Slezský vládní haléř z vratislavské mincovny z roku 1532

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Silesian government heller struck in the Breslau mint in 1532

A brief survey is presented describing four historical phases when the King Ferdinand tried to introduce production of common government coins in Breslau (Silesia) in 1532–1561. The formal image of the really struck Silesian coins resulted from controversy of interests of the Silesian estates, business activities of the particular mint-master and economic-political efforts of Ferdinand I in introduction of the Austrian monetary system in the Bohemian Crown Lands. In this study, the main interest is focused on the beginning of existence of the Breslau government mint during the rule of Ferdinand I documented basically by minting instructions issued by the king for the mint-master Konrad Sauermann in 1532. The older specialized literature supposed the fact that the coin production has not started in Breslau at all and that the oldest Silesian government coins were represented by small pfennigs struck by the mint-master Krapp in 1540–1541. Based on comparison of the existing coins and written sources, an undated Silesian heller (previously regarded as a product of the mint-master Wetermaier after 1546) has been attributed as the oldest Silesian government coin struck under Ferdinand I during a short period by the mint-master Sauermann in Breslau since 1532.

heller; Konrad Sauermann – the mint-master; Breslau – mint; Silesia, 1532.

haléř; Konrád Sauermann – mincmistr; Vratislav – mincovna; Slezsko; 1532.