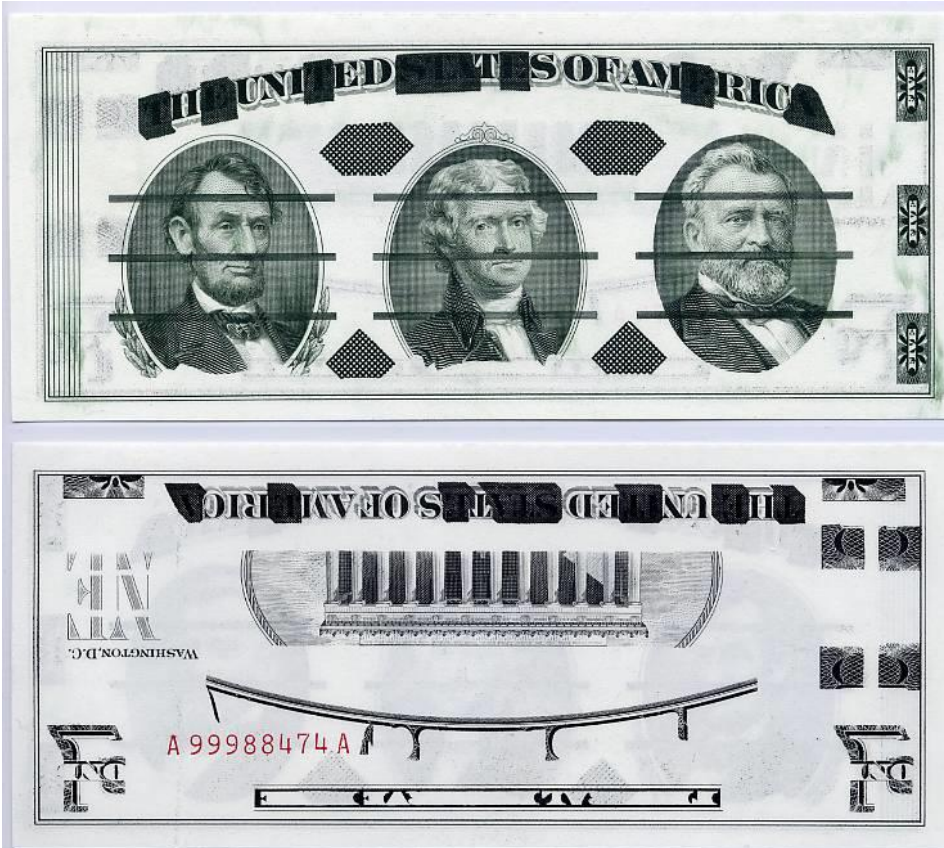


## An Alternate Look at the “Giori” Jefferson Test Notes

Most paper currency collectors have heard of the Giori test notes made with BEP plates in Geneva N. Y. A full 32 note sheet came to light at the Kagins 308<sup>th</sup> sale auction held in 1976. The notes have Lincoln, Washington and Grant from left to right and are sourced from the “Pigman Hoard”, named after Edgar L. Pigman, the lead for the American Can Company, the sub-contractor American Bank Note Company assigned to assemble the Giori press to be tested for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Most dealers call this the Giori Washington test note or a Pigman Hoard Giori test note. All test notes came from single sided sheets, thus uniface only test notes.

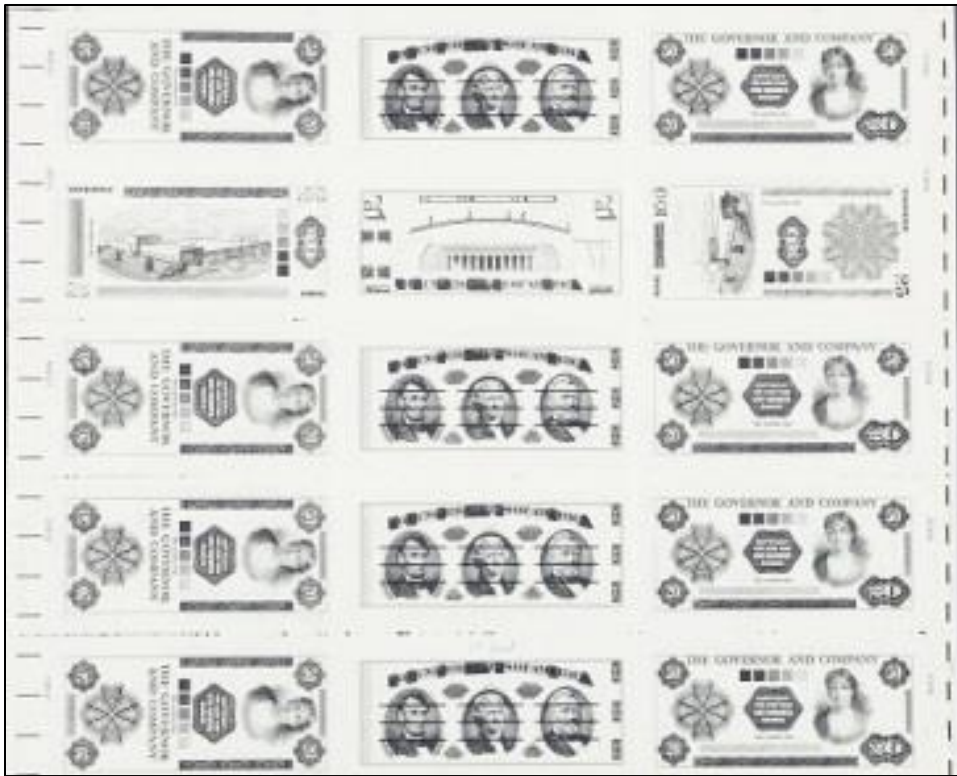
The Jefferson Center notes presumably produced in Germany are generally called Giori Jefferson test notes. According to Hessler<sup>1</sup>, sometime after 1950, the BEP sent a plate to Germany to have test pieces printed. The actual date has been determined and disclosed later in this article. Coins<sup>2</sup> reported a West German collector Wolfgang Koenig had purchased a sample of this type in 1984. This would then make these the first set of test notes produced, but 2<sup>nd</sup> reported.



ABNC-002a<sup>3</sup>

*It is common practice when a large security press is sold to assemble the press at the factory, run (pull) trial sheets and make adjustments, and disassemble the press. The press is shipped, reassembled, and more trial sheets may be run to make adjustments and insure there is no issue with the assembly. By running the test prior to shipment, the press maker can assure the buyer the press is working as ordered.*

The front of the two-sided sheet presumably produced in Germany is shown here:



ABNC-002d<sup>3</sup>

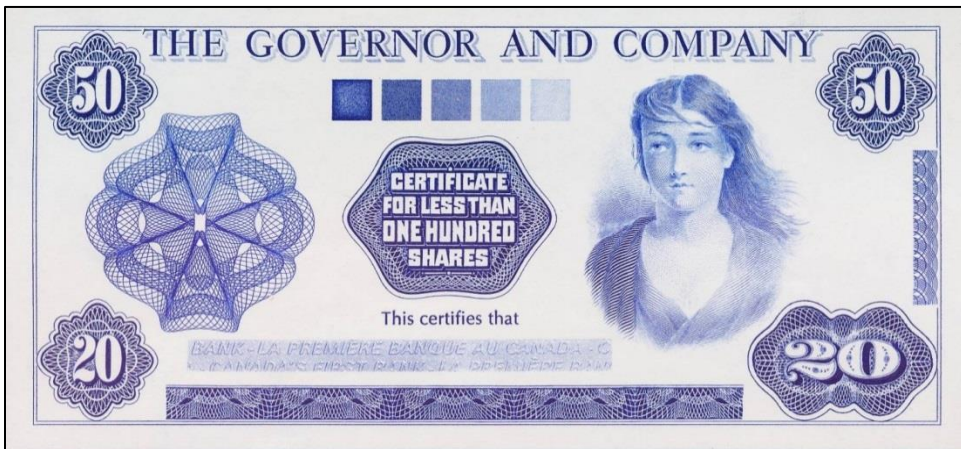
Notice only the center third of these notes are the Jefferson center test notes. The others are three different "Canada" test notes. The Canada plates were produced by British American Bank Note Company.

There is more information to provide.

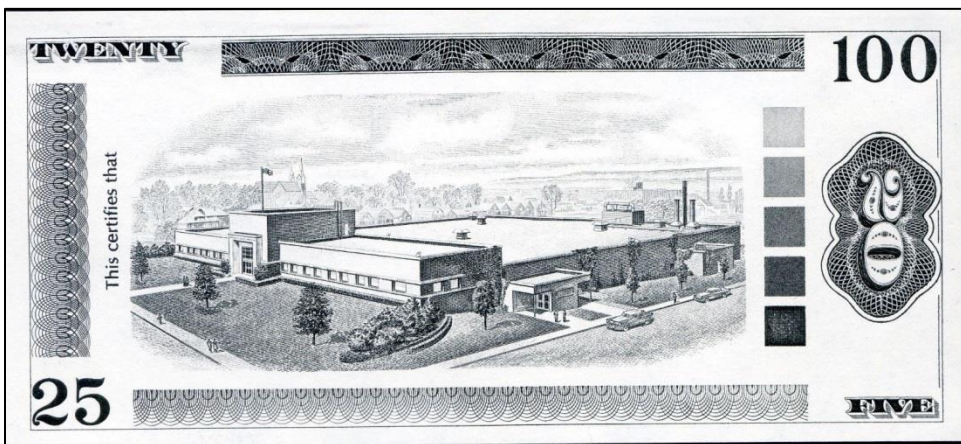
1. One of these Jefferson sheets sold at auction on 11/4/2014 by Archives International<sup>4</sup> has notation in pencil and pen that states "**BA | BEP | HUCK 1970 / Different impression mats around the cylinders – 171282 backing 171254**". We don't know who added this, but BA = BABN or BA International as they were later renamed? BEP=BEP? HUCK = Huck Multicolor press - a nine-color, web-fed, intaglio press used by the BEP from 1968 to 1976? 1970 = 1970?
2. It is known that BABN outsourced some of their work to Germany to the security printing web-fed press maker Goebel GmbH. A stamp sample, circa about 1936, is shown. It is called a dummy or Cinderella by philatelists and was printed by Goebel in Germany<sup>5</sup>, not BABN. British American finally purchased a Goebel press in the 1960's.
3. Goebel is located in Darmstadt, Germany. Giori is from Lausanne, Switzerland, but in 1952, Koenig and Bauer of Wurzburg West Germany purchased a 50% stake in Giori and commissioned Giori presses there some time thereafter.
4. The Jefferson center sheet could be web press or web fed. Only two sided Jefferson notes (reverse always inverted) have been observed. Web press systems print both sides simultaneously. Giori prints single side sheets. A second pass must be made to print the reverse side. Both Goebel and Huck are web fed presses.
5. Coin World reported in 1963 "Low bidder for the four new presses at \$307,000 each Bureau Director H J Holtzclaw announced was the Miehle Co of Chicago representing the Swiss Organisation Giori. The presses will be constructed by Koenig and Bauer of Wurzburg West Germany."<sup>6</sup>



Nearly universally, the test notes with the young lady's bust are attributed to Goebel. Many of these also have BABN head office building and plant in Ottawa, Canada on the reverse. Here are examples included on the Giori Jefferson sheet:



GOE-111<sup>3</sup>



GOE-103<sup>3</sup>

Of all the trial run sheets available in the collectors market, a huge preponderance of these are for Goebel press tests. Trial sheets and thus test notes on Goebel presses include Giesecke & Devrient, Bank of Norway, Penzjegynyomda (Hungary Banknote Printing Company), Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre (Royal Spanish Mint), National Bank of Denmark, probably Bundesdruckerei (German Printing Works) and British American Bank Note Company. Here is an example of a GD test note, printed by Goebel. This is a partially printed samples of notes printed for Algeria by GD.



GOE-122b<sup>7</sup>

There are many more varieties of the Jefferson center test notes than the Washington test notes. Possible differences:

- 4 COLORS AVAILABLE – grey/black, weak green, mud brown, purple brown (maroon) (Hessler lists black as well, with 9 front and back color combinations<sup>1</sup>)
- 7 SERIAL NUMBERS – none, front normal, front inverted, back normal, back inverted, multiple same number, multiple different numbers. Hessler states the recorded serial numbers range from A00099XXA to 99998882XXA<sup>1</sup>.
- 2 SERIAL NUMBER COLORS – black or red
- 2 WATERMARKS – “Papierfabrik Louisenthal” or none. (Note: in German papier = paper) **The watermarked paper was thus produced by Louisenthal, the wholly owned paper mill subsidiary of Giesecke & Devrient, founded just south of Munich in 1964.**

Jefferson center test notes – Who, Where & When?

- A possible first set of Jefferson test notes (without watermarks) could have been pulled prior to the BEP receiving their first Giori press in 1957. With additional presses ordered in 1963 and Louisenthal watermarked paper only available from 1964 forward, it would seem **the test note sheets with watermarks were produced about 1964 to 1968**. BABN also ordered their Goebel BRNST-500 press to fulfill their contract with Canada Post starting in 1968. So the watermarked test sheets would be pulled on a Giori press for the BEP at Koenig and Bauer, Wurzburg, West Germany or a Goebel press for BABN at Goebel, Darmstadt, West Germany.
- If the notation on the test note offered by AAI in 2014 is correct, **another set of test notes were produced in 1970**. The BEP could have pulled the test notes, probably without watermarked paper. There was no purpose to pull test notes on a Giori press 6 years after receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> order of presses. A web fed test of the Huck Multicolor press the BEP was already using for stamp production WOULD have some use, since the BEP was actively pursuing this cost saving option. BABN was an active stamp and paper money maker, but Ken Sargent, once President of BA International states Huck “would not suit our purposes.”<sup>8</sup> Thus this extra set was not produced by BABN. The 2<sup>nd</sup> set of test notes would explain the preponderance of different varieties of the Jefferson center version of the test note. The sheet mentioned with the notation adds credence to the BEP location. If the sheet was from the earlier run from Germany, why would such notations not be in German? These notations with technical printing notes could be from a BEP run.

New discoveries

- I have cataloged 5 sales of the two-sided Washington center note, all in 2018<sup>9</sup>. One of these was the same note sold twice. Unlike the Jefferson two sided notes, the front & back of the Washington center notes are oriented correctly; with no serial number (Jefferson reverses again are inverted). All 4 of the two-sided Washington notes recorded are black front, 3 with green reverse and 1 with black reverse.
- 2 one-sided Jefferson notes were sold on EBay in 2018, both with a black front and red serial numbers - A99934629A and A9998836A<sup>10</sup>.
- A set of duplicate serial numbers have been observed on the standard Jefferson two sided notes, and are offered for sale on EBay with identical black A99988327A serial numbers<sup>11</sup>. Another set of duplicate serial numbers (with the same A99988327A serial number) was sold on 9/3/18<sup>12</sup>. This set had green in reverses and one with no watermark, while the other had the Fabrick Louisenthal watermark. Further proof there was two separate printings?
- A little noticed 8 row sheet of Jefferson reverses was sold in April 2006<sup>13</sup>. These are the Jefferson reverse since they don't have the extra rectangle or extra three partial squares present on the Washington center type. A reverse only Jefferson reverse was first sold in 2001<sup>14</sup>, also by Heritage. Both the sheet & individual note have green ink & no watermarks.

Implications:

- The populations of the Jefferson Giori notes are recorded as low - less than 100<sup>1</sup>. The observed sales of the BABN notes are fairly plentiful. Either more Jefferson Giori notes are lost or being hoarded or more likely the BABN notes were also produced on other sheets without a center row of Jefferson notes present.
- The BABN notes are also available as uniface. Hessler also indicated versions of Jefferson centers replaced with Washington centers. Is it possible many of these Washington replaced notes come from one side only sheets, now cut up? If so, these

sheets must have no watermark. Hessler indicated the population of these Washington notes were “at least 100”<sup>1</sup>. Is it also possible some of the front only notes attributed to the Pigman Hoard are actually these notes?

- From a catalog standpoint, alternate printers and pull dates must be noted.
- Since any trial sheets run at the factory or the customer’s site should be identical, sample’s now available for sale; decades later cannot be attributed to either.
- With the configuration of the entire sheet, the population of the two-sided Washington and one-sided Jefferson notes discovered must be at least five or some multiple of five.
- There is too much lost and unconfirmed information at this time to clearly state all “Giori” notes are Giori or all produced in Germany.

There is a need for lost facts to come to light to confirm or correct the conclusions made in this article. I hope a reader comes forth who has knowledge they did not know was important to this discussion.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Hessler, Gene, U.S. Essay, Proof, and Specimen Notes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2004

<sup>2</sup> Coins magazine, U.S. Numisnews section, September 1984

<sup>3</sup> Rollins, Roland, North American Printers Promotional Sheets & Test Notes, 2020

<sup>4</sup> Archives International XXI Wall Street Auction, November 2014

<sup>5</sup> Sparks Auctions #29, January 2019

<sup>6</sup> Coin World, page 1, August 16, 1963.

<sup>7</sup> Rollins, Roland, eBook, The Catalog of Printers’ Test Notes, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2019

<sup>8</sup> Sargent, Ken with Beaudet, Leopold, “The Goebel Press Era of Canadian Stamps” from British North America Philatelic Society web site, 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Kagins auction, March 2018, EBay February 7, 2018, Item ID: 192387594872, Heritage auction September 18, 2018, EBay June 26, 2018, item ID 192511741350, & Heritage auction #3509 April/May 2010 (PCGS #59015351)

<sup>10</sup> EBay Auction, July 8, 2018, Item ID: 202355632609 and EBay auction, December 22, 2018, Item ID: 332963575445

<sup>11</sup> EBay Auction, started September 23, 2014 & still active, Item ID: 121444351864.

<sup>12</sup> EBay Auction, September 3, 2018, Item ID: 302852042291

<sup>13</sup> Heritage auction #406, April 2006.

<sup>14</sup> Heritage auction #31061, June 15, 2001.