

Victorian Gothic Florins – A Question

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I am a long-retired Cambridge economist, now housebound but still with an avid interest in British Currency. I have a particular "soft spot" for the Gothic florin, being of that age group which can recall receiving the odd one in day-to-day transactions in the '40s and even '50s. I have always regarded the Silver Florin as a "Democratic" coin being sufficient for a (very) cheap meal or Theatre / Music Hall entry etc.

Anyone collecting by date and die location will soon realise the extremely poor condition of the cheaper coins, which leads me to ask the following question

"As the Coinage Acts removed the concept of a "Least Current Weight" for silver currency post 1816, was there a point of wear and tear when silver coins would no longer be accepted as legal tender? If so, at what point? Also, would banks then still accept the coins for withdrawal at face value?"

I have searched the Internet for an answer to this with no success. As the "sweating" of Silver with Sterling at 5 shillings an ounce was hardly worth the risk or effort, perhaps silver coins WERE accepted in any condition as legal tender. I realise this is a question of as much sociological as numismatic content but feel your respected, knowledgeable Society is the place to seek an answer. I thank you sincerely for any suggestions you may be able to provide via the Blog comment facility.