

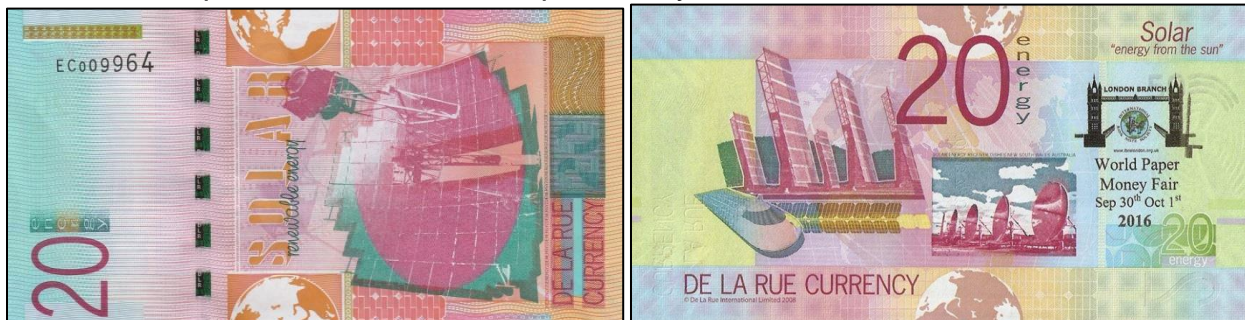
## The Perfect Pair - Test Notes and Currency Conferences

The most common use for test notes is advertising samples for large, international gatherings of currency collectors, monetary agencies, and bank note issuing authorities. Often a firm's latest test note is shown and given away at currency related conferences throughout the year. New security devices and designing notes with a large blend of these devices are powerful examples to tout the firm's abilities to potential buyers. The new test note can be used for demonstration purposes during educational sessions as well.

Occasionally a test note is made for a specific venue. Examples of these typically can be grouped into one of the following:

### **Overprint of the meeting information on an existing test note**

This De La Rue example is an overprint of one of the 5 States of Matter series initially released in 2008. This 20 Solar note one was for the IBNS World Paper Money Fair in 2016. The same note has an overprint for the Banknote Forum in 2015. The 10 Tidal note was overprinted for the World Paper Money Fair venue in 2015.



*TDLR-503b 20 Units, Solar, 80x155mm*

### **Special prefix and serial number signifying the meeting**

This Debden example has an IBNS prefix and serial number added for a 1993 IBNS function from a test note made in 1986. In 1987, a larger dimension variant note was given away at the British Museum display of British banknotes from a proof press demonstration. Does anyone know what IBNS venue this overprint note was made for?



*DEB-101d E Units, Experimental, 91x162mm. The reverse is blank.*

### Modified motifs on an existing test note with the meeting spelled out

This Crane example was produced for Association of African Banknotes and Security Documents Printers Conference in 2014. A similar note with a different reverse was produced and distributed as a season's greetings.



CRAN-222, no Units, Rapid® flower, 75x160mm.

### Test note made specifically for the occasion

This test note was made specifically for the Interpol Amsterdam meeting in 2002. It was produced jointly by Giesecke & Devrient, SICPA, and Giori.



GD-181D, SiCP-241D, and GIOR-421D, no Units, Intaglio, dimensions unknown.

To date, 38 test notes have been attributed as printed and marked for these events in the Catalog of Printers' Test Notes, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition released this spring.

The known conferences and congresses using test notes are:

- African Currency Forum
- Intergraf (Security Printing Conference)
- Currency Industry Suppliers Exhibition (CIS). Their events are called Currency Conferences.
- High Security Printing Conference (Asia, Latin America, & Europe) – aka Reconnaissance
- The Banknote Conference
- Interpol Conference
- International Bank Note Society annual meetings
- International Monetary Fund

- Watermark Conference

Let's look at one of these events. Ever wonder what these events are like?

The 19th conference of the Association of African Banknotes and Security Document Printers (AABSDP) took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 20 to 23 November 2016. These are held every two years. The name was changed to African Currency Forum at this meeting. The next one will be held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in 2018. The three day program included 41 presentations including counterfeiting from Interpol and the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, the threat of new payment systems, the increasing role of ATMs in Africa and globally, new African banknote series, developments in security features, banknote printing, substrates and durability, coins, selecting for security or durability, the cash cycle, solving financial exclusion, engaging the public, improving banknote security quality control, specifying banknotes and quality management. There were approximately 300 attendees.

Of course there is time set aside for social events. A visit to Cairo including the CBE Printing House, the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx and the famous Cairo Museum of Antiquities, culminating with a dinner cruise on the Nile. An Egyptian night celebrating African food and music (complete with belly dancers), followed the next evening by a beach party complete with a fireworks display over the moonlit Red Sea. The last day had a gala dinner featuring international music and cuisine in the spectacularly decorated Egypt Hall.

Proof of the marketing impact of test notes can be seen by views of various kiosks at this event.



*Schmid Ryner & Komori kiosks. Note Komori “Lupo” test note on background wall. Schmid Ryner has 5 known test notes as well.*



*KOM-251 “Lupo” , 77x163mm.test note. Jura, LandQart, GSI, & Kurz all have versions of this note as well with their name at top right on reverse. The note was jointly produced by the five firms.*



*Louisenthal and Giesecke & Devrient kiosks.*



*LOU-211aD / GD-481aD test note*

Examples from other venues:



*KBA NotaSys kiosk at Watermark Conference, Sochi, Russia, 2015*



*KBA-171. It is the new low denomination KBA-NotaSys house note.*



*Goznak kiosk at High Security Printing Conference – Reconnaissance, Mexico City, Mexico, 2016*



*GOZ-371a “Avantgarde” test note. 80x151mm. There are 8 varieties of this note.*

Here is the Bluebird test note - the topic of discussion at the Jura kiosk.



*Jura kiosk at African Banknote Conference - Cape Town, South Africa in 2014*



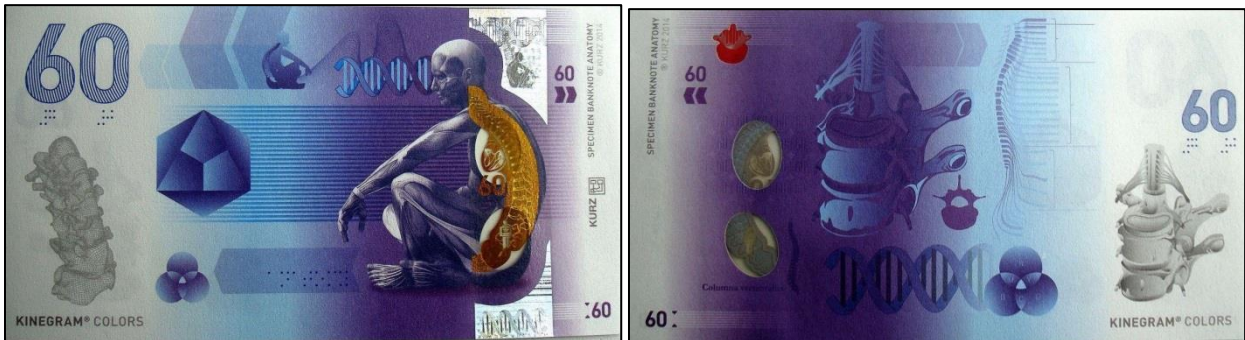
*FCO-251bD, KAZ-141bD, and LAND-131bD 83x155mm test note.*

*A jointly produced test note series by Francois-Charles Oberthur Fiduciaire, Banknote Factory of Kazakhstan National Bank, and LandQart. There are 3 varieties of this note.*

I mentioned using test notes as part of the demonstration or training session. Here's an example:



*Kurz session using Kinegram Colors test note at High Security Printing Asia – Renaissance in Manila in 2014.*



*KURZ-191b 74x150mm test note. Part of a 5 note anatomy set produced in 2014.*

I implore an IBNS member attendee of The African Currency Forum, Currency Conferences, High Security Printing Conference (Asia, Latin America, & Europe) – Reconnaissance, the Banknote Conference, or the Interpol Conference to provide insight to the IBNS on one or more of these conferences. It is possible a member may be a little reticent at this prospect, so I would be only too happy to help or even take on the project myself. The only small issue is an invitation...

I give thanks again to fellow IBNS members for help on this article. Martien Van De Van of the Netherlands and Bruce Tupholme of Portugal took the time to share great high

resolution images I needed of Crane, Komori, and Debden test notes. The first name in IBNS is International!