

The Small \$1 United States Legal Tender Note

By H. N. Schwartz

Paper money collectors are not bothered with the date problem confronting coin collectors today. Dates on currency never meant anything in most instances, and we certainly have another case in hand to prove it.

There was only one issue of the one dollar United States Legal Tender Note, and this was the series of 1928. The quantity printed was small, 1,872,012 pieces; these were printed from April 26, 1933, to May 5, 1933, over a period of nine days.

As has been written many times before, the only way one can tell when a bill was printed—its earliest date—is to look at a chart showing when the Secretary of the Treasury and the Treasurer of the United States, whose names appear on the bill, were in office. The date when the bill was actually put into circulation is a secret of each bill.

The one dollar 1928 series Legal Tender United States Note was signed by W. H. Woodin, Secretary of the Treasury and Walter O. Woods, Treasurer of the United States, who were in office beginning March 4, 1933. The bill could not have been printed before this date, even though the bill is inscribed Series of 1928 on its face, and so it was that the first note was printed April 26, 1933. All were then held for ten years until 1943, when they were released in Puerto Rico.

Due to the war, there was a shortage of one dollar notes, so the Legal Tender Notes were sent to Puerto

Rico for circulation there. It was thought that if the notes were released in the United States the Red Seal and the obligation might cause confusion, whereas in Puerto Rico the natives couldn't read the inscription.

However, according to Wm. A. Philpott, Jr., the first 5,000 of these notes were retained when they were first printed by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Woodin. The first ten sheets (120 notes) were issued uncut. However, sheet No. 1 was cut when the first note went to President Roosevelt. The other notes were passed out to Mr. Woodin's many friends. Some of the first ten sheets were cut by Mr. Woodin, and some were cut by others who received them. There were three known uncut sheets existing upon Mr. Woodin's death: sheets Nos. 2, 3 and 4. Incidentally, sheet No. 3 was given to Mr. Philpott and he reports that it is now in the museum at Boys Town, Omaha, Nebraska. The notes distributed in Puerto Rico were soon worn out except for those retained by the bank clerks. The original notes numbering A00005000A and under are very scarce.

W. H. Woodin's name also appeared on the 1928-C \$1 Silver Certificate with W. O. Woods and on the \$1 Silver Certificate Series 1928-D with W. A. Julian.

Legal Tender Notes are now issued in only \$2 and \$5 denominations.

Nineteenth Century American Bank Note Engravers

By Everett Cooper

BENJAMIN TANNER

Born in New York City on March 27, 1775, and died on November 14, 1848. Tanner learned his trade as an apprentice to the patriarch of the famous engraving family, Peter Rushton Maverick. Apparently after his apprenticeship he engaged in business in Philadelphia. The directories of Philadelphia list him for the period from 1800 through 1820 and probably later. He gained

recognition as a stipple and line engraver. His brother Henry was also a member of the engraving firm of Tanner, Vallance, Kearny & Co. Benjamin Tanner was a partner in the following Philadelphia bank note engraving firms: (1) Tanner, Vallance, Kearny & Co., beginning 1816; (2) Tanner, Kearny & Tiebout, beginning 1817; (3) Tanner, Kearny & Co., beginning 1820.

FRANCIS KEARNY

Born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey in 1780; date of death not known. Like many of the prominent early nineteenth century bank note engravers, he was apprenticed to Peter Rushton Maverick, beginning in 1798. When he became a journeyman engraver, he went to

Philadelphia about 1810, and was involved in partnerships with Benjamin Tanner and John Vallance. These Philadelphia bank note engraving partnerships continued until some time past the year 1823.