

Book Reviews

Das Geld des Terrors (Money of the Terror)

Hans-Ludwig Grabowski, 456 pages, hard cover, color illustrations, German, published by: Battenberg Verlag, D-Regenstauf, Germany ISBN 978-3-86646-040-9

Reviewed by Christof Zellweger LM-86

Hans-Ludwig Grabowski has put together information on items of payment used in camps and ghettos during the Nazi terror regime, not only on German territory, but also in the occupied zones. The book is not just a listing of the various items used for payment but it tells us how the financial system worked in the camps and ghettos. Did you know that prisoners were able to receive funds or make transfers? I was very surprised to find so much new information.

The book is split in roughly four themes. Part one covers items of payment used in concentration camps. This part takes up about two thirds of the book. The second part covers items of payment used in Jewish ghettos. Part three covers commemorative items issued like medals or overprinted notes and the fourth part is about forgeries of items from part one and two. The latter two parts only take up a minor part of the book.

Part one is split again in two parts. The first part explains the financial system in the concentration camps, how money transfers worked, how prisoners could get special payment in forms of *Prämien Scheine* (premium bonds) for cigarettes, food, etcetera. Why was it essential for the terror regime that the inmates worked in the concentration camps? This part is illustrated with documents about money transfers, regulations, accounting papers, etcetera.

The second part has information about 17 concentration camps, always with information about the camps, followed by the various items of payments—premium bonds, vouchers, money replacement, etcetera—are listed with color photographs, size, and rarity.

Part two, about the ghettos, is similarly structured as for the concentration camp issues and has information about six different ghettos.

Das Geld des Terrors is a well-researched book that puts together a wealth of information. It is a must to have for every person seriously interested in the holocaust, or money from that era. Unfortunately, the book is in German only, but the photos of the items and grades of rarity are also understandable for a non German-speaking person.

The book can be ordered from:

H. Gietl Verlag
P.O. Box 166
D-93122 Regenstauf
Germany
e-mail: info@gietl-verlag.de

The cost of the book is: 39.90 Euros plus postage. Postage to European countries is 4.80 Euros and to all other countries 9.00 Euros. Payment can be made by MasterCard or VISA.



Banknotes of Bhutan

Anil R. Bohora and Gylfi K. Snorrason, 137 pages, soft cover, colour illustrations, English, Published by Anil R. Bohora ISBN 978-81-7525-881-5

Reviewed by Peter Symes 4245

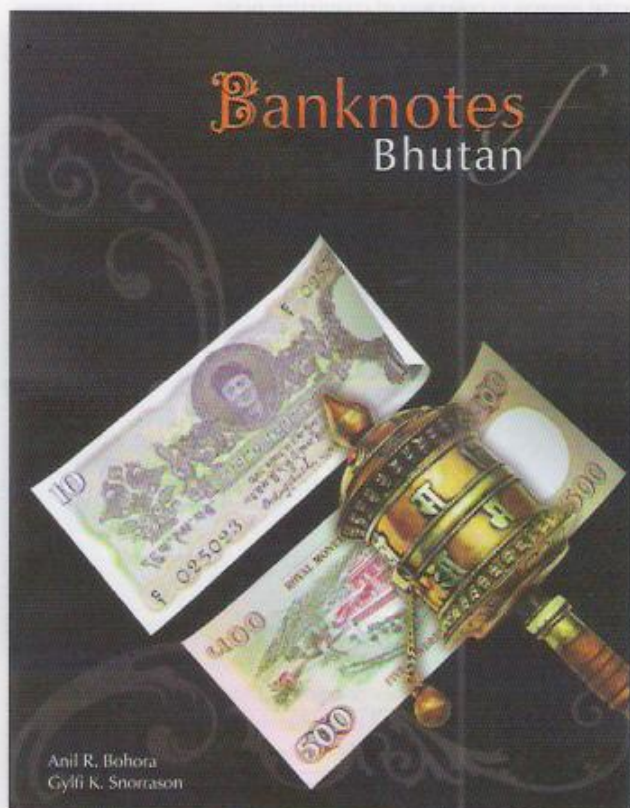
Anil Bohora and Gylfi Snorrason, both members of the IBNS, have produced an outstanding reference work on the banknotes of Bhutan. Although the series of banknotes issued in Bhutan is relatively short, it is nevertheless a popular area of collecting and this is a timely publication, given the recent release of a new series in 2007 and 2008.

The authors have attempted to include as much information on the subject as they could possibly gather. Particular attention is paid to the context in which the notes were issued, with sections dedicated to the Kingdom of Bhutan, the national symbols, the kings of Bhutan, auspicious symbols, and monuments of Bhutan. These elements are linked with their use on the banknotes. Also included are a history of banknotes in Bhutan, signatories of the notes, watermarks used on the notes, and the printers of the notes.

For each banknote two pages are dedicated. On the right-hand page are coloured illustrations of the front and back of the notes and, where available, images of specimen and proof notes. Examples of serial numbers for each prefix are also illustrated (excluding the prefix used on the illustrated note). On the left-hand page are the following details: denomination, issue dates, signature, printer, size, paper type, serial number prefixes, whether

specimen notes are known, prefixes for replacement notes, rarity, security features, and descriptions of the designs for the front and the back of the note.

The authors have introduced their own numbering system, based on the series of notes, and reference is made to the corresponding 'Pick' numbers, both for each note's description and in a summary chart at the back of the book.



For information and detail, the book can not be faulted, although there are some minor annoyances in the design of the book. There is insufficient space for the page gutters, the space between the text and the spine of the book. This means that the reader often has to press open the pages, placing pressure on the spine, to read all the text. The page numbers for the even-numbered pages are not on the outside of the page, making a slight inconvenience when flipping through to locate a specific page. Apart from this, the book is a pleasure to read and worth purchasing.

Banknotes of Bhutan costs US\$25.00 plus \$6.00 for shipping and handling.

It is available from the publisher:

Mr. Anil. R. Bohora
Bohara House
Gangapur Road
Nashik 422001, India
enterandbuy@yahoo.com

InterCrim-press

A recent member of the IBNS is InterCrim-press, a Moscow-based publishing house specializing in publications concerning paper money. Several of their publications are highlighted here, but more detail can be found on their web site at www.icpress.ru. Their postal address is 51/53, Bolshaya Pochtovaya str., Moscow, 105082, Russia and the email contact is sell@icpress.ru. Prices and details on ordering the books can be found on the web site.

Banknotes of the World: Currency Circulation 2008

640 pages, soft cover, colour illustrations, English and Russian
Published by InterCrim-press, Moscow
ISBN 978-5-9286-0057-7

B*anknotes of the World* is the flagship publication of InterCrim-press. This hefty tome is published to provide a chronicle of currency circulating throughout the world in the twenty-first century. There are similar publications servicing markets wanting to know current currencies throughout the world but this publication and its monthly updates is a worthy competitor for this market.

While institutions are their principal focus, they do have an eye for the collector and collectors of modern and new issues might do well to consider a subscription.

With all notes in circulation throughout the world illustrated in full colour, it is a very handy reference. In many instances the notes of previous series are illustrated and details of currencies withdrawn from circulation are included. Dedicated collectors will find the reference work faulty in the significant aspect that all varieties of banknotes are not identified. Notes introduced with signature and date varieties are not mentioned. However, where security elements change, such as the addition of, or changes to, security threads, watermarks, holograms, etcetera, then the variations are generally noted. Indeed, for most illustrations, the security features of the notes are specifically identified.

