

Notes on Spelling and Terminology

The more common names of rulers have been anglicized, e.g., “Henry” for “Heinrich” and “John” for “Johann.” An exception to this pertains to the names of the Scandinavian rulers, for which scholars writing in English have preferred the Scandinavian forms. Place names are anglicized in cases where a widely known English version of the name exists.

“Denmark,” unless otherwise qualified, is used to cover all of the territories under the Oldenburg monarchy: the kingdoms of Denmark and Norway, as well as the duchy of Holstein. Similarly, “Sweden” denotes the lands, including Finland, under the Swedish crown.

The term “Imperial estate” (*Reichsstand*), describes a corporate body, person, or a polity in the Holy Roman Empire possessing voting and/or consultative rights at the Imperial Diet or *Reichstag*. For example, the elector of Saxony and the free Imperial city of Lübeck were Imperial estates.

The official values of the coinages used were set by the Diet of Augsburg in 1559. The gold gulden was fixed at seventy-five kreuzers. The thaler, minted in silver, was valued at sixty-eight kreuzers. Thus, a thaler was worth about nine-tenths of a gold gulden. The Diet of Augsburg in 1566 made the thaler the Empire’s official currency at the value set in 1559.