

= two thousand pounds (£2,000) From the Jeffrey Archer case in which he was alleged to have bribed call-girl Monica Coughlan with this amount. bender = sixpence (6d) Another slang term with origins in the 1800's when the coins were actually solid silver, from the practice of testing authenticity by biting and bending the coin, which would be made of near-pure silver have been softer than the fakes. beer tokens = money. Usually now meaning one pound coins. From the late 20th century. Alternatively beer vouchers, which commonly meant pound notes, prior to their withdrawal. bob = shilling (1/-) No plural version; it was 'thirty bob' not 'thirty bobs'. Prior to 1971 bob was one of the most commonly used English slang words. Now sadly gone for this particular meaning, although lots of other meanings remain (for example the verb or noun meaning of pooh, a haircut, and the verb meaning of cheat). Origin unknown, sorry, although the usage dates back to the late 1700's. Perhaps a connection with the church or bell-ringing since 'bob' meant set of changes rung on the bells. Also perhaps a connection with a plumb-bob, made of lead and used to mark a vertical position in certain trades, notably masons. 'Bob a nob', in the early 1800's meant 'a shilling a head', when estimating costs of meals, etc. In parts of the US 'bob' was used for the US dollar coin. brass = money. From the 16th century, and a popular expression the north of England, eg., 'where there's muck there's brass'. Brass is an association to the colour of gold coins, and the value of brass as a scrap metal. bread = money. From cockney rhyming slang, bread and honey = money. Bread also has associations with the expression 'earning a crust', or having enough money to pay for one's daily bread. carpet = three pounds (£3) or three hundred pounds (£300) This has confusing and convoluted origins, from as early as the late 1800's. Seems originally to have been a slang term for a three month prison sentence, based on the following: that 'carpet bag' was cockney rhyming slang for a 'drag', which was generally used to describe a three month sentence; also that in the prison workshops it supposedly took ninety days to produce a certain regulation-size piece of carpet; and there is also a belief that prisoners used to be awarded the luxury of a piece of carpet for their cell after three year's incarceration. The term has since the early 1900's been used by bookmakers and horse-racing, where carpet refers to odds of three-to-one, and in car dealing, where it refers to an amount of £300. dollar = slang for money, commonly used in singular form, eg., 'Got any dollar?..'. In earlier times a dollar was slang for an English Crown, five shillings (5/-) From the 1900's in England and so called because the coin was similar in appearance and size to the American dollar coin, and at one time similar in value too. Brewer's dictionary of 1870 says that the American dollar is '...in English money a little more than four shillings..'. That's about 20p. The word dollar is originally derived from German 'Thaler', and earlier from Low German 'dabler', meaning a valley (from which we also got the word 'dale'). The connection with coinage is that the Counts of Schlick in the late 1400's mined silver from 'Joachim's Thal' (Joachim's Valley), from which was minted the silver ounce coins called Joachim's Thalers, which became standard coinage in that region of what would now be Germany. All later generic versions of the coins were called 'Thalers'. dosh = slang for a reasonable amount of spending money, for instance enough for a 'night-out'. Almost certainly and logically derived from the slang 'doss-house', meaning a very cheap hostel or room, from Elizabethan England when 'doss' was a straw bed, from 'dossel' meaning bundle of straw, in turn from the French 'dossier' meaning bundle. Dosh appears to have originated in this form in the US in the 19th century, and then re-emerged in more popular use in the UK in the mid-20th century. doubloons = money. From the Spanish gold coins of the same name. dough = money. From the cockney rhyming slang and metaphoric use of 'bread'. fiver = five pounds (£5). flag = five pound note (£5), UK, notably in Manchester (ack Michael Hicks); also a USA one dollar bill; also used as a slang term for a money note in Australia although Cassells is vague about the value (if you know please contact us). The word flag has been used since the 1500's as a slang expression for various types of money, and more recently for certain notes. Originally (16th-19thC) the slang word flag was used for an English fourpenny groat coin, derived possibly from Middle Low German word 'Vleger' meaning a coin worth 'more than a Bremer groat' (Cassells). Derivation in the USA would likely also have been influenced by the slang expression 'Jewish Flag' or 'Jews Flag' for a \$1 bill, from early 20th century, being an envious derogatory reference to perceived and stereotypical Jewish success in business and finance. florin = a two shilling or 'two bob' coin (florin is not slang - it's from Latin meaning flower, and a 14th century Florentine coin called the Floren). Equivalent to 10p - a tenth of a pound. g/G = a thousand pounds. Shortening of 'grand' (see below). From the 1920's, and popular slang in fast-moving business, trading, the underworld, etc., until the 1970's when it was largely replaced by 'K'. Usually retains singular form (G rather than G's) for more than one thousand pounds, for example "Twenty G". grand = a thousand pounds (£1,000 or \$1,000) Not pluralised in full form. Shortened to 'G' (usually plural form also) or less commonly 'G's'. Originated in the USA in the 1920's, logically an association with the literal meaning - full or large. reens = money, usually old-style green coloured pound notes. From cockney rhyming slang 'greengages' (= wages). groat = an old silver four-penny coin from around 1300 and in use in similar form until c.1662, although Brewer states in his late 1800's revised edition of his 1870 dictionary of slang that 'the modern groat was introduced in 1835, and withdrawn in 1887', which is somewhat confusing. Presumably there were different versions and issues of the groat coin, which seems to have been present in the coinage from the 14th to the 19th centuries. Very occasionally older people, students of English

Monetary Interpretations Offered by:

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= one pound five pence. See the guinea history above. joey = much debate about this: According to my information (1894 Brewer, and the modern Cassell's, Oxford, Morton, and various other sources) Joey was originally, from 1835 or 1836 a silver fourpenny piece called a groat (Brewer is firm about this), and this meaning subsequently transferred to the silver threepenny piece (Cassell's, Oxford, and Morton). I'm convinced these were the principal and most common usages of the Joey coin slang. Cassell's says Joey was also used for the brass-nickel threepenny bit, which was introduced in 1937, although as a child in South London the 1960's I cannot remember the threepenny bit ever being called a Joey, and neither can my Mum or Dad, who both say a Joey was a silver threepence and nothing else (although they'd be too young to remember groats...). I personally feel (and think I recall) there might have been some transference of the Joey slang to the sixpence (tanner) some time after the silver threepenny coin changed to the brass threepenny bit (which was during the 1930-40's), and this would have been understandable because the silver sixpence was similar to the silver threepence, albeit slightly larger. And perhaps among some folk the Joey term might also have transferred to a limited extent for the brass-nickel threepenny bit, although without doubt the fourpenny groat and the silver threepenny coin have the major claim to the Joey title. The Joey slang word seems reasonably certain to have been named after the politician Joseph Hume (1777-1855), who advocated successfully that the fourpenny groat be reintroduced, which it was in 1835 or 1836, chiefly to foil London cab drivers (horse driven ones in those days) in their practice of pretending not to have change, with the intention of extorting a bigger tip, particularly when given two shillings for a two-mile fare,

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at the time cost one shilling and eight-pence. The re-introduction of the groat thus enabled many customers to pay the exact fare, and cab drivers used the term Joey as a derisory reference for the fourpenny groats. And some further clarification and background: r says that the 'modern groat was introduced in 1835, and withdrawn in 1887'. He was referring to the fact that the groat's production l from 1662 and then restarted in 1835, (or 1836 according to other sources). This coincides with the view that Hume re-introduced the o counter the cab drivers' scam. * Silver threepenny coins were first introduced in the mid-1500's but were not popular nor minted in rious quantity for general circulation until around 1760, because people preferred the fourpenny groat. The silver threepence was ef- ly replaced by the brass-nickel threepenny bit from 1937 to 1945, which was the last minting of the silver version. * The brass- threepenny bit was minted up until 1970 and this lovely coin ceased to be legal tender at decimalisation in 1971. As a matter of interest, time of writing this (Nov 2004) a mint condition 1937 threepenny bit is being offered for sale by London Bloomsbury coin dealers and neers Spink, with a guide price of £37,000. Wow. * The silver sixpence was produced from 1547-1970, and remained in circulation gh by then it was a copper-based and nickel-coated coin) after decimalisation as the two-and-a-half-pee, until withdrawal in 1980.k/K usand (£1,000 or \$1,000). From the 1960's, becoming widely used in the 1970's. Plural uses singular form. 'K' has now mainly repla- common speech and especially among middle and professional classes. While some etymology sources suggest that 'k' (obvius- nced 'kay') is from business-speak and underworld language derived from the K abbreviation of kilograms, kilometres, I am inclined fer the derivation (suggested to me by Terry Davies) that K instead originates from computer-speak in the early 1970's, from the ab- tion of kilobytes. For Terry's detailed and fascinating explanation of the history of K see the ' K' entry on the cliches and words origins nicker = distortion of 'nicker', meaning £1. See entry under 'nicker.lolly = money. More popular in the 1960's than today. Precise origin wn. Possibly rhyming slang linking lollipop to copper.marygold/marigold = a million pounds (£1,000,000). English slang referenced by r in 1870, origin unclear, possibly related to the Virgin Mary, and a style of church windows featuring her image.mill = a million dollars illion pounds. Interestingly mill is also a non-slang technical term for a tenth of a USA cent, or one-thousandth of a dollar, which is an ts term only - there is no coinage for such an amount. The word mill is derived simply from the Latin 'millisimus' meaning thou- i, and is not anything to do with the milled edge of a coin.monkey = five hundred pounds (£500). Probably London slang from the early i. Origin unknown. Like the 'pony' meaning £25, it is suggested by some that the association derives from Indian rupee banknotes fea- the animal.moola = money. Variations on the same theme are moolah, mola, mulla. Modern slang from London, apparently originating USA in the 1930's. Probably related to 'motsa' below.motsa = money. Popular Australian slang for money, now being adopted else- . Variations on the same theme are motser, motzer, motza, all from the Jewish word 'matzah', the unleavened bread originally shaped large flatdisk, but now more commonly square (for easier packaging and shipping), eaten at Passover, which suggests earliest origins have been where Jewish communities connected with English speakers, eg., New York or London (thanks G Kahl).ned = a guinea. A word used in Britain and chiefly London from around 1750-1850. Ned was seemingly not pluralised when referring to a number of is, eg., 'It'll cost you ten ned..' A half-ned was half a guinea. (see the nots about guineas). The slang ned appears in at least one of Bruce nder's Blind Justice series of books (thanks P Bostock for raising this) set in London's Covent Garden area and a period of George III's rom around 1760 onwards. It is conceivable that the use also later transferred for a while to a sovereign and a pound, being similar cur- units, although I'm not aware of specific evidence of this. The ned slang word certainly transferred to America, around 1850, and any was used up to the 1920's. In the US a ned was a ten dollar gold coin, and a half-ned was a five dollar coin. Precise origin of the wo- uncertain although it is connected indirectly (by Chambers and Cassells for example) with a straightforward rhyming slang for the word conventional cockney rhyming slang is slightly more complex than this), which seems plausible given that the monarch's head appeared nea coins. Ned was traditionally used as a generic name for a man around these times, as evidenced by its meaning extending to a thug- ian or youth, or a petty criminal (US), and also a reference (mainly in the US) to the devil, (old Ned, raising merry Ned, etc). These, and yming head connection, are not factual origins of how ned became a slang money term; they are merely suggestions of possible usage and/or reinforcement.nicker = a pound (£1) Not pluralised for a number of pounds, eg., 'It only cost e twenty nicker.' From the early i, London slang, precise origin unknown. Possibly connected to the use of nickel in the minting of coins, and to the American slang use cel to mean a \$5 dollar note, which at the late 1800's was valued not far from a pound. In the US a nickel is more commonly a five cent nicker bit is a one pound coin, and London cockney rhyming slang uses the expression 'nicker bits' to describe a case of diarrhoea. one- nounced 'wunner') Commonly now meaning one hundred pounds; sometimes one thousand pounds, depending on context. In the i; a oner was normally a shilling, and in the early 1900's a oner was one pound.plum = One hundred thousand pounds (£100,000) As aced by Brewer in 1870. Seemingly no longer used. 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A COLLECTION OF MONETARY INSIGHT

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