

An Act Touching the Moneys & Coyns of England – 17 July 1649

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Just a few months after the execution of Charles I on Tuesday 30 January 1648/9 an act was passed through Parliament specifying the gold and silver standards and the designs for the new Commonwealth coinage. The style of the Act is similar to those at the beginning of the previous reigns. However the absence of a portrait and the use of legends in English were new.

The coinage and operation of the Mint had been discussed on several occasions in the intervening months, especially the clipped coins and the transfer of bullion seized at the end of the Civil War to the mint and also restricting the export of gold.⁽¹⁾

The Act is transcribed in Ruding⁽²⁾ but original copies are not often seen and as the act is quite short it is reproduced in full below. Note the images are slightly reduced to fit the page.

Reference

- (1) R. Ruding. *Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain and its Dependencies*. Third Edition, 1840, vol 1, pp407-410.
- (2) Idem, pp410-411.





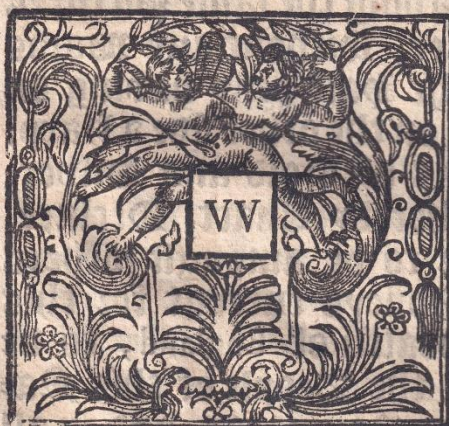
AN ACT

Touching the

Moneys & Coyns

OF

ENGLAND.



Whereas the Ordering of Moneys and Coyns, and setting the same at such valuations and prizes as shall be thought convenient & necessary, is appropriate and of right belonging to the Sovereign and Supreme Autho-

rity of this Commonwealth; And the Parliament having Resolved to change and alter the former Stamps, Arms, Pictures, with the Motto's, words, Stiles and Inscriptions in
P p p and

and about the same, and to cause new Coyns of Gold and Silver to be made of several Stamps, Weights and Values, but of one uniform Standard and Allay, to be current within this State and Commonwealth of England; (that is to say) One piece of Gold of the value of Twenty shillings Sterlin, to be called, The Twenty shillings piece, stamped on the one side with the Cross, and a Palm and Lawrel, with these words, The Commonwealth of ENGLAND; and on the other side with the Cross and Harp, with these words, God with us: One other piece of Gold money of Ten shillings, to be called, The Ten shillings piece; and one other piece of Gold money of Five shillings, to be called, The Five shillings piece, with the same words, Inscriptions, Pictures and Arms on each side, as the former: And for Silver moneys, pieces of Five shillings, and pieces of Two shillings and six pence, and pieces of Twelve pence, and pieces of Six pence, having the same words, Inscriptions, Pictures and Arms on each side as the former; Also pieces of Two pence, and One penny, having the same Pictures and Arms as the former, without any words or Inscriptions; and the Half penny having on the one side a Cross, and on the other side a Harp: All which several Coyns of Gold and Silver, The Parliament doth hereby Enact, Declare, Publish and Authorize to be amongst others heretofore used, the Moneys current for this State and Commonwealth of England, to be used and received by all the Zeople of this Nation, in all Receipts and Payments, and in all maner of Traffiquing, Bargaining and Dealing between man and man, at the several rates and values contained in the Schedule or Table hereunto annexed, expressing their true Values
and

(351)

and Weights, according to the Accompt of the
Mint within the Tower of London.

Pieces of Gold.

	Peny weights 20.	Grains 24.	Mites 20.	Droits 24.	Perits 20.	Blanks 24.
S. XX	05	20	10	00	00	00
S. X	02	22	05	00	00	00
S. V	01	11	02	12	00	00

Pieces of Silver.

S. V	19	08	10	08	00	00
s.d. ii vi	09	16	05	04	00	00
d. xii	03	20	18	01	10	00
d. vi	01	22	09	00	15	
d. ii	00	15	09	16	05	
d. i	00	07	14	20	02	12
ob.	00	03	17	10	01	06

Memorandum, Twelve Ounces makes a pound weight
Troy; Twenty peny weight makes an Ounce; Twenty
four Grains makes a peny weight; Twenty Mites makes
a Grain; Twenty four Droits makes a Mite; Twenty
Perits makes a Droit; Twenty four Blanks makes a Perit.

Die Martis, 17 Julii, 1649.

Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That this Act be forthwith
printed and published.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliament.

London, Printed for Edward Husband, Printer to the Parliament of England, 1649.