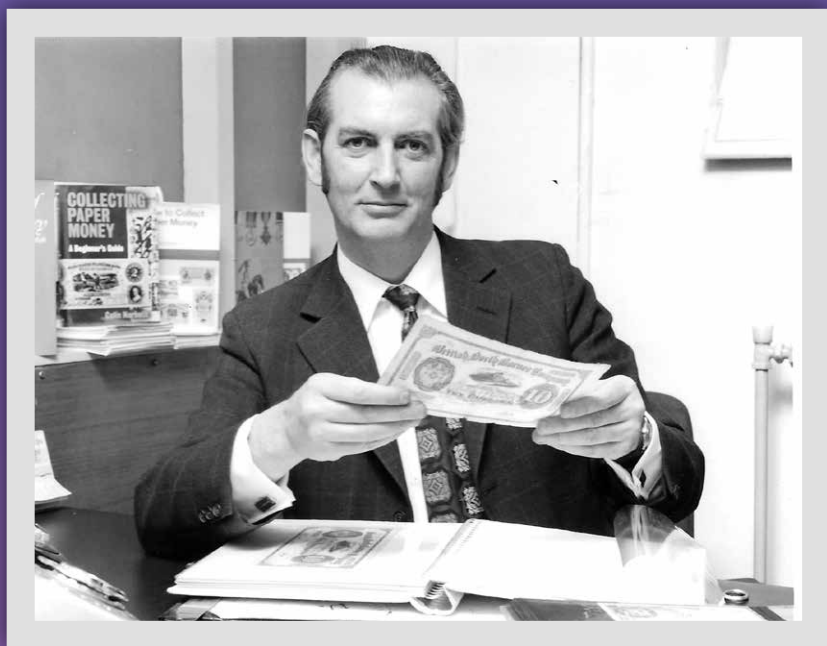


INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY

JOURNAL VOLUME 59, NUMBER 2, 2020



COLIN NARBETH: A TRIBUTE LIFE MEMBER #1 1929 - 2020



2019 IBNS BANK NOTE OF THE YEAR: ARUBA 100 FLORIN

PEASANTS,
PRODUCE & TRACTORS:
FARMING SCENES ON
COMMUNIST BANKNOTES

HIDDEN FEATURES
IN TEST NOTES

GUINEA 50
FRANCS 1958

FORGED NOTES
DURING THE COMPANY
& BRITISH RAJ IN INDIA



Museum Emblem Engraved on the Glass Entrance

REZWAN RAZACK'S MUSEUM OF INDIAN PAPER MONEY

Ibrahim Salem (LM-156)



Rezwan's Distinguished Smile Reflects his Happiness from Realizing his Dream

As a collector for more than four decades and passionate about collecting and researching World Paper Money, attending auctions, paper money shows and related events, I was honored to have the chance to travel to Bangalore, India, for the opening of Rezwan Razack's Museum of Indian Paper Money. It was an experience of a lifetime enriched by unforgettable quality time spent among several elite paper money collectors, researchers, officials, and bankers who attended the event. They came from every corner of the subcontinent of India as well as other countries including Thailand, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States and Arabia.

I have known Mr. Rezwan Razack for the past twenty years as a great person who is always passionate about his hobby of collecting Indian Paper Money and a great researcher in this field that has resulted in writing books and several articles published regionally and internationally.



From the Left: Rezwan Razack, Ibrahim Salem, Honorable Dr. C. Rangarajan - Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

In this article, I would like to share with fellow collectors the enjoyable experience I had during this trip to Bangalore, India.



Museum Interior

Rezwan Razack descended from a well-known family in the field of trading and property development. He is the co-founder and Joint-Managing Director of the Prestige Group and is one of the tycoons of property development in India. Rezwan along with his two brothers have worked for several decades to build a high-class development group in India and internationally. He has played a pivotal role in the company's growth over the years.



Rezwan's Private Office at the Top Floor of Prestige Group Headquarters

Rezwan is a passionate collector of Indian Paper Money and the Chairman of the India Chapter of the International Banknote Society (IBNS). He was recognized by the IBNS for his significant contribution to The Advancement of Numismatic Knowledge for his article titled *Banknotes of Portuguese India*. Rezwan received the IBNS *Literary Achievement Award* and the *Fred Philipson Award* Honorable Mention for this article in the Journal.

I always appreciated Mr. Rezwan's enthusiasm for the hobby and his dedicated search for the most elite material related to Indian Paper Money. His generosity in sharing knowledge with others whenever and wherever possible, and educating children and budding collectors to promote numismatics as a hobby are truly laudable. He writes regularly on Indian Paper Money for numismatic publications in India and overseas. The peak of his joy but not the last was the inauguration of his museum of Indian Paper Money on the 15th February 2020 in Bangalore, India.

The museum is beyond any expectations of accuracy, perfection and is overwhelming. Being a professional architect, I realized the volume of effort, timing and expenses needed to establish a state-of-the-art museum enriched by the material, ambiance and method of display. Locating the museum within the premises of Prestige Group's Corporate Headquarters ensured that it will be always under the umbrella of Rezwan Razack for daily follow-up, upgrading and smoothly managing.



Wide-angle View of the Museum Interior

This is the first museum of its type in India housing the collection that Rezwan built over fifty years and the biggest museum of its type in the world. It reflects the exhaustive research culminating in his co-authoring an encyclopedic book *The Revised Standard Reference Guide to Indian Paper Money*, released in 2012. It is today considered to be the bible of Indian Paper Money. In 2017 Rezwan wrote his second book *One Rupee—One Hundred Years 1917-2017* to mark the 100th anniversary of the issue of the one Rupee note in India.



Inauguration Ribbon Cutting by the Former Governor of RBI

The inauguration was presided by his Honorable Dr. C. Rangarajan – Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) who had cut the inauguration ribbon and gave a great lecture about the history of paper money, exchange logistics and the role of the Reserve Bank in financial matters to secure the stability of the currency within the country and internationally. The inauguration was enriched by the attendance of Mr. Jose Katoor – Regional Director (RBI), Bazil Shaikh – Former Secretary (RBI) and Mr. Rezwan’s eldest brother, Mr. Irfan Razack – Chairman and Managing Director, Prestige Estates Projects Ltd.



On the High Stage from the Left: Irfan Razack, Rezwan Razack, Honorable Dr. C. Rangarajan – Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

The event was attended by over four hundred guests including government officials, bankers, businessmen, collectors, numismatists, friends and family. The guests enjoyed a quick tour through the museum and were

invited to the inaugural event afterward which took place at the garden of Prestige Group’s Corporate Headquarters building. A film on the history of building up Rezwan’s collection and establishing the museum was shown. Later the honorable guests gave their speeches followed by greeting and thanking the museum team, and capped off by an authentic Indian cuisine dinner.



Dinner at Backyard of Prestige Headquarters Building

A visitor to the museum will enjoy a fairy tale history of Indian Paper Money going back to the days of the French and Portuguese influence as well as the British colonial period from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. The displays reflect the story of money woven into the very being, uniting, dividing, giving a sense of identity and indeed mapping people and nations’ powers, progress, crises and triumphs.



Portrait Notes of Queen Victoria and Uniface Notes of Government of India, 1861 - 1930

Rezwan’s intent to leave behind a legacy for young Indians and future generations to follow was apparent in the state-of-the-art and well-thought-out displays and in every meticulous detail tailored with engineering techniques protecting the exhibits from any future discoloration or fading. No nails, screws, or glue were used for the showcases. Each case is monitored individually for temperature and humidity. The lighting technique was perfected by the museum’s international experts.



Currency in Circulation during the British Era and the Post-Independence Era to Present

Extract of the official press release:

“An auxiliary collection has also been painstakingly put together to explain the inspirations and techniques of making paper currency. While original hand-painted essays, patterns, proofs, trials, specimen notes, autographed notes and a rare Star of India Medal demonstrate fascinating aspects of money, meticulously sourced cheques, stamp papers relating to Indian Paper Money, booklets and banknotes help decode the ubiquitous world of money.”

“This world-class collection is outstanding for its depth and diversity. It includes a superlative selection of banknotes dating back to the early 1800s, early Private and Presidency Banks, including the uniface or one-sided notes attributed to the colonial Government of India. The portrait notes of British monarchs such as Queen Victoria, King George V and VI are present while India’s colonial history has been aptly documented in the notes from French India, Portuguese India. From Princely States of Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir and Saurashtra States, Cash Coupons, Prisoners of War Coupons to Indian notes issued in the 19th century, the museum will map the shifting kaleidoscope of history through the medium of currency in the Indian subcontinent. Indian Notes used in Burma and Pakistan and rare notes used in the Arabian Gulf States and by Haj pilgrims are valuable additions. A sweeping array of current Indian notes are also on view.”



Certificate of Museum Attendance

Mr. Rezwan Razack didn’t leave the event without adding his personal gestures such as certificates of attendance to the museum, memorable mint coins and other souvenirs. He confirmed to me personally that soon he will be printing a museum visitor guide and a book about the contents of the museum in addition to publishing a quarterly newsletter that highlights the latest and most recent activities, achievements, seminars, talks and updates about the museum.



Commemorative Silver Coins Minted for the Museum

I praise Rezwan’s effort to build this numismatic castle and hope that similar efforts will take place in other parts of the world soon. At the end and on behalf of myself, my family and friends who attended the great event, I would like to thank Mr. Rezwan Razack and his family for the generous hospitality and warm welcome extended to all of us during our unforgettable time we spent in Bangalore, India.