

SUMMARY: The Queen's letter of Privy Seal below dated 15 April 1598 authorizes the Company of Pewterers to set the price of tin at any coinage by purchasing the first 10,000 pounds of tin at £24 per 1000 pounds, and to purchase any tin remaining unsold at that price after six months and to cast it into bars marked with the rose and crown, with the condition that no tin which was not cast into bars by the Pewterers could be exported from England. This patent contains the privileges granted to the Pewterers which Oxford mentions in several of his tin mine memoranda, and which he considered very disadvantageous to the Queen's financial interests.

& sigillo vijjli ixs

[TRANSLATION: & the seal, £8 9s]

A patent granted to the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the mystery of Pewterers of London and to their successors, deputies, and assigns forever, to come and resort to the places of coinage of tin according to the use of the stannaries in the counties of Devon and Cornwall, and there, at or before the days of the delivery of the same tin to the avners(?), to buy ten thousand weight of tin for ready money at the price of xxijli [=£24] the thousand at the least, if they may have it so, and thereby set a common price of the rest of the tin, and that if the rest of the same tin shall remain unsold to English merchants at or above the space of six months next after such coinage at or above that price, then the said Company to have all the same tin so remaining unsold at the rate of xxijli [=£24] the thousand, with authority for the same Company to cast all the same tin into bars or ingots, and then to mark the same with the rose and the crown [an interlineated line not transcribed], and none to be shipped beyond the seas unless the same be so first by them marked. And a proviso herein contained for her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to revoke these letters patents at their pleasure. Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium xvto die Aprilis anno regni sui quadragesimo [=15 April 1598].

[TRANSLATION: Witness the Queen at Westminster on the 15th day of April in the fortieth year of her reign]

per litere de priuato sigillo

[TRANSLATION: By letter of Privy Seal]

Iohhanes Cowle(?)