https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/profile_mask2.png

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| |  | | --- | | **Claire TWINN <claire.twinn@hsbc.com>** |   Dec 17, 2019, 3:53 PM  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |

Dear Kavan,

Many thanks for clarifying your request. Please find attached a copyright release form for you to sign and return to me (a scan is fine). I have filled in as much detail as possible, but please check that I have your details correct (I copied these from your previous form). Once the form is signed I can get the images to you. As there are quite a few and they are too large to send via email I shall ask one of my colleagues to set you up with access to Intralinks (a file sharing site).

With regards your question on watermarks, please see the information in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HSBC Ref no** | **Banknote** | **Watermark** |
| HQ HSBCBN 5212 | 1858 Kandy 5 shillings proof (one sided) | Cannot see one |
|  |  |  |
| HQ HSBCBN 5214 | 1858 Kandy 10 shilling specimen | Cannot see one |
|  |  |  |
| HQ HSBCBN 5213, HQ HSBCBN 5215, HQ HSBCBN 5216 | 1864 Kandy 10 shillings, £1, £5 specimens | Possibly see something resembling an Italic ‘C’ on the right and possibly other markings before, but it is not clear |
|  |  |  |
| HQ HSBCBN 5196, HQ HSBCBN 5201, HQ HSBCBN 5204, HQ HSBCBN 5206, HQ HSBCBN 5208, HQ HSBCBN 5209 | 1870 Colombo Rs5, 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1000  specimens [100 and 500 provided 2017] | Possibly see something resembling an Italic ‘C’ on the right and possibly other markings before, but it is not clear |
|  |  |  |
| HQ HSBCBN 5217, HQ HSBCBN 5218, HQ HSBCBN 5219 | 1870 Kandy Rs5, 10, 50 specimens | ‘Chartered Mercantile Bank London, India & China’ appears on HQ HSBCBN 5219. Couldn’t see this on 5217 or 5218 |
|  |  |  |
| HQ HSBCBN 5210, HQ HSBCBN 5211 | 1880 Galle Rs 10, 100 cancelled | The condition of HQ HSBCBN 5210 is poor so I can’t tell, but for 5211 ‘Chartered Mercantile Bank London, India & China’ appears |

With regards the banknotes we do not have, but you have been able to find elsewhere, I’m afraid I do not have any information on why that might be. We do not have a full set of proofs or specimens for Mercantile banknotes and a few of what we have we only have cancelled notes, for example the 1880 Galle notes. We have the following banknote registers for Sri Lanka which may be able to help with your question on documentation of what was issued:

         HQ MB 2488.36 - Banknote register covering Colombo: 1859-1867;

         HQ MB 2488.37 - Banknote register covering Colombo: 1875-1883;

         HQ MB 2488.38 - Banknote register covering Colombo: 1883;

         HQ MB 2488.42 - Banknote register covering Kandy: 1858-1873;

         HQ MB 2488.43 - Banknote register covering Kandy: 1871-1884;

Due to limited resources I’m afraid I am unable to carry out any further research for you. You would be very welcome to consult the registers yourself if you are in London at any point, or you may engage a researcher to do so on your behalf if you think these records would be useful. The National Archives UK has a list of independent researchers:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/paying-for-research/independent-researchers/>

I look forward to hearing from you in due course with the signed form.

Kind regards,

Claire

**Claire TWINN**  
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