

Two reports on foreign coin in Ireland.

Author: Isaac Newton

Source: MINT 19/2/242-3, National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, UK

<242r>

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Oxford & Earl Mortimer Lord High Treasurer of great Britain.

May it please your Lordship

In obedience to your Lordships Order of Reference signified to me by M^r Taylour in his Letter of Iune 16th Instant, I have perused the Representation from the Lords of the Privy Council of Ireland touching a late Order of Council here for giving currency in that Kingdom by Proclamation to some forreign Coynes which were omitted in a former Proclamation, a printed copy of which they have sent, desiring a clause to be added to the said Order for making such {allowan}ce for light pieces as was made in the said Proclamation, & that {the Order} may comprehend also the forreign coyne mentioned in that {Proclamatio}n because the original therof under the great seal was destroy{ed in the} late fire which happened there at the Council Chamber, so that {the Cler}k of the Council cannot now certify that the printed copy {agrees wi}th the original verbatim as the late Act of Parliament requires {for} the conviction of counterfeiters of those coyne. And upon comparing the said Representation with the said late Order of Council & printed Proclamation, I humbly represent that the weight of the single Pistole & Lewis d'or being in the said Proclamation put 4^{dw^t} 8^{gr}, the weight of the double Pistole & double Lewis d'or ought in proportion to be put in a new Proclamation 8^{dw^t} 16^{gr} & that of the quadruple Pistole or double doubleon 17^{dw^t} 8^{gr}. And that the Moyder of Portugal (which as the Merchants bring them hither a little worn weigh one with another 6^{dw^t} 21³/₄ ^{gr}, & before wearing may be a quarter of a grain heavier or above) may be put in weight 6^{dw^t} 22^{gr} in the same Proclamation & valued at thirty shillings. For in Ireland where an English shilling passes for thirteen pence the Moyder of this weight is worth 29^s 11¹/₂ ^d reconning gold 22 carats fine at 3^{li} 19^s 8³/₄ ^d per ounce which is the standard value, or it is worth 30^s 00³/₄ ^d reconning gold 22 carats fine at 4^{li} per ounce as is ordinarily done: and 30^s is a medium & the nearest round number. And a grain being allowed for wearing, this piece will be current till it weights but 6^{dw^t} {21} ^{gr} as was stated in t{he} late Order of Council. And after that it will be current still by abating 2^d per grain in its value for what it wants to the weight of 6^{dw^t} 22^{gr}. For the latter part of the printed Proclamation concerning the allowance for light pieces & concerning the scales & weights for weighing them, I am humbly of opinion should be continued in the next Proclamation.

I humbly beg leave to represent further to your Lordship th{at the} weights & values of the silver coyne in the printed Proclamation would answer better to one another & to the coyne themselves if two pence were taken from the value of the Crusado & eighteen or twenty grains added to the weight of the Dollars. For the Crusado is reconned in Portugal to be the tenth part of the Moyder in value & the Moyder is worth 30^s in Ireland as above, & yet the Crusado is valued in the Proclamation at 3^s 2^d. Its weight before wearing is 11^{dw^t}

4^{gr}. In the Proclamation its weight is put 10^{dwt} 20^{gr}, & a <242v> Crusado of this weight is worth but three shillings.

Rix Dollars Cross Dollars & other Dollars are in the Proclamation put of the same weight & value with pieces of eight of Mexico & Sevil, Pillar pieces & Lewises. And yet the Dollars are much coarser & heavier than the pieces of eight & Lewises & ought to be 18 or 20 grains heavier to be of the same value. Rix Dollars before wearing weighed about 18^{dwt} & 6 8 or 10 grains & Cross Dollars 18^{dwt} 1^{gr}. That they may be worth 4^s 9^d (which is their value in the Proclamation) they should weigh at least 17^{dwt} 18^{gr}.

I am therefore humbly of opinion that the gold coines should be of the weight & fineness expressed in the Paper hereunto annexed, & the silver ones as in the printed Proclamation, unless for the reasons above mentioned it should be thought fit to take two pence from the value of the Crusados & add eighteen grains to the weight of the Dollars.

All which is most humbly submitted to your Lordships great
wisdome

Isaac New{ton}

[1]

<243r>

The weight & value of forreign coins in Ireland.

The piece commonly called the Spanish quadruple Pistole of Gold or double doubleon weighing seventeen penny weight eight grains to pass at three pounds & fourteen shillings.

The piece commonly called the Spanish or French double Pistole of Gold or the Doubleon or double Lewis d'Or weighing eight penny weight sixteen grains to pass at one pound & seventeen shillings.

The piece commonly called the Spanish or French Pistole of Gold weighing four penny weight eight grains to pass at eighteen shillings & six pence.

The piece commonly called the Spanish or French half pistole of Gold weighing two penny weight four grains to pass at nine shillings & three pence.

The piece commonly called the Spanish or French quarter Pistole of Gold weighing one penny weight two grains to pass at four shillings & seven pence half penny.

The piece commonly called the Moyder of Portugal weighing six penny weight twenty two grains to pass at thirty shillings

The piece commonly called the half Moyder weighing three penny weight eleven grains to pass at fifteen shillings

The piece commonly called the quarter Moyder weighing one penny weight seventeen grains & an half to pass at seven shillings & six pence.

The piece of Silver commonly called the Ducatoone weighing twenty penny weight sixteen grains to pass at six shillings.

The piece commonly called the half Ducatoone weighing ten penny weight eight grains to pass at three shillings.

The piece commonly called the quarter Ducatoone weighing five penny weight four grains to pass at one shilling six pence.

The piece commonly called the piece of eight of Mexico or Sevil, the Mexico called the pillar piece & the French Lewis each weighing seventeen penny weight & the Cross Dollar Rix Dollar & all other Dollars [weighing seventeen penny weight & twenty grains] to pass at four shillings & nine pence

The piece commonly called the half piece of eight of Mexico or Sevil, Pillar piece & French Lewis weighing eight penny weight & twelve grains & the half of the Rix Dollar Cross Dollar & other Dollars [weighing to pass at two shillings & four pence half penny.

The piece commonly called the quarter piece of eight of Mexico or Sevil, Pillar piece & French Lewis weighing four penny weight six grains & the quarter of the Rix Dollar Cross Dollar & other Dollars weighing to pass at one shilling & two pence farthing

The piece commonly called the old Peru weighing seventeen penny weight to pass at four shillings & six pence

The piece commonly called the half piece of eight of Peru weighing eight penny weight twelve grains to pass at two shillings three pence

The piece commonly called the quarter piece of eight of Peru weighing four penny weight six grains to pass at one shilling & one penny half penny.

<243v>

The piece commonly called the Crusado of Portugal weighing ten penny weight twenty grains, to pass at three shillings &

The piece commonly called the half Crusado of Portugal weighing five penny weight ten grains, to pass at One shilling &

[1] Mint Office
23 June 1712.
