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Autore	Davies Glyn <1919-2003.>
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Nota di contenuto	Foreword by George Thomas, The Right Honourable Viscount Tonypany; Dedication; Acknowledgements; Preface to the third edition; 1 THE NATURE AND ORIGINS OF MONEY AND BARTER; The importance of money; Sovereignty of monetary policy; Unprecedented inflation of population; Barter: as old as the hills; Persistence of gift exchange; Money: barter's disputed paternity; Modern barter and countertrading; Modern retail barter; Primitive money: definitions and early development; Economic origins and functions; The quality-to-quantity pendulum: a metatheory of money 2 FROM PRIMITIVE AND ANCIENT MONEY TO THE INVENTION OF COINAGE, 3000-600 BC Pre-metallic money; The ubiquitous cowrie; Fijian whales' teeth and Yap stones; Wampum: the favourite American-Indian money; Cattle: man's first working-capital asset; Pre-coinage metallic money; Money and banking in Mesopotamia; Girobanking in early Egypt; Coin and cash in early China; Coinage and the change from primitive to modern economies; The invention of coinage in Lydia and Ionian Greece; 3 THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEK AND ROMAN MONEY, 600 BC-AD 400; The widening circulation of coins Laurion silver and Athenian coinage Greek and metic private bankers; The Attic money standard; Banking in Delos; Macedonian money and

hegemony; The financial consequences of Alexander the Great; Money and the rise of Rome; Roman finance, Augustus to Aurelian, 14 BC-AD 275; Diocletian and the world's first budget, 284-305; Finance from Constantine to the Fall of Rome; The nature of Graeco-Roman monetary expansion; 4 THE PENNY AND THE POUND IN MEDIEVAL EUROPEAN MONEY, 410-1485; Early Celtic coinage; Money in the Dark Ages: its disappearance and re-emergence  
The Canterbury, Sutton Hoo and Crondall finds From sceattas and stycas to Offa's silver penny; The Vikings and Anglo-Saxon recoinage cycles, 789-978; Danegeld and heregeld, 978-1066; The Norman Conquest and the Domesday Survey, 1066-1087; The pound sterling to 1272; Touchstones and trials of the Pyx; The Treasury and the tally; The Crusades: financial and fiscal effects; The Black Death and the Hundred Years War; Poll taxes and the Peasants' Revolt; Money and credit at the end of the Middle Ages; 5 THE EXPANSION OF TRADE AND FINANCE, 1485-1640; What was new in the new era?  
Printing: a new alternative to minting The rise and fall of the world's first paper money; Bullion's dearth and plenty; Potosi and the silver flood; Henry VII: fiscal strength and sound money, 1485-1509; The dissolution of the monasteries; The Great Debasement; Recoinage and after: Gresham's Law in Action, 1560-1640; The so-called price revolution of 1540-1640; Usury: a just price for money; Bullionism and the quantity theory of money; Banking still foreign to Britain?; 6 THE BIRTH AND EARLY GROWTH OF BRITISH BANKING, 1640-1789; Bank money supply first begins to exceed coinage  
From the seizure of the mint to its mechanization, 1640-1672

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Sommario/riassunto

An account of the central importance of money in the ordinary business of the life of different people throughout the ages from ancient times to the present day. It includes the Barings crisis and the report by the Bank of England on Barings Bank; information on the state of Japanese banking; and, the changes in the financial scene in the US.

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