

# 500 F DRAPEAU TYPE 1944

A rare note? Here is a photography from a study carried out over 4 years between January 1st, 2013 and April 8, 2017...

## A start to everything

The 500 francs Drapeau Type 1944 (Reference: Fayette: VF 21.1, Pick: 119 or Schwan-Boling: 147) was created on 6 June 1944 to facilitate the stationing of American troops on French country in the first few months followed the landing in Normandy. Its dimensions are: 156L x 66 H mm. The note has no signatures or watermarks and is not dated. It is polychrome with predominantly blue-green and red and was printed by Forbes to 20,000,000 copies. Having found little information on this banknote, I decided to conduct a study on it. To this day (early April 2017), I get a provisional result that concerns a score of 223 notes!

## Scoring Analysis

The smallest known ticket is numbered «00639562» and the largest known ticket is numbered «19918815» (see opposite). All the millions seem to have been printed. I still miss my 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> million list!

## Frequency of ticket appearance on sale ...

At the beginning of January 2013, after having compiled my archives and the paper and digital documentation available to me<sup>(1)</sup>, I only need a few days to make a first score of 46 banknotes, the sources (with supporting pictures) From 1991 to the end of 2012 (see table opposite). Either 1 to 7 banknotes offered for sale per year is very low.

## The counter goes mad!

Is it the fact of the score? But as of 2013, the counter of my score is mad. So I count for this one year 2013, a total of 28 tickets sold for sale. For 2014, **I have 47 banknotes sold for sale, that is, the total banknotes found between 1991 and 2012!** For 2015, 32 banknotes sold, 2016, 34 banknotes and for the first 3 months of 2017, I already have 10 new banknotes seen for sale (see chart opposite).

## A rare note?

**One can think that the pace of some 30 new notes a year quickly brings this cut to become the most common of the series of 7 notes on the «Flag» back.** While paradoxically, this banknote represents the smallest circulation with 20,000,000 copies; If of course we do not include the 1000 Drapeau Type 1944 (57 banknotes in the FBOW inventory) and the number of Forbes print cuts still unknown.

In light of these figures, **I can say that this note is not rare ... in medium grade!** By observing the data more precisely and redistributing the copies collected according to the observed grades<sup>(2)</sup>, the following information is obtained: 9 notes in G, 6 notes in VG, 43 notes in F, 7 notes in F+, 17 notes in F/VF, 37 notes in VF, 14 notes in VF+ and 16 notes in VF/XF, **thus a total of 149 banknotes in small or medium grade, or 67% of the total of 223 banknotes!**

**For the superior qualities, there are only 74 «nice banknotes» with the following distribution: 30 notes in XF grade, 3 notes in XF+, 6 notes in XF/AU grade, 17 notes in AU, 2 notes in AU+, 5 notes in aUNC and 11 notes in UNC grade: 33% of the total of 223 banknotes!**

I should like to point out, however, that these last figures are to be taken with some reserve, for this American note has a thick paper which is easily improved; You must therefore look carefully at the «beautiful» copies that are offered to you, a vertical fold that can always be observed unintentionally in transparency.

In conclusion, the figures show with certainty that this break is almost impossible to find in perfect condition! Here are the 16 copies that are supposed to be the most beautiful: «02914560, 03756311, 03756312, 03756314, 03941704, 04144784, 04529167, 06059487, 08176480, 08730692, 10524057, 11312668, 11312671, 13137806, 13837131 and 18965351».

Article published on April 8, 2017. Yann-Noël Hénon.

## Notes :

- (1) Inventory Fayette, sales catalogs: Maison Platt, Numiscollection. Auctions: cgb.fr, Spink, Corne Akkermans, Heritage Auctions. Online auction sites: ebay, delcampe, leboncoin, etc.
- (2) Not having all these notes by hand, the quality grades are of course subject to reservation and remain at the discretion of their owner.



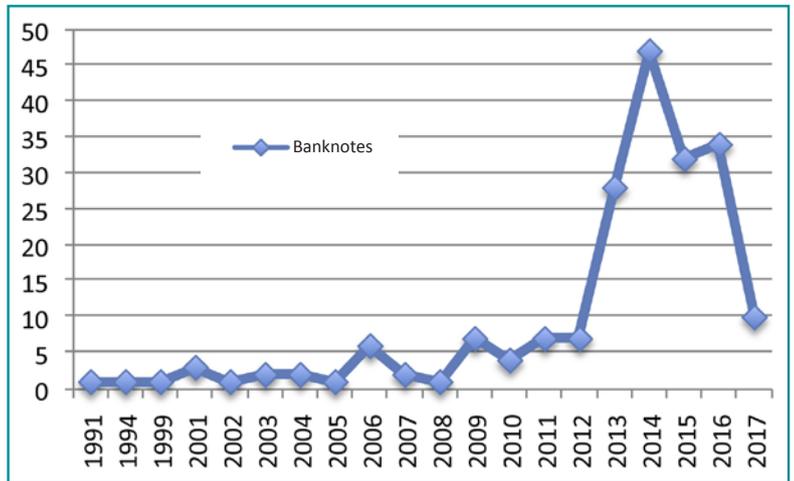
Smallest known number. For sale at €91 on ebay in April 2015.



Largest known number. Seen on the website «multicollec.net» in September 2014.

1991	1994	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
6	2	1	7	4	7	7	

46 banknotes seen for sale for the period between 1991 and 2012.



223 banknotes seen for sale for the period between 1991 and 2017.



Copy in UNC grade sold £380 by Spink in 2010, sale of the Tom Warburton Collection (#1031)