Straits Settlements Currency Note in use in Perak in 1898; (front and back view).
A Note on Perak Currency in 1898

by

HUSAIN bin MAHMUD

On 30th November 1898 the Government of Perak issued a gazette notification - Enactment No. 15 of the year 1898 - announcing that the Ruler in Council, HRH Sultan Idris Mursidul 'Adzam Shah, had proclaimed that only the notes and coins listed in that Enactment would in future be legal tender in the State.

The notes and coins which were listed were as follows:

(a) All currency Notes issued by the Currency Commissioners of the Straits Settlements;

(b) Silver Mexican Dollars, bearing a reproduction of the sun and a hawk issued by the American Government.

(c) Silver dollars issued by the Hong Kong Government;

(d) Silver dollars minted by the British Government in 1895 bearing a reproduction of a man standing holding a trident.

If however any of these Silver dollars had been defaced or reduced in weight to less than 416 grains they would not be valid currency. Other silver coins were listed which would also be accepted for payment (provided that they had not been defaced or reduced in weight,) up to a maximum value of two dollars; they were, the 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents issued by the Straits Settlements Government.

Copper coins with a face value of 1 cent, ½ cent and ¼ cent issued by the Straits Settlements Government would also be legal tender for purchases up to one dollar.
Coins in use in Perak in 1898: (from the private collection of Enche Husain bin Mahmud).
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