

R. Two Rixdollars.

No. 03271 **2.**



Cape of Good Hope, 21 March, 1831.

W. B. Ambrose

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J. J. W. Maynes

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South African Paper Money *R. F. Kennedy*

In the past few years there has been a growing interest in bank-notes and similar paper currency as a field for collecting. In 1967, *Papiergeld: ein Handbuch für Sammler und Liebhaber*, by Albert Pick, was published by Klinkhardt & Biermann of Braunschweig, a comprehensive text-book dealing with paper money in all parts of the world from the collector's point of view. It has a section on Africa and a subsection on South Africa, but does not deal with our issues in any detail. What interested me most in the book was its bibliography. Reference is made to several societies of collectors: the International Banknote Society, with its headquarters in England (a Johannesburg man, Mr Jimmie Lawrence, was President of this Society in 1964-5); the Society of Paper Money Collectors, in the United States; the Canadian Paper Money Society, and others. Seventeen periodicals dealing with paper money collecting are listed and 78 handbooks or catalogues dealing with the notes of individual countries. The general literature on the subject is very fully listed. And yet there is no item for South Africa in this very extensive bibliography.

The late Dr J. G. Gubbins, the founder of the Africana Museum, Johannesburg, was a collector of bank-notes. In 1931 he showed his coins and bank-notes to a joint meeting of the Johannesburg Branch of the Economic Society of South Africa and the Commerce Students' Society. He wound up by saying 'that his part was only to show what he had collected, and he hoped that students would use the data to write monographs on the early currency.' There was, of course, already a definitive monograph on South African currency. Professor E. H. D. Arndt's *Banking and Currency Development in South Africa, 1652-1927* was published by Juta & Co. in 1928. Although written from the point of view of the economist, it includes all the background information necessary to the collector for an understanding of his bank-notes: the circumstances leading to their issue, how many were issued, when withdrawn and so on. Unfortunately it is now out of print, but it

can be obtained through an antiquarian bookseller, probably after a long wait. However, Arndt's book is the first thing that a collector of South African bank-notes should buy, and until he buys one he will have to go to a library and use its copy.

Gubbins, a private collector, got together a very interesting and very varied collection of South African paper money; all the VOC items now in the Africana Museum came from Gubbins, none have been acquired since. After his death in 1935, the Museum continued to collect paper money, until in about 1950 it seemed good enough for a special exhibition. It was known that the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, had a good collection of Transvaal notes and those of Cape and Natal private banks, and that the South African Reserve Bank had a good collection, including the notes issued by the great Imperial banks. These two institutions agreed to lend their collections for cataloguing and display with the Africana Museum's collection. The exhibition, probably the most comprehensive exhibition of South African paper money ever to be held, was displayed in the Johannesburg Public Library in the second half of 1953. It was most impressive; bank-notes make beautiful display material. The catalogue gave an introductory paragraph for each issue and each bank, taken mainly from Arndt, and then described each of the 256 individual notes on display in great detail, including the names of printers and engravers, an item omitted from most bank-note catalogues. It was a very good catalogue; within the limits of its subject, the most detailed catalogue of bank-notes I have seen. It would have been better had it had an index to printers, artists, those whose signatures appear on the notes, etc. Unfortunately, the catalogue, *South African Paper Money 1782-1921*, was issued in stencil form in a small edition, and very soon became unobtainable. Had it been printed instead of stencilled it would have been included in Pick's bibliography to *Papiergeld*, Braunschweig, 1967.

A note in *Bickel's Coin and Medal News*, August 1966, commenting on the increasing interest in South African paper money, said 'We have no catalogues, organised statistics, prices and definitions - virtually nothing to go by'. The Africana Museum catalogue is very comprehensive and statistics are in Arndt.

Who collects bank-notes? The economist is likely to get more from them than other people, because they illustrate the economic history of the country. They also illustrate the social and political history. The war issues, for instance, invoke a picture of people under the stresses and strains of war and, with the background story of the notes, provide a picture of the sufferings of a people in adversity. I have in mind

particularly those ZAR war issues, paid to public servants as salary and then repudiated. Some collectors will be more interested in the printing of the notes, especially in those printed in South Africa. What more telling example of the state of the civilised arts in the Transvaal could one have than the locally printed ZAR issues of the 1860's? Some of the engraving on the notes is of a high quality and some of our notes could be collected as works of art. But I think that most people become addicted to bank-notes because they are so rare and so difficult to find. Theoretically they are all called in and destroyed, except the ZAR war issues which were never redeemed and never officially destroyed. Therefore, they are the least rare.

In reading the literature of bank-note collecting in other countries, one gathers that some collectors search for types, they only want one example of each type; others want all denominations of a type, but not all issues of the type; some restrict their collecting to fractional money (i.e. small change), while others exclude fractional money. We tend to call paper money of very low denominations *Good-fors*. Regional collecting is another method of specialising. South African notes are so scarce that not much specialising is possible. One could restrict oneself to all the issues of the Imperial banks, including those issued for different towns in the different colonies. One could confine oneself to the issues of the numerous local private banks in the Cape Colony. The collection of ZAR Government notes has its attractions because there is the possibility of reaching completeness – and what a variety of notes there are in this series and what a story they tell! The OFS would prove too frustrating; one never sees an OFS note nowadays, except those in museums and other inviolable collections. The first OFS issue of £30,000 worth was put into circulation in 1865. They were to circulate for ten years and thereafter be cancelled and destroyed at the rate of £6,000 a year. It was officially reported that they had all been destroyed by 6 May 1879, and yet there are three examples of the £1 note in the National Museum in Bloemfontein. What hope is there of a private collector ever obtaining one of these notes? However, you never know; those in the Museum came from somewhere and perhaps others escaped along the same channel.

If I were making a private collection of South African paper money I should start by acquiring whatever came my way, of whatever period or colony or denomination. It seems to me that what makes a collection of South African bank-notes so interesting is its variety. Later, specialisation is sure to set in, as it did with the Gubbins collection. He had nothing like a complete set of ZAR Government notes, but the set

has been completed over the years, except for that 1866 2/6d note if it ever existed.

The VOC Notes

South Africa's first paper money was issued as a result of the war between Britain and the Netherlands in 1781 and the consequent shortage of coins. The first notes, issued on the instructions of Governor Van Plettenberg on 31 May 1782, were pieces of parchment, paper when the parchment ran out, hand-written and die-stamped by hand. The printing press had not yet reached the Cape. There were many forgeries of notes of the first issue, notes dated between 1782 and 1784, and the issue was withdrawn. There was a second issue between 1788 and 1792 and a third between 1793 and 1795. Very few of these notes have survived; there are three in the Africana Museum and examples can be seen at the South African Museum and the Cape Archives. These notes are not very uniform: the general pattern is the amount hand-written at the top, the VOC stamp about the middle and the two signatures below. There were nineteen denominations, ranging from 12 stuivers (approximately 1/-) to 60 Rixdollars (approximately £12). The Rixdollar, worth about 4/- sterling, was only money of account; there were no Rixdollar coins. Forty-eight stuivers (they were real money) went to the Rixdollar, so a stuiver was worth about a penny. Later, 2 stuiver and 6 stuiver notes were added to the VOC issue.

During the First British Occupation the British continued to issue notes in Rixdollars and stuivers – they issued nearly half-a-million Rixdollar worth – but none of this period has survived, so far as I know. At this time, the Skilling (6 stuivers) was the smallest denomination available and certain firms and individuals issued private notes or good-fors of values lower than one Skilling. So far as is known none of these is extant. We only know about them from the literature.

The Batavian Republic

In 1803, Commissary De Mist reported on currency at the Cape. It was considered necessary to continue with paper money. However, there had been so many issues and different ways of issuing that it was impossible to ascertain the exact amount of paper in circulation. He therefore recommended that all existing money should be recalled and a fresh start made. As from 1 February 1804 all old notes were to be handed in within three months; thereafter they would have no value. Provision was made for the old notes to be publicly burnt. In 1804 new

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notes were issued, printed on blue, green, red, and yellow card. There were 21 denominations ranging from Rds.500 down to one-eighth of a Rixdollar (about 6d). There is a set of this issue in the Koloniaal Archief at The Hague and there is an illustration of a Rds.200 note of 1804 in *Pictorial History of South Africa* (Odhams Press). There are illustrations of a 2 Schellingen Goed voor and a Rds.5 Goed voor in *A History of Currency in South Africa* (South African Museum, Cape Town, 1956).

Second British Occupation

Existing paper money continued to circulate under the British regime and towards the end of 1806 the British made a further issue of Rds.80,000. There is an illustration of a Rds.5 note dated November 1808 in Cory's *The Rise of South Africa*, vol. 1, p161. This illustration is not very clear but the round stamp appears to be the lion rampant as on the 1804 note. So, it seems that the British were issuing notes with the stamp of the late Batavian Republic government as late as 1808. Then, because of the numerous forgeries of these notes, it was decided that future issues should be printed on card from Britain.

The thin cards for this new type came from Britain blank on the front and with an intricate rectangular design on the back with the denomination in the centre on a white diamond. The back of a blank form for a Rds.10 note is brown on white. Cory in *The Rise of South Africa*, vol. 1, pp162-3, gives an interesting description of these Rixdollar notes. He writes:

‘This paper, or perhaps more correctly cardboard, money was not very durable . . . soon became defaced and very dirty. All this necessitated frequent reprinting of new paper money, and complete destruction of that which was worn out. When occasion arose for a renewal, the receiver-general and a member of the High Court of Justice were appointed by the Governor to examine, conjointly, all the worn-out and defaced paper money which had found its way back to the Treasury. The Secretary of the Court of Justice then applied at the office of the Colonial Secretary for the box containing the dies or metal stamps and also for a quantity of cartoon. These were pieces of stout paper cut to the proper size and having on one side a coloured design . . . Then in the presence of the fiscal (attorney-general) and two members of the Court of Justice, the pieces had their face values stamped upon them. This operation at an end, the dies were replaced in the box, which was carefully fastened and sealed with the seal of the Governor and

IV. Skillings 2.

2.

TWO SKILLINGS.

Cape of Good Hope, 29 June, 1821.

William

William

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also that of the Court of Justice and replaced in the Colonial Secretary's office. The newly stamped pieces, however, were not ready for circulation until certain signatures had been added to them. All the pieces of each denomination were signed by three high officials, different officials being appointed for the different denominations . . . The money when quite finished was handed over to the receiver-general, who then exchanged it for a further quantity of damaged notes.'

The burning of the old notes took place in the courtyard of the Castle in the presence of the Fiscal, the Deputy Commisary-General, two members of the Court of Justice and two members of the Burgher Senate.

Cory records that in the nineteen years, 1806 to 1824, there were ninety of these note renewals, an average of nearly five per annum. These figures were probably taken from *A Correct Register of Colonial Paper Money . . . 1806 to . . . 1824*, by William Stringer; printed for W. Bridekirk, 1824. This early printed item lists dates, values, colours and by whom signed, but not the number of notes.

Of course, it was not only the renewal of old notes; the total of paper money in circulation was continually being increased. In June 1810 the issue of paper money was increased by Rds.500,000, between 1812 and 1814 a further half-million was added, in 1815 Rds.100,000 and in 1822 a further Rds.200,000. This not only made a lot of work for the high officials, it also led to the depreciation of the Rixdollar, until in 1824 it fell to 1/6d. The printing of more paper when money was needed was not peculiar to the Transvaal.

The issues between 1810 and 1824 were stamped as shown in the illustration (page 64) of a Rds.2 note dated 21.3.1821. In the circle around Britannia is the denomination and the date 1808. This date appears on all the notes seen except some issued in 1814, which have the date 1810. Britannia is evolving. She is similar to the Britannia on Bank of England notes, but in the Cape version she has a trident instead of a spear. She had not yet acquired her helmet.

The special card with decoration on the back was not used for denominations lower than Rd.1 and they had no Britannia stamp. The illustration shows two notes for 2 Skillings each, printed on one card.

This ends the *cartoon* money. In 1824 it was decided to reduce the paper money in circulation and to introduce sterling. But before this could be done it was necessary to call in all the *cartoon* money and to replace it by a reduced number of new, different notes on thin paper but still retaining the Rixdollar currency. This new type had a circular

red stamp in the middle of each note showing in figures the value of each and the words *Rixdollars, Cape of Good Hope* in white letters on a red ground encircling the figures. There is an illustration of this note in *A History of Currency in South Africa*, issued by the South African Museum in Cape Town. These were authorised in 1828 but by 1830 it was found that there were so many forgeries that another type was introduced. There is an example of this type in the South African Library, Cape Town. It is a Rds.40 note on flimsy white paper. Its distinguishing feature is an oblong stamp in red, replacing the round stamp in the previous issue. This has a decorative border enclosing a red field crossed by wavy white lines; in the centre of this is a decorative circle with border and in its centre a white circle with '40' in black ink. This is also illustrated in *A History of Currency in South Africa*.

In July 1831 the Treasury authorised the issue of sterling notes to the value of £205,000 in denominations of £1, £5, £20, £50 and £100. By 1852 all but about £800 of these notes had been withdrawn and cancelled. The Reserve Bank has a £100 note of this issue dated 13 July 1849. No other institution seems to have the issue represented in its collection.

A proclamation was issued in 1832 stating that all Rixdollar and Skilling notes were to be withdrawn and replaced by sterling, but it was not until March 1841 that the exchange of these notes for sterling was completed.

The Cape Private Banks

Most of the notes mentioned so far are so extremely rare that collectors are unlikely to acquire them. If they already have one or more they are very fortunate. The next group, the notes of the private banks of the Cape are also rare but not so rare that they are never offered. In spite of their rarity they have never fetched very high prices. For instance the £5 note of the Montagu Bank, a very impressive note engraved in London but not a very rare note in this group, was sold by auction at the Raubenheimer sale in 1968 for R8. Several of those in the Africana Museum have written on them in pencil *Purchased from C. J. Roberts & Co. C.T. for 2/- 9 October 1922*.

Thirty-three of these local Cape banks are listed in the Africana Museum's catalogue of *South African Paper Money*, although the Museum itself had notes of only seventeen of them, and very few for the banks not then represented have been acquired since. This indicates how rare these notes are. Many of these had branches in several different towns and some issued notes of more than one denomination,

SHILLINGS
5
STERLING

Bank of Good Hope
Promise to pay the Bearer on demand

Pd.

FIVE SHILLINGS STERLING

Pay Down the day of 1822 N^o
For *Elder's & Company*

**Five
Shillings St^d**

so there is plenty to collect in this field. There is not space to refer to all the banks. I propose therefore to refer to some of the more interesting.

Mr J. B. Ebdon applied to the Cape Government in 1825 for permission to establish the Cape of Good Hope Bank and submitted specimens of the notes he proposed to issue. His application was unsuccessful and the notes were unissued. The only denomination to have been preserved is the 5/-. There are examples of this in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. It is not known whether there were other denominations. The note is, of course, unsigned and undated except for 182_ to be completed. It is an interesting note with a vignette of shipping in Table Bay with Table Mountain in the background and an elaborate border of the same kind but not the same design as on the unissued Bank of South Africa notes.

Ebdon at last succeeded in getting his Cape of Good Hope Bank opened in Cape Town on 1 August 1837. It was the first South African bank to be given permission to issue its own notes. In 1881 the Bank advertised branches at Kimberley, Du Toit's Pan, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, King William's Town, Oudtshoorn, Graaff-Reinet, Murraysburg, Aberdeen, Queenstown, Tarkastad, Cradock and Aliwal North. The Institute of Bankers in South Africa has two £5 notes: Cape Town, 1886; and Cradock Branch, overprinted *Johannesburg* and stamped *Klerksdorp issue*, dated 8 February 1890. The Transvaal Museum has a Graham's Town £5, dated 1 November 1880. The Africana Museum has a £10 note, Cape Town but stamped *Johannesburg issue*. This is dated 1889. The bank failed in 1890 but this note appears to have been paid into the Nationale Bank at Krugersdorp on 4 December 1896 - it bears that bank's stamp and date. All these notes are of the same type, engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., London. They have a large vignette of Hope standing, with an anchor and flowering plants at her side and a sailing vessel in the background.

In the Africana Museum there is a printer's proof of a different type of £5 note designed for the Kimberley Branch of the Cape of Good Hope Bank. It is not known whether it was ever used, probably not. The bank issued notes from 1837 and the earliest I have seen is dated 1880.

On 21 July 1955 Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company wrote to Mr James Henry, the historian of the Standard Bank, saying that they engraved and printed notes for the Cape of Good Hope Bank from 1879 to 1889, for branches at Cape Town, Graaff-Reinet, King William's Town, Aliwal North, Oudtshoorn, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Fraserburg, Cradock, Grahamstown and Queenstown. The denominations were £1,

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£5, £10 and £20, but the £1, £10 and £20 were only for the Cape Town Branch, whereas the £5 notes were engraved and printed for the eleven branches.

In 1825 Mr Arthur Hogue proposed to establish the Bank of South Africa and brought to the Cape a quantity of blank notes engraved from a steel plate under Sir William Congrieve's patent which rendered forgery almost impossible. The notes were never issued; when the Bank was established in 1838, it was called the South African Bank. There is a £20 note of this bank, dated 7 February 1887, in the collection of the Institute of Bankers in South Africa in Cape Town. Unissued notes are much easier to collect than those that became money. In the Africana Museum there are five denominations of the unissued Bank of South Africa notes: 2 sk., 3 sk., 4 sk., 1 Rixdollar and 3 Rixdollars. Rixdollar currency is still used, as it was for government notes at this time. The surprising thing is that Ebdon should have used sterling for the Cape of Good Hope Bank.

The Cape Commercial Bank was established in Cape Town in 1854. It had branches at Beaufort West and Stellenbosch and was the first bank to open in the Transvaal, where it had branches in Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Lydenburg and Pilgrim's Rest. It opened in the Transvaal in 1873, was caught up in the depression following retrocession in 1881 and failed in 1882. The Transvaal Museum has a very fine run of the notes of this bank. The Cape Town notes have the imprint of Nissen & Parker, Sc. London, while the notes of all branches have the imprint of Saul Solomon & Co., Cape Town. The London notes are better printed than the South African ones; the vignette is the same in both and although there are differences in the lettering, they are both of the same type of note. One of the Cape Town notes, printed in London, has the inscription *Charles Bell, delt. 1854*. So, this note, not very outstanding as a work of art – the vignette is poor – was drawn by that versatile man, Charles Bell, who designed the Cape triangular stamp and who left us such a glorious pictorial record of Andrew Smith's expedition to the Transvaal in 1834-5. Charles Bell was a Director of the Cape Commercial Bank in its early days.

The Transvaal Museum has £5, £10 and £20 notes of the Cape Town office and £5 and £10 for Stellenbosch and Beaufort West. It also has £1 and £5 for the Pretoria, Potchefstroom and Lydenburg branches. These Transvaal notes are interesting. After 1877 the words *S. A. Republic* were crossed out and *Transvaal* substituted. *Lydenburg Branch* is printed on the notes printed for this branch, but they were also used for other of the Eastern Transvaal Goldfields. One finds a note

with *New Caledonia Goldfields* printed immediately below *Cape Commercial Bank* and in the body of the note is printed *Pilgrim's Rest* and this is over stamped *Lydenburg*. In another the heading is *Lydenburg Branch* and *Pilgrim's Rest* appears in the text. This is all part of the confusion that must have reigned in that part of the country in the 70's and early 80's. The Africana Museum has a Cape Town note for £20; Stellenbosch and Beaufort West notes for £5 and for the Lydenburg Branch, a pencil drawing and two printer's proofs.

Many of the items in the Gubbins Collection were purchased at 2/- each from C.J. Roberts & Co., in 1922. These were nearly all unissued notes and printer's pulls, with a few pencil designs. It is not always known whether these are 'trials' that were not adopted or 'proofs' for notes that were used. For example, in the Museum there are three items for the Swellendam Bank, all for £5, but each differing from the others in design. The first is an unissued note engraved by William Brown & Co. of London from *Hard Steel Plates*. This is a very elaborate design with a landscape for vignette. The second, engraved by C.J. Roberts of Cape Town, is a much less sophisticated note with a rather crude vignette including a bale of wool, a horse, a sheep and an ox. The Transvaal Museum also has an unissued note of this type. The third, also engraved by Roberts, is a simple note with an anchor in the vignette. Three types and we don't know which, if any, of them were issued. It is desirable to have trials and proofs and unissued notes in a collection, but it seems to me that used notes are more necessary. I would much prefer a used note, with its date and signatures, to an unissued note, but if there is already a used note in the collection, then I should like to have an unissued note to go with it. But this is mere speculation; these notes are so rare that you take what comes your way.

C. J. Roberts' imprint as engraver also appears on unissued notes of the Beaufort Bank and the South African Central Bank at Graaff-Reinet. It was he who printed the famous Cape woodblock triangular postage stamps.

Several of the Cape banks issued notes of £4 denomination but there are none for £1. This was because between 1822 and 1891 the issue by firms or individuals of notes for less than Rds.50 or £3.15.0. was forbidden by law. The only £4 note in the Africana Museum is a printer's pull for the Fort Beaufort and Victoria Bank. The Transvaal Museum has one from the Queenstown Bank, signed and dated 25 April 1870. This is an interesting note because it was designed by Charles Bell. The Institute of Bankers in South Africa has £4 notes of the Colesberg Bank and the Somerset East Bank.

In the 1850's a few firms that were not banks issued their own £5 notes. The most common of these notes is that of Barry and Nephews, of Swellendam. This is a note of pleasant design, with a vignette symbolic of trade in the rural areas, engraved by Royston & Brown, of London. The Africana Museum note is unissued, as are most Barry notes. Mosenthal Brothers issued their own £5 note from 1854 to 1860. This was engraved by Rowe, Kentish & Co. of London on paper water-marked *Mosenthal Brothers Cape of Good Hope*. The one in the Africana Museum is signed and dated 2 January 1857. The Africana Museum has a printer's pull of a £5 note of King and Company, Namaqualand. Hopkins, of Cape Town, was the engraver. The vignette is a view of King's Mine, Springbok. There is an illustration of a Namaqua Mining Company £5 note, unissued, in *A History of Currency in South Africa*.

As a safeguard against bank failures, the Cape Government introduced the Bank Act of 1891, which decreed that every bank wishing to issue notes in the Colony must deposit with the Treasurer securities to cover the amount of the issue. This was shutting the stable door after the horse had departed, for, by 1891, all the small local banks except one had either failed or been incorporated into one of the powerful big banks. The government had uniform notes printed and issued these to the banks after receiving securities for the amount. A space was left on the notes for the name of the bank and for the signatures of its officials. And so, from 1892 all banks in the Cape were required to use notes of the same type, although they continued to use their own notes in other parts of South Africa. This continued until 1921.

The banks operating in the Cape in 1892 were the African Banking Corporation, Bank of Africa, National Bank, Standard Bank and the Stellenbosch District Bank. Later the Netherlands Bank had a branch at Cape Town. The denominations were £1, £5, £10 and £20 and, from 1916, 10/-.

This is not a very interesting series. The different denominations differ in size and colour. They have as their principal feature the Cape coat-of-arms and on the back a very complicated decoration. Back and front are illustrated in *A History of Currency in South Africa*. The Reserve Bank has a very wide range of these notes, very monotonous. And yet they have their interest. I wonder whether the Stellenbosch District Bank ever took any of these notes; none appears in any collection that I have ever seen.

The Orange Free State

Those who like difficult collecting should specialise in the OFS. There was very little and what there was has mostly disappeared. The fullest information on OFS notes is to be found in the *Navorsinge van die Nasionale Museum*, Bloemfontein, vol. 1, pp1-17, where Dr A. C. Hoffman describes the paper money, good-fors, postal orders, etc. in the Museum.

The OFS Government in 1865 issued £30,000 worth of government notes to be circulated through the Bloemfontein Bank. The first notes to be issued were very crudely printed and the type closely resembles that on the first issue of Transvaal notes, also issued in 1865 and also printed on a grey-blue paper. The distinguishing feature of these notes is the large OFS arms on a shield. The President (J.H. Brand), who had to sign all the notes, did not like them and ordered them to be withdrawn and burnt and replaced by notes printed by a London firm. So there were two types of the first issue: one, *the blue-back*, the crude note of which there is one £1 note in the National Museum, Bloemfontein, dated 27 July 1865; and two, an orange-coloured note engraved by William Brown & Co., of London. The National Museum has two £1 notes of this type.

In 1866 a second issue of notes was authorised to a total of £100,000. This issue was for two purposes: £43,000 secured by government properties in Witzieshoek to meet expenses incurred in the Basuto War, and £57,000 to be lent to farmers on mortgage of land at six per cent per annum interest. Before the second issue was made the value of the OFS £1 note had fallen to 15/-; with the increased number of notes it fell to 11/-. But the government resisted all efforts to have further notes issued and decided to speed up the redemption of those in circulation. By 1880 the whole of the first issue of £30,000 and the whole of the £57,000 for loans to farmers were reported as having been called in and destroyed. All government notes were to be returned by the end of 1883, after which the government would not recognise them.

The £1 note of the second issue was of the same type as the first issue, second type, the orange note. The inscription, however, differs and for the second issue there are two different inscriptions: one for the £43,000 secured by Witzieshoek, and the other for the £57,000 lent to farmers. The National Museum has both and the Transvaal Museum one with Witzieshoek in the inscription. The National Museum also has a £5 note with the loan to farmers inscription. This is on white paper and from the description it would appear to be a local printing. The OFS Government issued no more notes.

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OFS Banks

Three banks in the OFS issued notes before the first government issue. The Bloemfontein Bank was established in 1862 and by December 1864 its notes outstanding amounted to £13,500. As far as is known none of these early notes has survived. The National Museum has £10, £5 and £1 notes of this bank issued in 1874. The bank was absorbed by De Nationale Bank van den Oranje Vrystaat in 1877.

The Fauresmith Bank was established in March 1863 and absorbed by the Standard Bank in December of that year. It was re-established in 1873 and absorbed by the Oriental Bank in 1875. The Institute of Bankers in South Africa has an issued £1 note of the Fauresmith Bank dated 14 September 1863, engraved by Saul Solomon in red ink on white paper. This is the only one known. In the Africana Museum are a drawing of and a printer's pull of a £5 note for this bank. The pull has Saul Solomon's imprint. This differs from the issued note. My guess is that it is a trial for a design that was not used and that it was drawn and printed in 1863. The Transvaal Museum has a £1 note signed and dated 18.3.1873 and a £5 signed and dated 14.10.1874, both engraved by William Brown & Co. of London.

The Standard Bank opened branches in the Orange Free State in 1863 at Bloemfontein and Fauresmith. Strong rivalry developed between the Standard and the Bloemfontein Bank which resulted in the Volksraad passing a resolution forbidding foreign banks from establishing in the OFS without the permission of the Volksraad, and giving existing foreign banks until 1 January 1866 to wind up their business and depart. The Institute of Bankers in South Africa has two £1 notes of this period, issued by the Standard Bank of British South Africa, one payable at Bloemfontein dated 2 March 1864, and the other at Fauresmith dated 26 March 1864. These treasures were engraved by Batho & Co. of London. The Fauresmith note is illustrated in the *South African Bankers' Journal*, 1955. The Standard Bank did not return to the OFS until 1900; thereafter it had many branches there.

De Nationale Bank van den Oranje Vrystaat was established in 1877 and in the same year absorbed the Bloemfontein Bank. It was itself absorbed by the National Bank of South Africa in 1910. In 1900 it changed its name to the National Bank of the Orange River Colony. The National Museum, Bloemfontein, has a £1 note dated 25 Mei 1886, engraved by William Brown & Co., London. This appears to be of the same type as the £1 note in the Africana Museum dated 21 Juli 1891. The Africana Museum also has a £5 note of 1 November 1902, £10 dated October 1908 and £20 dated 1.11.1902. The inscription

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etc. on these particular banknotes is in English after 1900.

Several foreign banks were given permission to establish branches in the OFS from 1875. The notes of these might be included here as part of an OFS collection or in collections covering the issues of the banks in their many branches throughout South Africa.

Good-fors issued by banks ought perhaps to be included here. The Transvaal good-fors were part of the government currency. The National Museum, Bloemfontein, has many good-fors issued by the Bloemfontein Bank in the denominations 1/-, 1/6d, 2/6d, 5/- and 10/-; also 1/-, 1/6d, 2/6d, 5/- and 10/- issued by the Bloemfontein Branch of the Fauresmith Bank in 1875.

The Government Notes of the South African Republic

This group of eight separate issues running from 1865 to 1902 is perhaps the most collectable of all. We know what should constitute a complete set, there are some printings with minor variations, and, perhaps most important, more have survived than of any other regular currency of the nineteenth century. They admirably illustrate the history of the Transvaal when it was a poor rural community with no knowledge of finance and the naive belief that when the country needed money all it had to do was to print more.

The group was fully described in *The South African Bankers' Journal*, August, 1957, and a reprint of the article published with the title *The Government Notes of the South African Republic*, by R. F. Kennedy. This article, with an illustration of each type of note, was based on the actual notes in the Africana Museum and the Transvaal Museum; the background material was taken mainly from Arndt. Since then Professor A. N. Pelzer has made an intensive study of the historical, legal and economic aspects of the issue of ZAR Government notes from 1865 to 1871, that is excluding the South African war issues. This full and well-documented study was published in *Historia*, December 1965 and March 1966, with the title *Die Ingebruikstelling van Papiergeld in die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek*.

It is usual to start the group with an example of a mandaat, although mandaten were never currency and so do not rank as paper money. In the early days of the Republic there was little money; trade was conducted by barter. This was difficult for the government when it had to pay salaries or for services. The mandaten were in the nature of Treasury bills, a promise that the government would pay. Only the government was compelled to accept them in payment of taxes or other dues; it couldn't redeem them for money, for there was no money.

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They were introduced in 1857, were issued by the government and by landdrosts, were at first handwritten and later on printed forms with the heading *Mandaat van Betaling*. The mandaat in the Africana Museum is entirely handwritten and acknowledges the sum of £3 sterling due to J.H. Grobber for the transport of 500lb of powder to Pretoria. It is signed by the President, M.W. Pretorius, and dated 6 May 1859. The Transvaal Museum has two, both on the printed form, dated 1861 and 1865.

In 1865 a commission reported that the services of officials could not be retained if payment by mandaten was continued. It was, therefore, decided to print Rds.5 and Rds.10 notes to an amount of Rds.140,000. On 3 July 1865 the first batch of notes was handed to the Government Secretary. The distinguishing feature of the two notes of this first issue is that they have no coat-of-arms and they are for Rixdollars; all other issues are for sterling. The printing is crude, probably by Borrius. Each note was signed by the President, the Chairman of the Volksraad and the Treasurer. This issue was not acceptable to the people, many traders refused to accept the notes at more than fifty per cent of their face value, and they were not recognised in the Cape or Natal.

When the estimates were considered in 1866 it was found that there were still Rds.140,000 of mandaten to be redeemed. It was decided to make a new issue of paper money, in sterling, to pay off the mandaten and to replace the first issue of notes. Accordingly, in 1866 the second issue was authorised to an amount of £12,000. The issue consisted of 5 000 £1 notes, 1 200 of 5/- and 3 200 of 2/6d. Later the President ordered a further £1,000 worth on his own authority. The notes bear no imprint but were printed by J.P. Borrius. The £1 and 5/- notes were identical except for the denomination. I have never seen a 2/6d note of this 1866 issue; it is the only Government note of the ZAR not in the Africana Museum collection. The coat-of-arms used on this note and on the third and fourth issues is an amusing piece of work; it is a real primitive. It may be that it was used for the first time on these 1866 notes; it had not yet been used in the *Staats Courant*. It is almost certain that the arms adopted by the Volksraad in 1857 were intended to be a wagon and an anchor on a shield with an armed farmer and a lion as supporters. The printer, knowing nothing of heraldry, put them all on the shield. The £1 note in the Africana Museum is signed by M.W. Pretorius, President; M.J. Viljoen, Member of the Executive Committee; and H. v. d. Linden, Treasurer. It is dated 24 August 1866. Two of the signatories were in trouble about this issue. The President was accused of counterfeiting because he had produced money without

authority. His action was condoned when M. J. Viljoen explained to the Volksraad why it had been necessary to print more money than had been authorised, had they not done so they would have been left without any money to redeem mandaten. The President resigned but was persuaded to withdraw his resignation.

The Treasurer, Hendrik v. d. Linden, was less fortunate. It was found that he had kept no books and that the Treasury was in a state of chaos, also that he had found it difficult to distinguish between his own and Treasury money. He was charged, found guilty of theft, and sentenced to ten years' hard labour in irons. His friends and relatives pleaded for him, the hard labour was done in an office, without irons, and after seven months he was released. One gets the impression that he was more incompetent and ignorant than criminal.

In 1867 a further £20,000 was issued, the third annual issue in successive years. This issue was also intended for the redemption of mandaten and for other Government purposes. The denominations were £5, £1, 5/- and 2/6d. The notes resembled those of the second issue in paper, design and coat-of-arms, but the inscription differed. It must have been difficult to distinguish between the £5 and 5/- notes, for they were of the same size, colour and design, the only difference being the word *Shilling* for the word *Pond* and *5s. Stg.* for *£5 Stg.*

The continual issuing of more and more paper money led to great distress. Paper money changed hands at a discount of about 75 per cent and many traders refused to accept the paper money. However there was no stopping. In 1868, when the £20,000 issue of 1867 was all spent and all mandaten still not redeemed, it was decided to print more money. The country's debt was estimated to be £30,000 and in the coming year expenditure would exceed revenue by £15,000. Therefore the printing of notes to the value of £45,000 was authorised. This, the fourth issue was made up of: £3,000 in £5 notes, £30,000 of £1, £5,000 of 5/- and £5,000 of 2/6d. In addition there were £1,000 in 1/- Government good-fors and £1,000 in 6d Government good-fors. All these notes, including the 1/- and 6d good-fors had to be signed by the President, a Member of the Executive Committee and a Member of the Finance Commission; 150 600 notes to be signed; and at the end of it one could still read Pretorius' signature.

Except for the denomination, these notes from £5 down to 2/6d were similar in design, and of the same size except that the £5 was about a quarter of an inch wider than the others. They are of the same type as the second and third issues, with a different inscription. The colour of the paper did not matter: there are £1 notes on white and on

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blue paper, the 2/6d is white, the £5 is white and the 5/- is off-white. Forgery must have been easy with these crude notes printed on various kinds of paper. The Africana Museum has a note on which the £1 has been altered to £5; this was declared to be forged by the High Court on 30 November 1869.

The good-fors were printed on small white cards measuring about 45 x 60 mm. They had no coat-of-arms; there was barely room for the three signatures.

The President told the Volksraad in September 1868 that the Republic could not continue to finance itself by printing more paper money. The notes were now worth about a quarter their face value and a further issue would only serve to reduce their value still more. In 1870 a commission was appointed to report on the improvement of the currency. The commission found that there had been no proper provision for the calling in and destruction of old notes and it was decided that all old notes should be replaced by a new issue printed on proper bank-note paper and that £5,000 a year should be set aside for the redemption of the old notes. Farms were to be sold and the proceeds used for the redemption of notes. All old notes were required to be withdrawn within two years of 11 December 1871.

The new notes, the fifth issue, were received from England on 28 November 1871, to an amount of £61,150. The destruction of the old notes began, the number of notes in circulation was reduced, with the consequence that there was a rise in their value. In 1872 it was decided to raise a loan of £60,000 with the Cape Commercial Bank for the purpose of redeeming all government notes and to establish a sinking fund to liquidate this debt. All notes were to be redeemed before 1 February 1875 or they would lapse. Before the expiration of the Government notes, the Cape Commercial Bank had opened branches in the Republic and was issuing its own notes. The Standard Bank followed shortly afterwards and the notes of the commercial banks became the paper currency of the country.

The notes were engraved by William Brown of London following a design approved by the Volksraad. Brown's imprint appears and also *F. Jeppe, Potchefstroom*. Fred Jeppe was a member of a subcommittee appointed to deal with the proposed new notes. It is assumed that his name appears in the imprint because the note is based on his design. It is an elaborate design engraved on bank-note paper watermarked with the denomination, e.g. *1 EEN 1*. The coat-of-arms is a finished piece of work, the arms elaborately draped, but the eagle still turns his head to his left, heraldically incorrect but customary in the Transvaal arms until

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Dr Nicol had it changed. The notes from £1 to £20 were all of the same size and of the same design except for the denomination and the colour of the paper. The numbers issued and colours were:

£1	31 000	Green
£5	2 400	Pink
£10	800	White
£20	200	Deep blue

These notes all had to be signed by the President, the Treasurer and a Member of the Finance Commission. Sets of these notes can be seen in the Africana Museum and the Transvaal Museum.

In addition to the above notes Brown & Co. engraved *Little notes* or *Good-fors*. There were 6 000 each for 10/-, 5/- and 2/6d, and 12 000 each for 1/- and 6d. They were engraved on a thick, white, parchment-like paper, and, although very small, each bore the Republic's coat-of-arms and a facsimile of the signature of M.W.Pretorius, Staats President. These *Little notes* all had to be signed by a Member of the Finance Commission. There are complete sets of the *Little notes* in the Africana Museum and the Transvaal Museum. The signatures on different notes are H.Jeppe, M. de Vries and H.J.Ueckermann. The cost of printing the fifth issue was £186.18.8. When the notes were received there was not enough money in the Treasury to pay Brown's account.

The War Issues 1900-1902

Law No. 1 of 1900 made provision for the issue of Government notes. They were used to enable the government to carry out the war and to pay arrear salaries to government employees. The British repudiated these notes and they were never paid; their only value was as evidence of war losses. This is why so many of these notes are still to be found.

The denominations of the Pretoria notes were £100, £50, £10, £5 and £1. There were two different printings of the £1 and £5, the design of the panel and the rule under the denomination being different for each printing. All denominations are of the same size and all are printed in green ink on white paper. All signed notes have the blind embossed seal of the Republic. Unsigned copies, i.e. those not issued, do not have the seal. These Pretoria notes were signed by J.S.Marais, Auditor-General, and N.S.Malherbe, Treasurer-General. All those I have seen have the handwritten date 28.5.1900.

The notes printed *Pietersburg* are of the same denominations as those of the Pretoria issue. They are printed in black ink on white paper of different qualities. They do not have the embossed seal. The decorative ground to the left of the note differs from that on the Pretoria issue.

There is a variation in some of the £1 notes, usually those bearing the higher numbers, in that a full-stop appears after the word *Sterling* instead of a comma. The first notes issued at Pietersburg are dated 1.2.1901, the remainder 1.4.1901. The Pietersburg notes are signed A. P. Brugman, Acting Auditor-General, and P. R. de Villiers, Acting Treasurer-General.

The Pelgrim's Rust or *te Velde* notes, the third wartime series, were printed in black ink on white paper such as is commonly used in exercise books. The imprint reads *Gedrukt ter Staatsdrukkerij van de Z.A. Republiek, Pelgrim's Rust*, while in the body of the note the place is given as *Te Velde, Z.A.R.* The denominations were £1, £5 and £10. Most of these notes, printed in the field right at the end of the war, are found as complimentary copies; some, but only a few, were issued. In a letter dated 10 September 1952 Mr P. R. de Villiers said that at the time of the issue of the Pietersburg notes, he was both Acting Auditor-General and Acting Treasurer-General, but, as a second signature was required on the notes, Brugman was appointed Acting Auditor-General. Mr De Villiers says that the *Treasury on wheels and for the last eight months on horseback* was an important factor in enabling the war to be carried on for about two and a half years. He says that the Pretoria issue was stamped with the great seal, but those from Pietersburg and Pilgrim's Rest were not stamped because the seal was too heavy to be carried about.

The war issues are not very rare; most of those in the Africana Museum have come in as gifts. The Africana Museum bought a Pietersburg £50 because this was the only note missing from the whole range. I think the Museum paid R20 for it; two further copies were sold at the Raubenheimer sale in 1968; they fetched R15 and R21. A Pretoria £1 fetched R4 and two £5 notes for R5 and R4,50. For Pretoria and Pietersburg the higher denominations, from £10 up, are not often procurable. The *te Velde* £1 is common, but the £5 and £10 are much less often seen. When the Museum's catalogue was made in 1953 there was no *te Velde* £5 in the Africana Museum. Since then eight have been received as gifts from various sources.

Private Banks in the Transvaal

The Cape Commercial, the Standard and the Netherlands Bank were all operating in the Transvaal before the establishment of De Nationale Bank der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. The latter is the most interesting because it started in the Transvaal as the banker for the ZAR government and eventually spread throughout South Africa and became one

of the two greatest banks in South Africa.

De Nationale Bank der ZAR was given a banking concession in 1890 and started business on 15 April 1891. Under the concession the Bank's notes were to be legal tender, it was to be the banker for the government, part of its capital was to be subscribed by the government, and the government was represented on its board of directors. It was not to issue notes of less than £1 value and the notes of other banks would not be accepted at government offices after twelve months. By the end of the century the Nationale Bank had thirty-three branches in the Transvaal and five in other parts of South Africa. After the South African War it changed its name to National Bank of South Africa and by 1903 had fifty-five branches. It absorbed the National Bank of the OFS in 1910, the Bank of Africa in 1912 and the Natal Bank in 1914. By 1921 it had 476 branches. It was absorbed by Barclay's Bank in 1926.

The first issue for De Nationale Bank was an elaborate well-engraved note with the ZAR coat-of-arms upper centre and a portrait of President Kruger to the left. There is no imprint. The denominations in the Transvaal Museum are £1, £5, £10, £20 and £100. They were issued from 1891 to 1899.

After the war the bank changed its name and issued a new series of notes in English and omitting the coat-of-arms and portrait. The front of the notes is an entirely new design but the back is the same as those with the portrait - a decorative border incorporating the denomination in figures at each corner. The distinguishing feature of this type is the Bank's monogram top centre. The denominations seen are £5, £10 and £20 and the dates 1902 and 1906.

The Reserve Bank collection has a £5 note dated 31.1.1910 that is the only one of its type in any of the collections examined. Its distinguishing feature is, to the left, the seal of the Transvaal incorporating the Royal arms, a headgear, a wagon, a lion and Native huts. This type is a smaller note than those issued immediately after the war; it measures 8,5 x 18 cm while the earlier ones were approximately 12 x 18.

Then finally comes the series engraved by Waterlow, distinguished by the lady with a caduceus in her right hand. The £1 note shows her with her left hand resting on a bale. On the back of this denomination there is a most elaborate design incorporating a map of Africa, a hippopotamus, a lion, an ostrich, a ship, etc. The £5, £10 and £20 notes show the lady in a different dress; she has a balance in her left hand and beside her is a cornucopia. On the back of these notes the principal decoration is the head and shoulders of the lady, very beautiful. The

10/- note is much smaller than the others; it depicts a child with a cornucopia and on the back of the note a design with a buck's head in the centre.

The Africana Museums' collections do not include a sufficient number of notes to enable one to build up a complete picture of the issues of the National Bank, for instance, the exact dates between which particular types were in use. The same applies to the other big banks and overseas banks operating in South Africa in the 1890's and early twentieth century.

The Reserve Bank has a good range of Standard Bank notes; photographs of these are displayed in the Africana Museum. The Museum itself has a 10/- 1896 Durban, a smaller note than the 10/- Durban 1889 held by the Reserve Bank and of a different design; a £1 Durban 1918 and a £1 Pretoria 1920. The well-known Standard vignette appears on most of the notes: the crowned lady holding the staff of a large standard in her right hand and the left resting on a shield, sheep, an anchor, bales, etc., with a sailing ship in the distance. Somewhere along the line the sailing vessel turned into a steamer – this can be seen on the 1918 £1. The Africana Museum also has a printer's proof of an early £5 note. This is before 1883 because the Bank is still the Standard Bank of British South Africa. James Henry in his *The First Hundred Years of the Standard Bank* (Oxford University Press, 1963), p42, writes: *At the end of 1871, supplies of notes ran short, and the Bank had to arrange for an emergency printing of £100,000 at Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.* Facing p8 in this book is an illustration of a £5 note dated 16 March 1864. This is of the same type as the proof in the Africana Museum and very closely resembles it in every detail. The note has the inscription *Batho & Co. London*; the proof has no inscription. I like to think that this pull was of an engraving made for the emergency issue in 1871, but it looks too good for local engraving.

The engravers of the Standard Bank's notes were Batho & Co. in 1864, W.W. Sprague & Co. in 1889, William Brown & Co. in 1896, and Waterlow & Sons, Ltd from about 1902 onwards.

Although this essay is supposed to exclude Rhodesia, I cannot resist mentioning the Salisbury issue of 1896. James Henry in his *Sixty Years North of the Limpopo*, published by the Standard Bank in 1953, describes the issue. He writes: 'The Rebellion of 1896 and the consequent pressing need of the Chartered Company for cash to pay expenses led to an interesting innovation – the first printing of bank notes in Rhodesia. These were printed by the Argus Company at Salisbury. The issue was a small one of £31,500 . . . They were printed on good quality

paper, but without a watermark, and were payable at Durban – as were a great many of the notes then issued at Salisbury – imprinted *Salisbury Issue* and dated 27 August, 1896. Of the total printing of £31,500, it was only necessary to issue £21,500, and they were gradually withdrawn with the passing of the emergency.’

In a footnote Mr Henry says that there were 4 000 of £1 notes, 3 500 of £5 and 1 000 of £10. Of the £21,500 issued all were redeemed except forty-five of the £1 and fifteen of the £5.

The Standard Bank, Cape Town, has unissued copies of the £10, £5 and £1. The Institute of Bankers in South Africa has £10 and £5. The whole elaborate design on these notes is made up of combinations of a jobbing printer’s type and decorative designs. The notes are interesting and extremely rare.

The Institute of Bankers in South Africa has a £5 note of the London and South African Bank, Grahamstown Branch, 2 January 1872. The Bank of Africa was formed in 1879 to take over the South African business of the Oriental Bank. The Transvaal Museum has a £5 note of the Kimberley Branch of the Oriental Bank dated 1 July 1878 and the Reserve Bank has a £1 note of the Bank of Africa, Fauresmith, 1 December 1880. The Africana Museum has some interesting notes of the Bank of Africa. For the Bloemfontein Branch there are a £10 and a £20 both dated 24 May 1900, roughly two months after the capture of Bloemfontein. The Johannesburg Branch is well represented, with a £5 note dated 2 September 1895, a £10 and £20 both dated 1 September 1900, and a £5 dated 1 July 1910. There are also two 10/- notes used in Rhodesia; they are Durban notes bearing the stamp *Rhodesia Issue*, and dated 1 December 1898 and 14 August 1901. The Reserve Bank has a good run of the notes of the African Banking Corporation. There are photographs of these in the Africana Museum.

Natal

There were no issues of government notes in Natal. The first notes were probably issued by trading firms, but none has been seen. The first bank was the Natal Bank, established in Pietermaritzburg in 1854. It prospered and by 1894 had five branches in Natal and had extended its business to the Transvaal. It was absorbed by the National Bank in 1914. The Transvaal Museum has a £ note dated *Pietermaritzburg August 31 1854*. This is a very crude note with the Royal arms at top centre. Unfortunately it has been pasted down on a piece of card. The Africana Museum has Pietermaritzburg notes, £1 for 1893, £10 for 1903 and 1912; and Pretoria notes for £5 for 1912, £10 for 1900 and £20 for

1908. These are all of the same design, except for detail and were engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. The vignette is very detailed and crowded and incorporates both the Royal and the Natal coats-of-arms.

The Commercial and Agricultural Bank of Natal was established in Durban in 1860 and went into voluntary liquidation in 1867. The Transvaal Museum has an unissued £1 note engraved by Nissen and Parker of London. In the vignette is a picture of Durban Harbour and the Bluff.

The Colonial Bank of Natal was established in Pietermaritzburg in 1862 and failed in 1868. Its notes, engraved by Saul Solomon of Cape Town, are poor examples of the engraver's art. The Africana Museum has £1 and £10 of 1862, and £5 of 1864. The Transvaal Museum also has a £10 note of 1862.

The notes of the Durban Bank and the London and Natal Bank must be taken together, because this is one bank with two names. The Durban Bank was established in 1862 and it was at first announced that it would do business under the name of William Hartley and Co. Signed notes are either signed by William Hartley or for William Hartley and Co. After doing business for a year or two the Bank was reorganised as the London and Natal Bank. This Bank, however, was never properly established and it was taken over by William Hartley, who continued to run it as the Durban Bank. It was liquidated in 1877. The first issue of notes for the Durban Bank is interesting because the notes have a vignette of Durban docks and harbour and a railway engine. This is a contemporary engraving of South Africa's first railway line, opened in 1860. They were engraved by Nissen & Parker of London. The Transvaal Museum has a £5 unissued, a £10 dated 3 November 1862, and a £25 unissued. The Africana Museum has £1 and £10 unissued.

In the next issue the Bank is named the London and Natal Bank Limited, and the design of the note is new. The vignette of sheep, fruit, an anchor, barrels and bales, with a ship in the background incorporates two shields, one with the London arms, the other with the gnus of Natal. The Transvaal Museum has £1, £5 and £10, all unissued.

The third issue is for the Durban Bank and closely resembles the second except that the name of the Bank is changed and the arms of the City of London have been replaced by a stag, presumably a hart for Hartley. Another difference is that the engraved date 187 replaces 186. The second and third issues were engraved by G. Waterston & Son, Edinburgh. There are unissued 10/- notes of this issue in the Transvaal Museum and the Africana Museum.

New Griqualand

The short-lived *Coloured* state of Nieuw Griqualand, formerly Nomansland, decided to issue its own government notes in 1867. The Volksraad resolved to issue notes to an amount of £10,000 against the security of government immovable property. The notes were engraved by Saul Solomon & Co., but they do not seem ever to have been issued. The actual £1 notes were used as an illustration to the Rev. William Dower's *The Early Annals of Kokstad and Griqualand East* (Port Elizabeth, 1902).

Mafeking Siege Notes

So much has been written about the Mafeking Siege Notes that there is little that is new that can be said, except that they are not as rare as most people think. These notes or good-fors were printed in Mafeking in January and February 1900 in collaboration with officials of the Standard Bank. The £1 and 10/- notes are signed by Captain H. Greener, the Chief Paymaster, and Mr R. B. C. Urry, the Manager of the Standard Bank at Mafeking. The 1/-, 2/- and 3/- coupons are signed only by Greener. More notes were kept as souvenirs than were ever redeemed. A contemporary writer stated that in Cape Town before the end of the war the 3/- notes brought as much as £10 from people wishing to complete sets, and the 10/- note with the error in *commanding* as much as £25. These were absurd prices. The Africana Museum has four copies each of the supposedly rare 3/- and of the 10/- with the error.

The issue of £ notes amounted to £683.

The issue of 10/- notes amounted to £3,500.

The issue of coupons amounted to £1,045.7.0.

The amount outstanding in December 1907 was -

£1 notes - £639

10/- notes - £3,086.10.0.

Coupons - £980.13.0.

The notes lapsed after 15 September 1910, so most of them are still in circulation as collectors' pieces.

There is a description of the design, symbolism and technique of reproduction of the £1 note, designed by Baden-Powell, in *Photography*, 30 August 1900, and a general description of the notes in *South Africa*, vol. 50, 13 April 1901, pp70-71. Information about the notes taken from the Standard Bank's records is in the *South African Numismatic Society Newsletter*, September 1963.

The 1/-, 2/- and 3/- coupons appear to have been printed in pairs; the three denominations from the same type, with the denomination

printed later in red. The variations are:

- (a) with the full-stop after *Forces* inside the bracket and the imprint reading *T. & Son Printers Mafeking*.
- (b) with the full-stop outside the bracket and the imprint *T. & Son, Printers, Mafeking*.

The variation in the 10/-, printed from woodblocks, was that in some of the notes the word *Commanding* is spelt correctly and in others *Commaning*. There is an interesting pencil comment on one of the 10/- notes in the Africana Museum, reading: *Eight of these notes were presented to the winning team Garrison Tug of War by Lady Sarah Wilson. F. Squadron I.L.H. 1st R.H. Artillery 2nd Mafeking Sports May 24 1900 . . .* followed by the names of the team.

Two other war issues

In *South African Panorama*, May 1965, p15, there is an illustration of a 10/- note issued by the Paymaster at Upington on 1 February 1902. The caption reads: 'This note is the most valuable in the collection and is ensured [sic] for R1 000. It is handwritten on a piece of material torn from a soldier's khaki shirt during the Anglo-Boer War.' There are four of the notes in the Africana Museum. They are all described as written on unbleached calico, stamped *Issued by Paymaster. B. S. Upington* and with the regimental stamp *Border Scouts Upington*. They are all signed by Major Birkbeck, the OC of the Border Scouts. The £5 is in red ink and is dated 1.2.02; the £2 is half in black and half in red ink, and is also dated 1.2.02; the 10/- is in black ink and dated 6.3.02; and the 2/- is in black ink and dated 1.2.02. The wording of the note is *Pay to bearer the sum of (Five pounds) for pay*.

Captain John Stirling in his *The Colonials in South Africa, 1899-1902* (Blackwood, 1907), p249, wrote: 'The regiment not having drawn any pay for many months, and the authorities stating that it was impossible to get money safely through, Major Birkbeck decided to make his own money. A block stamp was cut out of wood to represent a jackal, as that animal's skin was worn on the men's hats. Underneath was written *Issued by Paymaster Border Scouts, pay to Bearer*; then signature John Birkbeck, Major, O.C.B.S. [He didn't sign *John* on any I have seen; in fact, I thought his initial was T, but it might be J.] The notes were issued for £5, £2, 10s. and 2s. on cloth, and as few of the men could read, ink of a different colour was used for each value. Cloth, like everything else, began to run out, so that in the end blinds, bed-sheets, and table-cloths were commandeered and torn up to make into money. £45,000 worth was issued and in circulation. It was the

current coin of the district, the Post Office and Savings' Bank accepting it. The Civil Commissioner used it, while the traders took it or gave it as change. The notes were not redeemed until after peace was declared. Many were cashed far from the district; for example, the Standard Bank alone cashed many hundreds at Cape Town, and a few were presented even in Natal.'

This, of course, ought not to be included, for it is not paper money; but it is a good story. Two of those in the Africana Museum came in as part of miscellaneous collections of junk, one was purchased in 1934 for £1 and for the fourth, being required to complete the set, the large sum of five guineas was paid in 1960.

Koffyfontein Besieged is the heading of the next note to be discussed. It is reproduced as a blue-print and the inscription reads: *I promise to pay Bearer on Demand at Koffyfontein O.R.C. the sum of Five Pounds sterling if presented for payment before January 1st 1901.* It is signed *J.W. Robertson Major. Commandant Koffyfontein. Orange River Colony.* Its decoration is a Union Jack and between the flag and the large 5 in a circle are two white lozenges: one for the number of the note and the other for the word *cancelled* to be written in when the note was redeemed. The story of the note was told in the *Friend*, 23 December 1953, as follows: 'One of the rarest pieces of paper money in South Africa today is in the possession of Mrs Elizabeth Querl, the oldest resident of Koffyfontein. The note was issued shortly after the siege of Koffiefontein, which took place in October 53 years ago. There was an undue delay in forwarding the pay of the town guard of Koffyfontein and temporary provision was made by an issue of 50 £5 promissory notes. These were accepted in the village as negotiable documents. The notes were designed and made by Lieut. Jack Fradgley, the engineer of the mine, and were printed on a blueprint machine. When redeemed and cancelled, the men were allowed to retain the notes as mementoes. The note in the possession of Mrs Querl was paid out to her husband on December 20, 1900.'

There are three examples of this note in the Africana Museum; all came in at different times as gifts. All have *cancelled* in the lozenge, and two of them are endorsed on the back to whom the money was given and signed by Captain Robertson.

All honour to Captain Robertson - he wasn't a Regular captain, he was really a magistrate - for his kindly thought in returning the notes as mementoes when they had been cancelled! If more people had done this how much easier would have been the collecting of paper money.