DANMARKS NATIONALBANK

BANKNOTES AND COINS OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK





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INTRODUCTION SAFE MONEY

Banknotes and coins are more than just paper and metal. Confidence in money and its value is absolutely essential in our society.

It is the task of Danmarks Nationalbank to 'maintain a safe and secure currency system', as stated in the Danmarks Nationalbank Act. Danmarks Nationalbank accomplishes this by e.g. manufacturing banknotes and coins with high security and quality requirements.

From 2009 to 2011, Danmarks Nationalbank introduced a new Danish banknote series with a number of advanced security features that make counterfeiting more difficult. In 2012, the Faroese banknote series was also upgraded to include new security features. This way the banknote series contribute to 'a safe and secure currency system'.

This booklet describes motifs and details of the banknotes and coins issued by the Kingdom of Denmark.

We hope you will enjoy reading it.





BANKNOTES THE DANISH BANKNOTE SERIES

The present Danish banknote series was introduced in the period 2009-11. It is known as the '2009 series' and replaced the '1997 series', which had been introduced in 1997-99 and upgraded with new security features in 2002-05. The 2009 series differs from the previous series in that the motifs have been changed and new security features introduced. The colours are also more muted and the design simpler. The denominations and the dimensions and signature colours of the individual denominations remain unchanged. Karin Birgitte Lund is the artist behind the motifs on the 2009 series. The graphic artist Steen Ejlers designed the writing on the banknotes, while the engravings on the three highest denominations were made by the engraver Martin Mörck.

Choice of motifs

The face of each banknote depicts a motif of a Danish bridge. The selected bridges represent different architectural styles and various regions of Denmark. The motif on the reverse of the banknote is a prehistoric find discovered near the bridge in question. A map section on the banknote shows the location of the find.

Why new banknotes?

The introduction of the new banknote series reflected a wish to add new, advanced security features to the banknotes in order to keep counterfeiting of Danish banknotes at a very low level. The old series had already been upgraded once, and several upgrades of the same series can lead to uncertainty as to what a genuine banknote looks like.

1,000-krone banknote, 1997 series

In the early 1990s, colour photocopiers came into widespread use. The banknotes' strong colours were intended to make it more difficult to reproduce the exact colours using a photocopier.

TUHIND KINDYESTE

1,000-krone banknote, 2009 series

The simple design of the 2009 series makes it easier to spot the security features and see which banknote it is.



50-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 12.5×7.2 cm.

The 50-krone banknote depicts the Sallingsund Bridge linking the peninsula of Salling to the Liim Fiord island of Mors. The bridge, which is a girder bridge, was opened in 1978, replacing the Sallingsund ferries Pinen (The Pain) and Plagen (The Plague). The 50-krone banknote was issued on 11 August 2009.



100-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 13.5×7.2 cm.

The 100-krone banknote shows the Old Little Belt Bridge linking Erritsø in Jutland to Middelfart on Funen. This truss bridge was opened in 1935 and was originally planned as a railway bridge, but the decision was later made to include roadways. Issued on 4 May 2010.



200-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 14.5×7.2 cm.

The motif on the 200-krone banknote is Knippels Bridge, the bascule bridge linking Slotsholmen to Christianshavn in Copenhagen. The first bridge on this site was built from 1618 to 1620 by King Christian IV, while the present Knippelsbro, the fifth in the series, dates back to 1937. Issued on 19 October 2010.



500-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 15.5×7.2 cm.

The 500-krone banknote shows Dronning Alexandrine's Bridge, also called the Møn Bridge, since it connects the island of Møn with Kalvehave on Zealand. This bridge is a road arch bridge named after Queen Alexandrine who was married to King Christian X. It was opened in 1943. Issued on 15 February 2011.



1.000-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 16.5×7.2 cm.

The 1,000-krone banknote depicts the Eastern section of the Great Belt Bridge, i.e. the elevated bridge that was opened in 1998. This suspension bridge is 6,790 metres long, linking the island of Sprogø to Zealand. At 254 metres, the pylons are two of the highest points in Denmark. Issued on 24 May 2011.













Reverse

The reverse of the 50-krone banknote depicts the Skarpsalling Vessel, a clay vessel found in a stone burial chamber in Himmerland in 1891. The vessel dates back to around 3200 BC. It is one of the finest examples of pottery design and decoration known from Stone Age Denmark.

Reverse

The reverse of the 100-krone banknote shows the Hindsgavl Dagger – the supreme example of flint knapping in the Dagger Period. It was found on the island of Fænø in the Little Belt opposite Hindsgavl Manor around 1867 and dates back to 1900-1700 BC.

Reverse

The motif on the reverse of the 200-krone banknote is the Langstrup Belt Plate from North Zealand. Found in 1879 in a bog, it is the largest, fully preserved belt plate known to come from the early Bronze Age, approximately 1400 BC.

Reverse

The motif on the reverse of the 500-krone banknote is the Bronze Pail from Keldby on the island of Møn. It was found in 1826 when a range of hills was ploughed. The pail presumably dates back to around 300 BC and comes from Macedonia or the Greek Black Sea colonies.

Reverse

The reverse of the 1,000-krone banknote depicts the Sun Chariot found in 1902 when Trundholm Bog in western Zealand was ploughed. The spiral ornamentation adorning the golden sun disc reveals its Nordic origins. It was made in the early Bronze Age, probably in Denmark, in approximately 1400 BC.

BANKNOTES ADVANCED SECURITY

Technological advances mean that counterfeiters constantly gain access to improved tools for copying genuine banknotes. To remain one step ahead, Danmarks Nationalbank added new security features when introducing the 2009 banknote series.

Window thread and hologram

The new security features include a window thread with a wave pattern which moves up and down when the banknote is tilted from side to side – and vice versa. Another feature is a new, sophisticated hologram that reflects light in different colours.

Watermark, security thread and intaglio

Well-known security features such as the watermark and the hidden security thread have been retained. The watermark is visible when the banknote is held up to the light. The watermark shows a Viking Ship from Skuldelev in Roskilde Fiord, and the denomination of the banknote. The bridge and the denomination on the face of the banknote are printed in intaglio; you can feel them if you run your finger across them. Together with embossed print on the 100- and 200-krone banknotes, this helps the blind and partially sighted to tell the banknotes apart.

Hidden security features

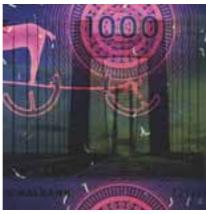
The banknotes also have security features that are not visible to the naked eye. With a magnifying glass, you can see micro text, as well as a fine pattern of lines and figures, called artscreens, on both the face and the reverse. In UV light, you can see fluorescent colours on both sides of the banknotes.



Watermark



Artscreens on the reverse of the note



Fluorescent colours that glows in UV light





BANKNOTES BRIDGES AND PREHISTORIC FINDS

The Skarpsalling Vessel

Late Stone Age, approximately 3200 BC.





The theme on the banknotes is Danish bridges and the surrounding landscapes. In 2006, eight artists were selected to submit their proposals for the motifs on the new banknotes. The winner was Karin Birgitte Lund, whose draft proposal included bridges and prehistoric finds. She reflects on her work with the motifs:

What gave you the idea of linking bridges with prehistoric finds?

»Several factors play a role when selecting the theme and motifs for a banknote series. The motifs must be closely related to Denmark, and they must stand out and be neutral at the same time. Many ideas came to mind, but one stood the distance, and that was Danish prehistoric finds. They have interested me since childhood, and this theme is a treasure trove of beautiful motifs. At the same time, the combination of prehistoric finds and bridges creates an overall theme: past and present.«

What made you select these prehistoric finds?

»I selected them because they are exquisite and elegantly crafted. Since the objects were found in the regions where the bridges are located, they also represent different parts of the country. In addition,









The Sun Chariot

Early Bronze Age, approximately 1400 BC.

Found in Trundholm Bog, western Zealand, in 1902.



their forms and colours vary, which is important when telling the banknotes apart.«

How did you work with the designs?

»I visited the landscapes where the five objects were found. After consulting the records of the National Museum of Denmark, I went to the exact same spots where the finds were made, soaking up a sense of the atmosphere and surrounding landscapes – which have, of course, changed over time. I made sure to go on my many trips to the various landscapes at different times of the year

to optimise the link between the design and the signature colours of the banknotes.«

What were your ideas about the banknote design?

»From the outset, I found it important to achieve a simple appearance through and through. A clear division of fields, lines and a clear colour signal that is emphasised in the coloured bar from top to bottom near the edge of the banknotes. I think I succeeded in creating a coherent, clear, simple banknote series in the spirit of classic Danish design.«



BANKNOTES THE FAROESE BANKNOTE SERIES

The Faroese banknote series was introduced over a period of four years – from 2001 to 2005. The motifs are inspired by the Faroese landscape and fauna. The faces of the banknotes show fragments of fauna, while the reverse motifs are reproductions of watercolours of Faroese landscapes. The watercolours are by the Faroese artist Zacharias Heinesen. The motifs have been chosen, among other reasons, for their dissimilarity, so that the banknotes are easy to distinguish from each other. The fauna motifs are fragments, which gives the banknotes a vivid appearance. The watercolours lend a special quality of lightness to the banknotes.

Background

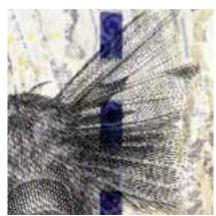
Pursuant to the Act on Banknotes etc. from 1949, Danmarks Nationalbank must produce special Faroese banknotes carrying Faroese text, but with the same denominations and formats as the banknotes issued in Denmark

The currency unit is the króna and the exchange rate to the Danish banknotes is 1:1. The Faroese banknotes are not legal tender in Denmark, but can be encashed to Danish banknotes free of charge at Danmarks Nationalbank. In the same way, Danish banknotes can be encashed to Faroese banknotes in the Faroe Islands. The coins in the Faroe Islands

and in Denmark are the same. Greenland, which is also part of the Commonwealth of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark, does not have its own banknote series but uses the Danish banknotes and coins.

Security features

The Faroese banknote series was upgraded with a new, more sophisticated window thread in 2012. The motif moves up and down when the banknote is tilted from side to side – and vice versa. Another new security feature is the face-and-reverse symbol, i.e. print on the face and reverse fits together to create a symbol when the banknote is held up to the light. At the same time, the watermark and the hidden thread become visible. The symbols have been inspired by decorations from old Faroese wooden churches. The security features help to secure the banknotes against counterfeiting.



Window thread



Watermark





50-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 12.5×7.2 cm.

The ram's horn on the 50-krone banknote is printed in intaglio. The background on the face of the banknote is a watercolour of a stone dyke.

Issued on 3 July 2001.



100-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 13.5×7.2 cm.

The motif for the 100-krone banknote is a fragment of a cod's tail printed in intaglio. Behind the motif is a watercolour with sea elements. Issued on 16 January 2003.



200-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 14.5×7.2 cm.

The 200-krone banknote shows a motif of a ghost moth printed in intaglio. The background is a watercolour with blades of grass.

Issued on 19 January 2004.



500-KRONE BANKNOTE

Format: 15.5×7.2 cm.

The 500-krone banknote depicts a fragment of a shore crab printed in intaglio. The background to the shore crab is a watercolour of the sandy seabed viewed through water. Issued on 30 November 2004.



1,000-KRONE BANKNOTE

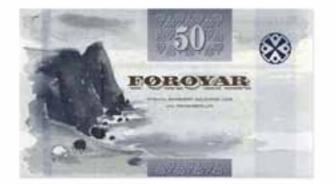
Format: 16.5×7.2 cm.

The 1,000-krone banknote shows a fragment of a purple sandpiper printed in intaglio.

Behind it is a watercolour of a flock of birds.

Issued on 15 September 2005.





Reverse

The reverse motif is a hillside from the village of Sumba on the west side of Suðuroy. The area is a typical habitat for sheep and rams, so a natural link is created between the ram on the face and the landscape on the reverse of the banknote.



Reverse

To match the cod on the face of the banknote, the reverse motif is a watercolour of Klaksvík, one of the most important Faroese fishing ports.



Reverse

The reverse of the banknote shows a watercolour of the island of Tindhólmur with its characteristic peaks.



Reverse

The motif on the reverse is a watercolour of the village of Hvannasund, where many shore crabs can be found along the beach.



Reverse

The motif on the reverse is a water-colour from the island of Sandoy.

Birds are part of the motif, as they are on the face of the banknote.



COINS THE DANISH COIN SERIES

The present coin series was introduced gradually in the period from 1989 to 1993. The background was that the 5-øre and 10-øre coins were taken out of circulation in 1989, so this was a suitable time to reform the coin series. Since the 25-øre coin was abolished in 2008, the series comprises six denominations: 50 øre, 1 krone, 2 kroner, 5 kroner, 10 kroner and 20 kroner.

The design of the coin series

The design of the coin series is intended to ensure that the coins are easy to tell apart. Consequently, they vary in size and colour. The division into colour sequences has its roots in history and is related to the metals used for the coins. Gold was used for the coins of the highest denominations, silver for the medium denominations and copper (bronze) for the lowest denominations. The 50-øre coins, and previously the 25-øre coins, are therefore copper-coloured, the 1-krone, 2-krone and 5-krone coins are silver-coloured and the 10-krone and 20-krone coins are gold-coloured.

The silver-coloured metal, cupro-nickel, used for the 1-krone, 2-krone and 5-krone coins is the most frequently used minting material. The hole in the centre is used in only few countries and is a distinguishing feature of the Danish coins. It is a Danish tradition that goes back to 1924.

The motifs on the coins

There are three different national characteristics in the present coin series: the 50-øre coin bears the crown, the 1-krone, 2-krone and 5-krone coins bear the Queen's monogram, while the 10-krone and 20-krone coins bear the portrait of the Queen. Traditionally, Danish coins have a distinct reference to the Crown. This is because in earlier times minting coins was the King's prerogative. A portrait of the King or the King's name as a monogram symbolised the King as guarantor of the right amount of metal in the coin.

The portrait of the Queen

Top: portrait by the sculptor Hanne Varming (used 1990-93); middle: portrait by medallist Jan Petersen (1994-99); and bottom: portrait by the sculptor, Professor Mogens Møller (2001-10). Right: portrait from 2011 by the sculptor Lis Nogel, created to mark the Queen's 70th birthday in 2010.













50-ØRE COIN

Diameter: 21.5 mm. Weight: 4.3 grams. Alloy: Tin bronze.

The royal crown is the most important symbol of royal and state power, and it is placed in the centre of the obverse of the 50-øre coin. The year of minting is shown at the top of the coin. The denomination is shown in the centre of the reverse. The heart, which is the mark of the Royal Danish Mint, is placed above the denomination. The 50-øre coin was put into circulation in 1989.



Diameter: 20.25 mm. Weight: 3.6 grams. Alloy: Cupro-nickel.

The obverse shows the Queen's monogram interlinked by three crowns. This design deviates from the customary depiction of the monogram, but this is not unusual since coins with a hole in the centre represent a particular challenge. The threefold reproduction is deeply rooted in Danish coin history. The ornamentation on the reverse is inspired by prehistoric finds. The 1-krone coin was put into circulation in 1993.





Diameter: 24.5 mm. Weight: 5.9 grams.

The same motif as on the 1-krone coin. The 2-krone coin was put into circulation in 1993.



Diameter: 28.5 mm. Weight: 9.2 grams. Alloy: Cupro-nickel.

The same motif as on the 1-krone coin. The 5-krone coin was put into circulation in 1990.





10-KRONE COIN

Diameter: 23.35 mm. Weight: 7.0 grams. Alloy: Aluminium bronze.

The obverse depicts a portrait of the Queen, in keeping with tradition for the highest denominations in a Danish coin series. The reverse depicts the small coat of arms, also called the national coat of arms. The 10-krone coin was issued in 1989 together with the 50-øre coin as the first coins in the current series. Since then, the motif has been redesigned several times. Since 2011, a portrait of the Queen designed by the sculptor Lis Nogel has been used, and the reverse has been designed by Ronny Andersen, Royal Herald Painter.







Alloy: Cupro-nickel.

The same motif as on the 10-krone coin. The 20-krone coin was first issued in 1990. Coins with Lis Nogel's portrait of the Queen and Ronny Andersen's coat of arms were put into circulation in 2011.

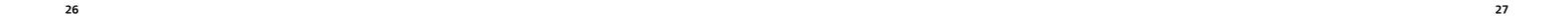
Diameter: 27.0 mm. Weight: 9.3 grams.

20-KRONE COIN

Alloy: Aluminium bronze.









COINS MINT MARK AND COAT OF ARMS

Since the introduction of the krone coin in 1875, all Danish coins have been embossed with a heart. This is the mint mark of the Royal Danish Mint. Most foreign coins by far also bear a special mark somewhere on the coins. For the first many years, the heart was small and discretly located. But the artist Johan Alkjær, who originally designed the present coin series, has deliberately used the heart as a distinctive decorative element on the coins, most clearly on the 1-krone, 2-krone and 5-krone coins, where it is shown twice on each side. The use of the heart dates back to 1690, when it was the private mark of the mint master. It was used until 1749, followed by a period without any particular mint mark on the Danish coins. In 1875, the heart was again used on the coins on the introduction of the new currency system with kroner and øre replacing rigsdaler and skilling.

Coat of arms

The reverse of the 10-krone and 20-krone coins depicts the small coat of arms, also called the national coat of arms. For centuries, this has been the mark of Denmark. On the coins, the small national coat of arms and the large royal coat of arms have taken turns from back in history to today. The 1-krone and 5-krone coins issued under Queen Margrethe II from 1973 to 1989 depict the large coat of arms, while the small coat of arms is depicted in various designs on the 10-krone and 20-krone coins in the present series. The coins from 2011 bear the most recent design of the small coat of arms. It is a classic design with similarities with the design of the 1-krone and 2-krone coins minted under King Frederik IX in 1947-59.

The coat of arms on the reverse of the 10-krone coin

Top: coat of arms designed by Johan Alkjær (used 1989-2002); middle: coat of arms by the sculptor, Professor Mogens Møller (2003-10); and bottom: coat of arms by Ronny Andersen (2011-).







COINS COMMEMORATIVE AND THEMATIC COINS

Commemorative coins

Denmark has a tradition for issuing commemorative coins to mark special events in the Royal Family, e.g. accession to the throne, jubilees, weddings, silver and golden anniversaries and special birthdays. Like the ordinary 10-krone and 20-krone coins, commemorative coins have a portrait of the monarch on the obverse, often a portrait designed for the occasion. Since the Queen's 50th birthday in 1990, the royal commemorative coins have been issued as 20-krone coins put into general circulation and a special collector's edition in silver. Originally, the silver coin was a 200-krone coin, but the silver commemorative coin issued to mark the Queen's 70th birthday in 2010 was a 500-krone coin. On this occasion, a commemorative gold coin was also issued, as a novelty.

Thematic coins

Since 2002, Danmarks Nationalbank has issued coin series with common motifs. The themes of the 20-krone coins have been towers and ships, while those of the 10-krone coins have been fairy tales and Polar Year motifs. A portrait of the Queen is depicted on the obverse of all thematic coins. The series with motifs from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales was issued in 2005-07 to mark the 200th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen's birth. In 2007-09, it was followed by a series of three coins to mark the International Polar Year. The Fairy Tale and Polar Year coins were also issued in collector's editions in silver and gold.

200-krone silver coin, obverse and reverse

Issued in connection with the silver jubilee of Queen Margrethe II on 14 January 1997. Designed by the medallist Jan Petersen.





1,000-krone gold coin, reverse

The gold coins in the Polar Year series were minted from gold mined in Greenland. The Polar Bear coin's motif was designed by the Greenlandic artist Niels Motzfeldt.





10-krone silver coin, reverse

The 10-krone silver coin is part of the Fairy Tale series – here with a motif from Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Nightingale', created by the sculptor Torben Ebbesen.





APPENDIX BANKNOTES AND COINS A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The first coins

The history of coinage goes back far beyond the banknote tradition. The first Danish coins are believed to have been minted in Hedeby in Schleswig in the early 9th century. The first coin bearing the name of a Danish king was minted by Svend Tveskæg (Sweyn Forkbeard) around the year 995 and shows the King's portrait, name and title. For many centuries, Danish coinage was based on silver. The value of the coins was determined by their weight.

The first banknotes

Banknotes first became part of the Danish money supply in the years 1713-28. The heavy costs of warfare during the Great Northern War resulted in silver coins flowing out of Denmark. The state issued authorised notes in order to facilitate trade. The notes were to have the same value as the silver coins, but could not be exchanged for silver. This led to loss of confidence in the notes, and their value soon fell to far below their nominal value. The notes were withdrawn after the war. The first notes were pre-printed, with the amount, number and signatures added by hand. Over five months in 1713 around 120,000 notes were issued. For comparison, the present volume of Danish banknotes in circulation is 161 million banknotes of different denominations.

Danmarks Nationalbank is established

In 1737, Denmark's first bank was established and was given the sole right to issue banknotes. The ensuing period was characterised by unstable monetary conditions culminating in the State Bankruptcy in 1813, when the banknotes virtually became worthless. As part of the restoration of the monetary system, the "Nationalbanken i Kjøbenhavn" was established as a private limited liability company in 1818. The bank was in private ownership since experience had shown that it was not recommendable for the state to handle the issue of banknotes.

The Nationalbank was given the sole right to issue banknotes, and Danmarks Nationalbank retained this right on its reorganisation as a self-governing institution in 1936.

Introduction of the krone

In 1875, kroner and øre replaced rigsdaler and skilling. At the same time, the gold standard replaced the silver standard. The latter part of the 19th century was characterised by expanding economic activity and thus also by a need for means of payment that were easier to handle than coins. Consequently, banknotes were increasingly used instead of coins.

The value of money

Up to 1914, any holder of a banknote could exchange it for an equivalent amount in gold coins. This gold standard was abolished on the outbreak of World War I. In 1927, the gold standard was partly reintroduced, but was abolished finally in 1931. Today, the value of money does not depend on a particular metal value, but is based on the confidence that it will maintain its purchasing power. The purpose of monetary policy is to ensure low inflation and thus to maintain this confidence.

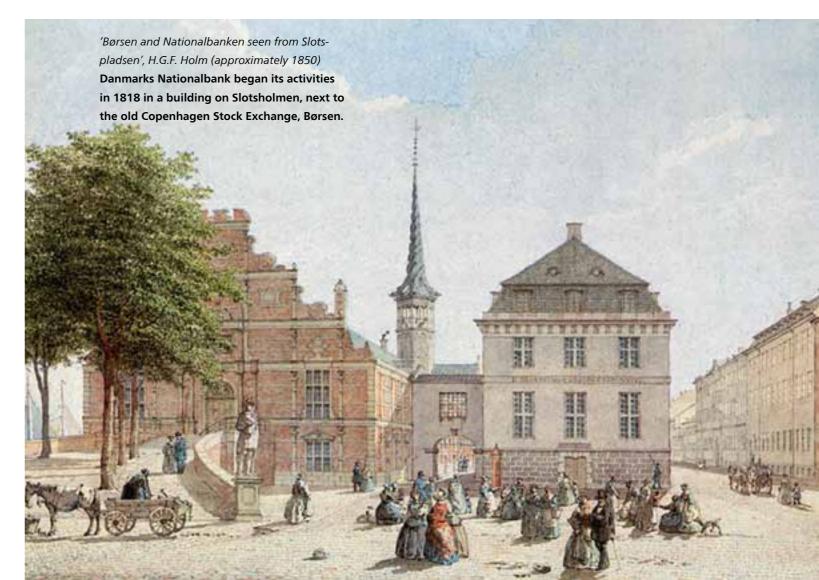
Seigniorage

Historically, issuing money has been a royal prerogative, one of the reasons being that it generates considerable revenue. This revenue is called seigniorage. When Danmarks Nationalbank distributes cash, this corresponds to raising an interest-free loan. The value of the loan can be invested in interest-bearing assets. When the costs for production and distribution of banknotes and coins are deducted, what remains is a considerable source of income for Danmarks Nationalbank. Since Danmarks Nationalbank's profit after allocations to reserves is payable to the Treasury, the seigniorage benefits society as a whole.



Rigsdaler banknote (1713)

The first authorized banknotes were issued in 1713.



APPENDIX MORE ABOUT BANKNOTES AND COINS

The maximum sentence for counterfeiting

Counterfeiting, attempted counterfeiting or aiding and abetting counterfeiting are criminal offences under sections 166-168 of the Danish Penal Code. The maximum sentence for counterfeiting is 12 years' imprisonment, which is one of the most severe penalties under the Penal Code. Even manufacture and issue of only a few counterfeit banknotes usually leads to an unsuspended prison sentence. Accomplices are also prosecuted. The provisions of the Penal Code apply to counterfeiting of both Danish and foreign banknotes and coins.

Use of banknotes and coins as illustrations

Banknotes can be useful as illustrations in advertisements, printed matter and on Internet pages. It is important, however, that they cannot be mistaken for genuine banknotes.

Guidelines for the use of banknotes and coins as illustrations can be found at www.nationalbanken.dk under Notes and coins.

Counterfeit and discoloured banknotes

Many banks use colour cartridges that discolour the banknotes when activated in connection with robbery. The folder 'Kun ærlige penge, tak' (in Danish only) shows examples of banknotes damaged by colour cartridges and explains what to do if presented with suspicious banknotes. Contact your bank if you are in doubt as to whether a banknote is genuine or has been discoloured after a robbery.

For more information, see www.nationalbanken.dk under Rules.

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Banknotes valid in Denmark

Banknotes from the old 1997 series are still legal tender in Denmark. In fact, all banknotes issued since 1945 are legal tender and can be exchanged for new banknotes at Danmarks Nationalbank. Faroese banknotes can be exchanged at Danmarks Nationalbank, but are not legal tender in Denmark.

For more information, see www.nationalbanken.dk under Notes and coins.

Coins valid in Denmark

All coins issued after the introduction of the krone in 1875 can be redeemed at face value at Danmarks Nationalbank, provided that the denomination in question is still in circulation. Consequently, coins with a nominal value of 1, 2, 5, 10 or 25 øre cannot be redeemed as these denominations are no longer legal tender. In the period 1924-40, a coin was minted with a nominal value of ½ krone. These coins were taken out of circulation at end-1942 and made invalid. Hence, they cannot be redeemed.

For more information, see www.kgl-moent.dk

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