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FACILITY DRILL

Blog - 2014 - September

Money

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PDF Date: 6 January 2020

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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r b r d - y ' - r - n

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$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \right) = -\frac{2}{r^3} \frac{dr}{dt}$

[illegible]

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Stückzahl //

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$\sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$

[illegible]

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Money

During the summer I visited several museums around London, showing the history of the area over the last few thousand years. As well as fragments of everyday life, there were lots of coins. Some of the dull ones must have been barely discernible from the soil, and some were of glorious shining gold. In one museum case there was a mound of grey slate coloured coins, a hoard that had been buried for safe keeping, maybe when the area was under attack. In other glass cases were collections of gold coins, laid out carefully in rows, gleaming just like the day that they were struck. My first thought was that this money was not spent on anything by its last owner, who obviously did not come back again to dig it up. Of course, as the gold never deteriorates, it will always outlive its owner, regardless of the circumstances that surround its hiding place. The second and probably more relevant observation is that the money is now worth nothing as money, and it has changed its value to that of an antiquity or the lesser value of its raw metal. They were a reminder that money is only of value when all concerned agree to abide by the rules of its creation, circulation and use.

As children, we were once given a large quantity of farthings, which had ceased to be legal tender a few years earlier in 1960. There were four farthings to the old penny (hence the name "fourthings"), 12 old pennies made a shilling, and 20 shillings made a pound. This was before the decimalisation of the UK currency in 1971, when the pound became a hundred new pence. In fact I remember that people not only talked about five new pence but also one new pence, a slight contortion of grammar,

which fortunately only lasted a short while, until the word "pee" replaced it and its name was one P. We played with the pile of farthings regularly, mostly using them as counters, or for shopping games, or laid out in lines and patterns on the carpet. We eventually buried most of them at the end of the garden, and in our imagination someone would dig them up in the distant future and be suitably delighted with their find. I hope that some archaeologist in the future does not puzzle over why the owner would want to stash such valueless coins in the ground.

At holiday times we were given a large glass jar full of coins that our grandparents had saved up throughout the year. We counted it, rearranged it, and admired it. We were grateful for this wonderful gift, which occurred again at Christmas, and even at that young age I realised that Nanny was depriving herself of bits of cash throughout the year in order to collect them in the jar. Young children are well known for endlessly counting their money, as if it would mysteriously increase if it was counted again. I don't think this means that they are greedy or avaricious, but that it represents a form of control, which children are sorely deprived of, at least in comparison with the choices open to adults. Children have to wait for gifts or ways of earning, which may be few and far between. They learn that their efforts and work (or those of the giver of the cash gift) can be converted into a numerical storage system and then exchanged for something else. The desired toys or items now become a possibility to be worked towards, rather than an empty dream that can never be achieved.

Money

I have been looking through some quotes about money, and the most common one is that money is not the most important thing in the world and indeed that it can become meaningless. If I were stranded on the proverbial desert island, I would be urgently looking for water, food and shelter before anything else, as well as missing family and friends. Any money lying in the bank account would be forgotten as irrelevant and meaningless, whether the sums were large or small. However, here in the suburbs outside a big city, the necessities of life have to be bought, so I cannot quite agree with those quotes by people who feel that money is meaningless. I think maybe this is like the apples and pears on my trees in previous bumper years, when I could pick, eat and give them away by the bagful at any time I chose to. I did not bother counting them, the number that I possessed was meaningless because I knew that there were more than enough, even when there were losses to the birds, snails, slugs and bugs. This carefree attitude continued until I came to the last few, which suddenly became more precious. Taking them off the tree left the garden with no colour and only the bareness and emptiness of winter ahead. Or maybe it was the thought of having to buy them again in the supermarket!

If money is your hope for independence you will never have it. The only real security that a man will have in this world is a reserve of knowledge, experience, and ability. Henry Ford

It is not the employer who pays the wages. Employers only handle the money. It is the customer who pays the wages. Henry Ford

Waste your money and you're only out of money, but waste your time and you've lost a part of your life. Michael LeBoeuf

You aren't wealthy until you have something money can't buy. Garth Brooks

I ain't never been poor, just broke. Being poor is a state of mind, whereas being broke is just a temporary situation. Mike Todd

People say that money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you have enough money, you can have a key made. Joan Rivers

Money can't buy you happiness but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. Spike Milligan

We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like. Dave Ramsey

I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something. Jackie Mason

Money won't buy happiness, but it will pay the salaries of a large research staff to study the problem. Bill Vaughan

Whoever said money can't buy happiness simply didn't know where to go shopping. Bo Derek (1075 words)