

## The Jersey Copper Coinage Correspondence (1861–1862)

Royal Mint, 13th August 1862 (K.913)

### Transcription:

*Royal Mint, 13th August 1862* Sir, I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed Statement showing the amount remaining due to the Mint Account for charges attending the execution of the remaining portion of the Copper Coinage for the States of Jersey, authorized by Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 16th November 1857, and struck at the Royal Mint under the Treasury Authority dated 4th November 1861, and I have to request that you would have the goodness to direct that the amount in question viz. £91.2.11 may be placed to the credit of the "Cash Account" of the Master of the Mint at the Bank of England, in the same manner as the previous advice.\*

I have &c. &c. (Sd.) **Tho. Graham**

*Philipps St. Croix Esq., Jersey.*

### Attached Account Statement:

*The States of Jersey in Account with the Master of the Mint for Charges attending the execution of a Coinage of £1000 in Pence and Halfpence, being the remaining portion of the Coinage authorized by Her Majesty's Order in Council of 16th Nov. 1857.*

To Copper purchased for the Coinage: £517.5.3  
Coinage Expenses, Dies &c.: 56.13.5  
Packing expenses: 17.4.3  
**Total: £591.2.11**

By Amount received on account (2 Nov. 1861): £500.0.0

**Balance due to the Master of the Mint: £91.2.11**

*Royal Mint, 13th August 1862*

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**Document 3 — Jersey, 21st August 1862 (K.957)**

### Transcription:

*Jersey, 21st August 1862* To the Master of the Royal Mint. Sir, I have this day forwarded to the Bank of England £91.2.11, Balance of the amount due for the Copper Coinage, as per statement forwarded to P. de St. Croix Esq., "Part of the Committee of the States of Jersey for Copper Coinage", in your letter of the 13th instant.

I have &c. &c. (Sgd.) **Philip Gosset** *Treasurer of the States of Jersey.*

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### **Jersey, 23rd July 1861 (K.387)**

#### **Transcription:**

*Jersey, 23rd July 1861* Sir, I have to request you will be pleased to order the proportion of the copper coinage for the States of Jersey, at present unexecuted, of the Six Thousand pounds nominal value, the issue of which has been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 16th November 1857, to be carried into effect at the Royal Mint as soon as convenient, say to the extent of One Thousand pounds nominal value, whereof two thirds in coin of the nominal value of the thirteenth part of a shilling, and one third in coin of the nominal value of the twenty-sixth part of a shilling, the coin to be of copper and similar to the last issue, with the difference only of the date "1861."\*

*When I had the honor of an interview with you at the Mint last August, you suggested that it might be advisable for the Committee of the States for the copper coinage to decide whether a bronze coinage similar to that then in course of execution for the United Kingdom might, or might not, be preferable for that required for Jersey. The Committee considering that the coinage now required is but the complement of that decided upon by the States of Jersey by Act of the 15th of October 1857, sanctioned by the Order of Her Majesty in Council of the 16th of November 1857, are of opinion that the coin now required should be of copper, similar to that of the last issue, with the difference only of the date.*

*I have to request you will be pleased to inform me what sum of money it will be necessary for the Treasurer of the States of Jersey to lodge at the Bank*

*of England, to the account of the Master of the Royal Mint, to meet the expense of the coinage now required.*

I have the honor &c. &c. (Sgd.) **Philip de St. Croix** *President of the Committee of the States of Jersey for the copper coinage*

*Thomas Graham Esq., F.R.S., &c. &c. &c.*

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### **Royal Mint, 23rd October 1861 (K.516)**

#### **Transcription:**

*Royal Mint, 23rd October 1861* Gentlemen, The Mint has been lately called upon to supply a small Copper Coinage for the States of Jersey, amounting to One thousand pounds (£1000) in nominal value, and to be coined at the same rate for its value as the old British copper, that is £224 per ton. As the Mint is not now coining pure copper, I some difficulty might be found in disposing of the scissel, I have thought of applying to your House to supply good Copper in the form of fillets rolled to about one-tenth of an inch, annealed, scaled and ready for cutting, in quantity sufficient to produce the value mentioned above of copper coin. The scissel and brockage would be returned to you. Your charges to be upon the weight of copper retained here as coin, and to include the carriage of both fillets and scissel.\*

*Should your house be disposed to entertain such a proposal, I would be glad to be favoured with an estimate at your early convenience.*

I have the honor &c. &c. (Signed) **Tho. Graham**

*a Messrs. Ralph Heaton & Sons, Birmingham.*

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### **Birmingham, 24th & 25th October 1861**

#### **24th October reply from Ralph Heaton & Sons:**

*Birmingham, 24th October 1861* Sir, We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant. In reply we beg to inform you that we will undertake to supply Copper fillets for the Jersey Coinage as

described in your letter & receive back the scissel and brockage charging only for the weight of Copper retained by you, on the following terms, viz:

*Copper Fillets — annealed and cleaned 1/10th in. thick and 3 to 4 feet long @ Fourteen Pounds (£14) per Ton Part — in addition to the price of Copper which we would now supply at £98 per Ton with 3% discount for Cash on delivery.*

*As the carriage of the extra weight of Copper to London & the transport of the scissel again to Birmingham is attended with considerable expense, we should be enabled to supply you with Blanks cut out ready for marking at an advance of 20s. per ton over the above price making the charge for Blanks (£15) fifteen pounds per Ton in addition to the price of the metal.*

*We should be able to supply either the fillets or blanks in ten days after the receipt of your order.*

Waiting your commands, We have the honor &c. &c. (Signed) **Ralph Heaton & Sons**

*Thomas Graham Esq., &c. &c.*

**25th October follow-up from Ralph Heaton & Sons:**

*Birmingham, 25th October 1861* Sir, Since we had the honor of addressing you yesterday with an estimate for the supply of Copper fillets, the combination of Copper smelters have increased the price of Copper Four pounds ten shillings per ton.

*We are therefore obliged to alter our quotation for the metal to One hundred and two pounds ten shillings (£102.10.0) per ton less 3% discount.*

Waiting your commands, We have the honor &c. &c. (Signed) **Ralph Heaton & Sons**

*Thomas Graham Esq., Master of the Mint.*

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**Royal Mint, 25th October 1861 (K.494)**

**Transcription:**

*Royal Mint, 25th October 1861* Sir, An application was lately received from Mr. Philip de St. Croix, President of the Committee of the States of Jersey for the Copper Coinage, requesting that "the proportion of the copper coinage for the States of Jersey at present unexecuted, of the two thousand pounds nominal value, the issue of which has been sanctioned by H.M.'s Order in Council of the 16th November 1857, to be carried into effect at the Royal Mint as soon as convenient, say to the extent of One thousand pounds nominal value."\*

*Coining so small a quantity of copper as that required at present for Jersey, namely £1000, will be attended with loss from a weight of metal double that of the coin to be produced requiring to be put into operation, and leaving much copper scissel, which having no application here, must be sold at a loss. Messrs. Heaton of Birmingham, who have at present a copper coinage for India in progress, offer to supply to me the copper blanks required for the Jersey coinage at the rate of £15 per ton above the current market price of copper. It would be advantageous to the Mint to adopt this offer.*

*Might I request you then to be so good as to move the L. Comm. of H.M. Treasury to authorize me to purchase from Messrs. Heaton the copper blanks required for a Jersey coinage of £1000 nominal value at the rate of Fifteen pounds p. ton in addition to the market price of copper; the said blanks to be coined into money at the Royal Mint.*

I have &c. &c. (Sgd.) **Tho. Graham.**

*Geo. A. Hamilton Esq.*

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## **Commentary**

### **The Broader Context**

These documents illuminate a fascinating administrative and industrial episode in Victorian monetary history. The **Jersey Copper Coinage of 1861–62** was the final tranche of a coinage program originally authorized by **Order in Council on 16th November 1857**, for a total nominal value

of **£6,000** in copper pence and halfpennies for the Channel Island of Jersey. By 1861, a significant portion remained unexecuted, and this correspondence captures the process of completing it.

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## Key Themes

### 1. The Question of Copper vs. Bronze

One of the most historically significant exchanges is in Document 4 (23 July 1861), where Philip de St. Croix reports that the Jersey Committee *consciously rejected* bronze in favor of copper. Thomas Graham had himself suggested at an earlier meeting that bronze — then being adopted for the United Kingdom's new coinage — might be preferable. The Committee declined, insisting on continuity with the "last issue" and merely updating the date to 1861. This conservatism is telling: Jersey wished to remain aligned with its own established coinage tradition rather than follow the metropolitan shift to bronze, which had begun with the UK's 1860 bronze penny.

### 2. The Scissel Problem and the Heaton Solution

Documents 6, 7, 8, and 9 reveal a practical manufacturing challenge. The Royal Mint in 1861 had **ceased routine pure copper coining**, having transitioned to bronze for UK coinage. Producing a small run of pure copper coins for Jersey therefore created an awkward surplus of **scissel** (the waste metal strips left after blanks are punched out), which the Mint could not easily absorb or sell. Graham's elegant solution was to outsource the blank preparation to **Messrs. Ralph Heaton & Sons of Birmingham**, a private firm already producing copper coin blanks for India, who would supply pre-cut blanks and take back the scissel. Heaton's quote of £14–15 per ton above metal price for fillets/blanks, and the rapid next-day revision upward to account for a smelters' price cartel raising copper by £4.10s per ton, gives a vivid snapshot of the **volatile copper market of October 1861**.

### 3. Treasury Authorization and Administrative Process

Document 9 shows Graham writing to **George Alexander Hamilton**, a senior Treasury official (Permanent Secretary), to seek Lords of the Treasury approval to purchase blanks from Heaton. This reflects the strict financial controls on Mint expenditure: even a relatively modest procurement of copper blanks for a small colonial coinage required formal Treasury sanction. The efficiency of the process is notable — Graham writes to Heaton and to the Treasury on the same day (25 October), suggesting he was moving on parallel tracks.

#### 4. Financial Settlement

The account statement in Document 2 provides a precise breakdown of costs for the £1,000 coinage:

- Copper: £517.5.3 (the dominant cost, ~87% of total)
- Coinage expenses and dies: £56.13.5
- Packing: £17.4.3
- **Total: £591.2.11**, against which £500 had been paid in advance (2 November 1861), leaving a **balance of £91.2.11**.

Documents 1–3 show this balance being formally invoiced by Graham (13 August 1862) and promptly remitted by **Philip Gosset, Treasurer of the States of Jersey** (21 August 1862) — a swift eight-day turnaround suggesting good administrative relations.

#### 5. The Personalities

- **Thomas Graham FRS** (Master of the Mint 1855–1869) — the eminent chemist, famous for Graham's Law of diffusion, here seen as a capable administrator managing both scientific-technical and financial matters.
- **Philip de St. Croix** — President of the States of Jersey Committee for Copper Coinage, the Jersey-side interlocutor pressing for completion of the 1857 Order.
- **Philip Gosset** — Treasurer of the States of Jersey, responsible for financial settlement.

- **Ralph Heaton & Sons** — the Birmingham firm that would go on to become the **Birmingham Mint**, a major supplier of coinage to British colonies throughout the Victorian era.
  - **George Alexander Hamilton** — the Treasury official to whom Graham directed his request for authority.
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## **Significance**

These letters are a **miniature case study in Victorian imperial monetary administration**: the interplay between a Channel Island legislature's preferences, the Royal Mint's technical constraints, a private Birmingham manufacturer's industrial capacity, and the Treasury's financial oversight. The Jersey coinage of 1861 was modest in scale but required coordination across at least four institutional actors. The survival of this correspondence in sequence — request, negotiation, procurement, execution, settlement — makes it a rare complete record of how such a coinage was actually brought into being.