

Excerpts from the audio-guide (MOVITECH)

The best-crafted coins

[Minter] Are you here looking for a job, young man? Do you have any skills?

[Youth] I came here to learn, sir. I would like to become an apprentice. People say that the prince has purchased silver from travelling merchants and he now wants to use it for minting coins. Perhaps you could use an extra set of hands?

[Minter] What is your name, young man? And how much do you know?

[Youth] My name is Baruch, sir. Son of Nathaniel. How much do I know? Well, not much just yet. [first with uncertainty, then with enthusiasm] But I'm a fast learner and I'm not afraid of hard work! Here is the fee for taking me on as an apprentice. It's from my father.

[Minter] All right. But first... You're going to be pounding sheet metal. Sit down next to your colleague over there, he'll show you what to do.

[Youth] Yes, sir. [then in a whisper] What am I supposed to be doing?

[Minter 2] You have to keep pounding this sheet of metal with a hammer. Here you go, why don't you try it? Just watch out not to bash your fingers. Once it's thin enough, it needs to be cut into small discs using these shears. Then you push the mould down as hard as you can to impress the design on the face of the coin. And presto, your coin is ready. Well, it's not really your coin, is it? Remember, stealing is forbidden. If you ever think to steal a coin, make sure you never show your face in this neck of the woods ever again.

[Youth] Steal?! I'm no thief! Am I doing it right?

[Minter 2] Yes, but you will have to use more strength! Just don't give us a bad name — everyone knows that coins made by Jewish hands are the best-crafted coins in all of Poland.

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