

MAURITIUS



1889 - 20 CENTS - OBVERSE

MAURITIUS, BRITISH COLONY of
BIRMINGHAM MINT

20 CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.83 GRAMS

1877	375,000
1882	15,000
1889	250,000

▲OV: Head of Queen Victoria wearing a diadem, facing left, VICTORIA, left QUEEN, right / H (mintmark) below bust.

▼RV: Large 20 within circle of pearls, * (rosette) MAURITIUS * (rosette) above, TWENTY CENTS DATE, below.

EDGE: Reeded

DESIGNER: William Theed

MINT: H = THE MINT, BIRMINGHAM, LTD. (Name changed January 1, 1889 from R. HEATON & SONS)

REFERENCE: Y-5, MU5, KM-11

FOOTNOTE: Mauritius is a British Island Colony in the Indian Ocean 550 miles east of Madagascar. The island was discovered by Mascarenhas (It and the neighboring islands are called the Mascarenes) in 1507. Ninety years later the Portuguese abandoned it, and the Dutch seized it in 1598 and named it for their Prince Maurice; but they in turn abandoned it in 1710. Subsequently it was occupied by the French who named it Isle de France. The British occupied the island in 1810 and it was formally ceded to Great Britain in 1815 by the Congress of Vienna.



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FOOTNOTE: Population of Mauritius - c.1892 - 372,664.

FOOTNOTE: By order in Council and Proclamation of August 12, 1876 the Indian rupee was established as the only legal tender payment of Mauritius and its dependencies, replacing the Spanish dollar, British colonial dollar and the Imperial £ s. d. of Great Britain. The decimal system of Mauritius was an inheritance from the days of French rule. One rupee equals 100 cents, with subsidiary silver coins expressed in denominations of 20 and 10 cents, first dated in 1877. The British Colony of Ceylon also used the rupee as the monetary unit, divided in to 100 cents, however, their subsidiary coinage is subdivided; 50 cents, 25 cents, and 10 cents, quite like the British India rupee subdivisions of; ½ rupee, ¼ rupee and 2 annas. To the East, the coinage of the Straits Settlements based on the dollar monetary unit (originally the 'Mex' dollar or Spanish dollar) is equal to 100 cents. Note the obverse of the Mauritius 20 cents with its large numerals is much like the Straits Settlements 10 cents coinage, being of similar size, fineness. Several issues of China also use the large 10 cents numeral.

FOOTNOTE: Mauritius is of an oval form, about 40 miles long from north-east to south-west, and 25 miles in breadth, and is surrounded by coral reefs. It is composed chiefly of rugged and irregular mountains, the highest Montague de La Riviere Noire, 2700 feet, and the isolated rock Peter Botte, 2600 feet. Between the mountains, however, and along the coast, there are large and fertile plains and valleys, having a rich soil of black vegetable mold or stiff clay. The climate is pleasant during the cool season, but oppressively hot in summer, and the island is occasionally visited by severe epidemics. The island has two railways, crossing it, in all 87 miles...Population of Mauritius - 368,163 c.1895, two-thirds of whom were originally coolies imported to work the sugar estates. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Phila., 1896.*



1899 - 20 CENTS - OBVERSE

MAURITIUS, BRITISH COLONY of
LONDON MINT

20 CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.83 GRAMS

1877	u/m	proof only
1878	50,000	
1883	100,000	
1886	750,000	
1899	500,000	

▲OV: Head of Queen Victoria wearing a diadem, facing left, VICTORIA, left QUEEN, right.

▼RV: Large 20 within circle of pearls, * (rosette) MAURITIUS * (rosette) above, TWENTY CENTS DATE, below.

EDGE: Reeded

DESIGNER: William Theed

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

REFERENCE: Y-5, KM-11

POPULATION: 1900 - 370,407 with capital Port Louis with 53,978 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: The commerce of Mauritius is chiefly with Great Britain and the British colonies. Exports include sugar, rum, vanilla, aloe fiber, molasses and coconuts. Chief imports are cotton goods, provisions, coal, machinery and fertilizers. Port Louis is connected by steam-ship lines with Madagascar, Reunion, and British India. It is to the great advantage of the colony that nearly all vessels between Europe and India via the Cape of Good Hope touch at Port Louis. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: The Seychelles were a dependency of Mauritius until August 31, 1903, and it was not until 1939 that the Seychelles ordered from the Royal Mint, London coins of their own.



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1893 Fire at capital of Mauritius almost totally destroys St. Louis

FOOTNOTE: The Island of Rodrigues, 350 miles north-east of Mauritius is a dependency of Mauritius. Area 40 square miles, population 1931 - 8,202. Cattle, beans, salt fish and goats are principal exports. The Island is under the administration of a Magistrate from Mauritius, who takes his orders from the Governor of Mauritius. Other dependencies - Most of the scattered group of coral islands belonging to Great Britain in the Indian Ocean are administered by the Mauritius Government, being visited periodically by two Magistrates whose duty is to inquire into the condition of the laborers, and settle any disputes which may be referred to them. The chief product is coconut oil. The most important is Diego Garcia with a population in 1931 of 445, one of the Chagos Archipelago, which lies on the direct route from the Red Sea to Australia, and possesses a good harbor. *World Almanac, 1940.*



1935 - 1/4 RUPEE - OBVERSE

MAURITIUS, BRITISH COLONY of
LONDON MINT

1/4 RUPEE 19MM .916 FINE 2.83 GRAMS

1934	400,000
1935	400,000
1936	400,000

^RV: Head of King George V, facing left GEORGE V KING, left EMPEROR, right.

∇OV: Design of four symbols; Crown above, Five petal Rose left, 17 petal Lotus flower right, Fleurs de Lys below, inscriptions ★ MAURITIUS ★ above KG below / QUARTER • RUPEE • DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (Rev) KG = (George) Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-9, KM-15

POPULATION: 1931 - 393,418 with capital Port Louis with 54,876 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: King George V is wearing the Imperial Crown and ermine robe of State, the Collar of the Most Noble Order of the Garter and the Badge of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

FOOTNOTE: Much of the island of Mauritius is still green with bamboo thickets and forests of coconut palm and other tropical trees, despite the areas that have been stripped to make way for the numerous sugar plantations worked by Hindu coolies. In addition there are Chinese, Malays, Negroes, and about 4000 whites - mostly of the latter descendants of early French colonists when the island was called Isle de France. *Compton Pictured Encyclopedia, 1922.*



1935 - 1/4 RUPEE - REVERSE



1938 - 1/4 RUPEE - OBVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Two dependencies of Mauritius are; Rodrigues, an island 18 miles long and 7 miles broad and the Chagos Islands. The largest of the Chagos Islands, Diego Garcia is 12 miles long and 6 miles wide, with about 500 inhabitants.



1938 - 1/4 RUPEE - REVERSE

MAURITIUS, BRITISH COLONY of
LONDON MINT

1/4 RUPEE 19MM .916 FINE 2.83 GRAMS

1938 200,000

▲RV: Head of King George VI, facing left GEORGE VI left KING, right EMPEROR, below / PM under bust.

▼OV: Design of four symbols; Crown above, Five petal Rose left, 17 petal Lotus flower right, Fleurs de Lys below, inscriptions ★ MAURITIUS ★ above KG below / QUARTER • RUPEE • 1938 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (Obv) PM = Percy Metcalfe
(Rev) KG = (George) Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-16, KM-18

TYPE: Fineness sterling .916 silver

FOOTNOTE: The monetary unit of Mauritius is the Mauritius rupee at par with the Indian rupee.

FOOTNOTE: Creole, a French patois, is the lingua franca of the island of Mauritius, although five Indian languages, two Chinese dialects, French and English are also spoken.

FOOTNOTE: The symbols of the obverse design denote; Crown designating a British Colony, Fleurs de Lys for the French period of rule, Five petal Rose is for England and the 17 petal Lotus Flower for the Hindu from India.



1946 - 1/4 RUPEE - REVERSE

MAURITIUS, BRITISH COLONY of
LONDON MINT

1/4 RUPEE 19MM .500 FINE 2.83 GRAMS

1946 2,000,000

▲RV: Head of King George VI, facing left GEORGE VI left KING, right EMPEROR, below / PM under bust.

▼OV: Design of four symbols; Crown above, Five petal Rose left, 17 petal Lotus flower right, Fleurs de Lys below, inscriptions ★ MAURITIUS ★ above KG below / QUARTER • RUPEE • 1946 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (Obv) PM = Percy Metcalfe
(Rev) KG = (George) Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-16a, KM-18a

TYPE: Fineness reduced to .500 silver.



Mauritius east of Madagascar