



Coins in Hong Kong: 1976 five-dollar coin

The Hong Kong Government first issued five-dollar coins in 1976. For more than a century before that, denominations of five dollars were only available in the form of banknotes issued by the note-issuing banks.

Made of cupro-nickel, the 1976 five-dollar coin had an interesting 10-sided shape. The coin was fairly popular when it was first introduced because people found it easy to carry and convenient to use for retail transactions. However, perhaps because of the coin's relatively large face value and lack of security features, counterfeit coins appeared shortly afterwards. In 1980 the newly designed round five-dollar coins, which are still being issued and in circulation 25 years later, were issued as a replacement. The old 10-sided five-dollar coin ceased to be legal tender in October 1981.

The 1976 five-dollar coin weighed about 11 grams. It measured 31 millimetres between opposite corners. The coin showed the head of Queen Elizabeth the Second. In 1976 people typically gave five dollars in lai-see packets to relatives and friends during Chinese New Year.



The front of the 1976 five-dollar coin.

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