

## Currency issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

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Ms. S.H. Gunawardena  
Additional Superintendent, Currency Department

Currency notes and coins issued and in circulation form an integral component of money in the modern economy. It is a widely used instrument in the payment system, which is a part of the financial system of a country. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that there is uninterrupted availability of currency in the required quality and that it preserves its integrity and public confidence. This will contribute to the smooth functioning of the payments and settlement system and thereby add to the stability of the financial system. Hence, the functions of issuing currency and management of currency in Sri Lanka is entrusted to the same authority which is responsible for maintaining economic and price stability and financial system stability.

### Authority granted to the Central Bank

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) was empowered by the Monetary Law Act No. 58 of 1949 (MLA)<sup>1</sup> with the sole right and authority to issue currency and for the management of currency. Currency issued by the CBSL is the sole legal tender for the payment of any amount in Sri Lanka, (i.e. the currency that can be officially used in the country). Currency facilitates payments for goods and services and settlement of debt, while it also acts as a store of value.

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<sup>1</sup> MLA Chapter III, Part I A, Sections 48 to 58.

When the CBSL commenced operations in August 1950, it was authorised to issue any currency notes or “Ceylon” coins printed or minted under the authority of the Board of Commissioners of Currency (BCC) of the British colonial regime and remaining un-issued on 28 August 1950. Further, the MLA provided for all currency notes and Ceylon coins issued under the provisions of the Currency Ordinance No. 21 of 1941, and in circulation, to become liabilities of the CBSL.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the CBSL in 1950 inherited a well-organised currency system from the British, which had evolved over a period of nearly 150 years.<sup>3</sup> It was in this period that the decimal coinage had also been introduced, on 17 March 1872, where the decimal unit was expressed at 100 cents (Ceylon copper coins) to a rupee.<sup>4</sup> Further, during this period, comparatively high value currency notes in the denominations of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 had been issued into circulation but had been demonetised in early 1946 to prevent hoarding, black-market activities and income tax evasion.<sup>5</sup> The highest denomination to be issued had been in the denomination of Rs. 10,000 for inter-bank transactions and for transactions between banks and the Currency Board. The date on the note was 15 October 1947 with the signatures in facsimile of C.E.Jones and T.D.Perera, Commissioners of Currency.



According to the MLA, all characteristics of currency such as denominations, dimensions, designs, inscriptions on currency notes and the metals, fineness, weight, size, design, denominations in relation to coins issued by the CBSL have to be prescribed by the Monetary Board of the CBSL and approved by the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance. Further, every currency note should bear the signatures in facsimile of the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance and of the Governor of the CBSL. On the face of a currency note a legend should state that the note is being issued on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka indicating its legal tender status.

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2 MLA Section 129 (2)

3 De Silva, G.P.S.H. History of Coins and Currency in Sri Lanka, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, August 2000.

4 Salley, T.M.U. Sri Lanka Currency of Recent Times 1938-1985, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka 1986

5 MLA Chapter III, Part I A, Section 48 to 58

As it is with other countries, currency, both notes and coins (including commemorative notes and coins) issued by the CBSL reflect the historical and cultural heritage of Sri Lanka as well as the economic, political and social changes and developments that have taken place over the years in the country.

## Currency Notes issued by the CBSL

Until the CBSL commenced printing its own currency, it issued the currency stock it had inherited from the BCC, and printed by the India Government Security Press. It is also mentioned that, a supplementary order at least for the smaller denominations was placed in 1950 by the BCC to meet the CBSL requirements, until the CBSL was in a position to issue its own notes into circulation. Although the CBSL was able to print and issue into circulation its first currency notes in 1952, it was only by mid July 1955 that the CBSL had the desired denominations of its own currency in circulation, replacing the notes issued by the BCC, with the exception of Rs. 100 and Rs. 50. Therefore, nearly 5 years after its establishment, the CBSL was in a position to recall by Gazette Notification dated 26 August 1955, all old-pattern currency notes of the denominations of Rs.10 and below, including the subsidiary notes of the denominations of cents 50, cents 25 and cents 10 bearing a date prior to 31 December 1950 with the signatures of the Commissioners of Currency. This is recorded as the first demonetisation exercise the CBSL carried out since its establishment.<sup>6</sup>

Table 9.1  
**Currency Notes issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka up to 2011**

Series	Theme	Denominations (Rs.)	Year
01	King George VI series	1, 10	1951
02	Queen Elizabeth II series	1, 2, 5, 10, 50, 100	1952
03	Armorial Ensign of Ceylon series	1, 2, 5, 10, 50, 100	1956
04	S W R D Bandaranaike Portrait series	2, 5, 10, 50, 100	1962
05	King Parakramabahu Series	2, 5, 10, 50, 100	1965
06	Armorial Ensign of Sri Lanka series	50, 100	1975
07	Fauna and Flora Series	2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100	1979
08	Historical and Archaeological series	5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1000	1981
09	Historical and Development series	500, 1000	1987
10	Sri Lanka Heritage series	10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1000 2000	1991 2005
11	Development, Prosperity and Sri Lanka Dancers	20, 50, 100, 500, 1000, 5000	2010

<sup>6</sup> Salley, T.M.U.

Since its establishment, the CBSL has issued eleven series of currency notes in different years up to 2011. Generally, when a new series of currency notes is issued by the CBSL, the notes of previous series continue to be legal tender and circulate alongside the new notes. The exception to this status quo was the event of the second demonetisation exercise of 1970.

Table 9.1 gives the theme of the note series, denominations issued and the year of first issue as printed on the notes.

## King George VI Series

It was customary to display the portrait of the ruling monarch of the British Empire in currency notes and coins issued in British colonies. The portrait may perhaps have reinforced confidence of people in the currency note conveying it is issued under the authority of the monarchy. This was evident in the currency issued by the BCC in British Ceylon, which carried the portrait of the British Monarch. It also carried two signatures of the Commissioners of Currency. After regaining independence from British colonial rule in 1948, the CBSL continued with the practice of having the portrait of His Majesty King George VI on the first currency notes issued for circulation. The first note issued was on 04 January 1952 in the denomination of Rs. 10 with the date 20 January 1951 and with the signatures in facsimile of J.R. Jayawardene, the Minister of Finance and of John Exter, the first Governor of the CBSL. The Re. 1 note was issued subsequently. While the other denominations of Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 were still in proof stage, H.M. King George VI died on 06 February 1952 and the printing process of these notes ceased.<sup>7</sup>

## Queen Elizabeth II Series

Subsequent series issued with the year 1952, in six denominations of Re.1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 had the portrait of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II who became the ruling monarch of the United Kingdom in February 1952 upon the death of her father King George VI. Although the front of the currency notes in series I and II carried portraits of British rulers, it had been the decision of the Monetary Board and Hon. J.R. Jayawardene, the Minister of Finance at that time, that the rest of the designs on the notes should be typically national in character and with column forming at any border of the notes representing ancient Sri Lankan



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<sup>7</sup> These proof notes can be viewed at the Money Museum of the CBSL at Rajagiriya.

architecture. In the first two series the portraits had been on the front left side of the notes in keeping with the currency notes issued earlier by the BCC. The main security feature was the watermark of the Heraldic Lion of Ceylon (or “Sinhalese lion” as mentioned in some records) which was initially used in currency notes issued by the BCC and this appeared on the right side of the front of the note. The higher denomination notes of Rs. 5 and above contained intaglio printing from steel engraved plates.

## Armorial Ensign of Ceylon Series

The year 1956 was a turning point in the political history of the country when Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike became Prime Minister after winning the general elections that year. Sinhala was made the official language in Sri Lanka and emphasis was on nationalistic policies. These changes also came to be reflected in the 3rd series of currency notes, where the main text on the note (e.g. Central Bank of Ceylon, the legend for legal tender, face value of the note) were changed from English to Sinhala and only the denomination of the note was mentioned in Tamil and English, in addition to Sinhala. This series was also the first series to reflect the independent status of Sri Lanka from British colonial rule. The portrait of the British monarch on the currency notes was replaced with the Armorial Ensign of Ceylon on the face of the note.



## S W R D Bandaranaike Portrait Series

The Monetary Board in 1961 had been of the view that the use of a steel engraved portrait (use of intaglio printing that gives a raised print effect) would provide the greatest measure of security against counterfeiting. Portraits were considered difficult to reproduce, as small variations are readily noticeable by the public when they acquire familiarity with the genuine presentation. This practice had been adopted by several countries in the world, where they had the portrait of the



Head of the State on the face of their currency notes. Therefore, the next series issued in 1962 was the first note to have a portrait of a Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the Late Mr. S W R D Bandaranaike who was assassinated in September 1959. During the period 1960 –1965, the Late Mrs. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike was the Prime Minister of the country. To facilitate the scrutiny of notes during counting and to distinguish new notes from old notes, the portrait appeared on the right hand side of the notes and the water mark on the left hand side. Even up to this period, a few notes in the denomination of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 with the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II had been in circulation.

## **King Parakramabahu Series**

In 1965, on Government directives the CBSL issued a new series with the statue of King Parakramabahu I (1153-1186 AD), replacing the portraits on all currency notes. Other than these changes the main features in the series remained somewhat the same. However, in the notes printed and issued from 1969, the words “Central Bank of Ceylon” which, in the earlier series, was only in Sinhala, was also printed in Tamil and English.

## **Second Demonetisation Exercise**

By the Avoidance of Tax Act No. 26 of 1970, the 2nd demonetisation exercise of the CBSL took effect not for the purposes of currency management but to prevent tax evasion as the name of the Act indicates. Accordingly, currency notes in the denomination of Rs. 100 and Rs. 50 bearing a date prior to 26 October 1970, ceased to be legal tender from 03 November 1970. Further, currency notes with the date 26 October 1970 were printed by Thomas De La Rue and Co. England in the denominations of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 with the signatures in facsimile of Late Dr. N.M.Perera, Minister of Finance, and Late Mr.W.Tennakoon, Governor of the Central Bank, to replace the currency notes affected by the demonetisation exercise. These notes carried the portrait of the Late Mr. S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike with a raised hand replacing the vignette of the statue of King Parakramabahu the Great with changes in the designs. This issue is not considered as a separate series but as part of the S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike Portrait series.

## **Armorial Ensign of Sri Lanka Series**

In 1975, the portrait of the Late Prime Minister S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike was replaced with the Armorial Ensign of Sri Lanka, which became the official emblem of the Government when the country was renamed the Republic of Sri Lanka under a new constitution promulgated on 22 May 1972. This change appeared only in the currency notes of the denominations of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100, while there was no change in design in the other denominations of Rs. 2, Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 notes.

## Fauna and Flora Series

It was considered desirable by the CBSL to change the designs of the currency notes and the Bank made a major shift in the design format of the 7<sup>th</sup> series of currency notes issued in 1979. However, the Fauna and Flora series was short-lived and had only one order with the date 26 March 1979. For the first time a vertical format was used on the back of notes. A new denomination of Rs. 20 was introduced in this series to reduce the strain on the Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 notes, which were soiling fast and becoming unfit for circulation. The designs were drawn by a leading Sri Lankan artist specially commissioned by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. England and the designs in all denominations were changed to depict fauna, flora, birds, butterflies and fish of Sri Lanka in their natural environment.



## Historical and Archaeological Series

In 1980 the Government required currency notes to carry designs depicting the ancient history and culture of the country. Accordingly, the 8th issue of the CBSL note series carried historical and archaeological features in the designs of all denomination of notes except the Rs. 1000 note, which featured images of the Bowetenna Reservoir of the Mahaweli Scheme on the front of the note and the Kantalai reservoir on the back.

The note designs had reversed once again to the earlier format of previous series. It was in this series that the CBSL for the first time issued two high value currency notes in the denominations of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 to relieve the pressure on the Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 denominations, which were increasing in use.

## The Historical and Development Series

This series issued in 1987, comprised only the redesigned Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 notes with advanced security features. These notes for the first time carried the words “Central Bank of Sri Lanka” in English replacing the words “Central Bank of Ceylon”. The main feature on the front of the Rs.500 note was a figure of an elephant sculptured in stone from the Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy and on the back a vignette of the Abhayagiri Stupa at Anuradhapura when viewed vertically. The front of the Rs.1000 note features the Victoria Dam of the Mahaweli Project and on the back are featured the University of Ruhuna and a peacock in the foreground.



## Sri Lanka Heritage Series

The series, which was first introduced in 1991 and which has been the longest in circulation, were redesigned (all denominations) to depict Sri Lanka's heritage and the notes included highly advanced security features. Reprints in subsequent issues have included improved security features in the higher denomination notes such as changes in the security thread, the watermark with Electrotone feature (the highlighted sword of the Heraldic Lion), additional intaglio printing (raised print effect) and florescent features, to deter counterfeiting and ensure public confidence in the currency. In 2005, the CBSL issued into circulation, the high value Rs. 2000 note with advanced features such as the Starchrome® colour shifting security thread and Cornerstone® watermark, which were later introduced to the Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 notes. The tactile bars with intaglio printing on both sides of the front of the Rs. 2000 notes, while providing the visually impaired easy recognition of the denomination also acted as a security feature.

## Development, Prosperity and Sri Lanka Dancers

During a span of nearly 20 years since the issue of the last series in 1991, many changes had taken place internationally and in all aspects of Sri Lankan society, particularly in the Sri Lankan economy. With high expectations of seeing an end to terrorist activities that was impeding development activities in the country, the Central Bank took on the challenge to drive towards prosperity. One of the steps the Bank took to inspire the nation to work diligently, with unity, to achieve development and prosperity was through a new series of currency notes. The concept was initiated in 2007, and in 2008 the Central Bank for the first time conducted a country wide competition to select winning designs and artists for the new series. This also provided an occasion to obtain public opinion on currency note designs and opened the opportunity to Sri Lankan artists to express their creativity and aspirations. The front of the notes was designed by one winning artist and the back of the notes by the other winning artist on the theme of Development, Prosperity and Sri Lanka Dancers. These designs were converted to currency note designs by the note printer and from the security paper production stage, through Lithographic, Intaglio and Letter Press printing stages to its final state for issue took over 100 weeks. Considering the large scale development ambitions of the economy, the denomination structure and dimensions of the new series were determined to facilitate payments and settlements in the new era of emerging economic activities and to address concerns of the public.

This 11th series of currency notes consisting of 06 denominations, was issued on 04 February 2011 coinciding with Independence Day celebrations and the year of the Diamond Jubilee of the CBSL. The main design on the front of each note depicts images relating to the passage of development and prosperity in Sri Lanka, endemic birds and butterflies seen in the country. The back of each note depicts diverse dancers in the country alongside drummers typical to the dance form, except in the case of the Rs.5000 note. The back of the notes also depict features of archeological and cultural significance such as guard stones and floral designs. A map of Sri Lanka appears in the background on the back of all the notes. The CBSL for the first time introduced a Rs.5000 note, the highest value to have been issued since its establishment in 1950. Previous circulation notes of Rs.10 and Rs.2000 were not issued in this series. A coin in the denomination of Rs.10 was issued in April 2010 to take on the demand for Rs.10 notes which have a short life span. The Rs.1000 and Rs.5000 notes are expected to meet the demand for high value denominations with the gradual phasing out of the Rs.2000 note. Some of the distinctive features in the series are that the dimensions of the notes were reduced with the width (short end) of the note being similar in all notes and the length increasing by 5 millimeters from the lowest denomination to the highest. In addition the notes have a predominant colour for ease of recognition and advanced security features to ensure confidence in the legal tender.



Furthermore, for the first time a limited number of Uncut Currency Sheets with a unique serial number and with 40 notes to a sheet were issued by CBSL as a numismatic item in addition to note folders issued in this series.

## Coins Issued by the CBSL

The circulation coins issued by the CBSL after its establishment, in the denomination of cents 50, cents 25, cents 10, cents 05, cents 02 and cents 01, continued to have the portraits of the British monarchs, even in the case of a re-mint in 1951, until 1963.



During this period, standard circulation type commemorative coins in the denomination of Re. 1 and Rs. 5 to mark the 2500th Anniversary of Buddhism and the Birth of the Nation (Buddha Jayanthi Coins) were minted by The Royal Mint U.K. and issued by the CBSL in 1957. In 1963, the coins minted reflected the independent status of Sri Lanka, which had the Armorial Ensign of Ceylon on the face of the coin that displayed the lion in the National Flag and a crown. The denominations issued were Re.1, cents 50, cents 25, cents 10, cents 5, cents 2 and cents 1.



The next major change in coin design came in 1972, when the Armorial Ensign of Sri Lanka (in which the Dharma Chakra had replaced the crown) was depicted on the obverse of the coin in place of the Armorial Ensign of Ceylon. The word “Lanka” to identify the country, used on the reverse of the coin of the 1963 coinage, was replaced with the words “Sri Lanka” in 1972. Coins of higher denominations of Rs. 2 (copper nickel) and Rs. 5 (nickel brass) were minted for general circulation in 1984 in place of the Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 notes.



A new coinage was introduced with a change in the dimensions, weight, metals and colour of coins by the CBSL in 2005. The coins in the denominations of Rs. 5, Rs. 2, Re. 1, cents 50, and cents 25 were in various alloys on plated steel. For the first time an eleven lobed nickel plated steel coin in the denomination of Rs. 10 (with the year 2009) was issued into general circulation in April 2010, and this coin will replace the Rs. 10 note that has a considerably short life span when compared to the other notes in circulation.

## **Commemorative Currency Notes and Coins Issued by the CBSL**

Commemorative coins and notes are issued to mark events of international and national importance as well as to honour personages. These are one-time limited issues, with specific designs and legends unlike circulation currency. The rarity increases its intrinsic value, especially to collectors and numismatists. Commemorative coins have been minted in varying sizes, in high value metals such as gold and silver, as well as in other alloys. Some of these coins are minted as frosted proof (FP) type coins specially struck as collectors’ pieces not designed for circulation.

These are produced using highly polished dies and blanks to bring out a mirror like finish when struck and are individually handled. Some commemorative coins are in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition which possesses the original mint lustre on the surface. However, if exposed to the atmosphere or handled, the lustre would disappear. Commemorative coins are also minted as standard circulation type coins which are meant for general circulation that creates greater awareness among the public of the event or personage commemorated.



Since there is no record of the issue of commemorative currency in either the pre-colonial or the colonial period in Sri Lanka, it can be concluded that the first commemorative coin to be issued on record, was in 1957 by the CBSL. This was to mark the 2500th Anniversary of Buddhism and the Birth of the Nation (Buddha Jayanthi Coins). Since then, the CBSL had issued 56 commemorative coins and 02 commemorative notes to mark various events and personalities. The CBSL issued a Frosted Proof crown size silver commemorative coin in the denomination of Rs.5000 to mark its 60th Anniversary in December 2010. The obverse of the coin is multi-coloured and it is the first multi-coloured coin to have been issued by the CBSL. The details of commemorative coins and notes already issued up to August 2011 by the CBSL are listed in Table 9.2.

Initially, commemorative coins were issued/sold at face value. However, the necessity arose for legal provisions to sell the coins at a reasonable price when the metal value was higher than the face value of the coins. It was also necessary to recover the cost of production of the commemorative coins/notes and all related expenses, including the cost of encasing the coins/notes in attractive presentation boxes/folders. Accordingly, the MLA was amended in 1998, and this enabled the CBSL, with the approval of the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance, to issue commemorative currency notes and coins and sell them at a price higher than the denomination specified in such note or coin.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Monetary Law Act (Amendment) Act No.6 of 1998, Section 52A



## Commemorative Notes

In 1998, the CBSL, to commemorate 50 years of Independence of Sri Lanka, issued into circulation, for the first time, a polymer banknote in the denomination of Rs. 200 which was printed by Note Printing, Australia. The main feature of the note on the front is the Independence Square and pictorial themes depicting the economic development of Sri Lanka since Independence. The back of the note depicts pictorial themes in sequence of the history of the country from the visit of Prince Vijaya to Sri Lanka up to the British period.



The second commemorative bank note was issued after 11 years, in November 2009, in the denomination of Rs. 1000, following the end of the nearly 30 year war against terrorism, on the theme “Ushering of Peace and Prosperity to Sri Lanka”. The theme on the front of the note is one country and one nation in harmony, progressing towards prosperity, under the leadership of His Excellency the President, Mahinda Rajapaksa. The reverse of the note depicts pictorial themes of the turning points of the humanitarian operations and the valiant contributions of the security forces and the police in accomplishing their target. This note was printed by De La Rue Lanka Currency and Security Print (Private) Ltd.



**Table 9.2**

**Commemorative Coins and Notes Issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka up to August 2011**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Year on Coin</b>	<b>Face Value (Rs.)</b>	<b>Metal/ Substrate</b>
1	2500th Anniversary of Buddhism and Birth of the Nation (2500 Buddha Jayanthi) – (C)	1957	5	Silver
2	2500th Anniversary of Buddhism and birth of the nation (2500 Buddha Jayanthi) – (C)	1957	1	Cu/Ni
3	Special Coin Issue of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) – (C)	1968	2	Cu/Ni
4	5th Non - Aligned Summit – (C)	1976	5	Ni
5	5th Non - Aligned Summit – (C)	1976	2	Cu/Ni
6	1st Executive Presidency (J R Jayawardene) – (C)	1978	1	Cu/Ni
7	1st Executive Presidency (J R Jayawardene) – (FP)	1978	1	Gold 22 k
8	50 Years of Universal Adult Franchise – (C)	1981	5	Cu/Ni
9	The Mahaweli Development Scheme – (C)	1981	2	Cu/Ni
10	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless – (C)	1987	10	Cu/Ni
11	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless – (FP)	1987	10	Cu/Ni
12	40th Anniversary of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka – (BU)	1990	500	Silver
13	40th Anniversary of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka – (FP)	1990	500	Silver
14	5th South Asian Federation Games - Colombo – (FP)	1991	500	Gold 12k
15	5th South Asian Federation Games - Colombo – (FP)	1991	100	Silver
16	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency (R Premadasa) – (C)	1992	1	Cu/Ni
17	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency (R Premadasa) – (FP)	1992	1	Cu/Ni
18	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency (R Premadasa) – (FP)	1992	1	Silver
19	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency (R Premadasa) – (FP)	1992	1	Gold 22k
20	2300 Anubudu Mihindu Jayanthi – (FP)	1993	500	Silver
21	50th Anniversary of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) – (C)	1995	2	Cu/Ni
22	50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation – (C)	1995	5	Ni/Br
23	50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation – (FP)	1995	5	Ni/Br
24	50th Anniversary of the UNICEF – (C)	1996	1	Cu/Ni
25	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence – (FP)	1998	5000	Gold 22k
26	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence – (FP)	1998	1000	Silver
27	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence – (C)	1998	10	Ni/Br, Cu/ Ni, Bi-metal

28	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence (Banknote) – (C)	1998	200	Polymer
29	Winning of the 1996 Cricket World Cup – (FP)	1999	1000	Silver
30	Winning of the 1996 Cricket World Cup – (C)	1999	5	Ni/Br
31	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Army – (FP)	1999	1	NPS
32	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Army – (BU)	1999	1	NPS
33	50th Anniversary of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka – (FP)	2000	1000	Silver
34	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Navy – (FP)	2000	1	Cu/Ni
35	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Navy – (BU)	2000	1	NPS
36	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force – (FP)	2001	1	Cu/Ni
37	50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan – (C)	2001	2	Cu/Ni
38	250th Anniversary of Syamopasampadawa (Portrait of Welivita Sri Saranankara Mahimi ) – (C)	2003	5	Ni/Br
39	250th Anniversary of Syamopasampadawa (Portrait of Phrvara Upali Nahimi) – (C)	2003	5	Ni/Br
40	2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha (2550 Buddha Jayanthi) – (FP)	2006	1500	Silver
41	2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha (2550 Buddha Jayanthi) – (FP)	2006	2000	Silver/ selective Gold plated
42	2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha(2550 Buddha Jayanthi)-(C)	2006	5	BPS
43	Cricket World Cup (Runners – up) – (BU)	2007	1000	NPS
44	Cricket World Cup (Runners – up) – (C)	2007	5	BPS
45	50th Anniversary of Employees’ Provident Fund – (BU)	2008	1000	NPS
46	50th Anniversary of Employees’ Provident Fund – (FP)	2008	1000	NPS
47	50th Anniversary of Employees’ Provident Fund – (C)	2008	2	NPS
48	Bicentennial Celebrations of Sri Lanka Customs – (FP)	2009	200	Silver
49	60th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army – (BU)	2009	1000	Silver
50	60th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army – (BU)	2009	1000	Cu/Ni
51	Ushering of Peace and Prosperity to Sri Lanka- (Banknote) – (C)	2009	1000	Cotton
52	60th Anniversary of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka – (FP)	2010	5000	Silver
53	60th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force – (C )	2011	2	NPS
54	2600th Sambuddhathwa Jayanthi - (FP)	2011	1000	Silver
55	2600th Sambuddhathwa Jayanthi - (C)	2011	10	NPS
56	50th Anniversary of People’s Bank - (FP)	2011	1000	Silver/ selective Gold plated

Notes:

C = Circulation, FP=Frosted Proof, BU= Brilliant Uncirculated, Cu/Ni= Copper Nickel, Ni=Nickel, Ni/Br= Nickel Brass, NPS= Nickel Plated Steel, BPS= Brass Plated Steel

## **Printing of Currency Notes and Minting of Coins for the CBSL**

Prior to the establishment of the CBSL, currency notes had been printed for the Board of Commissioners of Currency by Thomas De La Rue & Co. England and with the commencement of World War II, at the India Government Security Press. The Ceylon Government Press too had printed emergency subsidiary notes during the War period. The first series of currency notes for the CBSL had been printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. of the United Kingdom and the company continued to be selected from among other competitive currency suppliers for a considerable period of time to print CBSL currency notes. In 1983, a joint venture for security printing was established between Bradbury Wilkinson (PLC) of U.K. and the Government of Sri Lanka, which was incorporated as Bradbury, Wilkinson Lanka (Private) Ltd. (BWLP). In 1987, BWLP commenced operations at the Export Processing Zone in Biyagama and since 1988 had printed and supplied the currency notes of the CBSL commencing with the Historical and Development series of currency notes. Meanwhile, Thomas De La Rue England (TDLR) had changed its name to The De La Rue Company Ltd in 1958 and had by 1986 acquired Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. Ltd. England. The name BWLP was subsequently renamed Thomas De La Rue Lanka (Private) Ltd., in December 1990 and (since 1998 ) presently functions as De La Rue Lanka Currency and Security Print (Private) Ltd., under the parent company De La Rue plc in the U.K. which has a history of nearly 150 years in currency note printing.

The CBSL had obtained its circulation coin requirements up to 1957 from the Indian Government Mints in Bombay and Calcutta and The Royal Mint, United Kingdom, as was done by the Board of Commissioners of Currency. Since 1957, the CBSL had obtained its coin supplies from The Royal Mint, with the exception of the supply of cents 50 coin order of 1996, which was minted by the Royal Canadian Mint. The Commemorative coins issued by the CBSL also had been minted by The Royal Mint with the exception of the coin to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy in 2000, which was minted by Monnaie de Paris. The Royal Mint which has a history of over 1000 years of minting coins was initially located at the Tower of London and then at Tower Hill London. It moved to its present location at Llantrisant, South Wales, in 1968. It functioned as a department of Her Majesty's Treasury in the U.K., until December 2009 and changed its status to a wholly government owned company, The Royal Mint Ltd., in January 2010.

## **Money Museums of the CBSL**

With a view to contributing to knowledge in the field of money, for education, study, and pleasure, the CBSL has established 03 Money museums since its establishment. These museums trace the historical evolution of money and display currency that was in use in Sri Lanka (since the 3rd Century BC up to the present day), currencies in other countries and provide information on the minting and printing process of currency. These museums also disseminate information

on counterfeit note detection and the importance of efficient use of currency. The first museum was initially opened at the CBSL Head Office in Colombo Fort on 20 April 1982. It was moved to the premises of the Centre for Banking Studies of the CBSL at Rajagiriya in 1989 and was modernised in 2009. The second museum was opened on 05 September 2008 at the premises of the Provincial Office of the CBSL at Anuradhapura in the North Central Province and the 3rd museum was opened on 06 May 2010 at the Provincial Office of the CBSL at Matara in the Southern Province. While this service of the CBSL is provided free of charge, the museums have grown to be centres of education frequently visited by students, researchers and numismatists.

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