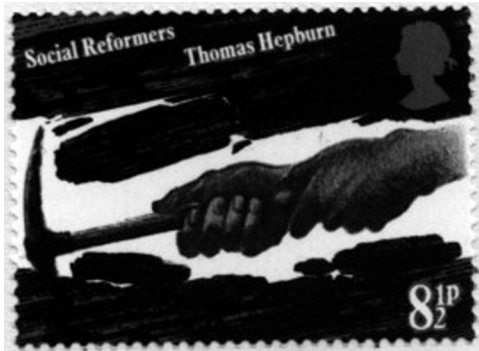


# Hands on Stamps: Great Britain 1976—Social Reformers

Ahmadreza Afshar, MD



**FIGURE 1:** A coal miner's hands hewing coal. Thomas Hepburn was a pioneer of the first miners union. Great Britain. Social reformers during the 19th century. Day of issue: March 10, 1976. Scott Catalog # 781. Value: 8.5 pence.



**FIGURE 3:** A boy's hand brushing and sweeping a chimney. Lord Shaftesbury was a campaigner for improved working conditions. Great Britain. Social reformers during the 19th century. Day of issue: March 10, 1976. Scott Catalog # 783. Value: 11 pence.



**FIGURE 2:** A child's hands and machinery of a textile factory with pulley wheels and belts. Robert Owen was a visionary cotton mill owner. Great Britain. Social reformers during the 19th century. Day of issue: March 10, 1976. Scott Catalog # 782. Value: 10 pence.



**FIGURE 4:** Cuffed hands clutching prison bars. Elizabeth Fry was a champion of women prisoners. Great Britain. Social reformers during the 19th century. Day of issue: March 10, 1976. Scott Catalog # 784. Value: 13 pence.

On March 10, 1976, Great Britain issued a set of 4 stamps to commemorate the work of important 19th-century Great Britain social reformers (Fig. 1–4).

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The hand as an icon of determination and will is a common feature in these stamps. Social reformers Thomas Hepburn (1795–1864), Robert Owen (1771–1858), Lord Shaftesbury (Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury; 1801–1885), and Elizabeth Fry (1780–1845) were honored on these stamps. Hepburn formed the first miners union in 1831.<sup>1</sup> Owen improved working conditions in his mill and established schools.<sup>2</sup> Lord Shaftesbury was a philanthropist and sponsor of reform work laws.<sup>3</sup> Fry was a Christian philanthropist and a pioneer of women's prison reforms. She tried for new legislation to make the

treatment of prisoners more humane. Fry has sometimes been referred to as the “angel of prisons.”<sup>4</sup>

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# Hand Made: Tapped Silver Coin Ring Handcrafted for a Finger

Frank Grispingo



**FIGURE 1:** The edge of the quarter is beginning to deform.



**FIGURE 2:** The edge of the quarter now looks more like a ring.

Servicemen during World War II made tapped silver coin rings for their sweethearts. I decided to try and make one to give my wife as a Christmas present. Silver coins minted in the United States in 1964 and earlier have a higher silver content than more modern coins. I used a 1964 quarter I found metal detecting. It took about 7 hours from start to finish.

After an hour of tapping the edges of the coin with a light hammer as it rested on a metal plate, it began

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**FIGURE 3:** The transformation from coin to ring is complete.