

What is a Museum

A museum is a non-profit making, permanent institution in the service of society and of its development and is open to the public. It acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence relating to people and their environment.

Museums are an important means of promoting cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding and co-operation among peoples.

The International Museum Day is celebrated worldwide on 18 May.



Romano-Maltese Sextans AE
The First Coin of Malta
(c. 211 BC)

The Central Bank of Malta hopes that this permanent exhibition will make a contribution to the enjoyment and understanding of Malta's numismatic history.



The exhibition is located in the Bank's main premises and is open to the general public, free of charge, during the Bank's office hours Monday - Friday (08.30 - 16.00)

Visiting groups need to make prior arrangements with the Bank.
tel 2550 2000 • fax. 2550 2500
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www.centralbankmalta.com



The Central Bank of Malta
Currency Museum



A Permanent Exhibition on the History of Coinage in Malta



Coinage in Malta

The Maltese Islands have known three periods of numismatic culture confirmed by the issue of coins.

The first is the little known, autonomous issue of a bronze coinage struck after the islands were ceded to Rome by the Carthaginians at the outbreak of the Second Punic War (218 BC). These Romano - Maltese bronze coins reflect the triple (Punic/Greek/Roman) culture prevalent during the last two centuries BC.

The second, and better known, was the period of the rule of the Order of St. John whose coinage, struck between 1530 and 1798, has been the

subject of a number of publications.

The third period, much more recent, began with the establishment of the Central Bank of Malta in 1968, the demonetization of British currency during 1971-72 and the subsequent issue of Maltese coins.

A comprehensive explanation on the coins used in Malta can be found in the publication 'Currency in Malta', written by Comm. Joseph C Sammut, which was published by the Bank in 2001. Comm. Sammut is Malta's internationally recognised authority on Maltese coins and an advisor to the Bank on numismatics.

The Central Bank of Malta has devoted a section of its currency museum to an interesting collection of coins, which stretch over the past two millennia, starting from the Punic-Roman period to the early British era. The collection is representative of coins that circulated in Malta during this period and, while providing evidence of Malta's rich numismatic history, gives an insight into the Islands' very varied past.

A detailed description of each coin and an explanation of each of the periods during which the coins circulated complement the coins on display.



A Permanent Currency Exhibition

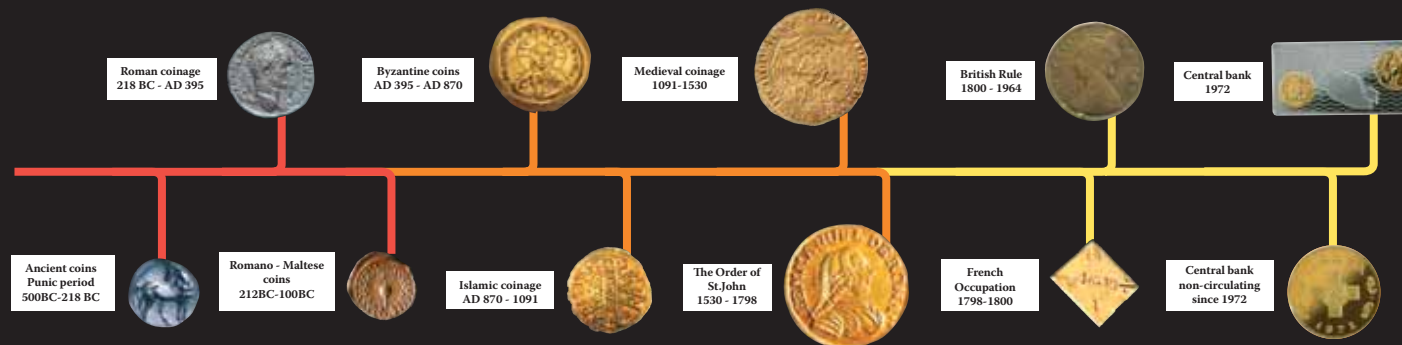
The Currency Museum of the Central Bank of Malta has a display of the circulating and numismatic coins minted since the establishment of the Bank as well as paper currency in Malta issued since 1914.

The Museum also incorporates a selection of coins representing the main stages of Malta's numismatic history, which date back to Punic-Roman times.

On exhibit are the various gold and silver coins and banknotes issued by the Bank since 1968. The first of

these was struck in 1972, when a gold and silver set was issued in conjunction with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) in Rome. A representative sample of coins donated by the SMOM to the Bank is also on display.

The Museum hosts a collection of all non-circulating legal tender coins issued by the Bank for numismatic purposes. These coins commemorate national or international events, or feature distinguished personalities, historical monuments and edifices, Maltese flora and fauna and folklore.



A selection of commemorative gold and silver coins issued by the Bank since 1972.

The Malta Coins Distribution Centre is the sales outlet of the Central Bank of Malta for gold and silver commemorative coins, Maltese banknotes and uncirculated decimal coins. All commemorative coins have a legal tender value in terms of the provisions of the Central Bank of Malta Act 1967.

Orders, comments or questions regarding Maltese currency may be addressed directly to: Malta Coins Distribution Centre, Central Bank of Malta, Piazza Kastilja, Valletta, CMR 01, MALTA e-mail: mcdc@centralbankmalta.com

A Historyline of Maltese Coinage