**COSTS IN THE YEAR 1500**

Money was counted in pounds, shillings and pence – or pennies:

* 12 pennies make a shilling
* 20 shillings (or 240 pennies) make a pound

English money remained that way till 1971, when it was decimalized. Shillings then disappeared and now 100 pence make a pound.

The pound came from the old Roman libra, the shilling from the solidus and the penny from the denarius.

That is why “s” is short for shilling,

The “d” is short for penny and

The sign for pound looks like a fancy L.

There was no paper money back then, just silver and gold coins. No copper coins either.

All prices below are expressed in pennies to make them easier to compare. Divide by 60 to get crowns. And, based on the price of silver, divide by 5 to get current American dollars and by 10 to get current British pounds. As you will see, the cost of living was much lower

Wages per day (pennies) Costs (pennies)

80,000 the top merchants

1152 tobacco, kg

1080 portrait

480 sugar, kg

480 Bible

360 horse

240 spices, kg

120 hire a coach for a day

96 pepper, kg

80 boots

48 bed

24 tooth pulled

15 small book

12 hire a horse for a day

12 wine, L

12 shoes

6 cherries

6 butter, kg

6 beef, kg

6 scissors

6 eyeglasses

5 meal at an inn

4 a dozen eggs

4 a knife

3 cheese

3 a dozen buttons

1.3 bread, kg

0.5 beer, L

3200 minister

2000 nobleman

1200 knights

53 army captain

12 craftsman

12 actors

10 soldier

9 laborer

7 maid

6 shepherd

1 kilogram is about 2.2 pounds

1 liter is about ¼ of a gallon