

Kelda's Elevation Token

In early medieval Europe, the smallest royal coin would be worth far more than a day's wages for most workers. Thus, there was a need for coinage below the value of a penny to be used for everyday transactions. Local merchants (such as tavern owners) might strike their own personal coins, usually of base metals rather than precious metals. These were not considered false coinage, as they did not depict the monarch and were not made of precious metals, and thus had no intrinsic value. The images on the coins were decorative rather than informative.

One example of such a coin is the pelican token struck in London in the 13th century. On the obverse, it depicts a pelican with a cross extending from its back. This is a traditional symbol of Jesus (the pelican represents self-sacrifice, and the cross removes any doubt). On the reverse is the arms of the merchant.



The original coin is made of pewter. (Strictly speaking, it is a “token” rather than a “coin”.)

Kelda's coin takes the pelican from the original but replaces the cross with the date of her elevation. Kelda's arms appear on the back, in the same shield shape as the original. Like the original, this coin is made of pewter.

