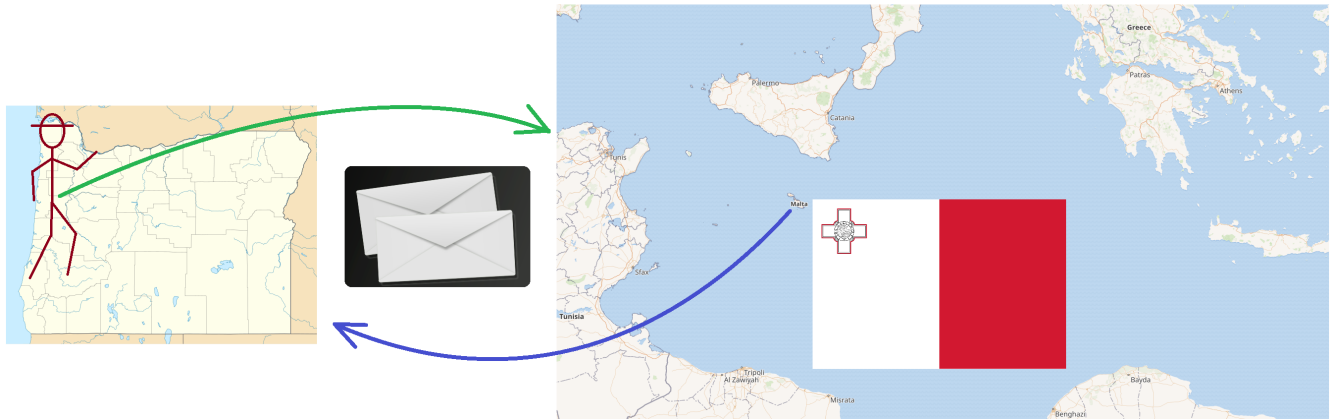


Central Bank of Malta / Mac Stevens Communications 2024/02/09 – 2025/01/07



From February 2024 to January 2025, through over a dozen communications with the Central Bank of Malta, I learned about the 2023 Malta €5 1-ounce silver Land Of The Free Bison coin.

Summary

Date	↔	Mode	Description
2024/02/09	Stevens → Malta	email	How can LOTF Bison coin be obtained? Prices?
2024/03/05	Stevens → Malta	email	Freedom of Information Act request
2024/03/06	Stevens ← Malta	email	Freedom of Information Act rejection
2024/03/07	Stevens → Malta	email	FOI rejection query
*2024/04/14	Stevens → Malta	email	FOI rejection query, resend
*2024/10/08	Stevens → Malta	email	FOI rejection query, resend
2024/10/15	Stevens → Malta	email	LOTF Bison questions Q1-Q5
2024/10/15	Stevens → Malta	post	Sample coins, customs fee, LOTF Bison questions Q1-Q5
2024/12/08	Stevens ← Malta	email	Freedom of Information Act response
2024/12/10	Stevens → Malta	email	Acknowledgement, notify sample coin sent by courier.
2024/12/10	Stevens → Malta	courier	Sample coin
2024/12/18	Stevens ← Malta	email	Customs fee received. No coin received.
*2024/12/18	Stevens → Malta	email	No need to return customs fee.
2024/12/19	Stevens → Malta	email	LOTF Bison questions Q6-Q9
2024/12/30	Stevens → Malta	email	LOTF Bison questions Q6-Q9
2025/01/07	Stevens → Malta	email	Concede defeat.

* items marked with asterisk are based on recollection, for which my records are incomplete.

I learned:

“The silver coin you are referring to, was issued by the Central Bank of Malta in collaboration with the Royal Dutch Mint. The reverse side of the coin displays the coat of arms of the Central Bank of Malta, signifying its role as the legal issuer. The obverse side showcases the theme/design approved by the Central Bank of Malta - i.e. Land of the Free Bison. Under the agreement this coin was solely intended for the American market and therefore it was not available to the Bank’s customers and consequently this coin issue was not advertised on the website.

However, all coins issued by the Bank and other collaborations with mint houses not having sale exclusion clauses, as was the case for the Bison coin, are advertised on the Bank’s website and on its communication media. You can find coins available for sale by the Bank on website <https://www.maltacoincentre.com/>

Issuance of collector coins 1. Collector coins shall have the status of legal tender only in the issuing Member State. The identity of the issuing Member State shall be clearly and easily recognisable on the coin. 2. In order to be easily differentiated from circulation coins, collector coins shall meet all of the following criteria: (a) their face value must be different from the face values of circulation coins; (b) their images must not be similar to the common sides of circulation coins, and if their images are similar to any national side of circulation coins, their overall appearance can still be easily differentiated

Specifically in response to your questions please note:

1. Which grades (e.g., proof, bullion etc.) were minted?

The silver coins were only issued in bullion grade

2. For each grade, how many coins were minted?

675,000 coins of the silver bullion version

3. For each grade, what was the issue price?

As stated, the coins were specifically for the American market and the Bank was not involved in the pricing, since this was an arrangement between the Royal Dutch Mint and its American counterpart.

4. Is this coin legal tender? Where is it accepted as legal tender?

The coin has a legal tender value of €5 and is only accepted in the country of issue i.e. Malta in terms of REGULATION (EU) No 651/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 4 July 2012 on the issuance of euro coins.

5. What other information does the Central Bank of Malta publish concerning coins like this? How may this information may be obtained?

The Central Bank of Malta does not publish information on coins that are not intended for sale to its customers as was the case for the Land of the Free Bison.”

– email from Central Bank of Malta 2024/12/08

On 2024/02/09, I first queried the Central Bank of Malta about the LOTF Silver Bison coin.

From: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Subject: Question about 5 Euro coin issued by Central Bank of Malta
Date: February 9, 2024 10:46:24 PM PST
To: customercare@maltaecoincentre.com

2 Attachments, 685 KB [Save](#) [Slideshow](#)



Hello,

I have some questions about the 5 Euro Silver "Land of the Free" Silver Bison 1 oz. coin. Apparently, this coin is issued by the Central Bank of Malta. Could you answer questions about how this coin could be obtained and prices?

<https://goldco.com/coins/silver-land-of-the-free-bison/>

<https://goldco.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-Bison-back-700x700-1.jpg>

Regards,
Mac Stevens





On 2024/03/05, I sent a Freedom of Information Act request. Central Bank of Malta, responded, rejecting my request and recommending I use their website to request information.

From: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Subject: **RE: [EXTERNAL]Freedom of Information Request / Malta 1oz 5 Euro Bison Coin**
Date: March 7, 2024 8:32:31 AM PST
To: FOI Mailbox <foi@centralbankmalta.org>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>



Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for your prompt reply.

I have already posted a question to the Contact Us section of your website. I received no reply. I will try again.

Regarding the Freedom of Information Act, is my request inappropriate because a) I am not a citizen of Malta, b) the request should be answered by ordinary request (not require FOI), or c) the requested information is not available to the public?

Regards,
Mac Stevens

-----Original Message-----

From: FOI Mailbox <foi@centralbankmalta.org>
Sent: Mar 6, 2024 11:24 PM
To: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Subject: **RE: [EXTERNAL]Freedom of Information Request / Malta 1oz 5 Euro Bison Coin**

Dear Mr Stevens

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
FOI Officer

Document Classification: Restricted

-----Original Message-----

From: Mac Stevens
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 5:14 AM
To: FOI Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: **[EXTERNAL]Freedom of Information Request / Malta 1oz 5 Euro Bison Coin**

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To: Central Bank of Malta Freedom of Information Officer

FOI NOTIFICATION

This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act (Cap. 496)(<https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/496/eng/pdf>)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The U.S. Mint publishes the cost it charges authorized purchasers for various minted precious metal coins at the following website.
<https://www.usmint.gov/news/consumer-alerts/business-guidelines/authorized-purchaser-program>

In particular, it states the following.

"American Eagle Silver Bullion

United States Mint Authorized Purchasers are charged the LBMA Silver Price plus a \$2.35 per coin premium.

Minimum ordering requirement: 25,000 ounces"

REQUEST A

I request similar information, i.e., cost to authorized purchasers and minimum quantity, in regard to the coin of the following description (image attached).

Manufacturer: Royal Dutch Mint

Material: Silver

Weight: 1 oz

Front:

Top: "LAND OF THE FREE"

Middle: figure of a bison

Bottom: "BISON"

Reverse:

CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

1 oz 9999 Ag

5 EURO

2023

REQUEST B

For this same coin (Malta Bison 1oz), I request a description as to number of coins minted in each grade.

For example "100 minted of proof grade, 50000 minted of investment grade/premium bullion, 100000 minted of common bullion"

If the quantities of each grade are not available, it would suffice to know which grades were minted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send reply to (email preferred):

Mac Stevens

415 NE 6th Street

Newport, Oregon 97365-2805

United States of America

stevensm@earthlink.net

(541) 574-4451

Regards,
Mac Stevens

This message from the Central Bank of Malta is sent in good faith but shall neither be binding nor construed as constituting a commitment by the Bank except where provided for in a written agreement or any other agreed manner. This e-mail may contain confidential information that is intended only for the use of the recipient(s) named above. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately via return e-mail and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised disclosure, use or dissemination, either in whole or in part, of the material contained within is strictly prohibited. The Central Bank of Malta does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message if it has reached you via the Internet, as Internet communications are not secure. Save the environment - print only when necessary.

On 2024/10/15, I sent to the FOI Officer and the NHPAB Secretary, each, the following: email with attached questions, postal letter with sample coin, and postal letter with €20 to cover customs fees.

From: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Subject: Questions regarding Maltese silver coin. Attention █████ █████ and █████ █████
Date: October 15, 2024 2:05:05 PM PDT
To: "██████████ (Central Bank of Malta)" <██████████@centralbankmalta.org>, █████ █████
<██████████@centralbankmalta.org>
Cc: "Central Bank of Malta / Freedom of Information Officer" <foi@centralbankmalta.org>, ██████████@centralbankmalta.org, Malta Bank <customercare@maltaecoincentre.com>
 1 Attachment, 13.2 MB [Save](#)



██████████ and ██████████:

I have a number of questions about a 5 Euro silver coin bearing the name and insignia of the Central Bank of Malta. I have contacted the Bank by phone, email and website without success.

Today I sent by post two letters to each of you. I expect you will receive these letters in the coming weeks.

Letter 1. Set of questions, with sample coin.

Letter 2. Set of questions, with €20 to cover fees for the first letter.

The same questions are also attached to this email. Please forward my questions to the appropriate person. I hope for a response by post or email.

Regards,
Mac Stevens
415 NE 6th Street
Newport, Oregon
97365-2805
United States of America
stevensm@earthlink.net



[2024_10_14...pdf \(13.2 MB\)](#)

Questions attached to email of 2024/10/15:

[2024_10_14_questions_central_bank_of_malta_5euro_silver_1oz.pdf](#)

Questions for Central Bank of Malta
Re: 2023 Malta 5 Euro 1 Ounce Silver Land Of The Free Bison
14 October 2024

Background Information

The United States Mint publishes the premium it charges authorized purchasers for various minted precious metal coins at the following website. <https://www.usmint.gov/news/consumer-alerts/business-guidelines/authorized-purchaser-program>

As of 8 October 2024, it states, "American Eagle Silver Bullion ... United States Mint Authorized Purchasers are charged the LBMA Silver Price plus a \$3.05 per coin premium. ... Minimum ordering requirement: 25,000 ounces"

<https://www.usmint.gov/news/consumer-alerts/business-guidelines/authorized-purchaser-program>   

Premiums and Minimums

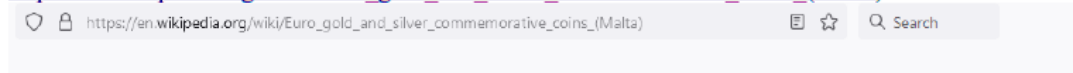
Prices for American Eagles are based on the prevailing price of gold, silver, platinum, or palladium plus a modest premium to cover minting, distribution, and marketing costs. Prices change on a daily basis, as the gold, silver, platinum and palladium markets fluctuate.

American Eagle Silver Bullion

- United States Mint Authorized Purchasers are charged the LBMA Silver Price plus a \$3.05 per coin premium.
- Minimum ordering requirement: 25,000 ounces

For some Maltese coins, the following is published: issue price, quality (grade), and quantity minted.

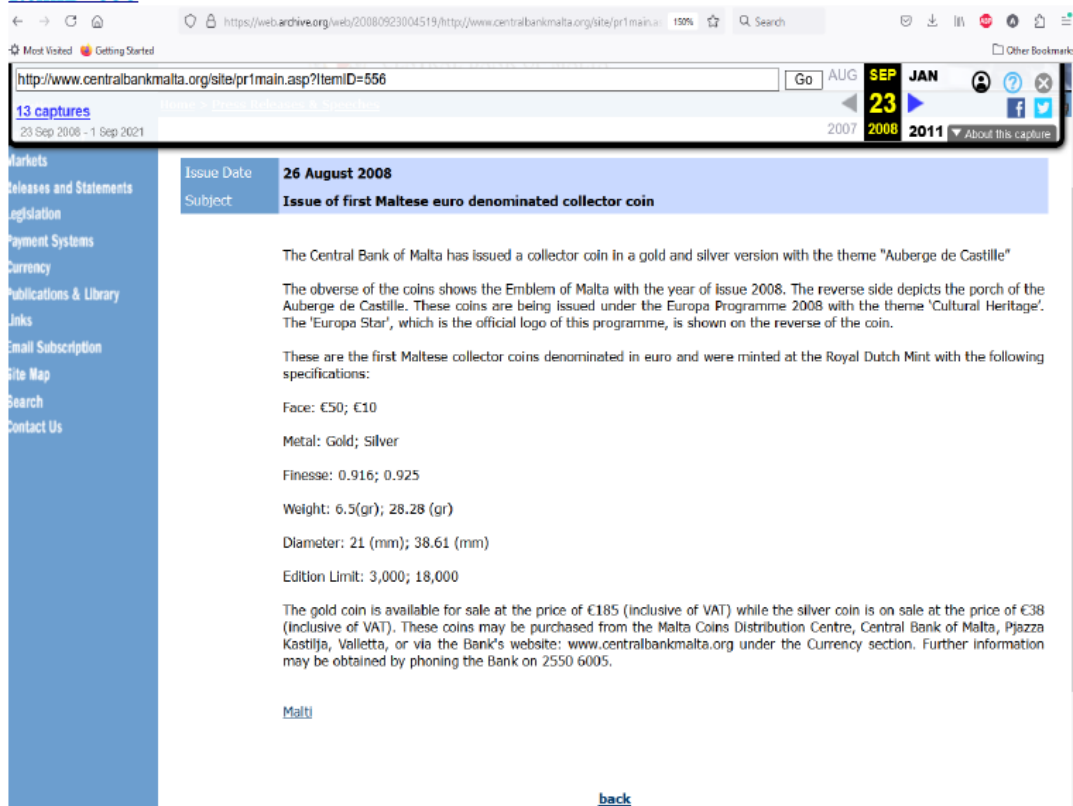
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro_gold_and_silver_commemorative_coins_\(Malta\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro_gold_and_silver_commemorative_coins_(Malta))



2008 Coinage [\[edit \]](#)

		Auberge de Castille ^{[2][3]}	
Designer: Royal Dutch Mint		Mint: Royal Dutch Mint	
Face Value: €10	Alloy: Ag 925 (Silver)	Quantity: 18,000	Quality: Proof
Issued: 26 August 2008	Diameter: 38.61 mm (1.52 in)	Weight: 28.28 g (1.00 oz, 0.91 ozt)	Issue price: €38 ^[4] Market Value: €46–€54 ^{[5][6][7]}

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080923004519/http://www.centralbankmalta.org/site/pr1main.asp?ItemID=556>



Issue Date 26 August 2008

Subject Issue of first Maltese euro denominated collector coin

The Central Bank of Malta has issued a collector coin in a gold and silver version with the theme "Auberge de Castille"

The obverse of the coins shows the Emblem of Malta with the year of issue 2008. The reverse side depicts the porch of the Auberge de Castille. These coins are being issued under the Europa Programme 2008 with the theme 'Cultural Heritage'. The 'Europa Star', which is the official logo of this programme, is shown on the reverse of the coin.

These are the first Maltese collector coins denominated in euro and were minted at the Royal Dutch Mint with the following specifications:

Face: €50; €10

Metal: Gold; Silver

Finesse: 0.916; 0.925

Weight: 6.5(gr); 28.28 (gr)

Diameter: 21 (mm); 38.61 (mm)

Edition Limit: 3,000; 18,000

The gold coin is available for sale at the price of €185 (inclusive of VAT) while the silver coin is on sale at the price of €38 (inclusive of VAT). These coins may be purchased from the Malta Coins Distribution Centre, Central Bank of Malta, Piazza Kastilja, Valletta, or via the Bank's website: www.centralbankmalta.org under the Currency section. Further information may be obtained by phoning the Bank on 2550 6005.

[Malti](#)

[back](#)

Description

- Producer: Royal Dutch Mint
- Face Value: 5 Euros
- Content: 1 Ounce Silver
- Front: "LAND OF THE FREE", "BISON"
- Reverse: "CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA", "5 EURO", "1 Oz 9999 Ag", "2023"



Silver Land of The Free | Bison



Goldco is proud to offer this 2023 silver Land of the Free Bison coin. Each coin is struck by the Royal Dutch Mint from 1 oz. of 99.9% pure silver. This gorgeous coin features the seal of the Central Bank of Malta on the obverse. The reverse features an image of an American bison walking across the prairie. A frequent motif in American coinage, the bison conjures up nostalgic memories of the American West.

- Producer: Royal Dutch Mint
- Purity: 999
- Face Value: 5 Euros
- Diameter: 31.8 mm
- Weight: 31.1 g
- IRA Eligible: Yes
- Content: 1 oz.



Questions

With regard to the 2023 Malta 5 Euro 1 Ounce Silver Land Of The Free Bison:

1. Which grades (e.g., proof, bullion, etc.) were minted?
2. For each grade, how many coins were minted?
3. For each grade, what was the issue price?
4. Is this coin legal tender? Where is it accepted as legal tender?
5. What other information does the Central Bank of Malta normally publish concerning coins like this? How may this information be obtained?

Requestor:
Mac Stevens
415 NE 6th Street
Newport, Oregon 97365
United States of America
(541) 574-4451
stevensm@earthlink.net

On 2024/12/08, Central Bank of Malta answered the questions. Because the email embodies a response to a Freedom of Information Act request, I am treating it as public domain.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Subject: Query
Date: December 8, 2024 11:30:05 PM PST
To: "stevensm@earthlink.net" <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Cc: kmu-filing <kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
1 Attachment, 158 KB  

Dear Mr Mac Stevens,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 October 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act, on a silver coin produced by the Royal Dutch Mint as well as for a €20 banknote for the customs settlement of a sample coin you have submitted. Please note that to-date we have not yet received the sample coin.

The silver coin you are referring to, was issued by the Central Bank of Malta in collaboration with the Royal Dutch Mint. The reverse side of the coin displays the coat of arms of the Central Bank of Malta, signifying its role as the legal issuer. The obverse side showcases the theme/design approved by the Central Bank of Malta - i.e. Land of the Free Bison. Under the agreement this coin was solely intended for the American market and therefore it was not available to the Bank's customers and consequently this coin issue was not advertised on the website.

However, all coins issued by the Bank and other collaborations with mint houses not having sale exclusion clauses, as was the case for the Bison coin, are advertised on the Bank's website and on its communication media. You can find coins available for sale by the Bank on website <https://www.maltacoincentre.com/>

Issuance of collector coins 1. Collector coins shall have the status of legal tender only in the issuing Member State. The identity of the issuing Member State shall be clearly and easily recognisable on the coin. 2. In order to be easily differentiated from circulation coins, collector coins shall meet all of the following criteria: (a) their face value must be different from the face values of circulation coins; (b) their images must not be similar to the common sides of circulation coins, and if their images are similar to any national side of circulation coins, their overall appearance can still be easily differentiated

Specifically in response to your questions please note:

1. Which grades (e.g., proof, bullion etc.) were minted?
The silver coins were only issued in bullion grade
2. For each grade, how many coins were minted?
675,000 coins of the silver bullion version
3. For each grade, what was the issue price?
As stated, the coins were specifically for the American market and the Bank was not involved in the pricing, since this was an arrangement between the Royal Dutch Mint and its American counterpart.
4. Is this coin legal tender? Where is it accepted as legal tender?

The coin has a legal tender value of €5 and is only accepted in the country of issue i.e. Malta in terms of REGULATION (EU) No 651/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 4 July 2012 on the issuance of euro coins.

5. What other information does the Central Bank of Malta publish concerning coins like this? How may this information may be obtained?

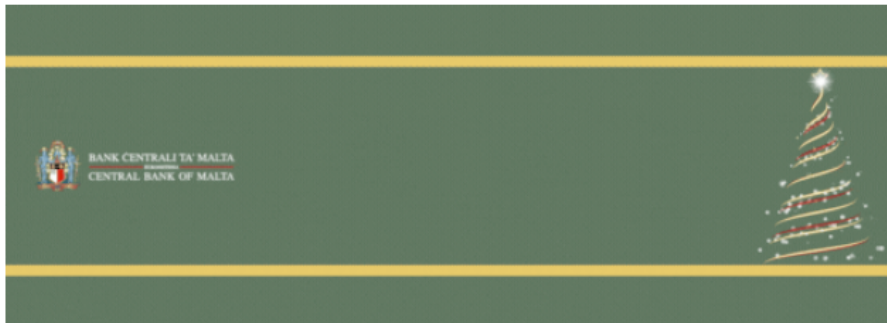
The Central Bank of Malta does not publish information on coins that are not intended for sale to its customers as was the case for the Land of the Free Bison.

Regards,

██████████ ██████████ ██████████
Senior Public Media Officer
Communications and International Relations Department

T: (+356) 2550 6703
E: ██████████@centralbankmalta.org

Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta – Central Bank of Malta
Pjazza Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060, MALTA
www.centralbankmalta.org



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Document Classification: Restricted

On 2024/12/10, I sent another sample coin. Again, this coin was not picked up from customs.

From: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Subject: **Re: Query**
Date: January 7, 2025 2:38:54 PM PST
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Cc: "kmu-filing" <kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>



Dear [REDACTED],

I hope the new year finds you well.

I just spoke with a representative of Federal Express. She told me the package is at customs, awaiting payment of duties and taxes. She also said the consignee, that would be you, refused to pay the customs duties and taxes.

I understood the original terms of Federal Express that my upfront fee I paid them would cover customs fees. I was wrong.

I have thus made three attempts to deliver a sample coin to Central Bank of Malta. I would make further attempts if I believed it was welcome.

I appreciate the information you have given me. Thank you very much for your time.

Regards,
Mac Stevens

-----Original Message-----

From: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Sent: Dec 30, 2024 7:27 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Cc: kmu-filing <kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Subject: Re: Query

Dear [REDACTED],

I apologize for the poorly formatted email. I am re-sending. I appreciate any effort you could make to reply and understand if this is not feasible.

According to Federal Express (<https://www.fedex.com/fedextrack/?trknbr=770647225639>), the sample coin has been awaiting processing at customs in Luqa for a few days. With Christmas approaching and the disappearance of the first two coins sent by post, I am losing hope that this coin will arrive.

Therefore, I hereby ask my remaining questions. I only seek public domain information.

6. Regarding answer 1, "The silver coins were only issued in bullion grade": Is this bullion special in some way? Is it categorized as "premium bullion", etc. and if so, why? Does it have special anti-counterfeiting features? Or is it ordinary bullion? [Observing the sample coin would be helpful for this question.]

7. Regarding answer 2, "675,000 coins of the silver bullion version": Is this the number of coins approved to be minted or is this the number actually minted? Is this number strictly for the year 2023 or does it include other years?

8. According to the European Central Bank website (<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/coins/html/index.en.html>), "If a euro area

country intends to issue coins bearing new motifs – such as on a commemorative coin – it has to inform the European Commission. The Commission will then publish the information in the multilingual Official Journal of the EU (C series)." Is this applicable to the coin in question? If so, how may I find this published information? Which volume of the journal? What date was it published?

9. Assuming the country of Malta or Malta Central Bank earns a fee for allowing the minting of this coin, is this fee confidential? If it is not confidential, how much was the total fee for the 675,000 coins?

I understand this may be a burden to you to respond to my questions. I am happy to pay the appropriate fees for such requests.

Regards,
Mac Stevens

On Dec 19, 2024, at 9:04 PM, Mac Stevens wrote:

Dear [REDACTED], According to Federal Express (<https://www.fedex.com/fedextrack/?trknbr=770647225639>), the sample coin has been awaiting processing at customs in Luqa for a few days. With Christmas approaching and the disappearance of the first two coins sent by post, I am losing hope that this coin will arrive. Therefore, I hereby ask my remaining questions. I only seek public domain information. 6. Regarding answer 1, "The silver coins were only issued in bullion grade": Is this bullion special in some way? Is it categorized as "premium bullion", etc. and if so, why? Does it have special anti-counterfeiting features? Or is it ordinary bullion? [Observing the sample coin would be helpful for this question.] 7. Regarding answer 2, "675,000 coins of the silver bullion version": Is this the number of coins approved to be minted or is this the number actually minted? Is this number strictly for the year 2023 or does it include other years? 8. According to the European Central Bank website (<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/coins/html/index.en.html>), "If a euro area country intends to issue coins bearing new motifs – such as on a commemorative coin – it has to inform the European Commission. The Commission will then publish the information in the multilingual Official Journal of the EU (C series)." Is this applicable to the coin in question? If so, how may I find this published information? Which volume of the journal? What date was it published? 9. Assuming the country of Malta or Malta Central Bank earns a fee for allowing the minting of this coin, is this fee confidential? If it is not confidential, how much was the total fee for the 675,000 coins? I understand this may be a burden to you to respond to my questions. I am happy to pay the appropriate fees for such requests. Regards, Mac Stevens

-----Original Message-----

From: Mac Stevens <stevensm@earthlink.net>

Sent: Dec 10, 2024 4:15 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@centralbankmalta.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org)>

Cc: kmu-filing <kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] <galeasl@centralbankmalta.org>

Subject: Re: Query

Dear [REDACTED],

I very much appreciate this information. This is helpful to me.

I did not realize that no coin sample arrived. I sent them via the U. S. Postal Service, just as I sent each companion letter with 20 Euro note.

I think it is important you have a sample so there can be no doubt about the identity and characteristics of the coin. I have just shipped another sample to you via courier. Here is a link for tracking shipment progress:
<https://www.fedex.com/fedextrack/?trknbr=770647225639>

After you receive the coin sample, I may have some further questions. I will try to be brief.

Again, thank you so much for replying. And thanks to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and/or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for forwarding my questions to you.

Regards,
Mac Stevens

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>

Sent: Dec 8, 2024 11:30 PM

To: stevensm@earthlink.net <stevensm@earthlink.net>

Cc: [kmu-filing](mailto:kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org) <kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org>, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>

Subject: Query

Dear Mr Mac Stevens,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 October 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act, on a silver coin produced by the Royal Dutch Mint as well as for a €20 banknote for the customs settlement of a sample coin you have submitted. Please note that to-date we have not yet received the sample coin.

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675,000 coins of the silver bullion version

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As stated, the coins were specifically for the American market and the Bank was not involved in the pricing, since this was an arrangement between the Royal Dutch Mint and its American counterpart.

4. Is this coin legal tender? Where is it accepted as legal tender?

The coin has a legal tender value of €5 and is only accepted in the country of issue i.e. Malta in terms of REGULATION (EU) No 651/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 4 July 2012 on the issuance of euro coins.

5. What other information does the Central Bank of Malta publish concerning coins like this? How may this information may be obtained?

The Central Bank of Malta does not publish information on coins that are not intended for sale to its customers as was the case for the Land of the Free Bison.

Regards,

████████████████████

Senior Public Media Officer

Communications and International Relations Department

T: (+356) 2550 6703

E: ██████████@centralbankmalta.org

Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta – Central Bank of Malta

Pjazza Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060, MALTA

www.centralbankmalta.org

<image.png>

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Document Classification: Restricted

On 2024/12/18, Central Bank of Malta notified me that they had received €20, but no sample coin.

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Subject: **FW: Query**
Date: December 18, 2024 2:57:32 AM PST
To: "stevensm@earthlink.net" <stevensm@earthlink.net>
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
1 Attachment, 158 KB [Save](#) [Slideshow](#)

Dear Mr Mac Stevens,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Senior Public Media Officer
Communications and International Relations Department

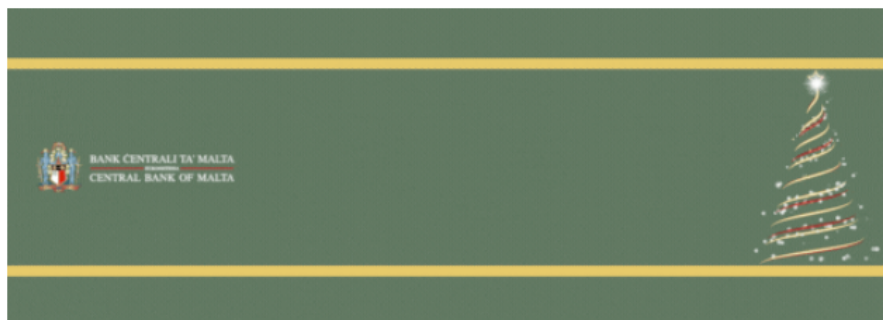
T: (+356) 2550 6703

E: [REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org

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Pjazza Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060, MALTA

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Document Classification: Restricted

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 9 December 2024 08:30
To: stevensm@earthlink.net
Cc: kmu-filing <kmu-filing@centralbankmalta.org>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@centralbankmalta.org>
Subject: Query

Dear Mr Mac Stevens,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 October 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act, on a silver coin produced by the Royal Dutch Mint as well as for a €20 banknote for the customs settlement of a sample coin you have submitted. Please note that to-date we have not yet received the sample coin.

The silver coin you are referring to, was issued by the Central Bank of Malta in collaboration with the Royal Dutch Mint. The reverse side of the coin displays the coat of arms of the Central Bank of Malta, signifying its role as the legal issuer. The obverse side showcases the theme/design approved by the Central Bank of Malta - i.e. Land of the Free Bison. Under the agreement this coin was solely intended for the American market and therefore it was not available to the Bank's customers and consequently this coin issue was not advertised on the website.

However, all coins issued by the Bank and other collaborations with mint houses not having sale exclusion clauses, as was the case for the Bison coin, are advertised on the Bank's website and on its communication media. You can find coins available for sale by the Bank on website

<https://www.maltacoincentre.com/>

Issuance of collector coins 1. Collector coins shall have the status of legal tender only in the issuing Member State. The identity of the issuing Member State shall be clearly and easily recognisable on the coin. 2. In order to be easily differentiated from circulation coins, collector coins shall meet all of the following criteria: (a) their face value must be different from the face values of circulation coins; (b) their images must not be similar to the common sides of circulation coins, and if their images are similar to any national side of circulation coins, their overall appearance can still be easily differentiated

Specifically in response to your questions please note:

1. Which grades (e.g., proof, bullion etc.) were minted?
The silver coins were only issued in bullion grade
2. For each grade, how many coins were minted?
675,000 coins of the silver bullion version
3. For each grade, what was the issue price?
As stated, the coins were specifically for the American market and the Bank was not involved in the pricing, since this was an arrangement between the Royal Dutch Mint and its American counterpart.
4. Is this coin legal tender? Where is it accepted as legal tender?
The coin has a legal tender value of €5 and is only accepted in the country of issue i.e. Malta in terms of REGULATION (EU) No 651/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 4 July 2012 on the issuance of euro coins.
5. What other information does the Central Bank of Malta publish concerning coins like this? How may this information may be obtained?
The Central Bank of Malta does not publish information on coins that are not intended for sale to its customers as was the case for the Land of the Free Bison.

Regards,

██████████ ██████████ ██████████
Senior Public Media Officer
Communications and International Relations Department

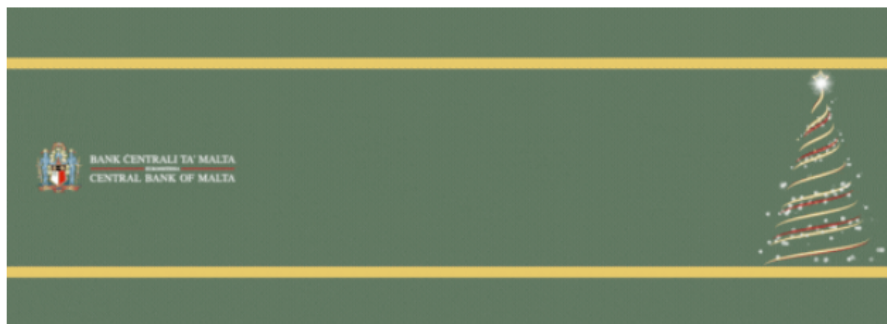
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January or February 2025, the two letters containing a sample coin were returned by the postal service, marked as unclaimed.

2805
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4/11

00121 \$18.70
S2324E502779-11

CUSTOMS DECLARATION
USPS Mail Service
Category of Item Other
Date of Mailing 10/19/2024
Origin/Exportation Code 98.01 (0)
Detailed description of contents
SILVER BULLION

Qty	Wgt (lb/oz)	Value (US\$)	HTS Tariff Number
1	3	30.00	7103100000 US
TOTAL		30.00	

TO
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA
CASTILLE PLACE
VALLETTA VLT 1060
MALTA

SECRETARY, NHPAB
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA
CASTILLE PLACE
VALLETTA VLT 1060
MALTA

WE REGRET THIS LETTER WAS UNDELIVERED
FOR REASON LISTED BELOW
☐ Unknown
☐ Income
☐ Gone away
☐ Damaged
☐ Insufficient address
☐ Address incomplete
☐ Refused
☒ Unclaimed
☐ Non Recipient

SIGNATURE
19/11/24

PORT, OREGON
2805
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4/11

00121 \$18.70
S2324E502779-11

CUSTOMS DECLARATION
USPS Mail Service
Category of Item Other
Date of Mailing 10/19/2024
Origin/Exportation Code 98.01 (0)
Detailed description of contents
SILVER BULLION

Qty	Wgt (lb/oz)	Value (US\$)	HTS Tariff Number
1	4	30.00	7103100000 US
TOTAL		30.00	

TO
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA
CASTILLE PLACE
VALLETTA VLT 1060
MALTA

FOI OFFICER
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA
CASTILLE PLACE
VALLETTA VLT 1060
MALTA

WE REGRET THIS LETTER WAS UNDELIVERED
FOR REASON LISTED BELOW
☐ Unknown
☐ Income
☐ Gone away
☐ Damaged
☐ Insufficient address
☐ Address incomplete
☒ Refused
☐ Unclaimed
☐ Non Recipient

SIGNATURE
DATE 19/11/24

Written by Mac Stevens

March 17, 2025