

# Historical Maps on Latin American Paper Money



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### Introduction

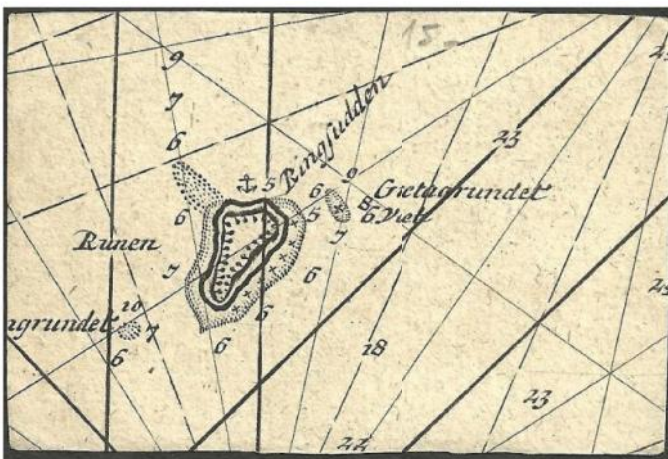
Europeans ventured into the Western Hemisphere; though most of the time, they were not sure of what was going to be found. The chief reason for this was an almost total ignorance of what the world was really like. The information about the earth's true shape had not filtered down to every level; and even if it had, the arguments in proof of it were difficult for uneducated people to understand.

Sailors had noticed that as they went north the temperature became colder, and as they went south it became increasingly hot. In more recent centuries, map-makers simply left unknown areas blank, with the words "Unexplored Territory" printed across them. But the early map-maker when they had no facts, used their imaginations.



The explorations of these new lands, fueled by imagination, greed, commercial interest and religious zeal, would occupy the European powers for subsequent centuries. Their very existence and their vast expanse would change irrevocably the culture of Europe and, in the process, destroy or significantly modify the original peoples the Europeans, not quite understanding what they were called, Indians.

Besides the maps, the navigators developed some instruments for their journeys like the astrolabe. An astrolabe is an elaborate inclinometer, historically used by astronomers, navigators, and astrologers,. Its many uses include locating and predicting the positions of the Sun, Moon, planets, and stars, determining local time given local latitude and vice-



versa, surveying, triangulation, and to cast horoscopes. It was used in classical antiquity, through the Islamic Golden Age, the European Middle Ages and Renaissance for all these purposes.

There is often confusion between the astrolabe and the mariner's astrolabe. While the astrolabe could be useful for determining latitude on land, it was an awkward instrument for use on the heaving deck of a ship or in wind. The mariner's astrolabe was developed to address these

issues. The mariner's astrolabe was rather a graduated circle with an alidade used to measure vertical angles. They were designed to allow for their use on boats in rough water and/or in heavy winds, which astrolabes used on land are ill equipped to handle. A sea astrolabe appears on notes of 5,000 pesetas (1992) of Spain on back in a vertical format.



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It not only until the 18<sup>th</sup> century when someone had the peregrine idea of printing a bill on a map. The earliest note with a map was a France's issue in 1790s. It is a small emergency issue to replace coins from the French revolution. It is a local issue (unlisted) - printed on the back of a map of an island (maybe Dutch or German). Dimensions are 83 x 53 mm. So, it's a real map note!

Since 1870, the American Bank Note Company in the United States was responsible for printing the majority of the paper money used in the Latin American countries. In that time, most of the private banks issued banknotes including some allegorical vignettes for commerce and industry. For instance, a series of notes of *Banco de Panama* (Colombia) shows a globe with a map of the American continent at center (S722-725). Probably those are the first notes (dated ca.1869) with a map in Latin America's history. Also, a similar design on 50 pesos of *El Banco Nacional de los Estados Unidos de Colombia* (1880) and on 100 dollars of Hawaiian Islands (1879).



In 1889, *Banco Español de Puerto Rico* issued a new series of banknotes. On 100 Pesos (P-12) appears the portrait of Queen Mother and Regent of Spain Maria Cristina at right, two allegorical women are at center and a Man with Globe and Map on the left.

At the beginning of 1940s, Banque of Guyane issued a set of notes and one of them show



a map of the French Guiana (P13). Since 1989, British Guyana shows maps on all its banknotes. Also, Dutch Guiana, better known as Suriname appears maps on its series 2000.

In the Caribbean area there are maps on bank notes from Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Haiti, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, British Caribbean

Territories, and East Caribbean States. For instance, in Barbados the maps appear as watermark (P29-70) but in Bermuda's issues (2009) and Haiti's issues (2004) the maps are in the security strips.

In 1997, the Central Bank of El Salvador issued new notes (P147-159) where appears Columbus and the silhouettes of the three ships at left and maps of the American and European continents at upper-center on back in all denominations of this Central American nation.



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### ARGENTINA

#### Malvinas Islands & South American Map (P.New)

*Islas Malvinas* or Falkland Islands are an archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean, located about 250 nautical miles (290 miles; 460 km ) from the coast of mainland South America. The archipelago consists of East Falkland, West Falkland and 776 lesser islands. The capital, Stanley, is on East Falkland. The islands are an internally self-governing British Overseas Territory, with the United Kingdom responsible for defense and foreign affairs.



These islands goes back at least five hundred years, with active exploration and colonization only taking place in the 18th century. Nonetheless, the islands have been a matter of controversy, as they have been claimed by the French, Spaniards, British and Argentines at various points.

The Malvinas were discovered in 1520 by Esteban Gomez, crew of the ship *San Antonio*, one of the ships of Magellan's expedition. As the demarcation of lands of papal bulls, the islands belonged to Spain. However, navigators English, Dutch and French came to the islands several times. In 1690, the British sea captain John Strong sailed through the Strait of San Carlos, which separates the Falklands, and called Falkland Strait in memory of Sir Lucius Cary, second Viscount Falkland.

The Falklands War started after Argentina invaded and took control of the islands in April 1982. War casualties in the 1982 conflict totaled 655 Argentine soldiers, and 236 British soldiers. The British captured about 10,000 Argentine prisoners, all of whom were released shortly after the war.



Argentina's defeat in the war severely discredited the military dictatorship who started the war, and led to the restoration of democratic, civilian rule in Argentina in 1983.

In May 2014, the Central Bank of Argentina has unveiled a new 50-peso currency note featuring a map of the Malvinas Islands (Known as the Falkland Islands to the Britain) to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the invasion of the British archipelago.

The front features map of the islands in the white and blue colors of the Argentine flag. Also, the South American map is at lower right. The Reverse features Antonio "Gaucho" Rivero, a folk hero who led the bloody uprising against the British in the long-disputed territory in 1833.



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### BELIZE

#### St. George's Caye Map (P.53, 58, 61, 67)

This Central American country was the site of the ancient Mayan civilization, was sighted by Columbus on his fourth voyage, in 1502, and settled by shipwrecked English seamen in 1638. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Spain tried to maintain a monopoly on trade and colonization in its New World colonies, but northern European powers were increasingly attracted to the region by the potential for trade and settlement. These powers resorted to smuggling, piracy, and war in their efforts to challenge and then destroy Spain's monopoly. In the 17th century, the Dutch, English, and French encroached on Spain's New World possessions.



Today Belize, formerly British Honduras is a country located on the north eastern coast of Central America and it is the only country in the area where English is the official language, although Creole and Spanish are more commonly spoken. Belize is bordered to the north by Mexico, south and west by Guatemala, and to the east by the Caribbean Sea.

The Central Bank of Belize was established on January 1, 1982 by the Central Bank of Belize Act No. 15 (Chapter 262 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000). The first notes issued under its name were dated July 1st, 1983. Production of 50 dollar notes recommenced in 1990,



the same year that the 1 dollar note was replaced by a coin.

In 1990, the Central Bank of Belize issued a note of 5 dollars, where appears the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II at right and Columbus' medallion at left. Carved

head of the 'sleeping giant' as watermark. On back shows an outline map of St. George's Caye at center-right. The main picture is a collage of scenes from St. George's Caye prior to 1931. On the left is one of the bathing kraals and on the right is one of the larger summer residences. In the centre is the tomb of Thomas Potts, a Senior Magistrate of the settlement, a contour of the cay dated 1764, and an old cannon used during the battle of St. George's Caye. This cay was the first official settlement of the country of Belize. Also, the HMS "Merlin" battleship, which participated in the Battle of St. George's Caye in 1798. This feature consists of specific design elements printed in precise register on both sides of the note. Dimensions are 158 x 69 mm.

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St. George's Caye is an island in the Caribbean Sea, eight miles east of Belize City. It is part of the Belize District of Belize, Central America. As of 2000 St. George's Caye had a permanent population of about 20 people. St. George's Caye was previously known by the Spaniards as "Cayo Cocina", or "Kitchen Key". It was settled as a town in 1650, and was the largest settlement in what was then British Honduras in the 17th century and 18th century; however, its importance was eventually eclipsed by the growth of Belize City. From 3 September through 10 September 1798, British settlers fought and defeated a small Spanish fleet sent to drive them from the area; this battle is marked as a national holiday in Belize each September 10 as the Battle of St. George's Caye.

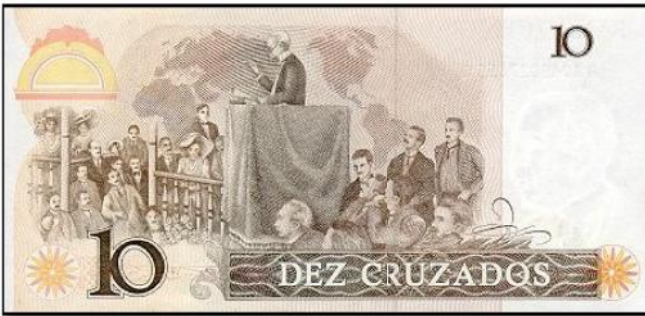


On January 1, 1999, a similar note was put in circulation with windowed security thread, ascending size serial number at right and serial number in a vertical format at left. A jaguar appears as watermark. All these notes printed in London by TDLR but with a reduced size (140 x 70 mm).

## BRAZIL

### Historical Maps (P.196, 196A, 203-209, 231, 248)

The Federative Republic of Brazil comprises half the continent of South America. Brazil was discovered and claimed for Portugal by Admiral Pedro Alvarez Cabral in 1500. Portugal established a settlement in 1532 and proclaimed the area a royal colony in 1549.



For thousands of years before the coming of Europeans to the Americas, Brazil's Native American peoples lived in settlements along the rivers and on the coast or roamed the interior in hunting bands. Many of these Indians were expert

hunters, farmers, and fishermen. Their way of life was tailored to their environment, and they knew much about the habits of animals and the uses of plants. Most of these Indian peoples extracted poisons from various plants and fishes to use on the hunting darts they shot from blowguns; they also obtained drugs for medical and magical uses from the forest plants. Some groups of Indians were warlike, conducting raids on other tribes for revenge or to prove their bravery. A few practiced cannibalistic rites, in which human flesh was eaten.



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In 1970, *Banco Central Do Brasil* issued a new set of notes with the following denominations: 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 Cruzeiros (1970-80). The size of the notes increases according to the denomination. These notes became the first Brazilian-printed banknotes and entered in circulation May 15, except the denomination of 500.



In 1972, *Banco Central do Brasil* issued a commemorative note in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brazilian independence from Portugal. This 500 Cruzeiros-note is featuring the portrait of 5 men of different racial groups. Dates 1822-1972 in the clear area at left as watermark. Five different historical maps of Brazil are on back. The maps portray the different boundaries and cities during the different periods of development of the country.

For instance, a map known as 'Terra Brasilis' (1519), which contain this inscription and it was reproduced in this note, as follow: *"This is a map of the region of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, which touches the western Caribbean of the King of Castile. However, the people of this region is brown, brave and very barbaric and feeds on human flesh. These same people have a great skill with the bow and arrow. Here are multicolored parrots and numerous birds, monstrous beasts and many species of monkeys were born in the trees of Brazil, considered good to dye the robes of red."* Dimensions are 172 x 79 mm.

In 1990, a new note 1,000 cruzeiros was put in circulation. Portrait of Candido Rondón is



at right and native hut at center on front. Two Indian children, local food from Amazonia and map of Brazil are on back. Dimensions are 140 x 65 mm.

In 2000, the Central Bank of Brazil launched a waterproof plastic (polymeric) banknotes as part of the country's

500th anniversary celebrations of the discovery. This 10 Real note served as a trial run prior to the entire Brazilian paper currency being renewed. On the 10 Real note features Pedro Alvarez Cabral on the front and a digital image map of "Terra Brasilis," better known as Brazil. A navigation instrument is at left. Also, five vessels of the Cabral's expedition are at right. Portuguese Cross of the Order of Christ, a symbol, carried by the Portuguese vessels of that time, at far right. On back, a map of Brazil and many portraits, representing the ethnicity of Brazil. All these notes printed by *Casa da Moeda do Brasil*. Dimensions are 140 x 65 mm.

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### COLOMBIA

#### Globe & Map (P.409, 437, 437A, 448, 454)

The country is located in northwestern South America, bordered to the northwest by Panama; to the north by the Caribbean Sea; to the east by Venezuela and Brazil; to the south by Ecuador and Peru; and to the west by the Pacific Ocean. The Spanish arrived in 1499 and initiated a period of conquest and colonization ultimately creating the Viceroyalty of New Granada (comprising modern-day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, north-western Brazil and Panama), with its capital at Bogotá. Independence from Spain was won in 1819, but by 1830 'Gran Colombia' had collapsed with the secession of Venezuela and Ecuador. What is now Colombia and Panama emerged as the Republic of New Granada.



Francisco José de Caldas, also known as 'Sabio' ('Wiseguy') Caldas, was born in Popayán, Colombia in 1770. He was a brilliant student of *Colegio Mayor del Rosario de Santa Fe*, where he graduated as lawyer. He dedicated his life to investigation and study of botanic, geography, astronomy, geology, and mathematics. He participated in scientific trips around South America with his German friends Humboldt and Bompland. In Ecuador, they climbed the summits of the historical mountains of *Pichincha* and *Chimborazo*. Caldas constructed by himself a barometer and a sextant for the leveling and measurement work of the altitude of mountains during his travels.

Also, Caldas participated in the independents' movement. However, the Spanish forces captured him and Caldas was carried to Santa Fé de Bogotá. So there he applied to postpone his execution because he was finishing some scientific investigations but Pablo Morillo, the ruthless Spanish general, responded him: "Spain doesn't need of wise people". Caldas was sentenced and executed on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1816.



Caldas' portrait appears in the first note of *Banco de la Republica* of 1 Peso (1923) at center. Also, a bust of Caldas appears on

notes of 1/2 Peso (1935) with bust of the Liberator Simon Bolívar facing left, at right. Around 4 million notes circulated for the following five years and were printed in New York by ABNC. Later, a banknote with a similar design was put in circulation but in a denomination of 20 Pesos (1943-63). In 1966, *Banco de la Republica* issued a new note of



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20 pesos, where appears José F. Caldas with compass and globe at right. Artifacts from the Gold Museum in Bogotá are on back.



In 1992, Colombia issued a multicolored commemorative note of 10,000 Pesos Oro for Quincentennial of Columbus' Voyage October 12th. 1492. A youthful woman "Mujer Emberá" appears at center right and early sailing ships at left on the face of this note. On back shows many native birds around and an antique map of *Mundus Novus*. Columbus flag's ship, the Santa Maria, is shown at the lower corner right.

In 1996, *Banco de la República* put into circulation a new note of 20,000 pesos, featuring the famous astronomer Julio Garavito Armero at right and also as watermark. View of the moon at center. On back shows a satellite view of earth at center, also moon's surface along bottom with geometric forms. All these notes printed by *Imprenta de Billetes-Santa Fé de Bogotá* (IBSFB). Dimensions are 140 x 70 mm.

## COSTA RICA

### Costa Rican Map (P.274-279)

Costa Rica was discovered by Columbus in 1502, during his fourth and last voyage to the new world, and was a colony of Spain from 1522 until independence in 1821. Initially, Columbus named the territory *Nueva Cartago* (New Cartago); then renamed as *Costa Rica* (Rich Coast) but was not generally employed until 1540. Probably this name was given in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Spanish explorers who believed that large quantities of gold lay hidden within its borders. The Spanish found little gold there, but this tiny Central American republic has in many other ways fulfilled the promise of its name.



Costa Rica is a country in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. It has an area of 19,575 square miles (50,700 sq. km). The short coastline that form the eastern border is

a regular span with few indentations, formed of coral and washed by the waters of the Caribbean Sea. The Pacific shoreline on the west is about four times as long, irregular, and has a multitude of bays, peninsulas and islands –a region of natural ports and extraordinary beauty. About 300 miles (480 km) from the mainland is the Costa Rican – owned island, Isla del Coco, once a notorious pirate refuge, where it is said fabulous treasures lie buried (but, of course, you have to follow the map!).

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In 2012, Costa Rica's major newspapers featured pictures of six new bills that will come out this year. These banknotes have been totally redesigned for the following denominations: 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000 colones. The old notes will all be withdrawn from circulation and be replaced by new ones. In addition, to a completely new design on the front and the back, each note will be a different size and color. The new banknotes are made of cotton fiber-based paper and sensitive to the touch. If you turn the bill the map of Costa Rica on the front changes color.

*Banco Central de Costa Rica* issued a new set of banknotes. For instance, on 20,000 colones-note feature a famous writer Carmen Lyra at left-center and also as watermark. Also, shows a rabbit petting a wolf (scene from a folk tale '*Cuentos de mi Tía Panchita*'). A map of Costa Rica is at upper right. On back appears a *Chispita* hummingbird flying over a mountainous landscape, sunflower, and coffee plants. Numeral denomination in a vertical format at right and denomination in a number and letters at lower-left. Dimensions are 153 x 67 mm



The Central Bank's officials delayed the introduction due to an error on the small map printed with optically variable ink (OVI) on the front of the note. The error has been discovered on at least 150 notes, and others were examined to determine the extent of the problem. The error is small mark that crossed the Gulf of Nicory on the security map that is made with optical variable ink, which changes color depending on the angle, which it is observed. All these notes printed in France by Oberthur Technologies.

## CUBA

### Cuban & Latin American Map (P.86; FX.52)

Cuba is an island country in the Caribbean area. The nation of Cuba consists of the main island of Cuba, the Isla de la Juventud, and several archipelagos. Havana is the largest city in Cuba and the country's capital. Santiago de Cuba is the second largest city. To the north of Cuba lies the United States (140 km or 90 miles away) and the Bahamas, Mexico is to the west, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica are to the south, and



Haiti and the Dominican Republic are to the southeast. In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on and claimed the island now occupied by Cuba, for the Kingdom of Spain. Cuba



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remained a territory of Spain until the Spanish-American War ended in 1898, and gained formal independence from the U.S. in 1902.

In 1953, *Banco Nacional de Cuba* issued a commemorative note for the Centennial Birth of Jose Martí. Martí's portrait is at left and *Manifiesto de Montecristi 1895* at center-right. The Manifiesto of Montecristi, proclaims the independence of Cuba, and put an end to all legal distinctions between the races, friendship with the Spaniards who did not oppose the independence, and war with all who stood in the way of independence. The word "Peso" is over the number "1" at lower right and the upper left and right. A map of Cuba over arms at center, commemorative dates ('1853-28 de Enero-1953') at left.

Also, in the bottom part of the note in front has a text in Spanish: "Garantizado integramente con el oro, cambio extranjero convertible en oro y todos los demás activos del Banco Royal de Cuba. Este billete constituye una obligación del Estado Cubano." ('The gold is guaranteed completely, foreign exchange convertible in gold and all the assets of the Royal Bank of Cuba. This bill constitute an obligation of the Cuban State.')

The back legend indicates: "Este billete tiene curso legal y fuerza liberatoria, de acuerdo con la ley, para el pago de toda obligación o a cumplir en el territorio nacional." ('This note has legal circulation and strong release unlimited, according to the monetary law, to pay all the contracted obligations to accomplish in the national territory'). Initially, around 5 million banknotes printed in New York by American Bank Note Company but the original plates were sent to England and later printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Company. Dimensions are 155 x 65 mm.



In 1994, the Cuban government led by Fidel Castro passed a law that requires any tourist who enters Cuba to convert their foreign currency to *Pesos Convertibles*. One Peso Convertible equals to one U.S. Dollar. Peso Convertibles were issued in face values of 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 and since they were not widely used they were kept in vaults. The coat of arms is on back in all the denominations.

In 2006, on new 100 convertible pesos appears monument to Carlos Manuel de Céspedes at right on front. A Spanish legend: "*Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas*" (Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas; ALBA): satellite dish, Latin American map, woman and man reading, oil refinery are on back. Dimensions are 150 x 70 mm.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### Hispaniola Map (P.140)

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) a Genovese sailor and explorer, died after four voyages to the New World, he was convinced that he had discovered a sea route to Asia. The son of an Italian

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weaver; he found the harbor and wharves of his native city of Genoa much more interesting than his father's looms. He had at least two brothers. Christopher had little education and, only as an adult, learned to read and write. However, as a young man, Christopher went to Portugal and got involved in the map-making business with his brother, Bartholomew. This business made Columbus a rich man. His books of maps are still found today in every library in the world.

Columbus's desire to sail westward was fueled in part by maps and writings of a Florentine humanist Paolo Toscanelli. When Columbus sailed in 1492, in three ships (*La Niña*, *la Pinta* y *la Santa Maria*) financed by the Spanish Kingdom, he finally reached land in the West on October 12 of that year. In the course of his own further voyages he explored much of what we know today as the Caribbean and parts of Central and South America.

Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola (the second-largest island in the West Indies) in 1492. He was favorably impressed by the friendliness of the *Táinos* who greeted him; he was even more



impressed by the gold they wore. In 1496, Columbus's brother, Bartholomew, founded the port city of Santo Domingo - the oldest city in the Western Hemisphere- on Hispaniola. Santo Domingo was called originally Santiago de Guzmán located on the island's southern coast.

This city became the administrative capital for all of Spain's colonies in the Americas.

In 1992, during the celebration for the 500th Anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the Americas, the most significant part of the celebration was the *Faro a Colón*, or Columbus Lighthouse, the construction of which was first discussed in the mid-1800s. The design for the Columbus Lighthouse was chosen through an architectural international contest won by J.L. Gleave in 1931, but construction was not started until 1986.

*Banco Central de la Republica Dominicana* issued a commemorative note of 500th anniversary of Columbus voyage (1992). Columbus' portrait appears at right and also as watermark with sailings ships at center. Also, the seal of the Central Bank is at right. The '*Faro a Colón*' (Columbus' Lighthouse), placement of Cross of Christianity and Hispaniola map outline are at center; the coat of arms is at left on back.

The denomination is 500 *Pesos Oro*. Also, the Central Bank of Dominican Republic issued a specimen collection, all the banknotes with zero serial numbers and stamped "MUESTRA." The design of this multicolored note was made in Dominican Republic but printed in Canada by CBNC. Dimensions are 156 x 67 mm.

## ECUADOR

**Globes (P.S253, P.87-88, 94-95, 97)**



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The Republic of Ecuador, located astride the equator of the Pacific coast of South America. It is bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south. It is one of only two countries in South America, along with Chile, that do not have a border with Brazil. The country also includes the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, about 1,000 km (620 mi) west of the mainland.

Ecuador adopted its currency unit 'Sucre' in 1884, in tribute to the Venezuelan patriot, Antonio José de Sucre, who secured the independence of Ecuador in the Battle of Pichincha in 1822. Also, he played a very important role in the Battle of Ayacucho (Peru), consolidating the independence from Spain for the entire northwest of South America in 1824. Marshall Sucre was killed in Pasto, Colombia in 1830 at the age of 35.



One of Ecuador's more interesting note series was printed in 1920 on behalf of the private *Banco Sur Americano*. These notes celebrate the journey of Columbus to the New World. All features sailing ships or scenes of Columbus, including the 20 sucre-note where appears with a globe at left (S251-254). There are the most common notes from Ecuador's private banks because they are all unissued remainders. The *Banco Sur Americano* never came into being.

In 1928, the Central Bank of Ecuador issued the first paper money with the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 sucres (P84-88). Most bank notes feature a central vignette of a woman as main subject. The coat of arms is in all notes on back. Printed in the United States but were delivered to the Central Bank without dates and/or signatures.



Elaborate engravings, also called vignettes, and color, were originally used as measures against counterfeiting. As the 19th century progressed, the variety and intricacy of vignette subjects exploded with the most elaborate designs created at the end of the century.

In 1939, a second issue was put in circulation but with slight modifications from previous issue. The text of the "*Capital Autorizado*" ('Authorized Capital') was increased from 10,000,000 to 20,000,000 Sucres. New denominations of 500 and 1,000 sucres (Mexico's issue P705 similar to Ecuador's P95) were added in 1944. The size of the notes increases according to the denomination. All these notes printed in New York by American Bank Note Company. Some of these ABNC's vignettes show a woman looking at a globe symbolizing the radio or telephone communications.

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Ecuador at the end of 1980s, like other South American countries, became accustomed to the constant devaluation of their currency. On March 1, 2001, a monetary reform established the U.S. dollar as the accounting unit for all financial transactions, and fixed the exchange rate as 25,000 sucres per dollar. In addition, the Central Bank has indicated that it will cease issuing coins and banknotes.

### THE GUIANAS

**French Guiana (P.13); Guyana (P.28-29, 31-35); Suriname (P.146-154, 161)**

The Guianas, sometimes called by the Spanish loan-word Guyanas (Las Guayanas) refers to a region in north-eastern South America which includes the following three territories: Guyana, known as British Guiana from 1831 until 1966, after the colonies of Berbice, Essequibo, and Demerara, taken from the Netherlands in 1814, were merged into a single colony. French Guiana, an overseas department of France. Suriname, until 1814 a part of Dutch Guiana, together with Berbice, Essequibo, and Demerara.



French Guiana is an overseas region of France of, consisting of a single overseas department located on the northern Atlantic coast of South America. It has borders with two nations: Brazil to the east and south, and Suriname to the west. It has been under French rule since 1817 and its capital is Cayenne. Most of the people are descendants of slaves brought to the territory in the 1600s and 1700s to work the sugarcane plantations.

In 1941, French officials from New York contacted the E.A. Wright Bank Note Company in Philadelphia about printing paper money for five French colonies. An agreement was reached whereby the company would print paper money for French Guiana, French West Africa, Guadelupe (map on 25 francs '42), Martinique and Morocco. In all, 21 different notes were printed with numerous, signature, date and other varieties. These were the only banknotes printed by the company.

Ernest A. Wright and his brother immigrated to the United States in about 1871. He became a bank note engraver, lithographer and plate printer. He moved to Philadelphia and went into business as E.A. Wright Bank Note Engraver. In 1907, the firm was incorporated as the E.A. Wright Bank Note Company. At about this time, the company was authorized to print stock certificates for companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The E.A. Wright Bank Note Company was sold in 1964 to Jostens, who sold the security business to Thomas de la Rue.

In 1942, Banque de la Guyane put in circulation a new series of 5, 100, 500 and 1000 francs. On 100 francs appears an old map of French Guiana at left and with written and



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numeric denomination at right on front. Also, have three signatures. On back appears the initials of 'BG,' which means 'Banque de Guyane' at center and a text in French at the bottom.

The French franc circulated alongside banknotes issued specifically for French Guyana between 1888 and 1961 and notes issued for French Guyana, Guadelupe and Martinique (collectively referred to as the French Antilles) between 1961 and 1975. The franc was the



currency of French Guiana until 2002, when it was replaced by the euro.

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana, an independent member of the British Commonwealth situated on the northeast coast of South America. British Guiana won internal self-government in

1952 and gained full independence, under the traditional name of Guyana on May 26, 1966 and its capital is Georgetown.

The Bank of Guyana introduced the banknotes on 15 November 1965 in denominations of 1, 5, 10, and 20 dollars. A second series issued between 1988 and 1992 consisted of 20, 100, and 500 dollar denominations, where the map of Guyana replaced the Kaieteur Falls at right on front. The 1996-1999 series included 20, 100, 500, and 1000 dollars. The 2000-2002 series included 500 and 1000 dollar notes. New banknotes of 100 and 1000 dollars were issued on 29 March 2006. The 100-dollar note is similar to the preceding issue of the same denomination, except the design has been slightly modified with larger numerals for the denomination in the upper left front corner, a different screen trap background pattern, and shortened printer imprint. Both notes now have designs that extend to the borders and watermarks that include an electrotpe map of Guyana. The 2011 issue included 500 and 1000 dollars with brand new security features, the most notable is the holographic stripe with a colorful macaw replacing the OVD patch used on the previous issues. The 5,000 dollars-note is expected.



The Republic of Suriname was formerly known as a Dutch Guiana. Suriname became an autonomous part of the Kingdom of Netherlands in 1954, and full independence was achieved in 1974. They adopted 'gulden' as its currency unit and the Central Bank of Suriname was established in 1957.

In 2000, the Central Bank of Suriname issued a new series of notes, as follow: 5, 10, 25, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000 and 25,000 gulden (P146-154), also known as the millennium series. This colorful issue has native birds and a map of Suriname on the fronts and native flowers on the backs. All these notes shows the coat of arms at upper center right and ascending size serial number at right. The legend of the Centrale Bank Van

## Historical Maps on Latin American Paper Money

Suriname is in a vertical format at left; Central Bank building at center and bank's logo at right is on back. Dimensions are 157 x 82 mm. Printed in England by TDLR.

The dollar replaced the Surinamese guilder on 1 January 2004, with one dollar equal to 1000 guilders. Initially, only coins were available, with banknotes delayed until mid-February, reportedly due to a problem at the printer, the Canada Bank Note Company. Ascending serial number at right and also serial number in a vertical format in red at left. Additional anti-counterfeit features were added to all denominations in 2010. Dimensions are 140 x 70 mm.

On 100 dollars note appears the coat of arms; Central Bank van Suriname headquarters building at the Waterkant in Paramaribo; *heliconia humilis* (lobster claw) flower; bank logo registration device on front. Also, bank logo; *pterocarpus officinalis* (dragonsblood tree) tree; Aruba-tabbetje, Marowijne River (tributary flowing from forest into river) on back. Windowed security thread with demetalized SRD. Bank headquarters as watermark.

## HAÏTI

### Maps (P.271, 271a, 272-277)

Haiti is a Caribbean country. It occupies the western, smaller portion of the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antillean archipelago, which it shares with the Dominican Republic. *Ayiti* (*land of high mountains*) was the indigenous Taíno or Amerindian name for the island. The country's highest point is Pic la Selle, at 2,680 metres (8,793 ft). The total area of Haiti is 27,750 square kilometres (10,714 sq mi) and its capital is Port-au-Prince.



The Haitian Revolution was the first and most successful slave rebellion in the Western Hemisphere. This revolution fueled the widespread movement for freedom throughout Latin American, the Caribbean, and Africa, and

served as an inspiration to African-American leaders in the 1900's. The Haitian revolution has challenge the world's concept of supremacy by being the first independent Black nation and the second independent nation in the Western Hemisphere.

The Haitian gourde (HTG) was introduced to Haiti in 1813. The gourde means calabash and it is a very important vegetable to the Haitian peasant. It is subdivided into subunits called centimes, where 100 centimes is equivalent to 1 gourde. The Haitian gourde replaced the livre and was equivalent to 8 livres and 5 sols. The Haitians issued paper gourde notes for circulation in 1827, there being no alternative.

In 2001, the *Banque de la Republique D'Haiti* issued a commemorative note for the bicentennial of the constitution. On this note of 20 gourdes appears the leader of the Haitian Revolution Toussaint L'Ouverture in a military uniform at left and a legend in French at right. Denomination of '20' and Haitian map are on a foil gold strip at right. Slightly curved serial numbers are in red and have three signatures on front. Palm tree and the Phrygian cap as watermark. Dimensions are 162 x 70 mm.



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In December 2007, an issue like commemorative P271, but legal tender, straight black serial numbers, silver foils around center wreath, and different holographic strip at right. Both have an open constitution book at center and fluorescent yellow number "20" in each corner on back. All these notes printed by TDLR.



In 2004, a new set of banknotes was put into circulation to commemorate the bicentennial of their independence. Daniel Elie created the new design of each note. All feature the most significant heroes of Haitian Independence and the first monuments to freedom, the fortifications, which were instrumental in achieving victory over the French forces. Size vary according to the denomination.

Also, a small Haitian flag appears at right of each note except on 10 gourdes. The Haitian map appears in the security strip. Texts are in French and Creole for the first time. All these notes printed in Germany by Giesecke & Devrient.

## NICARAGUA

### Nicaraguan Map (P157; P160-161; P165-166)

Republic of Nicaragua is the largest country in the Central American isthmus, bordered by Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south. The Pacific Ocean lies to the west, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. The country's physical geography divides it into three major zones: Pacific lowlands, wet, cooler central highlands, and the Caribbean lowlands. On the



Pacific side of the country are the two largest fresh water lakes in Central America—Lake Managua and Lake Nicaragua.

In 1502, Christopher Columbus was the first European known to have reached what is now Nicaragua as he sailed southeast toward the Isthmus of Panama. On his fourth voyage, Columbus explored the Mosquito Coast on the Atlantic side of Nicaragua. The first attempt to conquer what is now known as Nicaragua was by Gil Gonzalez Dávila, who arrived in Panama in January 1520. It was not until 1524 that the first Spanish permanent settlements were founded. *Conquistador* Francisco Hernandez de Córdoba founded two of Nicaragua's principal towns in 1524: Granada on Lake Nicaragua was the first settlement, followed by León at a location west of Lake Managua.

## Historical Maps on Latin American Paper Money

In 1912, Nicaragua adopted “Córdoba” as its monetary unit in tribute to the Spanish explorer, until 1987. Then was called Nueva (New) Córdoba until 1990 and finally it was renamed Córdoba Oro up to date.

In 1985, *Banco Central de Nicaragua* issued a new set of bank notes. Portrait of Benjamin Zeledón appears on 5,000 Córdobas at right. A map of Nicaragua over the denomination at upper-center and Sandino as watermark. All denominations have the same size, color, design and paper as the Series F, except the 5,000 notes that were issued with a new Series G identification. All these notes printed in London by TDLR.



In 1989, two new denominations were put in circulation, such as: 20,000 and 50,000 córdobas. Both have a grid map of Nicaragua at center on face and back and Sandino appears as watermark. The dimensions of these notes are 135 x 59 mm.

On May 23, 1990, due to the inflationary situation, the *Banco Central de Nicaragua's* directors approved the issuance of 5 and 10 million córdobas bank notes, using the same design of P160 & 161. This resolution was affirmed by Executive decree No. 26-90 on July 18, 1990 and then placed into circulation. On the face of 5 million córdobas note appears the portrait of Commandant José Anacleto 'Cleto' Ordoñez at right. Denomination is over a



Nicaraguan map at center. Three signatures over a legend below. On back appears Church of San Francisco in Granada, Nicaragua at left.

On the face of 10 million córdobas note appears the portrait of José D. Estrada at right. Denomination is over a Nicaraguan map at center. Three signatures over a legend below. On back appears Hacienda San Jacinto at left. This bank note of 10 million córdobas became the highest denomination in the history of Latin America. All these small notes printed in Finland by FPBNC.

## MEXICO

### Mexican Map (P122-129)



## Historical Maps on Latin American Paper Money

In 1823, Agustín de Iturbide, as Mexican Emperor, had sovereignty over lands bordered by Panama in the south and the Oregon Country in the north, including the current countries of Central America and the U.S. states of California, Texas, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and New Mexico. In fact, Iturbide's paper money circulated in all these territories.



On February 2, 1848, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ended the Mexican-American War. This treaty ceded to the United States the land that now comprises the states of California, Utah, and Nevada, as well as parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado. Mexico also renounced all rights to Texas.

Today, the United States of Mexico is a federation comprising thirty-one states and a Federal District, the capital city. It is bordered on the north by the United States of America; on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; on the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and on the east by the Gulf of Mexico. Covering almost two million square kilometres (over 760,000 sq mi), Mexico is the fifth largest country in the Americas by total area and the thirteenth largest independent nation in the world. With an estimated population of over 113 million, it is the world's eleventh most populous country and the most populous Spanish-speaking country.

*Banco de México* issued a new set of banknotes with the following denominations: 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 Pesos. In 2006, the lowest denominations (20 & 50 pesos) were put in circulation in polymer plastic. Then in 2008, the banknotes of 200, 500 and 1,000 were issued. In 2010, two commemorative notes of 100 pesos (for the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution) and 200 pesos (for the Bicentennial of the Independence War) were issued. Finally, the new note of 100 pesos was released in August 2010. This new family is the F Series.



All feature portraits of famous Mexicans, such as: Benito Juárez on 20 pesos; José María Morelos on 50 pesos; Aztec Emperor Nezahualcoyolt on 100 pesos; famous painters Diego Rivera and Frida Khalo on 500 pesos and Father Miguel Hidalgo on 1,000 pesos. On the commemorative notes appears a train with a rebel group and the *Adelitas* (Mexican woman soldier and the title of a famous folk song) on the 100 pesos in polymer plastic. On 200 pesos features Father Hidalgo in a vertical format. Each will be limited to 50 million pieces and these notes did not replace the currently circulating notes of the same denominations.

These banknotes have been totally redesigned and bringing in common the map of the Mexican territory. Beginning in 2007, special markings similar to Braille were added to Mexican currency notes to help the visually impaired identify different denominations. In addition to the markings, several security features are

## Historical Maps on Latin American Paper Money

included on modern Peso notes. According to the *Banco de Mexico*, these include: fluorescence, micro text, a watermark and a color-changing element. Each denomination also has its own security features, some of which include micro-printed threads, iridescent bands and clear windows.

### PARAGUAY

#### Paraguayan Map (P-210, 211, 217, 218, 225, 231)

The Republic of Paraguay is a landlocked South American nation. In 1520, the Spaniard Alejo Garcia visited for the first time this land in a shipwrecked. Sebastian Cabot explored the interior of this territory in 1526 and 1529, when he sailed up the Paraná and Paraguay Rivers. Spanish explorer Juan de Salazar established Asunción on August 15, 1537, which would become the center of a province embracing much of Southern South America.

Today Paraguay is bordered by Argentina to the south and southwest, Brazil to the east and northeast, and Bolivia to the northwest.

Paraguay lies on both banks of the Paraguay River, which runs through the center of the country from north to south. Due to its central



location in South America, it is sometimes referred to as *Corazón de América*, or the Heart of America.

In 1990, the Central Bank of Paraguay issued a new set of banknotes but now 100 guaraníes was the lowest denomination up to 50,000 guaraníes, which became the highest denomination in the history of Paraguay. Keeping the same design (Paraguayan soldier at right) on front with vertical serial number at left and horizontal ascending serial number at right. Outline map of Paraguay at center and plain security thread. Bust of soldier is as watermark. Printed in England by TDLR.

In 1997, a similar design was put in circulation but with staircase metallic impression and the cap of Liberty are at lower left corner. In 2005, the legend '50 MIL' appears at upper left and right corners. Staircase metallic impression, the cap of Liberty and star are at lower left corner. A view of 'Casa de la Independencia' ('House of Independence') is at center on back in all these notes. Also, the expressions of values changed on back from Spanish to native language Guaraní. Dimensions are 157 x 67 mm.



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In 2006, the Central Bank reported that six boxes containing 250,000 of new 50,000 guaraníes notes were stolen during shipment by sea between France (where they were printed by Francois-Charles Oberthur) and Paraguay. The Central Bank intended to enter circulation in early December 2006, but in response to the theft the Central Bank has canceled the emission of the 'C' series in this denomination. The total value of the theft exceeds US\$ 2.5 million. Some of these notes entered circulation before the theft was made public and are beginning to surface in the collector's market at prices up to \$200. All these notes were replaced for a new design in 2007, but keeps the a map of Paraguay at center-left.

In 2007, the portrait of the famous guitarist and composer Agustín Pío Barrios (better



known as Mangoré) is on the new note of 50,000

Guaraníes at right with a small map of Paraguay at left. Guitar is on back with the word

"MANGORE"

over denomination

expressed in Guaraní language. Musical score in UV ink, guitar as registration device, watermark, novel serial numbers, and signatures of Fernando Arréllaga Yaluk, *Gerente General* and Germán Rojas Irigoyen as *Presidente*. Printed in France by FCO.

## VENEZUELA

### Old Caracas map (P49); Venezuelan Map (P-88)

An Italian navigator named Amerigo Vespucci (1451-1512), and chartmaker was an employee of the Spanish Crown. He called the lands he found Mundus Novus, or New World, because he wrote, "*among our ancestors there was no knowledge of them*". This was the first time the term "New World" had been applied to the Americas; but we remember Amerigo Vespucci best because in 1507 a famous German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller named the New World "America" for him. Many people used the German maps, and the name America became permanent.



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On Christopher Columbus's third voyage to the New World in 1498, he reached the mainland of South America. He sailed along the Venezuelan coast and explored the delta of Orinoco River. Awestruck by the vast amount of freshwater, the lush green forest, and the graceful people decorated with pearls, Columbus wrote that he had found an "Earthly Paradise."

In 1499, Alonso de Ojeda and Amerigo Vespucci, explored the northern coast of Venezuela. Ojeda found salt deposits and pearl beds and he was the first Spaniard to sail up the Orinoco River. Ojeda's ships anchored in Lake Maracaibo and they found the inhabitants living in houses on *palafitos* (stilts) over the water and inside those crude huts were pearls that had been gathered for generations, huge stores of jewels that would have been worth fortunes in Europe. Vespucci reminded of Venice ('*Venezia*' in Italian) and named this region "Little Venice". Today, this territory is known as the Republic of Venezuela.

On July 25, 1567, Diego de Losada founded Santiago de León de Caracas. *Caracas* was an Indian word for a plant, similar to yucca, that was common in the area, but the Spaniards thought it was the name of the tribe and the place. A Spanish explorer named Francisco Fajardo had discovered Caracas' Valley in 1560. The city of Caracas became the capital of Venezuela in 1577.



In 1966, *Banco Central de Venezuela* issued a commemorative note of 5 Bolívares for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Founding of Caracas (1567-1967). Spanish *conquistador* Diego de Losada appears in a scene of the founding of Caracas in 1567, which was engraved by Felipe Sanchez at center and the portrait of *Libertador* Simón Bolívar, engraved by Alfred Sealy (1862), in oval frame at right on front. On back are the City arms at left, early map (1578) of the city of Caracas by Diego de Henares at center and the national arms at right. At lower-right, there is a Spanish text: "*Map de la Ciudad de Santiago de León de Caracas ordinate por el Gobernador Don Juan de Pimentel en 1578,*" ('Map of the City of Santiago de Leon de Caracas ordered by the governor Don Juan Pimentel in 1578').

These notes are popularly known as '*Diegueno*' (a diminutive of Diego) in Venezuela. Over 20 million banknotes (dated May 10, 1966) were printed in New York by American Bank Note Company and have two engraved signatures of Alfredo Machado Gomez as President and Carlos Rafael Silva as Vice-president. Serial number prefix A-D with seven digits in red. Dimensions are 156 x 69 mm.

Venezuelan maps produced since 1970, show the entire area from the eastern bank of the Essequibo, including the islands in the river, as Venezuelan territory. On some maps, the western Essequibo region is called in Spanish "*Zone en Reclamation,*" which means "Zone



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in Reclamation;" today part of the territory of the British Guyana (also its map are shown on banknotes since 1989).

In 2007, after the monetary reform, *Banco Central de Venezuela* put into circulation new set of bank notes with the following denominations: 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Bolívares Fuertes. On 2 Bolívares Fuertes-note, features Gen. Francisco de Miranda in military uniform in a vertical format and also as watermark. Also, the design includes a Venezuelan map (the Caribbean shoreline), the Venezuelan flag and the famous Miranda's ship called the "Leander" on front. Two tontines and the coat of arms are at left over a view of the Coro Dunes National Park, Falcón State. Dimensions are 157 x 69 mm. Pintad bey *Casa de la Moneda*, chicha es locatis in Maracay, Aragua Statu, Venezuela.

### Conclusion

Lately, more and more countries around the world are showing maps on its notes. As a matter of fact, there are over 100 countries that displays maps on its paper money. In Latin America, Brazil had produced more notes with maps than any other. Also, the evolution of the designs is notable from the globes until the newest electrotpe maps. For paper money collectors, it can be the basis of an interesting thematic collection.

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