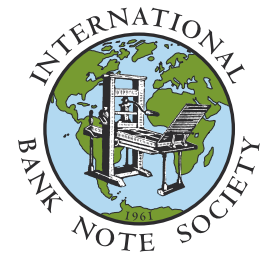


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INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY JOURNAL

Indian Banknotes Used in Burma

Mysteries Surrounding the
Issue of the World War I
'Anzac Banknotes'

The Banknotes of
Mozambique: Independence
Issues - 1991 to 2004

The Tourist Island of Corfu
Houses a Fine Museum of
Greek Paper Money

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Note as a Protest and a Vehicle
of Yearning

The Stories behind the Maps
Depicted on Latin American
Paper Money

Collecting Notes and Materials from
Banknote Printers and Suppliers



the Bearer on Demand
TEN Rupees



1897 April 3 Rangoon 3 April 1897

For the
GOVERNMENT of INDIA,

B. Hamilton

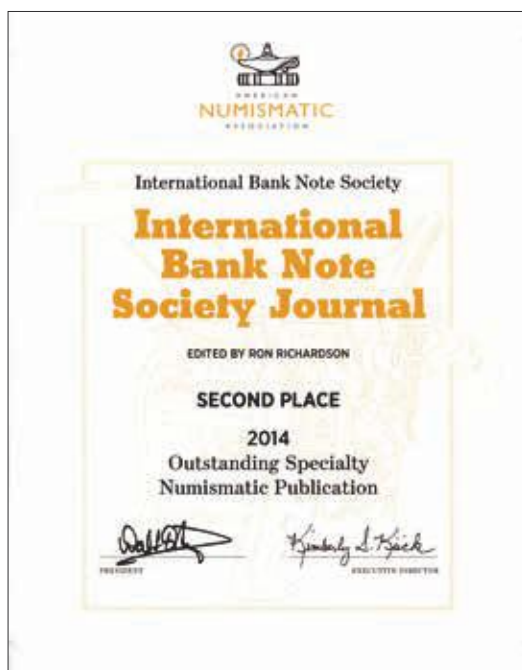
Editor's Column

Most collectors of world paper money spend at least some of their time researching their particular interests. Many, especially beginning collectors, start with the encyclopaedic *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money*. Despite its well documented weaknesses, it is still the most comprehensive listing of world paper money. Recently on the scene is The Banknote Book (TBB), available both on-line or in hardcopy. TBB is more accurate and certainly more comprehensive for the countries it covers, and these are being added to all the time. Its major weakness at the moment, however, is that it is yet to catalogue the notes of many major countries.

The next levels in the hierarchy of catalogues are those covering notes of just one country. There are almost as many of these as there are countries, so I will not attempt to list any. But generally speaking, they are far more detailed than the "global" catalogues. The Charlton catalogues (there are two volumes) in my own country of Canada, for instance, show the quantity produced of each prefix going back to 1935, with serial number ranges for more recent notes. One of my favourite books, *Billetes de la Republica Argentina* by Roberto Bottero, does something similar, plus adding amazing detail on variations in security devices and watermarks.

For advanced collectors, those who want to keep up to date with the most recent developments in their own countries, there are websites and bulletin boards. For instance, in Canada there is www.cdnpapermoney.com. In Germany there is www.banknotesworld.com (in German) and in France www.snennp.com (in French). I am sure there are many others. Perhaps members could write a short Letter to the Editor listing their national site.

I would like to conclude by sharing with members an honour the Journal has received. It has been recognized by the American Numismatic Association as one of the top numismatic publications in its class. Congratulations to all those who contributed the words and images that gained the *IBNS Journal* this honour.



Ron Richardson

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The Banknotes of India for Burma Before and After Separation

Rezwan Razack 9733

Burma had no banking business and did not issue any banknotes before its annexation by the British Empire. Following the three Anglo-Burmese annexations (1824-86), Burma was incorporated into the British Empire, not as an independent new colony, but as a province of India. Indian banknotes were used in Burma following the British occupation of lower Burma in 1824. The notes that were circulated in Burma during that period were issued by the Presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras until 1862. After the Indian Paper Money Act was passed, the issue and circulation of banknotes in India was taken over by the Government of India in March 1862. The banknotes of the Government of India were circulated in Burma and the Currency Department had a circle of issue at Rangoon, which was established in 1882. These Government of India notes were in circulation till 1938, followed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notes specific to Burma and finally the Overprinted India notes of Reserve Bank of India.



Government of India - uniface 10 rupees, green underprint - Rangoon Circle (PA2a).

Banknotes after the separation of Burma and India

In the wake of the British annexation, movements toward independence grew steadily among the people. In April 1937, the implementation of the *Government of Burma Act* (1935) brought about the long-awaited separation of Burma from British India. The territory of Burma was separated from India but remained under British rule from April 1, 1937.

The separation of Burma from British India necessitated legislation to amend The Reserve Bank of India Act. Thus emerged *The India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) Order*, 1937, along with the *Government of Burma Act*. The Monetary Arrangements Order essentially set out the legislative changes required to make the RBI the Central Bank for the two countries.

The Reserve Bank of India Act was passed by the Indian legislature and granted consent by the Governor General in 1934 and the RBI was established in 1935. The RBI was a privately owned institution modeled on the Bank of England. Although

the RBI was to manage the currency of Burma and also continue to carry on the business of banking in Burma, it was still subject to the provisions of The India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) Order, 1937.

The standard monetary unit was to be the rupee for both Burma and India. The Government of India still retained the right of coinage. The sole right to issue banknotes in Burma was given to the RBI with the Government of Burma prohibited from issuing any currency notes on its own.

There was also an obligation to issue a separate series of Burma banknotes. The newly established RBI did not issue any notes of its own for Burma and continued with the circulation of the existing Government of India notes until 1938. As an interim measure before the first distinctive Burma notes were ready, the Monetary Order permitted the use of Government of India Portrait Notes of King George V of denominations 5, 10 and 100 rupees overprinted in black with the words "Legal Tender In Burma Only" as a provisional issue.



Provisional issue, Government of India - 10 rupees, front (top) and back with black overprint LEGAL TENDER IN BURMA ONLY (P2b).

The black overprint merged with the colour of the note and was not distinctive, so it was decided to withdraw the notes with black overprints and exchanged them with notes with red overprint. This happened during the second half of 1937.



Government of India - 10 rupees, front (top) and back with red overprint LEGAL TENDER IN BURMA ONLY (P2a).

The lower denomination notes of 5 and 10 rupees of the black overprinted notes were exchanged for the red overprinted notes and destroyed.

However, for the denomination of 100 rupees, the exchange was made by cutting out the lower left hand quarter and retaining it for accounting purpose. The date on which it was exchanged was recorded with a seal on the back of the quarter note. This quarter note was never used as emergency money or as 25 rupees. The remaining 3/4th of the note was destroyed. Therefore we do not see the remaining 3/4th of these notes.

Government of India - 100 rupees



Front (below left) and back, showing seal with exchange date of 7-9-37, of exchanged 100 rupee note.

It was also a common practice in Burma to retain the lower left corner of the note for denominations 100, 1000 and 10,000 rupees for accounting purposes when these Government of India notes were exchanged for RBI "peacock" notes.



Government of India, 10,000 rupees - front lower left-hand quarter removed to record exchange for RBI notes.

There was also demand for notes of 1000 rupees. These 1000 rupees notes with the Portrait of King George V were stamped with a red hand seal on the front and the back of the Government of India notes of Rangoon Circle. They bear the serial numbers between X/6-090001 to X/6-100000.

Provisional Notes – Portrait of King George V Overprint “Legal Tender in Burma Only”

Type No.*	Denomination	Signature	Known Prefix	Remark
5.1.1A	5 rupees	J. W. Kelly	S/88-200001 – S/88-1000000; S89 and S/90	Black overprint in centre of the note on front and below on back.
5.1.1B	5 rupees	J. W. Kelly	T/18-22	Red overprint in top margin on both sides.
5.2.1A	10 rupees	J. W. Kelly	R/42-49	Black overprint in centre of note on both sides.
5.2.1B	10 rupees	J. W. Kelly	R/82-89	Red overprint in top margin on both sides.
5.3.1A	100 rupees	J. W. Kelly	T/32-40001 to 100000 T/41-000001 to 100000	Black overprint in centre of note on front and below on back.
5.3.1B	100 rupees	J. W. Kelly	T/41-100001 to 1000000 T/47-000001 to 600000	Red overprint in top margin of note on both sides.
5.3A.1	1000 rupees	J. W. Kelly	X6-090001 to 100000	Red overprint in centre of note in top margin on front and in centre of note on back.

*From *The Revised Standard Reference Guide To Indian Paper Money*.



Government of India, 1000 rupees – front (top) and back with red overprint LEGAL TENDER IN BURMA ONLY (PNL).

Reserve Bank of India 100 rupees banknote for Burma (P6) with peacock motif front (top) and back showing elephant motif.

New banknotes for both India and Burma were designed and printed at the Nasik Security Printing Press. The first distinctive Burma notes were issued in May 1938, popularly known as ‘Peacock Notes.’

The name ‘rupee’ was retained as the official name of Burma’s currency. The new ‘Peacock Notes’ issued by the Reserve Bank of India carry the promise text *I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of _____ rupees at any office of issue in Burma.* In other words, the Burma notes were not legal tender in India. Burma notes had three languages – English, Burmese and Shan. Commencing in 1938 and until July 1939 there were five denominations of Burma notes in circulation – rupees 5, 10, 100, 1,000 and 10,000 with the portrait of King George VI and all signed by J. B. Taylor on the front. The notes had distinctive design features of Burmese motifs of peacock, tusker elephant, prowling tiger, sailing dhow, ox-carts and waterfall.



Reserve Bank of India, 5 rupees banknote for Burma (P4) with the front (top) showing peacock motif and the back with an elephant motif.



Reserve Bank of India 1000 rupees banknote for Burma (P7) with prowling tiger motif on the back.



Reserve Bank of India, 10 rupees banknote for Burma (P5) with an ox cart motif on the front (top) and a sailing dhow on the back.

In the period between 1938 and 1952 there were four kinds of legal tender notes:

- The Government of India notes.
- The Government of India Provisional Issue overprinted banknotes which were in circulation until 1950.
- The RBI Peacock Notes for Burma.
- The RBI notes with Portrait of King George VI with the overprint 'Military Administration of Burma' and the 'Burma Currency Board' in denominations of 5, 10 and 100 rupees and Government of India 1 rupee Notes.

In 1938, the RBI had issued a new series of notes for circulation in India with the portrait of King George VI. The subsequent Japanese occupation and liberation of Burma during World War II saw Burma placed under a Military Administration that gradually gave way to a Civilian Rule in 1946. Both the Military Administration and the Burma Currency Board constituted under civilian Government used overprinted RBI notes in denominations of 5, 10 and 100 rupees for circulation in Burma. The RBI notes overprinted "Military Administration of Burma Legal Tender in Burma Only" were issued in 1945 and withdrawn in June 1950. The RBI notes of 5, 10 and 100 rupees were also overprinted "Burma Currency Board Legal Tender in Burma Only" issued in 1947 and withdrawn in June 1952. The 5 rupees was overprinted in black; 10 and 100 rupees were overprinted in red in both cases. In the language panel on the back of the 10 rupees note, the denomination is not mentioned in Burmese. The denomination is overprinted in Burmese in red on the front of the note.

Portrait of King George VI with Overprint “Military Administration of Burma Legal Tender in Burma Only”

Type No.*	Denomination	Signature	Known Prefix	Remark
5.9.1A	1 rupee	C. E. Jones	T/99, U/0 and U/1	Serial number in black. Red overprint on front of the note.
5.9.1B	1 rupee Inset A	C. E. Jones	C/86-99, D/0-71, E/42-99 and F/0-61	Serial number in green. Red overprint on front of the note.
5.10.1	5 rupees	J. B. Taylor	J/62-65	Black overprint on front of the note.
5.10.2	5 rupees	C.D.Deshmukh	N/20-31, N/75-80, P/11-48	Black overprint on front of the note.
5.11B.1	10 rupees	C.D.Deshmukh	C/1-10, C/79-90, D/56-75	Red overprint on front of the note. Denomination in Burmese on front.
5.12.1	100 rupees - Calcutta	J. B. Taylor	A/62-900001 to 1000000; A/73-000001 to 200000	Serial number in black. Red overprint on front of the note.
5.12.2	100 rupees - Calcutta	C.D.Deshmukh	A/89-700001 to 1000000; A/98-000001 to 100000; B/7-600001 to 1000000; B/16-000001 to 700000; B/23-700001 to 1000000; B/47-000001 to 100000	Serial number in black. Red overprint on front of the note.

*From *The Revised Standard Reference Guide To Indian Paper Money*.



Reserve Bank of India 10 rupees (P28) with red overprint of the denomination in Burmese and MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA LEGAL TENDER IN BURMA ONLY on the front. The back has no Burmese in the language panel.

The Government of India 1 rupee notes overprinted in red “Military Administration of Burma Legal Tender in Burma Only” were issued in 1945 and withdrawn in June 1950. These were used by the Armed Forces only. The Government of India 1 rupee notes overprinted in red “Burma Currency Board Legal Tender in Burma Only” were issued in 1947 and withdrawn in June 1952. These were used by Burmese nationals and civilians only.

The RBI closed its operations in Burma in September 1946. With the attainment of political independence by Burma, the Government of Burma terminated with effect from July 1, 1948 the legal tender character in Burma of the RBI notes and the Government of India 1 rupee notes without the superscription “Legal tender in Burma only.” With effect from June 1, 1950, the Government of Burma divested the old overprinted pre-war Burma notes as well as the Burma notes of distinctive design issued by the Rangoon Office of the bank and the Burma Military Administration notes issued since 1945 first by the Burma Military Administration and later by the Government themselves, of their legal tender character in Burma.

The overprinted India notes issued by the Burma Currency Board ceased to be legal tender in Burma with effect from December 29, 1952.



Reserve Bank of India 100 rupees (P33) with red overprint BURMA CURRENCY BOARD LEGAL TENDER IN BURMA ONLY on the front.

Portrait of King George VI with Overprint “Burma Currency Board Legal Tender in Burma Only”

Type No.*	Denomination	Signature	Known Prefix	Remark
5.13.1	1 rupee Inset A	C. E. Jones	K/27-66; Q/17-36	Serial number in green. Red overprint on front of note.
5.14.1	5 rupees	C.D.Deshmukh	R/24-41	Serial number in black. Black overprint on front of the note.
5.15.1	10 rupees	C.D.Deshmukh	G/31-42; H/73-82, J/43-50	Red overprint on front of the note. Denomination in Burmese on front.
5.16.1	100 rupees - Calcutta	C.D.Deshmukh	B/47-600001 to 1000000; B/52-000001 to 1000000 and B/53-000001 to 800000	Serial number in black. Red overprint on front of the note.

*From *The Revised Standard Reference Guide To Indian Paper Money*.

Under an Act which came into effect on October 1, 1947, the Union Bank of Burma was established with the obligation to act as banker to the Government and to manage the public debt. It could also act as the agent of the Currency Board on

terms mutually agreed upon and approved by the Governor of Burma. All Government of India and RBI issues for Burma were withdrawn in June 1950.

Test Your Knowledge

This quick quiz is just for fun. The answers are on page 71.

1. What is the principal unit of currency in Hungary?
2. King Baudouin I appears on banknotes issued by which European country?
3. A statue of St. Volodymyr is depicted on the banknotes of which country?
4. In which state or territory did the ‘Bank of Claus Spreckels and Company’ issue banknotes?
5. In 2004 Croatia issued a commemorative 10-kuna banknote. What anniversary did the issue commemorate?
6. The Tsing Mar Bridge is depicted on banknotes issued by which two Asian issuing authorities?
7. Which former American security printing company, active in the nineteenth century, is recognized by the initials ‘E&C’?
8. What is the current note-issuing authority in Turkmenistan?
9. Which of the following currency units was never used on banknotes issued in Hungary?
a. Forint b. Korona c. Korun d. Pengö
10. How many kings have been depicted on the banknotes of Afghanistan?