

Sir Thomas Vyner – no loan in 1672 (he died 1665)

Sir Thomas Vyner, 1st Baronet (b.1588), died on 11 May 1665 ¹ – seven years *before* Charles II's 1672 "Stop." He could not have lent new money to the Crown in 1672. In fact, the often-quoted £416,724 debt was owed to **Sir Robert Vyner** (Sir Thomas's nephew and business partner) ², not to Thomas himself. Sir Thomas's will (proved 1665) bequeathed his personal estate to his sons (with his son Thomas as executor) ³, and directed legacies to family and friends. His goldsmith banking firm effectively passed to his heirs (and nephew Robert), so any "depositors" in his shop would have been handled by the executors in 1665, long before the 1672 crisis. In short, Vyner's own fortunes were settled in 1665 – he was **not** ruined by the Stop of the Exchequer (the estate passed to his son and co-executor Thomas) ³ ².

Edward Backwell – ruined by 1672 default

A clearer example is **Edward Backwell**, a leading goldsmith-banker. By 1672 the Crown owed Backwell huge sums – about £295,994 (with interest) as later reckoned ⁴. When Charles II suspended payments, Backwell "was brought to his knees" and *could not pay his depositors* ⁵. Over the next decade he continued in official service but his bank never recovered liquidity. In 1682 he was declared bankrupt, and only by a private Act of 1698 could his creditors (including former depositors) get any repayment ⁶. Backwell died in exile in 1683 ⁷; his remaining assets were wound up by law. In short: Backwell lent ~£296k, was left unable to honor withdrawals when the Stop hit (depositors lost access), and ultimately went bankrupt ⁵ ⁶.

Context – rates, duration, and fallout

Goldsmith bankers normally charged *very high* rates. In Charles II's time they often lent at **20–30% annual interest** ⁸. (By the 1670s legal caps were 6% on government debt, but goldsmiths actually paid out 6% or more to win the business ⁹.) Charles's "one-year" moratorium (January-Dec 1672) was repeatedly extended – first to May 1673, then January 1674 – and effectively dragged on for years ¹⁰ ¹¹. In fact Davies notes that of the £1.314 million owed in 1677, about **97½%** was to the goldsmith-bankers ², and repayments were heavily delayed. The Stop devastated the goldsmith bankers – as Gilbert Burnet later wrote, "the bankers were broken, and multitudes who had put their money in their hands were ruined" ¹². Only a handful of firms survived long term. In practice **most London goldsmith-bankers failed or were forced out of business** in the 1670s ¹² ¹⁰, while only a few (e.g. Sir Robert Vyner's heirs, the Hoare family, etc.) managed to continue.

Sources: Contemporary accounts and histories of the 1672 Stop (e.g. Davies *History of Money* ¹⁰ ² ; NatWest Heritage on Backwell ⁵ ⁶), along with archival records (Vyner family will) and modern research ³ ¹² . These detail the actual loans, timelines and legal settlements.

1 **3** Full text of "Vyner, Family History: A Family History"

https://archive.org/stream/vynerfamilyhist00vynegoog/vynerfamilyhist00vynegoog_djvu.txt

2 **9** **10** Full text of "A History of Money-From Ancient Times to the Present Day"

https://archive.org/stream/A_History_of_Money-From_Ancient_Times_to_the_Present_Day/A_History_of_Money-From_Ancient_Times_to_the_Present_Day_djvu.txt

4 **5** **6** **7** Edward Backwell | NatWest Group Heritage Hub

<https://www.natwestgroup.com/heritage/people/edward-backwell.html>

8 Why was the Bank of England founded? | Bank of England

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/online-collections/blog/why-was-the-bank-of-england-founded>

11 **12** Stop of the Exchequer - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_of_the_Exchequer