

# Description of Monies Coined

Page 1

---

## Document 1 — Statement of Incidental Expenses

*"N° 5 — A Statement of the Amount of the Incidental Expenses of the Mint, in the year 1814, as to Repairs and Alterations in the Buildings or Machinery, Furniture & all other Charges, Prepared pursuant to an Order of the Hon. House of Commons dated Martiis die 25to Aprilis, 1815."*

Item	£. s. d.
Incidental Expenses for Repairs of Dwelling Houses	363 . 12 . 0
D° [Ditto] for Offices and Workshops and other miscellaneous work	1011 . 3 . 0
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1374 . 15 . 0</b>

### Footnote asterisk explains:

*"The above Expense includes all Repairs & Alterations in the Machinery — Repairs of the outer Boundary Wall — Paving the Military Way on the outside of the Palisades in front of the Mint — and repairing and sinking an old Well to supply the inhabitants with spring Water. The repairs & providing of Furniture for Dwelling Houses are done at the Expense of the inhabitants."*

*Mint Office, 28 April 1815 — Signed as N° 1.*

---

## Document 2 — Statement of Coinage (Gold)

*"N° 6. A Statement of the quantity of Money or Tokens coined in the New Mint since the Establishment of the same, distinguishing Gold from Silver. Prepared pursuant to an Order of the Hon. H. of Commons, dated Martis die 25to die Aprilis, 1815."*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Description of Monies coined</b>	<b>Value (£. s. d.)</b>
1811	Halfguineas, and 1/3ds of Guineas	312,263 . 3 . 6
1813	Guineas, Half Guineas & Thirds of Guineas	519,348 . 7 . 6
"	Hanover V <sup>5</sup> Thaler Gold Pieces	342,397 . 7 . 4
1814	D <sup>o</sup> — D <sup>o</sup>	356,208 . 7 . 10
1815 to 28 Apr.	— D <sup>o</sup> — D <sup>o</sup>	89,570 . 1 . 0
	<b>Total Gold Monies</b>	<b>£1,619,787 . 7 . 2</b>

## Page 2

### Silver Coinage

<b>Year</b>	<b>Description of Monies coined</b>	<b>Value (£. s. d.)</b>
1811	3/ and 1/6d Tokens — Bank of England	4,132,969 . 3
1812	— D <sup>o</sup> — D <sup>o</sup>	765,991 . 3
1813	3/ and 1/6 Tokens — Bank of England	799,770 . 12
1813	10d — D <sup>o</sup> — Bank of Ireland	
1813	3/ and 1/6 D <sup>o</sup> — States of Jersey	
1814	D <sup>o</sup> — D <sup>o</sup> — D <sup>o</sup>	552,468 . 8
1815 to 28 Apr.	3/ and 1/6 Tokens — Bank of England	176,034 . 8
	<b>Total Silver Monies</b>	<b>£3,427,233 . 16</b>

### Copper Coinage

Year	Description	Value (£)
1811	Copper Monies for East India Company	5,600
1814	Copper Tokens for Essequibo and Demarary	1,344
1815 to 28 Apr.	Copper Tokens for the Island of Ceylon	8,064
	<b>Total Copper Monies</b>	<b>£15,008</b>

### Grand Summary

Category	Value (£. s. d.)
Gold Monies coined since the Establishment of the New Mint	1,619,787 . 7 . —
Silver Monies — Ditto	3,427,233 . 16 . 8
Copper Monies — Ditto	15,008 . 0 . 0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£5,062,029 . 3 . [?]</b>

*Mint Office, 28 April 1815 — Signed as N<sup>o</sup> 1.*

### Commentary

**Context:** These are official Parliamentary returns from the **Royal Mint**, submitted in response to a House of Commons order of **25 April 1815** — just weeks before the Battle of Waterloo. They document the operations of the **New Mint on Tower Hill**, which had opened around 1810.

#### Key observations:

1. **Scale of wartime coinage:** The Grand Total of over **£5 million** coined in just a few years reflects the immense financial demands of the Napoleonic Wars. Britain needed coin for paying troops, subsidizing allies, and managing wartime commerce.
2. **Silver tokens dominate:** Silver coinage (£3.4M) vastly outweighs gold (£1.6M), reflecting the Bank of England's emergency token

issues — the Bank had suspended gold payments since 1797 (*Restriction Period*), making silver tokens essential for everyday transactions.

3. **Colonial coinages:** The presence of copper tokens for the **East India Company, Essequibo & Demarary** (British Guiana), and **Ceylon** illustrates the Mint's role in supplying coinage to the British Empire.
4. **Hanover Thalers:** The minting of *Hanover V<sup>s</sup> Thaler Gold Pieces* is notable — George III was also King of Hanover, and coins were struck for the continental dominion during the Napoleonic period.
5. **Building costs:** The £1,374 in repairs (Document 1) is modest, suggesting the New Mint's infrastructure was still relatively fresh. The footnote's mention of **well-sinking for spring water** gives a vivid glimpse of daily life at the Mint.
6. **Monetary notation:** Figures are in traditional **£. s. d.** (pounds, shillings, pence) — 20 shillings to the pound, 12 pence to the shilling. "D°" throughout is an abbreviation of *Ditto*.