

RESOURCES FOR TEACHING BIRMINGHAM AND THE BLACK COUNTRY



FROM: TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY, VOLS. 2 & 3., Jan. 1840.

Contributions to the Economical Statistics of Birmingham. By a local Sub-Committee.

The Assay Office. - This office was first opened in the year 1773, for the assaying and marking of silver goods. In 1825, by a new Act of Parliament, the privilege was extended to the assaying and marking of gold. The total weight of silver and gold assayed has been 4,011,997 ounces of silver, and 17,584 ounces of gold; the duty paid has been 105,851 l. Of the silver articles, 27,167 ounces, or 1 in 148, have been cut as impure, and 330 ounces of gold, or 1 in 53 ounces. While the average has been as thus stated, in the year 1827, 1 ounce of silver in 64 was cut, and in 1786 only 1 ounce in 4,419; in gold articles also, while 1 ounce in 19 was cut in 1827, in 1832 only 1 in 253 shared that fate. Of the progress of these trades in the Borough the following statement will supply a satisfactory view:-

In 1773-4,	the amount of silver assayed was	16,983 ounces
1800-1,	" " " " " "	37,473 "
1820-1,	" " " " " "	55,392 "
1838-9,	" " " " " "	114,500 "
1824-5,	" " " gold " "	22 "
1838-9,	" " " " " "	2,125 "

No. II.—A Statement of the Quantities of Silver and Gold Assayed and Marked, or Cut as below the Standard, at the Birmingham Assay Office, in each Year, from its Establishment in 1773 to 1839.

Years ended June	Silver.		Years ended June	Silver.		Years ended June	Silver.	
	Marked.	Cut.		Marked.	Cut.		Marked.	Cut.
1774	oz. 16,983	oz. 257	1791	oz. 21,280	oz. 62	1808	oz. 86,653	oz. 127
1775	21,197	316	1792	25,624	147	1809	83,265	94
1776	34,673	357	1793	26,301	118	1810	98,724	156
1777	55,789	502	1794	24,001	191	1811	105,452	313
1778	56,933	189	1795	21,375	116	1812	85,508	379
1779	61,230	722	1796	22,852	129	1813	78,755	904
1780	47,415	722	1797	22,653	181	1814	96,520	599
1781	39,375	628	1798	17,145	61	1815	101,060	1,423
1782	21,806	118	1799	22,825	104	1816	90,207	415
1783	19,288	65	1800	19,037	91	1817	56,110	650
1784	19,381	116	1801	37,473	126	1818	81,731	565
1785	15,282	84	1802	42,754	124	1819	96,626	313
1786	13,257	3	1803	52,646	192	1820	57,423	325
1787	14,789	47	1804	42,185	83	1821	55,392	152
1788	13,531	..	1805	58,879	70	1822	66,324	813
1789	14,046	..	1806	76,241	196	1823	65,473	720
1790	19,250	..	1807	77,968	1,124	1824	87,679	715

Years ended June.	Silver.		Gold.		Years ended June	Silver.		Gold.	
	Marked.	Cut.	Marked.	Cut.		Marked.	Cut.	Marked.	Cut.
1825	oz. 111,643	oz. 168	oz. 770	oz. 22	1831	oz. 101,750	oz. 372	oz. 1,081	oz. 20
1826	103,675	620	760	28	1835	104,761	760	1,118	20
1827	87,200	1,350	700	36	1836	121,361	240	1,792	48
1828	105,351	1,230	1,190	23	1837	109,893	340	2,015	15
1829	104,811	1,190	888	31	1838	90,958	490	1,988	17
1830	88,973	1,000	858	7	1839	114,500	606	2,125	16
1831	97,716	1,160	779	16					
1832	95,420	900	760	3					
1833	86,632	830	757	28	Total	4,011,997	27,167	17,584	330