

Jersey Coins — A Reference Website

Overview

These pages form sections of a substantial, scholarly reference website dedicated to the **coinage of the States of Jersey**, a British Crown Dependency in the Channel Islands. The site is aimed at numismatists and serious collectors, combining careful documentary research with coin-by-coin catalogue data. The pages span Jersey's entire pre-decimal coinage history, from the emergency silver tokens of 1812–1814 through to the Queen Elizabeth II issues of the 1950s–1960s, organized chronologically and by monetary system.

Structure and Organization

The site is logically divided into three major monetary eras:

Thirteen Pence to the Shilling — Jersey's idiosyncratic pre-1877 standard, itself derived from the old French monetary system:

- [Part 1](#): The 1812, 1813, and 1814 silver tokens (the very first official Jersey coinage)
- [Part 2](#): Queen Victoria copper issues (1841–1865)
- [Part 3](#): Queen Victoria bronze issues (1866–1871)

Twelve Pence to the Shilling — Jersey's post-1877 reformed standard, aligned with England:

- [Part 4](#): Queen Victoria (1877–1894)
- [Part 5](#): King Edward VII (1909 only)
- [Part 6](#): King George V (1911–1935)
- [Part 7](#): King George VI (1937–1952)
- [Part 8](#): Queen Elizabeth II (1954–1966)

Everything Else — The site has additional pages covering decimal issues, commemoratives, gold coins, and banknotes.

The Historical Narrative

One of the site's greatest strengths is its **contextual history**. Rather than merely listing catalogue numbers, the author traces the monetary logic underlying Jersey's unusual denominations. The 13-pence standard is shown to be a direct consequence of the act of September 18, 1834, which declared English money sole legal tender while acknowledging that 26 French *livres* equaled one English pound — with 20 *sous* to the *livre* and 20 shillings to the pound, one shilling equated to 26 *sous*, making the Jersey penny (worth 2 *sous*) equal to 1/13th of a shilling. This is a detail many general histories of British coinage overlook entirely.

The transition to the 12-pence standard in 1876–1877 is placed in its proper social context: the pages on the bronze Victoria issues describe how Jersey merchants grew increasingly frustrated with the non-standard denominations, and include a vivid March 1870 exchange in which the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury asked Jersey whether it wished to align with the UK standard — and the States flatly refused, only to reverse course six years later.

The token pages are particularly rich. The near-crisis monetary conditions of 1812–1813 are brought to life through primary sources: a letter from Lieutenant Governor George Don to Viscount Sidmouth describes an island drained of all silver, flooded with private bank notes issued by some eighty improvised "bankers" including publicans and small traders. The eventual commissioning of the Royal Mint tokens — and the interesting near-miss whereby Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint in Birmingham was first approached but had to decline on Privy Council instruction — is documented with archival precision, citing specific Birmingham Archives references.

Primary Source Usage

The site's use of **primary sources** is impressive and distinguishes it from catalogue-only works. Sources cited include:

- Royal Mint Annual Reports and internal records (MINT 1/51 series)
- Jersey Heritage Trust archival letters (the General Don Collection)
- Birmingham Archives correspondence between Francis Godfray (Greffier of Jersey) and Matthew Boulton
- Acts of the States of Jersey and Orders in Council with precise dates
- Sir Joseph Banks Papers at the State Library of New South Wales
- Wilfrid du Pré's 1948 article in the *Annual Bulletin of La Société Jersiaise*, quoted at length — a key secondary source for Jersey numismatics
- Contemporary newspaper extracts from the *Times of London* (1841, 1844) and the *Jersey Independent and Daily Telegraph* (1909)
- Period magazines including *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, *Fraser's Magazine*, and *The Gentleman's Magazine*

This level of archival depth is unusual for a numismatic reference site and gives the work genuine scholarly value.

Numismatic Detail

For each issue, the site provides mintage tables with McCammon's catalogue numbers (J#), Krause-Mishler numbers (KM#), coin diameters, and years. Where known mintages in standard references are incorrect, I have corrected them with primary evidence. A recurring example: Krause's mintage figures for several Jersey coins are shown to have been computed using 12 pence to the shilling instead of the correct 13, producing systematically wrong numbers for the 1870 and 1871 bronze issues.

"Things to note" sections flag:

- Die varieties (repunched letters, die cracks, die clashing, font variations)
- Proof issues and their mintages
- Overstrikes and mule combinations (particularly fascinating in the token section)
- Heraldic details and their evolution on the shield reverses
- Engravers' initials and where to find them on the coins

The heraldic commentary is especially careful. The discussion of whether the Jersey arms show lions or leopards — sparked by a genuine 1876 correspondence between the Royal Mint engraver L. C. Wyon and the Bailiff of Jersey — is a fine example of numismatics intersecting with heraldry. I have tried to explain the tincture-line conventions (vertical lines = *gules*/red; dots = *or*/gold) and notes that the Bailiff's instruction to remove the dots was heraldically wrong, converting gold leopards into plain lions.

The George V section contains one of the site's most entertaining passages: a lengthy quotation from Wilfrid du Pré describing the successive redesigns of the Jersey shield's animals as they evolved from "lugubrious quadrupeds of questionable parentage" into "streamlined greyhounds with protrusive tongues, predaceous claws and patriarchal beards, the latter farcically suggestive of G.B.S." — a reference to George Bernard Shaw, whose distinctive beard was apparently unmistakable to readers of 1948.

Cross-Territorial Context

Throughout, the author situates Jersey issues within the broader context of the **British Colonial Mint** operations of each era — noting, for example, which other territories' coins were struck alongside Jersey's in any given year, which engravers' designs appear on coins from multiple territories, and which Royal Mint records document the production runs. This comparative approach gives collectors useful die-link and design-lineage

information and reflects a genuinely broad knowledge of British Commonwealth numismatics.

Tone and Audience

The writing is knowledgeable but accessible. My personal observations appear occasionally — for instance, I note that McCammon's claim that 1923 coins made from melted French bronze are typically darker, noting that my own mint-state 1923 examples are "brilliantly red-orange." This blend of documentary rigor and collector's hands-on experience gives the site a distinctive and trustworthy voice.

Minor Observations

- There is still ongoing active development; the Edward VII and George VI pages (both dated April 9, 2026) appear to be among the most recently updated.
 - The site uses a fixed 1680-pixel viewport width, suggesting it is designed primarily for desktop viewing with large coin images in mind.
-

Summary Assessment

I have tried to make these pages represent a **high-quality specialist numismatic reference** — well-researched, primary-source-grounded, and meaningfully more detailed than standard catalogues on the coinage of Jersey. The integration of heraldic, administrative, and monetary history makes them valuable not only to coin collectors but to anyone interested in the constitutional and economic history of a small but historically distinctive jurisdiction. I have taken care about precision — correcting mintage figures, tracking die-link relationships, citing archival documents — gives the work lasting reference value.