An Essay upon Money and Coins

Joseph Harris (1704–64) was equally distinguished as an astronomer and as an expert on coinage. From a humble background, he came to the attention of Edmond Halley, the Astronomer Royal. He spent some time making astronomical observations in South America and the West Indies, and familiarised himself with marine navigational practice, proposing improvements to measuring equipment and publishing a very popular instructional work on the uses of globes and orreries. He later observed the 1761 transit of Venus from Wales. Harris entered the Royal Mint in 1736, and became the King's Assay Master in 1749. This influential 1757 work, considered by the Victorian economist J.R. McCulloch as 'one of the best and most valuable treatises on the subject of money that has ever seen the light', argues that it is vital to a country's economy that the value of precious metal in its coinage remains constant.
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An Essay upon Money and Coins

Joseph Harris
Money, and Exchanges,

The Theories of Commerce,

Part I.

Money and Coins

An Essay Upon Money and Coins.

Printed: Sold by C. Havyns at the Middle

London,
To the Honourable

Richard Arundell, Esq.

His most faithful

Is humbly Ingratitude and Dedication, by

In favour and Regard, during a long course
Acknowledgement for many Marks of his
Worth and Abilities, and as a Grateful
As a token of Thanks for his Great

and obedient Servant,

The Author.
THE

Preface

[ ]
Chapter 1: Of the nature and origin of wealth

Contents

[Page]
The CONTENTS.

vii

CHAP. II. OF MONEY AND COINS.

1. The insufficiency and inequality of metallic coin.
2. Of the standard of money, and the necessity of a standard.
3. Of the standard of precious metals.
4. Of the standard of silver and gold.
5. Of the standard of coin.
6. Of the standard of currency.
7. Of the standard of money, and the necessity of a standard.

Money, a standard measure of the values of all things, and an equivalent for them.

Of some requisite properties in the material of money, and of the only metal that can answer them.

Of the standard of money, and the necessity of a standard.

Of the standard of precious metals.

Of the standard of silver and gold.

Of the standard of coin.

Of the standard of currency.

Money in value by force of law, not by force of nature.

Money in value by force of law, is not more powerful.

Money in value by force of law, is not more powerful.

Money in value by force of law, is not more powerful.

Money in value by force of law, is not more powerful.

Money in value by force of law, is not more powerful.
PART III. OF EXCHANGES.

CHAP. III. OF EXCHANGES.

Complaints of the want of money, whether
103 to 104 and agreed, and agreed to produce the above from
96 the evidence of composition, a satisfaction of the
99 farthest to produce the evidence of composition, a satisfaction
96 the farthest the evidence of composition, a satisfaction
89 the farthest the evidence of composition, a satisfaction
89 the farthest the evidence of composition, a satisfaction