

ZUID-AFRIKANSCH REPubLIEK GOUVERNEMENTS NOOTEN (Banknote Issues of the Second Anglo-Boer War)

At the outbreak of the South African War, notes of De Nationale Bank der Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek were circulating in the Transvaal. Owing to difficulties with the local banks which were British controlled, these notes became almost impossible to negotiate. The Kruger Government was forced thus to issue Gouvernements Nooten, backed by certain fixed property of the State, and bearing interest until redeemed.

There were three issues of these notes, the so-called Pretoria, Pietersburg and Pilgrim's Rest Issues.

DEFINITIONS

Uncirculated (UNC)
Almost uncirculated (AU)
Extremely fine (XF / EF)
Very Fine (VF)
Fine (F)
Very Good (VG)
Good (G)

OVERVIEW : Ineson [1999] ; RED = scarce

Pretoria Series: 100 £1 ; 102 £5 ; 103 £10 ; 105 £50 ; 106 2 x £100.

Pietersburg Series: 110 £1 ; 111 £5 ;

Pilgrims Rest (Te Velde) Series: 120 2 x £1 ; 121 £5 ;

PRETORIA SERIES

These notes are all dated 28th May 1900, which was one week before Pretoria was occupied by Lord Roberts. They were issued in denominations of £.1, £.5, £.10, £.20, £.50 and £.100.

There are three varieties of the £1 and £5; two varieties of the £10 and £20; and a single variety of the £50 and £100 notes.

£.1 variety I, 5000 printed May 1900 No. 630 [VF]

£.50 variety I, 1500 printed May 1900 No. 614 [VF]

£.100 variety I, 800 printed May 1900 No. 467 [AU/UNC]

£.100 variety I, 800 printed May 1900 No. 478 [AU/UNC]

£.5 variety III, 1500 printed May 1900 No. 10922 [EF]

£.10 variety III, 1900 printed May 1900 No. 5706 [EF]

PIETERSBURG SERIES

These notes were issued after the fall of Pretoria on 5 June 1900, after the occupation of Machadodorp, and whilst Pietersburg was the seat of the Boer government. Although the same denominations were issued as in Pretoria, these notes were more crudely printed on stationery paper. Several dates appear on the £.1 and £.5 notes : 1st February 1901, 1st March 1901 and 1st April 1901. All the higher denominations were dated 1st April 1901. The latter date was but one week before the town surrendered to Colonel (later General) Plumber.

There are no major varieties in this series though small differences did occur. Most of the notes were printed on the same paper, some showing a portion of a watermark "South African Typewriter Supply Co."

£.1, 49500 printed April 1901 No. 45718A [F/VF]

£.5, 4500 printed April 1901 No. 1756A [F/VF]

PILGRIM'S REST or TE VELDE SERIES

After the fall of Pretoria and the major gold fields on The Rand, the Boers continued to wage a guerrilla campaign for two years. The British were now in possession of all the large towns, and the Boers continued their fight by virtue of having numerous mobile commandos. President Kruger himself fled to the Eastern Transvaal (and later Europe). The final series of the ZAR notes were issued from Pilgrim's Rest, a small town in the Eastern Transvaal. Issued under military supervision in the field, this series of notes became renowned as Te Velde.

These notes were the crudest of all the series. They were printed on school note-book paper on a small portable press by some of the same men who produced the famous Velde Ponde gold sovereigns. Only three denominations were issued: £.1, £.5 and £.10. They appeared on three dates, namely 1st March 1902, 1st April 1902 and 1st May 1902. The £.1 only appeared on the latter date, that is, one month before peace was signed at Vereeniging.

£.1, 6500 printed May 1905 No. 60558A two spike holes [AU]

£.1, 6500 printed May 1905 No. 60739A two spike holes [AU]

£.5, 1000 printed May 1905 No. 7669A [UNC]

CANCELLED Z.A.R. NOTES

As soon as the Gouvernements Nooten were issued, the British announced that they would not honour them. After the war, these notes were repudiated absolutely by the British. The notes could serve, however, as evidence of war debt. As the notes were thus presented, they were cancelled by means of a rubber stamp reading "Central Judicial Commission" or "C.J.C.". It is unknown as to how many notes were thus cancelled. What is certain is that these notes are far rarer than their uncanceled equivalents, probably as a consequence of the cancelled ones, having served their purpose, becoming valueless to their bearer and as a consequence being destroyed.

£.5 variety II, originally 4500 printed May 1900 No. 5127 over stamped in purple with boxed C.J.C. 399 number red ink script [VF]

£.10 variety I, originally 1900 printed May 1900 No. 4925 over stamped in purple with CENTRAL JUDICIAL COMMISSION [EF]

References:

1. Catalogue of South African Paper Money since 1900 etc. Harold P Levius. 1st Edition, 1972
2. Standard Catalog of World Paper Money. Volume 1. Specialized issues Author: Albert Pick. Editors: Neil Shafer and George S. Cuhaj. 9th Edition, 2002.
3. Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899 – 1902. Ineson, J. Spink. 1999