

Exhibit on Republic of Texas Money Opens at the Texas Capitol Visitors Center

Budget shortfalls, government gridlock and a national credit crisis! This might sound like a list of contemporary headlines but these themes echo back to an important era of Texas history. A new exhibit, *On the Run: Currency, Credit and Capitals of the Republic of Texas* details the fascinating financial history of when Texas was its own independent nation. The display, curated by James P. Beville, author of *The Paper Republic*, includes more than 80 money-related documents, the majority of them from private collectors, which are rarely shown to the public. Arranged largely in chronological order, these pieces trace the economic, political and social history of Texas from the revolution through the annexation by the U.S. in 1846. Unknown to many, these pieces also trace the location of the seat of government from San Felipe, to Washington-on-the-Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, Columbia, Houston, Austin, Houston, Washington and finally in Austin.

For the paper money specialist, rarities abound. View the very first payment issued by Texas, Sam Houston's presidential paycheck, "star money", error notes, red backs, exchequer bills, military pay and issues from the Provisional Government of Texas. There is a receipt for cannon balls signed by James W. Fannin Jr. along with his gold pocket watch which was recovered by a soldier after the Battle of San Jacinto. For the newcomer, you can design your very own Texas currency and share it with your friends through an interactive portion of the exhibit. *On the Run* opened on February 1, 2014, and will remain on display through June 22, 2014.

Admission to *On the Run* and all other exhibits at the Capitol Visitors Center is free. Please call 512.305.8400 or visit www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com for more details.



TEXAS CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER

Located on the southeast corner of the Capitol Grounds and housed in the historic General Land Office Building (built 1856-1857), the Capitol Visitors Center provides an informative and fun orientation to the Capitol Complex. The Visitors Center features interactive exhibits and films about the Capitol and Texas history as well as free Texas travel information and a Gift Shop.



These Republic of Texas notes, commonly known as "Star Money" were issued from the city of Houston in 1837-1838. A complete set of "Star Money" is one of several themes in this unique showcase of Texas numismatics featured in *"On the Run"*.