

Economic History Museum *of Sri Lanka*

MUSEUM
GUIDE



Museum Guide
Sri Lanka Economic History Museum



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Vision and Mission

The Economic History Museum of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka aims to educate the public with the knowledge of the economic history of the island which spans for more than 2500 years, the monetary system, the establishment of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and its role in monetary practices.

By visiting this museum you can learn about the Barter System; the ancient system of exchanging commodities without the involvement of money, the origination and evolution of a formal means of exchange, types of ancient coins and notes circulated locally and their usage, series of coins and banknotes issued for circulation from the beginning of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, special Commemorative Coins and Notes, coinage and associated equipment, bank notes production and associated process, the security features of banknotes and many other details about the economic history of Sri Lanka.

*Old Chatham Street and Central Point
Building - 19th Century*





Micro location of the Central Point Building

Central Point Building

The building that houses the museum is also an archeologically and architecturally a special place. The history of this five-storied building which faces the Chatham Street in Colombo Fort, runs back to the period of Dutch rule in the 17th century. The building was built according to British architectural traditions during the British rule. The marble pillars and the staircase, handrail, wall lamps at the porch make the building stands out with its uniqueness. Apart from that the ornamental chandelier which extends up to the fifth storey making the veranda more beautiful has been appraised as one of the rarest creations. The exterior walls of the building are also adorned with hanging pillars, arches, decorative engravings and corresponding scrolls.

Another historical monument which had been erected closely to the building has contributed to risen the above name. That is the clock tower of Colombo Fort which is located at the end of Chatham Street. It was initially built as a lighthouse and was later on converted to a clock tower. The importance of this is mainly due to the fact that the distance from Colombo to any part of the island is measured starting from the foot of this clock tower. Hence this is called as the “Central Point”. Therefore, after acquiring the building that houses the museum near the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, it has been named as “Central Point Building” considering the above.



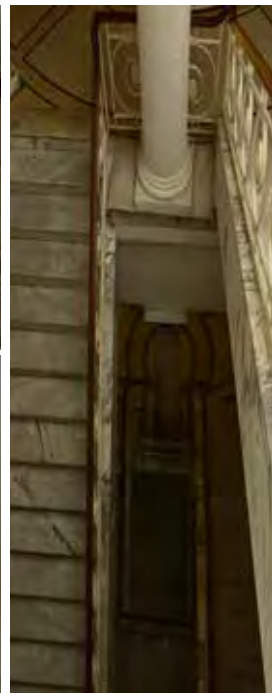


Architectural Features of the Central Point Building





Marble pillars and the staircase



*ornamental chandelier which extends up to the
fifth storey making the veranda*



Central Bank Money Museum

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka opened a museum for the first time on 20th April 1982 at the ground floor of the Central Bank Main Building and it was inaugurated by Hon. Ronnie de Mel, Former Minister of Finance, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at the invitation of Dr.Varnasena Rasaputram, Governor of the Central Bank by the time. Subsequently, in 1989, the Money Museum was shifted to the Centre for Banking Studies at Rajagiriya. This was due to the fact that the Central Bank of Sri Lanka had also become a target of terrorists under the war situation prevailed at that time. The museum, which initially had limited space in the Centre for Banking Studies, was re-expanded and refurbished in 2009. The Central Bank Museum, which inherits such a long history, was moved to its current location at ‘Central Point Building’ in 2013.



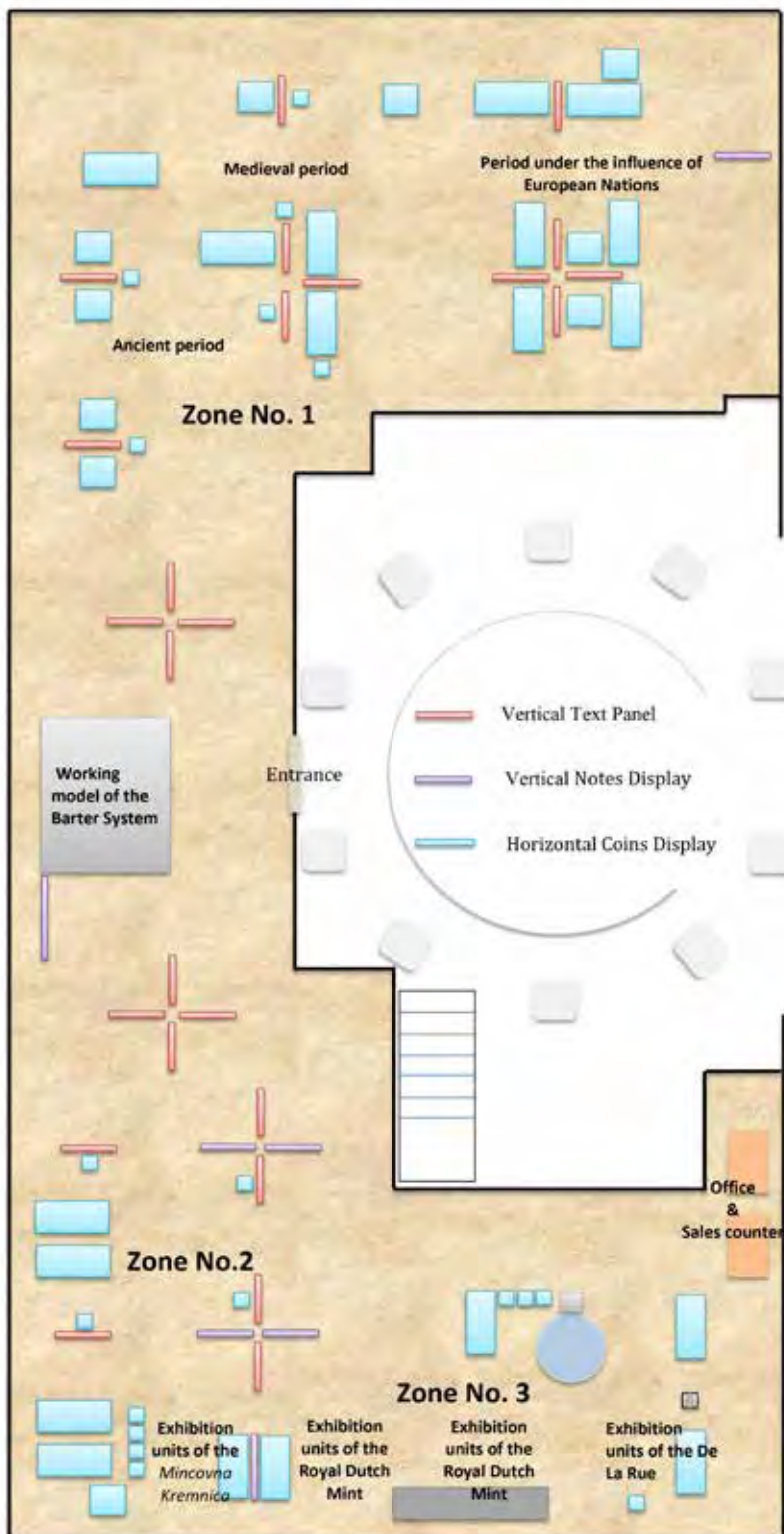
The Money Museum was located in CBS Rajagiriya

Economic History Museum

Museum was formerly known as the “Central Bank Money Museum”, but it was renamed as the “Economic History Museum of Sri Lanka” with its establishment at the Central Point Building, giving it a broader theme. The Central Point Building refurbished by the Central Bank and the Economic History Museum which has a national importance were inaugurated by the Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Former President on November 13, 2013 at the invitation of Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabraal the Governor of the Central Bank by the time.



Entrance of the Economic History Museum



Floor Plan

Museum Exhibition

The museum has three main exhibition zones as described below.

1. Zone No. 1 - depicts special milestones of old currency and related history of trade and commerce.

2. Zone No. 2 - exhibits series of coins and notes, commemorative coins and notes issued after the establishment of the Central Bank and related information.

3. Zone No. 3 - describes the coinage, the process of printing of banknotes as well as the security features of the notes.

In addition, there are sales counters to sell central bank publications and to sell commemorative coins and notes as well as value added specialized coins and notes at the Central Point Building.



Working model of the Barter System

1

Zone No. 1

(The area to the right side of the museum entrance)

Sri Lankan trade and commerce procedure, emergence of the old monetary system and its systematic evolution as well as early coinage and notes introduced in Sri Lanka later on from the beginning up to the year 1950 are exhibited in this area. It has been arranged based on the chronological order of ancient period (from the beginning up to 700 CE), medieval period (800-1400 CE) and the period under the influence of European Nations (1500-1948 CE).



Zone No. 1 (The area to the right side of the museum entrance)

Ancient Period (From the beginning up to 700 CE)

This section depicts the ancient exchange economy i.e. the working model of the Barter System which describes the long history of trade and commerce in Sri Lanka and the emergence of the monetary system. This is located at the entrance of the museum.

Information Boards displayed next to above describe the ancient period of the trade and commerce history of Sri Lanka and the way that the geo-political location of Sri Lanka directly contributed to the trade and commerce.

Several coins used in Sri Lanka in the ancient times are on display which comprise of both locally as well as foreign produced coins.

The first coins used in Sri Lanka are of Indian origin and are known as ‘punch marked’ or ‘*Kahapana*’. These are said to have been in use from the 6th to the 5th century BCE (Indian society - during the Lord of Buddha’s period) to the dawn of the Christian era.



*‘punch marked’ or
‘Kahapana’ Coin*



Elephant and Swastika Coin

‘Elephant and Swastika coins’, which are considered as the first coin species of local origin, are on display near to the place of displaying ‘Punch marked’ coins. These coins represent the period between the 3rd century BCE (time of the arrival of reverent “*Arahat Mahinda*”) and the 1st century CE and depict the earliest Buddhist symbols.

‘Lakshmi Plaques’ coins that came into use in Sri Lanka around the period of the dawn of the Christian era are on display next. According to Hindu mythology, *Lakshmi* is the goddess of wealth. Therefore, it is believed that the image of *Lakshmi* was used - on the coin to represent wealth.



Boo Tree and Swastika Coin



Lakshmi Plaque Coin

The ‘Bull coins’ and the ‘Maneless Lion’ coins believed to have been introduced to Sri Lankan usage between the 1st and 3rd centuries CE are on display next. That coin has received much attention as the lion was later included in the emblem of the country.



Maneless Lion Coin



Bull Coin

A rare species of coin with a local origin known as ‘Akurugoda Tokens’ is also on display here. The specialty about these coins is that they were engraved with personal names and other acronyms in *Brahmi* script on the surface coin.



Akurugoda Tokens

In addition, Roman and third brass Roman coins as well as Indo - Roman coins and Indian coins which can be believed as received to Sri Lanka through foreign trade relations are on display.



Markets across the world were opened to Sri Lankan trade and commerce as it linked with the Maritime Silk Route, which connected the East and West from ancient times. The culmination of this process took place in the medieval period.

The rulers of the country facilitated the trade on the Maritime Silk Route and acted as an intermediary as well as supplied special trade goods. They utilized the profits derived from those activities for the development of agricultural sector and social welfare of the country. This resulted in accelerated development of irrigation systems and Buddhist monasteries in the country, with the utilization of the surplus wealth earned from such international trade.



Medieval gold Coin (Rankahavanu)

A male figure in a partially turned posture, dressed in a dhoti-like garment.



Four circles with a dot in the middle. In some coins the dots are absent.



A long-stemmed flower very much like a lotus. The flower appears at the front side of the human figure and runs under the figure along along the lower edge and curls up in a chank-like spiral.



This symbol is called the "Sri Vatsa symbol"



A male figure seated in the "Maharajaleela Asana" posture-the right hand hangs loose while in the left hand he holds an object turned towards his face.



Nagari letters written using a non-standard form. There is no consensus on the deciphering and the meanings suggested are "Sri Lanka Viha", "Sri Lanka Vaha" and "Sri lanka vibhu"



He is seated on raised seat decorated with verticle and horizontal bars.

Medieval gold coin (*Rankahavanu*) or locally made special gold coin is a prime example of this economic self-sufficiency. There are evidences that this has been used regionally during the 8th to 11th centuries CE. It features two human figures standing and sitting on obverse and reverse, respectively, and further, a short text engraved in ‘*Nagarii* letters’ is also considered as a special feature. It is read and interpreted as ‘*Sri Lanka vaha*’, ‘*Sri Lanka viha*’, ‘*Sri Lanka vibhu*’ which means the Sri Lanka’s fortunate ruler or ‘*Sri Lanka sinha*’ which means the lion of Sri Lanka.



𑀲𑀸𑀓𑀭𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀠𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺
 SRI
 VI JA
 YA BA
 HU

SRI VI JA YA BA HU



𑀲𑀸𑀓𑀭𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀠𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺𑀢𑀺
 SRI
 PA RA
 KRA MA
 BA HU

SRI PA RA KRA MA BA HU

The Kingdom of Polonnaruwa was a period in which the use of coins in the country continued to grow. Following the model of the gold coin described above, the rulers started coinage with their own names. Starting with the Rajarata Chola Dynasty, under the reign of the king *Raja Raja Chola I* (985-1014 CE) and later on during the reigns of the kings and queens of Polonnaruwa *Vijayabahu I* (1055/1070-1110 CE), *Parakramabahu I* (1153-1186 CE), *Nissankamalla* (1187-1196 CE), *Chodaganga Deva* (1196-1197 CE), *Lilavati* (1197-1200/1209-1210/1211-1212 CE), *Sahassamalla* (1200-1202 CE), *Kalyanavathi* (1202-1208 CE), *Dharmasoka Deva* (1208-1209 CE) issued coins bearing their names. These coins are commonly known as ‘*Massa coins*’. Half values of these coins are also found which were known as “*Ada massa*”.

The King *Bhuvanekabahu I* (1272-1284 CE), who came to rule the Yapahuwa Kingdom, had also followed the above model for issuing coins indicating the continuation of this coin tradition.

NISSANKAMALLA (1187 - 1196 CE)



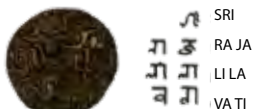
SRI KA LE GA LA KE JAN WHICH REPRESENTS
SRI KALINGA LAMKENDRA

CODAGANGA (1196 - 1197 CE)



SRI CO DA GA (M) GA DE VA

QUEEN LILAVATI (1197 - 1200CE,
1209 - 1210CE, 1211 - 1212CE)



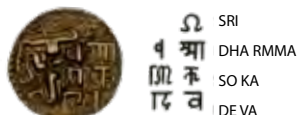
SRI RA JA LI LA VA TI

SAHASSAMALLA (1200 - 1202CE)



SRI MA TSA HA SA MA LLA

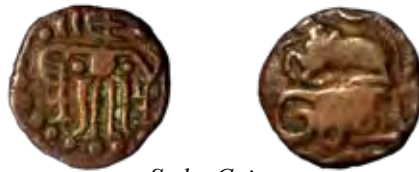
DHARMASOKADEVA (1208CE)



SRI DHA RMMA SO KA DE VA

Further, the coin which is said to be belonged to King *Parakramabahu* VI, has also followed the same model and it is also on display at the museum. Its specialty is the creation of a seated lion in the obverse of the coin.

“*Sethu*” Coins are considered as the type of coins issued by the *Aryachakravarrthi* monarchs of the Kingdom of Jaffna. The obverse of the coin depicts a male figure, while the reverse depicts a cow seated with its one foot to the left. It is said that this depicts the “*Nandhi*” bull. A crescent and a dot can be seen above it. The word ‘*Sethu*’ has been mentioned in Tamil letters below the bull.



Sethu Coin

Apart from the above, foreign coins represent the medieval period which belonged to *Pallavas*, *Pandavas* and *Cholas* who came to Sri Lanka through the foreign trade are also on display.



The exhibition zone of the period under the Influence of European Nations

The Period under the Influence of European Nations (1500-1948)

Distinctive change in the economy of the country could be seen with the shift of the Kingdom from Rajarata to the South West. It is a transition from the irrigation economy to a more commercialized economy. The arrival of Europeans; the Portuguese, Dutch and British took place at the juncture of which some systemic changes were undergoing in the economy. Even though the rulers of the Kingdoms of Kotte and Kandy at that time made occasional proposals for the advancement of trade and other economic activities intermittently, the foreign trade in Sri Lanka continued to be in the possession of the Europeans. The Portuguese made profits from exports of cinnamon and other spices while the Dutch established a trade monopoly with regard to it.

The British went beyond exporting of existing resources and focused on estate plantations in the country. The beginning and growth of estate plantations not only generated new sources of income to the country but also redirected the economic process to a new avenue. Improvements such as involvement in a broader international export economic process, the formal establishment of affiliated financial institutions and banking services, introduction of proper economic administration methods, as well as the development of infrastructure took place in the meantime along with the estate plantations. Indeed, this period led the foundation to the socio-economic process, which we are currently experiencing.

Among the coins on display at the museum which belongs to this era, gold and silver coins made in the Kingdoms of Kotte and Kandy are prominent. They are smaller in size than the previous coins and the expression quality of the symbols in obverse and reverse are compared to be weaker.



Gridiron Coin (Ginimessa)



Silver Hook Coin

The popular silver coins used in the Kingdom of Kandy are also on display here. The prototype coin takes the shape of a hook or a hairpin instead of the usual coin shapes used so far. They are also called as ‘*Larin*’ because of the Arabic and Persian origin. These were later renamed as the ‘*Angutu* Coins’ and the ‘Silver Hook Coins’ which were produced locally.

The Portuguese have introduced *S. Thome* (St. Thomas) gold coin and three types of silver coins namely ‘*Malacca*’, ‘*Gridiron*’ (*Ginimessa*) and ‘*Saint*’ (*Santhuwara*) for the use in Sri Lanka, of that a coin of ‘*Gridiron*’ has been exhibited in the museum.

Coins with the acronym of “VOC” issued by the Dutch East India Company (*Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie* - VOC), abbreviated as VOC, became popular in Sri Lanka during the Dutch period. In the first phase, copper Duit coins from five Dutch provinces were introduced to Sri Lanka. Those five provinces were Gelderland, Utrecht, West Friesland, Zeeland and Netherland.



Dutch Duit Coins

The Dutch abundantly used the coins with flower patterns on both sides, which were minted centrally in Colombo and Jaffna from the year 1656 to 1720, and low denominated coins named as ‘*Thuttu Kaasi*’ since the year 1873. Obverse of those coins was included with one of the letters C, G, T and I in addition to the ‘VOC’ symbol. It is to indicate that these coins were minted in Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee and Jaffna, respectively.



VOC Coins were minted in Ceylon

The copper bar coins (Bonk bar), minted by the Dutch since the year 1785 are considered as rare coins. A replica of it is on display in the museum. They are columnar in shape and also known as ‘*Dandu Kasi*’. This is equivalent to the weight of 4 and 3/4 Stuiver Coin in India or 1/2 of a Larin coin. It is said that the coins have been minted at a factory near the ‘Kayman’s Gate’ in Colombo.



Copper bar coins



Coins representing the British era are added to the exhibition after the Dutch coins. The first coins they introduced for transaction in Sri Lanka were made of copper. They are known as Copper Stuiver. The British minted these coins during 1801-1816. The Silver Rix-Dollar was introduced during the period from 1803 to 1809. Due to the shortage of metals existed in the country, the British had to obtain silver Rix-dollar coins from the Royal Mint from 1828.



Early British Coins

They started using the British currency, the pound sterling, also in Sri Lanka since 1825. Since then, all government accounts have been converted to pound sterling. Accordingly, the currency of sterling pound, shilling and pence began to be used in Sri Lanka.



Early British Coins





British Pound Notes

Under this, the issuance of pound notes with the intervention of the government can be considered as a speciality. These pound notes of denominations of 1, 2 and 5 are added to the museum's exhibition.

Silver and copper pound coins were brought into Sri Lanka from England for common usage. Farthing 1/2 and 1/4, silver pence 1 1/2 were minted by the British government for local use from 1834 to 1837. The minting cost incurred by British government was increased due to the higher usage of pound.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, banknotes were issued by banks as a free banking system was enacted around the world.

Accordingly, several banks in Sri Lanka registered under the Bank Licensing Ordinance of 1844 started issuing currency notes. Among those banks, "The Oriental Bank Corporation", "Chartered Mercantile Bank of India London and China" and "The Asiatic Banking Corporation" are considered to be important.



The Oriental Bank Corporation Note



Private Banks Notes from the British Period

However, with the advent of the Currency Board System in the face of the crisis over coffee cultivation, the power to issue Currency notes was transferred to a Board of Commissioners of Currency of the Government of Ceylon



One Rupees Note



Two Rupees Note



Five Rupees Note



Ten Rupees Note



Fifty Rupees Note



One Hundred Rupees Note



Five Hundred Rupees Note



Five Cents Note



Ten Cents Note



Twenty Five Cents Note



Fifty Cents Note



One Rupee note



Two Rupees note



Five Rupees note



Ten Rupees note



Fifty Rupees note



One Hundred Rupees note



One Thousand Rupees note



Ten Thousand Rupees note

Meanwhile, a note that can be legally torn into two pieces was also in use. The specialty is that, this note which is of the value of five cents can be used as two parts which are valued two cents and three cents, respectively, by tearing from the middle of the note.

Several other changes were made to the coins used in Sri Lanka during the Victorian period. A system of decimal coins was introduced to the Indian silver rupee coins used in Sri Lanka as per a proposal of the State Council in 1869. That is, one rupee was divided into 100 decimal units and coins were issued accordingly. As a result, 1/4, 1/2 decimal coins came into the usage in Sri Lanka.

In addition, coins of one cent and five cents were added into the circulation. From the year 1892, 10 cents, 25 cents and 50 cents were added into the circulation. It was decided to change the English wording used on these coins on 22nd June 1948 with the gaining of Independence of Dominion status from the Great Britain in 1948. Accordingly, the text “George VI King and Emperor of India” was changed to “King George the Sixth”. Coins with this text were issued in to the circulation since the year 1951. Although two cents coins were minted, with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of Great Britain in 1952, the coins issued in 1945 and 1951 were continued to be minted until 1962.



2

Zone No. 2

(The area to the left side of the museum entrance)

Collection of series of coins and notes issued into the circulation by the Central Bank from its inception up to now and special commemorative coins and notes are displayed in this area.



The area to the left side of the museum entrance

The Department of Currency was vested with the responsibility of currency operations and was there among the first departments established parallel to the formation of the Central Bank on 28th August, 1950.

The Central Bank has gradually introduced new series of denominations of coins and notes considering the requirements of the circulation as the coins and notes issued under the Board of Commissioners of Currency were still in circulation at that time.

Series of Coins

Coins minted with the Armorial Ensign of Ceylon in the year 1963 were the first coin series issued by the Central Bank. This series included one cent, two cents, five cents, ten cents, twenty five cents, fifty cents and one rupee.

Subsequently, a new series of coins was issued with the same face values of the previous coinage with the Armorial Ensign of Sri Lanka, the new state emblem, in the year of 1972.

In 1984, the government introduced Rs.2 and Rs.5 coins replacing the banknotes of those denominations.

Subsequently, a new series of coins was introduced in the year 2005 and they were relatively different in weight, metals as well as colour in comparison to the previous coin series. This series included Rs. 5, Rs. 2, Re. 1, 50 cents and 25 cents which were relatively lower in weight and were made of steel and plated in different colours.

The Central Bank introduced a Rs.10, 11 lobbed, nickel plated steel coin in 2010 and introduced a new series of coins including the Rs. 10 coin in a new design later on, in 2018. This new coin series is made of stainless steel and comprise with the denominations of Re.1, Rs. 2, Rs.5 and Rs. 10.



Commemorative Coins

Commemorative coins are issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to commemorate events and individuals of national and international significance. All such commemorative coins issued so far by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka are on display at the Economic History Museum.

The Central Bank has issued two commemorative coins of the denominations of one Rupee and five Rupees for the first time after its establishment, to commemorate the 2500th Anniversary of the passing away of Lord Buddha.

Since then a number of commemorative coins made of different metals, different colours, different technologies and different face values have been issued. These coins have been issued in two types i.e. Circulation Standard Commemorative Coins and Un-Circulation Standard Commemorative Coins. Un-Circulation Standard Commemorative Coins are belonged to one of the categories of Frosted Proof, Brilliant Uncirculated or Multicolour and Selective Plated.

	year on coin	Event of Commemoration and coin	Face value	Metal	Coin Type
1	1957	2500th Anniversary of the passing away of Lord Buddha	5	Silver	Circulation
2	1957	2500th Anniversary of the passing away of Lord Buddha	1	Cu / Ni	Circulation
3	1968	2nd World Food Congress	2	Cu / Ni	Circulation
4	1976	5th Non - Aligned Summit Conference - Colombo	5	Nikel	Circulation
5	1976	5th Non - Aligned Summit Conference - Colombo	2	Cu / Ni	Circulation
6	1978	1st Executive Presidency (J R Jayawardhane)	1	Cu / Ni	Circulation
7	1978	1st Executive Presidency (J R Jayawardhane)	1	Gold (22 carat)	Frosted Proof
8	1981	50 Years of Universal Adult Franchise	5	Cu / Ni	Circulation
9	1981	The Mahaweli Development Scheme	2	Cu / Ni	Circulation

10	1987	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	10	Cu / Ni	Circulation
11	1987	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless	10	Cu / Ni	Frosted Proof
12	1990	40th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka	500	Silver	Frosted Proof
13	1990	40th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka	500	Silver	Frosted Proof
14	1991	5th South Asian Federation Games - Colombo	500	Gold (12 carat)	Frosted Proof
15	1991	5th South Asian Federation Games - Colombo	100	Silver	Frosted Proof
16	1992	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa	1	Cu / Ni	Circulation
17	1992	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa	1	Cu / Ni	Frosted Proof
18	1992	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa	1	Silver	Frosted Proof
19	1992	3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa	1	Gold (22 carat)	Frosted Proof
20	1993	2300 Anubudu Mihindu Jayanthi	500	Silver	Frosted Proof
21	1995	50th Anniversary of the Food and Agricultural Organisation	2	Cu / Ni	Circulation
22	1995	50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation	5	Ni/Br	Circulation
23	1995	50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation	5	Ni/Br	Frosted Proof
24	1996	50th Anniversary of the UNICEF	1	Cu / Ni	Circulation
25	1998	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence	5000	Gold (22 carat)	Frosted Proof
26	1998	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence	1000	Silver	Frosted Proof
27	1998	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence	10	Bi Metal Outer ring Cu/Ni Inner discs Ni/Br	Circulation
28	1999	Winning of the 1996 Cricket World Cup	1000	Silver	Frosted Proof
29	1999	Winning of the 1996 Cricket World Cup	5	Ni/Br	Circulation
30	1999	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Army	1	Ni Plated Steel	Frosted Proof
31	1999	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Army	1	Ni Plated Steel	Brilliant Uncirculated

32	2000	50th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka	1000	Silver	Frosted Proof
33	2000	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Navy	1	Cu / Ni	Frosted Proof
34	2000	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Navy	1	Ni Plated Steel	Brilliant Uncirculated
35	2001	50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force	1	Cu / Ni	Frosted Proof
36	2001	50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan	2	Cu / Ni	Circulation
37	2003	250th Anniversary of Syamopasampadawa (Pravara Upali Nahimi)	5	Ni/Br	Circulation
38	2003	250th Anniversary of Syamopasampadawa (Weliwita Sri Saranankara Sangaraja Mahmi)	5	Ni/Br	Circulation
39	2006	2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Lord Buddha	2000	Silver (Selective Gold Plated)	Frosted Proof
40	2006	2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Lord Buddha	1500	Silver	Frosted Proof
41	2006	2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Lord Buddha	5	Brass plated Steel	Circulation
42	2007	Cricket World Cup 2007(Runner up)	1000	Ni Plated Steel	Brilliant Uncirculated
43	2007	Cricket World Cup 2007(Runner up)	5	Brass plated Steel	Circulation
44	2008	50th Anniversary of Employees' Provident Fund	1000	Ni Plated Steel	Brilliant Uncirculated
45	2008	50th Anniversary of Employees' Provident Fund	1000	Ni Plated Steel	Frosted Proof
46	2008	50th Anniversary of Employees' Provident Fund	2	Ni Plated Steel	Circulation
47	2009	Bicentennial celebrations of Sri Lanka Customs	200	Silver	Frosted Proof
48	2009	60th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army	1000	Silver	Brilliant Uncirculated
49	2009	60th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army	1000	Cu / Ni	Brilliant Uncirculated
50	2010	60th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka	5000	Silver	Frosted Proof (one side color print)
51	2011	60th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force	2	Ni Plated Steel	Circulation
52	2011	2600th Sambuddhathva Jayanthi	1000	Silver	Frosted Proof
53	2011	2600th Sambuddhathva Jayanthi	10	Ni Plated Steel	Circulation

54	2011	50th Anniversary of People's Bank	1000	Silver (Selective Gold Plated)	Frosted Proof
55	2011	125th Anniversary of Ananda College, Colombo	2000	Silver	Frosted Proof
56	2012	100 Years of Scouting in Sri Lanka	2	Ni Plated Steel	Circulation
57	2012	60th Anniversary of Sri Lanka - Japan Diplomatic Relations	1000	Ni Plated Steel	Frosted Proof (one side color print)
58	2014	150th Birth Anniversary of Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala	500	Silver	Frosted Proof
59	2014	75th Anniversary of Bank of Ceylon	5	Br Plated Steel	Circulation
60	2015	150th Anniversary of Colombo Municipal Council	500	Silver	Frosted Proof
61	2015	Visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Sri Lanka	500	Silver	Frosted Proof
62	2017	100th Anniversary of Visaka Vidyalaya, Colombo 05	2000	Silver, lamp is gold plated	Frosted Proof
63	2017	150th Anniversary of Ceylon Tea	10	Stainless Steel	Circulation
64	2018	75th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Signal Corp	10	Stainless Steel	Circulation
65	2020	70th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka	20	Aluminium Bronze	Brilliant Uncirculated
66	2020	70th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka	20	Ni Plated Steel	Circulation
67	2021	65th Anniversary of Sri Lanka - China Diplomatic Relations and 100th Anniversary of Communist Party of China	1000	Gold (22 carat)	Frosted Proof
68	2021	65th Anniversary of Sri Lanka - China Diplomatic Relations and 100th Anniversary of Communist Party of China	1000	Silver	Frosted Proof
69	2020	150th Anniversary of Faculty of Medicine	20	Ni Plated Steel	Circulation
70	2021	150th Anniversary Census of Population and Housing	20	Ni plated Steel	Circulation

2500th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 1957
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 500,000 pcs

2500th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1957
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
Weight: 11.31 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

2nd World Food Congress



Face Value: Rs. 2
Year on Coin: 1968
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 31.50 mm
Weight: 12.35 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 500,000 pcs

5th Non - Aligned Summit Conference



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 1976
Metal: Nickel
Diameter/ Size: 32.84 mm
Weight: 13.60 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 1,000,000 pcs

5th Non - Aligned Summit Conference



Face Value: Rs. 2
Year on Coin: 1976
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 30.00 mm
Weight: 13.50 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

1st Executive Presidency (J R Jayawardhane)



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1978
Metal: Gold (22 Carat)
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 12.00 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 39 pcs

1st Executive Presidency (J R Jayawardhane)



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1978
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 7.13 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

50 Years of Universal Adult Franchise



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 1981
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 29.00 / 30.28 mm
Weight: 9.60 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

The Mahaweli Development Scheme



Face Value: Rs. 2
 Year on Coin: 1987
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 8.25 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 45,000,000 pcs

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless



Face Value: Rs. 10
 Year on Coin: 1987
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 25.00 - 30.00 mm
 Weight: 11.70 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless



Face Value: Rs. 10
 Year on Coin: 1987
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 25.00 - 30.10 mm
 Weight: 11.31 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 200 pcs

40th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 500
 Year on Coin: 1990
 Metal: Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 9,800 pcs

40th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 500
Year on Coin: 1990
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 200 pcs

5th South Asian Federation Games - Colombo



Face Value: Rs. 500
Year on Coin: 1991
Metal: Gold (12 Carat)
Diameter/ Size: 14.00 mm
Weight: 1.60 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 8,000 pcs

5th South Asian Federation Games - Colombo



Face Value: Rs. 100
Year on Coin: 1991
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 22.00 - 29.40 mm
Weight: 10.20 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 20,000 pcs

3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1992
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 7.13 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 25,000,000 pcs

3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1992
Metal: Cu / Ni
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 7.13 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 2,500 pcs

3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1992
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 7.13 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 2,000 pcs

3rd Anniversary of Induction of Executive Presidency - R. Premadasa



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1992
Metal: Gold (22 Carat)
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 12.00 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 100 pcs

2300 Anubudu Mihindu Jayanthi



Face Value: Rs. 500
Year on Coin: 1993
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 30,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of the Food and Agricultural Organisation



Face Value: Rs. 2
 Year on Coin: 1995
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 8.25 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 40,000,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation



Face Value: Rs. 5
 Year on Coin: 1995
 Metal: Ni / Br
 Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
 Weight: 9.50 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 50,000,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation



Face Value: Rs. 5
 Year on Coin: 1995
 Metal: Ni / Br
 Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
 Weight: 9.50 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 5,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of the UNICEF



Face Value: Rs. 5
 Year on Coin: 1996
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
 Weight: 7.13 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 5,000,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence



Face Value: Rs. 5000
 Year on Coin: 1998
 Metal: Gold (22 Carat)
 Diameter/ Size: 22.05 mm
 Weight: 7.98 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 5,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 1998
 Metal: Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 25,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka regaining Independence



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 1998
 Metal: Bi Metal Outer ring
 Cu/Ni Inner discs
 Ni/Br
 Diameter/ Size: Outer ring 27.0 mm
 Inner disc 18.0 mm
 Weight: 9.00 g
 Coin Type: Circulation Mintage: 50,000,000 pcs

Winning of the 1996 Cricket World Cup



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 1999
 Metal: Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 25,000 pcs

Winning of the 1996 Cricket World Cup



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 1999
Metal: Ni / Br
Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
Weight: 9.50 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 50,000,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Army



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1999
Metal: Ni Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 7.13 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 8,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Army



Face Value: Rs. 1
Year on Coin: 1999
Metal: Ni Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
Weight: 7.13 g
Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
Mintage: 127,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 1000
Year on Coin: 2000
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 10,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Navy



Face Value: Rs. 1
 Year on Coin: 2000
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
 Weight: 7.13 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 2,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Navy



Face Value: Rs. 1
 Year on Coin: 2001
 Metal: Ni Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
 Weight: 7.13 g
 Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
 Mintage: 20,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force



Face Value: Rs. 1
 Year on Coin: 2001
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 25.40 mm
 Weight: 7.13 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 2,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan



Face Value: Rs. 2
 Year on Coin: 2001
 Metal: Cu / Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 8.25 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 10,000,000 pcs

250th Anniversary of Syamopasampadawa (PHRA Upali Nahimi)



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 2003
Metal: Ni / Br
Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
Weight: 9.50 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 4,000,000 pcs

250th Anniversary of Syamopasampadawa (Weliwita Sri Saranankara Sangaraja Mahimi)



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 2003
Metal: Ni / Br
Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
Weight: 9.50 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 4,000,000 pcs

2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha



Face Value: Rs. 2000
Year on Coin: 2006
Metal: Silver (Selective Gold Plated)
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 10,000 pcs

2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha



Face Value: Rs. 1500
Year on Coin: 2006
Metal: Silver (.925)
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 20,000 pcs

2550th Anniversary of the passing away of Buddha



Face Value: Rs. 5
 Year on Coin: 2006
 Metal: Br Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
 Weight: 9.50 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 20,000,000 pcs

Cricket World Cup 2007(Runner up)



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 2007
 Metal: Ni Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 32.00 mm
 Weight: 12.00 g
 Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
 Mintage: 10,000 pcs

Cricket World Cup 2007(Runner up)



Face Value: Rs. 5
 Year on Coin: 2007
 Metal: Brass Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 7.70 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 7,860,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of Employees' Provident Fund



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 2008
 Metal: Ni Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 7.00 g
 Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
 Mintage: 1,200 pcs

50th Anniversary of Employees' Provident Fund



Face Value: Rs. 1000
Year on Coin: 2008
Metal: Ni Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
Weight: 7.00 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 100 pcs

50th Anniversary of Employees' Provident Fund



Face Value: Rs. 2
Year on Coin: 2008
Metal: Ni Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
Weight: 7.00 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

Bicentennial celebrations of Sri Lanka Customs



Face Value: Rs. 200
Year on Coin: 2009
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
Weight: 11.90 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 3,000 pcs

60th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army



Face Value: Rs. 1000
Year on Coin: 2009
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm mm
Weight: 11.90 g
Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
Mintage: 10,000 pcs

60th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 2009
 Metal: Cu/Ni
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm mm
 Weight: 8.25 g
 Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
 Mintage: 200,000 pcs

60th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 5000
 Year on Coin: 2010
 Metal: Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 5,000 pcs

60th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force



Face Value: Rs. 2
 Year on Coin: 2011
 Metal: Ni Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 7.00 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 3,000,000 pcs

2600th Sambuddhathva Jayanthi



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 2011
 Metal: Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 2,000 pcs

2600th Sambuddhathva Jayanthi



Face Value: Rs. 10
 Year on Coin: 2011
 Metal: Ni Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 26.4 mm
 Weight: 8.35 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 1,500,000 pcs

50th Anniversary of People's Bank



Face Value: Rs. 1000
 Year on Coin: 2011
 Metal: Gold Plated Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 2,300 pcs

125th Anniversary of Ananda College, Colombo



Face Value: Rs. 2000
 Year on Coin: 2011
 Metal: Silver
 Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
 Weight: 28.28 g
 Coin Type: Frosted Proof
 Mintage: 1,500 pcs

100 Years of Scouting in Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 2
 Year on Coin: 2012
 Metal: Ni Plated Steel
 Diameter/ Size: 28.50 mm
 Weight: 7.00 g
 Coin Type: Circulation
 Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

60th Anniversary of Sri Lanka - Japan Diplomatic Relations



Face Value: Rs. 1000
Year on Coin: 2012
Metal: Ni Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 35.00 mm
Weight: 20.00 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof (one side color print)
Mintage: 20,000 pcs

150th Birth Anniversary of Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala



Face Value: Rs. 500
Year on Coin: 2014
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 1,500 pcs

75th Anniversary of Bank of Ceylon



Face Value: Rs. 5
Year on Coin: 2014
Metal: Brass Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 23.50 mm
Weight: 7.70 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

150th Anniversary of Colombo Municipal Council



Face Value: Rs. 500
Year on Coin: 2015
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 1,000 pcs

Visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 500
Year on Coin: 2015
Metal: Silver
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 1,500 pcs

100th Anniversary of Visaka Vidyalaya, Colombo 05



Face Value: Rs. 2000
Year on Coin: 2017
Metal: Silver, lamp is gold plated
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 1,000 pcs

150th Anniversary of Ceylon Tea



Face Value: Rs. 10
Year on Coin: 2017
Metal: Stainless Steel
Diameter/ Size: 26.4 mm
Weight: 10.00 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 5,000,000 pcs

75th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Signal Corp



Face Value: Rs. 10
Year on Coin: 2018
Metal: Stainless Steel
Diameter/ Size: 26.4 mm
Weight: 10.00 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 5,000,000 pcs

70th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 20
Year on Coin: 2020
Metal: Aluminium Bronze
Diameter/ Size: 28 mm
Weight:
Coin Type: Brilliant Uncirculated
Mintage: 3,000 pcs

70th Anniversary of Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Face Value: Rs. 20
Year on Coin: 2020
Metal: Nickel Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 28 mm
Weight:
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 5,000,000 pcs

65th Anniversary of Sri Lanka - China Diplomatic Relations and 100th Anniversary of Communist Party of China



Face Value: Rs. 1000
Year on Coin: 2022
Metal: Gold (22k)
Diameter/ Size: 25.4 mm
Weight: 12.0 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 500 pcs

65th Anniversary of Sri Lanka - China Diplomatic Relations and 100th Anniversary of Communist Party of China



Face Value: Rs. 1000
Year on Coin: 2022
Metal: Silver (0.925)
Diameter/ Size: 38.61 mm
Weight: 28.28 g
Coin Type: Frosted Proof
Mintage: 2,000 pcs

150th Anniversary of Faculty of Medicine



Face Value: Rs. 20
Year on Coin: 2020
Metal: Nickel Plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 28 mm
Weight: 8.5 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 500,000 pcs

150th Anniversary Census of Population and Housing



Face Value: Rs. 20
Year on Coin: 2021
Metal: Nickel plated Steel
Diameter/ Size: 28 mm
Weight: 8.5 g
Coin Type: Circulation
Mintage: 2,000,000 pcs

Series of Notes

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka has issued 11 notes series into the circulation on various themes from time to time since its establishment.

First Notes Series – After regaining independence from British colonial rule in 1948, the Central Bank issued a note series for circulation with the date of 20th January 1951, continuing the existed practice of printing the portrait of King George VI on the currency note. This series comprised only of two notes in the dominations of Rs.10 and Re.1. Even though it was planned to issue denominations of Re.1, Rs.2, Rs.10, Rs.50 and Rs.100 under this series, the printing process of other denominations was ceased with the death of the King George VI in February 1952.



First Notes Series

Second Notes Series - This note series was issued in 1952 with the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II who became the ruling monarch of the United Kingdom in February 1952 upon the death of her father King George VI. This is considered as the most completed currency note series issued for the first time by the Central Bank with all denominations. Monuments, Paintings, Sculptures and carvings which were of historical and archaeological values used in the previous note series were also included in this series.



Second Notes Series



Second Notes Series

Third Notes Series – The theme of this series of notes is the Armorial Ensign of Ceylon. This note series was issued in 1956, the year in which many changes had taken place in the political history of the country emphasising on nationalistic policies. Accordingly, the main texts on the note (eg. 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 stated in Tamil and English languages, in addition to the Sinhala language. This series which was issued in the same denominations as in the previous series reflected the independence of Sri Lanka gained from the British colonial rule for the first time by omitting the portrait of the British monarch on the currency notes.





Third Notes Series

Fourth Notes Series - This note 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. Though all the notes issued at the early stage of this series, were designed according to the format of the front and back of the previous note series, the high denominated notes of Rs.50 and Rs.100 were designed in different models from 1970. In that model, “the portrait” appeared on the right-hand side and the “water mark” on the left hand side of the note to facilitate the scrutiny of notes during counting and to differentiate new notes from old notes. Printing of Re.1 note was ceased at this stage.





Fourth Notes Series

Fifth notes series - The statue near the *Pothgul Vihara* in Polonnaruwa which is considered as the representation of the King *Parakramabahu* the first, has been themed for this note series issued in 1965. Accordingly, Central Bank issued a new series with the statue of King Parakramabahu I, on all currency notes of all denominations of that series. All the other main features of the currency notes remained unchanged, apart from this change. However, in the notes printed and issued from 1969, the words “Central Bank of Ceylon” which was only in Sinhala in the earlier series, was also printed in Tamil and English.





Fifth Notes Series

Sixth Notes Series - The Armorial Ensign of Sri Lanka which became the official emblem of the Government when the country was renamed as the “Republic of Sri Lanka” under a new constitution promulgated on 22 May 1972, was the theme of this note series thus it symbolized the full independence. This note series which was introduced in 1975 comprised only of two notes in the dominations of Rs.50 and Rs.100. There was no change in design in the other denominations of Rs.2, Rs.5, and Rs.10 notes.



Sixth Notes Series

Seventh Notes Series - The theme for this series is the amazing biodiversity of Sri Lanka. It represents the endemic fauna and flora. This series of banknotes which was issued in 1979 was designed by a leading Sri Lankan artist and the designs prevailed in all denominations were changed to depict fauna, flora, birds, butterflies and fish of Sri Lanka in their natural environment. Therefore, this series has gained some special attention of those who are interested in banknotes both locally and abroad. However, the Fauna and Flora series was short-lived. For the first time a vertical format was used on the back of notes and a new denomination of Rs.20 was introduced in this series to relieve the pressure on the Rs.10 and Rs.5 notes.





Seventh Notes Series

Eighth Notes Series - This note series, issued in 1981, carried the theme of historical and archaeological heritage of Sri Lanka. The Central Bank issued two high value currency notes for the first time under this series, in the denominations of Rs.500 and Rs.1000 to relieve the pressure on the denominations of Rs.50 and Rs.100 which were on high demand at that time. In the meantime, the Rs.2 note was withdrawn from printing.





Eighth Notes Series

Ninth Notes Series - This series which was themed on the characterize of historicity and development of Sri Lanka, issued in 1987 and comprised of only Rs.500 and Rs.1000 notes with advanced security features. These notes for the first time carried the words “Central Bank of Sri Lanka” replacing the words “Central Bank of Ceylon”.



Ninth Notes Series

Tenth Notes Series - The theme of this note series issued in 1991 is the ancient heritage of Sri Lanka. A note of Rs. 2,000 was issued for the first time in 2006 under this series with advanced security features such as Starchrome colour shifting security thread, Cornerstone watermark, Tactile Bars with intaglio printing and visually impaired easy recognition feature. At this juncture, the Rs.5 notes which were in use at that time were withdrawn from printing.





Tenth Notes Series

Eleventh Notes Series - The theme of this note series which was issued in 2011 and are in use to date is the Development, Prosperity and Sri Lankan Dancers. The Central Bank issued a Rs.5000 note for the first time under this series. Previously circulated notes of Rs.10 and Rs.2000 were not issued in this series.



Eleventh Notes Series



Demonetization of notes - Rs.50 and Rs.100 notes issued up to 26th October 1970 were demonetized on 3rd November 1970 under the Avoidance of Tax Act No. 26 of 1970. Accordingly, the demonetized notes pertaining to three series of notes have also displayed in the museum.





Demonetized Notes Series

Commemorative notes

The Central Bank commenced the issuance of commemorative currency notes by issuing a 200 rupee note to commemorate 50 years of Independence of Sri Lanka in 1998. Subsequently, a 1000 rupee note to commemorate the ushering of peace and prosperity to Sri Lanka following the victory of war in 2009, and a 500 rupee note to commemorate the Commonwealth

Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2013) held in Sri Lanka in 2013 and a 1000 rupee note to commemorate 70 years of Independence of Sri Lanka in 2018 have been issued.



*50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Regaining Independence – 1998
Two Hundred Rupees Commemorative Polymer Note*



*Ushering of Peace and Prosperity to Sri Lanka - 2009
One Thousand Rupees Commemorative Note*



Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Sri Lanka from 15th – 17th November 2013 500 Rupees Commemorative note – 2013



*70th Independence Celebration of Sri Lanka - 2018
One Thousand Rupees Commemorative note - 2018*

Minting of Coins

Exhibition units of the Royal Mint of the Netherlands, the Royal Mint of the United Kingdom and the *Mincovna Kremnica* of the Republic of Slovakia which related to the minting of coins are placed in this zone.



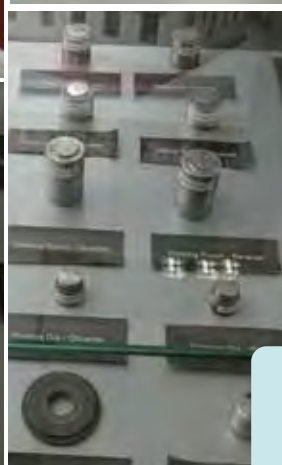
Royal Mint exhibition unit



The two royal coin minting institutions mentioned above, can be identified as the institutions that minted coins for circulation in Sri Lanka during the period of European colonial regime. Special coins made by these institutions, coin minting dies and other

The exhibition unit of Royal Mint of the Netherlands

equipment as well as products which demonstrate the technological advancements they have achieved to date in coinage are on display here.



Mincovna Kremnica exhibition unit

In addition, Sri Lankan coins were minted at the Indian State Mint in Calcutta and at the Royal Mint in Canada.

The exhibition unit on the *Mincovna Kremnica* Institute in Slovakia is a special section. This is due to the fact that the series of coins in use today, including the hendecagon shape ten rupee coin, were manufactured by this company. All the steps of the minting process as well as several specified tools used in the process including special dies are also on display here.



De La Rue exhibition unit



Printing of Notes

The banknotes of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka are printed by the De La Rue, a UK based company. Commencing from its first series of notes, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka had got its notes printed by the British firm Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. for a long period of time. In 1993, this company and the Government of Sri Lanka collaboratively launched a joint security printing business. It was named as the Bradbury Wilkinson Lanka Pvt. Ltd. This is located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone.

In 1986, Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. was acquired by the Thomas De La Rue Company of England. As a result, in 1990 Bradbury Wilkinson Lanka Pvt. Ltd was renamed as Thomas De La Rue Lanka Pvt. Ltd and later in 1998 it was named as De La Rue Lanka Currency and Security Print Pvt. Ltd.

A short video documentary film briefly describes how the De La Rue Company prints banknotes and its main steps.

Paper used for the production of banknotes and its raw materials, security threads, special protective inks used in printing, special metal plates used for advanced printing etc. are also displayed.

Apart from De La Rue, the service of the Australian notes printing company has obtained for the printing of 200 rupee polymer note (plastic note) issued to commemorate 50 years of Independence.

Security Features of Notes

In parallel with the production process of banknotes, details of the security features used on the Eleventh Banknotes series are also presented here. In addition to the short documentary film, a specially designed touch panel provides the opportunity to the visitors to identify security features such as the security thread, watermark, micro-prints, intaglio prints, see through feature, corner stones, feature for visually impaired persons, fluorescent feature and thin fibers used in notes, separately.

Also, the Ultra Violet (UV) lamp installed in the museum allows the visitors to observe the fluorescent feature and thin fibers on the notes in their hands.

Security features of current note series



01. Water Mark

Each currency note depicts a different bird as the watermark, which is the same bird portrayed on the note. In addition, the value in numerals appears vertically as a highlighted watermark.



02. Security Thread

The security threads are different for each denomination, and have the letters “CBSL” and the value e.g: Rs. 20, Rs. 100. The width of the windowed Starchrome[®] thread which changed colour from red to green in Rs.5,000, Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 are 3 mm , 2.5 mm and 2 mm , respectively . The thread in Rs. 100, Rs.50 and Rs. 20 is embedded in the Currency Note.



03. Cornerstone®

Cornerstone® water mark appears in the form of diagonal bars at the each corner of every currency note.



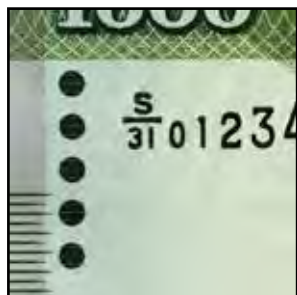
04. See Thorough

When the note is held up to the light, the numeral value of the note on the front comes together in perfect register with the reserve on the back of the note.



05. Extra Small Text

When viewed closely, an area of text reading “CBSL” and the numeral value can be seen.



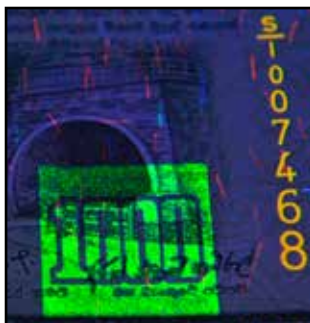
06. Blend Recognition feature

A vertical order heavily printed dots (with one dot for Rs. 20 currency note) progressing according to denomination appears on the left hand side of the currency note to help the visually impaired to recognize the denomination.



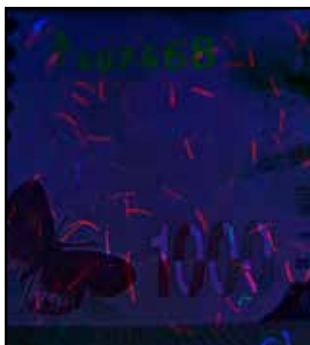
7. Raised Print

Run fingertips across the note and feel the raised printed areas (e.g. the Central bank title, tactile bars, central images etc.)



Fluorescent prints

Certain features of a currency note such as the denomination are printed using fluorescent ink which fluoresce or glows under an ultra-violet (UV) lamp/light. The fluorescent prints cannot be seen under normal light. Further, the currency note paper also glows in a specific colour under UV light quite different to a normal paper.



Security Fibers

Security fibers are of different colours which are inserted by the note printer to currency note paper at the paper manufacturing stage. These fibers can be seen under UV light.

Sales Counters

There are sales counters to sell Central Bank Publications and to sale commemorative coins and notes as well as value added specialized coins and notes at the Central Point Building.



Publication Sales Counters



Commemorative Sales Counters

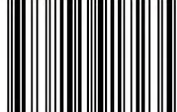
The Economic History Museum of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka aims to educate the public with the knowledge of the economic history of the island which spans for more than 2500 years, the monetary system, the establishment of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and its role in monetary practices.

By visiting this museum you can learn about the Barter System; the ancient system of exchanging commodities without the involvement of money, the origination and evolution of a formal means of exchange, types of ancient coins and notes circulated locally and their usage, series of coins and banknotes issued for circulation from the beginning of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, special Commemorative Coins and Notes, coinage and associated equipment, bank notes production and associated process, the security features of banknotes and many other details about the economic history of Sri Lanka.



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