

IBNS Banknote of the Year

The International Banknote Society (IBNS) was founded in 1961. It operates as a Non-Profit educational Organization and in furtherance of such purpose, its objectives are to promote, stimulate and advance the study and knowledge of worldwide banknotes and paper/ polymer currencies and all matters related thereto along educational, scientific and historical lines.

Members enjoy a number of benefits: a quarterly printed journal containing information on new issues and learned studies on paper money, a membership directory with contacts and dealers to further their collections, professional assistance in the unpleasant event of controversy between collectors, and many other useful tools.

The goal of the IBNS web site is to provide a range of services to its members and to paper money collectors in general. Visitors to these pages can co-operate in the development of our site by sending in their comments, opinions, hints, ideas, expectations, and wishes. Everyone is welcome.

Every Year since 2005, IBNS calls for Nominations from the IBNS members for the Banknote issued in the preceding Year, in the early part of the next year. Hence in Year 2005, IBNS called for the first time, around 10 Nominations were received that year. Initially the Banknote of the Year was decided by the Committee till IBNS Banknote of the Year 2009. After that the voting for the IBNS Banknote of the Year was started, which is now done by the members online, after the deadline, the committee sits and decide the Banknote of the Year on the basis of the maximum votes received by a particular banknote. IBNS looks for certain features in the Banknote of the Year.

Artistic Merit

Imaginative Design

New Security Feature

Until IBNS Banknote of the Year 2021, total 18 winners of IBNS Banknote of the year have been announced

9 Paper Banknotes have won the award.

5 Polymer Banknotes have won the award.

4 Hybrid Polymer (Substrate) have won the award.

Kazakhstan have won the award thrice, three times in a row 2011, 2012, 2013.

Switzerland (2016, 2017) and Mexico (2020, 2021) have won the award twice, two times in a row, where as Canada (2004, 2018) have also won the awards twice, but not in a row.

IBNS Banknote of the Year 2004

Out of the 10 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2004, **Canada 20 Dollars P103a 2004** was chosen to be the **IBNS Banknote of the Year 2004**. Released in September 2004, this note has quickly become a favourite amongst collectors. The IBNS 'Bank Note of the Year' is awarded to a bank note issued during the preceding year and it is judged on artistic merit, design, and security features.

The 20-dollar note issued by the Bank of Canada carries a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on the front of the note and artwork by Bill Reid on the back of the note. Reid's artwork is inspired by the Haida culture of the northwest coast of Canada. Notes bearing a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II are very popular amongst paper money collectors, with many specialist collections being built around the numerous portraits of Her Majesty that are used on world bank notes. The portrait used on the award-winning design of the 20-dollar note is probably the finest portrait of the mature monarch to appear on any bank note, and the quality of the portrait is one of the reasons the note was well regarded by the judges. Significantly, the 20-dollar note also carries the most modern security features, with an advanced holographic stripe, high quality watermark, a colour-shifting security thread, and highly-developed fluorescent features, amongst other lesser features.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2005

Out of the 8 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2005, **Faeroe Islands 1000 Kronur P28 2005** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2005**. The choice of this note was by a clear majority, with the note being extremely well regarded by the panel of judges.

The 1000-kronur banknote is the highest denomination, in a series of banknotes issued by the Faeroe Islands over the last couple of years. This series has attracted much attention in the collecting world because of the unusual designs on the notes. In all cases, only a fragment of an animal has been used as the principal design element on the front of each note, with the animal being depicted in detailed intaglio printing. The background to the illustrations on the front of each note, and the illustrations on the back, have a washed effect. This effect is largely due to watercolour paintings being the medium for the original illustrations, which were drawn by Zacharias Heinesen.

There is a skill in producing artwork for a banknote and the Faeroese notes are unusual in basing their illustrations on watercolours. Most banknotes are based on designs specifically crafted for the engraver, with black and white photographs or pen drawings often being the basis for the final design. Designs copied from paintings have not, with some notable exceptions, proved particularly successful. That the designers have successfully adapted Heinesen's work for this note is one of the impressive and attractive elements of the design.

As well as the note being unusual and attractive, the 1000-kronur is also a fine example of the work of a modern security printer. At the far right, on the front of the note, is a security thread that is partially embedded in the paper and which has an iridescent covering; while at the top left is a hologram with a motif based on a design from a church pew in Kirkjubour. Additionally, Orion dots are used at the far left and on the back of the notes, in an effort to prevent the notes from being copied.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2006

Out of the 15 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2006, **Comoros 1000 Francs P16a 2005(06)** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2006**. The IBNS Bank Note of the Year is awarded to the banknote which, in the eyes of the judges, has a high level of artistic merit, an imaginative design, and features that present the best of modern security printing (taking into account the value of the note). The Comoran 1,000-franc note impressed the judges with innovative design, well-balanced colour, and sensible use of modern security features.

The front of the 1,000-franc note is dominated by a coelacanth, a pre-historic fish long thought to be extinct, that was found living in the waters off the Comoros in recent years. Its discovery put the Comoros at the centre of the scientific world for a short time and remains one of the small country's claims to fame. Below the piscine curiosity is an aerial view of several islands that make up the country. Predominantly blue, there are red and green elements to the design on the front of the note.

Poetry is common to the entire series of notes to which the 1,000 franc belongs, with a verse appearing on the front and the back of each note. The back of the award-winning note is dominated by a Comoran man in a canoe, surrounded by red and blue designs of differing character. While the name of the issuing authority is in Arabic on the back of the note, the warning to counterfeiters is in French (reflecting the nation's French past).

Despite a low F.V, value the 1,000-franc note sports an impressive array of security features. Portions of the design are printed with the intaglio process, imparting a tactile element to the raised ink, along with the latent image created by the *BCC* embossed above the signatures. Counterfeiting is made more difficult through the use of microtext, incorporation of a perfect-registration device, and the inclusion of Omron rings. The paper contains an embedded security strip that fluoresces under UV light, and a watermark of a crescent moon, four stars, and the letters BCC. Finally there is an iridescent band on the front of the note that can be seen only when tilting the note at an angle to the light.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2007

Out of the 12 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2007, **Scotland 50 Pounds P127a 2007** issued by Bank of Scotland was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2007**.

The IBNS judges considered the 50-pound note to be a bold design and an outstanding representative of the new series of notes issued by the Bank of Scotland in September 2007. Dominating the note is an ethereal portrait of Sir Walter Scott giving the note an intriguing ambience considering the range of traditional and modern features on the note. Sir Walter has appeared on many notes issued by the Bank of Scotland, but this is the first representation of Scott based on the famous portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn, painted in 1822. The innovative depiction of Scott is one aspect of the note that found favour with the judges.

Blessed with generous proportions, the note is impressive to hold and uses the available space to excellent effect. The front of the note has been designed around Scott's portrait and incorporates a range of security features, the most evident of which are a hologram on a foil patch and a wide micro-printed security thread with colour shifting effect (red to green). These elements create a framework around which are images of the Bank's historic headquarters in Edinburgh, its coat of arms, the Bank of Scotland's logo and, very much subordinated to the dominating portrait of Scott, the promissory text. In contrast to this, the denomination numerals are set out in dramatically bold fashion using a clean simple font style.

The back of the note is if anything even more dramatic. It features one of Scotland's most exciting contemporary engineering and architectural achievements, the Falkirk Wheel. The minimal text, again in bold and simple style, serves to enhance the drama of the central feature, to hugely impressive effect.

Contributing to the judges' decision was the combination of traditional skills and modern technology used by the note's designers, De La Rue Currency – especially the fact that the portrait engraving was produced using computer generated patterns and was not hand-engraved in the traditional way.

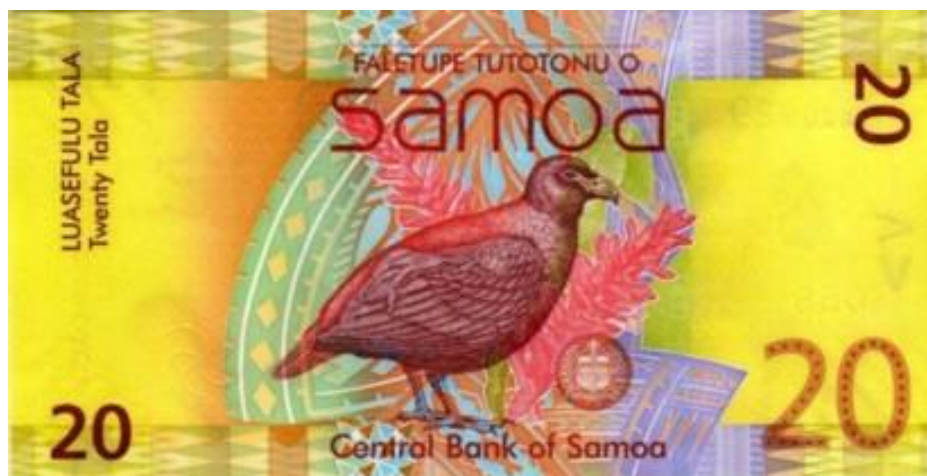
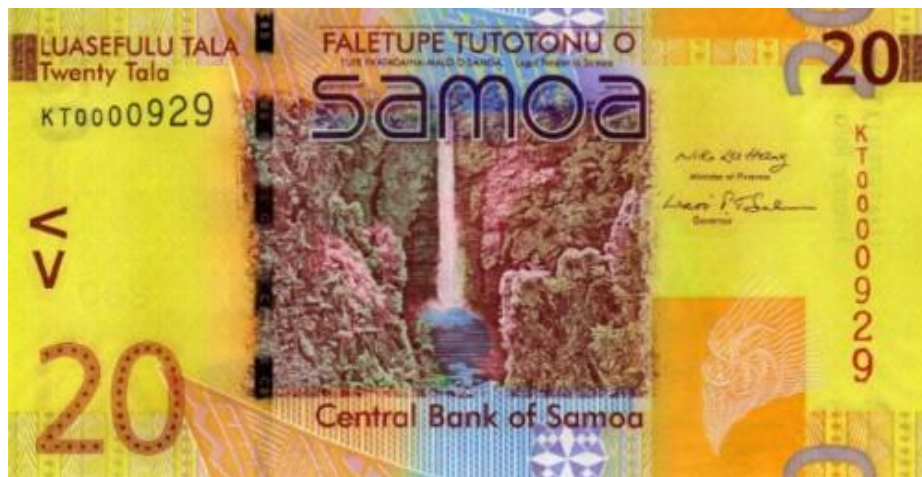


IBNS Banknote of the Year 2008

Out of the 9 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2008, **Samoa 20 Tala P40a 2008** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2008**.

With striking, eye-catching yellow and gold colours and bold and innovative security devices, the 20-tala note easily eclipsed its competition in the views of the IBNS judges. The judges liked the Central Bank's emphasis on tourism, achieved by highlighting one of the nation's picturesque waterfalls—a refreshing departure from the standard practice of portraying famous persons on paper money. The reverse design was also praised for featuring Samoa's national bird, the Manumea, and the national flower, the Teuila; the two symbolizing the uniqueness of Samoa's natural environment.

Sharing the spotlight with the Central Bank of Samoa is the designer and printer of the banknote, UK-based De La Rue Currency, one of the world's foremost producers of paper money and securities. De La Rue's creative blend of state-of-the-art security features and design elements maintains its long tradition of superior banknote design and printing, significantly adding to the appeal of the 20-tala banknote, according to the IBNS Board.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2009

Out of the 9 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2009, **Bermuda 2 Dollars P57 2009 Hybrid Issue** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2009**.

The award-winning note portrays the Bermuda Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) on the front and the Dockyard Clock Tower and Statue of Neptune on the back. As with all notes in the new Bermuda series, the head of HM Queen Elizabeth II appears in a reduced format on the front of the note, the portrait being a mirror of the Machin Head design which appears on the postage stamps of the Royal Mail.

The members of the IBNS Board, who chose the winning note, considered the Bermuda \$2 note an example of the most attractive elements which create interest among the ever-widening community of banknote collectors and those who take an interest in the development of paper money. They said the combination of colours were appealing and blended well throughout all components of the design. Additionally, the range of items depicted on the note were attractively presented and allowed the eye to linger and to search for natural and historical design elements which were not immediately apparent.

One of the factors recommending the note to the judges was an interesting array of security features, despite its low face value. These include an Optiks™ embedded metallic thread, with an aperture on the front depicting the island; a Hibiscus watermark on the top section on the front; the Cornerstone™—a watermark feature on the four corners of the note enhancing the durability of the banknote; and, on the back, the Gemini™ feature portraying a compass which fluoresces in two colours under UV light.

Manufactured by De La Rue and released as part of a new series by the Bermuda Monetary Authority in February 2009, the series was the first major re-design of Bermudian banknotes for 40 years. The object of the series was to present depictions of Bermuda, with the series reflecting the natural beauty of the flora and fauna of the island on one side and the island's architectural heritage on the other.

Working from a detailed brief from the Bermuda Monetary Authority, the initial concept designs for the series were created by Gene Bothwick, one of De La Rue's long-serving designers, who retired in 2007 after 23 years of service. These concepts were then developed for production by the De La Rue banknote Preliminaries Department with input and guidance from the Monetary Authority.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2010

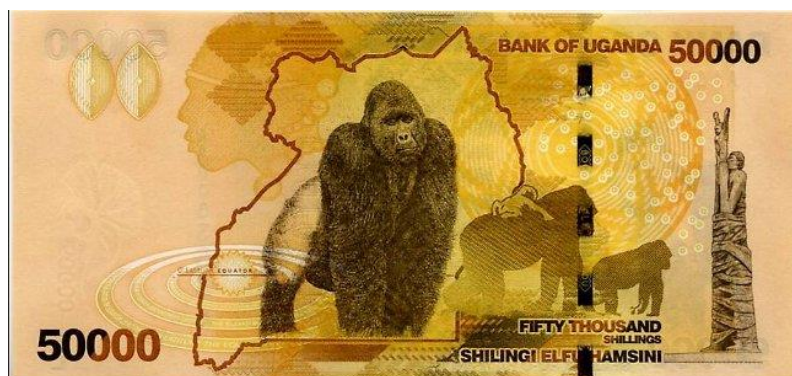
Out of the 13 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2010, **Uganda 50000 Shillings P52a 2010** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2010**.

This year, for the first time, the award was decided by a popular vote by members of the IBNS, rather than by a committee, and the award shows a strong appreciation of the 50,000 shillings note among a large community of banknote enthusiasts.

The highest denomination in this New series of 6 notes introduced in May 2010, the 50,000-shilling note has strong design elements consistent with the series. These elements include the watermark of the head of a crested crane, an outline of a map of Uganda (highlighting the equator), the profile of man wearing Karimojong head dress, patterns based on indigenous basket work and, at the far right on the back, the Independence Monument. Erected to celebrate Ugandan independence in October 1962, the statue is of a woman wrapped in bonds lifting a child above her head, celebrating the birth of the nation.

On the front of the award-winning note the 'Stride Monument' is at the left, the Bwindi tropical rain forest is illustrated at the centre left, a foil strip with the denomination and images of shields at centre right and an area for the watermark at the far right. The Stride Monument was erected to celebrate the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Kampala in 2007. Depicting a husband, wife and son stepping forward, the monument symbolizes the countries of the Commonwealth progressing as a family.

The back of the note is dominated by illustrations of silver back mountain gorillas and undoubtedly these amazing animals attract people to the notes and their depiction is one of the reasons the 50,000-shilling note was so popular amongst the IBNS members voting for the award. Apart from the gorillas, there is much which is attractive about the note, such as the good use of colour – particularly the brown, which might have made the note appear dull if used inappropriately, and the golden highlights which capture attention. Strong images, well depicted, add to the quality design of the note and good use of security features for a high-denomination note enhances the overall effect.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2011

Out of the 12 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2011, **Kazakhstan 10000 Tenge P39 2011 A Hybrid Commemorative Banknote to celebrate 20th Anniversary of Independence 1991-2011** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2011**.

The 2011 winning banknote was designed collaboratively by De La Rue of England and the National Bank. The Banknote Factory of the National Bank of Kazakhstan undertook the printing. The 10,000 Tenge bill has a face value of approximately 68 U.S. dollars or 53 euro or 42 British pounds at mid-May 2012 exchange rates. The note was released 4 July 2011 with a circulation of 30 million pieces to commemorate 20 years of Independence for the Republic of Kazakhstan. Slightly larger than either the 50 euro or U.S. dollar bills, its size is almost identical to the English 20 Pounds note.

The stunning design, predominantly in dark blue-violet features the “Kazak Eli” monument with flying birds in a vertical format on the face of the banknote. The horizontal format reverse side highlights the Presidential Palace in the new capital city of Astana and a map of the country. A full colour image of this and other Kazakh banknotes can be viewed on the National Bank’s website.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2012

Out of the 13 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2012, **Kazakhstan 5000 Tenge P38a 2011(2012)** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2012**. So Kazakhstan makes a history by winning the Banknote of the Year award second time in a row.

The 2012 winning banknote was designed collaboratively by De La Rue of England and the National Bank. The Banknote Factory of the National Bank of Kazakhstan undertook the printing. The 5000 Tenge bill has a face value of approximately 33 U.S. dollars or 25 euros or 22 British pounds at early-May 2013 exchange rates. The note was issued 30 December 2011 for circulation in 2012. Slightly narrower, but taller, than U.S. dollar bills, its size is almost identical to the 20 Pounds English and 50 Euro notes.

The stunning design, predominantly in vivid reddish-orange features the “Kazak Eli” monument with flying doves and panther in a vertical format on the face of the banknote. The horizontal format reverse side highlights a map of the country with mountains and the “Monument of Independence” with the Kazakhstan Hotel in the former capital city of Almaty. A full colour image of this and other nominated banknotes are on the IBNS website.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2013

Out of the 12 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2013, **Kazakhstan 1000 Tenge P44 2013 Kultegin Commemorative Banknote** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2013**. So Kazakhstan makes a Hat Trick and creates another Chapter of history by winning the Banknote of the Year award third time in a row.

The 2013 winning banknote was produced collaboratively by the Banknote Factory of the National Bank of Kazakhstan and De La Rue Currency of England. The 1000 Tenge bill has a face value of approximately 5.5 U.S. dollars or 4 euros or 3.3 British pounds at early May 2014 exchange rates. The note was issued December 12, 2013. Smaller than U.S. dollar bills, its size of 134 x 70 mm is almost identical to the British 5 pound and European Union 20 euro notes.

The stunning design, predominantly in warm hues of yellow, brown and gold is dedicated to “Kultegin - the Monument of the Turkic Runic Writing” whose effigy appears on the vertical format face of the note along with the modern “Kazak Eli” monument. The horizontal format reverse side highlights petroglyphic drawings of Turkic warriors against a background monument to Turkic writing. A full colour image of this and other nominated banknotes are on the IBNS website.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2014

Out of the 12 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2014, **Trinidad and Tobago 50 Dollars P54 2014 Polymer Commemorative Banknote to celebrate 50 Years of Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2014**. This is the first time a Polymer Banknote has won the Banknote of the Year award.

The 2014 winning banknote was produced collaboratively by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and De La Rue Currency of England. It is the first Central Bank in the Caribbean to issue polymer currency. While the 50 Dollar award-winning bill fittingly commemorates the Central Bank's Golden Anniversary, "it is meant to be used for all your purchases, like you would any other money." The note is virtually identical in size to United States bills with a face value of almost 8 USD, 7 Euros or 5 British Pounds at early May 2015 exchange rates.

The stunning design, predominantly gold in color, interprets an artist's rendering of a red hibiscus flower and truly striking image of a red capped cardinal bird in flight against the clear transparent polymer plastic window. The back of the note features a young female masquerader in an award-winning Carnival costume along with the Central Bank building. Modern polymer banknotes have enjoyed increasing popularity since their introduction in 1988. They offer durability as well as enhanced security features and have become a favorite of many collectors.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2015

Out of the 20 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2015, **New Zealand 5 Dollars P191 2015 Polymer** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2015**.

The 2015 winning banknote was printed by the Central Bank of New Zealand with predominant colours Brown and Orange. It has Penguin SPARK patch in Front, with Mount Cook/Aoraki and Sir Edmund Hillary (First Person to climb Mount Everest). On the back side Daisy (Pleurophyllum specosum) Flower, Yellow eyed Penguin/ Hoiho (Megadyptes antipodes) and Ferns. Watermark is Queen Elizabeth II.

This award shows a strong appreciation of the 5 Dollar note among a large community of banknote enthusiasts.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2016

Out of the 19 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2016, **Switzerland 50 Francs P77 2015(2016) Hybrid Polymer** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2016**.

The Switzerland 50 Franc note is the first new design the Swiss National Bank has released in 20 years. Printed by Orell Fussli Security Printing Ltd., this note from the new 9th series features wind and national experiences. Incorporating the latest technological security standards, future notes will depict time, light, water, matter and language. Using three layer substrate Durasafe® technology, the bright green vertical banknote depicts dandelion seeds, a paraglider aloft in the mountains and a strikingly playful human hand. Slightly smaller than U.S. banknotes, this is the first hybrid note to win the coveted IBNS banknote award. Currently the Swiss Franc is at par with the U.S. Dollar and near par with the Euro.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2017

Out of the 22 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2017, **Switzerland 10 Francs P76 2016 Hybrid Polymer** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2017**.

Switzerland has been chosen as the repeat winner of the Banknote of the Year award.

The Switzerland 10 Franc note is part of the first new design the Swiss National Bank has released in 20 years. Printed by Orell Fussli Security Printing Ltd. in Zurich, all notes from the new 9th series feature national experiences and abstract themes. Incorporating the latest in technological security standards and using three layer substrate Durasafe®, this gorgeous yellow vertical banknote depicts human hands conducting an orchestra with a globe showing time zones and the punctual Swiss rail system. In 2017 a 20 Franc note was also released featuring a hand and a prism reflecting light. While it too was nominated for Bank Note of the Year, IBNS rules state that no country can compete against itself if multiples notes are nominated. In such instances a subcommittee selects the stronger image.

The Swiss National Bank had initially released a stunning 24 page booklet to promote their new six banknote series. They have a fascinating interactive website and downloadable application that can be accessed to further demonstrate various security features. Each note varies in size, with the 10 Franc note similar in size to the 20 Euro banknote. Valuation of the Swiss Franc is currently near par with the US Dollar but significantly below the Euro and British Pound



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2018

Out of the 16 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2018, **Canada 10 Dollars P113 2018 Polymer** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2018**.

Almost from the start, Canada's new vertically oriented \$10 bill dominated the voting, followed by Switzerland (200 Franc human hands), Norway (500 Kroner sailing ship), Russia (100 Rouble soccer) and the Solomon Islands (40 Dollar man blowing conch shell) banknotes.

When the Bank of Canada announced the release of this note on November 19, 2018, they said they were going in "a new direction." Polymer replaced paper on Canadian banknotes several years ago but this is the first vertical format note for them. The face of the note features the portrait of social justice icon Viola Desmond while the back depicts the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Desmond fought for racial equality across Canada and is the first Canadian woman to appear on a bank note (other women have all been British royals). Printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company in the same distinct purple color as the previous horizontal format \$10 polymer note, this note is just fractionally larger than neighbouring United States currency bills. Incorporating the latest in technological standards, the bold security features are easy to check and difficult to counterfeit. Canada plans "to issue a new denomination every few years" and the Bank of Canada has confirmed the next four notes in this series will also use the vertical format.

No stranger to the IBNS annual bank note contest, Canada won the inaugural IBNS Bank Note of the Year Award in 2004, placed second three years in a row (2011, 2012 & 2013) and finished in third place just last year. Significantly the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which opened in 2014, was not only the first new national museum since 1967 but the first to be located outside the capital region. It is also the first museum in the world solely dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights. It aims to inspire and promote respect for others while encouraging reflection and dialogue about human rights.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2019

Out of the 22 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2019, **Aruba 100 Florin P24 2 019** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2019**.

When the Central Bank of Aruba released its new series of 5 banknotes on June 3, 2019, it was the culmination of 7 years of intense preparation and soul searching. This “Stars of Aruba” series was introduced to the small Caribbean Island’s 120,000 residents with both humor, public interaction and a mobile application “Aruba su florin”. The goal was a complete banknote series redesign, the first in almost 30 years. The result is quite astonishing, including a new vertical format, beautiful artistic elements from Aruban culture, flora and fauna and even a new 200 Florin denomination, which replaced the old 500 Florin. Most striking is one of the most secure banknote features available using high-relief printing, color changing ink and a 3D MOTION SURFACE ® moving stripe with miniaturized micro-optics from printer Crane Currency. The unique designs are truly eye catching and effectively balance the challenge of anti-counterfeit technology with production costs. Local schools and citizens were all engaged in this national currency transition.

As a first-time entrant into the IBNS Bank Note of the Year competition, Aruba’s award winning success may provide a template for other countries to consider in designing and promoting new banknotes. The new Aruba successful design in emerald green features an iguana on the face and dancing women with ribbons on the green and blue reverse. The 100 Florin note is longer than a 20 Euro note and slightly wider but shorter than U.S. greenbacks. The current exchange value of 100 Florin is USD \$57 on the date of this announcement.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2020

Out of the 24 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2020, **Mexico 100 Pesos PW134 2020 Polymer** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2020**.

Almost from the start, Mexico's new 100 Peso polymer bill widely led the voting followed by Scotland's Royal Bank of Scotland 20 Pound entry (Kate Cranston tea room/squirrels). There was a virtual tie for third place between Northern Ireland's Ulster Bank (20 Pound flora/street musicians), the Bahamas (5 Dollar statesman/junkanoo dancer) and Fiji (50 Dollar 50th Anniversary of Independence).

The Banco de Mexico was both the printer and issuer of this award-winning design banknote, which is part of the bank's current G Series introduced in 2018. The vertical format note is printed on polymer and features one of Mexico's national heroines and poet/writer Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. The reverse "piece de resistance" image features a temperate forest ecosystem which is known worldwide as the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. The design continues to highlight Mexican cultural and historic characteristics with new graphic motifs. Produced by the Banco de Mexico's new printing complex located in Jalisco, which began operation just before the coronavirus pandemic, the banknote has significantly improved security features which coordinate the transition to a polymer substrate. Polymer banknotes continue to be popular IBNS favourites.



IBNS Banknote of the Year 2021

Out of the 20 Nominations received for the Banknote of the Year 2021, **Mexico 50 Pesos PW133 2021 Polymer** was chosen to be the **Banknote of the Year 2021**. So, Mexico has won the coveted award again twice in a row.

Unlike most years when there has been a clear favourite from the start, the vote between first and second place was nip and tuck until the very end when Mexico's 50 Peso note edged Sao Tome and Principe's 200 Dobra bill (slave leader Rei Amador, butterflies, sunbird and flower). There was an actual third place tie between Costa Rica's 10,000 Colones note (abolition of the army leader, rainforest, flora and sloth) and the Bank of England's 50 Pound (Queen Elizabeth II with Alan Turing and his war code breaking computer). Rounding out the top eight vote getters were Romania's 20 Lei (country heroine with crocus), the Royal Bank of Scotland's 50 Pound (social reformer Flora Stevenson, flowers and birds), China's 20 Yuan (2022 Winter Olympics theme), and the Cook Islands 3 Dollar (Ina riding shark, fishing canoe and carved wood statue) banknotes.

The Banco de Mexico was again both the printer and issuer of this award-winning design banknote, which is part of the bank's current G Series first introduced in 2018. The vertical format note is printed on polymer and features Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec empire. The reverse image features a salamander found in Mexico's ecosystem of lakes and waterways. The design continues to highlight Mexican cultural and historic characteristics with new graphic motifs. Produced by the Banco de Mexico's new printing complex located in Jalisco, which began operation just before the coronavirus pandemic, the banknote has significantly improved security features which coordinate the transition to a polymer substrate. Polymer banknotes continue to be popular IBNS favourites and are now perennial award winners.



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Credits: www.theibns.org