1969 No. 148

COINAGE

The Trial of the Pyx Order 1969

Made - - -	10*th February* 1969
Coming into Operation	14*th February* 1969

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 10th day of February 1969

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in pursuance of section 12 of the Coinage Act 1870(a), as amended by section 3(3) of the Decimal Currency Act 1967(b), and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Trial of the Pyx Order 1969, and shall come into operation on 14th February, 1969.

Interpretation

2.—(1) Any reference in this Order to the provisions of any enactment or Order shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to those provisions as amended or re-enacted by any subsequent enactment or Order.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(c) shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Amendments of the Order of 1871

3. The Trial of the Pyx Order in Council 1871(d), as amended (e), shall have effect as if—

(*a*) for the form of oath to be administered to the jury, as provided for therein, there were substituted the form of oath set out in the Schedule to this Order; and

(*b*) for the provisions therein substituted by article 5 of the Trial of the Pyx Order 1947(f) there were substituted the provisions of articles 4 to 9 of this Order.

Coins to be set aside by the Mint for trial

4.—(1) The Master or Deputy Master of the Mint shall with a view to the trial of the pyx cause to be selected at random and set aside one gold coin out of every 2,000 gold coins ready for issue, one silver coin out of every 150 silver coins ready for issue, and one cupro-nickel coin out of every 10,000 cupro-nickel coins ready for issue.

(a) 1870 c. 10. (b) 1967 c. 47. (c) 1889 c. 63. (d) S.R. & O. Rev. IV, p. 537.
(e) S.R. & O. 1901/110 (Rev. IV, p. 540:1901, p. 8), 1947/1421 (Rev. IV, p. 541:1947, I, p. 343).
(f) S.R. & O. 1947/1421 (Rev. IV, p. 541: 1947 I, p. 343).

(2) The gold, silver and cupro-nickel coins so set apart shall be kept separately in such number of packets as may be convenient, and the said packets shall be sealed up at the Mint before being taken to the trial.

Checking of number of coins set aside

5. The jury shall ascertain the number of coins in each packet produced to them and whether that number corresponds with the number which the officers of the Mint represent the packet to contain.

Trial of gold coins

6. The jury shall take out from each packet of gold coins as many coins as they think necessary for the purpose of the trial of the gold coins and—

(*a*) shall weigh in bulk the coins taken out so as to ascertain whether they are on the whole within the variation from the standard weight allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946(**a**);

(*b*) after weighing the coins, shall melt all the coins weighed into an ingot and assay the ingot, comparing it with the standard trial plate of gold, so as to ascertain whether the metal of the ingot is within the variation from the standard fineness allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946;

(*c*) shall weigh in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of gold coins so as to ascertain whether they are on the whole within the said variation from the standard weight;

(*d*) after weighing the residue of the coins, shall take out of the residue as many coins as they think fit and weigh and assay them separately.

Trial of silver coins

7. For the purpose of the trial of the silver coins, the jury shall take out all the coins from the packets of silver coins, and—

(*a*) shall weigh in bulk the coins so as to ascertain whether they are on the whole within the variation from the standard weight allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946;

(*b*) shall assay such number of coins as they think fit, comparing them with the standard trial plate of silver, so as to ascertain whether the metal of the coins is on the whole within the variation from the standard fineness allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946.

Trial of cupro-nickel coins

8.—(1) For the purpose of the trial of the cupro-nickel coins, the jury shall ascertain whether or not all the coins contained in the packets of cupro-nickel coins weigh more than 500 grams, and whether or not the coins of each denomination contained in the packets weigh more than one kilogram.

(2) If the coins of any denomination weigh in all more than one kilogram, the jury shall take out from each packet of cupro-nickel coins as many coins of that denomination as they think fit, and—

(*a*) shall group the coins so taken out into lots weighing not less than 980 grams nor more than one kilogram each;

(*b*) shall weigh each such lot in bulk so as to ascertain whether the coins in that lot are on the whole within the variation from the standard weight allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946 or the Decimal Currency Act 1967.

(3) If the coins of any denomination weigh in all not more than one kilogram, the jury shall take out all the coins of that denomination and weigh them in bulk so as to ascertain whether they are on the whole within the said variation from the standard weight.

(**a**) 1870 c. 10; 1891 c. 72; 1920 c. 3; 1946 c. 74.

(4) The jury shall weigh in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of cupro-nickel coins, being coins of denominations to which paragraph (2) of this article applies, so as to ascertain whether they are on the whole within the said variation from the standard weight.

(5) If the coins contained in the packets of cupro-nickel coins weigh in all more than 500 grams, the jury shall assay such number of coins as they think fit, not weighing less in all than 500 grams.

(6) If the coins contained in such packets weigh in all not more than 500 grams, the jury shall assay all the coins.

(7) In assaying the coins, the jury shall compare them with the standard trial plates of copper and nickel so as to ascertain whether the metal of the coins is on the whole within the variation from the standard composition allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946 or the Decimal Currency Act 1967.

(8) If the number of coins of any denomination issued under the Decimal Currency Act 1967 and contained in the packets of cupro-nickel coins is more than ten, the jury shall measure the diameter of not less than ten, and not more than twenty, coins of that denomination.

(9) If the number of coins of any denomination issued under the Decimal Currency Act 1967 and contained in the packets of cupro-nickel coins is not more than ten, the jury shall measure the diameter of all the coins of that denomination.

(10) In measuring the diameter of the coins of any denomination, the jury shall ascertain whether the average diameter of the coins of that denomination is within the variation from the standard diameter allowed under the Decimal Currency Act 1967.

Findings of the jury

9. The jury shall by their verdict find—

(*a*) whether the ingot consisting of the melted gold is within the variation from the standard fineness allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946;

(*b*) whether each group of gold coins weighed in bulk is on the whole within the variation from the standard weight allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946;

(*c*) whether each of the gold coins separately weighed and assayed is within the variation from the standard weight and the standard fineness allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946;

(*d*) whether the silver coins weighed and the silver coins assayed are on the whole respectively within the variation from the standard weight and the variation from the standard fineness allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946;

(*e*) whether each group of cupro-nickel coins weighed in bulk is on the whole within the variation from the standard weight allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946 or the Decimal Currency Act 1967;

(*f*) whether the cupro-nickel coins assayed are on the whole within the variation from the standard composition allowed under the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946 or the Decimal Currency Act 1967;

(*g*) whether the average diameter of the cupro-nickel coins of any denomination measured as aforesaid is within the variation from the standard diameter for coins of that denomination allowed under the Decimal Currency Act 1967.

If the jury find that in any case there is any variation from the standard weight, fineness, composition or diameter, they shall specify in their verdict the amount of the variation.

Amendment of the Order of 1901

10. Any reference in the Trial of the Pyx Order in Council 1901(a) to the Trial of the Pyx Order in Council 1871 shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to the said Order in Council of 1871 as amended by this Order.

Revocation

11. The Trial of the Pyx Order 1947 is hereby revoked.

N. E. Leigh.

(a) S.R. & O. 1901/110 (Rev. IV, p. 540: 1901, p. 8).

ARTICLE 3

SCHEDULE

FORM OF OATH TO BE ADMINISTERED TO THE JURY

You shall well and truly, after your knowledge and discretion, make the assays of these moneys of gold, silver and cupro-nickel, and truly report if the said moneys be in weight and fineness or composition according to the standard weights for weighing and testing of coins of the realm, and the standard trial plates of gold, silver, copper and nickel used for determining the justness of the gold, silver and cupro-nickel coinage of the realm in the custody of the Board of Trade, and be in conformity with the Coinage Acts 1870 to 1946 or the Decimal Currency Act 1967 or any proclamation under any of those Acts; and if the diameter of such of the said moneys of cupro-nickel as are issued under the Decimal Currency Act 1967 be in conformity with that Act or any such proclamation as aforesaid; so help you God.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This Note is not part of the Order.*)

This Order in Council substitutes new provisions for certain provisions in the Trial of the Pyx Order in Council 1871 relating to the proceedings and conduct of the trial of the pyx, which is held annually to ascertain that coins issued from the Mint have been coined in accordance with statutory specifications. The principal changes are:—

(1) the form of oath for administration to the jury and the matters to be covered by the jury's verdict are altered so as to ensure that the jury report on the diameter, as well as the weight and composition, of cupro-nickel coins issued under the Decimal Currency Act 1967;

(2) the number of silver and cupro-nickel coins to be set aside by the Mint for the trial is changed from at least one such coin from each journey weight to one such coin from every 150 coins ready for issue, in the case of silver coins, and to one such coin from every 10,000 coins ready for issue, in the case of cupro-nickel coins;

(3) cupro-nickel coins issued under the Decimal Currency Act 1967 are to be measured in diameter.