

Australian Pre-Federation Private Bank Issue Banknotes & Australiana

The City Bank, Sydney (1863 - 1916)

The City Bank of Sydney Limited commenced business on 9 February, 1863 on the corner of King and George Streets in Sydney.

The financial strength of the bank was particularly evident during 1893 when it was one of only a handful of Australian banking institutions which did not suspend trading. With the bank's notes backed by New South Wales government legislation, their issue was instrumental in overcoming stagnant trade and commerce.

In 1911, the City Bank of Sydney Limited was one of 16 banks who supplied blank note forms to the Australian Government. These notes were superscribed as redeemable in gold and issued as the first Commonwealth notes.

The bank merged with the reconstituted Australian Joint Stock Bank in 1916, by then known as the Australian Bank of Commerce Limited, eventually to be absorbed by the Bank of New South Wales in 1931 - now part of the Westpac Banking Group Limited.

Prominent numismatic collector, Sir William Dixson, was a Chairman of Directors of the City Bank of Sydney Limited. The wide ranging contacts he established through his work with the bank greatly assisted in the compilation of a comprehensive collection of early Australian coins, notes and tokens. The collection is now housed in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.



Not actual size.



Actual size 120mm X 205mm.

1869 £1 Printers Specimen (Serial No. B32001), "Sydney 26 January 26, 1869". Centre perforation
"SPECIMEN B. W & Co LONDON" Lovely Vignettes of early Australiana.
(Rare banknote)

gEF.....\$9,250

(McDonalds 20th Edition Cat. shows - Circulated Note @ \$ 135,000 ! & Printers Specimen @ \$ 37,500 !)

Australian Pre-Federation Private Bank Issue Banknotes & Australiana

Excelsior Bank (1880 - 1893)

The Excelsior Bank was established in Sydney in 1880 as a building society. It's parent was the Excelsior Land Investment & Building Company. The bank did not survive the financial crisis of the early 1890's, closing in 1893.



Not actual size.



Actual size 110mm X 185mm.

18-- £1 Printers Specimen (Serial No. B8009), "Incorporated by Act of Parliament 37 Vic. No. 19". Pound note engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Co. London. (Minor pin holes on the left margin), "Unissued Remainder" banknote. Interesting vignettes of early Australiana.
 (Rare banknote) VF.....\$9,250
 (Ex "The Rare Coin Company" with their price tag of \$ 24,000 ! and other background information/photos re this banknote)
 (McDonalds 20th Edition Cat. shows - "Unissued Remainder" Note @ \$ 25,000 ! & Printers Proof @ \$ 63,500 !)

Australian Pre-Federation Private Bank Issue Banknotes & Australiana

The Colonial Bank of Australasia Limited (1856 - 1918)

The Colonial Bank of Australasia Limited was established in Melbourne in 1856. The bank was reasonably successful until a run on deposits during the financial crisis of the 1890's caused it to suspend payments. The setback for the company proved to be short-lived. The business was viable and quickly recovered.

The limited operations of the company, with branches only in Victoria, placed it at a disadvantage in comparison with the larger banks operating Australia-wide. The bank was absorbed by the National Bank of Australasia Limited in 1918, now a part of the National Australia Banking Group Limited.

In 1911, the bank was one of 16 banks who supplied blank note forms to the Australian Government. These notes were superscribed as redeemable in gold and issued as the first Commonwealth notes.

Not actual size.



Actual size 135mm X 212mm.

1870s Five Pounds (Rare Advertising Banknote), Mounted on card. A rare advertising banknote issued by the Colonial Bank of Australia in Russell Street, Melbourne promoting their engraving and printing services – “*Promise to supply on demand Engraving and Printing of the first class, or forfeit Five Pounds*”. Signed by Bank Manager and interesting item with historical Australian vignettes of the mid 1800s. Bank “*Honorably Mentioned for Engraving, Great Exhibition, 1851*”.

Unlisted by Mick Vort Ronald (Rare advertising banknote) VF..... \$ 5,650

(Ex – “John Pettit Rare Banknotes” with his price tag of \$12,750 !)