The history of coins extends from ancient times to the present, and is related to economic history, the history of minting technologies, the history shown by the images on coins, and the history of coin collecting. Coins are still widely used for monetary and other purposes.

The half crown was a denomination of British money worth half of a crown, equivalent to two and a half shillings (30 pennies), or one-eighth of a pound. The half crown was first issued in 1549, in the reign of Edward VI. No half crowns were issued in the reign of Mary, but from the reign of Elizabeth I half crowns were issued in every reign except Edward VIII, until the coins were discontinued in 1967. The half crown was demonetised (ahead of other pre-decimal coins) on 1 January 1970, the year before the United Kingdom adopted decimal currency on Decimal Day.

This 1923 Half Crown depicted King George V (George Frederick Ernest Albert; 3 June 1865 – 20 January 1936) was King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India, from 6 May 1910 through the First World War (1914–1918) until his death.

George was a grandson of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and the first cousin of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. From 1877 to 1891, he served in the Royal Navy. On the death of Victoria in 1901, George's father became King Edward VII, and George was made Prince of Wales. On his father's death in 1910, he succeeded as King-Emperor of the British Empire. He was the only Emperor of India to be present at his own Delhi Durbar.
The first Half Crown was issued during the reign of Henry VIII (28 June 1491 – 28 January 1547) was king of England from 21 April 1509 until his death. He was lord, and later king, of Ireland, as well as continuing the nominal claim by the English monarchs to the Kingdom of France. Henry was the second monarch of the Tudor dynasty, succeeding his father, Henry VII.

Besides his six marriages, Henry VIII is known for his role in the separation of the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church. Henry's struggles with Rome led to the separation of the Church of England from papal authority, the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and his own establishment as the Supreme Head of the Church of England. Yet he remained a believer in core Catholic theological teachings, even after his excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church. Henry oversaw the legal union of England and Wales with the Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542.

During the years 1656 and 1658 milled half crowns were issued of Oliver Cromwell. Oliver Cromwell remains one of our most famous characters in history. From 1649 to 1653, Parliament ran England but from Cromwell's point of view, it was not a system that worked effectively and England, as a nation was suffering. As a result, Cromwell, backed by the army, sent home MP's and he became the effective leader of England from 1653 to 1658.

He was the man who really pushed for the execution of King Charles as he believed that Charles would never change his ways and that he would continue to be a source of trouble until he died.

The Commonwealth of England was the republic which ruled first England, and then Ireland and Scotland from 1649 to 1660. Between 1653–1659 it was known as the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland. After the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I, the republic's existence was initially declared by "An Act declaring England to be a Commonwealth" adopted by the Rump Parliament, on 19 May 1649. Executive power had already been entrusted to a Council of State. The government during 1653 to 1659 is properly called The Protectorate, and took the form of direct personal rule by Oliver Cromwell and, after his death, his son Richard, as Lord Protector. The term Commonwealth is, however, loosely used to describe the system of government during the whole of 1649 to 1660, when England was de facto, and arguably de jure, a republic (or, to monarchists, under the English Interregnum).

The last half crown was issued in 1970 shortly before decimalisation.
People collect for various reasons and with many differing objectives. Most collectors of ancient coins started out collecting something else. Perhaps it was modern coinage, or stamps, or beanie babies. Upon discovering ancients, they knew only that they were captivated by the antiquity, the artistry or the historical presence of these artifacts.

**British History and Antiquity Recorded in Coins follows :-:**

**The Half Crown**

*Elizabeth I*

**1601 Sixth Issue Halfcrown, mintmark 1.**
S.2583
Courtesy of AMR Coins
James I

Halfcrown, third coinage, mintmark lis (1623-4) S.2666
Courtesy of Spink

Charles I

Half crown, Briot's hammered issue

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
Mintmark: triangle over anchor, 1638-9
Courtesy of Spink

Half crown, Tower Mint under the King
Mintmark: triangle in circle, 1641-3
Courtesy of Jean ELSN & ses Fils.

Commonwealth

1653 Half Crown,
Courtesy of Spink
1658 Half Crown, Cromwell type
Courtesy of Spink

Charles II

Hammered Halfcrown, Second Issue, 1660-1662
Courtesy of Spink

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1663 Halfcrown, first bust
Courtesy of Spink

1666/4 Halfcrown, third bust, elephant below
Courtesy of Spink
1677 Halfcrown, fourth bust
Courtesy of Spink

James II

1685 half crown
First bust
Courtesy of Spink
William and Mary

1689 Half Crown, first busts, first reverse
Second L of GVLIELMVS over M
Courtesy of Spink

1692 Half Crown, second busts, third reverse
Courtesy of Spink
William III

1697 Half Crown
Third reverse
Courtesy of Spink

1697 Exeter Half Crown
Third reverse
Courtesy of Spink
1700 Half Crown
Third reverse
Courtesy of AMR Coins

Queen Anne

1707E post-union half crown
Minted in Edinburgh
Courtesy of Spink

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1713 half crown
Courtesy of Spink

George I

1723 SSC halfcrown
Courtesy of Spink
George II

1731 roses & plumes Half Crown, young bust
Courtesy of Spink

1746 plain proof Half Crown, old bust
Courtesy of Spink

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1746 LIMA Half Crown, old bust
Courtesy of Spink

1746 over 5 LIMA Half Crown, old bust
Courtesy of Spink
George III

1817 Half Crown, First Type
Courtesy of Spink

1817 Half Crown, Second Type
Courtesy of Spink
George IV

1820 Proof Half Crown, 1st head, Type 1a reverse, milled edge
Courtesy of Martin Platt

1823 Half Crown, 1st head, Type 1b reverse
Note minor design changes
Courtesy of Martin Platt

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1825 Half Crown, 2nd head, Type 3 reverse
Courtesy of Spink

William IV

1831 Proof Half Crown, block WW
Note that the King's hair and obverse border teeth differ from that on the circulation issue obverse, as seen below.
Courtesy of Martin Platt
1834 Half Crown, block WW
Courtesy of Martin Platt

Detail of the block WW
It is more common to find a script WW
Courtesy of Martin Platt

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
Victoria

1840 Half Crown, Type 4 high relief portrait, WW on truncation
Early reverse (thin rim, U separated from wreath)
Courtesy of Martin Platt

1845 Half Crown, Type 5 high relief portrait
Early reverse (thin rim, U separated from wreath)
Condition: Uncirculated
Courtesy of Martin Platt

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1850 Half Crown
Condition: Fine (note wear on head)
Author's Collection

1881 Half Crown, Type 6 low relief portrait
Later reverse (thicker rim, U touching wreath)
Courtesy of Martin Platt
1884 Half Crown
Courtesy of Martin Platt

1887 Young Head Half Crown
Courtesy of John Hodd
1887 Half Crown
Donated anonymously

1887 proof Half Crown, reverse
Donated anonymously
1893 Half Crown
Courtesy of Martin Platt

Edward VII

1904 Half Crown
Courtesy of Martin Platt

Guyanese Online - [http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/](http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/)
1905 Half Crown, the key date of the Edward VII series
Courtesy of Martin Platt

George V

1914 Half Crown
Author's Collection
A most unusual circulated proof Type 4 1927 Half Crown

Courtesy of John Hodd
1934 Half Crown
Author's Collection

George VI

1938 Half Crown
Author's Collection

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1947 proof Half Crown
Courtesy of Spink

The unique circulation issue 1952 Half Crown
By kind permission of the late Colin Cooke
Elizabeth II

1953 Half Crown, First obverse
Courtesy of John Quinn

Guyanese Online - http://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com/
1958 Half Crown
Author's Collection