

£2,000 had been the customary security for the mastership until the previous incumbent, Thomas Neale, gave £15,000 to allay doubts raised by his somewhat dubious financial history.

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To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majestys Treasury.

May it please your Lordships

It has been usual for the Masters & Workers of his Majestys Mint to give 2000^{l^b} security to the King before the sealing of the Indenture of the Mint and to mention the same in the Indenture. Thus did Sir Rob^t Harley in the second year of King Charles the first, Sir Ralph Freeman in the twelft year of King Charles the second and M^r Slingsby in the 22th year of the same King. M^r Neale having spent a large estate and being far in debt made his way into the place by granting half the profits thereof to other Officers of the Mint & giving 15000^{l^b} security to the King and had time given him to find this security after the sealing of his Indenture. But his Melter M^r Ambrose (through whose hands all the coynage was to pass) gave but 2000^{l^b} security to M^r Neale. The coynage being now much less then in the time of any of the Masters & Workers above mentioned, if your Lordships please to accept of the usual security of 2000^{l^b} I am ready to give it that it may be entred in the Indenture now to be sealed. All which is most humbly submitted to your Lordships great wisdome

Is. Newton

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[1] Mint Office.
Iune 21. 1700.
