

## **BOOK REVIEW : “*Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*”**

For some philatelists, the creation of the Open Class in philatelic exhibitions was a formalisation of something which had been a natural development of long-standing within their private collections. Specifically, those of us interested in the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 see the collection of banknotes, books, documents, postcards and stamps as being so synergistic that keeping a separation of one from the other frequently is both artificial and often difficult.

It was, thus, with great interest that I, the philatelist, obtained a copy of John Ineson's definitive book “*Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*”. For too long, we had been dependent on valued, though dated, texts on the subject<sup>1</sup> and had not had access to updated and consolidated information written by an expert collector and an authority on the subject. In the publication of this book, this deficiency is finally remedied.

Published by Spink and Son Ltd, London, this work is a labour of love and represents the culmination of thirty years of collecting and research. The case-bound book is beautifully produced, being 160 pages long, inclusive of 48 marvellous colour plates and numerous B&W illustrations of the currencies and photographs of the period.

There is a systematic, and numbered, cataloguing of all the known paper currency issued during the South African War 1899-1902. The notes issued by the Transvaal Government at Pretoria, Pietersburg and Pilgrim's Rest together with unissued, specimen and Central Judicial Commission-cancelled notes are succinctly detailed; as are those issued in the war-besieged towns of Koffyfontein, Lichtenburg, Mafeking, O'Okiep and Upington. The paper currency of the prisoner-of-war camps then situated at Green Point, Simonstown (South Africa), Diyatalawa, Ragama (Ceylon), and Trichinopoly (India) are included, as are the bread, grain, meat, porridge (sowen) and soup kitchen vouchers used in Kimberley and Mafeking, and the postal orders used within the Oranje Vrij Staat and Transvaal some think as legal tender.

A useful tool included in the text is a rarity index, based on Ineson's extensive knowledge of museum and private collections worldwide. Though they do tend to date, with this I should have appreciated some indication of current market values to complete this picture.

A couple of typo-graphical errors have crept in as in the RAGAMA Type II, checklists on pgs. viii, 77 et seq., and 96, differ (viii is wrong); and on p.80, the "pines" are actually palms. These errors are trivial, however, and in no-wise detract from the immense value of the book.

I believe that this book reflects exceedingly well on its author and his sponsors, and both are to be congratulated. It is a great contribution to our knowledge of that time; and should grace the book shelves of all philatelists interested in the Anglo-Boer War and its bigger picture.

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<sup>1</sup> Bergman w: A History of the Regular and Emergency Paper Money Issues of South Africa (1971); Levius H P : Catalogue of the South African Paper Money since 1900 (1972); Pick's Banknotes of the World