

Currency in psychiatry

Psychiatrists on bank-notes

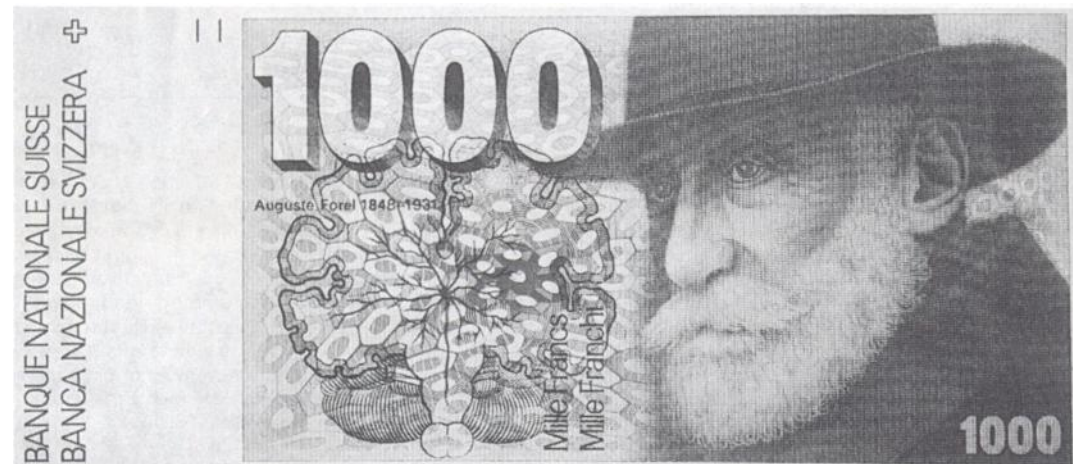
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It has for many years been the custom for nations to commemorate their heroes and heroines by placing their features on bank-notes. Among these are four psychiatrists whose brief biographical details are given below.



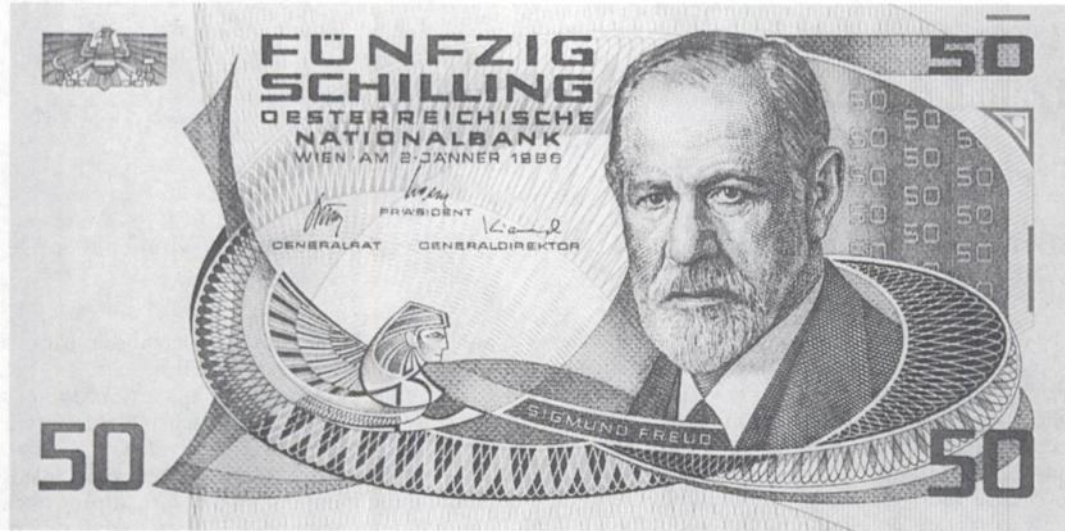
Benjamin Rush (1745–1813) appears with others on the reverse of the 1976 US two dollar note. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree at 15 and became a Doctor of Medicine in 1768. He published many medical papers and also tracts inveighing against the evils of slavery and

advocating temperance. Between 1789 and 1796 he received three Professorships of Medicine. His last book, *Medical Enquiries and Observations upon Diseases of the Mind*, published in 1812, was the first work on psychiatry to be published in the USA.



Auguste Henri Forel (1838–1931) appears on the current 1000 Swiss francs note. He was Switzerland's most eminent and progressive psychiatrist of the 19th century. He was the first person to obtain a histological preparation of the human brain and later gave such a precise description of the hypothalamus that one of its regions was named the

'campus Foreli'. In 1879 he became Professor of Psychiatry at Zurich University Medical School and inaugurated the systematic teaching of forensic psychiatry. In 1888 he succeeded in making psychiatry a compulsory subject in medical education.



Sigmund Freud (1856–1940) appears on Austria's current 50 schilling note. He qualified in medicine at Vienna University and later travelled to Paris to study under Charcot. So many of his patients reported such vivid and (then) unthinkable sexual relationships with their parents that he formulated the concept of sexual fantasy. (It is now believed that Freud's patients could well have been relating

real experiences.) In 1902 the Psychological Wednesday Circle was formed with Freud and his friends meeting weekly to discuss psychological topics. In 1909 the group formed the Vienna Psychoanalytical Society which became the International Psychoanalytical Association in 1912. In 1923 he published *The Ego and the Id*.



Julius Wagner-Jauregg (1857–1940) appears on the obsolete 500 schilling Austrian bank-note of 1953. He received his degree in medicine in 1890 from the University of Vienna. He became Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Graz in 1889 and was recalled to Vienna

in 1893. In 1917 he discovered the treatment of syphilitic general paralysis of the insane (GPI) with malaria-induced fever which saved thousands of lives. He received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1927.