

Whereas the material of medals varied widely, banknotes were always printed on best natural fibre based papers until very recently. Then in 1988 Banknote Printing, a branch of the Australian Reserve Bank, introduced plastic polymer based notes which incorporated holograms visible from both sides. This great chemical improvement to prevent counterfeiting is of course one of the basic criteria of a good banknote, apart from a striking motive. For me the picture was the essential desired item for my collection. As in the case of the scientific medal, there was no literature on the subject and no-one with whom I could exchange duplicates. Only during the last few years have I known of two other collectors, but they were only interested in physics on banknotes.

My first article “Banknotes of Chemistry” appeared in *Chemistry and Industry* March 1983 and contained five portraits of chemists, Weizmann, Liebig, Katchir-Katchalsky, Auer von Welsbach and Böttger on various banknotes. I also illustrated the article with German Notgeld of 1922, issued and printed by Bayer and BASF. A more comprehensive article “Banknotes of Science—A neglected Art of Science and Technology” was written and published by me in *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* in September 1988, where I could cite a table of 56 famous scientists of many different disciplines on banknotes in my collection. The article was translated into German and published in *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau* in November 1990 and it was reprinted in the *Journal of the I.B.N.S.* I had also written a brief note about “Australia’s scientific Banknotes” in my own *Journal ISR*, December 1987.

One year after the inauguration of the first Australian polymer banknote with holograms, I was fortunate in publishing in *ISR* [Vol. 14, p. 399, 1989] an article by Dr D.H. Solomon of CSIRO Clayton, Australia, about the scientific research and the development of the polymer production technology of these notes. It was the first scientific article of this new process. I myself wrote a little later for the *Journal of IBNS* Vol. 32, No. 3, a survey of this new subject, and called it “OVD The Bank Notes of the Future”. OVD stands for *Optically Variable Designs* and will be the generic name for holograms in banknotes. IBNS is the International Banknote Society.

There has only been one exhibition of my banknote collection at the Museum für Verkehr und Technik—after 1 September 1996 the Deutsches Technikmuseum, Berlin. The Director, Professor Günter Gottmann invited me, and from June till September 1991, 175 scientific and technological banknotes were shown to the public. Good press notices appeared in a number of newspapers. During the exhibition period there was one attempt to steal the German DM 200 note, showing Ehrlich, but a vigilant Museum attendant foiled the thief. My collection is now permanently housed at this Museum. A CD ROM Catalogue is slowly being prepared by the Museum.