

The Wreck of the *Admiral Gardner* East India Company Shipwreck Coin



January 25, 1809. Despite bitter cold, gale force winds, and an ominous black sky, the *Admiral Gardner*, a three-masted brig loaded with some 46 tons of copper coins, embarked on the long journey from London to the East Indies. It didn't get far. Caught in a gale, the ship

sunk into the Goodwin Sands, 50 miles from London. Although the wreck of the *Admiral Gardner* was part of local lore, no trace of the ship was found until 1984, when a passing fisherman snagged his nets on the wreckage. A year later, a team of divers salvaged some-but not nearly all-of the lost treasure, including a sealed barrel containing some 28,000 pieces. This East India Company "10-cash" coin is one of them.

Found in 1984 by passing fisherman, this "10-cash" coin was one of 28,000 pieces sealed barrel.

This "10-cash" coin bears the East India Company's iconic logo on the obverse and the denomination on the reverse. The contrast of the regal coat of arms and the Mughal script hints at the breadth and scope of both the Company and the British Empire. Struck in Birmingham, England, this coin was one of the first in the world to be minted by the steam-powered coin press, an invention of Matthew Boulton and James Watt. It spent 175 years under the sea. Specifications: High grade examples average: 4.6 grams; 25.6 mm diameter. Lower grade coins will vary.