



**Banknotes in Hong Kong:
1985 The Hongkong and
Shanghai Banking
Corporation fifty-dollar note**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation used local cultural and architectural symbols as a theme when it redesigning its banknotes in 1985. Its fifty-dollar note features two “dragon boats” competing in a typical Tuen Ng Festival dragon boat race. The athletes and their never-say-die spirit symbolise the people who contributed to Hong Kong’s phenomenal economical development during the 1980s.

The history of the printing and design of Hong Kong’s banknotes reached a milestone in 1985. Banknotes issued by the two note-issuing banks in that year were printed in Hong Kong for the first time; the word “colony” was no longer used; and the banknotes were “shrunk” to the sizes we use today.

In 1985 a single top-quality rice dumpling, a traditional Chinese dish consumed during Tuen Ng Festival, cost as much as twenty-five dollars. A standard dumpling, by comparison, cost about six to eight dollars. Fifty dollars would buy enough dumplings for an average-sized family in 1985.



The front and back of the 1985 fifty-dollar note.

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**Half-Yearly Monetary and Financial Stability Report
June 2006**

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This *Bulletin* incorporates information up to
7 June 2006.

Cover picture acknowledgements:
Mr Cheng Po-hung
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
Limited

Full texts of this *Bulletin* and of back issues are
available on the HKMA website at
www.hkma.gov.hk

The Bulletin is published in mid-month of March,
June, September and December each year.

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ISSN 1726-9717

Printed in Hong Kong on recycled paper

HK\$100