

Japan

Peace YEN

Allied Forces



日本

This is the key token in the series of eight. It is the only one that does not contain Japan (日本) on the reverse side. The Peace yen commemorates a secretly planned invasion of Japan and the Australian and Allied invasion currency that was part of their plans.

Military Occupation Currency

As early as 1943, the Commonwealth Bank (now known as the Reserve Bank of Australia), had been designing military occupation currency. Early designs were in the denominations of 10/-, £1, £5 and £10 which followed the Australian currency of the time. This may have been proposed to replace Japanese Invasion Money as a way of assisting in taking back control of occupied territories whilst not affecting the value of the Australian Pound. More likely, it was to be used in Japan by occupying forces after Japan had surrendered. The initial designs of 1943 correlate to the creation of 'Appreciation and Plan for the Defeat of Japan', the Allied plan that proposed forcing Japan to surrender in 1947-48.

Australian yen

In early 1944, the Commonwealth Bank had been working on new designs of 'invasion currency' but now in yen denominations. These were possibly for use in Japan should Australia be part of an invasion of Japan.

The new Australian yen notes were designed at least one year prior to the establishment of the planned invasion of Japan, code-named *Operation Downfall*, *Olympic* and *Coronet*.

In correspondence dated 4 February 1944, between The Governor of Sydney and The Commonwealth Bank, Note Issue Department, Sydney, the designs of new invasion currency in yen denominations were planned and refined.

"No decision to issue invasion currency has yet been reached but we should be glad if you could prepare an additional front design incorporating the words 'Allied Military Occupation Currency' in place of 'Australian Military Authority', and with a new feature not directly associated with the Commonwealth coat of arms."



Left: Designs for the proposed Australian-issue Allied Military Occupation Currency in yen denominations. These both contain slightly different versions of the 'Fiat Justitia' symbol.



Right: One of the original hand-drawn designs which was to be a symbol appearing on each of the yen notes. It features the Laurel Wreath of Honour, the Sword and Scales of Justice with the Latin phrase 'Fiat Justitia' (Let/may justice be done).



Peace yen

The design of the Peace yen token is based on this 'new feature' symbol mentioned in the correspondence above. The symbol has been faithfully reproduced from the hand-drawn designs discovered in the Reserve Bank archives.

Purchase your own Peace yen to add to your collection today.

Eight different Peace tokens to collect. Available in antiqued finish and gold plated. Proudly designed & manufactured in Australia.

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