



# INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY JOURNAL



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Chapter IX: BCRA – Efigije General San Martin, Libertad y Justicia. Issued from 1942 to 1971, this chapter describes the series that depicts General San Martin on most notes, as well as Liberty (50 cents) and Justice (1 Peso).

Chapter X: BCRA – Pesos Ley N° 18.188. This chapter describes notes issued from 1970 to 1983. The issue has the highest ever nominal value for an Argentinian banknote: 1,000,000 pesos.

Chapter XI: BCRA – Pesos Argentinos. Notes issued from 1983 to 1985.

Chapter XII: BCRA – Australes: The Austral series (1985 – 1991) is known for the new size of the notes, which were the same as the US dollar.

Chapter XIII: BCRA – Pesos Convertibles – 1er Diseño. First design of the current Argentinian peso.

Chapter XIV: BCRA – Pesos Convertibles – 2do Diseño. Second design of the current Argentinian peso. In the main, these are current issues.

Chapter XV: BCRA – Pesos Convertibles – 3er Diseño. Third design of the current Argentinian peso, currently the subject of a redesign. The chapter also includes the description of the 500 peso note, not yet available at the time of publication.

## PEČATI I PEČAČENE NOVČANICE NOTAFILIJE SRBIJE 1916-1921

### HANDSTAMPS AND BANKNOTES WITH THE HANDSTAMPS OF THE NOTAPHILY OF SERBIA 1916-1921

Branko Glišić. 2016. Valjevo, Serbia. 392 pages. Hardback. US\$ 40. ISBN: 9788692017902.

*Reviewed by Sev Onyshkevych (10163)*



This is a seminal catalog of the various overprints and stamps affixed to various currencies as a result of the chaos and regime changes during and following World War I, in and around Serbia. Many of the notes overprinted and/or stamped are those of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, which along with Bulgaria occupied Serbia during the war, but also overprinted were banknotes of German Austria (the Austrian remnants post-dissolution, which themselves are Deutschösterreich overprints on former Austro-Hungarian notes), as well as of Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia and France. Some unpublished notes and overprints from countries that resulted from the dissolution of Yugoslavia (Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia) have also been included, making for a very interesting melange. The stamps and overprints were used to “revalidate” money by various military units, courts, churches, cooperatives, banks, savings banks, the Government and other institutions, for official use in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (KSCS).

This well-researched book covers all issues created for any region or entity once wholly or partly in the current territory of Serbia, regardless of issuer, as well as all issues by civil and military issuers in the Kingdom of Serbia or the KSCS, or issued under jurisdiction of those authorities. As a result, the book includes some issues for municipalities in present-day Croatia, Montenegro and elsewhere, and these issues would also be found in similar treatises covering these countries. The catalog covers well over 1,000 different varieties.

Several other specialized catalogs exist, written by other authors, covering overprints and stamped banknotes from other remnants of the Austro-Hungarian sphere, such as Arnold Keller’s catalogue issued in 1962, Borna Barac’s in 2002, Kloz and Berger’s in 2006, and Rudolf Richter’s in 2010. This book complements such books covering other remnants of the former empire, but to the best of my knowledge, there is no centralized index covering all the various entities across all countries (Keller’s covers overprints on Austro-Hungary only).

This is a wonderful catalog for a specialist in this field with a particular interest in Serbia, particularly one who can read Serbian. The descriptive part of the book is in Serbian, while the catalog part is in both English and Serbian. Thus, for an English-only reader, it is useful as a catalog, but not as an historical tract (there is an 11-page summary in English which covers the key points).

The organization of the catalog part itself is first by the country of the banknote that is overprinted/stamped, then by type of overprint/stamp, and then by issuer (which may have many variants, or in the case of some issuer, multiple villages). This is then cross-referenced with the denomination/issue of the original banknote. A well-seasoned collector who can identify overprint types will have difficulty. A tyro who has bought a banknote with a half-legible overprint – and might not even know whether it’s a Serbian overprint or not – will have greater difficulty. The organization of the catalog is very logical; the challenge for novice collectors is the sheer complexity of issuers, notes overprinted, types of overprints and also the legibility of overprints.

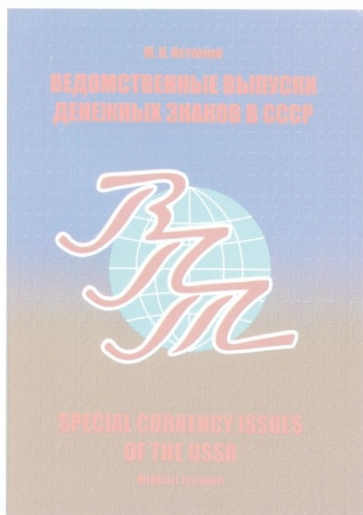
The author, who is currently in the US teaching at Princeton University, mentioned plans to add a searchable index to the book to make it easier to find an item (if it happens to be from Serbia) by looking up keywords. The catalog also includes notes overprinted in error and known contemporary counterfeits. There are likely also some current counterfeits, as, sadly, there are of virtually every banknote that is overprinted; while one can find the Serbian overprints occasionally for a few dollars, some of them are rare.

## ВЕДОМСТВЕННЫЕ ВЫПУСКИ ДЕНЕЖНЫХ ЗНАКОВ В СССР SPECIAL CURRENCY ISSUES OF THE USSR

Mikhail Istomin. 2016. 564 pages. Hardback. Black & White. ISBN: 9786177033980.

Available from the author: [istomin1956@rambler.ru](mailto:istomin1956@rambler.ru)

Reviewed by Peter Symes (4245)



This is a specialist catalogue, which will be of specific interest to a very limited number of collectors. However, it may be of interest to collectors of paper money who collect financial instruments other than banknotes, as it is dedicated to special currency issues of the Soviet Union—just as the title states!

Half the book, making up the first chapter, is dedicated to Soviet Foreign Exchange certificates, while the other half of the book has the chapters entitled: Torgsin Merchandise Orders and Sovtorgflot Merchandise Tokens; Accounting Vouchers of the OGPU special camps; Orders for Merchandise and Coupons of State Trust "Arctic Coal" on Island of Spitsbergen; and Soviet War Issues in Europe and Asia in 1944–1945. This last chapter may make the book of interest to collectors of military currency.

Previous publication by the author have been remarkable

for the depth of information accompanying their catalogue information, and this work is no different. For readers interested in the items, there is general catalogue information, illustrating the front and back of most items, but not of every variety, generally only the types; although many varieties are illustrated. Watermarks are illustrated where necessary, as are serial numbers where this feature changes on some varieties. Catalogue information gives a reference number, the denomination, colour and date of issue (or date on the instrument). Values in VF and UNC are provided.

While the work is valuable for the catalogue information, it is just as valuable, perhaps more so, for the histories of the various instruments listed in the catalogues. While reading the sections on the Foreign Exchange Certificates, I just could not believe the level of detail presented, relating to the history of these certificates and the organizations which issued them. Where did the author get such detailed information? While it is possible the catalogue information on these issues might be represented elsewhere, it is unlikely anyone has researched and recorded these histories in such depth, especially in English. The book is written entirely in Russian and English. The catalogue information is presented in both languages and the detailed histories are written first in Russian and then in English.

Apart from a few military issues, the notes and instruments presented in this work were unknown to this reviewer. It was therefore a journey of discovery and one well worth the effort. If Soviet issues of any type are sought by collectors, then this work is a valuable addition to a collector's library. I can't help feeling I've stumbled across some of these items in dealers' boxes and albums over the years, and if I'd known then what I know now, I would have purchased them.

I do compliment the author on the excellent black and white images in the book. Although we all like to see colour, sometimes this is impractical. The images are all of a good size and the contrast in the images is excellent, making them easy to view and comparisons easily made. I like the work and I have no hesitation in recommending it.