GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW VENEZUELAN CURRENCY “BOLÍVAR FUERTE” (STRONG BOLÍVAR)

OCTOBER 2007

2nd. version
New banknote series of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

- The new series is comprised by six banknotes.
- The images in the obverse enhance the nationality and the ethnic origins of Venezuelans. Independence heroes and important people have been selected.
- For the first time, the images of women and Indigenous and African-Venezuelan popular heroes have been selected.
- It is worth mentioning that the reverse bear Venezuelan wildlife in danger of extinction. This is aimed at bringing sensibility to the population regarding environmental issues and respect for biodiversity in Venezuela.
- The landscapes depicted in the banknotes are aimed at reflecting the geographic richness of Venezuela.
- Innovative vertical design of the obverse side.
- The banknotes will remain the Bolívares (Bs.) denomination.
New banknote series of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Obverse
New banknote series of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Reverse
Design of the Bs. 2 banknote

**Obverse:**
- Issuing country
- Serials
- Denomination in Numbers and Letters
- Signatures of BCV Officials
- Francisco de Miranda “Generalísimo”

**Reverse:**
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing Bank
- “Médanos de Coro” National Park
- Worm flower
- Tonina, “Inia geoffrensis.” (River dolphin)
Design of the Bs. 2 banknote

**Francisco de Miranda “Generalísimo”**: Miranda was born in Caracas on March 28, 1750. His father was from the Canary Islands and his mother was from Caracas. He is considered the precursor of independence in Venezuela and the Americas. He also participated in the independence process of the United States of America and the French Revolution. He is regarded as the “first universal Venezuelan” due to his studies and traveling spirit. He was fluent in many languages and was able to translate from Greek and Latin. He brought the Venezuelan flag and raised it in La Vela de Coro on August 3, 1806. He is also a signer of the Venezuelan declaration of Independence. He died in Cádiz, Spain, on July 14, 1816. The portrait of the *Generalísimo* Francisco de Miranda is a copy of the original by Charles Rouget and painted by Charles Ventrillon-Horber.

**Tonina, “Inia geoffrensis”**: A river dolphin considered the largest freshwater cetacean in the world. They can be found from Venezuela to Peru. In Venezuela, they are typically found in the rivers flowing into the Orinoco River, such as Casiquiare and Negro. The main threat they face is the construction of dams in their habitat because they hinder their natural genetic reproduction and divide their populations.

**Médanos de Coro National Park**: Extensive sand dunes that form a desert. It was declared a national park on February 6, 1974. It is located on an isthmus in Falcón state. Its formation is characterized by trade winds traveling east-west. This park is one of the most important national parks of the Venezuelan landscape.

**Worm Flower**: This marine species belong to the polychaetes family. They are found in the Caribbean Sea, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, especially on hard surfaces such as rocks and reefs, docks pillars and ships surfaces.
Design of the Bs. 5 banknote

Obverse:
- Issuing country
- Serials
- Denomination in Numbers and Letters
- Signatures of BCV officials
- Pedro Camejo (Negro Primero)

Reverse:
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing Bank
- Venezuelan Plains
- Cuspón or Giant Cachicamo, “Priodontes maximus”
Pedro Camejo (Negro Primero): He was born in San Juan de Paraya in Apure state in 1790. He joined the ranks of the Spanish Imperial Army at the beginning of the Independence War. In 1816, he joined the Republican forces led by General José Antonio Páez. In this army he became a cavalry lieutenant. He was one of the 150 lancers who participated in the Queseras del Medio Battle (April 2, 1819) and he was condecorated with the Liberators of Venezuela medal. He died in the heat of battle in the Carabobo battle on June 24, 1821, where he said his last words to General Páez: “I came to say farewell because I am already dead”.

The image is inspired by the bronze bust of Lieutenant Pedro Camejo (Negro Primero), casted in 1930 by Antonio Radríguez del Villar. This bust is located in the Carabobo battlefield.

Cuspón or Giant Cachicamo, *Priodontes maximus*: Similar to the armadillo, the cachicamo can be found from the north of Venezuela, Colombia and Guyana to Argentina. In Venezuela they can be found in the Coast mountainrange and in the Andes foothills. Their main threat is relentless hunting for human consumption and the use of their paws as raw material for souviners.

The Plains: The Venezuelan Plains, or *Llanos*, is a vast tropical grassland plain situated at the east of the Andes in northwestern Venezuela. Its main river is the Orinoco. The extension of the plains is estimated at 260,000 sq. Kms. This large territory slopes gradually away from the highland areas that surround it and the river basins.
Design of the Bs. 10 banknote

**Obverse:**
- Issuing country
- Serials
- Denomination in Numbers and Letters
- Signatures of BCV officials
- Guaicaipuro Chief

**Reverse:**
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing Bank
- Ucayima Falls and Venado and Kurún tepuyes (Canaima National Park)
- Arpía eagle, “Harpia harpyja”
Guaicaipuro Chief: He was an Indian chief of the Teques and Caracas tribes. He led the resistance against the Spanish conquistadores in the north-central region in 1560. It is worth mentioning that his name was Guacaipuro originally. All the other indian chiefs in the region - Naiguatá, Guaicamacuto, Aramaipuro, Chacao, Baruta, Paramaconi and Chicharama – recognized him as the supreme leader and they led the uprising against the Spaniards. After an unsuccessful attack on the newly-founded city of Caracas, Spanish conquistador Diego de Losada ordered his capture. He died in an ambush to his hut. In December, 2001, an engraved plaque was placed in a ceremony at the National Panteon in Caracas.

This image was taken from the *Mapas y Alegorías Venezolanas* work and it was painted by Pedro Centeno Vallenilla.

**Ucayima Falls and Venado and Kurún tepuyes (Canaima National Park):** Canaima National Park is located in the southeastern part of Venezuela. It was decreed as a national park on June 12, 1962 comprising 1 million hectares. In 1975, it was expanded to 3 million hectares. It is one of the biggest national parks in the world. The tepuys are table-top mountains and they sit at the northern basin of the Caroní river, the biggest water source in Venezuela’s hydroelectrical grid.

Arpía eagle, “*Harpia harpyja*”: They live in a territory spanning from Mexico to Argentina. They represent the biggest representation of the Accipitridae. Their habitat is located at the north of the Orinoco basin nad in the states of Carabobo, Aragua, Miranda and the Capital District. They are specially vulnerable to the trespassing of their habitat and humans represent their main threat.
Design of the Bs. 20 banknote

**Obverse:**
- Issuing country
- Serials
- Denomination in Numbers and Letters
- Signatures of BCV officials
  - Luisa Cáceres de Arismendi

**Reverse:**
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing Bank
- Macanao Mountain Range
- Hawksbill Turtle, “Eretmochelys imbricata”

**Issues:**
- The banknote features a portrait of a woman, possibly representing a notable figure in Venezuelan history.
- The denomination is 20 Bolívares
- The serial number is A00000000
- The banknote includes the coat of arms and the Macanao Mountain Range, along with the image of a Hawksbill Turtle.

**Issuing Bank:**
- Banco Central de Venezuela
Luisa Cáceres de Arismendi: She was born in Caracas on September 25, 1799. She was married to Juan Bautista Arismendi, a patriot general. She was placed under arrest by the Spanish Army as an extortion measure for her husband and was held prisoner for three years. She wholeheartedly supported the Independence cause, as well as her husband, despite all the suffering she endured during her imprisonment. She died in Caracas in 1866. Her remains were taken to the National Pantheon on August 24, 1876.

This portrait of Luisa Cáceres de Arismendi is an oil on canvas painting done by Jacinto Mauri, circa 1899.

Hawksbill Turtle, “Eretmochelys imbricata”: These turtles can be found in tropical shallow waters. Nevertheless, they hatch on firm land. Thier most common hatching places are in Los Roques Archipelago and La Blanquilla island. Their populations are threatened by hunters that look for their shells for profit, as well as their meat.

Macanao Mountain Range: The Macanao peninsula is a marvelous and relatively unknown place in Margarita island. It is part of the La Restinga National Park. It is almost uninhabited and there are wonderful beaches and breathtaking vistas.
Design of the Bs. 50 banknote

**Obverse:**
- Issuing country
- Serials
- Denomination in Numbers and Letters
- Signatures of BCV officials
- Simón Rodríguez

**Reverse:**
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing Bank
- Lagoon of the Santo Cristo (Sierra Nevada National Park).
- Spectacled Bear, “Tremarctos ornatus”
Simón Rodríguez: He was born in Caracas on October 28, 1769. Rodríguez was a philosopher and academic whose intellectual work is still studied. He was an expert on Hispanic Americas societies. He was teacher and mentor of Simón Bolívar, to whom he referred as “Colombia’s Socrates”. In 1797 he became involved in the independence process along with Manuel Gual and José María España, and due to the failure of this process, he went into exile to Jamaica, where he changed his name to Samuel Robinson. He died in Peru in 1854. His remains remained in Peru until 1954. On February 28, 1954, his remains were taken to the National Panteon in Caracas.

This portrait is an oil on canvas painted by Juan Agustín Guerrero.

Spectacled Bear, “Tremarctos ornatus”: This is the only bear species in South America. They can be found in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, especially in the Andes mountain range. In Venezuela they can be found in the states of Barinas, Táchira, Mérida, Trujillo and Zulia. Undiscriminated hunting is the main cause of their diminishing numbers.

Lagoon of the Santo Cristo (Sierra Nevada National Park): It is one of the wonderful places in Mérida state and this mountain lagoon is the biggest in Venezuela.
Design of the Bs. 100 banknote

**Obverse:**
- Issuing country
- Serials
- Denomination in Numbers and Letters
- Signatures of BCV officials
- Simón Bolívar “The Liberator”

**Reverse:**
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing Bank
- Guaraira Repano (El Ávila National Park)
- Small Cardinal, “*Carduelis cucullata*”
Simón Bolívar: He was born in Caracas on July 24, 1783. He was influenced by Republican ideas. He was one of the ideological supporters of Venezuelan and South American emancipation. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela became independent thanks to his thoughts and actions. He led a number of campaigns against the Spanish Imperial Army. The Cartagena Manifesto, the Jamaica Letter and the Angostura Speech are among his most notable documents. He died in Santa Marta, Colombia, on December 17, 1830. In 1842 his remains were taken to the Cathedral of Caracas and in 1876 his remains were taken to the National Panteon, also in Caracas.

This oil on canvas portrait of The Liberator is called “Diplomatic Bolivar” (1860) and it was painted by Rita Matilde de la Peñuela “Aita.”

Small Cardinal, “Carduelis cucullata”: This species are considered the most threatened species in Venezuela. They can currently be found in the states of Falcón, Lara, Anzoátegui, Guárico and Miranda. The small cardinal is hunted relentlessly in order to use its feather as an ornament, as well as for breeding with parakeets in order to obtain red offspring. If urgent measures are not taken soon, this beautiful bird could become extinguished in the near future.

Guaraira Repano (El Ávila National Park): This national park lies in the northern coast of Venezuela and the Caracas valley. It was enacted as a national park on December 12, 1958, in order to preserve the green areas near Caracas, as well as serving as an environmental protection park and a recreation space.
New coin series of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

- The new series is comprised by seven coins.
- The Bs. 1 coin will be the main reference of the series.
- The 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent denominations have been reintroduced. The “locha” (12½ cents) has also been reintroduced.
- The 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins have their denomination, as well as eight stars, on the obverse. The 12½ cent coin is decorated with graphic syntheses that symbolize palms.
- The Bs. 1 coin maintains the effigy of Simón Bolívar, The Liberator, which was used for the first time in 1873 and was done by the engraver Albert. D. Barre (1818-1878) of the Paris Mint. Barre was inspired by a drawing of Venezuelan painter Carmelo Fernández.
- The 10, 12½, 25 and 50 cent coins maintain the traditional silver color.
- The 1 and 5 cent coins are copperish colored.
- Coins are important due to the ability to enable the completion of exact payment.
New coin series
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Obverse

Reverse
New coin series of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – 1 CENT

Obverse
- Coin denomination
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Venezuelan Mint
- 8 five-point stars

Reverse
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Issuing year
New coin series of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – 5 CENTS

Obverse
- Coin denomination
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Venezuelan Mint
- 8 five-point stars

Reverse
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Issuing year
- Repúblca Bolivariana de Venezuela
New coin series
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela—10 CENTS

Obverse
- Coin denomination
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Venezuelan Mint
- 8 five-point stars

Reverse
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Issuing year
New coin series
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – 12½ CENTS

Obverse
- Coin denomination
- Image of a palm leaf on the right and left side
- Venezuelan Mint
- 8 five-point stars

Reverse
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Issuing year
New coin series
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – 25 CENTS

Obverse

- Coin denomination
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Venezuelan Mint
- 8 five-point stars

Reverse

- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Issuing year
- 2007

BANCO CENTRAL DE VENEZUELA
New coin series
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – 50 CENTS

Obverse

- Coin denomination
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Venezuelan Mint
- 8 five-point stars

Reverse

- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Issuing year
New coin series
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – 1 BOLÍVAR

Obverse
- Effigy of Simón Bolívar, The Liberator
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Venezuelan Mint

Reverse
- Coat of Arms
- Issuing country
- Wave lines that form the bands of the Flag of Venezuela
- Mint denomination
- Issuing year
- 8 five-point stars
If you have any doubts you can call toll-free
(Spanish)

0-800-bolívar
(265.48.27)

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