

A Federal Reserve Note Puzzle

By M. H. Loewenstern



These two Philadelphia Federal Reserve Notes are interesting because they have consecutive serial numbers but are signed by different Secretaries of the Treasury. According to Mr. W. A. Philpott, Jr.'s table of signatures on U. S. currency (Page 305 of Friedberg's U. S. paper money book), the tenure of office of JULIAN-MORGENTHAU, JR. was from January 1, 1934, to July 22, 1945. The period for JULIAN-VINSON was from July 23, 1945, to July 23, 1946. It appears that the note signed by JULIAN-MORGENTHAU, JR. (which has the larger serial number of the two notes) was issued before the JULIAN-VINSON note. The combine of JULIAN-VINSON could not have signed any notes before their term began on July 23, 1945, which is one day after the term of JULIAN-MORGENTHAU, JR. had expired. What's the explanation Mr. Philpott?

A Two-State National Bank, No. 1893

The national bank that carries charter number 1893 is listed in Friedberg's *Paper Money of the United States* as belonging in the District of Columbia. This is partly true, but not completely. The bank was originally chartered in the state of Maryland as "The Citizens' National Bank of Hagerstown, Maryland" on October 18, 1871. The bank was permitted by an Act of Congress on May 1, 1874 to change its name and location to "The Citizens' National Bank of Washington City, District of Columbia." The bank continued operations at this site until November 7, 1904, when it consolidated with the "National Metropolitan Citizens Bank of Washington, D. C." At the time of its close, the bank had a circulation of \$60,000, of which \$8,041 was outstanding on October 31, 1910.

LOUIS VAN BELKUM

SPMC Member Suffers Robbery

White River Junction, Vt. member Richard Southgate was the victim of an unusual robbery on June 22, 1967. Mr. Southgate and another collector were doing business in the former's apartment in the evening when two masked burglars forced themselves in and bound the two men and Mrs. Southgate. In addition to taking the collections, they robbed their victims of their cash. The robbery was believed to be the first of its type in Vermont in many years, although such an occurrence is all too common in other parts of the country.

SPMC member Charles Affleck calls attention to an article in the April 1967 issue of the *Virginia Numismatist*, official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, that is of special interest to paper money collectors. Author Howard E. Spain reports on the confirmed existence of the almost mythical \$500 Virginia Treasury note and says that its owner claims it was once in the Colonel Green collection.