



MARIA COGGINS, BILL ALLEN, AND CHRIS WORTH clown in last year's production of "Scapino". (Photo by David Swanson)

Highland Players

Rather than in mylar and lasar lights, this show can be visualized in potted plants, cucumber sandwiches, lace and ascots. This is very much a period piece and will be played as such. McDonald does, however, intend to find a suitable acting area other than the proscenium stage in the L.A. auditorium, preferably on the student housing side of the lake.

The final show this season will be Michael Cristofer's "The Shadow Box" (April 27-29), directed by Brad Ford. "The Shadow Box" won the Pulitzer Prize, the Drama Critics Circle Award and a Tony Award for best play of 1977. Set in three separate guest cottages associated with a hospital treating terminal cancer patients, the play deals with the struggles and frustrations of the patients and their families as

they face the inevitability of death. Although a serious work, Cristofer puts to effective use the ironic humor that seems inherent in any consideration of a forewarned death.

Aside from these four mainstage productions there will be experimental theatre activities as interest dictates and there is a possibility of a radio show being produced in association with WSAP. All students are cordially invited and encouraged to audition for any or all of the shows and to work in any aspect of St. Andrews technical theatre that they wish. Of course everyone is invited to attend the performances. If you are interested in working with a show or are curious about the Highland Players, please feel free to contact Brad Ford or any member of the Highland Players Council.

Season tickets go on sale Sept. 21.

One Heck Of A Note

... Woodrow Wilson Is Framed By Zeros On This Bill

\$100,000 Certificates Only Collector's Items

By Barbara S. Moffett
National Geographic News Service

Some bills in the Treasury Department vault are just too attractive to toss into an incinerator.

So this year when Treasury officials decided to get rid of nearly \$2 billion in gold certificates that had been locked up for years, they set a few aside. Among them were eight \$100,000 notes, the largest denomination ever issued in the United States.

The notes had been lying around since 1934, about the point in the Depression when President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Federal Reserve banks to turn in all of their gold.

Golden IOUs

"The Federal Reserves had huge quantities of gold—some had millions of dollars worth," explained O.H. Tomkinson of the Treasury Department. "So to pay them back, the Treasury had those IOUs printed up." For convenience, the "IOUs" were printed in the form of big bills—\$100s, \$1,000s, \$10,000s, and the mind-boggling \$100,000s.

Printed only to repay the Federal Reserve banks, some of the gold certificates—which bear Woodrow Wilson's portrait—never made it out of the Treasury vault. Those that remained locked away included the first note of each denomination, marked with serial number A00000001 A.

"Fortunately, somebody at the Treasury had the foresight to keep them," Tomkinson told the National Geographic Society. That foresight also is appreciated by Elvira Stefanelli, curator of numismatics of the Smithsonian Institution, the new caretaker of some of the notes.

Mrs. Stefanelli said that although the \$100,000 note is only one of many

rare bills on display at the Museum of History and Technology, it draws people like a magnet.

"One hundred thousand seems to be the magic number," she said. "But actually it's just a piece of paper. Somebody could steal it, but they couldn't spend it."

Somebody could spend a \$10,000 bill—the largest ever issued to the American public. The bill, bearing a portrait of Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the Treasury under Abraham Lincoln, was last printed in 1945.

Not In Demand

That year the Bureau of Engraving and Printing also quit making the other big bills, the \$500, \$1,000, and \$5,000. It was almost 25 years before the Federal Reserves used up their stocks of the bills.

"There just was no great demand for them," explained Herbert Krisak of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. "People started using checks and credit cards instead."

Although banks now are supposed to turn these big bills in to the Federal Reserves, there still are some floating around; for example, 362 \$10,000 bills remain unaccounted for. Depending on their series and condition, the discontinued bills could be worth considerably more than their face value, says Harvey Stack, a rare-money authority in New York.

Today the biggest bill printed for circulation is the lowly \$100; 67 million of them rolled off the presses this year. That's almost twice as many as were printed the year before, an increase that might be attributed to inflation or hoarding because of mistrust in financial institutions.

But big bills can mean big losses. "A person who hangs onto a \$10,000 bill for a year instead of depositing his money could lose \$600 in interest," Stack pointed out.

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