

### Introduction

67 coins and tokens were found in the excavation. Luckily, their general conservation condition is good, so only five of these are unattributed. The 62 attributed are chronologically dominated by 47 pieces from c. 1554-1727 of which 37 are from c. 1604-1669. The 15 remaining pieces are all coins: seven from c. 1350-1450, one from c. 1483-1513, and five from c. 1874-1970. The 62 attributed are type-wise separated into four groups: 40 Danish-Norwegian coins, 14 rechenpfennige from Nuremberg, 7 foreign coins, and one beer token from around 1590.

The state of preservation differs a lot, but more than 50% have a low degree of wear and/or only parts are corroded, so they are generally well preserved. Around a third of the pieces are not well preserved. They are corroded and/or damaged in different ways. Attributions were made using microscope and the conservation reports. X-ray-pictures were also employed for the corroded and/or damaged coins, but this method turned out to be of little use due to the degradation of the metal. For further information, see the individual conservation reports.

	Danish-Norwegian coins	Foreign coins	Rechenpfennige (tokens), Nuremberg	Other tokens	Unattributed coins or tokens	Total
c. 1350-1450	5	2				7
c. 1483-1513	1					1
c. 1554-1603		1	4	1		6
c. 1604-1669	26	4	7			37
c. 1670-1727	3		1			4
c. 1874-1970	5					5
Uncertain			2 (FP 10024.48-49, 16 <sup>th</sup> century?)		5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>67</b>

## Description of the material<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Danish-Norwegian coins

1. FP 10024.1; FO 208873. Eric of Pomerania (1396-1439), sterling, c. 1400-1420, Næstved. Galster 1972, no. 4. Corroded and in two large fragments. 0.39 g.
2. FP 10024.2; FO 214860. Eric of Pomerania, kobbersterling, c. 1420-40, probably Næstved. Galster 1972, no. 7. Significant parts of motif corroded. 0.57 g.
3. FP 10024.3; FO 214935. Eric of Pomerania, kobbersterling, c. 1420-40, Næstved, Lund, Odense, or Randers. Galster 1972, p. 48-50. Very corroded. Small hole and parts of edge missing. 0.29 g.
4. FP 10024.4; FO 214953. Eric of Pomerania, kobbersterling, c. 1420-40, Næstved. Galster 1972, no. 7. Some degree of wear. Large parts of motif corroded. 0.87 g.
5. FP 10024.5; FO 215269. Copper coin, very insecure attribution: maybe Eric of Pomerania, kobbersterling, ca. 1420-40, Næstved, Lund, Odense, or Randers. Galster 1972, p. 48-50. It could perhaps be a coin from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Very corroded. 0.95.
6. FP 10024.6; FO 209659. Hans (1483-1513), hvid, Malmø. Galster 1972, no. 31. Small triangular peck mark in the center of the cross. Some degree of wear. 0.51 g.
7. FP 10024.7; FO 208861. Christian IV (1588-1648), søsling, c. 1604, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Hede 1978, no. 81; Harck 2002, no. 12.1. Some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.63 g.
8. FP 10024.8; FO 220940. Christian IV, søsling, c. 1611, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 81; Harck 2002, no. 14.2. Probably low degree of wear. Significant parts of motif corroded. 0.90 g.
9. FP 10024.9; FO 214948. Christian IV, 2 skilling lybsk, c. 1619-1622, Glückstadt. Hede 1978, no. 168. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.82 g.
10. FP 10024.10; FO 220921. Christian IV, 1 skilling, 1620, Copenhagen. Die axis: c. 6. Hede 1978, no. 119C. Some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.41 g.
11. FP 10024.11; FO 220946. Christian IV, 1 skilling, 1620, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 119D. Some degree of wear. Parts corroded. Two parts glued together. 0.20 g.
12. FP 10024.12; FO 209135. Christian IV, 1 skilling, 1621, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 119B. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.52 g.
13. FP 10024.13; FO 214864. Christian IV, 1 skilling, 1621, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. Hede 1978, no. 119B. 0.30 g.
14. FP 10024.14; FO 214862. Christian IV, søsling, 1624, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 136. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.15 g.
15. FP 10024.15; FO 214866. Christian IV, søsling, 1624, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 136. Probably low degree of wear. Parts corroded. 0.82 g.
16. FP 10024.16; FO 208868. Christian IV, 2 skilling, 1625, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 134A. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.11 g.
17. FP 10024.17; FO 210030. Christian IV, 2 skilling, 1626, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 134A. Low degree of wear. Parts poorly struck. Well preserved. 1.05 g.
18. FP 10024.18; FO 208866. Christian IV, 6 skilling, 1628, Copenhagen. Die axis: 6. Hede 1978, no. 139A. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.65 g.

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<sup>1</sup> Information about die axes is only given when they are found to be 3, 6, 9, or 12 o'clock.

19. FP 10024.19; FO 210029. Christian IV, 2 skilling, 1629, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 134B. Large crack. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.74 g.
20. FP 10024.20; FO 214950. Christian IV, 2 skilling, 1624-1629, Copenhagen. Hede 1978, no. 134. Low or some degree of wear. Corroded. Two holes and parts of edge missing. 0.31 g.
21. FP 10024.21; FO 214951. Probably Danish-Norwegian, 2 skilling from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps Christian IV, 1624-1629, Copenhagen. Probably damaged by fire. Parts missing. 0.68 g.
22. FP 10024.22; FO 208865. Christian IV, 2 skilling, 1644, Christiania/Oslo. Die axis: c. 9. Some degree of wear. Well preserved. Hede 1978, no. 17. 1.35 g.
23. FP 10024.23; FO 208864. Christian IV, 1 skilling, 1646, Christiania/Oslo. Hede 1978, no. 18. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.82 g.
24. FP 10024.24; FO 201831. Christian IV or Frederik III (1648-1670), 2 skilling, 1624-1660s, probably from Frederik III. Corroded. Parts of edge missing. Two parts glued together. 0.79 g.
25. FP 10024.25; FO 214947. Frederik III, 2 skilling, 1649, Copenhagen. Aagaard 1996, T55a. Large crack. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.85 g.
26. FP 10024.26; FO 208875. Frederik III, 1 skilling, 1650, Copenhagen. Aagaard 1997, T4. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.74 g.
27. FP 10024.27; FO 205391. Frederik III, 1 skilling, 1650, Christiania/Oslo. Die axis: c. 6. Hede 1978, no. 71A. Some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.48 g.
28. FP 10024.28; FO 220895. Frederik III, 2 skilling, 1658, Copenhagen. Aagaard 1996, T43b. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.84 g.
29. FP 10024.29; FO 207833. Frederik III, 1 ducat, 1660, Copenhagen. Aagaard 2011, T24.5. Very low degree of wear. Slightly bent. Well preserved. 3.49 g.
30. FP 10024.30; FO 215173. Frederik III, 2 skilling, 1662, Copenhagen. Die axis: 9. Aagaard 1996, T53. Low degree of wear. Well preserved besides small hole. 0.81 g.
31. FP 10024.31; FO 220925. Frederik III, 2 skilling, 1667, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Aagaard 1996, T80. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.74 g.
32. FP 10024.32; FO 209409. Frederik III, 2 skilling, 1648-1670, Copenhagen. Damaged by fire. 1.27 g.
33. FP 10024.33; FO 220928. Christian V (1670-1699), 1 skilling, 1670, Christiania/Oslo. Hede 1978, no. 47. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.72 g.
34. FP 10024.34; FO 220927. Christian V, 2 skilling, 1677, Copenhagen. Die axis: 6. Hede 1978, no. 74A. Low to some degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.06 g.
35. FP 10024.35; FO 220917. Christian V, 1 skilling, 1681, Copenhagen. Die axis: 6. Hede 1978, no. 75B. Low degree of wear. Little corrosion on edges. Small hole. 0.49 g.
36. FP 10024.36; FO 201689. Christian IX (1863-1906), 10 øre, 1874-1905, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Hede 1978, no. 16. 1.02 g.
37. FP 10024.37; FO 201253. Christian IX, 2 øre, 1874-1906, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Hede 1978, no. 18. 3.65 g.
38. FP 10024.38; FO 201688. Christian IX, 2 øre, 1874-1906, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Hede 1978, no. 18. 4.10 g.
39. FP 10024.39; FO 201451. Christian X (1912-1948), 1 øre, 1928, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Hede 1978, no. 30. 1.69 g.

40. FP 10024.40; FO 202937. Frederik IX (1948-1972), 1 øre, 1970, Copenhagen. Die axis: 12. Hede 1978, no. 14. 1.56 g.

## 2. Foreign coins

1. FP 10024.41; FO 220935. Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorp, Johann Adolf (1590-1616),  $\frac{1}{64}$  thaler/sechsling, 1593-1604. Lange 1908, no. 306-312. Low to some degree of wear. Two larger parts missing. 0.44 g.
2. FP 10024.42; FO 200193. Sweden, Kristian (1632-1654),  $\frac{1}{4}$  øre, 1635, Nyköbing or Säter. Ahlström 1976, no. 123. Some corrosion. 9.5 g.
3. FP 10024.43; FO 214865. Sweden, Kristina, 1 øre, 1636, Stockholm. Ahlström 1976, no. 82. Minor crack. Low degree of wear. Some areas poorly struck. Well preserved. 1.13 g.
4. FP 10024.44; FO 215174. Netherlands, Friesland, 2 duit (Oord), 1608-1648. Some degree of wear. Large parts of motif corroded. 1.85 g.
5. FP 10024.45; FO 233696. Mecklenburg, bracteate, bullhead-type, c. 1350-1450. Oertzen 1900. Some degree of wear. Large hole and part of edge missing. 0.12 g.
6. FP 10024.46; FO 214964. Mecklenburg, Carl I (1603-1610), double skilling, 1609, Boizenburg. Die axis: c. 12. Kunzel 1994, no. 159 A/f. Some degree of wear. Very thin. 0.67 g.
7. FP 10024.47; FO 220902. Güstrow, viertel witten, c. 1390. Jesse 1928, no. 395; cf. Stefke 1988, no. 70. Some degree of wear. Well preserved. 0.29 g.

## 3. Rechenpfennige (tokens), Nuremberg

1. FP 10024.48; FO 214458. Rechen meister type with G S. Georg Schultes (1515-1559)? Die axis: 12. Cf. Mitchiner 1998, pp. 415-417. Very low degree of wear. Well preserved. 4.14 g.
2. FP 10024.49; FO 210894. Obverse crucifixion type cf. Mitchiner 1998, p. 423. Reverse: Laurel wreath and IN MORTEM ALTERIVS TVSPEM TIBI PONERE NOLI H S (Hans Schultes I-III?). Die axis: 12. Low degree of wear. A little corroded. 3.08 g.
3. FP 10024.50; FO 209658. Hans Schultes II? (1586-1603). Die axis: 12. Cf. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1429. Some degree of wear, but well preserved. 4.10 g.
4. FP 10024.51; FO 209095. Kilian Koch (1587-1632). Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1458. Bowl-shaped. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 5.64 g.
5. FP 10024.52; FO 214961. Probably Kilian Koch. Die axis: 12. Cf. Mitchiner 1998, p. 425 (Neumann 32211). Corroded. 3.36 g.
6. FP 10024.53; FO 210925. Hans Krauwinkel (1586-1635). 1601. Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1636. Bowl-shaped. Worn center. 3.54 g.
7. FP 10024.54; FO 210025. Wolf Lauffer I (1554-1601). Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1671. Perforated from obverse near the edge at 7-8 o'clock. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 4.33 g.
8. FP 10024.55; FO 220944. Hans Lauffer I (1607-1632). Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1684. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.06 g.
9. FP 10024.56; FO 214960. Mathaus Lauffer (1612-1634). Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, p. 482, type 3B. Low degree of wear. A little corroded. 3.17 g.

10. FP 10024.57; FO 208874. Mathaus Lauffer. Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1701-Caesar. Slightly bent. Low degree of wear. A little corroded. 2.73 g.
11. FP 10024.58; FO 210028. Wolf Lauffer II (1612-1651). Die axis: 12. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1727-1729. Perforated from reverse near the edge at 10-11 o'Clock. Peck marks on obverse. Low degree of wear. Marginally corroded. Well preserved. 3.15 g.
12. FP 10024.59; FO 210026. Conrad Lauffer (1637-1668). Die axis: 12. Cf. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1763f. RECH PFENING MA. Low degree of wear. Marginally corroded. 3.55 g.
13. FP 10024.60; FO 205555. Conrad Lauffer. Die axis: 12. Cf. Mitchiner 1998, no. 1765 LVD. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.05 g.
14. FP 10024.61; FO 200923. Hans Weidinger (1670-1727). Die axis: 12. Type not in Mitchiner 1998, but cf. p. 519 no. 1845. Lot degree of wear. Well preserved. 1.65 g.

#### 4. Other tokens

1. FP 10024.62; FO 220897. Groningen, beer token, 1590? Neumann 1861, no. 12612. Low degree of wear. Well preserved. 3.74 g.

#### 5. Unattributed coins or tokens

1. FP 10024.63; FO 203378. Coin, perhaps Danish-Norwegian 17<sup>th</sup> century coin e.g. 2 skilling. Very corroded and fragile. Two parts glued together. 0.98 g.
2. FP 10024.64; FO 201830. Coin, probably 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, x-ray indicates Copenhagen 2 skilling from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Corroded. Parts missing. Two parts glued together. 0.74 g.
3. FP 10024.65; FO 201690. Probably a coin. Large fragment. Probably not medieval, perhaps 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Completely corroded. 0.62 g.
4. FP 10024.66; FO 214957. Probably a coin, probably 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Very corroded. Large part missing. 0.95 g.
5. FP 10024.67; FO 220930. Fragments of a much corroded metal disc, probably a coin, but could be a button or something else. 0.41 g.

## Discussion

### DATE

C. 60% of the 62 attributed pieces are from the period c. 1604-1669. At least 75% of the 62 pieces are dated within the longer period c. 1554-1727.

Most of the coin types, especially the 2 skillings, produced from the 1620s to 1681 were very common. The 2 skillings are known to have been in use into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, the production of Danish small coins after 1681 is not represented at all in the material and many of the 2 skillings in the assemblage are not very worn – like most of them are when found in 18<sup>th</sup> century hoards. It is therefore unlikely that the assemblage from Rådhuspladsen represent coins in circulation c. 1680s-1873.

None of the six pieces from c. 1554-1603 are domestic Danish-Norwegian coins, they consist of a foreign coin, four (perhaps six) rechenpfennige, and a token from around 1590. Some or most of these six (or eight) pieces could easily be lost after 1604.

According to the above it is reasonable to argue that the main activity period of the site was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, especially the first two thirds of it.

The second most active period of the site judged by the coin and token material was the 15<sup>th</sup> century, primarily the first half of it. The 62 pieces include eight medieval coins from c. 1350-1513; seven of these are from c. 1350-1450, and four are the poor kobbersterling from c. 1420-1440. The latter type is the most common single medieval coin type in Denmark, but the poor copper coin generally did not stay long in circulation after the mintage of the nominal ended around 1440, so it was probably lost before the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is significant that no Danish coins dated before c. 1400 were found. Specimens of the large-scale production of Danish pennies from the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century would be expected in the material, if there was activity on the site before late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

#### USE

Almost all the coins are small coins. That is coins produced with a silver content below the monetary standard in use. They have insufficient intrinsic value, and are normally only produced for everyday domestic use. The coins in the assemblage are not only small coins, but generally among the smallest of the period's small coins providing information about everyday coin use, small trade on local markets, the bottom of the monetary circuit etc., but they of course also help date the activities on the site.

The material can only to a lesser degree help identify activities on the site, since most of the coins and tokens from Rådhuspladsen are of types that according to the general monetary history of Denmark would be expected in an urban area. We do not yet have comparative studies of Danish urban coin material from this period, but it is surely worth noting that main parts of the material are common types of small coins, for example all eight medieval coins, that are also found in excavations of Danish churches and on rural metal detector sites.

All the Danish-Norwegian small coins from c. 1604 to 1620s are produced in Copenhagen, since the 17<sup>th</sup> century production of small coins in Norway did not commence before 1641 even though the silver mines near present-Kongsberg were discovered in 1623. The impressive Norwegian small coinage, the wide spread circulation of 1 and especially 2 skillings within Denmark-Norway, and the influx of Norwegian small coins to Denmark and Copenhagen/Rådhuspladsen are clear from the 13 Danish-Norwegian small coins from 1644-1681. One is not mint-attributed, but a third of the coins (four of 12 mint-attributed) are produced in Norway, while eight are produced in Copenhagen. Generally the Norwegian coins are slightly more worn than their Danish counter-parts; the Norwegian coins have probably travelled faster and/or further than the Copenhagen ones. The degree of Norwegian coins at Rådhuspladsen seems higher than in most comparable Danish finds. This is perhaps explained by Copenhagen's capital status and important influx of Norwegian ships, persons etc.

The find of a Danish gold ducat, from the very special year 1660 (introduction of absolutism in Denmark), probably also testifies to the special conditions related to coins, mints, and monetary matters in the Capital Copenhagen compared with other sites, towns, regions etc. in the realm. The find is unique; this type has according to my knowledge never been found before in Denmark. Danish 17<sup>th</sup> century gold coin production was not large-scale, and finds of gold coins from the period c. 1550-1700 are relatively rare in Denmark. I only know of finds of c. 18 Danish and c. 45 foreign gold coins from this period, and around 10-12 of them are from hoards.<sup>2</sup> Copenhagen was a special place coin-wise and as many as seven (1619-1669) of the mentioned c. 18 Danish gold coins are found in Copenhagen (incl. Frederiksberg), while five of the foreign are found in Copenhagen (a sixth is found on Amager in soil deposited from Copenhagen).

The foreign coins are not surprising. North German small coins were often used in Denmark in the 14-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, not least in the period c. 1350-1450 and in the decades around 1600 due to insufficient domestic production of coins/small coins. Other Northern European e.g. Dutch coins were also used, but to a much lesser degree in the latter period. We know several Danish finds of Dutch 2 duits. Swedish coins, especially 17<sup>th</sup> century copper coins, of course found their way to especially the eastern parts of Denmark. The Groningen beer tokens are also known from some other Danish finds: A specimen from 1590 was for example found 2011 in excavations at Kultorvet in Copenhagen, and another (FP 9257.6) from 1583 was found some years ago with metal detector at Rye Øst, c. 40 km west of Copenhagen.

At least c. 21% of the assemblage is rechenpfennige from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Nuremberg. This high number corresponds with the material from the Kongens Nytorv excavation, and testifies to widespread urban use of the common rechenpfennige, but they are also found with metal detector on Danish rural sites and in parish churches. It seems difficult to explain the high numbers of rechenpfennige if they were *only* used to perform calculations. Perhaps these generally well produced round brass pieces with interesting motifs were also used as gambling tokens and/or other types of tokens – and/or they functioned as small coins. Insufficient domestic production of small coins in late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century could support the latter explanation, but as domestic production of small coins rose, especially from the 1620s, it through the 17<sup>th</sup> century becomes less and less likely that they functioned as small coins.

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<sup>2</sup> Author, ongoing research on Danish finds of gold coins.

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