

'The state of the Mint & Coynage according to the best of my knowledge'.

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The state of the Mint & Coynage according to the best of my knowledge has hitherto been as follows.

Vpon a contract between the Crown & the Master & Worker for the time being some Officers of the mint act in behalf of the Crown as cheques upon the Master to see that he performs his contract duty & others act under the Master for performing that contract. By the Indenture of the Mint the Warden pays the Salaries of the former {&} the charges of the Diets of the Officers & other necessary charges to be employed in & about the making of the said moneys, or repairing of the Offices & Houses necessary to be employed in the said service <4v>

By the Act of 18 Car II entituled An Act for encouraging of Coynage the Salaries of the Officers of the Mint & the charges of providing maintaining & repairing of the houses Offices & buildings & other necessities for assaying melting down & coyning are limited to 3000^{li} for preventing extravagance & the Overplus (for encouraging the coinage) is appropriated to the expence wast & charge of assaying meltign down & coyning, & buying in of Bullion to coyn. And in the clause preceding, these necessities are called the charge or expence of the Mint, & the overplus is called the charge or expence of Assaying melting down & coyning & the encouragement of bringing in bullion. By the first I understand such necessities for coining as may be limited without discouraging teh coynage by the second such as cannot, that is such as arise from the {being} of a coynage & increase or decrease therewith. The Act of Parliament reconns the Houses Offices & buildings among the necessities & the Indenture of the Mint made at that time, adds the Diet, & allows 2600^{li} per annum for the salaries & so leaves only 400^{li} for the buildings Diet & other necessary provisions whereby the Master may be enabled to carry on the coinage.

Vpon a contract by Indenture between the Crown & the Master & Worker for the time being, some Officers of the Mint act in behalf of the crown as cheques upon the Master to see that he performs his contract duly & others act under him for performing that contract. And by the Indenture the Warden pays the Salaries of the former & the charges of the repairs & of the Diet of the Officers & other necessary charges to be employed in & about the making of the moneys & repairing of the Offices & Houses necessary to be employed in the said service. There are the necessities within the 3000^{li}. And the Master pays the Moneyers

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By the Indenture of the Mint the Warden pays the Salaries of the former, & the charges of the Diet of the Officers & other necessary charges to be employed in & about the making of the said moneys or repairing of ht e Offices & Houses necessary to be employed in the said service. And the Master pays the Moneyers 9½ per pound weight of silver & 3s 6d per pound weight of Gold for drawing cutting flatting sizing marking &

coynng the same & for all their labour wast & expence therein & for keeping in repair all the Rollers & Instruments to cut flatten make round & size the pieces & mark them on the edges & all other tools Engins & instruments amongst which are the Mills & the scales & weights & vices & files for sizing. But the wooden work of the Mills Presses & Cutters & the Nealing & blanching furnaces & the furnaces in the melting houses are repaired by the direction of the Master & the charges therof are placed in his Account according to the {Laws} of the Mint. And so are all the charges of Assaying, (viz^t in charcoal, Aqua fortis, watersilver, lead, furnaces Cuppels,) & the charges of reducing the silver to standard by refining & allay. All these charges are paid by the Master out of the surplus above the 3000^{li}; viz^t the charges of repairing the Mills Presses & other coynng tools & those of reducing the Bullion to standard by vertue of certain clauses of the Indenture, & those of Assaying by vertue of a clause of the coynage Act. The wooden work of the Mills Presses & Flatters may be considered as belonging to the coynng Tools. The Assay furnace is a moveable engin m{a}de of copper plates. The other furnaces are distinguished from the bu{il}dings in being under the Masters direct. He erects repairs removes & rebuilds them without meddling with the buildings or asking te consent or leave of the other Officers & he places the charges of repairing them in his own Account according to the course of the Mint while the charges of repairing the buildings are placed in the Wardens Account. And the reason of this distinction seems to be that the Master may be enabled to dispatch the coynage & make delivery with all convenient speed according to his covenants without staying for the consent or order of the other Officers or being retarded by the want of money, while the salaries of the Officers & the charges of repairs & necessaries in the Wardens Account are limited to 3000^{li} for preventing extravagance. And by this means the Warden & master are enabled to make up their Accounts severally without depending upon one another.

If any doubt arise about any custome or course of the Mint, the custome not being contrary to Act of Parliament is made a law by the following clause of the Indenture of the Mint. And that the said Master & Worker shall upon his Account yearly to be made of his Receipts payments charges & disbursments before the Auditors of the Mint or Mints for the time being have full allowance defalc{ati}on & discharge of & for all such summ & summs of money as he shall duly pay & disburse according to the true intent & meaning of the above recited Letters patents & according to the directions hereafter in these presents expressed, & according to the course of the said Mint or Mints respectively, as by the same Acts of Parliament is directed & appointed

The Master & Worker also as Treasurer of the Mint pays the fees at the Exchequer & Treasury upon received the Coynage money & those for passing the Accounts through the several Offices of the exchequer.

He pays also the charges of trying the Pix & the fees for entring the Report of the Iury, & for summoning them. The Pix is tried by the Assay & the charges there{of} belong to that head. But the charges of the Dinner for the Iury being too great to come within the 3000^{li}, have been hitherto paid out of the civil List.

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The particulars of the Masters Account for the year 1712 are as follows

The salaries	upon the Indenture	1080	}	1595
	upon warrants	515		
The coinage per pound weight				1058
Put into the Pix				203. 13. 6
Lost by assays.				2. 2. 4
Charge of making new Gold furnaces the old ones being worn out				64. 13. 0
Charges of assaying		92. 15. 9	}	129. 19. 8
Charges of reducing the Bullion to standard		37. 3. 11		

Paid to the Moneyers by Act of Parliament for their service in Scotland	}	2692.	15.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
① Auditors Fee		84.	0.	0
① Fees & Charges at the Exchequer & Treasury in receiving the Coynage moneys & at severall Offices in passing the Accounts	}	37.	4.	6
{The} rest to the Warden		2004.	9.	0

The furnaces were necessary to be repaired for carrying on the coynage & the charges thereof & those of the Assay office & of reducing the moneybullion to standard w~~th~~ free from extravagance & ~~th~~ legal & necessary for encouraging the coynage & the fees at the Exchequer Treasury & other Officers were necessary to be paid & all these expences are placed in my Account according to the course of the Mint & the Vouchers are good & therefore all these charges are I think to be allowed by the Article of the Indenture above recited. And the Warden is to discharge himself of what has been imprest to him & in his next Account to charge himself with the surplus if any there be.

The salary of 40^{li} to the Wardens second Clerk is now ceased, but in its stead the charges of the dinner of the Jury at the last trial of the Pix amounting to about 92^{li} will come into the next years Account
