



ISSUE OF NEW £5, £20 AND £100 BANKNOTES

The notes being introduced in the second phase of the new series of Gibraltar banknotes are the £5, £20 and £100. Each denomination in the new series has a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II on the front, complemented by pattern work representing Gibraltar's strategic location at the entrance to the Mediterranean, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. The reverse of each of the banknotes carries a vignette which shows an aspect of Gibraltar through the Ages.

The first £5 Gibraltar banknote bearing a portrait of the Queen was dated 20th November 1975. The design, printed in green, featured the Convent, residence of the Governor and an important building of heritage value on the reverse.

On the 1st July 1995 the first History and Heritage Series was issued. The £5 Gibraltar banknote of this series featured on the reverse a portrait of Tarik Ibn Zeyad, a Berber leader after whom Gibraltar is named, and an etching of the Moorish Castle. It formed part of a series of four notes, depicting aspects of Gibraltar's history.

The £5 Millennium note was the first Gibraltar banknote to be issued to mark a special occasion, in this case the commencement of the Third Millennium. The face of the note is remarkably similar to the 1995 Series, the main difference found at the bottom left, in place of the vignette of Southport Gates, is a baroque rectangle framing the words "Commemorating the 2000 Millennium", with a gold dolphin superimposed on it. The design on the reverse of the note represented a radical departure from the Heritage Series of currency notes with the theme Gibraltar as a visitor attraction.

The new £5 banknote, printed in green, carries echoes of the 1995 series, as it depicts the Upper Ward of the Moorish Castle and the Tower of Homage on the reverse. The castle consisted of three wards rising from the area of what is today Casemates Square to the Tower of Homage, which was rebuilt in the 14th century. Even today it dominates the old City.

The first £20 Gibraltar banknote was issued as part of the 20th November 1975 series, the first Queen's portrait series. The design featured the Gibraltar Parliament (then known as the House of Assembly), a landmark building on Main Street, and was printed in an orange-yellow colour scheme.

The second £20 Gibraltar banknote issued was dated 1 July 1995, and featured a portrait of Lord Nelson and a scene depicting the return of the damaged, dismasted ship HMS Victory to Gibraltar after the Battle of Trafalgar, which was fought close to Gibraltar on 21 October 1805.

The £20 Tercentenary note was the second Gibraltar banknote to be issued to mark a special occasion, in this case the Tercentenary of British Gibraltar in 2004. The face of the note is remarkably similar to that of the £20

Series of 1995, and the reverse depicts John Mackintosh Square, named after a philanthropist who died in the 1940s and left his fortune to the people of Gibraltar.

The new £20 banknote also reproduces the 1995 Battle of Trafalgar banknote, and indeed it gives greater prominence to that part of the vignette on the earlier banknote depicting the great battle where Admiral Lord Nelson won a great victory but lost his life. It features the dismasted HMS Victory, the Admiral's flagship, being towed to Gibraltar after the battle, bearing the body of the dead Admiral. The banknote no longer carries a portrait of the Admiral. In line with the 1995 series it has an orange-yellow colour scheme.

This £100 Gibraltar banknote is the first Gibraltar bank note of this denomination and has a predominantly mauve colour scheme. The King's Bastion is depicted on the reverse of the note. The King's Bastion stands at the centre of the medieval seawall that protected the old City. It was fortified by General Boyd (who is buried in the Bastion) in 1773 in time for it to play a key role in the defence of Gibraltar during the Great Siege. Gibraltar's first electricity generating plant was sited in the courtyard of the Bastion. The Generating Station was demolished to give way to today's leisure centre, a stunning innovative use for a historical military fortification.

A booklet entitled 'Know Your New Gibraltar Banknotes' which shows the full series of the Gibraltar banknotes is available at the Ministry of Finance, Treasury Department, 23 John Mackintosh Square.