

Holograph drafts of MINT00175 (/catalogue/record/MINT00175), (Mint 19/1/274).

Author: Isaac Newton

Source: MINT 19/1/242, 273, National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, UK

<242r>

The fineness of gold & silver is generally estimated by the assay & bought & sold by this estimate, & gold 24 carats fine & silver 12 ounces fine is reputed by Assaymasters fully fine. And Trial pieces by law are to be 22 carats fine Gold & two carats of allay & 11 ounces 2^{dwt} of fine silver, & 18^{dwt} of allay

Quære 2 **Whether** for this end her Majesty may appoint and trial pieces to be made of such fine gold as proves just 24 carats fine upon the assay, & such fine silver as proves just 12 ounces fine upon the assay, notwithstanding that gold & silver may by any new art be refined to an higher degree? Or what is the standard of fine gold & fine silver according to law?

Quære 4 Whether for keeping constantly to a standard her Majesty may direct that a piece of the fine gold & a piece of the fine silver of which the next trial pieces shall be made be kept in the Exchequer for determining with more exactness the fineness of the fine gold & fine silver of which all trial pieces shall be made for the future.

Qaære 1. Whether there should be one common standard of fine gold & one of fine silver in all great Britain for setting a value upon all gold & silver in buying & selling in coining of money & in making of plate & other gold & silver wares.

Quære 3 Whether a Iury appointed to make Indented standard trial pieces is not bound to make them of such fine gold & such fine silver as is fine gold & fine silver according to law even without her Majestys special direction & notwithstanding that gold or silver may by any new art be refined to an higher degree?

<273r>

The fineness of gold & silver is generally estimated by the assay & bought & sold by this estimate, & gold which is 24 carats fine & silver which upon the assay is 12 ounces fine is reputed by Assaymasters Goldsmiths & Merchants fully fine. And indented standard triall pieces are by law to be made of 22 cararats of fine gold & two carats of allay, & of 11 ounces 2^{dwt} of fine silver & 18^{dwt} of allay. But yet some Refiners have of late found out way{s} of refining gold & silver to a higher degree then 24 carrats & twelve ounces fine, & may find out ways of making them still finer.

Quære 1. Whether there should be one common standard fineness of fine gold & one of fine silver in all great Britain for setting a value upon all gold & silver in buying & selling, in coining of money, & in making of plate? And what is that standard fineness according to law? Or may it be settled by her Majesty in Council{?}

Quære 2. Whether her Majesty may appoint standard trial pieces to be made of such fine gold as proves just 24 carats fine upon the assay & of such fine silver as proves just 12 ounces fine upon the assay, notwithstanding that gold & silver may by any new art be refined to an higher degree?

Quære 3. Whether for keeping constantly to a standard, her Majesty may direct that a piece of the fine gold of which the next standard trial pieces shall be duly made be kept in the Exchequer for determining with more exactness the fineness of the fine gold & fine silver of which all trial pieces shall be made for the future.
