



# International Bank Note Society Journal



## THIS ISSUE



Patch Price



Armenian Republic



French Forgery



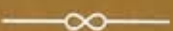
Theresienstadt



Israeli Provisionals



St. Thomas & Prince



Volume 19 No. 1

## ANTONIO TRIGUEIROS AND HUGO ANTÃO

# St. Thomas and Prince Cheque-Notes and Overprinted Notes

**T**HIS tiny Portuguese ex-colony, an Archipelago in the Gulf of Guinea on the West African coast, became independent on the 21st July 1975, following the 1974 revolution in Portugal.

## The Cheque-Notes

Some months prior to achieving its independence, an atmosphere of instability and economic uncertainty prevailed. The people, being distrustful of the Banco Ultramarino, began to hoard cash in their houses. As a result, there was an acute shortage of both coins and notes. In order to offset this crisis, the Portuguese Government authorised the issue of Bearer cheques in 500 and 1,000 escudo denominations by the Banco Ultramarino, characteristics being as follows: Uniface, serrated on the left hand border, giving evidence of detachment. Ordinary printed cheque form on a pinkish paper. Bank's emblem on the left. Cheque form typed in Black; "ESC. = 1000\$00" "S. Tomé", "23 DE DEZEMBRO or 31 DE DEZEMBRO 74" "PORTADOR" "MIL ESCUDOS" "S. TOMÉ" followed by two handwritten signatures of the bank managers, Mr. Arroz and Mr. Azevedo. White seal over signatures. Exactly in the middle, covering nearly the whole width of the cheque, is printed in pink vertically, the word "ORIGINAL".

**Dimensions**—1,000 escudos: 183 × 88mm (Fig. 1)  
500 escudos: 170 × 92mm (Fig 2)

**Characteristics:**— The same as the above described 1,000 Escudos cheque, except that "Esc. =1000\$00=" is to be substituted for "Esc. =500\$00=" and "MIL ESCUDOS" for "QUINHENTOS ESCUDOS".

**Note:** Two dates on the 1,000 escudos cheques are known, one is 23rd December 1974 and the other is 31st December 1974.

Approximately one year later and subsequent to independence, the situation not having improved, the local government decided to issue further Bearer cheques, but on this occasion, by their own bank "Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe". These were in denominations of 1,000 and 500 escudos, too. Decree number 115/76 was enacted, authorising this issue, as follows:

"As at this moment there is an insufficient number of notes of 1000\$00 and



Banco Nacional Ultramarino's emergency cheque-notes of 1974, printed on ordinary cheque forms. Above: Fig. 1, 1000 escudos, 183 × 88mm. Below: Fig. 2, 500 escudos, 170 × 92mm.



500\$00 in the vaults of the bank, due to the bad habit of some people holding their savings in their respective residences instead of depositing them in the bank;

"It is foreseen that the situation will normalise within one month and a half, the necessary measures to be taken by the Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe; And having the now extinct Banco Nacional Ultramarino for identical reasons, launched in circulation bearer cheques equivalent to bank notes with complete public acceptance;

"The Ministry of Economic Coordination, Cooperation and Tourism hereby decrees:

1) The Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e

Príncipe is authorised to issue bearer cheques of 1000 escudos and 500 escudos denominations totalling up to 15000000\$00.

- 2) The referred bearer cheques are compulsorily acceptable just as notes, for payments of any expenses or for the purpose of depositing in banks.
- 3) In a transitory period of one month and a half from this date, the Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe will only change these cheques for notes of 100\$00, 50\$00 and 20\$00 up to a limit of 1500\$00.
- 4) The Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe will within a period of three months after this date, start collect-

ing the referred bearer cheques, so that the same will cease circulating within 6 months.

The Ministry of Economic Coordination, Cooperation and Tourism, at S. Tomé on 21st June 1976. Miguel Trovoada”.

(Translated from *Diario da Republica de S. Tomé e Príncipe*—Nr. 28, 30th July 1976.)

**Characteristics of 1000 escudo cheque:** 168 x 75mm; (Fig. 3)

Uniface, serrated left hand edge giving evidence of detachment, special printed white paper with light bluish-green background consisting of micro printing words “Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe”. At the centre is the bank’s emblem surrounded by a wavy pink network. Bank form filled in by heavy printed letterings in red—“21 Junho de 1976”, “Esc: 1000\$00, AO PORTADOR”, “Mil Escudos”, and “Pagavel em S. Tomé e Príncipe”. Hand written signatures of two directors is blue ink. White seal over value and signatures.

**Printers:** Lisbon State Mint

Characteristics of 500 escudos:— The same as the 1000 escudos, except that “Esc. 1000\$00” is to be substituted by “Esc. 500\$00”, “Mil escudos” by “Quinhentos Escudos” and the heavy lettering is printed in black instead of red. Same size.

These unique cheque-notes specially printed for this intention, perhaps the first of their kind in recent times, are of extreme rarity and not more than a dozen of the 1,000 escudo cheques are known to be in the hands of some lucky collectors. As for the 500 escudos, they were never issued by the bank and only three of each are known to exist, of which two are in S. Tomé.

The appearance of these cheques certainly contributes to coin a new word “CHEQUE-NOTE” in the glossary of notaphilic terms.

**Fig. 3: Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe’s 1976 1000 escudos cheque-note, specially printed at the Lisbon State Mint for circulation as a banknote.**



**Fig. 4: 500 escudos of 18/4/1964. Fig. 5: 1000 escudos of 11/5/1967. Two of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino’s colonial notes for S. Tomé which were overprinted in 1976 by the new National Bank of S. Tomé. No more than fifteen overprinted 1000 escudo note are known.**

**Colonial overprinted notes**

Subsequent to achieving its independence, the newly formed National Bank, called “Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe”, utilised the old “Banco Nacional Ultramarino” notes, but with an overprint “Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe”. This of course, a temporary procedure pending the production of their own notes, the notes involved being:

- P.36 20 Escudos 20/11/1958
- P.37 50 Escudos 20/11/1958

- P.38 100 Escudos 20/11/1958
- P.35 500 Escudos 18/4/1964 (photo 4)
- P.39 1,000 Escudos 11/5/1964 (photo 5)

Law number 23/76 of 15th July, 1976, was enacted (“Diario da República de S. Tomé e Príncipe”, Nr. 30, 15th July, 1976), authorising this issue and creating the S. Tomé’s national monetary unit, the “DOBRA”, to be effective within one year.

**Description of the overprint:**— The following to be found in the front and reverse in red in a three-lined script “BANCO NACIONAL DE S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE”. “S. TOME, 1 DE JUNHO 1976” (SIGNATURE) of VICTOR CORREIA, the Governor. On the left is the emblem of the bank.

The above printed notes were strictly forbidden to be taken out of the country, the customs control being very rigorous, any smuggler subject to very heavy penalties; thus very few indeed have reached the numismatic market, making them relatively scarce.

On 30th September, 1977, in a fast two-  
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## CHARLES 'PATCH' PRICE

### HIS FORGERIES AND FRAUD'S

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scheme, and Mr. Patch again came forth with all his secret *eclat*, notwithstanding every scheme that ingenuity could devise to detect them had been practised.

It is not unworthy observation, that hand bills were delivered from house to house throughout the whole of the quarter where he was most suspected to reside, and at the very house which he daily resorted to, and where all his implements were fixed. This was the neighbourhood of Marybone, Portland Place, Oxford-street, and Tottenham-court Road; nay it was thrown down an area to the only person in whom he placed any confidence, a lady whom the reader will be presently acquainted with. By this means Price was apprised of his immediate danger, and consequently took his measures accordingly—in the common phrase it *blew him up*, but it certainly was the means that prevented his then being apprehended. Eagerness to secure, banished that foresight and caution which are ever necessary whenever it is in pursuit of artful villainy. The animal, whose sagacity is a proverb, can never be secured in haste; to entrap him requires superior patience, caution and cunning.

In the preceding part of this narrative, we mentioned that Mr. Price had no partner, no person to whom he entrusted any branch of the business of forging a bank note: we mean by that, that he employed no *mechanic* to assist him; but a *confidante* he most assuredly had, and a female, who was selected for the business with much wisdom, as he discovered sagacity in his projects. It is no less extraordinary than true, that this *confidante* was his own wife's aunt, by the mother's side, with whom he had had a long and perfect intimacy, previous to his marriage with Mrs. Price. Her name is *Pounteney*, and what is still more surprising, he carried on the connection to the day of his death, unknown to his wife; was daily with her, divided his dinner-times equally between the two, and the niece had, for ten years past, through the impositions of her husband, considered her aunt either as dead, or residing abroad. For this deception we shall account hereafter; one thing we must here observe, the wife was all innocence, without art, or understanding in the ways of the world, to be what is commonly called cunning, but, perhaps, had had a little reason to be

jealous. In short she was perfect simplicity, and, in her juvenile days, was distinguished by the appellation of the *pretty idiot*. He prudently, therefore, thought her not fit to be trusted. Mrs. Pounteney, the *aunt*, was a character extremely opposite to that of her niece, she was really cunning, artful, and capable of executing any plan which Price would chalk out for her. In short, she was the woman *after Price's own heart*, and having had the judgement to select her for his operations, there is no wonder, under the tutelage of Mr. Price, she proved a justification of his choice. It is easy, therefore, to be discovered, why Mrs. Price was not thought by him a fit object to be trusted with so important a secret. As he perfectly knew she was *too fond of her filthy bargain*, he wisely judged that a want of understanding in a pretty woman, is a certain proof of the want of a necessary reservation, and that he ought to be equally apprehensive of her fondness and simplicity, in a case where his own life was immediately concerned. Having made choice of this woman, as an assistant, his

apparatus being all ready, he began his operations, living then at Paddington with Mrs. Price, whom he went to nightly, and having lodgings also near Portland Place, where he visited her aunt daily, and where all the utensils for his undertakings were concealed. Everything being thus prepared, his next and chief scheme was a negotiator; for this his wits were set to work, and he procured one in the following manner . . .

*To be continued*

The pamphlet in which the above account first appeared is undated. However, thanks to research by Mrs. Christine Brown of Leeds University, we may be reasonably certain that it was published prior to 1790, and since Charles Price died in 1786, the date of publication may be provisionally limited to the four-year span 1786-1789 inclusive. The publisher, C. (Charles) Plummer, was a printer and bookseller in Doncaster, England. In addition to privately held copies, two others are known: one in the York Minster Library and another in the Leeds City Reference Library. We have been unable to trace a copy in the British Museum Library. *Editor.*

### ST. THOMAS & PRINCE

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days operation, all BNU overprinted notes, as well as all colonial coins still in circulation were withdrawn and replaced by the newly "dobras" banknotes printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. (London) and by the coin issue of the F.A.O. programme, the notes being of the Db. 1000, 500, 100 and 50 values, and the coins Db. 20, 10, 5, 2, 1 and 0.50 face values.

By the end of 1978, the remaining balance of the colonial overprinted banknotes in the bank vaults were destroyed by fire.

### Market values

The following is a list covering the above "cheque-notes" and "overprinted notes" from S. Tomé e Príncipe, to be used as an up-date information to banknote collectors, as sent to Krause Publications as a contribution to *PICK'S Standard Catalog of World Money*.

### St. Thomas and Prince ISL.

#### Banco Nacional Ultramarino, Emergency issues of cheque-notes

	VF	EF	UNC
★ 500 escudos. 31/12/1974. Red original of a cheque, typed and signed by the managers. White seal over signatures	100	150	250
★ 1,000 escudos, two dates 23/12/1974, 31/12/1974. As above, diff. size	100	150	250

#### Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe, Overprint ou Baco Nacional Ultramarino No. 35 to No. 39

★ 20 escudos 20/11/1958 identical to No. 36. Red overprint in the front and reverse: emblem of the bank, name, date (1/6/1976) and signature (Victor Correia)	7	10	20
★ 50 escudos 20/11/1958 identical to No. 37 W/op.	7	10	20
★ 100 escudos 20/11/1958 identical to No. 38 W/op.	15	25	40
★ 500 escudos 18/4/1956 identical to No. 35 W/op.	50	80	150
★ 1,000 escudos 11/5/1964 identical to No. 39 Wop.	60	100	250

#### Banco Nacional de S. Tomé e Príncipe, Cheque-Notes

Printed in the Lisbon State Mint

★ 500 escudos 21/6/1976. Blue, heavy letterings printed in black, signed by two directors, white seal over signatures	—	—	300
1,000 escudos 21/6/1976. As above, but lettering in red	75	120	200

Lisbon, December 4, 1979

