

# OFF THE SHELF: Monographs on Paper Money by Dr. John A. Muscalus

By David F. Fanning

The Winter 1989 issue of *The Asylum* included a listing of the publications by John A. Muscalus (1909–86) compiled by R.L. Bisordi.<sup>1</sup> Eighty-one titles were listed, including an article published in *The Numismatist* and a few other pieces for which no publication information was provided. In March 1991, Frank and Laurese Katen distributed a list they had compiled of Muscalus's publications. Limiting their scope to stand-alone monographs, they listed eighty such works, including several revisions and reprints.<sup>2</sup> While recently sorting a comprehensive group of these specialized booklets, I thought it might be an idea to revisit the author's bibliography. As did the Katens, I am limiting the following to stand-alone works and am not listing Muscalus's articles, which were published in a variety of numismatic journals, unless they were later reprinted in stand-alone form.

The following listing is arranged in chronological order by year; if I have been able to determine the order in which works were published during a particular year, I have so arranged them and my comments should make this clear.

1. *The Characters and Events Illustrated on State Bank Notes*. N.p., n.d. This is described by Muscalus as "my first booklet" in his two December 1938 publications that follow. The obituary for Muscalus in *The Numismatist* attributed this



Dr. John A. Muscalus

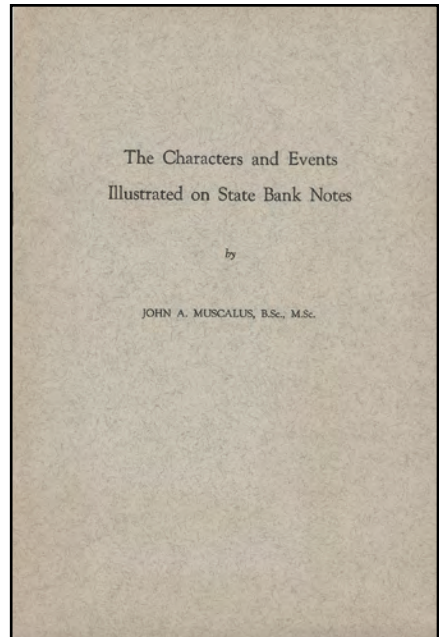


Figure 1: Described by Muscalus as "my first booklet": *The Characters and Events Illustrated on State Bank Notes*.

- work to 1936, but I have not been able to confirm this (Figure 1).<sup>3</sup>
2. *An Index of State Bank Notes that Illustrate Characters and Events*. Bridgeport, 1938. The Preface is dated December 1938 and refers to *The Characters and Events Illustrated on State Bank Notes* as “my first booklet.” This may have been published simultaneously with the following.
  3. *An Index of State Bank Notes that Illustrate Washington and Franklin*. Bridgeport, 1938. The Preface of this work is also dated December 1938 and refers to *The Characters and Events Illustrated on State Bank Notes* as “my first booklet.” This may have been published simultaneously with the preceding.
  4. *An Index of State Bank Notes that Illustrate Presidents*. While the title page copyright date is given as 1939, the Preface is dated December 1938. From it, we can surmise that it was his fourth booklet.
  5. *The Views of Towns, Cities, Falls and Buildings Illustrated on 1800–1866 Bank Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1939. The author’s Preface is dated May 10, 1939.
  6. *Famous Paintings Reproduced on Paper Money of State Banks, 1800–1866*. Bridgeport, 1939. The author’s Preface is dated May 15, 1939.
  7. *State-Owned Banks, the Pet Banks, and Their Bank Notes*. Bridgeport, 1940. The author’s Preface is dated April 10, 1940.
  8. *State Bank Notes: A Reference List with Identifications of Historical Interest*. New York: Wayte Raymond, 1942. This is a substantial (144-page) work that would appear to have received limited distribution, probably due to its being a wartime publication on a specialized topic. That said, a special edition bound in red cloth was also issued. The first ads in Raymond’s *Coin Collector’s Journal* appeared in the March–April 1942 issue (Figure 2). Not one of Muscalus’s self-published works.
  9. *Bibliography of Histories of Specific Banks*. Norristown, 1942. I am unable at this time to determine the order in which Muscalus’s three 1942 booklets were published.
  10. *Early Business College Bank Notes*. Norristown, 1942.
  11. *State Bank Note Facsimiles and the*

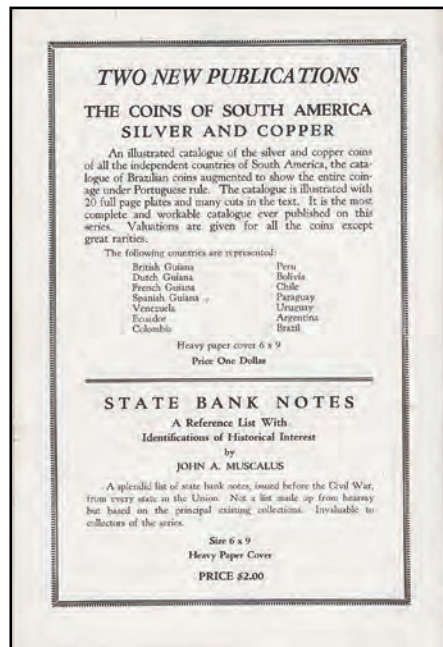


Figure 2: An ad in Wayte Raymond’s *Coin Collector’s Journal* for Muscalus’s recently published *State Bank Notes: A Reference List with Identifications of Historical Interest*.

*Publications that Contain Them.* N.p., n.d. Combined reprint of a long article published serially in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* from September 1943 through August 1944. While included here as a stand-alone monograph, it is not one of Muscalus's self-published works.

12. *The Use of Banking Enterprises in the Financing of Public Education 1796–1866.* Philadelphia, 1945. This is a full-length book and, in fact, was the author's doctoral dissertation presented to the University of Pennsylvania in 1944. It is not one of Muscalus's self-published works (Figure 3).
13. *Paper Money of Early Educational Institutions and Organizations.* Bridgeport, 1946. The author's Introduction is dated March 1946.
14. *Dictionary of Paper Money.* Bridgeport, 1947. The author's Introduction is dated January 1947.
15. *County Scrip Issued in the United States.* Bridgeport, 1948. The author's Introduction is dated September 1, 1948.
16. *Paper Money in Sheets.* Norristown: Lenhart Press, 1949. A substantial, heavily illustrated work of 112 pages, and not one of Muscalus's self-published works.
17. *Paper Money of the 6 1/4 Cent and 12 1/2 Cent Denominations.* N.p., n.d. Combined reprint of a long article published serially in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* from March through October 1949 (excepting April). While included here as a stand-alone monograph, it is not one of Muscalus's self-published works. Given that the final installment was published in October 1949, it seems entirely probable to me that this edition was not published until 1950 and possibly even later.
18. *Price List of Common State Bank Notes and Scrip.* N.p., 1951. Copy seen with ink stamp of Muscalus giving a Buffalo address. I have no way of knowing if this was published before or after the following.
19. *Price List of Paper Money in Sheets.* Buffalo, 1951.
20. *Saint Nicholas on Early State Bank Notes.* N.p., 1959. The Katens mentioned a 1962 reprint of this as existing, but had not seen such—nor have I.

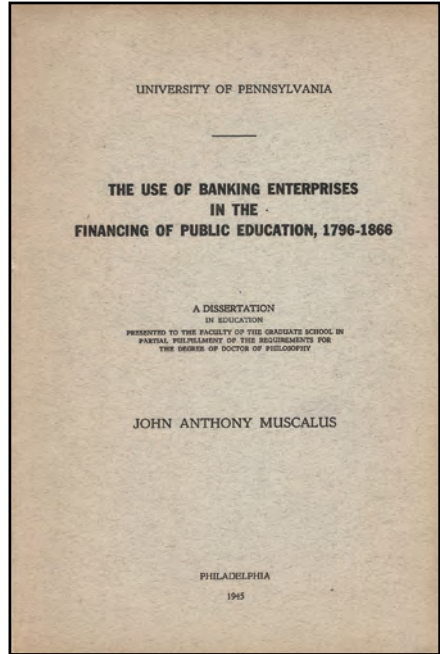


Figure 3: Muscalus's doctoral dissertation: *The Use of Banking Enterprises in the Financing of Public Education 1796–1866.*

21. *Locomotive Engravings on State Bank Notes and Scrip 1832–1875*. Bridgeport, 1964. The author's Introduction is dated August 1, 1964.
22. *Dictionary of Paper Money with Historical Specimens Illustrated*. Bridgeport, 1965. This is a revision of his 1947 edition. Five monographs by Muscalus bear a 1965 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
23. *Oglethorpe at Christie's Sale of Dr. Johnson's Library on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1965. Note: the title misspells Christie's as "Christe's."
24. *Popularity of Wm. S. Mount's Art Work on Paper Money 1838–1865*. Bridgeport, 1965.
25. *The Dismal Swamp Canal and Lake Drummond Hotel on Paper Money 1838–1865*. Bridgeport, 1965. I have seen this on both cream-colored and white paper.
26. *The Oxford Paintings of Reynolds Virtues in the West Window on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1965.
27. *Birch's Painting of Perry's Victory on Lake Erie Used on State Bank Notes and Scrip*. Bridgeport, 1966. Four monographs by Muscalus bear a 1966 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
28. *Parish Scrip Issued in Louisiana*. Bridgeport, 1966. I have not seen this, but it is in the ANS Library and elsewhere.
29. *Renault's Painting of the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on State Bank Notes*. Bridgeport, 1966.
30. *Whaling Art by Garneray, Stewart and Page on State Bank Notes*. Bridgeport, 1966.
31. *Illustrations of County Scrip Issued in Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Pennsylvania*. Bridgeport, 1967. Six monographs by Muscalus bear a 1967 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
32. *Lincoln Portraits on State Bank Notes, College Currency and Scrip*. Bridgeport, 1967.
33. *Odd Bank Note and Scrip Denominations in American Monetary History*. Bridgeport, 1967.
34. *The Beautiful View of the Rockville Bridge across the Susquehanna above Harrisburg on State Bank Notes*. Bridgeport, 1967.
35. *The Use on Paper Money of Peale's Painting of the Wounded Gen. Mercer*. Bridgeport, 1967.
36. *Landseer's My Horse, Spaniel and Other Paintings on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1967
37. *Saint Catherine on Paper Money of the State of Florida and Others*. Bridgeport, 1968. Four monographs by Muscalus bear a 1968 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
38. *Saint John on Paper Money Issued in the United States*. Bridgeport, 1968.

39. *The Extensive Use of Christ on Paper Money Circulated in the United States*. Bridgeport, 1968.
40. *The Princess Victoria on an American Bank Note of 1837*. Bridgeport, 1968. There are at least two cover variants of this title.
41. *Album of Types of Paintings and Portraits of Penn, Franklin, and Buchanan on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969. No fewer than twelve monographs by Muscalus bear a 1969 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
42. *Henriette Sontag, the Countess Rossi, on Paper Money Issued in the United States*. Bridgeport, 1969.
43. *Lord Byron on Paper Money Issued in the United States*. Bridgeport, 1969.
44. *Paper Money Pertaining to Druggists, Medicines and Medical Practitioners*. Bridgeport, 1969.
45. *Portraits and Paintings of Eugenie, Napoleon I, and Marie Louise on American Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969.
46. *Portraits of Elias Boudinot on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969.
47. *Portraits of the First Three Directors of the United States Mint on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969.
48. *Shakespeare on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969.
49. *Solomon Carvalho's Art on Paper Money Issued in the United States and Canada*. Bridgeport, 1969.
50. *Sully's Painting of the Future Rev. Dr. Alfred L. Elwyn on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969.
51. *Famous Paintings of God and the Infant Christ on Paper Money issued in New Jersey*. Bridgeport, 1969.
52. *Franklin's Great-Granddaughter-in-Law (Mrs. Bache) on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1969.
53. *Bank Notes Honoring Pulaski and the Pulaski Monuments*. Bridgeport, 1971. Seven monographs by Muscalus bear a 1971 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
54. *British Empire Bank Note Proofs: One Hundred Bank Note Proofs of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Australia of the Early 1800's*. Bridgeport, 1971.
55. *Historic Jamestown and Pocahontas on Paper Money and Chapman Art*. Bridgeport, 1971.
56. *Kinds of Scrip Issued by School Districts in Financial Emergencies*. Bridgeport, 1971.
57. *Railroad Currency: Bank Notes and Scrip Representative of over One Hundred Railroads, 1830's to 1900's*. Bridgeport, 1971.
58. *The Capitol: Its Developmental Aspects and the Crawford Statue of Freedom on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1971.

59. *Wilkie's Princess Doria of Rome on Bank Notes Used in the United States*. Bridgeport, 1971.
60. *General George B. McClellan on Paper Money*. 1972. I have not seen this, nor is it in the ANS Library, but it does exist. Two monographs by Muscalus bear a 1972 copyright date; I am unable to assign priority to either.
61. *Washington's Crossing and the Battle of Trenton Portrayed on Bank Notes, Scrip and Paintings*. N.p., 1972. Author affiliation given as Mercer County Community College.
62. *Bank Notes Commemorating the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*. Bridgeport, 1973. Three monographs by Muscalus bear a 1973 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
63. *National Bank Notes of Buffalo and Vicinity, 1865–1929*. Bridgeport, 1973.
64. *Recycled Southern Paper Money: A Reference List of Southern Paper Money Printed on the Backs of Scarce Unused Notes and Documents*. Bridgeport, 1973.
65. *How the Trenton and Other State Banks of New Jersey Provided Support for the Founding of the State School System*. 1974. I have not seen this, nor is it in the ANS Library. The Katens state that this reprints a chapter from Muscalus's dissertation. Five monographs by Muscalus bear a 1974 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
66. *Jackson Portraits and the Battle of New Orleans on State Bank Notes*. Bridgeport, 1974.
67. *Massachusetts Scrip*. Bridgeport, 1974.
68. *Paper Money of the Four-Dollar Denomination*. Bridgeport, 1974.
69. *Transportation Currency: Bank Notes & Scrip Representative of Forty-Five Varieties of Transportation Companies 1777–1900's*. Bridgeport, 1974.
70. *Album of Georgia County and City Scrip*. Bridgeport, 1975. Three monographs by Muscalus bear a 1975 copyright date; I am unable to arrange them further chronologically.
71. *Georgia Railroad Currency Comprehensively Illustrated*. Bridgeport, 1975.
72. *Pennsylvania Borough and City Scrip*. Bridgeport, 1975.
73. *Early Ships and Shipbuilding on Paper Money*. Bridgeport, 1976.
74. *Album of Georgia Local Business Notes*. Bridgeport, 1977. Two monographs by Muscalus bear a 1977 copyright date; I am unable to assign priority to either.
75. *Mississippi Railroad Currency Comprehensively Illustrated*. Bridgeport, 1977.
76. *An Index of State Bank Notes with Portraits of Presidents*. Bridgeport, 1978. This is an illustrated reprint of Muscalus's 1939 original. Two monographs by Muscalus, both reprints, bear a 1978 copyright date; I am unable to assign priority to either.
77. *Paper Money of the District of Columbia*. Bridgeport, 1978. This reproduces an article by Muscalus published in the January–February 1944 issue of the *Coin Collector's Journal*.

Both the Bisordi and Katen listings include some erroneous entries, which have not here been included.<sup>4</sup> In addition, a price list of his own publications issued by Muscalus in either 1950 or 1951 lists six works for which copies have not been found:

- a. *Price List of Scrip Issued by the Coal and Iron Industry*. This is not recorded by either Bisordi or the Katens, but was included in the 1950–51 Muscalus listing of his own publications for sale as “just published.”
- b. *Price List of Paper Money Issued in Louisiana*. This is not recorded by either Bisordi or the Katens, but was included in the 1950–51 Muscalus listing of his own publications for sale as “just published.”
- c. *Price List of Paper Money Issued in Mississippi*. This is not recorded by either Bisordi or the Katens, but was included in the 1950–51 Muscalus listing of his own publications for sale as “just published.”
- d. *Churches on Early Bank Notes: A Descriptive Price List*. This is not recorded by either Bisordi or the Katens, but was included in the 1950–51 Muscalus listing of his own publications for sale as “just published.”
- e. *Paper Money Concerning the Niagara Frontier*. This is not recorded by Bisordi and was unseen by the Katens (who mention it), but was included in the 1950–51 Muscalus listing of his own publications for sale.
- f. *School Scrip Issued in the U.S.* This is not recorded by Bisordi and was unseen the Katens (who mention it), but was included in the 1950–51 Muscalus listing of his own publications for sale.

None of the above six entries have been seen by this author, who has been unable to find any other reference to them and who doubts they were published.

While the Bisordi and Katen listings of Muscalus’s works are mostly correct, I am hoping that the above has managed to correct some errors and fill in a few blanks. Given the bibliographical complexity of Muscalus’s publications, however, I doubt very much that this is the final word on the subject.



#### Notes

1. Bisordi, R.L. “The Works of John Muscalus.” *The Asylum*, Vol. VII, No. 4 (Winter 1989), pp. 21–23. The author would like to thank Benny Bolin for his comments on an earlier draft of this column.
2. Katen, Frank and Laurese. “Bibliography of Dr. John A. Muscalus Books on Paper Money and Bank Notes and Scrip.” Silver Spring, March 1991. Privately distributed.
3. GCC. “John A. Muscalus, ANA 4954.” *The Numismatist*, Vol. 100, No. 2, pp. 383–384. Given that the same obituary states that his doctoral dissertation was published in 1946 instead of 1945, we have to take this with a grain of salt.
4. For instance, K-80 (*A Reference List with Identifications of Historical Interest*) is clearly just the subtitle of K-10 (*State Bank Notes: A Reference List with Identifications of Historical Interest*). At the end of their listing, the Katens note “Also existing somewhere is a group of 14 early publications of Dr. Muscalus which I had bound years ago and later sold. Interesting to know who has this tid-bit.” I may have this volume: though it has only 12 early Muscalus publications, the binding is very similar to some other Katen productions.