

Minting Money

I melted wheel weights
in cupped tongs at the fireplace
meant for stoking coals

pouring molten lead
on the hearth to make play coins
my wealth grew nightly

inscribing each one
by hammer and screwdriver
to show year minted

rounding their edges
to perfect my creations
for posterity

those priceless lead coins
did not survive growing up
would be worth gold now



The fireplace hearth in my childhood home near Knoxville, 1950's
Image source: Unknown (similar but not original)

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