

**Volume I**  
**The Rise of the Gold Standard, 1660-1819**

1696 April 10

**'An Act to incourage the bringing Plate into the Mint to be Coined, and for the further Remedyng the Ill State of the Coin of the Kingdom'.** The act contained a 'rider', setting the maximum price of the guinea at twenty-two shillings.

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And whereas the uncertaine Value of Coyned Gold has beene highly prejudiciall to Trade and an encouragement to certaine evil disposed Persons to raise and fall the same to the great Prejudice of the Landed Men of the Kingdome, Bee it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Tenth Day of April One thousand six hundred ninety six, noe Person shall utter or receive any of the Peices of Gold Coyne commonly called Guineas att any higher or greater Rate or Value than Two and Twenty Shillings for each Guinea and soe proportionably for every greater or lesser Peice of Coyned Gold. And whosoever shall offend herein shall incurre the Penalties and Forfeitures provided in an Act made in this present Parliament for those that shall receive or pay Guineas and other Peices of Coyned Gold att a greater or higher rate than in that Act is directed to bee recovered by the same wayes and meanes that the Penalties and Forefeitures of that Act are to bee or may bee recovered.

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**Source:** *Statutes at Large* 3, 7 & 8. Wm. III, c. 19, s. 12, pp. 172-174, esp. 174; *Statutes of the Realm* 7, 7 & 8. Wm. III, c. 19, s. 12.