



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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Bank of England exhibition celebrates new £50 note and 300 years of banknote design

To mark the introduction of the new £50 note, the Bank of England Museum is presenting an exhibition exploring the design of the new note and its security features: **Secure by Design – the Boulton and Watt £50 Note**. The exhibition runs from 24 November 2011 until 23 March 2012 and is suitable for children and adults; entrance to the museum and exhibition is free of charge.

Secure by Design – the Boulton and Watt £50 Note traces the evolution of the £50 note from its introduction in 1725, including early forgeries. Examples of 19th century £5 notes which were altered and slipped into circulation by miscreants, who risked a death sentence for forgery, will be on show for the first time.

The exhibition will feature a number of historic objects from the Bank's collections, including the earliest known Bank of England £50 note dated 1732, and the original record of the decision by the Bank's Court of Directors that £50 notes should be issued. Using a powerful microscope camera, visitors can examine the intricate design details of the new £50 note, including the new motion thread, holograms and fluorescing inks. For children, answering three questions correctly about the new note will reveal a code to open a safe containing a prize.

Visitor Information

There is no charge for admission to the Museum or for any exhibition.

Entrance: Bartholomew Lane, just off Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH and a two-minute walk from Bank Underground Station.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Last entry 4.45pm. 23 & 30 December 2011: 10am-1pm.

Museum closed Public and Bank Holidays except for certain special events.

For more information: www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum 020 7601 5545 or museum@bankofengland.co.uk.

Notes to Editors

1. The Bank of England Museum tells the story of the Bank, from its foundation in 1694 to its role today as the United Kingdom's central bank. Among the exhibits are Roman and modern gold bars (visitors are invited to lift a genuine gold bar), the country's oldest paper money, pikes and muskets once used to defend the Bank and many other objects from its collections of silver, banknotes, paintings, coins, photographs and historic documents. Interactive displays explain the Bank's roles today, including giving visitors the opportunity to explore the intricate, changing designs and evolving security features contained within banknotes. The Museum also features a full-size reconstruction of Sir John Soane's 1793 Bank Stock Office on its original site.

2. The new-style £50 banknote was introduced into circulation on 2 November 2011. The note features the renowned 18th century business partnership of entrepreneur Matthew Boulton and engineer James Watt. A range of new and enhanced security features have been incorporated into the design of the new note. These include, for the first time on a Bank of England note, a motion thread. For more details on the new note:

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/archive/Documents/historicpubs/news/2011/097.pdf>

3. Images of the new £50 banknote and photographs of Chris Salmon holding the new note are available from the Bank's media centre.

4. As at 28/9/11, the value of £50 banknotes in circulation was 10.6 billion. For figures as at end February 2011 see: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/stats.htm>

5. More information on Bank of England banknotes can be found at:

www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes

6. For further enquiries, please contact the Bank's Press Office on 020 7601 4411.