

## G200 Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd Rejected Specimen



Obverse & Reverse of a Rejected Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd Specimen of a G200 G£1 "Greenback" © David Ozanne

On 23 September 2025, David Ozanne acquired this impressive note at a Spink auction, despite strong competition, for a price well above the estimate. For reasons why the States of Guernsey introduced this completely redesigned, counter-forgery G£1 note please refer to page 203 of *Guernsey Paper Money*. No prizes for guessing why this issue was nicknamed "Greenback" by Islanders but the use of the blue hues on the obverse was revolutionary to a population that had been used to their currency notes being monochrome.

The note is a Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd printer's proof, overprinted **SPECIMEN** in black and cancelled by three punch holes where a signature would have appeared on an issued note. The note is also perforated SPECIMEN. It was presented to the States of Guernsey as an example of its new currency notes for approval. However, it was not approved by the States Treasury. Also sold at the same Spink auction were many other Perkins Bacon notes from many different countries that also bore the same **REJECTED** overprint that suggests this stamp belonged to the Printer and not the customer. There are also two handwritten annotations on the obverse; one in the left margin and another at the lower centre as illustrated below. These appear to provide the evidence that this Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd proof note was rejected by the authorities on Guernsey.



Close examination suggests that this is the French/Guernesiate word *Extrudé*. Translated into English this word is *Extrude*; the meaning of which is to form something by pushing or forcing it out through a small opening. However, extrude can also mean to eject or dismiss. It is the latter definition that is thought to be relevant here in that the printer's proof was dismissed for whatever reason by the States of Guernsey and therefore the printer

stamped it **REJECTED**. It is not immediately obvious why the note was rejected but as we know, the general design was later adopted by the States for its 1895 Issue.



The annotation in the left margin has proved more difficult to decipher but using photographic software and breaking down the image gradually our best guess is *bien scrutiné*; (thanks to David Ozanne for this suggestion). The translation of *bien scrutiné* is *well scrutinised* or *thoroughly examined*. Was this a States of Guernsey Official confirming that they had done their job before the proof note was rejected? I have checked the rejected proofs of other countries and a common annotation is the word *Pattern*, sometimes followed by a date but I could not find other annotations like those on the Guernsey note. If you have better suggestions, please let me know.

My thanks to David Ozanne for allowing me to publish these images and for his help in drafting this article.