

States of the Island of Jersey

Report of the Committee on the Redemption of the Three-Shilling and Thirty-Six Sous Pieces

At the States of the Island of Jersey

The Committee, charged by Act of the States of the 28th of January 1834, with effecting the redemption of the three-shilling and thirty-six sous pieces, having completed its work, results, after examination of the Treasurer's accounts, which have been approved, that:

- The States issued, by virtue of the permission of His Most Excellent Majesty in Council of the 12th day of December 1812, the sum of **£13,600 sterling**.
- That **£12,256 - 12s - 6d** of the said three-shilling and thirty-six sous pieces have been redeemed.
- That a sum amounting to **£1,363 - 7s - 6d sterling** has not been presented for redemption.

It has further appeared that when these pieces were issued by the States, they realized a profit of **£450 sterling**, which sum, together with the interest thereon from which the States have benefited, amounts to approximately **£900 sterling**; and that there remains a balance of **£571 - 11s - 4½d sterling** in the hands of the Treasurer in favor of the Public; so that the loss ultimately incurred by the States on the said pieces amounts to approximately **£3,000 sterling**.

Aux Etats de l'île de Jersey

Le Comité, chargé par Acte des Etats du 28e Janvier, 1834, d'effectuer le remboursement des pièces; de trois chelins et, de trente-six sous, ayant fini ses travaux, il résulte, après l'examiner des comptes du Trésorier, qui ont été approuvés, que les Etats éminent en vertu de la permission de Sa Très Excellente Majesté; en Conseil du 12 jour de Décembre, 1812, la somme de

£13,600 sterling: que £12,256-12-6 des d'tes pièces de trois chelins et de trente-six sous, ont été remboursées qu'une somme montant à £1,363-7-6 sterling n'a pas été présentée par être remboursées. Il a paru, de plus, que quand ees pièces farent emises par les Etats, ils realiserent un benefice de £450 sterling, quelle somme, avec l'interet sur icel'e, don't les Etats ont, été beneficies, se monte a environ £900 sterling et qu'il reste une balance de £571-11-4.5 sterling, entre les mains du Trésorier en faveur du Public; de sorte que la perte finalement encouvrie par les Etats sur les dites pièces, s'eleve a pen pres a £3,000 sterling.

Analysis and Commentary

What is this Document?

This is a **final report** from a committee established by the States of Jersey to wind up a specific monetary episode: the redemption (buying back) of two denominations of Jersey token coinage — the **three-shilling piece** and the **thirty-six sous piece** — that had been issued under Royal authority in 1812, during the Napoleonic Wars.

The document appears to date from **circa 1834–1836**, following the completion of the committee's work after the Act of 28 January 1834.

Historical Background: The 1812 Issue

The permission granted by **His Majesty in Council on 12 December 1812** is the authorizing event for the whole episode. This falls squarely in the middle of the Napoleonic Wars, a period of severe monetary disruption throughout the British Isles and its dependencies. Coinage was scarce across Britain and the Channel Islands, and many local authorities — including municipalities, merchants, and island governments — issued token coinage to fill the gap left by a shortage of official currency.

The States of Jersey issued a total of **£13,600 sterling** worth of these pieces. This was a substantial sum for a small island economy of the period, reflecting how serious the currency shortage must have been.

The Two Denominations

The pairing of the **three-shilling piece** and the **thirty-six sous piece** is significant and reflects Jersey's bilingual monetary world. Thirty-six sous was the Jersey equivalent of three shillings in the island's traditional *sous*-based system (where 12 sous = 1 shilling, making 36 sous = 3 shillings). These were therefore two expressions of the same face value — one for an English-speaking audience, one for a French-speaking one — almost certainly the same physical coin described in both monetary idioms.

Financial Arithmetic

The document presents a careful accounting of the episode:

Item	Amount
Total issued (1812)	£13,600 - 0s - 0d
Redeemed by 1834–36	£12,256 - 12s - 6d
Not presented for redemption	£1,363 - 7s - 6d
Original profit on issue	£450
Profit + interest accrued	~£900
Balance remaining with Treasurer	£571 - 11s - 4½d
Net loss to the States	~£3,000

The **£1,363 - 7s - 6d** not presented for redemption is a fascinating figure. These coins were simply never brought back — lost, destroyed, kept as curiosities, taken off the island, or simply forgotten. From the States' perspective this was actually a financial benefit, as they had issued

currency they never had to redeem. Yet the document records a net loss of approximately £3,000. This suggests the costs of administering the issue, managing the redemption process, and potentially the terms on which the original coin stock was procured or managed, all ate into the accounts significantly.

The **profit on original issue (£450)** reflects the standard practice of *seigniorage* — the difference between the face value of coins and their cost of production. The States coined money at a profit, as all monetary authorities do. That this profit, with two decades of interest, had grown to only ~£900 by the time of the final accounting suggests relatively modest returns, consistent with the cautious financial management of a small island government.

Finally note these two points.

- The sum issued was not £13,600 but £13,571/5/8.
 - The balance should not have been computed to be £1,363/7/6 but £1314/5/12.
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The Significance of the 1834 Act

The Act of **28 January 1834** that established this committee came at a time of broader monetary reform thinking in Britain. The 1820s and 1830s saw intense debate across the British world about currency, the gold standard, and token coinage. In Jersey specifically, this was the period leading up to the eventual rationalization of the island's coinage — a process that would culminate decades later in the 1876 Act.

The winding-up of the 1812 emergency issue was therefore part of a deliberate effort to clean up Jersey's monetary house — retiring wartime emergency measures and preparing the ground for a more stable and standardized currency regime.

Linguistic Note

This text is in **French**, reaffirming that French remained the working language of the States well into the nineteenth century. The accounting notation — **£12,256-12-6** — follows the standard British pounds, shillings, and pence format, a reminder that despite the French language of governance, Jersey's monetary unit was firmly sterling. The hybrid monetary vocabulary of the document (*chelins* for shillings, *sous* for the traditional Jersey unit) perfectly captures the island's dual cultural identity.