



Alfredo Taullard



## PROLOGUE

*The history of 19th century Argentinian paper money represents one of the most difficult subjects of South American numismatics to discuss. Several works on the subject have certainly already been published since the pioneering work of Mr. Alfredo Taullard “Billetes de Banco de la República Argentina” (1924), but some periods remain relatively unknown : with some exceptions, they are concentrated in the series of issues that Argentinian amateurs call “provincial”, that is to say the local paper money of each province, at a time when Argentinian federalism and the monetary situation certainly encouraged the proliferation of issues of this kind. Having known most contemporary scholars of this fascinating subject, including Mr. Bottero, Mr. Bauman and our mutual friend León Burstyn, it is with great pleasure that I present the work of Urs Graf, which encompasses the period between 1822 and 1935. The author offers us a refreshing perspective, both for a very careful research of historical sources, as for a clarity in the presentation of known copies worthy of praise. May young numismatists draw inspiration from his generosity in passing on knowledge that is too often kept in a personal capacity, thus contributing to the dissemination of our numismatic passion.*

*Carlos Jara M., August 2021.*

## CATALOG OF ARGENTINE PAPER MONEY 1822 - 1935

This work is a monograph attempting to bring together all the available information concerning Argentine banknotes not only from the Province of Buenos Aires, but also from other provinces. It is true that for the Province of Buenos Aires, there already exists the excellent work of Osvaldo Nusdeo and Pedro Conno, *Papel Moneda Nacional Argentino y Bonaerense, Siglo XIX, 1813 - 1897*, published in 1000 copies in 1982 by Héctor C. Janson, then the meticulous work of Roberto Bottero who followed with his *Billetes de la República Argentina, Tratado y Catalogación, 1890 a 2001*, for which Don Roberto provided updates until his death. For provincial issues, however, the publications are rather sparse, and apart from the little published by Alfredo Taillard in 1924, *Billetes de Banco de la República Argentina* and the very complete work of Fernando Chao (h) published in 2008, *Bancos Emisores de Rosario en el Siglo XIX*, I only know of a few articles that have been published in specialised journals. Also, these books are hard to find today, and I have had no access to any other books covering provincial issues.

I remember my mentor Don León Burstyn D., who was already advising me in the early 1970s to specialize, because otherwise he might flood me with banknotes. I did well to heed his advice, because when I was able to look at the issues from other provinces after I retired in 2008, I quickly realized how huge a task it was. Fortunately, in 2016, Roberto Bauman published his bilingual catalog *The Paper Money of Argentina, A Window to History / Papel Moneda de Argentina, Una Ventana hacia la Historia, 1816 - 1899*, which is a work whose importance cannot be emphasized enough, especially with regard to provinces other than Buenos Aires.

I had long had the idea of a monograph, and with the advent of the internet, research had become possible even in Europe, far from sources. And the older I got, the more important the idea of sharing information so it wouldn't get lost. It was therefore necessary to find a practical solution :

Another detail annoyed me greatly: all these books - including Meili - categorized the tickets by Estampas, blithely mixing different issues and often having nothing to do with each other. This scheme was of course taken up even by the most recent catalogs. It was in 2008, when it was time to retire, that I started to realize my idea. In the meantime, I had sold my Brazilian collection, but kept the idea of a monograph in mind, and with the advent of the internet, research had become possible even in Europe, far from sources. And the older I got, the more important the idea of sharing information so it wouldn't get lost. So here is what I wanted to achieve:

1. All available information must be easily accessible and free of charge.
2. It will ideally be supplemented with the help of amateurs (in the strict sense of the term) and collectors around the world as well as museums, both for information as well as for illustrations.
3. Illustrations of each denomination or variation should be reproduced in full color and size, as far as possible, with obverse and reverse, and enlargements of important details. It was indeed a weak point of the works printed until then: either the illustrations were in black and white and rare (Taullard) or of mediocre quality (Nusdeo / Conno, SCWPM), of reduced format (Bauman) or only obverse (Bottero).
4. Sizes and information regarding the issue, such as dates, quantities printed and details of the designs shown, will be given, to the extent possible.
5. This monograph will not mention any selling price: there are enough specialist catalogs and the market being what it is, prices can only be approximate and subject to sometimes significant variations. Professional numismatists will be happy to advise amateurs.

With Jean-Luc Buathier, a collector friend who has already published chapters on Argentinian paper money on his *multicollec.net* website, this can finally be achieved, the contribution and integration of new information and illustrations become not only possible, but easily and quickly achievable, whereas with the printed works, it is necessary to wait for a new edition to be published so that new information can appear... eventually!

The publication will in principle be done in monthly installments. Changes and additional information - with indication of sources and credits - will be welcome and can be dealt with as soon as a chapter is published: it will suffice to send them to the following addresses: graf.crans@bluemail.ch or dahu74 @ multicollec.net.

We are considering the possibility of an English and Castilian version once the French drafting is completed. Proposals for collaboration in this direction will be warmly welcomed.