

Further holograph drafts of MINT00063 (/catalogue/record/MINT00063) (Mint 19/1/170-71).

Author: Isaac Newton

Source: MINT 19/1/159-60, 164, National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, UK

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May it please your Lordship

In obedience to your Lordships Order of Reference signified to us by M^r Lowndes his Letter of Aug 8 wherein we are directed to consider the Qualifications of Col. Parsons M^r Croker & M^r Rosse to succeed M^r Harris in the place of Graver of the Mint we have discoursed them & find that Coll. Parsons doth not grave himself but imployes good workmen & has a good fancy & judgement in those matters & that M^r Rosse desires to succeed M^r Harris only in his place of Graver of Seales to her Majesty & by a Seale which he has graved for the Dutchy of Lancaster he seems to be a good workman for seales & sufficiently qualified for that place.

But as for M^r Harris's other two places of Graver for the money & for Medals, we humbly lay before your Lordship that the Master of the Mint upon considering what inconveniency the Mint lately suffered & may again suffer by taking in Cutters of Seales into the chief Gravers place, did upon his succeeding M^r Neale put a clause into the Indenture then made between the Crown & himself whereby the Gravers salary of 325^l^{ib} per annum upon the next voydance of the place should cease in order to a new establishment. For the Roetiers brought up no new gravers under them & M^r Harris who succeeded them being a cutter of seales & not skilled in that sort of graving which is proper for the money, employed M^r Croker to do all that work for an allowance of 175^l^{ib} per annum & retained to himself the remaining 150^l^{ib} per annum without doing any thing for it & M^r Croker not being bred up in the service of the Mint did not well understand it when he first succeeded M^r Roetier but was necessitated for three or four years to copy after M^r Roetiers work, tho now by long practise he works very well & we are humbly of opinion that he is the fittest person to be made first Graver of the Mint.

It is humbly proposed therefore, for the advantage & security of the coyn against counterfeiting, that there should be a set of Gravers constantly brought up in the Mint, who having once attained to perfection may do their own work & keep their Art amongst themselves & propagate it to Probationers or Apprentices & be succeeded by them: & that no new Graver be taken into the Mint or employed under them unless as a Probationer or Apprentice. For which end we humbly propose that M^r Croker be now made the first Graver of the Mint by a signe Manual with a salary of 200^l^{ib} per annum, if your Lordship shall approve thereof, for maintaining himself & a servant to file & polish the Dyes & turn the Press, & be allowed the use of that part

of the Gravers house in which he now lives & that M^r Bull who is now a Probationer & has a salary of 60^{li} per annum with some other allowances worth about 20^{li} a year more & works very well be made The second Graver with a Salary of 100^{li} per annum if your Lordship pleases & be allowed the use of the other part of the Gravers house and that a new Probationer be taken into the third place as soon as a fit person shall be met with, & be allowed in one of the Gravers apartments a room with a closet to lodge & work in.

And as for the other place of Graver of Medals to her Majesty we are humbly of opinion that the Gravers of the Mint for the time being <160r> are the fittest persons to execute it, & that they be obliged by a clause in their constitution to assit the Master & worker of the Mint whenever he shal receive directions about making of Coronation Medals or others^[1], & that they have no authority granted them to use any of the Presses or to work in any of the Rooms which belong to the Masters Office for the coynage of Money, without asking his leave. And that they shall not convey out of the Mint any of the Dyes or Puncheons for making of Medals nor sell Medals at a higher rate then the Warden Master & Comptroller of the Mint shall allow.

Mint office Aug. 13
1704

M^r Fowler another Petitioner is no Graver, but only makes designes & draughts for Medals.

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May it please your Lordship

In obedience to your Lordships Order of Reference signified to us {by M^r} Lowndes {his Letter} of Iuly we have considered the Petition of Coll Pars{on}s & M^r Croker {and} discoursed the Petitioners & also spoke with M^r Rose & we find that Coll. Parsons doth not grave himself but imployes the best workmen {and} has a good fancy & judgment in these matters & that M^r Rosse desires only to succeed M^r Harris in his place of Graver of Seales to he{r} Majesty & by a seale which he has graved for the Dutchy of Lancaster he seems to be a good workman for seales & sufficiently qualified for that place. But as for M^r Harris'es other places of Graver for the money & for Medals we humbly lay before the Lordship that the Master of the Mint upon considering what inconveniency the Mind had lately suffered & may again suffer by taking in Cutters of seales into the chief Gravers place, did upon his succeeding M^r Neale put a clause into the Indenture then made between the Crown & himself, whereby the Gravers salary of 325^{li} per annum upon the next voydance fo the place should cease in order to a new establishment For M^r Harris being a cutter of Seales & not skilled in that sort of graving which is proper for the money, imployed M^r Iames Rotier & afterwards Mr Croker to do all that work for an allowance of 175^{li} per annum & retained the remaining 150^{li} per annum to himself without doing any thing for it, & M^r Croker not being bred up in the service of the Mint did not understand it when he first succeeded M^r Roetier by was necessitated for three or four years to copy after M^r Roetiers work, tho now by long practise he works very well, It is humbly proposed therefore for the security of the coyne against counterfeiting that there should be a set of Gravers constantly brought up in the Mint who having once attained to perfection in their way may keep {such} Art amongst themselves & propagate it to their Apprentices or Probationers & be succeeded by them & that no new Graver be taken into the Mint unless as an Apprentice or Probationer. For which end we humbly propose that M^r Croker be made the first Graver of the Mint with such an augmentation of salary as your Lordship shall think fit for maintaining himself & a servant to file & polish the Dyes, & that M^r Bull who is now a Probationer & works very well be made the second Graver with a salary to be also appointed by your Lordship, & a new Probationer taken into the third place so soon as fit person shall be met with.

And as for M^r Harris his other place of Graver of Medals to her Majesty we are humbly of opinion that the Gravers of the Mint for the time being are the fittest persons to execute it, & that whenever the Master of the Mint receives any directions about making of Coronation Medals or others, they be obliged to assist him &

have no power without his leave to use any of the Presses in the Mint or to work upon Medals in any of the rooms which belongs to his Office for the coynage of money.

All which &c

[1] and that they be obliged by a clause in their constitution to assist the Master & Worker of the Mint whenever he shall be directed to make Coronation Medals or others.
