

## Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9.30 – 16.00 hrs

Closed on week-ends and public holidays

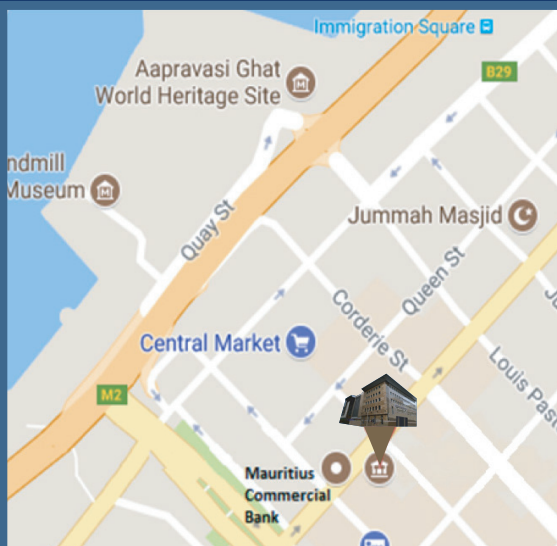
## Please Share Your Views

The Bank of Mauritius Museum welcomes your feedback, suggestions and enquiries.

Queries pertaining to The Bank of Mauritius Museum can be sent by email to [museum@bom.mu](mailto:museum@bom.mu) or by post to:

**The Bank of Mauritius Museum**  
**Sir William Newton Street**  
**Port Louis**  
**Mauritius**

Questions from the media or on the Bank's functions, publications and statistics must be sent to [communications@bom.mu](mailto:communications@bom.mu)



*The Bank of Mauritius Museum*

## Guided Visits

Guided visits of The Bank of Mauritius Museum are available for groups and schools.

These visits of a duration of 20 minutes can be arranged by speaking to our Museum Officers on +230 2023800.

Our staff will be glad to help you visit and appreciate the currency heritage of Mauritius.

For more information on The Bank of Mauritius Museum, follow us:

 [www.bom.mu](http://www.bom.mu)



 BoM museum



 Trip advisor

**The Bank of Mauritius Museum**

**Sir William Newton Street**

**Port Louis, Mauritius**

**Tel: +230 2023800**





Mauritius, aptly nicknamed the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, was a flourishing port and trading settlement in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Gold and silver coins minted and used in European and other countries found their way to our shores. The diversity of foreign coins and the fact that the island was the de-facto port of call in the Indian Ocean resulted in Mauritius having a truly rich history, even as regards currency.

With the vast collection gathered in collaboration with the MCB group, HSBC, Thomas De La Rue and Royal Mint, the Bank of Mauritius Museum preserves and showcases the rich history and evolution of the currency in the country.



**THE DUTCH PERIOD (1598-1710)**

During the Dutch period, specifically during the reign of the Stadholder Maurits Van Nassau, a coin known as “Ducaton” was minted. It had the value of half a ducat, which was worth half a franc, and was identifiable by the flowers arranged in an inverted cross. The Ducaton was the first ever coin to bear the word “Mauritius”. Although it was created to mark the reign of Prince Van Nassau, the Ducaton stands as a landmark in the history of our currency.



**THE FRENCH PERIOD (1715-1810)**

It was in 1722, seven years after the French took possession of the island, that the Livre Tournois was introduced in Mauritius. The currency was used by the first French settlers.

The Livre Tournois was originally minted in Tours. For several decades, the colony’s lack of liquidity was somewhat kept in check through administrative tinkering and the issue of paper money or even the use of playing cards in lieu of currency. These delaying tactics served the purpose until the situation became so critical that Charles Decaen, the French Governor in Mauritius, had no other option than mint a coin locally. The coin was named the Piastre Decaën.



*Charles Mathieu Isidore Decaen  
(13.04.1769 – 09.09.1832)*

**THE BRITISH PERIOD (1810-1968)**

After they took possession of the island, the British decided not to make any significant change to the local monetary system. They continued using the locally minted French Piastre Decaën and only brought a slight change by engraving CC for ‘Crown Colonies’ on the coin. It was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1822, under George IV that a writ was issued to instruct the minting of small denomination coins known as the Anchor coinage. Based on the Spanish dollar, the silver coins were struck only for British colonies and in four denominations.

**EVOLUTION OF CURRENCY AND BANKING SECTOR IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

In August 1849, under Ordinance No.6 issued in that same year, the British Imperial Government, established the Board of Commissioners of Currency in Mauritius. Its prime objective was to eliminate the use of multiple competing currencies within the economy through a complete and absolute guarantee of convertibility into the British Pound Sterling at a stable rate of exchange. This Board was the first such entity across the whole British colonies and was replicated over the years in other British colonies. A major development occurred in 1934 when the Indian Rupee, which had been in use since 1877, was replaced by a new Mauritian Rupee. The new Mauritian Rupee was linked to the British Pound Sterling.

On 5 April 1966, a Sessional Paper on the establishment of the Bank of Mauritius was circulated in the Mauritius Legislative Council. Draft legislation for setting up the Bank of Mauritius was prepared with the support of the Bank of England. A bill embodying this legislation was passed by the legislative Assembly on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1966, receiving the assent of the Governor on 28 September of that year. The foundation of a central bank of the country marked the beginning of a new phase in the monetary history of Mauritius. With the setting up of the Bank of Mauritius, the monetary system moved forward from the stage of “Sterling exchange standard”, under which currency is issued in exchange for sterling at a fixed rate of exchange, to that of “managed currency” in which the discretionary role of the monetary authority becomes important.



**Tael Batavia  
(Indonesia)  
1456**

The Tael was minted in Dutch Batavia (Indonesia) around the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The rarity of the coin is such that even numismatic reference books and catalogues only display a mere drawing of the coin in lieu of a photograph. The coin derives its name from the ‘tael’ weighing unit used for denominating the value in silver of traditional Chinese silver ‘sycees’ and other currencies. This coin is on permanent exhibition at the Bank of Mauritius Museum.

								
Gold Dinar	Ducaton	Isle de France et Bourbon 3 Sols	Piastre Decaen	Anchor Coinage	Domain Currency	Indian Rupee	First Mauritian Rupee	Latest Mauritian Rupee
1154	1622	1779	1810	1820	1842	1876	1934	2018