Banco de la República (the Central Bank of Colombia) launches the commemorative coin of the Battle of Lake Maracaibo

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Starting on 21 June, *Banco de la República* will make available to the public the coin of the Battle of Lake Maracaibo. Additionally, July 24th will be declared Colombian Navy Day.

This new coin, minted for commemorative purposes and for once only, has on its obverse the image of Admiral José Padilla López, who, on 24 July 1823 defeated the Royal Spanish Navy in the Battle of Lake Maracaibo, thus consolidating the independence of Colombia. On the left is the inscription "*ALMIRANTE JOSÉ PADILLA LÓPEZ"* (ADMIRAL JOSÉ PADILLA LÓPEZ) and the phrase "*Morir o ser libres*" ("To die or be free"), which was a proclamation to his men before the historic battle started. The following inscriptions are also found on the obverse: "*200 AÑOS DE LA BATALLA NAVAL DEL LAGO DE MARACAIBO"* ("Two centuries of the battle of Lake Maracaibo"), "24 DE JULIO DÍA DE LA ARMADA DE COLOMBIA" ("July 24th, COLOMBIAN NAVY DAY"), and "1823-2023," as per the historical commemoration described in the Law. Finally, the coin includes the image of a ship with its sails unfurled, sailing the ocean.

The reverse incorporates the coat of arms of the Navy of Colombia, which contains three equal stripes with the emblems of the national coat of arms of Colombia inside them: two cornucopias and a pomegranate, the Phrygian cap, and the image of the two oceans of Colombia. It also has the following inscriptions: i) the words "*REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA*" (REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA); ii) "2023," the mintage year; iii) the denomination of COP 10,000; and iv) a latent image as a security feature that, depending on the angle from which it is viewed, reflects the initials "BR" (which stands for Banco de la República) or the Arabic numeral "10."



It is a silver-colored coin with a copper, nickel, and zinc alloy with an approximate size of 35 millimeters in diameter and a face value of COP 10,000. The coin may only be purchased at *Banco de la República*'s Treasury counters in Bogotá and at its branches and Cultural Agencies nationwide (maximum three coins per user), upon making an appointment through the web page www.banrep.gov.co until out of stock.

Fuente: https://www.banrep.gov.co/en/news/banrep-launches-commemorative-coin-battle-lake-maracaibo