

## Coin Denominations

U N I O N I C K E L I R  
P X U W C R T H G I E C  
E N O O L B U O D V U C  
N R S Q U A R T E R C F  
C E P N B D N R C E L A  
E M I D R E D I U A Y R  
L O S T C A O M H E N T  
A O T E O G L E R N N H  
L N O M I L L E D I E I  
L P L S N E A Q I U P N  
E E E I D L R C T G S G  
T S H D G N I L L I H S  
S O V E R E I G N D B X

The coin denominations in bold type in the following story can be found in this word puzzle

Most are familiar with the denominations of our current United States coins. The **Dollar** has been the basic unit of our silver coinage from the earliest days of our Constitutional government. It is divided into **Half Dollars**, **Quarter Dollars** and Tenth Dollars originally called the **Disme** which was later shortened to just **Dime**. Originally the smallest silver coin was the Half Dime but the alloy was changed to Copper-Nickel in the mid 1800s and today we know it as the **Nickel**. Today the smallest denomination is the **Cent** but that was not always so as we once had a Half Cent as well. Other odd denominations dot our Numismatic history. The Two Cent piece, the silver Three Cent piece or **Trime**, the Copper-Nickel Three Cent piece, and a Twenty Cent piece were all once part of our small change.

United States gold coins are no longer minted for circulation but they once were. They were denominated in Eagles. An **Eagle** was equal to ten Dollars. We originally had Half and Quarter Eagles in addition to the Eagle. After gold was discovered in California two new denominations were created, the Double Eagle and the Gold Dollar. A much larger coin was also experimented with, worth fifty dollars this new denomination would have been called a **Union**. There were some odd denominations in the gold series as well. The Three Dollar gold piece and another experimental piece the Four Dollar piece or **Stella**.

In the early years of our country the United States Mint did not have the resources nor the material to produce sufficient coinage for our country so foreign coins had to be used. In fact Congress did not remove their legal tender status until 1857. The most predominant of the foreign coins was the Spanish-American **Milled Dollar** and its divisions. The Milled Dollar was also called an Eight Real, Pieces of **Eight**, and **Peso**. The Spanish-American system was based on the **Real**, which was equal to twelve and a half cents in the United States and was called a **bit**. Thus a quarter is two bits. The **Pistole** and **Doubloon** are two Spanish-American gold denominations that found their way to our country.

The colonies having been predominately English clung to the British monetary systems for years after the American Dollar system was adopted. English coins circulated in our country as well as many forms of early paper money was denominated using the British system. Early Americans were quite familiar with the English **Penny**, the **Pence**, the **Farthing**, the **Shilling**, and the **Crown** denominations. Some even saw gold **Guinea** and **Sovereign** denominated coins.

French coins also circulated in parts of the nation. French denominations seen in early America include the **Ecu**, the **Livre**, the **Sol** and the **Sou**.

Good luck in your search for these denominations in our puzzle and should you be inspired to assemble a type set of actual coins we wish you even more good luck.