

Media Release

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Clydesdale Bank to Launch New Banknote Family

Clydesdale Bank has today (14 January) unveiled the designs of a new family of banknotes, which will be introduced later this year, in celebration of the best of Scotland's heritage, people and culture.

Introduced to coincide with the Homecoming celebrations, the front of each new note will honour a prominent and innovative Scot while the reverse of each note will feature one of Scotland's five World Heritage sites.

As well as being the first time in almost twenty years that the Clydesdale has launched a completely new family of banknotes, it will also be the very first time that a new 'depth image' hologram security feature will be used on a UK banknote.

David Thorburn, Chief Operating Officer of Clydesdale Bank, said: "Clydesdale Bank's new banknote family showcases the best of Scotland – its people and its heritage. We are the largest note issuer in Scotland and I am delighted that we are introducing such an innovative and striking set of notes during the Homecoming. I am particularly pleased that a new portrait of Robert Burns will feature on one of our most popular notes – a fitting tribute in the 250th Anniversary of the year that he was born."

The new note designs unveiled today are:

- £5 Featuring Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin, on the front and St Kilda on the reverse.

- £10 Featuring Robert Burns on the front and The Old & New Towns of Edinburgh on the reverse.
- £20 Featuring Robert the Bruce on the front and New Lanark on the reverse.
- £50 Featuring Elsie Inglis, a suffragette and surgeon, on the front and the Antonine Wall on the reverse.
- £100 Featuring Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect and designer, on the front and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney on the reverse.

Scotland's five World Heritage Sites have been identified by UNESCO as surpassing "local or national importance and are part of the shared heritage of mankind"

Alex Salmond MSP MP, First Minister, said, "Scotland has produced banknotes for hundreds of years, marking the culture, heritage, tradition and resilience of Scotland, its people and our financial sector. Clydesdale Bank's launch of a new banknote family, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns and Homecoming 2009, is an indication of its strength and commitment to Scotland in the current economic climate.

"I would like to thank Clydesdale Bank, these new designs are a wonderful contribution to the Homecoming celebrations. These commemorative notes will be in circulation, worldwide, forever – I cannot think of a greater start to our year of celebrations nor a better, lasting legacy for Homecoming 2009."

Joanne Orr, Chair of the Scotland Committee of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, said, "We are delighted to see Scotland's World Heritage Sites being celebrated in this way. This is a unique and exciting means of raising the profile of Scotland's five outstanding World Heritage Sites. These sites are rich examples of Scotland's cultural and natural heritage that we can all be proud of."

John Graham, Historic Scotland chief executive, said: "We are delighted that Scotland's UNESCO World Heritage Sites are being featured on the new banknotes.

“Historic Scotland is closely involved with the care and promotion of some of these sites, like the Antonine Wall and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, and is passionate about the importance of all of them as vital parts of our national heritage.

Shonaig Macpherson, Chairman for the National Trust for Scotland said, “In this year of Homecoming it is fitting that we celebrate Scotland’s natural and cultural treasures. Many of those featured have links to the Trust, including the wonderful Dual World Heritage site of St Kilda.”

Design & Security Features

Clydesdale Bank has also introduced a range of new security features to the banknotes, including innovative ‘depth image’ holograms. The new banknotes each have distinctive design elements and strong colours. The strong portrait subjects, big bold denomination numerals and the use of colour give each note its own individual character while the sweeping views of the Scottish world heritage sites gives rich imagery and personality to the back of the notes.

Banknote Circulation

Clydesdale Bank is the largest note issuer in Scotland, with over £1.1bn in circulation in any given week.

The new notes will enter circulation in late autumn 2009. The current banknote family is likely to remain in circulation for a number of years after this and will continue to retain their value after this date.

People on the Banknotes

- £5 Sir Alexander Fleming (6 August 1881- 11 March 1955) was a Scottish bacteriologist and Nobel Prize winner, best known for his discovery of penicillin.
- £10 Robert Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) was a poet and a lyricist and is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland.
- £20 Robert I (11 July 1274 – 7 June 1329), known as Robert the Bruce, was the King of Scots who secured Scotland's independence from England.
- £50 Elsie Maud Inglis (16 August 1864 – 26 November 1917) was an innovative Scottish doctor and suffragette.

£100 Charles Rennie Mackintosh (7 June 1868 – 10 December 1928) was an architect, designer and artist.

World Heritage Sites

- £5 St Kilda, was listed in 1986 for its natural heritage in 1986 (which was extended in 2004 to cover the marine environment), and for its cultural heritage in 2005. It is one of only 24 locations with dual World Heritage Status.
- £10 The Old & New Towns of Edinburgh was awarded its position in 1995.
- £20 New Lanark was awarded its UNESCO designation in 2001.
- £50 The Antonine Wall is the most recent addition, awarded its designation in 2008 as part of the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire'.
- £100 Heart of Neolithic Orkney was made a World Heritage Site in 1999.

-ENDS-

Editors Notes

Clydesdale bank has launched the conceptual images of five new banknotes. Subject to relatively minor technical changes, the new notes will begin to enter circulation in late 2009.

With the introduction of the new banknote family, Clydesdale Bank will launch a public and business awareness campaign. Posters and leaflets will be distributed in our branches across Scotland and our website will feature a page on new note design. We are also writing to businesses and organisations across the UK and Europe.

The banknotes will be printed by De La Rue.

About Clydesdale Bank

Clydesdale Bank was established in 1838 in Glasgow and has a proud history of innovation and support for Scottish industry and communities. Clydesdale is one of Scotland's largest banks. The Bank has over 150 retail branches, a strong personal customer base and a growing business banking capability with 77 Financial Solutions Centres across the UK. Clydesdale Bank has been named as the "Best Mortgage Lender in Scotland" for the fifth year running in the 2008 Your Mortgage Awards. In addition Clydesdale Bank was voted the 'Best Business Bank' in Scotland, by the Forum of Private Business. Clydesdale Bank PLC became a member of National Australia Bank Group in 1987.

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