

5F FRENCH TREASURY TYPE 1947

A spotlight on the smallest banknote of the French Treasury according to a study carried out with a score of 774 banknotes

Présentation

In 1947, the 5 francs French Treasury Type 1947 (Reference: Fayette: VF 29.1, Pick: M06 or Schwan-Boling: 831) served French troops stationed in Germany. Established in 1943 but kept in reserve by the Banque de France, the note is removed from circulation in 1955. Its dimensions are: 83L x 53H mm. The banknote has no signatures or watermarks and is not dated. It is in trichromy colors dominated gray-lilac, pink and yellow. The circulation of this note is still unknown to this day, but my study does provide some details (see below in the article). Finally, the numbering of the banknote begins with the letter "A" followed by 8 digits (A.00000000). Having found little information on this note, I decided to carry out a study based on a provisional score of 774 banknotes!

Scoring Analysis

The smallest known banknote is numbered "A.00000303" and the largest known banknote is numbered "A.07995072" (see opposite). I never found a ticket with a number greater than "A.07999999". **Based on this score, it is likely that 8 million cuts would have been printed per 100,000 cuts.** I would point out that no notes in the following 10 serials have yet been found: "A.01600000 to A.01699999, A.02800000 to A.02899999, A.03700000 to A.03799999, A.04300000 to A.04399999, A.04800000 to A.04899999, A.06800000 to A.06899999, A.07200000 to A.07299999, A.07300000 to A.07399999, A.07400000 to A.07499999, A.07700000 to A.07799999".

Analysis of the grades!

In the same way as his big brother the 10 francs French Treasury Type 1947, I affirm that **this 5 francs is very very difficult to find in perfect grade: 37 copies are known in aUNC or UNC grade, that is only 5% from the score⁽¹⁾.** Then I have

5 francs French Treasury Type 1947	774
5% aUNC to UNC grade	37
4% AU to AU+ grade	33
1% XF/AU grade	11
8% XF to XF+ grade	59
3% VF/XF to VF/XF+ grade	24
13% F/VF to VF grade	100
44% VG to F+ grade	337
19% G to G+ grade	148
3% Poor to G- grade	21
1% Poor grade	4

33 copies in AU or AU+ grade, which is only 4% of the score. To finish about the beautiful grades, I counted 70 copies in XF, XF+ and XF/AU grades, that is only 9% of the score. The remaining 634 copies (Poor to VF/XF grades) represent 83% of the remaining total of the score! These figures show with relentless certainty that this banknote is almost difficult to find in a perfect grade! As an indication, here are the 24 copies that are supposed to be the most beautiful: "A.00007988, A.00190351, A.00190360, A.00190369, A.00190386, A.00668873, A.00668874, A.01532895, A.01833452⁽²⁾, A.01983506, A.03362606, A.03588699, A.04054361, A.04085075, A.04085353, A.05518922, A.05816623, A.05816625, A.06653910, A.06678563, A.07513487, A.07660036⁽³⁾ and A.07690441".

Some small consecutive series are to be reported: "A.00190351 to A.00190386" all in UNC grade, then "A.00299380, A.00299381, A.00299382 and A.00299385", all in AU or AU+ grade, then "A.00337361, A.00337363, A.00337364, A.00337365 and A.00337366" all in XF grade, then "A.01558289, A.01558290, A.01558292 and A.01558293" and "A.06305700 to A.06305715" all in XF/AU to AU+ grade.

Rarity of specimens

Only 1 specimen is known to date for the 5 francs French Treasury. This one, in aUNC grade, was sold for €514 by cgb.fr in 2009⁽⁴⁾, see the picture opposite. To my knowledge and for 8 years, no other copy has been offered for sale.

To conclude, I would like to point out an extraordinary and unique copy ... a 5 francs can be driven, but this one is perforated "SPECIMEN" upside down and oblique! I have unfortunately no reliable information on the history of this banknote, but I am very fortunate to have this copy in the FBOV⁽⁵⁾ collection! In conclusion, dear collectors, you must try to find this 5 francs French Treasury in a perfect grade ... Happy hunting!

Article published on August 25, 2017. Yann-Noël Hénon.

Notes :

- (1) figures based on the indicated grades or reported sales.
- (2) this note illustrates the reference book Fayette, 2007 edition on page 541.
- (3) This ticket illustrates the Fayette 2015-2016 catalog on page 218.
- (4) http://www.cgb.fr/5-francs-territoires-occupes-france-1947-vf-29-02-neuf,p14_0490,a.html
- (5) http://www.frenchbanknotesofwar.com/vf29_1_03494608.html



Smallest number known. Seen for sale on delcampe in August 2017!



Largest known number. Seen for sale for €10 by leboncoin in February 2016!



Catalog Paper-Money #14, lot #490 illustrated in page 195. © cgb.fr.



The only perforated «SPECIMEN» banknote known for the Type. FBOV Collection.