

Confederate currency: the color of money, images of slavery in Confederate and southern states currency

By John W. Jones

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John W. Jones' artistic investigation of a time when slavery and currency were one makes a powerful statement about the contribution of enslaved Africans to the American economy. In bringing these images to the foreground, he reveals a story few history books tell. Yet, these bold acrylics do more than translate the engravings of slave labor enshrined in our monetary system by banks of the South. Hanging in juxtaposition, paintings and currencies create an intriguing and compelling experience of discovery.

Confederate Currency: The Color of Money tells a story which, though set in 19th century America, speaks profoundly to the national dialogue today. The book creates a poignant, provocative and illuminating focal point for engaging such issues as slavery, reparations, racial profiling, racial healing, institutional racism and discrimination.

The book is published in conjunction with the three-year traveling exhibition: Confederate Currency: The Color of Money, Depictions of Slavery in Confederate and Southern States Currency. The exhibition has been reviewed in over 261 media publications, including Time Magazine, The New York Times, CNN, PBS, San Francisco Chronicle, Sacramento Bee, and Associated Press.

The 176-page book with 162 full color pages is edited by Gretchen Barbatsis, a professor of Telecommunication at Michigan State University. Additional scholarly essays are provided by Richard Doty, a numismatist and curator of American History at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC and author of America's Money-America's Story and Money of the World. Wilmut Fraser, a Professor of African American Studies, retired from Cheyney University Pennsylvania, and co-author of To Be or Not ...to Bop—Memoirs of Dizzy Gillespie. Jack McCray is a writer, book reviewer and copy editor at The Post and Courier newspaper of Charleston, SC. Donald West is an instructor of History, Humanities and Government at Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC.

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