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## Report - The Birmingham Mint, 2008

Discussion in 'Industrial Sites' started by dweeb, Jun 23, 2016.



**dweeb**

Super Moderator

Staff Member

Moderator

Joined: Oct 20, 2005

Messages: 1,438

Likes Received: 586

We've spent a bit of time in the river this summer, and have discovered a an area which is good for finding coins and jewellery. Among the hundreds of one p's, shopping trolley tokens and euros were a handful of pre-decimal coins. I used to collect coins when I was a lad so I was quite pleased to find them and had a bit of a look under a glass when I got them home. Below the date on a certain battered penny I noticed a tiny letter "H" which I had never seen before. A quick google showed that that letter H meant I had once stood in the very building that coin had been struck in... The Birmingham Mint.



*of Icknield Street, Birmingham, 18*

*Telephone: Central 2532 (3 lines). Telegraphic Address: "Mint, Birmingham".  
(1937)*

*The Birmingham Mint, a coining mint, originally known as Heaton's Mint or Ralph Heaton and Sons, in Birmingham, started producing tokens and coins in 1850, as a private enterprise, separate from, but in cooperation with, the Royal Mint.*

*Its factory was situated in Icknield Street (grid reference SP057877), on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter. It was created by Ralph Heaton II, using sec.. but ond-hand coin presses bought from the estate of Matthew Robinson Boulton.*

We had discussed the project of having a pop at the mint in the car one day, but assumed due to the very nature of a building that makes money it would be a none starter. I can't actually remember where we had been that night, but Raddog, OT and I ended up pulling over and having a 'quick check' around the perimeter. Imagine my surprise when I leaned on the door handle mid stride and almost hit the deck as the door swung round... the flippin' door was open!

We hastily returned in daylight for a full explore. The place was actually amazing. Other than the machinery which had been auctioned off most of the stuff you would expect to find in a coin and medal mint was in there. The building was wonderfully dated with a groovy 70's canteen and retro offices. The toolmakers benches were still packed full of tools, and on one the fella's glasses were still carefully placed on the bench top.

Anyone exploring a mint would hope to find a coin... but they were literally everywhere in there. On the floor, in boxes and bags. It was all a little surreal.

As with pretty much every place I explored in 06 07 08 I look back at my poorly composed photos and see so much that I literally walked straight past. I've no doubt there was a whole host of epic we missed here.

As with all these old explores I like to stick them back up to show those new to the game what they missed :)



I did wonder where these had gone... one would assume if it was an official removal they would have taken the original box too!





Blank Euros











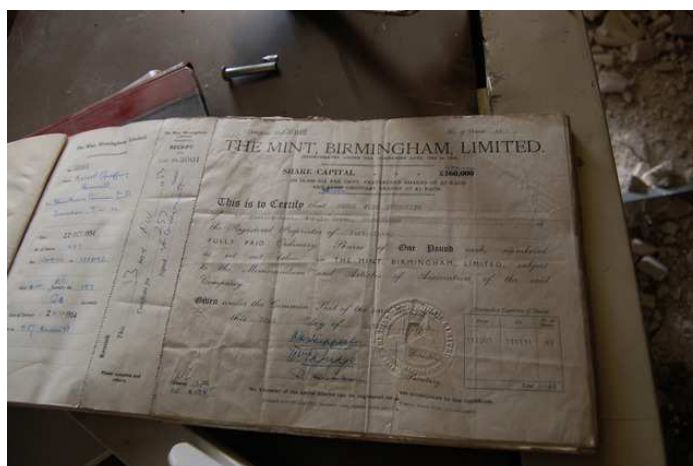


Lead elves had been



















Medal ribbons





Infamous Explorer.

dweeb, Jun 23, 2016

#1

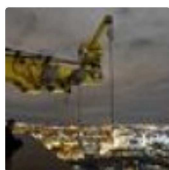
tweek, Alohomora, mattdonut and 7 others like this.

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**Ojay**

Admin

Staff Member

Admin

Very nice that [@dweeb](#)

You do with sorting them old 'dead' industrial threads out when you get a chance too

[Ojay@28dayslater.co.uk](mailto:Ojay@28dayslater.co.uk)

Joined: Nov 24, 2008  
 Messages: 4,781  
 Likes Received: 1,438



Ojay, Jun 23, 2016

#2



**Oxygen Thief**

Admin

Staff Member

Admin

Joined: Oct 17, 2005  
 Messages: 5,429  
 Likes Received: 1,429  
 Home Page:  
<http://www.28dayslater.co.uk>

dweeb said: ↑

*Raddog, OT and I ended up pulling over and having a 'quick check' around the perimeter. Imagine my surprise when I leaned on the door handle mid stride and almost hit the deck as the door swung round... the flippin' door was open!*

That was me wasn't it? Edgy that was, like the guy just popped out for a pizza. I never got back in there in the daylight though.

Email : [oxygen thief@28dayslater.co.uk](mailto:oxygen thief@28dayslater.co.uk)

*Dieu merci pour l'homme aux nombreuses lampes...*

*Try this: <http://www.forumimagehosting.com> - BBCode, HTML and Direct image links for Forums and Social Media. Drag and drop uploading with 1MB per picture, which is more than enough for normal online use. Private and Public Folders. Share directly to Facebook, Twitter, etc.*

Oxygen Thief, Jun 24, 2016

#3

Speed likes this.



**TranKmasT**

We're Earth explorers

Regular User

Joined: Feb 21, 2010  
 Messages: 453  
 Likes Received: 179  
 Home Page:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/archinema/sets/>

Mint that is. 😊

Great find. Any idea if the building is demolished now or reused?



TranKmasT, Jun 24, 2016

#4

nice, some really nice finds too.



**ledgehammer**

28DL Regular User

Regular User

Joined: Dec 25, 2014

Messages: 428

Likes Received: 295

Home Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5NVE0-goN-8glbzIEuvYpA>

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ledgehammer, Jun 24, 2016

#5

**dave**

28DL Regular User

Regular User

Joined: Apr 7, 2007

Messages: 354

Likes Received: 63

Lovely stuff there i must say my pulse went up somewhat when i saw all that gorgeous paperwork.

dave, Jun 24, 2016

#6

**host**

28DL Regular User

Regular User

Joined: Nov 19, 2009

Messages: 795

Likes Received: 220

What a cracker, knowing you i bet you spent days in here...bet its long gone now.

host, Jun 24, 2016

#7



Some of it was converted.

Are you sure this was 2008 thought it was more like 2006? If it was 2008 im annoyed i didnt go!



Speed, Jun 24, 2016

#8

**Speed**

Got Epic?

Regular User

Joined: Nov 15, 2005

Messages: 2,680

Likes Received: 1,885

**Alohomora**

28DL Full Member

28DL Full Member

Joined: Jun 19, 2016

Messages: 68

Likes Received: 34

Such a shame I got into this malarkey when all the good stuffs been taken lol and your just rubbing it by posting for all the new comers and what we've "missed" lol git!!! Nice photos bro

-----  
 "Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain..." -  
 A.Weasley  
 -----

Alohomora, Jun 24, 2016

#9

**dweeb**

Super Moderator

Staff Member

Moderator

Joined: Oct 20, 2005

Messages: 1,438

Likes Received: 586

The conversion was actually a cluster-fuck. They knocked down more of it than they should have done, left the chimney standing in a field of rubble for years and it is still not all let / sold even now!

-----  
 Infamous Explorer.  
 -----

dweeb, Jun 25, 2016

#10

**host**

28DL Regular User

Regular User

Joined: Nov 19, 2009

Messages: 795

Likes Received: 220

Chris\_Columbus said: ↑

*Such a shame I got into this malarkey when all the good stuffs been taken lol and your just rubbing it by posting for all the new comers and what we've "missed" lol git!!! Nice photos bro*

Far from it mate there's plenty of stuff still to discover just like this. new stuff pops up all the time. Im still amazed by what people uncover.

host, Jun 25, 2016

#11

tweek, Alohomora and TranKmasT like this.

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**B** **I** **U**

**T** **A**

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05/11/2016

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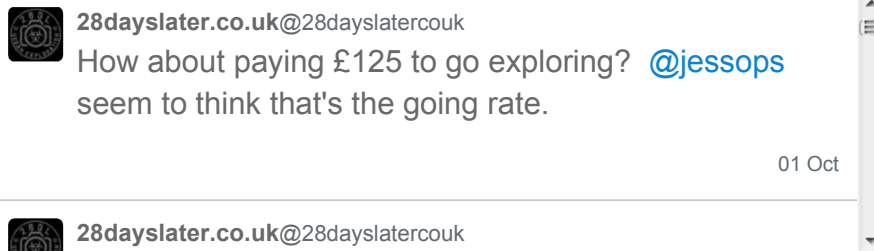
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