



Series B £100 Note

This is a transcript of text in the video titled “Series B £100 Note”.

£100 – Grace O’Malley (unreleased note)

The £100 Series B banknote was the only note in this series which was designed (over a period of 10 years) and never released for circulation. It was subsequently cancelled in the late 1980s, due to concerns over such a high denomination helping to facilitate the illegal movement of cash, additionally it took so long to complete the design of the note that the development of the C series was catching up.

The note was meant to carry the theme of folk heroes, and Grace O’Malley or Granuaile (Ireland’s Pirate Queen) was chosen. She was the most powerful woman in 16th century Ireland and her clan controlled an area around South West County Mayo, Clew Bay, Achill Island, and Clare Island. She traded as far as Scotland, Spain, and Portugal.

In the numeral of the £100 note, there is ornamentation of wild geese, which references the “Flight of the Wild Geese” from Ireland at the end of the Jacobite-Williamite war. This Jacobite army, led by Patrick Sarsfield, the Earl of Lucan, and loyal to King James Stuart was defeated by the armies of William of Orange. The Treaty of Limerick was signed in October of 1691, which allowed Sarsfield’s forces the option of sailing to France in exile.

Lastly, featured on the reverse of the banknote, we have a genealogical map of Ireland, with localities of various family names. The map is based on the 1567 map of “Hibernia (the Classical Latin name for the island of Ireland): Insula non procul ab Anglia vulgare Hirlandia vocata” by John Goghe, the original of which is held in the National Archives in London.

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