

ANTI-COUNTERFEITING CONNECTIONS



On the Lookout for “Novelty” Bank Notes with Asian Characters

After a three-year absence, “novelty” bank notes have resurfaced.

Despite similarities in colour and appearance to genuine Canadian bank notes, these counterfeit notes are marked with Asian writing that translates roughly as “for training purposes only.” The notes are printed on paper and generally have no serial numbers.

“Novelty” counterfeit notes were passed in Canada in 2013 and resurfaced in March of last year. Sometimes referred to as “play money”, they are being passed in various regions and in several denominations. The two most frequently passed denominations are the \$20 and the \$100 note.

The Bank of Canada has the sole authority to issue bank notes in Canada and whomever wishes to reproduce a bank note image must obtain the Bank’s permission. The Bank has not authorized the use of its images in this manner. Law enforcement agencies in various regions have issued advisories this year, warning the public to be aware of these “novelty” notes after receiving reports from local merchants.

These counterfeit notes have also been listed for sale on online marketplace web sites. The Bank is working with the major online marketplace companies to remove the listings and to limit the possibility of these notes being listed again.

Similar “novelty” notes exist in other international currencies including US and Euro bank notes.

“Novelty” notes can be easily detected by checking the security features.

Visit www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes to learn more.