

## LETTER BOXES ON BANKNOTES

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My interest in letter boxes extends beyond the real thing and I was recently made aware of Chinese banknotes that incorporate a letter box in their design. Thanks to fellow enthusiast Brian Asquith I can illustrate one here.

The first notes were issued by the Shan Hsi Zing Fun Bank in 1912 and exist in two denominations, a one Liang and a five Liang. The main design reveals a street scene and at the far right can be seen a pillar letter box. If the scene is all drawn to the same scale, then the box was enormous, as can be seen by comparing the height of the box with the height of the passing horse.



In 1918 the Sinkiang Finance Bureau of China issued banknotes in \$1, \$5 and \$10 denominations and the design for these also apparently included a letter box, but examples have yet to be found.

Can any reader provide further details about the above banknotes, or perhaps add to the list?