practical manual entitled 'A View of the Gold & Silver Coins of All Nations', published by Ede a London goldsmith, in 1808 (above), contains comprehensive tables of values combined with accurate line drawings of a wide variety of gold and silver coins circulating in the early Nineteenth century. Essentially a money changer's or traveller's guide, Ede has included a number of Brunswick-Lüneburg coins together with their weights, fineness of silver used and comparative contemporary values. This coinage was commercially important and circulated widely. It was also well used since so many coins turn up heavily worn. Despite territorial inequalities the book contains more illustrations and information on Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel coinage than that of Brunswick-Lüneburg.

Ruding's seminal work "The Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain and its Dependencies", published in 1819, infers that the King's German coinage commenced issue in 1716! Nonetheless various coins of George I and George III are accurately illustrated in his supplementary plates VIII and IX (which are reproduced below). However, although Ruding does not attempt systematic treatment of the German coinage, his description of George I's coins is succinct and complimentary, even though slightly inaccurate. He writes "His coins for his German dominions have the same figure, titles and arms as the English (sic) but they had a better impression, more resembling His Majesty, and were of better execution than the English, Brunswick having been long famous both for good workmen and good money. Some of these coins bear the date 1716".

SUPPLEMENT PART II.

Plate IX.

George I.



George III.



Ruding

Repeating Ede's theme, Smith's Encyclopaedia published in 1886 contains a number of Brunswick coinage illustrations together with their weights, fineness and relative values in United States dollars. Three years later, Atkins (1889) produced his defining work on "The Coins and Tokens of the British Empire". This was the most comprehensive work up to this time. There is even a representation of an example of what Atkins called the Anglo-Hannoverian coinage depicted in gilt on the spine. Although Atkins' account is extremely useful, it is by no means exhaustive. Nonetheless it is the first real attempt to systematize the coinage and draw out the sheer variety of different designs – the many different representations of the Royal Arms for instance – so that the student can begin to appreciate the diversity contained in this coinage. In contrast Ruding's commentary comprises only passing references.

Gold.		GERMANY.		HANOVER.		
No.	PERIOD OR SECTION.	COIN.	FINE.	WEIGHT OF COIN.	GRAINS PURE GOLD.	VALUE.
1.	Fred'k William, Prussia.	Ducat.	979	53	51	2.19
2.	George III.	Pistole.	903	103	93	4.00
3.	Earnst August.	Ten Thaler.	895	206	184	7.92
4.	do	do	895	205	183	7.88
5.	George IV.	do	902	207	186	8.04
6.	George II.	Florin.	784	50	39	1.68
7.	Fred'k William, Prussia.	D'bl Fred'k d'Or.	892	206	183	7.88
8.	Frederick I.	Fred'k d'Or.	904	103	93	4.00
9.	George IV.	2½ Thaler.	895	51	45	1.93
10.	William IV.	5 Thaler.	895	103	92	3.95
11.	George III.	Ducat.	993	53	52	2.23
12.	do	George d'Or.	993	53	52	2.23



Smith's Encyclopaedia 1886, p. 146

GERMANY. HANOVER.

Gold. XVIII. 20



Working at practically the same time as Atkins, H. Noel Humphreys had produced his *Coin Collectors Manual* in 1887. In reference to George I's coinage, he states that "It is a rather disgraceful fact to English skill, that in this reign the coins executed in the petty State of Brunswick for the circulation in the King's foreign dominion are of far better execution than the English ones. They are of similar device". This quotation is significant in that it clearly illustrates the fact that in the fourth quarter of the Nineteenth century English (British) numismatists clearly thought that Brunswick and its coinage was not of importance – the scornful reference to "the petty state" supports this, and furthermore Humphreys had clearly not looked too closely into the actual designs of the Electoral series, otherwise he would not have casually concluded that they were of "similar device". Ruding made the same mistake, and Atkins may have produced his account to redress the balance. Obviously the two coinages used designs in common – notably the monarch's portrait combined with the four shields in quatrefoil or cruciform design. However, the fact is that there are more dissimilarities than similarities between the two coinages.

Hazlett in 1893 made a few brief mentions of this coinage and there the matter rested until Carson produced a lucid but necessarily curtailed account in his well-known and significant general work published in 1962. Davenport (1965), Craig (1966), Yeoman (1968), Remick et al (1970), Krause and Mischler (1974 et seq) and Schlumberger (1975) have all ensured that the British Kings' German coinage was not completely ignored or forgotten, but it is a fact that they all treat the subject with varying degrees of superficiality, often combined with obscure arrangements of the coins and their supporting documentation. Added to this is often poor illustrative material and inaccurate rarity and value information. Combined, this corpus of work does little to promote real interest in the series.

Apart from Atkin's (1889) account most of the descriptions in English of the Hanoverian Regal coinage are either passing references or superficial comment.

Much more exhaustive accounts were produced by a series of German authorities who in the tradition of the time assiduously studied and documented various important coin cabinets. One such account was produced by Ritter von Schulthess-Rechberg in three volumes over the period 1840-1862. In this he describes in detail all of the major (European) thalers and thaler-sized coins in various cabinets including that of the notable collector Madai. Brunswick-Lüneberg thalers comprise only a small segment of this work.

One of the most notable collections of European coins was formed by Gerhard Wolter Molanus the Abbot of Loccum (which is situated near Minden). On his death at the ripe old age of 88 this was inherited by his nephew Justus Christoph Böhmer who was also Abbot of Loccum until he too died in 1732. Subsequently a catalogue of the coin collection was issued prior to its sale in 1745. There were no illustrations to this, but the catalogue was accompanied by a unique set of plates produced by Nicholas Seeländer so that George II of Great Britain (who was anticipating augmenting his own collection) could see what the coins looked like before deciding what to buy. George did indeed buy a number of coins and medals of Brunswick- Lüneburg and this was really the start of the Royal Collection as a major item. This event was celebrated in Hannover in 1959.

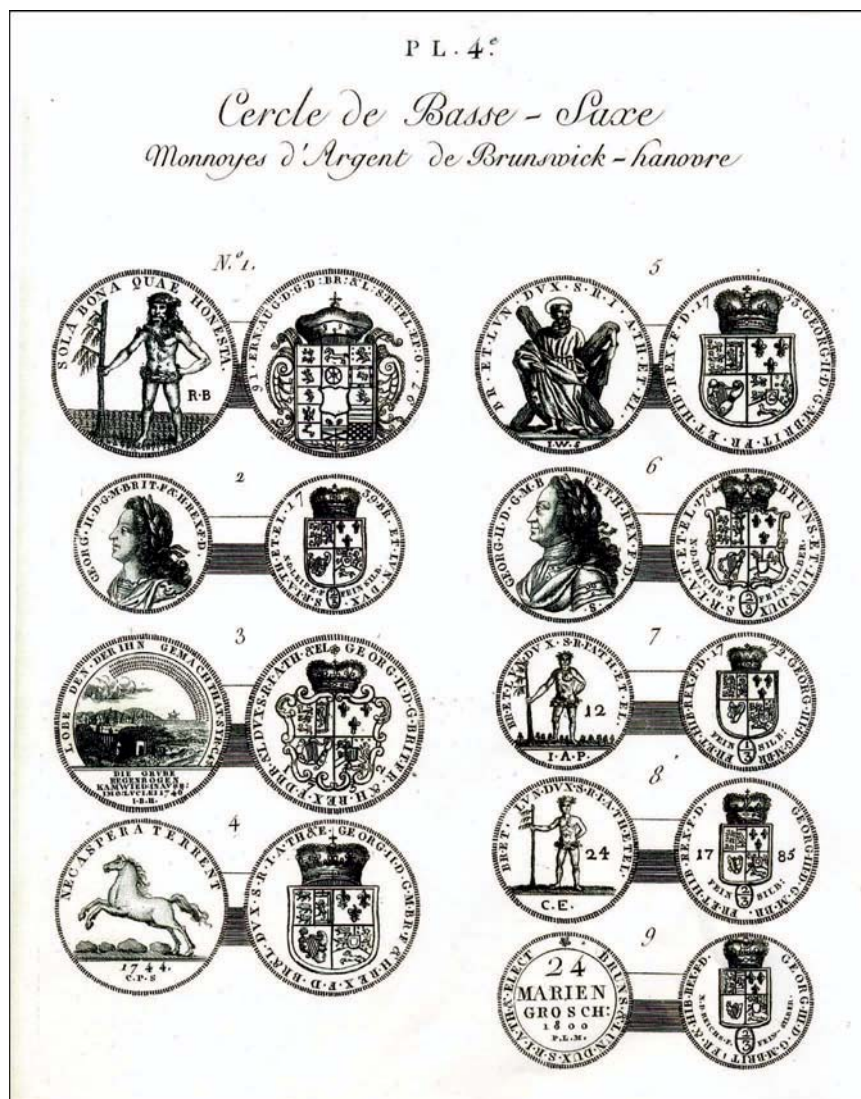
Nicholas Seeländer was born in 1683 in Erfurt and carried out a number of copper engraving commissions for Leibniz. He had been invited to Hannover to provide the illustrations for Leibniz' " *Origines Guelphicae* ". Leibniz died in 1716, and this book was not published until 1751- 1753. Seeländer was employed from 1716 by the Elector of Brunswick-Lüneburg, Georg I of Great Britain. By the time of his death in 1744 he had produced 151 copper plates detailing 1383 coins. George II bought not only coins from the Molanus collection (when the Böhmer family offered it for sale) but also the entire portfolio of Seeländer's 151 copper plates for 8,000 Thalers in 1745.

The only copy of Seeländer's illustrations of the Molanus collection was lodged in the Hannover Coin Cabinet but these engravings were discovered in 1754 by William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland who was so impressed that he got permission from the Hanoverian Government to have other copies produced. Only 20 copies were printed. None were for sale, being donated to various dignitaries and libraries in Germany and London. These copies had neither title nor text; they comprised engravings only with no statement of the year of production.

The next development was in 1853 when George V of Hannover gave permission for another 30 copies to be printed from the original 151 copper plates held in the Royal Coin Cabinet in Hannover. Again, these volumes were not issued for sale. They were however issued under Seeländer's name. Inspection of these engravings reveals that they are superb in their execution particularly with respect to their depiction of the essential details of the different portraits of George I (see appendix). One of his plates, depicting coins of George I, is shown together with another plate by Bonneville produced in 1849 describing various coins in gold and silver in circulation at that time.



One of Seeländer's plates.



One of Bonneville's plates.

However, in 1872, with a supplement issued in 1877 a much more complete description of the coins in the Coin and Medal cabinet of Graf Karl zu Inn und Knyphausen was published which gives a very full description of the various major and some minor Brunswick-Lüneburg coins. This was followed in 1901 by Knigge's account of the contents of his own coin and medal cabinet, but it fell to Fiala to publish the major work in German on the Brunswick coinage. This was produced in a number of volumes issued during the period 1904 – 1917. Fiala described in detail the collection of the Dukes of Cumberland, Brunswick and Lüneburg who were also latterly Kings of Hannover until the territory was annexed by Prussia in 1866. These are the major works in German of interest to the collector of the Hannoverian Regal Series issued during the period 1714 – 1837 in Germany. Between them they contain a good description of many of the major and minor coins of this period.

In 1971 as noted above, the whole area was comprehensively re-visited by Welter who listed all Brunswick coins from the inception of the coinage until its last issues in the Nineteenth century. Welter's lists of the coinages of the first four Georges and William IV are buried within it. Although they are sometimes quite difficult to find and to follow, Welter's contribution is important, not least for his presentation of the comparative listings with references to Knyphausen, Knigge and Fiala in relation to the coins issued. The present work recognises the contributions of the past, builds on them and hopefully pushes knowledge of this series forward in a clear and purposeful manner.

Acknowledgements

Of course, a second edition also deserves the thanks of those who supported the first book. So I would like to list many of the acknowledgements from 2009 again, now supplemented by the people and institutions that have helped me with many further additions and comments:

Over many years I have examined a multitude of coins issued by the Duchy of Brunswick-Lüneburg during the period 1714-1837 having had access to all the known major public and private collections and many dealers' coins. However, at the outset of this literary and technical odyssey I simply did not realise how many people I would call upon to give of their time and expertise to bring this work into a reality. Straight away I must record that all of those people who became involved contributed unstintingly and enthusiastically and added enormously to my enjoyment of the task which nonetheless became daunting on a number of occasions. In recording the many contributions to a work such as this I am haunted by the fact that I might inadvertently have omitted to acknowledge someone's help. If I have, I can only profoundly apologise. At the same time, it is impossible to put help received in any rank order and so I have steadfastly eschewed this in recording my gratitude – all has been deeply appreciated.

In reviewing the major collections, I am significantly indebted to the following:

Dr Reiner Cunz Frau Roswitha Imlau Frau Irmgard Schreiber	of the Niedersächsisches Münzkabinett der Deutschen Bank, Ausstellung, Sammlung und Bibliothek at Deutsche Bank AG, Georgsplatz 20, Hannover
Prof Wolfgang Schepers Dr Anne-Viola Siebert Dr Manfred Gutgesell	of the Kestner Museum, der Landeshauptstadt, Trammplatz 3, Hannover.
Prof Dr Jochen Suckhardt Prof Dr Wolfgang Leschhorn	of the Herzog Anton-Ulrich Museum Museumstrasse Braunschweig
Dr Martin Allen	at the Fitzwilliam Museum Trumpington Street Cambridge
Dr Donal Bateson Ms Iona Shepherd	at the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery University of Glasgow Glasgow
Dr Christopher Howgego Dr Volker Heuchert	at the Ashmolean Museum Heberden Coin Room Oxford
Dr Jonathan Williams Dr Barrie Cook Ms Mary Hinton	at the Coin Department British Museum London
Dr Erika Eschebach	of the Städtisches Museum Braunschweig
Herr Bergassessor Ingo Busch	at the Preussag Sammlung TUI AG Hannover
Dr Eckhard Michael	at the Museum für das Fürstentum Lüneburg Lüneburg
Dr Andreas Fahl	at the Historisches Museum Hannover
Dr Keith Sugden	at the Department of Numismatics Manchester Museum University of Manchester, Manchester
Prof Dr Bernd Kluge Dipl phil Elke Bannicke	at the Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Bodestrasse, Berlin

Especial thanks for guidance and input throughout the project is due to Dipl Ing Siegfried Elbeshausen who also contributed enormously to my understanding of the whole process of Harz mining and the issuing of mint-masters and other tokens and to Karl Kalms of Brunswick and Manfred Olding of Osnabrück who have answered many queries. Further insight into the coinage of Westphalia was given by Dr Rolf Löns of Osnabrück.

A special thanks also goes to the coin dealers and auction houses, who not only patiently responded to my requests for illustrations, but also informed me about many new varieties and specialities. First and foremost, I would like to mention the coin dealer Fritz Rudolf Künker in Osnabrück. I also received information from the Teutoburger Münzhandlung, in particular from Werner Hoepker, the Leipziger Münzhandlung, the companies Tietjen and Emporium, both from Hamburg, Udo Gans from the Westfälische Auktionsgesellschaft, Leu Numismatik AG and from Baldwin & Sons.

Sophia

Dowager Electress of Brunswick-Lüneburg



Sophia Princess of the Palatine (1630-1714), Historical Museum of the Palatine

George's mother Sophia, having been named by the Act of Settlement (1701) as the successor of the last Stuart monarch died on 8th June 1714, some eight weeks before Queen Anne also died on 1st August 1714. The right of succession therefore devolved upon her son Georg Ludwig, the reigning second Elector of Brunswick-Lüneburg who succeeded Anne as George I. Following the established custom a small series of silver coins was issued in her honour and to commemorate the main events of her life.

Thaler

1

(Welter 2058)

Clausthal



Obv The portrait of Sophia, draped and veiled as a widow and looking towards the right. The legend from 12 o'clock with two 5 pointed stars reads

<p>★★ SOPHIA DEI GRATIA <i>Sophia By the Grace of God,</i> PALATINUS ELECTORIS VIDUA <i>Palatine Widow of the Elector of Brunswick and</i> LUNEBURGENSIS MAGNAE BRITANNIAE HAERES <i>Lüneburg, of Great Britain Heiress</i></p>	<p>EX STIRPE ELECTOR <i>From the family of the Elector</i> BRUNSVICENSIS ET <i>of Brunswick and</i></p>
---	--

Rev An inscription in 13 lines commencing and ending with a 5 pointed star

★
NATA
XIII OCTOBER MDCXXX
NUPTA MENSE SEPTEMBRIS
MDCLVIII
AD SUCCESSIONEM MAGNAE BRITANNIAE
NOMINATA MDCCI
SUBVESPERAM VIII JUNII
MDCCXIV IN HORTIS
HERRENHAUSANIS ADHUC
VEGETO ET FIRMO PASSU
DEAMBULANS SUBITA
ET PLACIDA MORTE
EREPTA
 ★

★
Born
13 October 1630
Married in the month of September
1658
To the succession of Great Britain
Nominated 1701
In the evening of 8th June
1714 in the garden
of Herrenhausen whilst
Walking with a step still brisk
and unerring, was snatched away
by a sudden yet peaceful
death!
 ★

1 cont.

Diameter	43mm
Weight	28.2g
Edge	Plain

RARITY
S

1714

Note: The creation of the superb garden at Herrenhausen was the work of Michael Grosse who was commissioned by Duke Johann Friedrich in 1666. When Johann Friedrich died in 1679, he was succeeded by his brother, Ernst August, whose wife Sophia became the leading force in the development of the garden. It is said that such was her interest and influence that nothing was done between the years 1680 and 1714 without her specific consent. It is fitting therefore that she died while walking in her beloved garden.

The magnificent medal by Samuel Lambelet celebrating her accession to the England throne dated 1701 (Brockmann 752) and the medal by Ehrenreich Hannibal on her death (Brockmann 756) have very similar portraits. It seems likely therefore that Hannibal prepared the portraits for the small series drawing on Lambelet's depiction.



Half-Thaler**2**

(Welter 2059)

Clausthal



Obv A different portrait of Sophia from that used for the thaler. The legend from 12 o'clock with a single 5 pointed star with minor differences in abbreviation from that used on the thaler reads

★
SOPHIA DEI GRATIA
EX STIRPE ELECTOR
PALATINUS ELECTORIS VIDUA
BRUNSVICENSIS ET
LUNEBURGENSIS MAGNAE BRITANNIAE
HAERES

★
*Sophia By the Grace of God,
 From the family of the Elector
 Palatine Widow of the Elector
 of Brunswick and
 Lüneburg, of Great Britain Heiress*

Rev The legend is now arranged in 11 lines and is much abbreviated. There is no initial star but a star is used at the end of the inscription.

NATA
XIII OCT MDCXXX
NUPTA MENSE SEPT
MDCLVIII AD SUCCESS
M BRIT NOMIN MDCCI
SUBVESP VIII IVN MDCCXIV
IN HORTIS HERRENHAUS
ADHUC VEGETO & FIRMO
PASSU DEAMBULANS
SUBITA ET PLACIDA
MORTE EREPTA

★

		Diameter	35mm
Weight	14.5g		
Edge	Plain		

1714

RARITY
S

Note: Other specimens have been seen struck from a completely different reverse die which has larger lettering, and the inscription is completed with three 6 petal roses and not one 5 pointed star.

3

(Welter 2060)

Clausthal

One-Quarter Thaler

Obv The portrait used for Sophia, although still veiled and draped, is different from those used for the thaler and half-thaler. The differently abbreviated legend from 12 o'clock now commences with a petal rose reads

***SOPH. D. G. EX. STIRP. EL. PAL. EL. VID. BR. ET. LUN. MAG. BRIT. HAERES**

Rev Again the commencing ornament is omitted. The arrangement and abbreviation of the legend is different from that of the half-thaler piece. It terminates with three 5 pointed stars and reads:

**NATA
XIII OCT MDCXXX
NUPTA MENS SEPT
MDCLVIII AD SUCCESS
M BRIT NOM MDCCI SUB
VESP VIII IVN MDCCXIV
IN HORTIS HERRENH
ADHUC VEGETO & FIRMO
PASSU DEAMBULANS
SUBITA & PLACIDA
MORTE EREPTA**



Weight	7.2g	Diameter	28mm
Edge	Plain		

1714

RARITY
S

One-Eighth Thaler**4**

(Welter 2061)

Clausthal



Obv The portrait of Sophia but from a different die and facing to the right. The legend from 12 o'clock again commences with a 6 petal rose and is abbreviated differently from the quarter-thaler reads

***SOPH. D. G. EX. STIRP. EL. PAL. EL. VID. BR. & L. M. BRIT. HAER.**

Rev Basically although there are no stars at the foot of the inscription, the legend is almost the same as for the quarter thaler except that MENS has become MENSE on the one eighth thaler.

NATA
XIII OCT MDCXXX
NUPTA MENSE SEPT
MDCLVIII AD SUCCESS
M BRIT NOM MDCCI SUB
VESP VIII IVN MDCCXIV
IN HORTIS HERRENH
ADHUC VEGETO & FIRMO
PASSU DEAMBULANS
SUBITA & PLACIDA
MORTE EREPTA

		Diameter	24.6mm
Weight	3.6g		
Edge	Plain		

1714

RARITY
S

There are no mintmaster's initials on any of these pieces which were struck at Clausthal. All four portraits exhibit minor differences as a new portrait was prepared to suit the different planchet size of each denomination. The minor denominations are in proportion for weight and the arrangement of the wording of the reverse inscriptions is slightly different to accommodate the smaller amounts of space available. Furthermore, the half-thaler usually has only a one-star ornament at the end of the inscription while the quarter thaler has three stars. The one eighth thaler has no stars on the reverse; further evidence that all four designs were treated as individual works. All four coins are beautifully produced and have regular toothed borders on both the obverses and reverses redolent of the 1746 series of British proofs. They generally occur in good condition, although some undoubtedly circulated.

George I

1714 – 1727



Portrait of George I. of Great Britain in the costume of the Order of the Garter

The Coinage of 1714

Due to the political uncertainty of the German succession to Great Britain in the face of the Jacobite threat, George was proclaimed King on Anne's death and then had to hurry to Britain to actually occupy his inheritance. He set out immediately from Germany and landed in England on October 18th, 1714. He was in London by 20th September 1714 and was crowned on 31st October. Considering the limitations of travel at the time it was a very quick progression from the Electorate to England.

An ascension in August does not give much time to prepare coin dies for the new reign. But it was considered important that some item of coinage should be produced for legitimate circulation as soon as possible. The Guinea was a widely known and accepted denomination. So, it is not surprising that this was first. The Royal Mint officials were quick off the mark with the first guineas struck and issued in 1714. The result was the infamous Prince Elector Guinea which caused significant offence to the new King. The Mint officials did not realize the difference between Elector (i.e the reigning monarch) and Prince Elector (the monarch's eldest son). These coins are beautiful pieces and usually turns up in very good condition since the outcry they did not circulate but were kept as souvenirs. Following the outcry, no more were issued, and they are now very rare. The reverse legend detailing the German titles ended in the abbreviation A PR(ince) EL(ector) instead of EL(ector) alone. As the only regal coin issued in 1714 although short-lived, it is illustrated here:



It is not surprising that with George's accession to the British throne and coronation his German coinage of 1714 continued uninterrupted bearing the same format and titles in various denominations. The mints at Clausthal and Zellerfeld continued to produce his coinage as before. Coins struck bearing the mintmaster's initials HCB (Bonhorst) were struck at Clausthal and those bearing the initials H ⚡ H (Horst) were struck at Zellerfeld. Indeed, they continued into the year 1715 when George had been King of Great Britain for six months.

It is impossible to distinguish those coins produced before the new King's accession on 18 August 1714 from these minted afterwards. All the coins issued bearing the date 1714 may be considered part of the monarch's legitimate coinage at the outset of his British reign.

Table of the German coinage 1714

	GOLD	SILVER								
	1 Ducat	1 Thaler	T Thaler	½ Thaler	S Thaler	1/6 Thaler	1/9 Thaler	1/18 Thaler	1/36 Thaler	4 Pf
Portrait/ Arms	X	X			X					
Arms/ Springing Horse	X	X	X	X						
Arms/ St Andrew		X								
Arms/ Wildman		X								
Value/ Wildman			X		X	X	X	X		
Value/ Springing Horse						X	X	X		
Value/ Madonna									X	
GLC Monogram/ Value										X
Springing Horse/ Value										X

Gold**Ducats****4A****TYPE 1**

(Welter 2128, 2131)

Clausthal



Obv The draped portrait to the right. Very smaller for Type 1 portrait used for the George's thaler series. The legend from 7 o'clock reads **GEORG:LVD:D.G.D.BR.&LVN:S.R.I.A.TH.&EL.**

Rev Multi quartered arms surmounted by the Electoral Cap. The legend **IN RECTO DECUS 1714** is above the shield, the mintmaster's initials below.

Diameter 22mm
Weight 3.5g
Edge Plain

1714	HC	(Welter 2128)	RARITY
1714	HC	.AUR: H.C.B. HERC: below shield (Welter 2131)	VR

Note: There are two small reverse varieties depending on where the “&” is placed over the king’s head.

Gold is often associated in mining but the Harz mines while noted for their silver production yielded very little gold which did not comprise part of the Brunswick-Calenberg-Hanover coinage until 1710.

4B

TYPE 2 (Welter 2130) Clausthal



Obv Multi quartered arms surmounted by the Electoral Cap. The legend from 1 o’clock and reads
GEORG:LUD:D.G.D.BR.&.LUN.S.R.I.AR.THES:& EL.

Rev The springing Horse to the left with the Ducal motto **IN RECTO DECUS** above with the date. The mintmaster’s initials below.

Diameter 22mm
Weight 3.5
Edge Plain

1714	HC	RARITY
		VR

Silver

Thaler

4C

TYPE 1

(Welter 2134)

Clausthal



Obv The Portrait to the right. The legend from 7 o'clock reads **GEORG.LVD D.G.D.BR.& L S R I A.THES & EL.**

Rev Multi quartered arms surrounded by the Garter Band and surmounted by the Electoral Cap with the Ducal motto **IN RECTO DECUS** above with date. The mintmaster's initials below.

Diameter 42mm
Weight 29.2g
Edge Plain

1714 HCB

Note: The obverse legend with L S R I A.THES unusually all stops have been omitted.

RARITY
VR

4D

TYPE 2

(Welter 2135)

Clausthal



Obv The Portrait to the right. The legend from at 7 o'clock reads **GEORG.LVD D.G.D.BR.& L S R I A.THES & EL.**

Rev Multi quartered arms as in Type 1 above but the Garter Band is omitted. The Ducal motto **IN RECTO DECUS** above with date. The mintmaster's initials below.

Vor mehr als 10 Jahren veröffentlichte Richard Smith das Buch „The Coinage of the Anglo-Hanoverian Personal Union 1714–1837“. Darin befasste er sich zum einen mit der Politik der Nachfolge Georgs I. auf dem britischen Thron und der Geschichte der Herrscherfamilie. Zum anderen listete er alle Münzen auf, die von 1714–1837 ausgegeben wurden. Durch die Veröffentlichung des Buches wurde das Interesse an dieser numismatischen Periode erheblich angeregt. Neue Entdeckungen und Typen waren ans Licht gekommen, neue Ausgabejahre wurden identifiziert und einige numismatische Rätsel wurden aufgedeckt. Richard Smith beschloss, ein weiteres Buch herauszugeben, das sich nur mit der Münzprägung befassen sollte; er verstarb jedoch 2021 und konnte seine Arbeit nicht mehr zu Ende führen. Auf der Grundlage umfangreicher Notizen von Smith und seiner Sammlung an Münzen und Medaillen veröffentlicht nun die *Frankfurter Münzhandlung* dieses zweite Werk über die königliche Münzprägung des Herzogtums Braunschweig-Lüneburg während der Personalunion mit Großbritannien.