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Japanese government-issued rupee in Burma

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Japanese invaded Burma in January 1942. They conquered Mandalay on 21 May 1942, forcing the British to retreat into India. The Japanese held Burma until the second Allied campaign of 1944, although an official surrender did not take place until August 1945. In 1942 the Japanese issued paper scrip currency of 1, 5 and 10 cents and ¼, ½, 1, 5 and 10 Rupees. Like most Japanese colonial currency from this period, a letter code was used on the notes. The first or top letter "B" indicates the note was printed and issued for Burma. The second letter or letters indicate the block (or printing batch) of the note, there are single letter blocks and double letter blocks for Burma, with the later two letter blocks being identified by a hyphen separating the letter "B" from the block letters.

In 1943, the Japanese commuted the sentence of Dr Ba Maw, an outspoken advocate for Burmese self-rule, and installed him as the head of the puppet government. From 1943 onward the Japanese issued paper scrip currency of 1, 5 and

Japanese government-issued rupee in Burma



10 Rupee Japanese occupation note obverse (1942-44)

Central bank Imperial Japan

User(s)  Japanese-occupied Burma

Subunit

1/100 Cent

Plural rupees

10 Rupee with a 100 Rupee note in 1944. The Japanese characters in the oblong box at the bottom of each note read “Government of Great Imperial Japan” and the contents of the seal at the lower right of the comprise the Japanese symbol for the Minister of Finance.

When all of these notes became obsolete, punch holes were made to indicate that the note had been "cancelled" and therefore devalued.

Prior to the Japanese invasion, Burma circulated the Indian rupee issued by the Reserve Bank of India^[1] since nationalized paper currency was introduced by the British Administration in 1897.^[2]

Cent	cents
Banknotes	1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents, ¼ Rupee, ½ Rupee, 1 Rupee, 5 Rupees, 10 Rupees, 100 Rupees

This infobox shows the latest status before this currency was rendered obsolete.

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Japanese government-issued rupee in Burma (1942–44)

1942–44 complete issue of Japanese invasion money (Burma)

Image	Value	Issue date ^[3]	Printing blocks ^[3]	Images ^[3]
 <p>The front of the 1-cent note is red and features the text "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT" and "ONE CENT" in the center, with "B" and "BW" on either side. The back is also red and features a large "1" in the center.</p>	1 cent	1942	BA–BP, B/AA–B/EX	
 <p>The front of the 5-cent note is purple and features the text "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT" and "FIVE CENTS" in the center, with "B" and "AT" on either side. The back is also purple and features a large "5" in the center.</p>	5 cents	1942	BA–BZ, B/AB–B/BX	
 <p>The front of the 10-cent note is brown and features the text "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT" and "TEN CENTS" in the center, with "BZ" on either side. The back is also brown and features a large "10" in the center.</p>	10 cents	1942	BA–BZ, B/AA–B/AR	
 <p>The front of the 1/4-rupee note is blue and features the text "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT" and "1/4 RUPEE" in the center, with "BS" on either side. The back is also blue and features a large "1/4" in the center.</p>	Quarter rupee	1942	BA–BV	
	Half rupee	1942	BA–BD	Ananda Temple, Bagan

				
	<p>1 rupee</p>	<p>1942</p>	<p>BA–BD</p>	<p>Ananda Temple, Bagan</p>
	<p>5 rupees</p>	<p>1942–44</p>	<p>BA–BB</p>	<p>Ananda Temple, Bagan</p>
	<p>10 rupees</p>	<p>1942–44</p>	<p>BA</p>	<p>Ananda Temple, Bagan</p>
	<p>100 rupees</p>	<p>1944</p>	<p>BA</p>	<p>Ananda Temple, Bagan</p>

For table standards, see the banknote specification table.

See also

- Emergency circulating notes
- Japanese government-issued dollar in Malaya and Borneo
- Burma
- Japanese invasion money

References

1. Cuhaj 2010, p. 174.
2. Cuhaj 2010, p. 173.
3. Cuhaj 2010, pp. 886–88.

Works cited

- Cuhaj, George S., ed. (2010). *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money General Issues — 1368–1960 (volume 2)*. Krause. ISBN 978-1-4402-1293-2.

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Categories: Rupee | Japanese invasion money | Burma in World War II | Currencies of Myanmar

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