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Paper Currency in Eighteenth-Century London

India's King George V, One Rupee - 1917 Issue

Lighthouses on World Paper Money

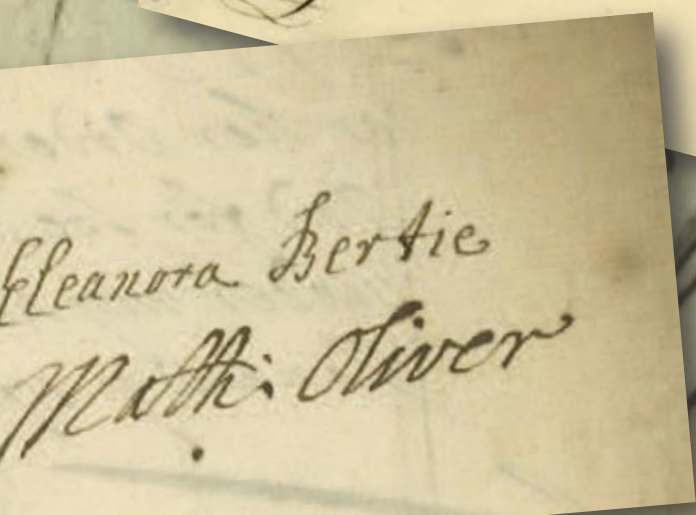
Understanding the Advent of Paper Money and Its Sociology

Interesting Uses of Banknotes and Banknotes as Works of Art

Border Scouts of Upington—
The Great Boer War 1899-1902

Queen Elissa, Founder of Carthage - Right on the Money

Bank Note Printing Companies and Other Entities



Editor's Column

It is with some pleasure and some regret I advise this is the last number of the IBNS Journal I will edit. Ron Richardson will take over as the Editor of the IBNS Journal from the next edition and I hope you will join with me in wishing him well in his endeavours. Ron has been the Second Vice President of the IBNS for some years and is a long-term member of the Society. Recently retired, he has a background in the media and brings his skills to this position.

When I took on the role as Editor of this Journal, I did not expect to be in this role for very long; but it has been an enjoyable and rewarding time. I have observed, to many acquaintances in the IBNS, my amazement at how smoothly the production of the Journal is achieved. The regular contributors—Murray Hanewich, Art Levenite, Ronny Hick and Hans-Dieter Müller—deliver their material regularly and our design team—Colleen Abel and Robert Douglas—produce the layout on time and with the minimum of fuss. Tim Welo provides the advertising and Hastings Printing Company efficiently prints and distributes the Journal. In all, communication and electronic files wend their way across three continents—Australia, North America and Europe—to produce each edition of the IBNS Journal.

I am indebted to the many contributors who have provided articles during my tenure as Editor. Previous Editors of the Journal have, at times, been short of material to publish, but I am pleased to say I have always had a good stock of articles. This does mean some contributors are disappointed their articles are not published immediately, but it does make the life of an Editor easier. In closing, I especially thank Don Cleveland and David White who have greatly assisted me by reviewing and editing material submitted to the Journal; this has made my work a great deal easier.

Finally, I trust you will find something of interest in this edition of the Journal, which contains the usual good variety of articles.

Peter Symes

President's Message

In October I attended the Australian IBNS Convention, held this year in Sydney. It was again a successful event, with IBNS members from all over Australia in attendance, as well as two visitors from Canada—one already a member and the other who joined at the conference. Many IBNS members collect banknotes in isolation, unable to mix with other banknote collectors, other than at shows, if they attend, or by correspondence. For members who are associated with an IBNS chapter, there is always welcome regular contact. I am therefore encouraged to learn of moves to establish a chapter in New York (see page 68) and in several other places. I hope the plans of all come to fruition so more IBNS members can share experiences and camaraderie.

The end of 2010 is upon us and the thoughts of many turn to 2011, which is the year in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Bank Note Society. While continuing to maintain and deliver the usual benefits to our members, some celebrations will be held throughout the world to mark the occasion and the event will be celebrated during the year in various ways. As we go to print, the Board of the IBNS is deciding what will be done to commemorate the anniversary.

There will be events held in Valkenburg (Maastricht) in April, Memphis in June, London in October and Perth (Australia) in October or November. The first three locations are where some of the largest paper money shows are held and where the IBNS holds its regular Board meetings; Perth is where the annual Australian convention will be held in 2011. I encourage IBNS members to attend one of these events if at all possible, although I realize this will not be possible for many members.

Peter Symes

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Table of Contents

2	Society Officers and Directors
4	IBNS Hall of Fame
6	Letters
7	Banknote News <i>Compiled by Murray Hanewich 3649</i>
9	Obituaries
11	New Issues <i>Compiled by Ronny Hick 8967 and Hans-Dieter Müller LM-198</i>
23	Paper Currency in Eighteenth- Century London <i>Roger Outing 1434</i>
31	India's King George V, One Rupee – 1917 Issue <i>Rezwan Razack 9733</i>
35	Book Review <i>Reviewed by Peter Symes 4245</i>
37	Understanding the Advent of Paper Money and Its Sociology <i>Herbert A. Platt, Ph.D. 9347</i>
42	Lighthouses on World Paper Money <i>Miguel Chirinos 5992</i>
46	Interesting Uses of Banknotes and Banknotes as Works of Art <i>Anil R. Bohora LM-199</i>
53	Border Scouts of Upington—The Great Boer War 1899–1902 <i>John Cowlin 9651</i>
55	Queen Elissa, Founder of Carthage – Right on the Money <i>Don Cleveland LM-136</i>
57	Bank Note Printing Companies and Other Entities <i>Charles R. Hosch 7419 © 2010</i>
68	Chapter News <i>Compiled by Art Levenite 2863</i>
74	IBNS Announcements
75	IBNS Board Meeting Minutes
78	New Members
84	Ad Index
84	Classifieds

This edition:

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India's King George V, One Rupee - 1917 Issue

Rezwan Razack 9733

King George V, 1 Rupee, 1917 Issue: "Order in Chaos"

Even though the King George V, 1917, one rupee, Indian issue commenced predictably with prefix 'A', chaos ensued as the following expected sequences of prefixes and signatories did not occur. Prefixes on notes are usually in alphabetical sequence, with an established pattern in regard to the use of prefixes and signatories. On the 1-rupee notes, earlier signatories are found on notes with later prefixes.

By 1910, there were only seven Circles of Issue¹: Cawnpore, Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Lahore, Madras and Rangoon. All other sub-circles had been merged with these seven main circles. As in the case of the Rs.2½ issue, the 1-rupee King George V, 1917 notes also had in their first printing a prefix to the serial number corresponding to the circle of issue (see Table 1). The first 1-rupee notes were issued on 30 November 1917.

In July 1918, German torpedoes sank the *SS Shirala*, which was carrying a consignment of 1-rupee notes from England to India. These were the second printing of the notes and were pre-signed and therefore legal tender in India. This was also the first case of notes lost at sea which were pre-signed before their arrival in India from England. Some of the notes washed ashore and were found on the southern coast of England. Notes with serial prefixes 'A', 'K', 'L', 'M' and 'R' were part of the shipment that sank. As a quantity of notes with these prefixes was already in circulation, they were withdrawn from issue. Further reprints for circulation continued with prefixes 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G',

'H' and 'J', and thereafter, from 'N' to 'S'. 'K', 'L', 'M' and 'R' were passed over as they had already been used in the first issue and had been withdrawn. The prefix 'I' was never used as it could be mistaken for a number and not a character of the alphabet. The letter 'Q' was also not used as a prefix, as 'O' had been used instead. Ultimately, the 1-rupee notes were printed with prefixes 'A' to 'Z' with the exception of 'I', 'Q', 'T', 'U', 'V' and 'W'.

Table 1: First Issue - First Printing

Signatory	Prefix	Issuing Circle	Watermark	Gujarati on Reverse
M. M. S. Gubbay	'A'	Cawnpore	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati
M. M. S. Gubbay	'B'	Bombay	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati
M. M. S. Gubbay	'C'	Calcutta	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati
M. M. S. Gubbay	'K'	Karachi	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati
M. M. S. Gubbay	'L'	Lahore	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati
M. M. S. Gubbay	'M'	Madras	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati
M. M. S. Gubbay	'R'	Rangoon	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati

All the notes identified in this table were without perforation and with the wrong Gujarati (an official language of India) on the reverse.



King George V, 1 Rupee 1917 Issue, obverse and reverse. Unstapled note without perforation on left side; Star enclosed in a rectangle watermark; 'A' Prefix - Cawnpore Circle - first printing; one of the notes sunk at sea. Signed by M. M. S. Gubbay.

Government of India Reinforces Trust in Paper Currency

It is necessary to understand the circumstances and events that necessitated the printing and issuing of small-denomination notes in India; because until 1917, the lowest denomination Indian currency note was five rupees. Around 1916, the public lost faith in currency notes of all denominations. This resulted in the public exchanging their notes for coins, sometimes at a discount to the notes' par value.

The Government of India was straining to retain the public trust in currency notes by converting them to silver from paper on demand. The Government soon faced a situation where the silver supply was exhausted and they could not convert notes in many cases. World War I added to the misery of the Government. Even gold sovereigns were offered to the public in exchange for currency notes. This measure also failed, because the notes came back to the treasuries as soon as they were issued. The rise in the price of silver did not help, as people indulged in speculation and hoarded coins. The situation would have spiralled out of control if the United States had not supported India by delivering 200 million troy ounces of silver to India in 1918. The silver was used to produce 260 million silver rupees.

Birth of King George V - 1917 Issue - 1-Rupee and 2 ½-Rupee notes

The Government of India, in order to economize and conserve the use of silver commenced issuing paper money of small denominations. Thus was born notes of 1 rupee, followed by an issue of 2½-rupee notes. The 1-rupee notes were issued to the public directly from Currency Offices from January 1918 and from District Treasuries from April 1918. These notes could also be cashed at Post Offices. There was no restriction of encashment anywhere within India, thus the notes had the status of being universalised, i.e. not belonging to an issuing circle.

The 1-rupee and 2½-rupee notes were very unpopular and were traded or accepted only at a varying discount, the maximum being 19 per cent. However, by 1920, they were again accepted at par, because of their wide convertibility.

1 Rupee Packet and Booklet - Without Perforations and Perforated

The first issue of 1-rupee notes was in the form of a packet of 25 notes, which were unstapled, and without perforations on any side. There were instances of these packets containing an irregular number of notes—fewer or more than 25, which had to be reported to the Controller of Currency. This necessitated the practice of 25 notes being bound in a booklet, either by stapling or stitching, from 1919, resembling a miniature cheque

book. The outer cover in red carried printed slogans to popularize government efforts and programs. These stapled or stitched notes have a visible perforated edge on the left.

Features of the First Issue

- Issued on 30 November 1917
- Discontinued on 1 January 1926
- Printed in England
- White handmade moulded paper
- Three signatories only: M.M.S. Gubbay, A.C. Mc Watters and H. Denning
- Watermark—two varieties—star enclosed in a rectangle and rayed star
- First pre-signed notes shipped from England
- The only issue of Indian paper money with the serial numbers having prefix 'O'

Correction in Gujarati Language

The earlier 1-rupee notes had an error in the Gujarati language printed on the reverse, in the eighth panel. This error was corrected with prefix 'D' notes. However, there have been notes observed in later prefixes, including prefix 'H', still carrying the error. It is believed printing plates from earlier note forms with the error in Gujarati text were used to make later notes.



Stapled Booklet with notes perforated on left side; 'D' Prefix - Universalised.



Stapled Booklet with notes perforated on left side; 'E' Prefix with correct Gujarati on the reverse.

Prefix 'O'

The only instance of prefix 'O' being used on Indian paper money was on the first issue of King George V, one rupee notes. The prefix 'O' is normally not used in Indian paper money as it can be confused with the numeral zero. The prefix '1' is also not used for the same reason as it may be mistaken for the numeral one.



The 1-rupee of this issue is the only denomination in Indian Paper Money with an 'O' prefix.

Split between Signature and Prefix

The split between signature and prefix sequences first occurred with prefix 'J' notes, and later with prefix 'X'; in both cases the signatures involved are M.M.S. Gubbay and A.C. McWatters. The second split occurred with prefix 'S', with the signatures of A.C. McWatters and H. Denning (see Table 2).

The signature split for the 'S' prefix is seen in the notes signed by H. Denning (top) and A. C. McWatters (above). Both notes carry the Rayed Star watermark.



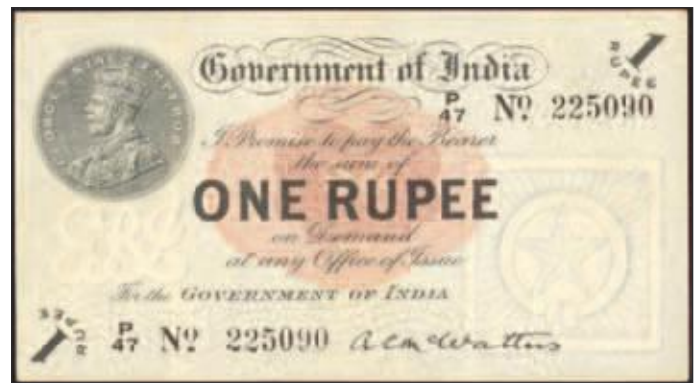
The reverse of the 1-rupee note with the correct Gujarati script.



The signature split for the 'J' prefix can be seen in these two notes. The first (top) is signed by M. M. S. Gubbay and the second (above) is signed by A. C. McWatters.

East Africa Issues - Prefixes 'X', 'Y' and 'Z'

Indian notes used in East Africa are also found with the split sequences. These are signed by M.M.S. Gubbay with prefix 'X' and have the corrected Gujarati on their reverse. Notes with prefixes 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' were used for circulation in British East Africa. There was a split in signature in prefix 'X'. A.C. McWatters signed the remaining notes with prefix 'X' along with prefixes 'Y' and 'Z'. These notes have the enclosed star watermark.



Notes with the 'X' Prefix used in East Africa showing the signature split with the first (top) signed by M. M. S. Gubbay and the second signed by A. C. McWatters. Both notes carry the correct Gujarati script on the reverse.

These two notes show the Watermark split for prefix 'P'. The top note has the watermark of a star enclosed in a rectangle, while the second note has the rayed-star watermark. Both notes are signed by A.C. McWatters.

Split between Watermark and Prefix

There was a change in the watermark from a star enclosed in a rectangle to a rayed star. This split in change of watermark occurred in prefix 'P'. The rayed-star watermark 1-rupee note was signed by A.C. McWatters in prefixes 'P' and 'S' and by H. Denning in prefix 'S' only (see Table 2).

¹For the efficient issue of notes and coins, and to perform other incidental functions, the Government of India set up offices of its Issue Department in different parts of the country, each exercising jurisdiction over a specified area known as a Circle of Issue. The term is often shortened to 'circle'.

Table 2: All Prefixes for the King George V 1 Rupee, 1917 Issue

Signatory	Prefix	Issuing Circle	Watermark	Gujarati on Reverse	Remarks
M.M.S.Gubbay	A	Cawnpore	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	First print and sunk at sea
M.M.S.Gubbay	B	Bombay	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	C	Calcutta	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	D	Universalised	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	D	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	Gujarati corrected
M.M.S.Gubbay	E	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	F	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	G	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	H	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
M.M.S.Gubbay	J	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in signature
A.C.McWatters	J	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in signature
M.M.S.Gubbay	K	Karachi	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	First print and Sea sunk
M.M.S.Gubbay	L	Lahore	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	First print and Sea sunk
M.M.S.Gubbay	M	Madras	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	First print and Sea sunk
A.C.McWatters	N	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
A.C.McWatters	O	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
A.C.McWatters	P	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in watermark
A.C.McWatters	P	Universalised	Rayed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in watermark

Signatory	Prefix	Issuing Circle	Watermark	Gujarati on Reverse	Remarks
M.M.S.Gubbay	R	Rangoon	Enclosed star	Wrong Gujarati	First print and Sea sunk
A.C.McWatters	S	Universalised	Rayed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in signature
H.Denning	S	Universalised	Rayed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in signature
M.M.S.Gubbay	X	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in signature
A.C.McWatters	X	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	Split in signature
A.C.McWatters	Y	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	
A.C.McWatters	Z	Universalised	Enclosed star	Correct Gujarati	

Book Review

Catalog of Banknotes of the Civil War in Russia, Volume V, Turkestan Provinces, Bukhara, Khiva (Khorezm) (1917–1923)

Mikhail Istomin, 452 pages, hard cover, 280 x 203 mm, black and white illustrations, Russian and English, published by the author, ISBN 978-966-180-084-6

Reviewed by Peter Symes 4245

The fifth volume in Mikhail Istomin's ambitious work to catalogue the banknotes of the Russian Civil War was surprisingly published recently. I say 'surprisingly' because Volume IV is yet to be published. It matters little to the order in which these volumes are published, as each brings its own piece of magic.

Similar in format and layout to the previous works in his monumental work, sections are laid out in Russian and English. Volume V is divided into three chapters—Turkestan Provinces, Bukhara, and Khiva (Khorezm). For each series of notes addressed within these chapters, a background to the issue is given, followed by a listing of the notes as a traditional catalogue. The front and back of each note is illustrated (except where images are not available), varieties are identified and prices are given in three grades. Following the catalogue details, further information on the series is given.

As I stated in my review of Volume Three of this series of books (see *IBNS Journal* Volume 49 Number 2), 'This is a book which gives the context in which the notes were issued, tells the stories behind the notes, illustrates the notes and provides details on the varieties—both by text and illustration.' It is the case again with this volume.

Some of the issues described in this tome are of the most attractive, intriguing and mysterious notes I have seen. Fortunately, some of them are illustrated on the cover and the endpapers of the book, but these illustrations don't do justice to the notes held in hand. I have often been tempted to collect these notes, but I have been uncertain of the types and varieties of notes in these series. For collectors who had similar thoughts to me, I am pleased to advise a lot of effort has been taken to provide details of notes which

determine varieties—signatures in Arabic script are provided, as well as seals and dates which provide varieties.

Leaning on the research of others, Mikhail Istomin has added his own research to produce a book well worth purchasing if you are interested in the banknotes of the Russian Civil War. Even if you are familiar with catalogue details of the various issues, this book offers an opportunity to learn about the history of the notes, as well as confirming varieties described elsewhere. Copies of Volume V of the *Catalog of Banknotes of the Civil War in Russia* can be obtained from the author; who can be contacted by email at istomin1956@rambler.ru or by post at M. Istomin, P.O. Box 2411, 61001 Kharkov, Ukraine.

