

## APPENDIX VI

### (Regulation 160)

#### Hints on detecting counterfeit coins.

1. Two kinds of counterfeits are met with, namely, struck (or cast and struck) counterfeits and cast counterfeit. Casting is the easiest method of making counterfeits and is much the most frequently employed.
2. Struck counterfeits are made by striking or pressing blanks between dies of steel or other hard metal which bear the impressions of the coin. The blanks thus struck may have been cast in suitable moulds to the approximate dimensions of the coin, or they may have been cut from sheet metal or otherwise made by hand.
3. Cast counterfeits are made in, moulds which are usually of fine sand, clay, or similar material, the required impression being taken from a genuine coin. The mould has a small hole, or —gate cut in the rim, through which the molten metal for casting the piece is poured. The metal, which fills this gate and solidifies with the rest of the casting, forms a projection on the rim of the cast counterfeit and has to be cut off to enable the rim at this point to be finished by hand and left smooth or milled as the case may be. Signs of this finishing can usually be detected on the rim of the counterfeit.
4. A suspected coin should, if possible, be compared with one or more genuine coins of the same description and examined in a good light, preferably with a magnifying glass. It might also be weighed against genuine coins showing a similar amount of wear. The majority of counterfeits are considerably lighter than genuine coins.
5. When rung on a stone slab or similar hard surface, genuine coin should give a clear high note. Counterfeits do not as a rule ring well; this, however, is not a conclusive test.
6. The colour of the coin should be scrutinized, a brassy or dull leaden appearance would generally point to the coin being counterfeit. Some counterfeits have a peculiar glazed appearance. A genuine coin should be silvery and dull or bright according to the treatment it has received. Coins which feel greasy to the touch should be carefully examined.
7. In a genuine coin, the thickness at the rim is made the same all round. In counterfeit coins the rim is sometimes thicker at one point than another and the coin itself may be slightly bent or distorted, so that it will not lie evenly between two others.
8. The edges of the rim should be smooth to the touch. Rough jagged edges are suspicious.
9. The rim of a genuine coin is regularly milled all the way round with straight lines at right angles to the faces. In counterfeits the lines of the milling are often at a slant, the spaces between the teeth are irregular and the lines (or teeth) themselves uneven and broken. The milling can best be examined by placing the suspected coin between two good ones (of the same description) so that the rims of all three are close together and can be seen at the same time. Defects can then be readily detected. Genuine coins



of which the milling has become much worn or which have been used in ornaments or fraudulently dealt with are often filled or otherwise touched up so that no coin should be classed as counterfeit solely on account of bad milling but coin showing good milling is seldom counterfeit.

10. The beading on the inner side of the rim of the coin should be even and regular all round, the pearls being uniform in size and shape and equidistant from each other. On counterfeits the pearls are often badly shaped, uneven in size and spaced at irregular intervals. A peculiarity of some counterfeits is that the pearls are very small and far apart, but this is also the case in some genuine coin of 1840.

11. The devices on the obverse and reverse should be clear cut and well defined, especially in outline. Blurred lines or edges and an imperfect impression (unless plainly due to wear and tear) are suspicious.

12. Letters and figures of the inscription should be clear, well defined and sharp edged. Blurred, irregular or double lines are to be regarded with suspicion. In some counterfeit the letters are much thinner than on genuine coins.

13. The table or plan surface of the coin (i.e., the portion not occupied by device or inscription) should be smooth, even and free from blemish. An uneven, spotted or rough surface is suspicious.

14. All cast coins are counterfeit. In a cast coin the surface may be granulated or pitted with minute pin holes which appear as black spots to the naked eye, but can be felt with the point of a needle or pin. The milling is often defective, especially at the point where the metal was poured into the mould. The letters and figures in cast coins nearly always present a rounded appearance instead of having square sharp edges.

15. Genuine coins which have suffered from the action of chemicals or fire may have a rough and discolored surface but this is generally easily distinguishable from the pitting almost invariably to be observed on a casting.

16. Counterfeits made from tin or mixture of tin and lead can be bent, and if held close to the ear they will often emit a cracking noise when bent between the fingers.

17. Coins, the obverse and reverse of which are anachronistic, e.g., when the former bears the inscription —Victoria Empress and the latter the date 1862 or —Victoria Queen with the date 1878, should be regarded with strong suspicion.

18. Counterfeit rupees are sometimes smaller than genuine rupees. A comparison with a mint rupee by placing the counterfeit rupee over a good one will show the difference promptly.

19. A counterfeit coin will generally be found to exhibit at least two of the faults indicated above. A coin should not be condemned for only one fault, unless it is very marked.