

At the States of the Island of Jersey.

The 8th day of December 1864.

The States considering that it would be useful to increase the quantity of copper money now in circulation in this Island, which experience has shown to be insufficient to meet the wants of the detail trade, have decided, subject to the Sanction of Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council, to issue copper money to an amount not exceeding Two thousand Pounds Sterling, two thirds of the said amount to be in coins representing the thirteenth part of a shilling, money of Great Britain, and the remainder in coins representing the twenty-sixth part of a shilling, and of the same metal as the copper money lately coined in England; the whole in conformity to the Acts of the States of the 13th July 1840, of the 13th December 1850 and of the 15th October 1857, which have been Sanctioned by Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Signed / Germain Le Gros, Greffier

(Marginal note: £14.9s — likely a fee or registration cost)

Historical Context

Jersey's Distinctive Currency System

Jersey maintained its own currency system distinct from British sterling. The document references coins at **1/13th** and **1/26th of a shilling** — denominations unique to Jersey, reflecting the island's traditional *livre tournois*-derived monetary system. These correspond to Jersey's **1/13 shilling** (equivalent to a British penny) and **1/26 shilling** (halfpenny equivalent).

Legislative Background

The document explicitly situates itself within a chain of prior legislation:

- **13 July 1840** — foundational Jersey coinage act
- **13 December 1850** — revision/extension

- **15 October 1857** — further update

Each required sanction from **Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council** (Queen Victoria), reflecting Jersey's constitutional status as a Crown Dependency — self-governing but subject to Privy Council oversight for certain matters.

The "Detail Trade" Problem

The phrase "*wants of the detail trade*" is significant. "Detail trade" means retail commerce. A shortage of small copper coins would have hampered everyday transactions, suggesting genuine economic pressure driving this legislation.

Document Analysis

The Greffier

The document is signed by **Germain Le Gros** as **Greffier** — the Clerk of the States of Jersey, a senior constitutional official responsible for recording Acts and authenticating official documents. His signature gives the document legal force.

Handwriting

The script is formal Victorian copperplate, consistent with official legal record-keeping of the period. The calligraphy is confident and practiced, indicating a professional clerk's hand.

Significance

This is a small but telling example of **Jersey's constitutional autonomy in action** — the island legislature making its own monetary policy while operating within the framework of British Crown oversight. The £2,000 ceiling on new coinage reflects fiscal caution, and the careful reference to prior sanctioned Acts demonstrates institutional continuity and legal rigor.