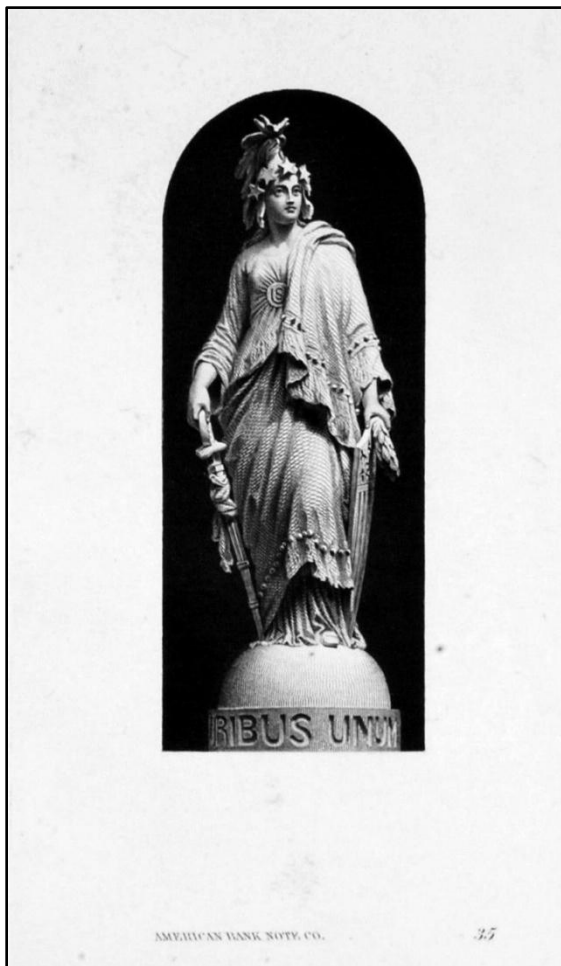


Wrong Country!

Images on banknotes of people and places not from the country. Argentina, Ecuador, and Uruguay.

In this continuation of a series stressing world banknotes with people, building, objects, or places vignettes that are not from the country of issue, I combine four banknotes from **three** countries. Discovering why an out-of-place image to the country of issue is depicted on a banknote adds the value of knowledge to a possession in your collection. Let's examine the connection for these banknotes.

All three South American countries made use of the Statue of Freedom, found on the top of the United States capital building, the White House. The vignette (ABNC die #35) was engraved by Owen G. Hanks⁵.



The reason for their inclusion is somewhat obvious, but the tale of the Statue of Freedom itself is little known and engrossing.

The U.S. Congress authorized the statue to be produced to add to the top of the Capital dome, which was eventually completed in 1868. By 1858, the funds were made available and the American sculptor

Thomas Crawford, living in Rome was selected. **Here's where the story takes a dark turn.** Crawford envisioned a beautiful lady topped with a Phrygian cap, found on many banknotes of the era. The felt cap originated from the pileus, an attribute of the Roman goddess Libertas, worn by emancipated slaves in ancient Rome. The Secretary of War, in charge of the Capital construction was able to change this. Freedom of slaves was a total aversion for the future President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis! In a twist of fate, the more warlike helmet with an eagle's head and feathers replaced the Phrygian cap, just in time for the Civil War three years later. The war, also called the War Between the States, was anything but civil.

Three world banknotes with the Statue of Freedom by a foreign country were attributed in The Standard Catalog of World Paper Money – Specialized Issues, with one in the General Issues. All are not listed in The Banknote Book chapters.

The oldest world note example is a BANCO DE CIRCULACIÓN Y DESCUENTO DE MANUEL ANTONIO DE LUZARRAGA (Circulation and Discount Bank of Manuel Antonio de Luzarraga) 10 Pesos banknote of Ecuador. The 1862-1865 banknote is known in proof only (P-S115¹). There have been no sales recorded online of this note. Pick suggests \$600 in uncirculated condition which follows in line with recent sales of P-S114 and P-S116. 10,000 P-S115 proofs were produced according to Latin American Bank Note Records³. The note was later counterstamped for Banco del Ecuador. The 1868 note is attributed as P-S137D. There is no attribution of this version in Latin American Bank Note Records.



At the same time (1866) BANCO MONTEVIDEANO of Uruguay released a 2 Pesos banknote (P-S354¹). A note in VG condition sold in 2024 for around \$300, while a 12 grade is valued at \$900 at PMG. 60,000 banknotes were produced according to Latin American Bank Note Records³.



In 1875, a 1 Peso banknote was released with the statue on a note of REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY (PA-101²). 384,000 banknotes were produced according to Latin American Bank Note Records³. Pick, which incorrectly identifies the image as Standing Columbia, values the banknote at \$325 in XF condition. PMG has recorded 2 notes, the best in 35 grade. For better grades, PMG reports 2 proof backs in 67 or less condition while 1 front in 66 condition.

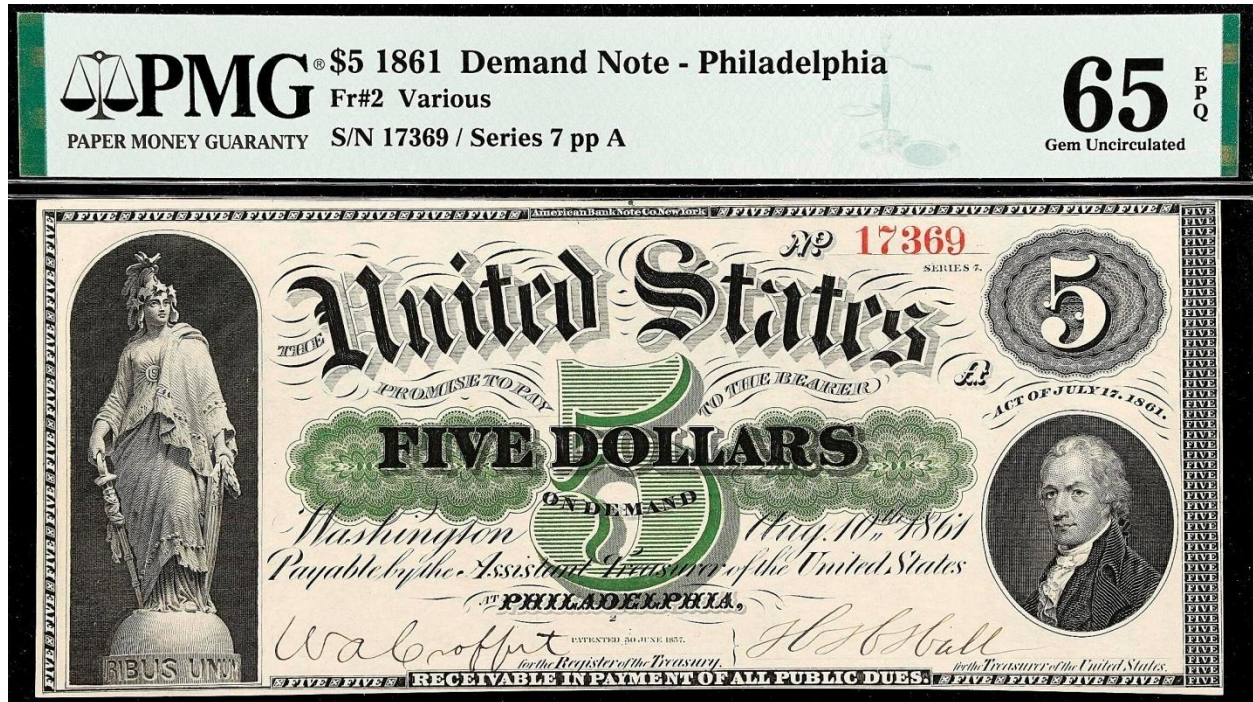


Yet later, BANCO PROVINCIAL DE CORDOBA of Argentina released a 10 Pesos banknote (P-5743¹) in 1889. This note in VF condition sold for \$150 recently.



I failed to mention the printer for all four of these issues. It was American Banknote Company, which should explain the use by so many South American countries. While ABNC used a plethora of stock allegorical images on the many issues needed by most of South America, a few of the stock images were less appropriate images depicting specific locations or objects, such as the Statute of Freedom.

The Statue of Freedom image provided revenue for ABNC on many domestic items. Even before the statue could be placed on the capitol dome, the vignette was used on the 1861 \$5 Demand Note or Greenback of the United States and a year later, a similar "legal tender" note of 1862. This \$5 Demand Note sold at Stacks & Bowers auctions in 2023 for \$408,000.



Before this, the image was used on so called Obsolete Notes (Private Bank Notes) of Michigan, Virginia, Georgia, and Missouri banks. The image eventually appeared on at least two stock certificates, 1, 2, 3, and 5 cent stamps, and sadly yet another war (World War I) Liberty Loan bonds of 1917. Here is the first probable use of the vignette on the Bank of the Capital in Lansing, Michigan from 1859 reproduced on an ABNC souvenir card for the ANA, cataloged as SO-129⁴.



- 1 - [The Standard Catalog of World Paper Money – Specialized Issues](#), George Cuhaj
- 2 - [The Standard Catalog of World Paper Money – General Issues](#), Stacy Schmidt
- 3 - [Latin American Bank Note Records](#), Recardo Magan
- 4 - The Souvenir Card Collectors Society at https://www.souvenircards.org/html/menu_home.html
- 5 - The Engraver's Line, Gene Hessler

A big thanks to The Banknote Museum online site at www.banknote.ws for two of the images.