

# Jersey Copper Coinage Correspondence, 1844–1845

## Overview

These ten documents constitute a complete administrative file recording the commissioning, execution, and financial settlement of a copper coinage for the States of Jersey, struck at the Royal Mint in London. The correspondence runs from July 1844 to January 1845 and involves four principal parties: the Treasury, the Royal Mint, the States of Jersey (represented by Philip de St. Croix), and the Bank of England as financial intermediary.

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## Document-by-Document Summary

**Image 1 — Treasury Chambers, 31 July 1844** (p. 283) C.E. Trevelyan writes to the Master of the Mint on behalf of the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury. He transmits copies of a letter from the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey (dated 20th inst.) and of an Act of the States of Jersey confirmed by Her Majesty in Council, authorizing a new issue of copper money not exceeding £1,000 Sterling. The Mint is instructed to coin the money as requested.

**Images 2–3 — New London Hotel, Blackfriars / Mint Office, 27–30 August 1844** (p. 302–303) Philip de St. Croix, as President of the Committee of the States of Jersey, writes to S.W. Morrison at the Royal Mint. He references the Act of 8 January 1844 and Her Majesty's Order in Council of 4 March, and requests to know how much the Treasurer of the States must remit to execute the coinage of £1,000 nominal value — specifically **two tons of halfpence (26 to the shilling)** and the remainder in **pence (13 to the shilling)**. He assumes payment will go to the Bank of England to the Master of the Mint's account, as was done in 1841.

Morrison replies on 30 August, transmitting an estimate of expenses and proposing that **£500 be paid in advance**, with a credit given on completion for the balance under the Mint Charges & Expenses account. He notes the

Mint is currently working a copper coinage and that Jersey's coins could be proceeded with within **ten days to a fortnight**.

**Image 4 — Estimate, Mint Office, 30 August 1844** (p. 304) A formal estimate for providing copper and coining £1,000 nominal value of pence and halfpence for the States of Jersey:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
~4½ tons of copper @ £90 per ton	£400
Mint charges (including Die Dept.)	£198. 6. 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>£598. 6. 8</b>
Packing expenses (if required)	TBD

**Images 5–6 — Jersey, 16 September 1844** (p. 306–307) De St. Croix acknowledges Morrison's letters of 30 August and 11 September, confirming he is **remitting £500 Sterling** to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, to be placed to the account of the Master of the Mint on behalf of the States of Jersey for the copper coinage. He also notes that the **boxes and bags from the last coinage** will be sent to the Mint by a vessel sailing from Jersey around Thursday 19th inst.

**Image 7 — Mint Office, 7 January 1845** (p. 352) Morrison informs de St. Croix that the **copper coinage has been completed and delivered at the Mint**. He encloses a Statement of Charges and Expenses showing a **balance due to the Mint of £83. 13. 9**, and requests that this sum be paid to the credit of the Master of the Mint at the Bank of England.

**Image 8 — Statement of the Copper Monies Coined, Mint Office, 7 January 1845** (p. 353) The full financial reckoning:

*Rate and Amount of Coinage:*

<b>Denomination</b>	<b>British Value</b>	<b>Jersey Value</b>
2½ tons → Pence @ 24/lb	£560	£606. 13. 4
2 tons → Halfpence @ 52/lb	£448	£485. 6. 8
Subtotal	£1,008	£1,092
Receipt by tails on coinage	£2. 11. 4½	£2. 15. 7¾
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,010. 11. 4½</b>	<b>£1,094. 15. 7¾</b>

*Charges & Expenses:*

- Mint charges: £198. 6. 8
- 4½ tons copper @ £81.15 per ton: £367. 17. 6
- Bags and boxes for packing: £17. 9. 7
- **Total expenses: £583. 13. 9**

*Account:*

- Advance received (19 Sep. 1844): £500
- Balance due to Mint: **£83. 13. 9**
- Seignorage accruing to the States: **£426. 17. 7½**

**Images 9–10 — Jersey, 13 January 1845** (p. 359–360) De St. Croix acknowledges receipt of Morrison's letter of 7 January transmitting the Statement of Charges. He confirms the balance of **£83. 13. 9** due to the Mint, and states that the Treasurer of the States has sent instructions by that day's mail to **Messrs. De Lisle, Janvrin & De Lisle, London** to effect

payment to the Master of the Mint's account at the Bank of England. A note at the foot records that *the amount was received on the 15th inst.*

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## Key Observations

**Administrative efficiency.** The entire process — from Treasury authorization to completed coinage and financial settlement — took less than six months (July 1844 to January 1845). The correspondence is notably businesslike and free of dispute.

**Financial structure.** The arrangement whereby Jersey paid an advance to the Master of the Mint's account at the Bank of England, with final reconciliation on completion, reflects standard Mint practice for colonial and dependency coinages. The 1841 Jersey coinage is explicitly cited as precedent, indicating an established routine.

**Seignorage.** The most striking figure in the Statement is the seignorage of **£426. 17. 7½** — the profit accrued to the States of Jersey from the difference between the face value of the coins struck (c. £1,094 Jersey value) and the cost of producing them (£583. 13. 9). This was a significant revenue for a small island dependency and explains the political motivation behind the Acts of the States authorizing such coinages.

**Jersey vs. British valuation.** The Statement distinguishes between British and Jersey valuations of the coinage, reflecting the fact that Jersey operated its own currency system, where 13 Jersey pence equaled 1 shilling sterling (rather than 12), creating a persistent and deliberate differential that benefited the island's finances.

**The participants.** C.E. Trevelyan (later Sir Charles Trevelyan, infamous for his role in the Irish Famine response) appears here in his routine capacity as Assistant Secretary to the Treasury. S.W. Morrison as Deputy Master of the Mint handled the technical and financial execution. Philip de St. Croix as President of the Committee of the States managed the island's side of the transaction with evident competence and familiarity with Mint procedures.

**Physical logistics.** The details about boxes and bags from the 1841 coinage being returned to the Mint by sea is a small but telling reminder that this was a genuinely physical operation — tons of copper had to be shipped, struck, and transported back to Jersey.

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## **Conclusion**

This file is a fine example of mid-Victorian administrative correspondence: precise, formulaic, and complete. It documents a routine but revealing instance of the financial relationship between a British dependency and the metropolitan state — one in which Jersey exercised meaningful fiscal autonomy, profiting substantially from its own coinage, while operating entirely within the institutional framework of the Crown, the Treasury, and the Royal Mint.