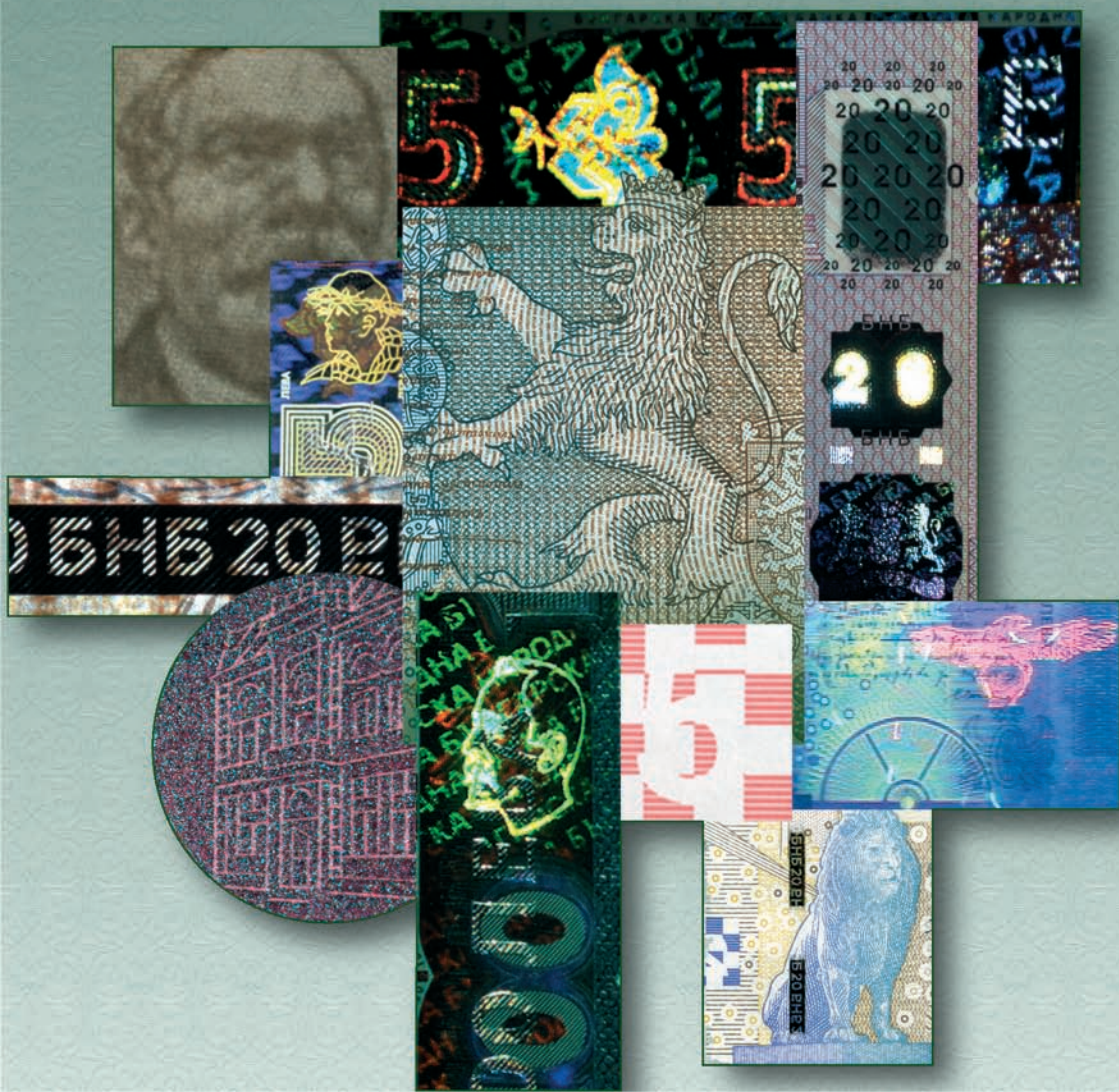


BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK



THE SECURITY FEATURES OF BULGARIAN CIRCULATING BANKNOTES



Do you know Bulgarian banknotes? Do you know their security features and how to protect yourselves against counterfeiting? What should you do if you come across any dubious banknotes?

Here, you get answers to these questions. You also learn the features of Bulgarian banknotes you can check without any special equipment. You see enlargements of the main security attributes and learn what to do about damaged or suspicious banknotes.

Your awareness – and sense of civic responsibility – will help us prevent counterfeit cash spreading and preserve confidence in the Bulgarian lev.

Bulgarian banknotes are national emblems presenting Bulgarian history and heritage in an intriguing manner.

The banknotes we use today have circulated since 1999. The 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 lev banknotes have had second issues. There was also a 20 lev commemorative banknote that allowed us to develop more secure high technology protective features for future issues. The features are part of our Governing Council's 2009 Bulgarian Banknote Recognition Standard. It specifies tightly the design, colour, size and security features of circulating Bulgarian banknotes.

We produce Bulgarian banknotes using complex printing techniques. This makes it easy to spot counterfeits without any equipment. All you have to do is feel, look, and tilt any banknote.

FEEL the snappy, crisp paper. To sense the intaglio, run a finger or fingernail lightly along the surface: some items stand up.

LOOK at the banknote against the light to see the watermark, security thread and value inscribed in the matching image. (The matching image completes when held against the light.) These three security features are on both sides of all genuine banknotes.

TILT the banknote to see the holographic strip and gradient colour elements on 50 and 100 lev banknotes.

Always check more than one security feature. If in doubt, compare the bank-note with one you are sure is genuine.

For more information on Bulgarian cash, visit the BNB website: www.bnb.bg

1 lev,
issue 1999



2 levs,
issue 1999



2 levs,
issue 2005



5 levs,
issue 1999



5 levs,
issue 2009



10 levs,
issue 1999



10 levs,
issue 2008



20 levs,
issue 1999



20 levs,
issue 2007



20 levs,
issue 2005,
commemorative
banknote



50 levs,
issue 1999



50 levs,
issue 2006



100 levs,
issue 2003



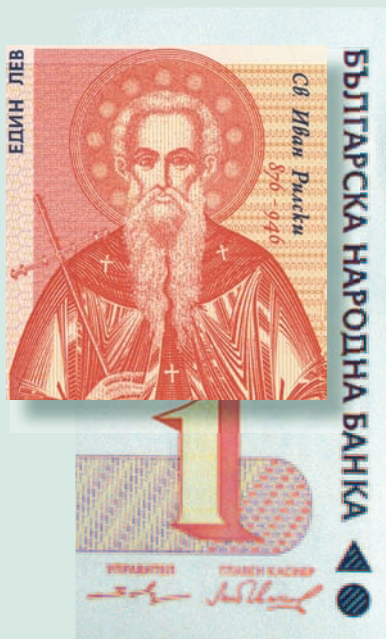
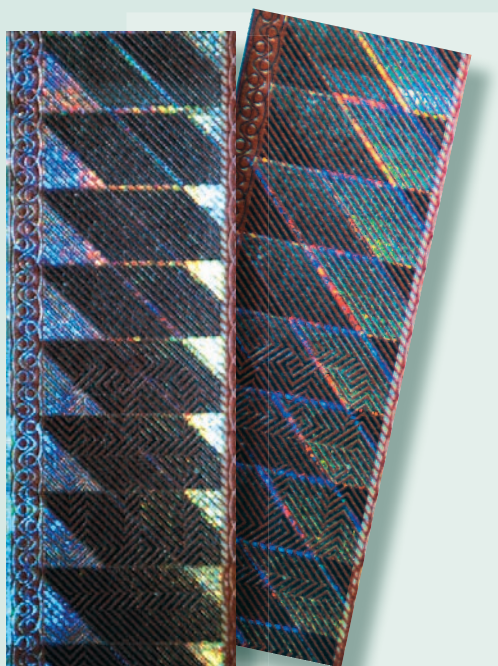
Obverse: an image of the saint Sveti Ivan Rilski, the inscriptions “Св. Иван Рилски,” “876–946,” “1” and “ЕДИН ЛЕВ”

SECURITY

Paper tint: faint orange
Overall colourway: red
Size: 112x60mm

Holographic strip: diamonds that change colour when tilted and the latent inscription “ЛЕВ,” visible on tilting

Intaglio: the numeral “1” on the holographic strip; the inscription “ЕДИН ЛЕВ”; the image of Sveti Ivan Rilski; the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired triangle and circle mark



FEATURES

Reverse: an image of the main church in the Rila Monastery and the inscriptions “1” and “ЕДИН ЛЕВ”



Watermark: a halftone image of a lion rampant visible from both sides against the light

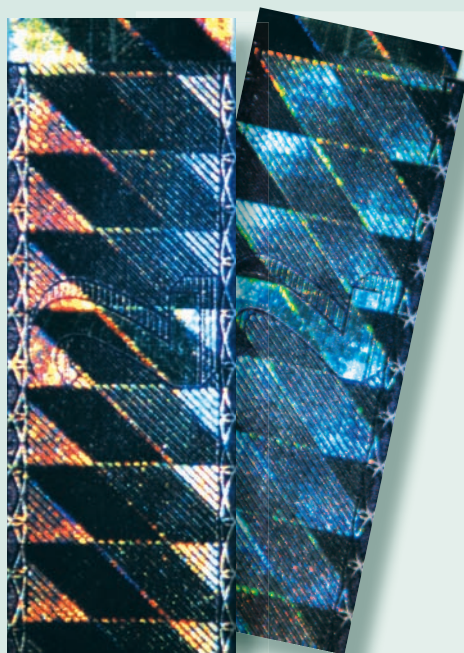
Security thread: an embedded dark foil strip with the light inscription “БНБ” visible on either side only against the light



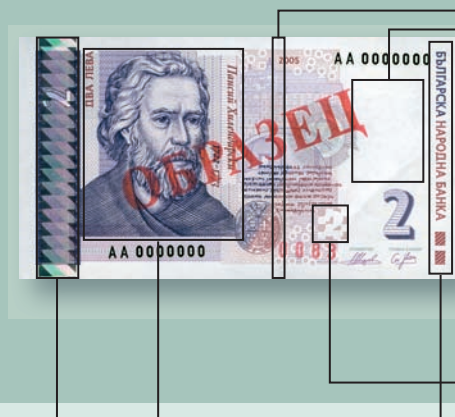
Obverse: an image of Paisios of Chiliandar, inscriptions “Паисий Хилендарски,” “1722–1773,” “2” and “ДВА ЛЕВА”

Paper tint: faint blue
Overall colourway: violet
Size: 116x64mm

Holographic strip: diamonds that change colour when tilted and a latent inscription “ЛЕВА” visible on tilting



SECURITY



Intaglio: the numeral “2” on the holographic strip; the inscription “ДВА ЛЕВА”; the image of Paisios of Chiliandar; the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired mark of two identical rectangles



FEATURES



Watermark: a halftone image of a lion rampant visible from both sides against the light

Reverse: the crowned lion rampant from Hristofor Zhefarovich's Stemmatalogia, the Bulgarian Arms from Konrad Grünenberg's Armorial, a facsimile from the Zographou draft of the *Historiae Sclavo-Bulgaricus*, Tsar Kaloyan's ring seal, three seals bearing images of Bulgarian Tsars, and the inscriptions "2" and "ДВА ЛЕВА"

Security thread: embedded dark foil strip with the light microtext "БНБ" visible on either side only against the light



Matching elements: a chessboard pattern revealing the numeral "2" against the light from either side

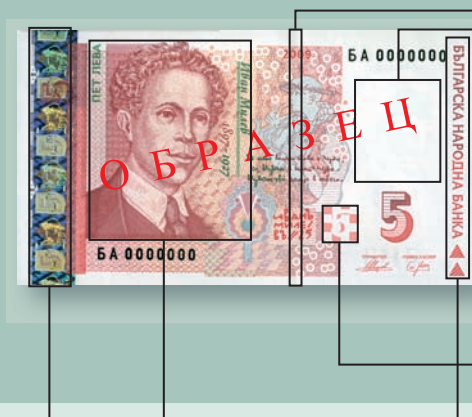


Obverse: an image of the painter Ivan Milev, inscriptions “Иван Милев,” “1897–1927” and “5 ЛЕВА”

Paper tint: faint pink
Overall colourway: Burgundy
Size: 121x67mm

Holographic strip: a stylised flower, the numeral “5” and the microtext “ЛЕВА” change colour on tilting. On tilting the 2009 issue, a boy’s head changes into a stylised flower and a numeral “5” shimmers in different colours

SECURITY

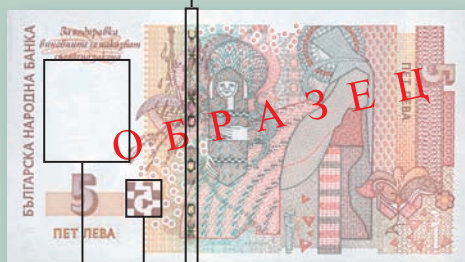


Intaglio: the numeral “5” on the holographic strip; the inscription “ПЕТ ЛЕВА”; the image of Ivan Milev; the large numeral “5”, the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired mark of two identical triangles



FEATURES

Reverse: fragments from the paintings A Harvest Maiden, The Bulgarian Madonna and The Dragon's Wedding, and the inscriptions "5" and "ПЕТ ЛЕВА"



Watermark: a halftone image of Ivan Milev visible from either side against the light. The 2009 issue also has a high contrast inscription "БНБ"

Security thread: embedded dark foil with a light microtext "БНБ 5" visible on either side only against the light. In the 2009 issue, the foil strip is visible as a dashed line across the reverse of the note, has a holographic effect with the numeral "5" changing colour, and has a special polarising effect



Matching elements: a rectangular chessboard pattern revealing the numeral "5" against the light from either side



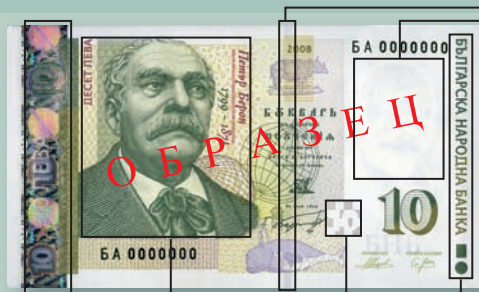
Obverse: an image of Dr Petar Beron, inscriptions “Петър Берон,” “1799–1871,” “10,” and “ДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”

Paper tint: faint beige
Overall colourway: green
Size: 126x70mm

Holographic strip: images of a globe, a telescope, the numeral “10” and the microtext “ЛЕВА” changing colour when tilted. On tilting the 2008 issue, images of a globe change into a telescope and planet and a numeral “10” shimmers in different colours



SECURITY

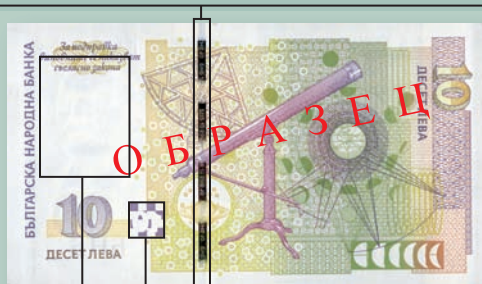


Intaglio: the numeral “10” on the holographic strip; the inscription “ДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”; the image of Dr Petar Beron; the large numeral “10”; the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired rectangle and circle mark



FEATURES

Reverse: facsimiles of Dr Petar Beron's scientific journals, a telescope and the inscriptions "10" and "ДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА"



Watermark: a halftone image of Dr Petar Beron visible from either side against the light. The 2008 issue adds a high contrast inscription "БНБ"

Security thread: embedded dark foil with a light microtext "БНБ 10" visible from either side only against the light. The 2008 issue has the thread appeared as a dashed line across its reverse, changing colour from green to red, with a special polarising effect



Matching elements: a chessboard pattern revealing the numeral "10" against the light from either side



Obverse: the image of Stefan Stambolov, inscriptions “Стефан Стамболов,” “1854–1895,” “20” and “ДВАДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”

Paper tint: faint violet.
The 2007 issue is faint blue
Overall colourway: blue
Size: 131x73mm

Holographic strip: images of an eagle, the numeral “20” and microtext “ЛЕВА” change colours when tilted. On tilting the 2007 issue, an image of a lion changes into an eagle and the numeral “20” shimmers in different colours



SECURITY



Intaglio: the numeral “20” on the holographic strip; the inscription “ДВАДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”; the image of Stefan Stambolov; the large numeral “20”; the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired mark of two identical circles



FEATURES

Reverse: the National Assembly building, sculptuary from Sofia's Orlov Most and Lavov Most bridges and the inscriptions "20" and "ДВАДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА"



Watermark: a halftone image of Stefan Stambolov visible from either side against the light. The 2007 issue adds a high contrast inscription "БНБ"



Security thread: embedded dark foil with light microtext "БНБ 20" visible on either side only against the light. The 2007 issue has the thread appeared as a dashed line across its reverse, changing colour from green to red, with a special polarising effect



Matching elements: a chessboard pattern revealing the numeral "20" against the light from either side



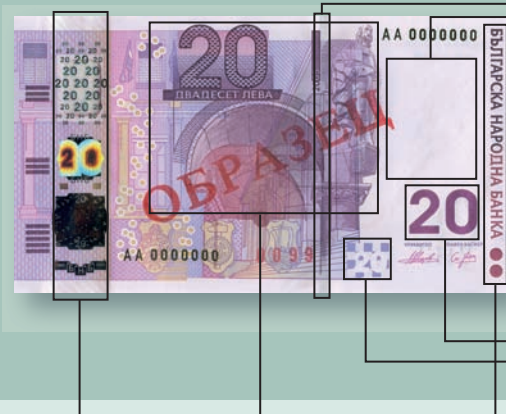
Obverse: stylised architectural motifs from the BNB building and the statue of Sveti Nikola on its façade, multicoloured background moirés like those used in early Bulgarian banknotes and the inscriptions “20” and “ДВАДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”

Paper tint: faint lilac

Overall colourway: lilac pink

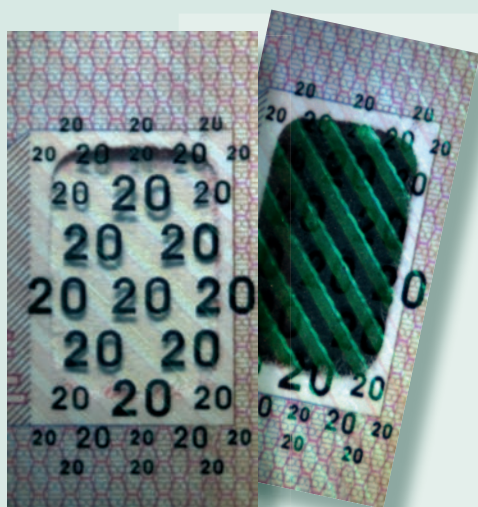
Size: 134x74mm

SECURITY



Copyproof strip:

1. A Varifeye® window displaying numerals “20” on a white background or diagonal black/green lines on a black background
2. On the obverse, holographic numerals “20” which shimmer in different colours when tilted, and the BNB logo

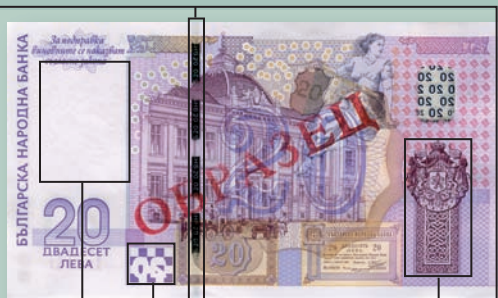


Intaglio: the large numeral “20” and the inscription “ДВАДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”; an architectural element from the BNB building with the stature of Sveti Nikola; the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired mark of two identical circles; on the reverse, the old BNB building and the coat of arms of the Principality of Bulgaria in a vignette



FEATURES

Reverse: a replica of Bulgaria's first 20 lev banknote issued in 1885, the old BNB building, a reposing female figure, the coat of arms of the Principality of Bulgaria and the inscriptions "20" and "ДВАДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА"



Watermark: a halftone image of a lion rampant and the inscription "БНБ," visible from either side against the light



Colour changing ink: when tilted, the numeral "20" changes from lilac to green



Security thread: embedded dark foil strip with light microtext "БНБ 20" visible on the obverse only against the light, and on the reverse as a dashed line changing colour from lilac to green when tilted



Matching elements: a chessboard pattern revealing the numeral "20" against the light from either side



Obverse: an image of the poet Pencho Slaveykov, architectural motifs from the National Theatre and National Library buildings, inscriptions “Пенчо Славейков”, “1866–1912,” “50” and “ПЕТДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”

Paper tint: faint green
Overall colourway: sepia
Size: 136x76mm

Holographic strip: the image of a bird, the numeral “50” and the microtext “ЛЕВА” which change colour when tilted



SECURITY



Intaglio: the numeral “50” on the holographic strip; the inscription “ПЕТДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”; the image of Pencho Slaveykov; the large numeral “50”; the inscription “БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА”; the visually impaired mark of two facing triangles



FEATURES

Reverse: facsimiles of works by Pencho Slaveykov, freehand sketches from anthologies of his works, a silhouette of the poet Mara Belcheva and the inscriptions “50” and “ПЕТДЕСЕТ ЛЕВА”



Watermark: a halftone image of the poet visible from either side against the light



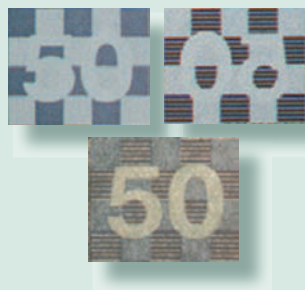
Colour changing ink: when tilted, the 2006 issue has the circle change from gold to green



Security thread: an embedded dark foil with a light microtext “БНБ 50” visible on either side only against the light



Matching elements: a chessboard pattern revealing the numeral “50” on either side against the light



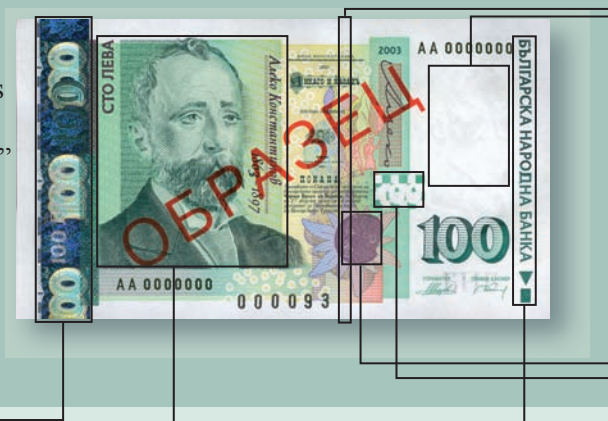
Obverse: an image of the author Aleko Konstantinov, signs and symbols related to the Bulgarian Touring Movement, a facsimile of the frontispiece of Konstantinov's travelogue *Do Chikago i Nazad*, inscriptions "Алеко Константинов," "1863–1897," "100" and "СТО ЛЕВА"

Paper tint: faint green
Overall colourway: green
Size: 141x79mm

Holographic strip: the image of an edelweiss changes into a profile of the author alongside the numeral "100" and the microtext "ЛЕВА" which change colour when tilted



SECURITY

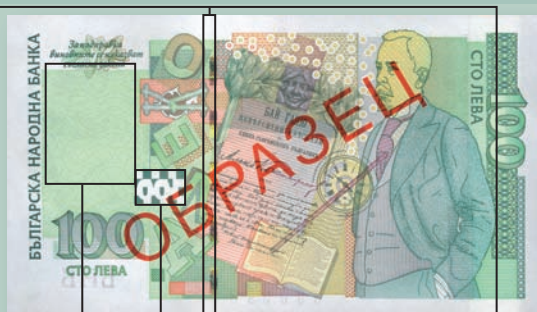


Intaglio: the numeral "100" on the holographic strip; the inscription "СТО ЛЕВА"; the image of Aleko Konstantinov; the large numeral "100"; the inscription "БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА"; the visually impaired mark of an inverted triangle and rectangle



FEATURES

Reverse: a figure of the author, items from his life and work and the inscriptions “100” and “СТО ЛЕВА”



Watermark: a halftone image of the author and the inscription “БНБ” visible from either side against the light



Colour changing ink: when tilted, the edelweiss changes from lilac to green



Security thread: an embedded foil strip with with a light microtext “БНБ 100” visible on either side only against the light and showing on the reverse as a dotted line with holographic properties



Matching elements: a chessboard pattern revealing the numeral “100” against the light from either side



USEFUL INFORMATION

Bulgarian National Bank Order No 18 mandate banks and the Cash Services Company AD to exchange damaged Bulgarian cash in current circulation. Only the BNB exchanges outgoing Bulgarian cash about to leave circulation.

There are two ways to exchange damaged Bulgarian cash:

1. directly at the BNB, banks, or Cash Services Company AD offices;
2. deferred, for cash so damaged its value is uncertain (say, burned, torn, or stained by anti-theft devices). Complete a sample form, available through the BNB, banks, or www.bnb.bg. Send your damaged cash and paperwork through a bank, by registered mail, or courier to:

***Bulgarian National Bank,
BNB Cash Centre,
Damaged Banknotes Evaluation Committee,
1784 Sofia, Kv. Poligona, Ul. Mihail Tenev 10***

The Committee will assess your damaged cash within 30 business days of receiving it. You will get your refund for damaged cash either:

1. by transfer into the bank account you name in Appendix 4; or
2. in cash at the Sofia BNB Cash Centre in Sofia at the above address if you named no bank account; or
3. by post order.

The BNB, banks and cash handling businesses retain intentionally defaced or counterfeit cash and refuse to exchange or refund it.