

## **Avesta coin museum** — Avesta Myntmuseum

Avesta Myntmuseum is within walking distance between the Carl Jularbo Museum and the Hyttan (Smelting House) in Gamla Byn (The Old Town)

The Coin Museum, which was opened in 1983, has Sweden's finest collection of coins that are sheets of metal minted in Avesta between 1644 and 1776.

### **Background**

From 1637 to 1868 the raw copper from Falun was refined in Avesta in the Garmakeriet where the final purification took place.

After this refining the raw copper was malleable and could be used for also be used for making brass and bronze.

The refined copper was used for making copper coins and all Sweden's copper coins were minted in Avesta between 1644 and 1831.

The period of greatness began when Markus Kock, a Flemish engineer, started building the Mint in 1642. The Copper Works at that time was already in full operation.

At times during the 17th and 18th centuries, the Copper Works and the Mint were among the largest industrial plants in the world.

### **The Museum**

The Museum is divided into two rooms or departments, one with displays of the copper coins minted in Avesta and other places and the other with gold and silver coins, banknotes, tokens and medal.

Among the objects of interest on display are two 2000 year old Roman silver coins as well as other coins from before 1000 that were minted in the Middle East.

Furthermore the first coin minted in Sweden is on display, a silver coin from 995 when Olov Skötkonung was king.

A superb collection of gold ducats minted from Swedish and Chinese gold are on display in a special showcase.

The collection of copper coins includes the world's largest coin, a 10 daler coin from 1644, a sheet of copper that measures 63x32 cm and weighs 19.7 kg! There are only seven other examples of this coin in existence, all of them in Sweden. In total more than 26,000 10 daler coins were minted in Avesta over a two year period.

The collection of copper coins, sheet-metal coins, clippings, round coins and silver coins is the most comprehensive in Sweden and relates the history of the country in a very interesting way.