

**THE COINAGE OF
WILLIAM
WOOD, 1722-1733**

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The Coinage of William Wood, 1722-1733 by Philip Nelson

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WILLIAM WOOD,
1722-1733.

BY
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MEMBER OF THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON.



"OMNE TULIT PUNCTUM QUI MISCUIT UTILE DULCI."

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PREFACE.

I HAVE endeavoured in the following pages to bring together all that is now known concerning the life of William Wood, and also all the information I could glean concerning the various coins issued by him and his representatives subsequent to his decease. For much useful information I am indebted to Crosbie's "Early Coinage of America," Simon's "Irish Coins," and the "Dictionary of National Biography." In regard to the early issue of coins for use in the Isle of Man, although we have no documentary evidence to connect them with William Wood, yet, on account of the marked similarity in style and execution, and, above all, the fact of their issue being simultaneous with those for Ireland and the American Colonies, I think we are quite justified in attributing them to him. In this view I find myself supported by the late Dr. Clay, who touches on this point in his "Manx Currency." All the coins emanating from the mint of William Wood show great beauty of design and execution, though the weights of individual specimens show considerable differences. We must readily admit, however, that they were infinitely superior to any copper currency that had made its appearance up to that time, and indeed to any subsequent issue until 1797, at which time Boulton and Watt issued from the Soho Mint their magnificent copper coinage, struck by steam-power.

I have throughout this work given the weight of the coins in grains troy. The specimens which are illustrated throughout this book are almost all in my own cabinet. I take this opportunity of recording my thanks to J. B. Caldecott, Esq., R. A. Hoblyn, Esq.,

n - a

W. Latimer, Esq., and H. A. Greuber, Esq., all of whom have freely given much valuable information from their rich store of knowledge. At the same time I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Messrs. Spink for the loan of those blocks which illustrate the section on contemporary forgeries of the Isle of Man Coinage of 1733.

In conclusion, I should like to add that, as in the writing of books there is no end, so in like manner I am well aware that all that might have been written concerning William Wood and his work is not recorded here, since space had to be considered. Should any reader have aught which he considers worthy of communication concerning this subject, the author will be very happy to hear from him at any time.

PHILIP NELSON.

73 ROSSBY STREET,
LIVERPOOL, W.

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2.	Halfpenny Pattern	1722	P.N.			
3.	Halfpenny Pattern, <i>Rev.</i>	1723	P.N.			
4.	Halfpenny, <i>Rev.</i>	1723	P.N.			
5.	Halfpenny Pattern, <i>Rev.</i>	1724	B.M.			
6.	Halfpenny Pattern	1724	B.M.			
7.	Halfpenny Pattern	1724	R.A.H.			
8.	Farthing Pattern	1723	P.N.			
9.	Farthing	1723	P.N.			
10.	Farthing Pattern	1724	B.M.			
11.	Farthing Pattern	1724	R.A.H.			
12.	Medalette, Chas. I	1628	R.A.H.			
13.	Penny, Elizabeth	circ. 1600	P.N.			

PLATE II.—ROSA AMERICANA COINS.

1.	Twopence Pattern	1722	B.M.
2.	Twopence	1722	B.M.
3.	Twopence	1723	P.N.
4.	Penny, <i>Rev.</i>	1722	P.N.
5.	Penny, <i>Rev.</i>	1722	P.N.
6.	Halfpenny	1722	P.N.
7.	Halfpenny, <i>Rev.</i>	1722	P.N.
8.	Halfpenny Pattern, <i>Rev.</i>	1723	P.N.
9.	Halfpenny	1723	P.N.
10.	Twopence Pattern	1724	J.B.C.
11.	Twopence Pattern	1723	B.M.