

Aux États de l'Île de Jersey

To the States of the Island of Jersey

French transcription:

L'An mil huit cent septante, le vingt-cinquième jour de Mars. Monsieur le Président ayant mis devant les États une lettre de son Excellence le Lieut-Gouverneur en date du 21 Mars 1870, lui transmettant une dépêche des Seigneurs de la Trésorerie recommandant que la nouvelle émission de monnaie de cuivre soit assimilée à la monnaie de cuivre Anglaise. Les États ont référé ladite correspondance au Comité chargé de ladite émission lequel est chargé d'informer leurs Seigneuries que les États ne sont pas disposés à changer la valeur nominale de leur monnaie de cuivre.

Signed: *G. Ouug(?)*, *Commis au Greffe* (*G. [surname]*, *Clerk to the Greffe*)

English translation:

In the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy, the twenty-fifth day of March. The President having placed before the States a letter from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor dated 21 March 1870, transmitting to him a dispatch from the Lords of the Treasury recommending that the new issue of copper coinage be assimilated to English copper coinage. The States have referred said correspondence to the Committee charged with said issue, which is instructed to inform Their Lordships that the States are not disposed to change the nominal value of their copper coinage.

Analysis & Commentary

Document type: An official minute or resolution of the States of Jersey (the island's parliament), recorded by a clerk.

Historical context: This document sits at a fascinating intersection of Jersey's semi-autonomous status and British imperial monetary policy. In

1870, the British Treasury was pushing Jersey to align its copper coinage with the standard British penny/halfpenny system.

Jersey's monetary independence: Jersey had its own distinct copper coinage denominated in *sous* and *doubles* (1/12 and 1/24 of a penny respectively), a legacy of its Norman-French heritage. The States here are **firmly refusing** London's pressure to abandon this system — a small but significant assertion of local sovereignty.

The "septante" detail: The use of *septante* (rather than *soixante-dix*) for "seventy" is a regional French feature, common in Belgium, Switzerland, and the Channel Islands, and reflects Jersey's distinct Norman-French linguistic tradition.

Outcome: Jersey did eventually reform its coinage, but not until 1877, suggesting this 1870 rebuff was genuine. The island finally adopted a 1/12 shilling denomination that better aligned with sterling.

The Greffe: The *Greffe* is Jersey's official public registry — an ancient Norman institution still in operation today, confirming the document's authenticity as a formal state record.