

Notes for MINT00159 (/catalogue/record/MINT00159), (Mint 19/1/228-9).

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An ingot of Gold is assayed by refining a small part of it with two water after the same manner that Refiners refine Gold in great quantities, & observing the decrease or increase of its weight by the operation. I

If there be no increase or decrease of weight the Ingot is reported 24 carats fine, it being of the same fineness with the piece refined by the Assay. And this is fine gold in the sense of the law of England & of all nations who practise this way of Assaying. But if there be a decrease of weight, the decrease is observed & the Ingot is reported so much coarser then fine gold as the decrease of weight amounts unto.

The Refiner makes fine gold by refining it after the same manner is a great quantity as the Assayer refines it in a small quantity. The gold must be mixed with silver in the same proportion in both cases & Tested with the same proportion of Lead & in the same degree of heat in both cases & laminated to the same thinness in both cases & watered twice & but twice with waters of the same strength in the same proportion & heat & length of operation that the waters may work alike in both cases, & bring the gold to the same degree of fineness in both cases, without roasting it

But if the operations be not alike the gold may become finer or less fine by the Refiners art then by the Assayers, that is finer or less fine then 24 carats.

Refiners seldome re at the pains & charges of making gold so fine as it is made by the Assay, & therefore the Jury who makes the standard Trial assays the Refiners fine gold & if it be not 24 carats fine they roast it to bring it to a due degree of fineness. And when the trial piece is made they assay it several times to see if it be standard.

It's possible for a Refiner to make gold finer then by the Assay. & a Chymist by Antimony may make it still finer And therefore the Jury should take care that the fine gold be not too fine. And that it be neither too fine nor too coarse they should assay it several times.

In the statute of 12 Hen 6. C. 12, the Kings Assayer is called a person indifferent between the Master of the Mint & the Merchant, & it is there ordeined that he be present when Bullion of silver is brought into the Mint that he may rightfully set the value upon the same according to law in case of variance between the Master & the merchant. And therefore I humbly pray that her Majesty may be put in mind of ordeining an Assaymaster before her departure to Windsor, And since M^r Charles Brattel is approved by both parties as a fit Arbitrator, between them & hath carried on the business of the Mint evenly for some months without any variance arising between them, & hath been freely entrusted from time to time by the Merchants with great quantities of Bullion without any miscarriage, or complaint, & if any variance or miscarriage should happen it would

tend to the discouragement of the coinage I humbly recommend the said M^r C. Brattel as a person well qualified for the said Office, in point of skill, diligence, credit, & probity.

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Brief Observations concerning the Triall of the monies in the Pix

1. An order of her Majesty & Council to appoint a day for tryall of the Pix at the usual place neare the star chamber
2. The Lord Chancellour sends his Letter directed to the Wardens & Company of Goldsmiths to return him the names of an able Iury.
3. The Lord Chancellour after the return of the names sends his Warrant by his Sergeant at Arms or his Deputy to warn the Iury to meet at the time & place
4. The Lords at the starr-chamber do meet & take their places
5. The Pix-Box is set on the Table the Officers of the Mint & Iury attending together with the Exchequer Officers.
- 6 The Lord Chancellour calls to his Sergeant at Arms for his Warrant for summoning the Iury & appoints the same to be delivered to the Remembrancers Deputy, who attends there with the copy of the Oath.
- 7 The Pix Box is opened by the Officers of the Mint, & the Gold & Silver therein poured upon the Table.
- 8 The Lords being sat the Lord Chancellour causes the said Oath to be administred to the Iury.
- 9 The Lord Treasurer appoints the standard Troy weights & the Indented Tryal pieces of her Majesties crown gold moneys & standard silver moneys kept in the Treasury to be delivered for the use of the Iury.
10. The Lord Chancellour recommends unto the Iury the Making of the Tryalls of the moneys in the Pix by fire, by water, by touch or by weight or by all or by any of them & particulars by the said standards of Her Majestys Treasury as well in weight as in fineness & in the most just manner that can be.
- 11 The Lord Chancellour appoints the Iury when they have agreed on their Veredict where & what time to attend his Lordship with the same & so departs with the rest of the Lords.
- 12 When the Iury present their Veredict to the Lord Chancellour, the Remembrancer's Deputy attends to read it, & after it is read to receive it.

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The manner of the Tryall of the Pix.

His Majesty or his Councill appoints the time and place for the Tryall of the monys in the Pix: the time is usually about a month after 'tis ordered, & the Place in or near the Star chamber.

The Lord High Chancellour sends his Letter to the Wardens & Company of Goldsmiths to return, to returne him the names of an able Iury for that Tryall

The returne of the names being made to his Lordship he sends his Warrant by his Serjeant at Arms, or Serjeants deputy to summon the Iury by their names, to meet at the time & place appointed for the Tryall.

On the day appointed, the Pix-boxes are brought and plac'd on a Table, about nine in the morning, by the care of the Officers of the Mint.

About tenn, the King if he pleases, & the Lord Chancellour & other Lords of the Councill appointed by the King, take their places at the table aforesaid, the Officer of the Mint, Exchequer & the Iury of Goldsmiths attending.

Then the Lord Chancellour calls to his Serjeant at Arms for his Warrant for summoning the Iury, & appoints the same to be deliverd to the Remembrancers deputy, who attends with a Copy of an Oath to be given to the Iury

The Pix-boxes are opened by the Officers of the Mint and the Gold & Silver monys therein poured upon the Table

Then the Lord Chancellour causeth the said Oath to be administred to the Iury: Which being done

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The Lord Treasurer or Lords Commissioners of the Treasury or Chancellour of the Exchequer appoint the standard Troy weights, & the Indented tryall-pieces of His Majestys Crown Gold monys, & standard sivler monys kept in the Treasury of the Exchecquer to be deliverd for the use of the Iury: And the Lord Chancellour examines the Tryall-pieces, by the like Indented tryall pieces, kept by the Warden of the Mint.

Then the Lord Chancellour or in his Absence the Chancellour of the Exchecquer gives the Iury in charge to make tryall of the Gold & Silver monys in the Pix by the standards of his Majestys Treasury, according to the Rules sett-down in the Indenture of the Mint; which are to doe it carefull by fire, by water, by touch, or by weight, or by all, or by some of them, after the most just & exact manner that can be; it being a Business of a very publick concern.

Then the Lord Chancellour appoints the Iury, when & where to attend his Lordship with their Verdict, And then he departs with the rest of the Lords.

When the Iury present their Verdict, the deputy of the Remembrancer attends to read it, and keeps it, when tis read.

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Brief Observations concerning the Tryall of the moneys in the Pix.

1 Her Majesty or Council having appointed a day & place for Tryall of the Pix (which has usually been neare the star chambers) The Lord Chancellour sends his Letter directed to the Master & Wardens of the Company of Goldsmiths to return to him the names of an able Iury.

2 His Lordship after the return of the names sends his Warrant by his Serjeant at Arms or his serjeants Deputy to warn the Iury to meet at the time & place appointed.

4 The Lord Chancellour calls to his Serjeant at Arms for his Warrant for summoning the Iury & appoints the same to be delivered to the Remembrancers Deputy who attends there with the copy of the Oath.

5 The Lord Chancellour causes the Oath to be administred to the Iury.

6 By order of the Lord Treasurer the standard Troy weight & Indented trial pieces of the Gold & silver moneys kept in the Treasury are delivered for the use of the Iury, & the Lord Chancellour compares the tryall

pieces with those in the custody of the Officers of the Mint

7 The Lord Chancellour gives the Iury in charge to make the tryalls of the said Gold & silver moneys by the said standards in weight & fineness according to the Rules set down in the Indenture of the Mint with the greatest care that may be, it being a business of a very publick concern.

8 His Lordship if he pleases appoints the Iury when & where to attend him with their Veredict after they have agreed upon the same & then departs with the rest of the Lords.

9 When the Iury present their Veredict to his Lordship, the Deputy Remembrancer attends to read it & then keep & enters it.

3 At the said time & place the Pixes are put on the Table before 9 in the morning the Officers of the Mint & Iury with the Exchequer Officers attending And the Lords of the Council doe meet between 9 & 10 & take their places & at the same time or immediately before the Lords sit down the Pixes are opened & the moneys are poured upon the Table.

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Brief Observations concerning the Triall of the monies in the Pix.

1. An order of her Majesty & Council to appoint a day for tryall of the Pix at the usual place neare the star chamber

2. The Lord Chancellour sends his Letter directed to the Wardens & Company of Goldsmiths to return to him the names of an able Iury.

3 The Lord Chancellour after the return of the names, sends his Warrant by his Sergeant at Arms or his Deputy to warn the Iury to meet at the time & place.

4 The Pix-box is set on the Table before nine in the morning, the Officers of the Mint & Iury attending together with the Exchequer Officers.

5 The Lords being met, the Lord Chancellour calls to his Sergeant at arms for his Warrant for summoning the Iury & appoints the same to be delivered to the Remembrancers Deputy, who attends there with the copy of the Oath.

6 The Pix box is opened by the Officers of the Mint & the gold & silver therein poured upon the Table.

7 The Lords being sat the Lord Chancellour causes the said Oath to be administred to the Iury

8 The Lord Treasurer appoints the standard Troy weights & the indented Trial pieces of her Majestys Crown gold moneys & standard silver moneys kept in the Treasury to be delivered for the use of the Iury.

9 The Lord Chancellour recommends to the Iury the making of the trials of the moneys in the Pix as well in fineness as in weight, after the most just manner as can be thought of, by fire, by water, by touch or by weight or by all or by any of them, making use of the said standards of her Majestys Treasury.

10 The Lord Chancellour appoints the Iury when they have agreed on their Veredict where & at what time to attend his Lordship with the same & so departs with the ret of the Lords.

11 When the Iury present their Veredict to the Lord Chancellour, the Remembrancer's Deputy attends to read it, & after it is read to receive it.
