

Guyana: History of Bank Notes

Introduction

During the early 19th century, trade volume and value increased in the West Indies, including Guyana. Currency notes, that were in circulation in Europe, were used to settle large commercial transactions. Between 1809 and 1839, the guiders and Joes, banknotes of Demerara and Essequibo, were introduced in Guyana.¹

In 1916 Britain, the then Government of British Guiana, issued their first paper money in the form of 1 and 2 dollar notes. In 1937, Britain also put into circulation, the 5, 10, 20 and 100 notes.

The expansion in money circulation saw the establishment of private banks in British Guiana. Each bank was responsible for the printing and issuing of their own notes. In 1926, the Colonial Bank, later taken over by Barclays Bank issued 5, 20 and 100 dollar notes. In 1938, the Royal Bank of Canada put into circulation 5, 20 and 100 dollar notes.

In 1950 the British West Indies Dollar or the BWI, pronounced Beewee, was introduced by the British Caribbean Currency Board. In 1965, the Eastern Caribbean Dollar was put into circulation, shortly before British Guiana gained independence in 1966 and became the sovereign nation, Guyana.

Over time, each note issued, either under the colonist or independent nation, was subject to changes, both major and minor in nature. Guyana's notes have evolved over the years. They continue to experience technological adjustments in the interest of security. Today, circulating notes include features that allow the blind and visually impaired to recognise them by touch.²



1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banknotes_of_Demerary_and_Essequibo

2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Guianan_guilder#:~:text=In%20the%201830s%2C%20the%20colonies,begin%20issuing%20dollar%2Ddenominated%20banknotes.

Guiana: Notes in Circulation

Dutch Colonists

In the 1830's, the Dutch issued the first paper money called Joe. They had nominated equivalence to the circulating Dutch Guilders. ¹



1 Joe – Demerary and Essequibo



Obverse

- Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- Court of Policy of the Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- 1830
- "DE - Monogram"
- First Issue. 1 joe or 22 guilders type 1830.
- Date: May 1st, 1830.
- Dimensions: 205 x 120 mm.
- Watermark: Demerary / And / Essequibo.
- Material: Paper (deckle).
- Ornate D-E at upper center. Floral tendrils.
- Texts in English.
- Signature: J. G. Reed.

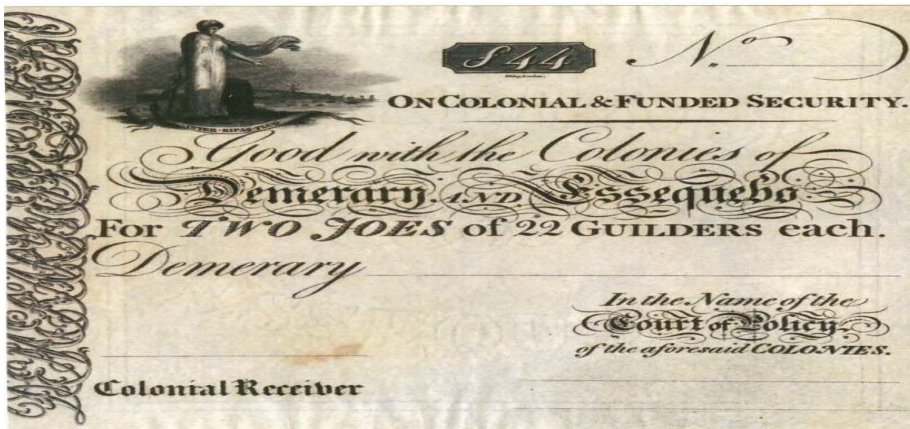
Reverse

- Intertwined geometric design.

- Issued: 1830



2 Joe – Demerary and Essequibo



Obverse

- Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- Court of Policy of the Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- 1830 "Woman with Anchor"
- Issue. 44 guilders = 2 joes of 22 guilders each type 1830.
- Watermark: Demerary / And / Essequibo.
- Material: Paper (deckle).
- Printer: Ashby, London.
- Black. Ornate lettering.
- Allegorical woman with anchor ("Hope").
"Inter. Ripas. Fluo" banner. Texts in English.



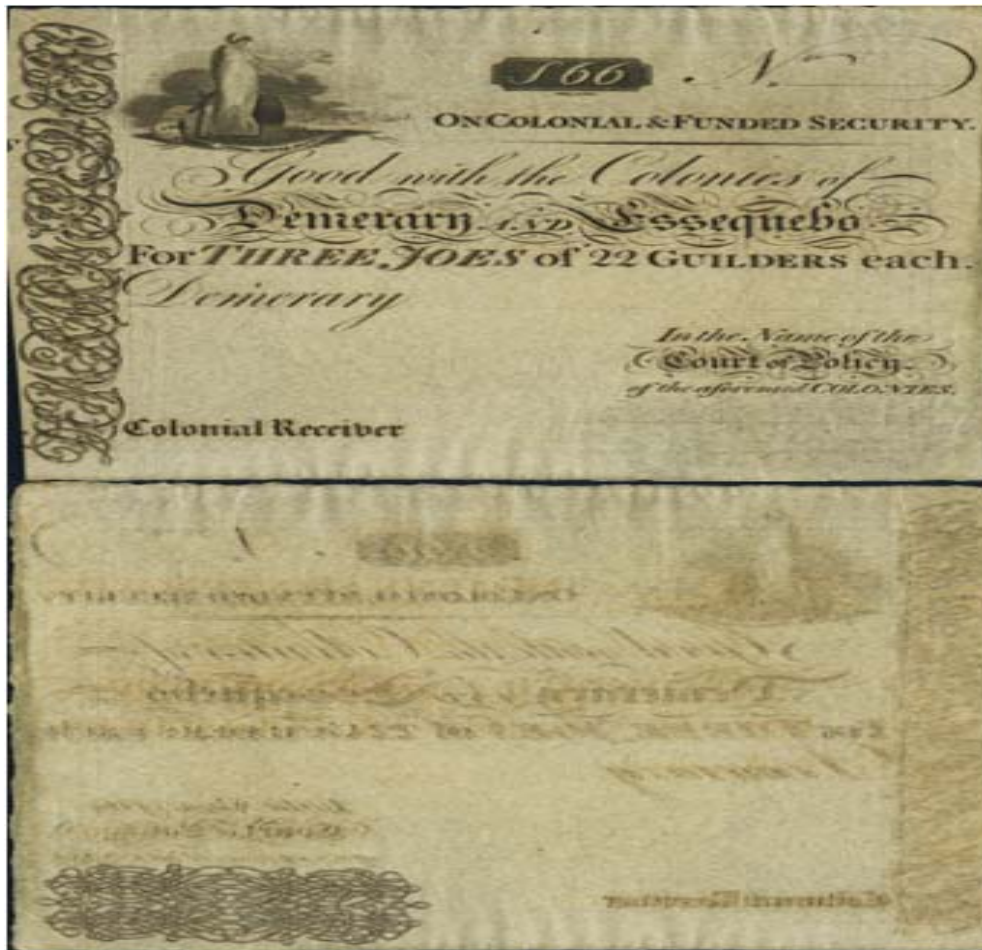
Reverse

- Intertwined geometric design. (circa 1830s).

- Issued: 1830



3 Joe – Demerary and Essequibo



Obverse

- Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- Court of Policy of the Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- 1830 "Woman with Anchor" Issue. 66 guilders = 3 joes of 22 guilders each type 1830.
- Date: No. Dimensions: 178 x 150 mm.
- Watermark: Demerary / And / Essequibo.
- Material: Paper (deckle).
- Printer: Ashby, London. Black.
- Ornate lettering. Allegorical woman with anchor ("Hope"). "Inter. Ripas. Fluo" banner. Texts in English.

Reverse

Description of the back: Intertwined geometric design. (circa 1830s).

- Issued: 1830



10 Joe – Demerary and Essequibo



Obverse

- Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- Court of Policy of the Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo. 1830
- "Woman with Anchor" Issue.
- 220 guilders = 10 joes of 22 guilders each type 1830.
- Date
- Dimensions: 178 x 150 mm.
- Watermark: Demerary / And / Essequibo.
- Material: Paper (deckle).
- Printer: Ashby, London.
- Black ornate lettering.
- Allegorical woman with anchor ("Hope").
- "Inter. Ripas. Fluo" banner. Texts in English.

Reverse

Intertwined geometric design (circa 1830s)

- Issued: 1830



20 Joe – Demerary and Essequibo



- Issued: 1830

Obverse

- Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- Court of Policy of the Colonies of Demerary and Essequibo.
- 1830 « DE - Monogram » First Issue. 20 joes or 440 guilders type 1830.
- Dimensions: 205 x 120 mm.
- Watermark: Demerary / And / Essequibo.
- Material: Paper (deckle).
- Red. Ornate D-E at upper center.
- Floral tendrils.
- Texts in English.

Reverse

Intertwined geometric design (circa 1830s)



British Guiana: Notes in Circulation

Notes issued by the British Government 1916

In 1916 the Government of British Guiana introduced dollar-denominated banknotes the amount of 1 and 2 dollar notes. They were produced specifically for British Guiana and were reissued in 1929 and 1937. The first set of changes were major and the second set minor. These notes ceased to be produced in 1942.³



British Guiana 1 Dollar



Obverse

- Government of British Guiana.
- Printer: Thomas De La Rue and Co (TDLR), London. Front and back: polychrome printing predominantly red.
- Sealing ship seal at left.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures of the Currency Commissioners: Cecil Clementi, Reginald Clifton Grannum and William John Robson.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns and sealing ship seal at centre.

Both Sides

- Polychrome printing predominantly Red.

- 1st Issue: 1916 - 1924



British Guiana 1 Dollar



- Issued: 1916 - 1924

Obverse

- Government of British Guiana.
- Printer: Thomas De La Rue & Co (TDLR), London.
- Sealing ship seal at left.
- Texts in English. Signatures of the Currency Commissioners: Cecil Clementi, Reginald Clifton Grannum and John McIntosh Reid.

Reverse

- Guilloché patterns and sealing ship seal at centre.

Both Sides

- Polychrome printing predominantly red.



British Guiana 2 Dollars



- Issue: 1916 - 1924

Obverse

- Government of British Guiana.
- Dimensions: 115 x 73 mm.
- Material: Paper.
- Printer: Thomas De La Rue and Co (TDLR), London. Sealing ship seal at center.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures of the Currency Commissioners: Cecil Clementi, Reginald Clifton Grannum and William John Robson.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns and sealing ship seal at centre.

Both Sides

- Polychrome printing predominantly blue.



British Guiana 2 Dollars



Obverse

- Government of British Guiana.
- Dimensions: 115 x 73 mm.
- Material: Paper.
- Printer: Thomas De La Rue and Co (TDLR), London. Sealing ship seal at center.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures of the Currency Commissioners: Cecil Clementi, Reginald Clifton Grannum and William John Robson.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns and sealing ship seal at centre.

Both Sides

- Polychrome printing predominantly blue.

- 2nd Issue: 1916 - 1924



British Guiana: Notes in Circulation

Notes issued by the British Government 1929

The existing 1 and 2 dollar notes were upgraded. New notes in the denominations of 5, 10, 20 and 100 dollars were added to the notes in circulation.



British Guiana 1 Dollar



Obverse

- 1 dollar type.
- Dimensions: 185 x 88 mm.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London. Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right. Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: Crawford Douglas-Jones, Thomas Millard, William Albert d'Andrade (1929).

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns.
- Portrait of R.A.S King George V at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly red, light green and purple.

- 3rd Issue: 1929 - 1936



British Guiana 2 Dollars



Obverse

- 2 dollars type 1929.
- Dimensions: 185 x 88 mm.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: Crawford Douglas-Jones, Thomas Millard, William Albert d'Andrade (1929).

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns.
- Portrait of R.A.S King George V at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome predominantly green and pale orange.

- 2nd Issue: 1929 - 1936



British Guiana 1 Dollar



Obverse

- 1 dollar type 1937.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: Edwin Frank McDavid, William Albert d'Andrade (1937) and George Douglas Owen.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns
- Portrait of R.A.S young King George VI at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly green and pale orange.

- 3rd Issue: 1937 - 1942



British Guiana 2 Dollars



Obverse

- 2 dollars type 1942.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: Eubule John Waddington, Edwin Frank McDavid, William Albert d'Andrade (1937).

Reverse

- Guilloché patterns
- Portrait of R.A.S young King George VI at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly green and pale orange.

- 3rd Issue: 1937 - 1942



British Guiana 5 Dollars



Obverse

- 5 dollars type 1938.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: George Douglas Owen, Edwin Frank McDavid, William Albert d'Andrade.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns.
- Portrait of R.A.S young King George VI at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly olive green and yellow.

- 1st Issue: 1937 - 1942



British Guiana 10 Dollars



- 1st Issue: 1937 - 1942

Obverse

- 10 dollars type 1942.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: George Douglas Owen, Edwin Frank McDavid, William Albert d'Andrade.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns.
- Portrait of R.A.S young King George VI at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly dark blue and pink.



British Guiana 20 Dollars



- 1st Issue: 1937 - 1942

Obverse

- 20 dollars type 1942.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: George Douglas Owen, Edwin Frank McDavid, William Albert d'Andrade.

Reverse

- Guilloche patterns.
- Portrait of R.A.S young King George VI at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly burgundy and green.



British Guiana 100 Dollars



Obverse

- 100 dollars type 1942.
- Printer: Waterlow & Sons Limited London Wall, London.
- Toucan bird on branch at left.
- Kaieteur Falls at center.
- Sealing ship seal at right.
- Texts in English.
- Signatures in black of the Currency Commissioners: George Douglas Owen, Edwin Frank McDavid, William Albert d'Andrade.



Reverse

- Guilloché patterns.
- Portrait of R.A.S young King George VI at center.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly yellow and purple.

- 1st Issue: 1937 - 1942



British Guiana: Notes in Circulation

Notes issued by Private Banks in British Guiana 1926

Private banks were established in British Guiana in the late 19th century.

The operating Private Banks in British Guiana were the:

- Colonial Bank which was later taken over by Barclays Bank
Notes issued: 5, 20 and 100 dollar notes
- Royal Bank of Canada⁴
Notes issued: 5, 20, and 100 dollar notes



4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guyanese_dollar

Barclays Bank 5 Dollars



Obverse

- 5 dollars type 1926.
- Printer: Bradbury & Wilkinson, New Malden, London.
- Arms at center.
- Value in each corner, initials 'B.G.' for British Guiana at upper right.
- Signature in black of Manager at lower right.
- Texts in English.



Reverse

- Arms at center.
- Value in guilloches..

Both Sides

Black on pink and pale blue underprint.

- 1st Issue: 1926 - 1940



Barclays Bank 5 Dollars



Obverse

- 5 dollars type 1939.
- Printer: Bradbury & Wilkinson, New Malden, Surrey, London.
- Arms at right. Value in each corner, initials 'B.G.' in black for British Guiana at upper right.
- Signature in black of Manager and Accountant.
- Texts in English.

Reverse

- Arms at center.
- Value in guilloches.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly yellow and purple.

- 2nd Issue: 1926 - 1940



Barclays Bank 20 Dollars



Obverse

- 20 dollars type 1926.
- Printer: Bradbury & Wilkinson, New Malden, London.
- Arms at center.
- Value in each corner, initials 'B.G.' for British Guiana at upper right.
- Signature in black of Manager at lower right.
- Texts in English.

Reverse

- Arms at center.
- Value in guilloches.

Both Sides

Black on yellow underprint..



- 1st Issue: 1926 - 1940



Barclays Bank 20 Dollars



Obverse

- 20 dollars type 1940.
- Dimensions: Unknown.
- Printer: Bradbury & Wilkinson, New Malden, Surrey, London.
- Arms at right. Value in each corner, initials 'B.G.' in black for British Guiana at upper right.
- Signature in black of Manager and Accountant.
- Texts in English.

Reverse

- Arms at center.
- Value in guilloches.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly red, brown and pale green.

- 2nd Issue: 1926 - 1940



Barclays Bank 100 Dollars (1926)



Obverse

- 100 dollars type 1926.
- Printer: Bradbury & Wilkinson, New Malden, London.
- Arms at center.
- Value in each corner, initials 'B.G.' for British Guiana at upper right.
- Signature in black of Manager and Accountant.
- Texts in English.



Reverse

- Arms at center.
- Value in guilloches.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly orange, brown and green

- 1st Issue: 1926 - 1940



Barclays Bank 100 Dollars (1937)



Obverse

- 100 dollars type 1937.
- Printer: Bradbury & Wilkinson, New Malden, Surrey, London.
- Arms at right.
- Value in each corner, initials 'B.G.' in black for British Guiana at upper right.
- Signature in black of Manager and Accountant.
- Texts in English.



Reverse

- Arms at center.
- Value in guilloches.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly green and pink.

- 2nd Issue: 1926 - 1940



Royal Bank of Canada 5 Dollars (1920)



- Period: 1920
- Issued: 1920

Obverse

- 5 dollars type 1920.
- Printer: American Bank Note Company, Ottawa.
- Steamship / passenger ship at center.
- Value in each corner.
- "Redeemable only in British Guiana" at center.
- "In British Guiana currency being the equivalent of one pound and ten pence"
- "Five British Guiana dollars the equivalent of £1-0-10"
- Signature in black of President and General Manager: M.W. Wilson and S.G. Dodson.
- Texts in English.

Reverse

- Arms at center.
- "Five British Guiana dollars the equivalent of £1-0-10" [to the left and right]
- THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly green and black.



Royal Bank of Canada 5 Dollars (1938)



Obverse

- 5 dollars type 1938.
- Printer: Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa.
- Passenger ship at center.
- Value in each corner.
- "Redeemable only in British Guiana" at center.
- Signature in black of President and General Manager: M.W. Wilson and S.G. Dodson.
- Texts in English.



Reverse

- Arms at center.
- FIVE BRITISH GUIANA DOLLARS THE EQUIVALENT OF £1-0-10 [to the left and right]
- THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly green and black.

- Period: 1926 - 1940



Royal Bank of Canada 20 Dollars (1938)



Obverse

- 20 dollars type 1938.
- Printer: Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa.
- Sugarcane picking scene at center. Value in each corner.
- "Redeemable only in British Guiana" at center.
- Signature in black of President and General Manager: M.W. Wilson and S.G. Dodson. Texts in English.



Reverse

- Arms at center.
- TWENTY BRITISH GUIANA DOLLARS THE EQUIVALENT OF £4-3-4 [to the left and right]
- THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly orange, red and black.

- Period: 1926 - 1940



Royal Bank of Canada 100 Dollars (1920)



Obverse

- 100 dollars.
- Printer: Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa.
- Woman lying on the beach with a bird resting on her outstretched hand. Value in each corner.
- "Redeemable only in British Guiana" at center.
- Signature in black of President and General Manager: M.W. Wilson and S.G. Dodson. Texts in English.

Reverse

- Arms at center.
- ONE HUNDRED BRITISH GUIANA DOLLARS THE EQUIVALENT OF £20-16-8 [to the left and right]
- THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Both Sides

Polychrome printing predominantly orange, red and black.

- Period: 1926 - 1940



British Caribbean Currency Board

The production of paper money specifically for British Guiana ceased in 1942. In 1950, they were replaced by the British West Indies Dollar, BWI dollar, also called the Beewee.⁵



5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guyanese_dollar

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_West_Indies_dollar#:~:text=In%201950%2C%20the%20British%20Caribbean,at%20%244.80%20per%20pound%20sterling.

One Dollar (BW1)



Obverse

- George VI at right, map at left
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- One Dollar
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- One Dollar
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1950-1951



One Dollar (BW1)



Obverse

- Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and map of the Caribbean Islands
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- One Dollar
- For the Currency Board

Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- One Dollar
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1953-1964



Two Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- George VI at right, map at left
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Two Dollars
- For the Currency Board

Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Two Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1950-1951



Two Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and map of the Caribbean Islands
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Two Dollars
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Two Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1953-1964



Five Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- George VI at right, map at left
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Five Dollars
- For the Currency Board

Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Five Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1950-1951



Five Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and map of the Caribbean Islands
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Five Dollars
- For the Currency Board

Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Five Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1953-1964



Ten Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- George VI at right, map at left
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Ten Dollars
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Ten Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1950-1951



Ten Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and map of the Caribbean Islands
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Ten Dollars
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Ten Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1953-1964



Twenty Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- George VI at right, map at left
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Twenty Dollars
- For the Currency Board

Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Twenty Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group



- Period: 1950-1951



Twenty Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and map of the Caribbean Islands
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- Twenty Dollars
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- Twenty Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1953-1964



One Hundred Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- George VI at right, map at left
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- One Hundred Dollars
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- One Hundred Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1950-1951



One Hundred Dollars (BW1)



Obverse

- Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, and map of the Caribbean Islands
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group
- One Hundred Dollars
- For the Currency Board



Reverse

- Arms of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad & Tobago
- One Hundred Dollars
- The British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group

- Period: 1953-1964



East Caribbean Dollar

In 1965 the East Caribbean dollar (EC\$) replaced the BWI\$ that circulated in British Guiana, for a short period, as British Guiana became an independent nation in 1966.



One Dollar (\$1 EC)



Obverse

- Queen Elizabeth II at right, fishes at centre, map at left
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- THESE NOTES ARE LEGAL TENDER
- FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT ONE DOLLAR



Reverse

- Coastline with rocks and trees
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- ONE DOLLAR
- Watermark: Queen Elizabeth II

- Issued: 1965



Five Dollars (\$5 EC)



Obverse

- Queen Elizabeth II at right, Flying fishes at centre, map at left
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- THESE NOTES ARE LEGAL TENDER
- FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT FIVE DOLLAR



Reverse

- Coastline with rocks and trees
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- FIVE DOLLAR
- Watermark: Queen Elizabeth II

- Issued: 1965



Twenty Dollars (\$20 EC)



Obverse

- Queen Elizabeth II at right, turtles at centre, map at left
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- THESE NOTES ARE LEGAL TENDER
- FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT TWENTY DOLLAR



Reverse

- Coastline with rocks and trees
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- TWENTY DOLLAR
- Watermark: Queen Elizabeth II

- Issued: 1965



One Hundred Dollars (\$100 EC)



Obverse

- Queen Elizabeth II at right, sea horses at centre, map at left
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- THESE NOTES ARE LEGAL TENDER
- FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS



Reverse

- Coastline with rocks and trees
- EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY
- HUNDRED DOLLARS
- Watermark: Queen Elizabeth II

- Issued: 1965



Independence Notes: 1966 - Present

On October 15, 1965, Bank of Guyana also known as the Central Bank, was established. On November 15, 1965, the Bank of Guyana issued notes in denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 20 dollars, in preparation of British Guiana attaining independent status. This historic event occurred on May 26, 1966 and British Guiana became known as Guyana. An independent nation.



One Dollar (\$1.00) Note



Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's Logo
Right - Kaieteur Falls



Reverse

Left - a sluice at Black Bush Polder
Centre - \$1
Right - three combine machines
harvesting rice

- November 1965 - December 1996: replaced by \$1 coin
- December 31, 1996: Demonetised



Five Dollar (\$5.00) Note



Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's Logo
Right - Kaieteur Falls



Reverse

Left – manual cutting of Sugar Cane
Centre - \$5
Right – cut sugar cane stalks conveyed by a crane

- November 1965 - December 1996: replaced by \$5 coin
- December 31, 1996: Demonetised



Ten Dollar (\$10.00) Note



Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's Logo
Right - Kaieteur Falls



Reverse

Left - bauxite mining
Centre - \$10
Right - Aluminum Plant

- November 1965 - December 1996: replaced by \$10 coin
- December 31, 1996: Demonetised



Twenty Dollar (\$20.00) Note



Obverse

Centre – Bank of Guyana's logo
Right – Kaieteur Falls



Reverse

Left – ship building
Right – ferry vessel Malali

Security Feature

An embedded plastic thread

- Issued: November 15, 1965



Twenty Dollar (\$20.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

1. Background colour was added
2. Registers were included at the left and right sides

- Issued: October 10, 1988



Twenty Dollar (\$20.00) Note

Upgrade



Change: Obverse

Novel Numbering is progressively larger

- Issued: September 16, 1996



One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) Note



Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's logo
Right - map of Guyana depicting natural resources

Reverse

Centre - St. George's Cathedral. The tallest wooden building in the world at the time.

Security Features

1. Watermark of a Red Macaw.
2. An embedded plastic thread.

- Issued October 10, 1988



One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) Note

Upgrade



Change:

Insertion of a silver, clear text, de-metallised, windowed thread with the word "Guyana" on it.

- Issued: March 16, 1998



One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) Note

Upgrade



Change:

The addition of an electrotpe in the form of a watermarked map.

- Issued: March, 2006



One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) Note

Upgrade



Change:

The electrotpe was replaced with the value of the note, 100 horizontally.

- Issued: January 25, 2012



Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) Note



Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's logo

Right - The map of Guyana depicting natural resources.

Reverse

Parliament Building

Security Features

1. Watermark of a Red Macaw.
2. Clear text windowed security thread that reads "Guyana."

- Issued: July 2, 1992



Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

Obverse

Novel numbering to the right of the note is progressively larger.

Security Features

Silver, clear text, de-metallised, windowed thread with the word "Guyana" on it.

- Issued: October 11, 1996



Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

Obverse

Left - \$500 appears bolder and larger

Security Features

1. Wider clear text, windowed, de-metalised thread with the word "Guyana" on it
2. The addition of a holographic patch in the shape of a map
3. Anti-copy lines

- Issued: January 24, 2000



Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

Obverse

The horizontal novel numbering to the left of the note was changed to vertical and the fraction was replaced

Security Features

1. Watermark a Red Macaw with the addition of the value of the note (500) horizontally
2. Holographic patch in the shape of a map was replaced with a holographic stripe
3. The clear text, windowed, de-metallised thread with the word "Guyana" on it was moved to the back of the note

- Issued: November 4, 2011



One Thousand Dollar (\$1000.00) Note



Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's logo

Right - The map of Guyana depicting natural resources, with a smaller golden map of Guyana overlapping

Reverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's Building

Both Sides

Registers were added to the left and right

Security Features

1. Watermark of the Red Macaw
2. Windowed colour shift security thread that changes colour between magenta and green
3. Novel numbering to the right of the note is progressively larger

- Issued: December 23, 1996



One Thousand Dollar (\$1000.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

Security Features

1. Gold map to the right was replaced with a gold holographic crest
2. Wider clear text, windowed, de-metallised thread with the word "Guyana" on it was added
3. Red colour added to the circle at the bottom of the note
4. enlarged \$1000 denomination mark

- Issued: December 23, 1999



One Thousand Dollar (\$1000.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

Security Features

1. Wider clear text, windowed, de-metallised thread with the word "Guyana" on it
2. The gold crest was replaced with a silver holographic crest
3. An electrotpe watermark was added in the form of a map of Guyana
4. A latent 1000 image, reflecting the value of the note, was added to the rosette

- Issued: March, 2006



One Thousand Dollar (\$1000.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

Obverse

1. Double digits replace the top fractions to the right of the note
2. The electrotype was replaced with the value of the note (1000) vertically.
3. The holographic crest was replaced with a holographic stripe.

Both Sides

The clear text, windowed, de-metallised thread with the word "Guyana" on it was moved to the reverse

- Issued: November 22, 2011



One Thousand Dollar (\$1000.00) Note

Upgrade



Changes:

1. The replacement of the Holographic Stripe at the front of the note with a RAPID® micro-optic security feature.
2. The replacement of the windowed security thread at the back of the note with an embedded plastic thread.

- Issued: March 4, 2019



Five Thousand Dollar (\$5000.00) Note



- Launched: November 15, 2013
- Issued: December 9, 2013

Obverse

Centre - Bank of Guyana's logo

Right -

1. Map of Guyana
2. Blind Mark: mark for the visually impaired at the right side
3. Novel Numbering: progressively larger numbers

Reverse

Centre - the gorge of the Kaieteur Falls and the Canje Pheasant, Guyana's national bird

Security Features

1. Spark: when tilted, the colour of the value shifts from magenta to green and the rolling bar moves up and down
2. Latent Image: at a certain angle the value 5000 can be seen
3. Holographic Stripe: when tilted at an angle, the image of a Jaguar is seen
4. Watermark of a red macaw with a 5000 mark
5. See-through: The value of the note (\$5000) appears when the note is held up to the light
6. Dual Track: two track thread with optically variable and metallic print properties



Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) 50th Independence Commemorative Note



Obverse:

Left – People of Guyana standing together as one
Centre – Bank of Guyana’s logo
Right - 50th Independence logo And map of Guyana to the right
Novel Number: progressively large

Reverse:

Left - national flower, Victoria Regina Lilly
Centre - flag and the map of Guyana with the national motto, below

Right - peace doves in flight

Security Features

1. Watermark of a Red Macaw and the value of the note (50) is visible when the note is held up to the light.
2. Clear text windowed security thread that reads "Guyana 50".

- Issued: May 11, 2016



Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00)

55th Independence Commemorative Note



Obverse

Left - transparent window
\$2000 and the image of a Jaguar are visible in the window

Centre –

1. Bank of Guyana's logo
2. The 55th Independence logo
3. smaller transparent window is partially over printed with an image of the Victoria Regina Lilly, Guyana's national flower

Right – map of Guyana depicting Guyana's natural resources

Reverse

Center - People of Guyana standing as one with the slogan "One Guyana" at the bottom

Right - the national motto "One People One Nation One Destiny" is also printed

For the visually impaired, a \$2000 numbering, "TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS" and "BANK OF GUYANA" wording, are up raised and is felt when touched.

- Launched: February 11, 2022
- Issued: February 14, 2022

