

Section One

Currency Components and Features

Introduction

This section comprises suppliers of the constituent parts from which coins and banknotes are constructed.

For coins, the principal components are alloys and blanks, together with coatings.

For banknotes, the section covers both substrates (paper, polymer and paper/polymer hybrids) and the materials or features that go into or onto these substrates for functional and/or security purposes such as threads, fibres, inks, coatings and varnishes, optically variable devices, taggants and forensic features.

The security of banknotes is created by a combination of substrate-borne, surface-applied and print-based features which can be overt, covert, forensic or a combination.

Substrate-borne and surface-applied features are self-explanatory. The first are intrinsic to the substrate. The second are applied during or at the end of production.

Print-based features are, as the name implies, generated during the printing process through the manipulation of the line structures of banknote designs and/or the combination of different printing process. Whereas most are 'in-house' creations of the banknote producers (which are covered in Section Two), some are technologies (such as digital watermarks, anti-scan features and scrambled indicia) that are bought in from third parties, generally in the form of a licence with the corresponding software and, where relevant, decoding devices. Only these third-party technologies are included in this section.

Furthermore, whereas many banknote printers (largely but not exclusively the commercial printers) offer their own proprietary components and features in addition to print-based features, such as varnishes and inks, unless these are available commercially – ie to other printers – they are not listed here.

Meanwhile, taggants (also known as forensic markers) can be applied to banknotes in a number of ways – eg embedded into the substrate, or incorporated into inks, varnishes or surface-applied features such as holograms. They are also used in the dyes and inks used in cash degradation systems (see Section Five). For ease of reference, however, they are included in this section only.

- Coin materials and blanks
- Banknote substrates:
 - Paper
 - Polymer
 - Paper/polymer hybrids
- Inks, pigments, coatings and varnishes
- Security threads
- Optically variable devices
- Fibres and planchettes
- Taggants and forensic features
- Anti-scan and anti-copy features

Currency Components and Features

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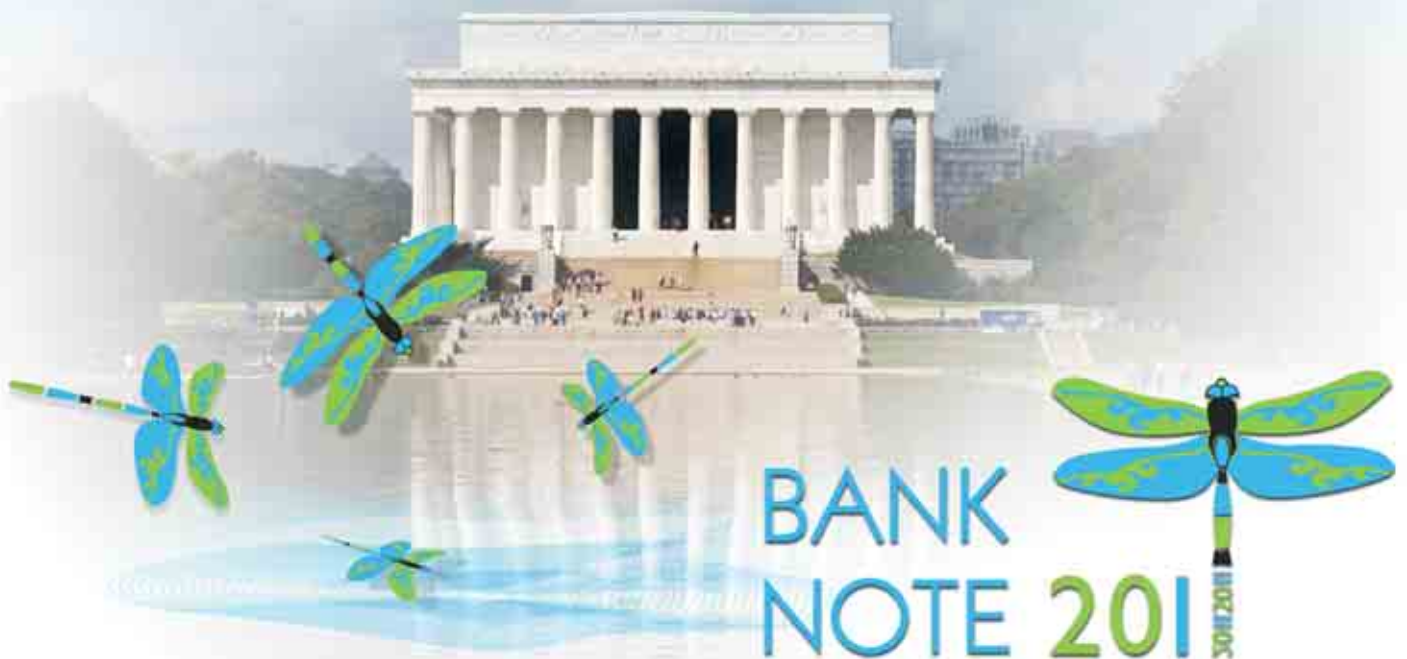
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