

new pence coin, and a Proclamation made on the 20th December 1972, which determined the design for the fifty new pence coins commemorating the accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the European Communities. Those accounts also showed that the coins had been set aside for the trial of the Pyx as prescribed by the Trial of the Pyx Order 1969 as amended by the Trial of the Pyx (Amendment) Order 1971.

2. In this verdict the expressions "permitted variation from standard weight", "permitted variation from standard fineness", "permitted variation from standard composition" and "permitted variation from standard diameter" refer respectively to the corresponding variations allowed under the Coinage Act 1971 and the Proclamation made on the 20th December 1968.

3. We ascertained the number of coins in each packet produced to us and that it corresponded with the number which the officers of the Royal Mint represented the packet to contain.

4. Gold Coins

(a) We took out from each of the twenty packets of gold coins one sovereign.

(b) We weighed in bulk the sovereigns taken out and ascertained that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amount of the variation being point nought eight (+0.08) grams above standard weight.

(c) We then melted those sovereigns into an ingot and assayed it, comparing it with the standard trial plate of gold produced to us by officers of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, and we found that the metal of the ingot was within the permitted variation from standard fineness, the amount of the variation being point two nine (-0.29) parts per thousands below standard fineness.

(d) We weighed in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of gold coins and we ascertained that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amount of the variation being one point nine four (+1.94) grams above standard weight.

(e) We then took out from that residue six sovereigns and we weighed and assayed them separately. We found that each of the sovereigns so weighed was within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amounts of the variations being point nought nought six eight (+0.0068), point nought nought two one (+0.0021) and point nought nought nought four (+0.0004) grams above standard weight and point nought nought one six (-0.0016), point nought nought one eight (-0.0018) and point nought nought four nine (-0.0049) grams below standard weight. We also found that each of the sovereigns so assayed was within the permitted variation from standard fineness, the amounts of the variations being point one five (+0.15) and point one three (+0.13) parts per thousand above standard fineness and point nought six (-0.06), point nought six (-0.06), point nought seven (-0.07) and point one nought (-0.10) parts per thousand below standard fineness.

5. Silver Coins

(a) We weighed in bulk all the silver coins produced to us and we ascertained that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amount of the variation being nought three (+0.03) grams above standard weight.

(b) We then assayed those silver coins, comparing them with the standard trial plate of silver produced to us by officers of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, and we found that the metal of them was on the whole within the permitted variation from standard fineness, the amount of the variation being one point four (+1.4) parts per thousand above standard fineness.

6. Cupro-Nickel Coins

(a) We ascertained that all the coins contained in the packets of cupro-nickel coin produced to us weighed more than five hundred grams and that the coins of each of the denominations of fifty new pence and ten new pence weighed more than one kilogram and that the coins of the denomination of five new pence weighed more than one kilogram.

(b) From each of the packets containing coins of the denominations of fifty new pence and ten new pence we took out sufficient coins and grouped them into ten lots so that each comprised coins of the same denomination and weight not less than nine hundred and eighty grams nor more than one kilogram.

(c) We then weighed each of those lots in bulk and we found that the coins in each of them were on the whole within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amounts of the variations being as follows:

for three lots each of seventy four coins of the denomination of fifty new pence.

One point three (+1.3), two point two (+2.2) and one point nought (+1.0) grams above standard weight.

for seven lots each of eighty eight coins of the denomination of ten new pence.

Three point two (+3.2), four point four (+4.4), three point five (+3.5), point six (+0.6), two point two (+2.2), four (+4.0) and four point one (+4.1) grams above standard weight.

(d) From the packets containing coins of the denomination of five new pence we took out all the coins and weighed them in bulk and we ascertained that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amount of the variation being point six (+0.6) grams above standard weight.

(e) We weighed in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of cupro-nickel coins and ascertained that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from standard weight, the amount of the variation being nine hundred and thirty three point nine (+933.9) grams above standard weight.

(f) We then assayed cupro-nickel coins not weighing less in all than five hundred grams, comparing them with the standard trial plates of copper and nickel produced to us by officers of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, and we ascertained that the metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from standard composition, the amounts of the only variations being for coins of the denomination of fifty new pence minus point one (-0.1) per centum of copper and minus point three (-0.3) per centum of nickel, for coins of the denomination of ten new pence minus point two (-0.2) per centum of copper and minus point two (-0.2) per centum of nickel and for coins of the denomination of five new pence minus point three (-0.3) per centum of copper.

(g) Finally, we measured the diameter of twenty cupro-nickel coins of each denomination and ascertained that the average diameter of those coins of each denomination was within the permitted variation from standard diameter, the amounts of the only variations being for coins of the denomination of ten new pence point nought six (-0.06) of a millimetre below and for the coins of the denomination of five new pence point nought three (+0.03) of a millimetre above standard diameter.

Dated 9th May 1975.

TRIAL OF THE PYX 1975

THE JURY

Sir Harold Percival Himsworth, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.S.
 Dr. Robert Yorke Gooden, C.B.E.
 Mr Charles Stanley Padgett.
 The Rt. Hon. Viscount Runciman of Doxford, O.B.E., A.F.C.
 Sir Owen Haddon Wansbrough-Jones, K.B.E., C.B., Ph.D.
 Sir Alan Herries Wilson, F.R.S.
 Mr Norman Alfred Vanderpump.
 Mr Cyril Thomas Smith.
 Mr Charles Ralph Clive Aston, T.D.
 Mr John Addley Bourne.
 Sir John Leigh Charlton Briscoe, Bt., D.F.C.
 Mr Michael John Cleeve Brocklehurst.
 Mr Anthony Davenport Crawford.
 Mr David Barnes Dalladay.
 Mr John Stuart Forbes.
 Mr Richard John Blackstone Gentry, T.D.
 Miss Susan Mary Hare.
 Mr Arthur Philip Jenkins.
 Lieutenant Col. Douglas Alan Johnson, M.B.E., M.C.
 Mr Paul Vincent Alec Johnson.
 Mr William Neill Malcolm.
 Mr Christopher Thackeray Norman-Butler.
 Mr Bryan Hammersley Woods, M.B.E.