

CHINESE COIN HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE TUCKER COLLECTION

By

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As the pebble is thrown into the pond it begins a new journey. Long or short, distant or near all have their own path. The bottom of the pond is not the end of the journey it only marks the beginning of a new one. There is no end to this journey, only beginnings. I would like to take you on such a journey from ancient China to a land we call home.

The coins shown in this book started a journey at the death of George and Mara Warner and their journey starts about 1891 when, as a young couple, they boarded a tramp steamer headed for China. There in the Wu Dong Mountains they served as missionaries for ten years.

It is rumored that the Warner's a mission school and church within earshot of a Buddhist temple. Whether it was on purpose or not is not recorded in history. Family lore says that they gathered enough money from tithings to purchase a bell to ring for all to hear and be beckoned by its call to services. Every Sunday morning, they would loudly ring their bell which came to annoy the Buddhist temple monks. They, in return, purchased a large gong and used it to announce their own ceremonies.

During their ten some odd year stay they forged a relationship with the people of the village that included not only religious practices but educational as well. In the process of endearing themselves to the people of the Wu Dong valley and mountains they acquired a taste for local culture and objects. They began to collect every coin from every emperor they could get their hands on.

But politics being what they were tensions led to strife between the people and the "foreign devils" as they were called. The end came during the Boxer rebellion in 1900 and they packed everything they had in a trunk and fled the country, taking with them the gifts that the people had given so freely.

At first, they went to St. Paul, Minn. Then, in the end, settled in Goshen next to our grandparents Leo and Beatrice Tucker. Speaking often to churches and other groups they became strong grange members, George eventually becoming the chaplain in the grange in Goshen. By 1920 at age 61 and 57 they were deeply involved in the community as religious leaders and speakers.

Then time and the ravages of their profession caught up with them. By 1932 George was ailing and Mara wasn't far behind. George died 13 November 1937 leaving behind a 60-year legacy in the service to his lord and to his Mara. By this time, she was getting weaker and needed help to do the daily routines needed just to sustain life. This their neighbor Beatrice Tucker (our grandmother) provided without compensation until Mara died just 4 months later right before World War II.

Our father would spend time, over the years, listening to the stories of China and playing with the collection of coins that the parishioners had given to the Warner's. In the end Mara gave those coins to Dad in gratitude for the service of our grandmother (Beatrice).

When Dad (Wayne Tucker) went into the Navy in WWII the coins got put into the Tucker family chest to be retrieved when Grandpa (Leo Tucker) passed away in (1955). After Grandpa died the family stood around that chest while pictures of the family, favorite hand guns and family treasures were handed out. Noticing the large cloth bag my mother (Barbara Loraine Tucker) asked what was in the bag? My uncle Leo Tucker (we called him Uncle Tuck) responded by handing over the bag saying, "Oh, these belong to your husband."

I remember that day vividly, sunny, no clouds to speak of and warm enough for all the cousins to play outside. We were given little plastic cars that grandpa had collected and played with them until they wore out.

Mom took the large cloth bag home and began the long process of discovering their extent and history. What she found staggered her and later, with the help of Arthur B Coole's first book, found that the collection contained a coin from nearly every emperor in known Chinese history since 200 BC.

Time spins forward.

Dad built an enclosure in glass for the coins as a display and the collection toured the world with a person I do not remember save that he was a colonel. When I was 12 or so the collection came back and sat in the front room of the old house for many years.

After I graduated from engineering school I got into martial arts and Mom thought it appropriate to start teaching me how to read the coins. When she passed I inherited all her papers and research along with the story you have already read above. Since that time, I have acquired most of Coole's books on early Chinese spades and money.

Because of domestic issues Dad decided to get the collection out of the reach of his new wife and kids at the time and he handed over the entire collection to me. When Dad passed some years later they formally became mine. I thought that the ownership of such a collection would be the solution to all my problems. I found, instead, that they were the root of them.

To the original collection Mom (Barbara) added a number of coins to aid in filling out the collection, then after I acquired the coins I added a few, mostly old early spade pieces, then my son David added a few to the collection. Recently I have added a few very early pieces and I suspect that some are forgeries of known early Shang dynasty pieces.

Now, I am passing on the information to my grandnieces Lizzie Tucker and Hayley Lantz with the hopes that they pick up the interest in the coins and their unique place in history. We will collaborate, Lizzie taking the pictures, Hayley doing the art work, me doing the writing and my twin sister Ann Rawlins may even get in on the organizing and editing of the book if I talk to her nice.



TIME LINE OF CHINESE EVENTS

There are many good books on China and its history so this book will only list the following timeline and then use it to generate a base for the examination of the Tucker collection. Arthur B Coole, also a missionary in China, and his books, have also been a good source of information. O. D. Cresswell's little book was a help in organizing this book. So, without further ado we will see a portion of the coins journey in the pages beyond.

TIME	DYNASTY
2,000 BC	PRE HSIA
2100 - 1600 BC	HSIA OR XIA
1600 - 1050 BC	SHANG
1046 - 771 BC	WESTERN CHOU
771 256 BC	EASTERN CHOU
255 BC - 207 BC	CH'IN
206 BC - 24 AD	WESTERN HAN
6 AD - 23 AD	USERPER WANG MANG
25 AD - 221 AD	EASTERN HAN
221 AD - 280 AD	THREE KINGDOMS
221 AD - 265 AD	MINOR HAN
222 AD - 280 AD	WU
256 AD - 420 AD	CH'IN OR QIN
420 AD - 581 AD	DIVISION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH
420 AD - 479 AD	LIU SUNG
502 AD - 557 AD	LIANG
557 AD - 589 AD	CH'EN
386 AD - 534 AD	NORTHERN WEI
550 AD - 577 AD	NORTHERN CH'I
557 AD - 581 AD	NORTHERN CHOU
206 BCE - 9 CE	WESTERN OR FORMER HAN
23 - 220 CE	EASTERN OR LATER HAN
220 - 589 CE	SIX DYNASTIES PERIOD
581 - 618 CE	SUI DYNASTY
618 AD - 907 AD	T'ANG OF TANG
907 AD - 960 AD	FIVE DYNASTIES
907 AD - 922 AD	LATER LIANG
923 AD - 935 AD	LATER T'ANG
936 AD - 947 AD	LATER CHIN
947 AD - 951 AD	LATER HAN
951 AD - 960 AD	LATER CHOU
960 - 1279	SUNG OR SONG
960 - 1127	NORTHERN SUNG
1127 - 1279	SOUTHERN SUNG
1279 - 1368	YUAN
1368 - 1644	MING
1644 - 1912	CH'ING OR QING
1900	BOXER REBELLION
1912 - 1949	REPUBLIC PERIOD

This list was developed from the coins themselves and the integration of some other existing chronologies.

EMPERORS OF EACH DYNASTY THEIR HISTORY AND COINS

ENIGMAS

In any collection there are enigmas and so it is with this collection. The following piece is an unknown to me. Mom (Barbra Tucker) called it Bean Nose Money. It is odd for one thing it is not cast it is stamped. All Pei is cast that I have ever seen, or at least that's what I thought at first. The exception is listed below. And the characters are not recognizable as Chinese. Even in the early stages of Oracle Bone character development Chinese characters were distinguishable and legible even by today's scholars. It could be from India or could be Pakistani or even Tibetan. Perhaps someone out there will know what it is and be able to identify it. The piece came with the original collection and just where the Warner's got it is unknown. It is one sided but it is obviously crushed between two hard objects.



But the answer may lie in another direction. The copper cowry piece as shown below is not cast it is hammered. By examining the technology of both this piece and the copper cowry it is possible to come to some agreement as to how it was made and where. You must understand that I have been pondering over this piece since 1956 and until my nephew the plumber (Eric Tucker) examined the piece I had no idea at all of how it would fit into the arena of Chinese coin making.

The idea is that you could duplicate the copper cowry by a process of hammer and hard punch against an anvil. The hard punch could be antler, the hammer almost any heavy object and the anvil could be any tough rock in the Yangzi River Valley. All you would need would be a large copper Chrystal and the idea that you could alter it. There would be no need to melt and cast the copper cowry only an idea that you could use the objects around you to fashion something useful. It wouldn't be long after this that spear points and knives were made but then I haven't had the opportunity to examine those spear points held in the Canadian Museum either.



This partial image comes from Wikipedia and the provenience is uncertain as is the image below. Where'd you collect it becomes vitally important to the argument. But it shows one remarkable fact, the style of character in the two examples is very similar. Could it be that the die used to create the bronze piece was in fact a section of an oracle bone? Perhaps we'll never know, for certain anyway.



These pieces are called ant nose or ghost face money and were not a part of the original collection. They were created to form a more compact form of wealth. At the time only rulers and the wealthy could afford to own such things. They eventually became quite common and acquired the name Pei after a poem carrying the same name. The *Wangchuan ji* is a collection of Tang poetry also known in

other ways, such as Wheel River Collection. The verses are based on a series of twenty scenes, inspired by the sights available at Wang Wei's retirement estate: each one forms the topic for a pair of one five-character quatrains, one by each of the poetic pair, first Wang Wei, and then Pei Di. Besides the long-term interest in these verses, in China, this anthology has created much interest around the world, including numerous translations, especially Wang's version of "Deer Park". Several complete translations of the whole work have been done, in English. A series of "Twenty Scenes" of Wangchuan were done as a painting series. The Wangchuan poems (and related artworks) form an important part of traditional Chinese Shan shui landscape painting and Shanshui poetry development.



I have thought for a long time that there should be a copper tradition in money manufacturing in China. The above pieces are copper not bronze, thus proving, at least in part, that copper was used early in the numismatic trade. Wikipedia states that Ant Nose Money started around 700 BC, but now I think it could be many times that as the use of copper was proven archaeologically at 3000 BC. In China, the general

use of metal dates back to 2000 BC and bronze by 1200 BC had reached a state of high perfection. Spearheads and copper knives, now in possession of the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada, are believed to date from around 3000 BC. It is not a stretch to believe the same of these two copper Pei's. Note that the start of the copper industry dates to the same time as the inception of the use of copper and the first listed emperor at 2852 BC.

The two Pei weigh 52.18 grams combined and displaced about 6 ml. of water. Dividing $52.18 / 6 =$ roughly 8.9 which is too high for bronze but fits nicely within the 8.8 number for the specific gravity of pure copper. A streak test indicates copper as well. Hardness was 2.5 which is a little less than bronze which is 3. My assumption is that they were made sometime around 2800 – 2900 BC. That's 5000 years old. A shortage of copper probably caused the shift to bronze. It is interesting to think that the shortage of copper could have caused the shift to bronze not for utilitarian reasons but economic.

In archaeology we constantly harp on provenience. The person I got the coins from was a Mr. Levi Worley, who is out of Auburn University. He sold the coins to me as a way to help finance his trip to the orient. He purchased the coins on line from an Asian fellow who found them while metal detecting along a local river in Asian area. My thanks to Mr. Worley for his help and for the two coins.





According to Wikipedia tin is an essential metal in the creation of tin bronzes, and its acquisition was an important part of ancient cultures from the Bronze Age onward. Its use began in the Middle East and the Balkans around 3000 BC. Tin is a relatively rare element in the Earth's crust, with about 2 parts per million (ppm), compared to iron with 50,000 ppm, copper with 70 ppm, lead with 16 ppm, arsenic with 5 ppm, silver with 0.1 ppm, and gold with 0.005 ppm (Valera & Valera 2003, p. 10). Ancient sources of tin were therefore rare, and the metal usually had to be traded over very long distances to meet demand in areas which lacked tin deposits.

Known sources of tin in ancient times include the southeastern tin belt that runs from Yunnan in China to the Malay Peninsula; Devon and Cornwall in England; Brittany in France; the border between Germany and the Czech Republic; Spain; Portugal; Italy; and central and South Africa (Wertime 1979, p. 1; Muhly 1979). Syria and Egypt have been suggested as minor sources of tin, but the archaeological evidence is inconclusive.



These two pieces are from eBay on an auction I didn't win. The point is that they are quite obviously cast, which is a tradition carried on for the rest of Chinese coin production, at least until the late Qin dynasty when they began to make coins by stamping them out like pennies.

Mining History by Dr. Liu Guanghua and Wendell Wilson

The industrious ancient Chinese began prospecting for useful minerals in antiquity, apparently before many other cultures did. Coal carvings have been found in the ruins of the Fushun coalfield, Liaoning Province. Their radiometric age is over 6,000 years (Neolithic). The earliest copperware in northern China is also Neolithic, and bronze was widely used during the Shang Dynasty (16th to 11th century B.C.). In 1973 a 3,000-year-old copper mine with smelting facilities was discovered in Tonglushan on Mount Verdigris in Daye County. The Daye copper mines in Hubei Province have a history going back 2,800 years and they are still in production (and providing many of our collector specimens today!). All of these finds indicate that mining activities in China began at least 5,000 years ago.

Today, Chinese minerals are not just collectible treasures, but also huge economic drivers for the rise of China to world-power status. During the last century, common raw materials mined in China were used mainly for construction and weapons, but we now see China taking the lead in the production of elements and minerals used in modern technologies, such as silicon for semiconductors; see also the table of rare earths, below. As collectors, we can hope that China will soon excel in recovering and preserving the crystal specimens found in these new mines as well.

Generally, Chinese mining history can be divided into two periods. The time from 6,000 years ago to the first Opium War (1839–1842) represents the primary stage of Chinese mining development, characterized by simple tools and ancient manual methods. From the Opium War to the present, Chinese mining has been characterized by a combination of Western mining techniques and traditional Chinese methods.

During the Xia Dynasty, copper weapons and tools were already in wide use by 2000 B.C. In the Yin ruins at Anyang, Henan Province, a major archaeological site of the Xia and Shang Dynasties, gold, copper, tin and lead tools and containers have been found. For example, the Simuwu Ding (a sacrificial vessel) found in the Yin ruins contains 84.77% copper, 11.64% tin and 2.79% lead, which is very close to the composition of the bronze alloy having the highest hardness known to the modern metallurgical industry. There is little doubt that ancient China excelled in metalworking. Nephrite and serpentine jewelry have also been unearthed in sites dating to Xia and Shang Dynasty times.

List of legendary political figures

180,000 years	Nuwa
110,000 years	Youchao
456,000 years	Suiren

2852 – 2737 BC

Fuxi



Mentioned by Coole on page 497 of the “Spade Coin Types of the Chou Dynasty,” but refers to it as a “Fictitious Spade.” The technology it took to create this is quite advanced for its time. Maybe that’s why it is called fictitious.

2737 – 2699 BC

Yan Emperor

Shennong (神農) Meant God Farmer or God Peasant



Shennong as depicted in a 1503 painting by Guo Xu.

2699 – 2588 BC

Yellow Emperor

Gongsun Xuanyuan (公孫軒轅)

2587 – 2491 BC

Shaohao

Jintian-shi (金天氏)

2490 – 2413 BC

Zhuanxu

Gaoyang (高陽)

2412 – 2343 BC

Ku

Gaoxin-shi (高辛氏)

2343 – 2333 BC

Zhi

Qingyang-shi (青陽氏)

2333 – 2234 BC

Yao

Tangyao (唐堯)

2233 – 2184 BC

Shun

Youyu (有虞)

XIA DYNASTY (2072 – 1600 BC)

	Yu	Also known as: <i>Dà Yǔ</i> , 大禹 (Yǔ the Great)	
	Qi	Son of Yu 啟	
Tai Kang	Kang	太康	2117 – 2088 BC
Zhong Kang	Kang	仲康	2088 – 2075 BC
Shao Kang	Kang	少康	2007 – 1985 BC
Yin Jia	Jin	胤甲	1810 – 1789 BC



GHOST FACE MONEY

PEI PAN

2700 – 1100 BC

Measures 34.8 mm x 23.2 mm

Weighs 26.1 gr.

I've seen only three of these come up for sale in the last ten years.

This Ant Nose or Ghost Face Money was produced somewhere between 2700 BC and 1100 BC when the Shang Dynasty or era began. The Chinese term for these early coins was Pei, which refers to a childhood counting poem, where Pei means "one." The character on the Pei is P'an which means "half." The "Jin" and a couple of other Pei are heavily counterfeited but as yet the P'an is only available as an original. It is cast in bronze. There are two variations of P'an, one without a circle and one a half circle. Original P'an range in asking price from \$50 to \$500 for a really nice example, with most on the market right now fetching about \$50. Note that the first two images are of the item you see for auction and the third image is a comparison example for sale from Germany. Weighing 26.1 grams this is a fairly rare issue and in very nice condition.

Kong Jia		孔甲	1789 – 1758 BC
Lu Gui	Jie	履癸	
			Jie with a halberd



Shang Dynasty (1600 – 1046 BC)

The Shang dynasty was just a myth when I first picked up pen and paper to start this project. In the years since graduate school it has become quite well known archaeologically. I am adding to the research the new names of that Shang dynasty with the hopes that it will help revive the history of the people who later came to call themselves the Chinese.



The front side of the coin reads Shih San or “one goat.” One goat in that it was worth one goat. The other side indicates that this early City State got its name from the mountain around which it was built, which was Stone Hen Mountain. A B Coole dates this coin before 1122 BC or Wu Yi. This coin was purchased off of eBay.

Even though Coole mentions this next coin as much later as being associated with Wu Huo, stylistically it should probably go here?



Mentioned on page 480 in Coole's book, "The Early Coins of the Chou Dynasty," number 1139. He mentions that the "line drawings...have been praised for being a scholarly work." It is in a book of official listings of the coins in the imperial museum. So, some credence must be given to the shape. Legend reads LIANG CHENG SHANG CHIN TANG HUAH. Technologically it seems odd that this coin goes there. You would think it was much older? 16th to 11th century BC perhaps? I place it here as well with the above disclaimer.

1675 – 1646 BC

Tian Yi

Tang

天乙



Ruled two years
 Ruled four years
 1535 – 1523 BC
 Ruled for 19 years
 Ruled for 25 years
 Ruled for 17 years

Wai (Bu) Bing Sheng
 Zhong Ren Yong
 Tai Jia Zhi
 Wo Ding Xuan
 Tai Geng Bian
 Xiao Jia Gao

外丙
 仲壬
 太甲
 沃丁
 太庚
 小甲

Ruled for 12 years	Yong Ji	Zhou	雍己
Ruled for 75 years	Tai Wu	Mi	太戊
Ruled for 11 years	Zhong Ding	Zhuang	仲丁
Ruled for 15 years	Wai Ren	Fa	外壬
Ruled for 9 years	Jian Jia	Zheng	踐甲
Ruled for 19 years	Zu Yi	Teng	祖乙
Ruled for 16 years	Zu Xin	Dan	祖辛
Ruled for 25 years	Wo Jia	Yu	沃甲
Ruled for 32 years	Zu Ding	Xin	祖丁
Ruled for 29 years	Nan Geng	Geng	南庚
Ruled for 17 years	Yang Jia	He	陽甲
Ruled for 28 years	Pan Geng	Xun	盤庚
Ruled for 3 years	Xiao Xin	Song	小辛
Ruled for 10 years	Xiao Yi	Lian	小乙
1250 – 1192 BC	Wu Ding	Zhao	武丁
Ruled for 7 years	Zu Geng	Yue	祖庚
Ruled for 27+ years	Zu Jia	Zai	祖甲
Ruled for 6 years	Lin Xin	Xian	廩辛
1170 – 1147 BC	Kang Ding	Xiao	康丁
1174 – 1113 BC	Wu Yi	Qu	武乙
1112 – 1102 BC	Wen Ding	Tuo	文丁
1101 – 1076 BC	Di Yi	Xian	帝乙
1075 – 1046 BC	Di Xin	Shou	帝辛

Note that there is much debate related to those dates.



This piece was not a part of the original collection. I found it on eBay and thought it might be a forgery but after close scrutiny I'm not so sure. It is called bridge money because it resembles a Shang bridge.

The next two pieces are called dragon money as the ends of the arch are supposed to represent a dragon's head. I also found these on eBay. As you can see it is a time of great variety in the style of coins and what people believed money should look like. These pieces are called Double Dragon money.





This piece was also found on eBay and like the above examples represent a time of great experimentation in style design, weight and size. It is a carp or style of fish. This example of early Shang money, like the other pieces above are precursors to the spade and round cash issued by later rulers.

Western Chou (1046 – 771 BC)

The following are emperors attributed to that age. We have even found pictures of a couple.



This coin is not found in any reference material I have ever seen. I did find similar coins on page 476 in Coole's book "Spade Coin Types of the Chou Dynasty." Those coins read "State of Ch'i Restoration Money." I read ours differently in that I believe it reads, from bottom to top, "Bright Restoration Money." It is the only one like it. It is truly a one of a kind. The other variety listed numbers 4,955 examples. There is no way of knowing how many of this one exist. We simply don't know.

According to Coole: "Here we have a coin of different shape than we find anywhere else and with comes an interesting story. Mr. Hung, the author of the early book written in A.D. 1149 tells us

that in the 8th year of the reign of Hsien T'ung (A.D. 867) the inhabitants and tribesmen dug up a horde of 4,955 of these flat bronzes..."

There is a problem with this story however in that the legend on the coin above is similar but the bottom character is not the same. So somehow George Warner got his hands on this coin somewhere in central China in 1890. We have had this coin in the collection since that time. Maybe someday someone will figure it out. Until then I don't have enough data to solve the riddle.

What do I know? It is crudely cast out of high grade minerals, it was cast in a split mold and the characters are of an old variety. I therefore date this coin just after the Ant Nose Money mentioned earlier in the book. I can honestly say that I've been starring at the coin my whole life. It is my hope that the publication of it will excite someone to research or jog someone's memory. My mother had no idea what it was and it remained a mystery until I found Coole's book on the subject of ancient Chinese coins that I began to piece together the puzzle of the human shaped spade money.

?	Wen		
1046 – 1043 BC	Wu Wang	Fa	武王
1055 – 1021 BC	Cheng Wang	Song	成王



1020 – 996 BC	Kang Wang	Zhao	康王
996 – 977 BC	Zhao Wang	Xia	昭王
977 – 922 BC	Mu Wang	Man	穆王
922 – 900 BC	Gong Wang	Yihu	共王
899 – 892 BC	Yi Wang	Jian	懿王
892 – 886 BC	Xiao Wang	Bifang	孝王
885 – 878 BC	Yi Wang	Xie	夷王
877 – 841 BC	Li Wang	Hu	厲王
841 – 828 BC	Gonghe Regency		共和
828 – 782 BC	Xuan Wang	Jing	宣王
782 – 771 BC	You Wang	Gongsheng	幽王

Eastern Chou (771 – 256 BC)



770 – 720 BC	Ping Wang	Yijiu	平王
719 – 697 BC	Huan Wang	Lin	桓王
696 – 682 BC	Zhuang Wang	Tuo	莊王
681 – 677 BC	Xi Wang	Huqi	釐王
676 – 652 BC	Hui Wang	Lang	惠王
651 – 619 BC	Xiang Wang	Zheng	襄王
618 – 613 BC	Qing Wang	Renchen	頃王
612 – 607 BC	Kuang Wang	Ban	匡王
606 – 586 BC	Ding Wang	Yu	定王
585 – 572 BC	Jian Wang	Yi	簡王
571 – 545 BC	Ling Wang	Xiexin	靈王
544 – 521 BC	Jing Wang	Gui	景王
520 BC	Dao Wang	Meng	悼王
519 – 476 BC	Jing Wang	Gai	敬王
475 – 469 BC	Yuan Wang	Ren	元王
468 – 442 BC	Zhending Wang	Jie	貞定王
441 BC	Ai Wang	Quji	哀王
441 BC	Si Wang	Shu	思王
440 – 426 BC	Kao Wang	Wei	考王
425 – 402 BC	Weilie Wang	Wu	威烈王

401 – 376 BC	An Wang	Jiao	安王
375 – 369 BC	Lie Wang	Xi	烈王
368 – 321 BC	Xian Wang	Bian	顯王
320 – 315 BC	Shenjing Wang	Ding	慎靚王
314 – 256 BC	Nan Wang	Yan	赧王

The spade pieces common to the Chou (or Zhou) are fashioned in the shape of the most common farm implement, the spade. The money that was issued bore that shape, just in miniature. It must be noted that the first generally accepted date in China's history is 841 BC at the beginning of the Gonghe regency.



Chinese sources list about 500 variations of these hollow handled spade pieces. The all come from the Chao dynasty or the Zhou and Zhao states. This piece is not in the collection and is a photo of one that came from another source.



Piece on the right reads from left to right and says An Yin and dates to approximately 370 BC. Coole refers to it as a Northern Wei. This is a very rare coin and Coole only shows three types of this class. These coins came from a missionary out of Arkansas. Coins out of this pile were all identical.



The development of the spade as a coin is not straight forward and many lines started and some are difficult to follow. There are so many that no collection could possibly contain all varieties unless you specialized in just that area of Chinese coin history.



Calgary Coin says that “it appears that around 350 BC, and continuing down to the end of the Zhou period in 255 BC, the currency of China begins to unify in form, and we see thinner square foot spades appearing in an extensive series bearing a variety of mint names, showing very similar coins were made across a number of the Warring States, with only minor variations in form.”

Ch'in (Qin) (255 – 207 BC)

Zhaoxiang (306 – 250 BC) Ying Ze (嬴則 yíng zé) or Ying Ji (嬴稷 yíng jì)

King Zhaoxiang of Qin (Chinese: 秦昭襄王) (325–250 BC), or King Zhao of Qin (秦昭王), born Ying Ji (Chinese: 嬴稷), was the king of Qin from 307 BC to 250 BC. He was the son of King Huiwen and younger brother of King Wu.

King Zhaoxiang reigned as the King of Qin for 55 years, and was responsible for the state of Qin achieving strategic dominance over the other six major states. During his reign, Qin captured the Chu capital Ying in 278 BC, conquered the Xirong state of Yiqu in 272 BC, slaughtered a 450,000-strong Zhao army at Changping in 260 BC, and overthrew the Eastern Zhou dynasty in 256 BC. These aggressive territorial expansions and the strategic weakening of other rival states paved the path for Qin's eventual unification of China three decades later by his great-grandson Ying Zheng.

Xiaowen (250 BC) Ying Zhu (嬴柱 yíng zhù)

King Xiaowen of Qin (reigned 250 BC) was a Chinese king, who had a very brief reign. He is also known as Lord Anguo (安國君). His grandson was Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

Zhuangxiang (249 – 247 BC) Ying Zichu (嬴子楚 yíng zǐ chǔ)

Yiren was born to Lord Anguo, the second son and heir apparent of King Zhaoxiang, and Lord Anguo's concubine Lady Xia. He was chosen to serve as a hostage in the Kingdom of Zhao. In Handan (the capital of Zhao) he met a merchant, Lü Buwei, who saw Yiren as extraordinary and detected in him the potential to become the king of Qin in the future. Lü Buwei treated Yiren well and presented his concubine Lady Zhao to Yiren. Lady Zhao later bore Yiren a son, Ying Zheng.

In the meantime, through bribes and machinations, Lü Buwei helped Yiren return to Qin. He also successfully persuaded Lord Anguo's primary spouse, the childless Lady Huayang, to adopt Yiren as her own son, thereby making Yiren become Lord Anguo's legitimate heir apparent. As Lady Huayang was a native of the Chu state, she renamed Yiren to "Zichu" (lit. "son of Chu"). Upon the death of King Zhaoxiang in 251 BC, Lord Anguo ascended the throne and became historically known as "King Xiaowen", but he died in the following year just three days after his coronation. Zichu succeeded his father as the king of Qin and became historically known as "King Zhuangxiang of Qin". He named Lü Buwei as his chancellor, Lady Zhao as his queen consort, and Ying Zheng as his crown prince.

King Zhuangxiang died in 247 after reigning for three years. Ying Zheng succeeded him and eventually unified China through a series of wars against the other six major states, established the Qin Dynasty in 221 BC, and became historically known as "Qin Shi Huang" (First Emperor of Qin).

Qin Shi Huang (246 – 210 BC) 秦始皇 Zheng (some sources say he ruled from 221 – 210 BC)



History records Emperor Chin or Qin as the first ruler of China and indeed China carries his name (Chin)a.



This is the only coin I have seen attributed to Chin and it is quite possibly a forgery. I got the coin as a part of a trade for a double barreled side hammer shotgun. I have enjoyed this piece and the two others much more than an old shotgun.

Qin Er Shi	(210 – 207 BC)	秦二世	Huhai	
Qin San Shi	(207 BC)	秦三世	Ziying	
Western Han	(206 BC – 24 AD)			
Gaozu	(206 – 195 BC)	高祖	Liu Bang	(some say he did not exist)



Emperor Gaozu in Sancai Tuhui

Huidi	(195 – 188 BC)	惠帝	Liu Ying	(Some say he did not exist)
Shaodi Gong	(188 – 184 BC)	少帝	Liu Gong	(Some say he did not exist)

Empress Kao Hou (187 – 180 BC) Pan Liang (Heavy round variations occur but are rare). This is sometimes written Ban Liang.



Pan Liang Tree and Flower Money



This very rare coin is also by Pan Liang. The coin is very uncommon but this is the first time the tree and flower money are attached to the empress Pan Liang.

Shaodi Hong	(184 – 180 BC)	少帝	Liu Hong	(Some say he did not exist)
Wendi	(180 – 157 BC)	文帝	Liu Heng	



Jingdi
Emperor Wen of Han
(157 – 141 BC) 景帝 Liu Qi



Emperor Jing of Han

Wudi

(141 – 87 BC) 武帝 Liu Che



Emperor Wu of Han

Zhaodi

(87 – 74 BC) 昭帝 Liu Fuling



Emperor Zhao of Han

Prince of Changyi (74 BC)

海昏侯 Liu He

Xuandi (74 – 49 BC)

宣帝 Liu Xun



Emperor Xuan from Dancai Tuhui

Yuandi (49 – 33 BC) 元帝 Liu Shi

Chengdi (33 – 7 BC) 成帝 Liu Ao



Emperor Cheng riding in a palanquin (5th century)

Aidi (7 – 1 BC) 哀帝 Liu Xin



Emperor Ai of Han and Dong Xian

By

Chen Hong Shou (17th century)

Pingdi	(1 – 6 AD)	平帝	Liu Kan	
Ruzi	(6 – 9 AD)	孺子嬰	Liu Ying	(Was a prince not an emperor)
Gengshi di	(23 – 25 AD)	更始帝	Liu Xuan	

Wang Mang

(9 – 23 AD)

王莽



Cast in the terminal end of the Wang Mang reign, about 30 AD, it is unusual but not rare. It is identified as Wang Mang and not Sung as the strong downward stroke in left character the forms a “T” is broken not continuous as later in the Sung Dynasty.





Eastern Han (25 – 220 AD)

Guangwu di

(25 – 57 AD)

光武帝

Liu Xui



Mingdi	(57 – 75 AD)	明帝	Liu Zhuang
Zhangdi	(75 – 88 AD)	章帝	Liu Da
Hedi	(88 – 106 AD)	和帝	Liu Zhao
Shangdi	(106 AD)	殤帝	Liu Long
Andi	(106 – 125 AD)	安帝	Liu Hu
Marquess of Beixiang	Shaodi		

	(125 AD)	少帝	Liu Yi
Shundi	(125 – 144 AD)	順帝	Liu Bao
Chongdi	(144 – 145 AD)	冲帝	Liu Bing
Zhidi	(145 – 146 AD)	質帝	Liu Zuan
Huandi	(146 – 168 AD)	桓帝	Liu Zhi
Lingdi	(168 – 189 AD)	靈帝	Liu Hong
Prince of Hongnong Shaodi			
	(189 AD)	少帝	Liu Bian
Xiandi	(189 – 220 AD)	獻帝	Liu Xie



Emperor Xian with consort Don and Empress Fu Shou

Three Kingdoms

(220 – 280 AD) Six Dynasties Period

(220 – 589 AD)

Wei State

Cao Cao (216 – 220 AD)



Emperor Wen (220 – 226 AD) 文帝 Cao Pi



Cao Pi and ministers by Yan Liben

Emperor Ming (226 – 239 AD) 明帝 Cao Rui

Prince Qi (239 – 254 AD) 齊王 Cao Fang

Duke Gaoguixiang (254 – 260 AD) 高貴鄉公 Cao Mao

Emperor Yuan (260 – 265 AD) 元帝 Cao Huan

Shu State

Zhaolie (221 – 223 AD) 昭烈帝 Liu Bei

Houzhu (223 – 263 AD) 後主 Liu Shan
Wu State
Da Di (222 – 252 AD) 大帝 Sun Quan



Sun Quan by Yan Liben

"TA-CH'UAN WU PAI" (Great coin value 2000). This type was based on the Ta-ch'uan coinage of Wang Mang, but is of much inferior casting. Schjoth records that these were cast from almost pure copper, which is easily corroded and thus these are often not very well preserved, but we have had specimens that were cast in a brass alloy. The records of Sun Ch'uan (Schjoth page 14) indicate that these coins were first cast in AD 236, the 5th year of Chia-ho. This piece is bronze and in nice condition.



Kuaiji	(252 – 258 AD)	會稽王 Sun Liang
Jing	(258 – 264 AD)	景帝 Sun Xiu
Yuanzong	(264 – 280 AD)	烏程侯 Sun Hao



Portrait of Sun Hao

Ch'in (256 – 420 AD)

The Jin dynasty, distinguished as the Sima Jin and Liang Jin, was a Chinese dynasty, empire, and era traditionally dated from AD 265 to 420. It was founded by Sima Yan, son of Sima Zhao who was made Prince of Jin and posthumously declared the founder of the dynasty. It followed the Three Kingdoms period (220-280 AD), which ended with the conquest of Eastern Wu by the Jin.

There are two main divisions in the history of the dynasty. The Western Jin (265–316) was established as a successor state to Cao Wei after Sima Yan usurped the throne, and had its capital at Luoyang or Chang'an (modern Xi'an); Western Jin reunited China in 280, but fairly shortly thereafter fell into a succession crisis, civil war, and invasion by the "Five Barbarians." The rebels and invaders began to establish new self-proclaimed states in the Yellow River valley in 304, inaugurating the "Sixteen Kingdoms" era. These states immediately began fighting each other and the Jin Empire, leading to the second division of the dynasty, the Eastern Jin (317–420) when Sima Rui moved the capital to Jiankang (modern Nanjing). The Eastern Jin dynasty was eventually overthrown by the Liu Song.



Ching Ho (465 AD)

This coin is thought to be a private casting of Ch'ien Fei Ti later. The Grand Historian records its existence at this time and reports no specific emperor assigned to this agametic piece. For many hundreds of years this coin was thought to be a myth, an error or miss recording of something else. Approximately 1000 AD +/- an example was recovered under unrecorded circumstances and found its way into the Historical Museum of Tai Pai. Until now that was the only known piece of the original 7 cast during the 465 AD. Cresswell, in his book CHINESE CASH sketched the Ching Ho coin in the Tai Pai Museum and through that source I verified this unique treasure of the Asian people. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how extremely rare this coin is and how much it deserves a place in the spot light of this collection.

Liu Sung (420 – 479 AD)

The Liu Song dynasty (simplified Chinese: 刘宋朝; traditional Chinese: 劉宋朝; pinyin: Liú Sòng Cháo; Wade-Giles: Liu Sung Ch'ao), also known as Former Song (前宋) (420-479 CE), was first of the four Southern Dynasties in China, succeeding the Eastern Jin and followed by the Southern Qi.

The dynasty was founded by Liu Yu (劉裕) (363–422), whose surname together with "Song" forms the most commonly used name for the dynasty, the Liu Song. This appellation is used to distinguish it from a later dynasty of the same name, the Song dynasty (960–1279, whose ruling family was Zhao), which is better known and more significant. The Liu Song is also at times referred to as the "Southern Song" (南宋), as it is one of the Southern Dynasties period, i.e., one of those with its capital at Jiankang (modern Nanjing). However, the later Song dynasty, after 1127, when it moved its capital south to Lin'an (modern Hangzhou, Zhejiang), is most commonly referred to as "Southern Song" (南宋). Thus, for the shorter dynasty which is the subject of this article, "Liu Song" has become the term preferred in most contexts.

The Liu Song was a time when there was much internal turmoil. A number of emperors were incompetent and/or tyrannical, which at least partially led to many military revolts. These rulers include Liu Shao, Emperor Xiaowu, Emperor Qianfei, Emperor Ming, and Emperor Houfei. Emperor Ming was especially vicious, murdering a large number of his brothers, nephews, and other male relatives — many of them children. Such internal instability eventually led to the dynasty's destruction. However, its founder Emperor Wu was considered one of the greatest generals during the Southern and Northern Dynasties period, and the reign of its third emperor, Emperor Wen, is known for its political stability and capable administration, not only of its emperor but its strong and honest officials. This is known as the Reign of Yuanjia (425–453) and one of the relative golden ages for the Southern Dynasties.

Liang (502 – 557 AD)

The Liang dynasty (Chinese: 梁朝; pinyin: Liáng cháo) (502–587), also known as the Southern Liang dynasty (南梁), was the third of the Southern Dynasties during China's Southern and Northern Dynasties period. Located in central China, north of Lake Dongting, the Liang dynasty was followed by the Chen dynasty. The Western Liang dynasty (西梁), with its capital established at Jiangling in 555 by Emperor Xuan, a grandson of Liang's founder Emperor Wu, claimed to be the legitimate successor of the Liang dynasty; it was subservient to the successive Western Wei Dynasty, Northern Zhou dynasty, and Sui dynasty, and was abolished by Emperor Wen of Sui in 587.

Ch'en (557 – 587 AD)

The Chen dynasty (simplified Chinese: 陈朝; traditional Chinese: 陳朝; pinyin: Chén Cháo; 557-589), also known as the Southern Chen dynasty, was the fourth and last of the Southern Dynasties in China,

eventually destroyed by the Sui dynasty. Chen is the only dynasty named after the ruling house in Chinese history.

When the dynasty was founded by Emperor Wu, it was exceedingly weak, possessing only a small portion of the territory once held by its predecessor Liang dynasty—and that portion was devastated by wars that had doomed Liang. However, Emperor Wu's successors Emperor Wen and Emperor Xuan were capable rulers, and the state gradually solidified and strengthened, becoming roughly equal in power to rivals Northern Zhou and Northern Qi. After Northern Zhou destroyed Northern Qi in 577, Chen was cornered. To make matters worse, its final emperor Chen Shubao was an incompetent and indulgent ruler, and Chen was eventually destroyed by Northern Zhou's successor state Sui.

During the short-lived dynasty, the Chams to the south resumed raids against the region of Jiaozhi, perceiving the dynasty to be weak. The raids ended with the conquest of the Southern Chen by the Sui.[4] The Sui general Yang Su suppressed various Chen rebels in campaigns during the early 590s.

Northern Wei (386 – 534 AD)

The Northern Wei (Chinese: 北魏; pinyin: Běi Wèi; Wade–Giles: Pei3 Wei4), also known as the Tuoba Wei (拓跋魏), Later Wei (後魏), or Yuan Wei (元魏), was a dynasty founded by the Tuoba clan of the Xianbei, which ruled northern China from 386 to 534[7] (de jure until 535), during the period of the Southern and Northern Dynasties. Described as "part of an era of political turbulence and intense social and cultural change", [8] the Northern Wei Dynasty is particularly noted for unifying northern China in 439: this was also a period of introduced foreign ideas; such as Buddhism, which became firmly established.

During the Taihe period (477-499) of Emperor Xiaowen, court advisers instituted sweeping reforms and introduced changes that eventually led to the dynasty moving its capital from Datong to Luoyang, in 494. The Tuoba renamed themselves the Yuan as a part of systematic Sinicization. Towards the end of the dynasty there was significant internal dissension resulting in a split into Eastern Wei and Western Wei.

Many antiques and art works, both Daoist and Buddhist, from this period have survived. It was the time of the construction of the Yungang Grottoes near Datong during the mid-to-late 5th century, and towards the latter part of the dynasty, the Longmen Caves outside the later capital city of Luoyang, in which more than 30,000 Buddhist images from the time of this dynasty have been found.

Northern Qi (550 – 577 AD)

The Northern Qi (simplified Chinese: 北齐; traditional Chinese: 北齊; pinyin: Běi Qí; Wade–Giles: Pei3-Ch'i2) was one of the Northern dynasties of Chinese history and ruled northern China from 550 to 577. The dynasty was founded by Emperor Wenxuan, and it was ended following attacks from Northern Zhou.

Northern Zhou (557 – 581 AD)

The Northern Zhou (Chinese: 北周; pinyin: Běi Zhōu) followed the Western Wei, and ruled northern China from 557 to 581. The last of the Northern Dynasties of China's Northern and Southern dynasties period, it was eventually overthrown by the Sui Dynasty. Like Western Wei and the Northern Wei dynasty that preceded it, the Northern Zhou state's rulers were members of the Tuoba clan of the Xianbei.

Northern Zhou's basis of power was established by Yuwen Tai, who was paramount general of Western Wei, following the split of Northern Wei into Western Wei and Eastern Wei in 535. After Yuwen Tai's death in 556, Yuwen Tai's nephew Yuwen Hu forced Emperor Gong of Western Wei to yield the throne to Yuwen Tai's son Yuwen Jue (Emperor Xiaomin), establishing Northern Zhou. The reigns of the first three emperors (Yuwen Tai's sons) – Emperor Xiaomin, Emperor Ming, and Emperor Wu were dominated by Yuwen Hu, until Emperor Wu ambushed and killed Yuwen Hu in 572 and assumed power personally. With Emperor Wu as a capable ruler, Northern Zhou destroyed rival Northern Qi in 577, taking over Northern Qi's territory. However, Emperor Wu's death in 578 doomed the state, as his son Emperor Xuan was an arbitrary and violent ruler whose unorthodox behavior greatly weakened the state. After Emperor Xuan's death in 580 (when he was already titularly retired emperor (Taishang Huang), Emperor Xuan's father-in-law Yang Jian seized power, and in 581 seized the throne from Emperor Xuan's son Emperor Jing, establishing Sui. The imperial Yuwen clan, including the young Emperor Jing, was subsequently slaughtered by Yang Jian.

The area was known as Guannei 關內. The Northern Zhou drew upon the Zhou dynasty for inspiration. The Northern Zhou military included Han Chinese.

Sui (581 – 618 AD)

The Sui Dynasty (Chinese: 隋朝; pinyin: Suí cháo) was a short-lived imperial dynasty of China of pivotal significance. The Sui unified the Northern and Southern dynasties and reinstated the rule of ethnic Han Chinese in the entire China proper, along with sinicization of former nomadic ethnic minorities (the Five Barbarians) within its territory. It was succeeded by the Tang dynasty, which largely inherited its foundation.

Founded by Emperor Wen of Sui, the Sui dynasty capital was Chang'an (which was renamed Daxing, 581–605) and later Luoyang (605–618). Emperors Wen and Yang undertook various centralized reforms, most notably the equal-field system, intended to reduce economic inequality and improve agricultural productivity; the institution of the Three Departments and Six Ministries system; and the standardization and re-unification of the coinage. They also spread and encouraged Buddhism throughout the empire. By the middle of the dynasty, the newly unified empire entered a golden age of prosperity with vast agricultural surplus that supported rapid population growth.

A lasting legacy of the Sui dynasty was the Grand Canal. With the eastern capital Luoyang at the center of the network, it linked the west-lying capital Chang'an to the economic and agricultural centers of the east towards Hangzhou, and to the northern border near modern Beijing. While the pressing initial motives were for shipment of grains to the capital, and for transporting troops and military logistics, the reliable inland shipment links would facilitate domestic trades, flow of people and cultural exchange for centuries. Along with the extension of the Great Wall, and the construction of the eastern capital city of Luoyang, these mega projects, led by an efficient centralized bureaucracy, would amass millions of conscripted workers from the large population base, at heavy cost of human lives.

After a series of costly and disastrous military campaigns against Goguryeo, one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea, ended in defeat by 614, the dynasty disintegrated under a series of popular revolts culminating in the assassination of Emperor Yang by his ministers in 618. The dynasty, which lasted only thirty-seven years, was undermined by ambitious wars and construction projects, which overstretched its resources.

Particularly, under Emperor Yang, heavy taxation and compulsory labor duties would eventually induce widespread revolts and brief civil war following the fall of the dynasty.

The dynasty is often compared to the earlier Qin dynasty for unifying China after prolonged division. Wide-ranging reforms and construction projects were undertaken to consolidate the newly unified state, with long-lasting influences beyond their short dynastic reigns.

Yang Jian	(581 – 604 AD)
Yang Guang	(604 – 617 AD)
Yang You	(618 – 618 AD)
T'ang of Tang	(618 – 907 AD)
Li Yuan	(618 – 626 AD)
Li Shimin	(627 – 649 AD)
Li Zhi	(650 – 683 AD)
Li Xian	(684, 705 – 710 AD)
Li Dan	(684 – 690, 710 – 712 AD)

Chou

Wu Zetian, Wu Zhao, Wu Hou and later as Tian Hou (690 – 705 AD)



Wu Zetian (624 – December 16, 705), also known as Wu Zhao, Wu Hou, and during the later Tang dynasty as Tian Hou, referred to in English as Empress Consort Wu or by the deprecated term "Empress Wu", was a Chinese sovereign who ruled unofficially as empress consort and empress dowager and later, officially as empress regnant (皇帝) during the brief Zhou dynasty (周, 684-705), which interrupted the Tang dynasty (618–690 & 705–907). Wu was the only Empress regnant of China in more than two millennia.

Wu was the concubine of Emperor Taizong. After his death, she married his successor—his ninth son, Emperor Gaozong, officially becoming Gaozong's huanghou (皇后, variously translated as "empress", "wife", or "empress consort") in 655, although having considerable political power prior to this. After Gaozong's debilitating stroke in 660, Wu Zetian became administrator of the court, a position equal as emperor, until 705.

The importance to history of Wu Zetian's period of political and military leadership includes the major expansion of the Chinese empire, extending it far beyond its previous territorial limits, deep into Central Asia, and engaging in a series of wars on the Korean peninsula, first allying with Silla against Goguryeo, and then against Silla over occupation of formerly Goguryeo territory. Within China, besides the more direct consequences of her struggle to gain and maintain supreme power, Wu's leadership resulted in important effects regarding social class in Chinese society and in relation to state support for Taoism, Buddhism, education, and literature. Wu Zetian also had a monumental impact upon the statuary of the Longmen Grottoes and the "Wordless Stele" at the Qianling Mausoleum, as well as the construction of some major buildings and bronze castings that no longer survive.

Besides her career as a political leader, Wu Zetian also had an active family life. Although family relationships sometimes became problematic, Wu Zetian was the mother of four sons, three of whom also carried the title of emperor, although one held that title only as a posthumous honor. One of her grandsons became the renowned Emperor Xuanzong of Tang.



Mentioned on page 480 in Coole's book, "The Early Coins of the Chou Dynasty," number 1139. He mentions that the "line drawings...have been praised for being a scholarly work." It is in a book of official listings of the coins in the imperial museum. Some credence must be given to the shape. Legend reads LIANG CHENG SHANG CHIN TANG HUAH. Technologically it seems odd that this coin goes here. You would think it was much older? 16th to 11th century BC perhaps?

T'ang continued

Li Chongmao	(710 AD)
Li Longji	(712 – 756 AD)
Li Heng	(756 – 762 AD)
Li Yu	(762 – 779 AD)
Li Shi	(780 – 805 AD)
Li Song	(805 AD)
Li Chun	(806 – 820 AD)
Li Heng	(821 – 824 AD)
Li Zhan	(824 – 826 AD)
Li Ang	(826 – 840 AD)
Li Yan	(840 – 846 AD)
Li Chen	(846 – 859 AD)
Li Cui	(859 – 873 AD)
Li Xuan	(873 – 888 AD)
Li Ye	(888 – 904 AD)
Li Zhu	(904 – 907 AD)

Five Dynasties

Later Liang

(907 – 922 AD)

Reads “Coinage of Celestial Virtue.”



Later T'ang (923 – 935 AD)

Later Chin (936 – 947 AD)

Later Han (947 – 951 AD)

Later Chou (951 – 960 AD)

Ten Kingdoms

Wu (907 – 937 AD)

Wuyue (907 – 978 AD)

Min (909 – 945 AD)

Chu (907 – 951 AD)

Southern Han (917 – 971 AD)

Former Shu (907 – 925 AD)

Later Shu (934 – 965 AD)

Jingnan (924 – 963 AD)

Southern Tang (937 – 975 AD)

Northern Han (951 – 979 AD)

Sung or Song (960 – 1279 AD)

Northern Song

Zhao Kuangyin (960 – 976 AD)



Zhao Jiong

(976 – 997 AD)





SHUN HUA 990 – 995 AD. Legend reads SHUN HUA YUAN PAO (Coinage of Extensive Honor) written in cursive style.

Zhao Heng (997 – 1022 AD)



Zhao Zhen (1022 – 1063 AD)

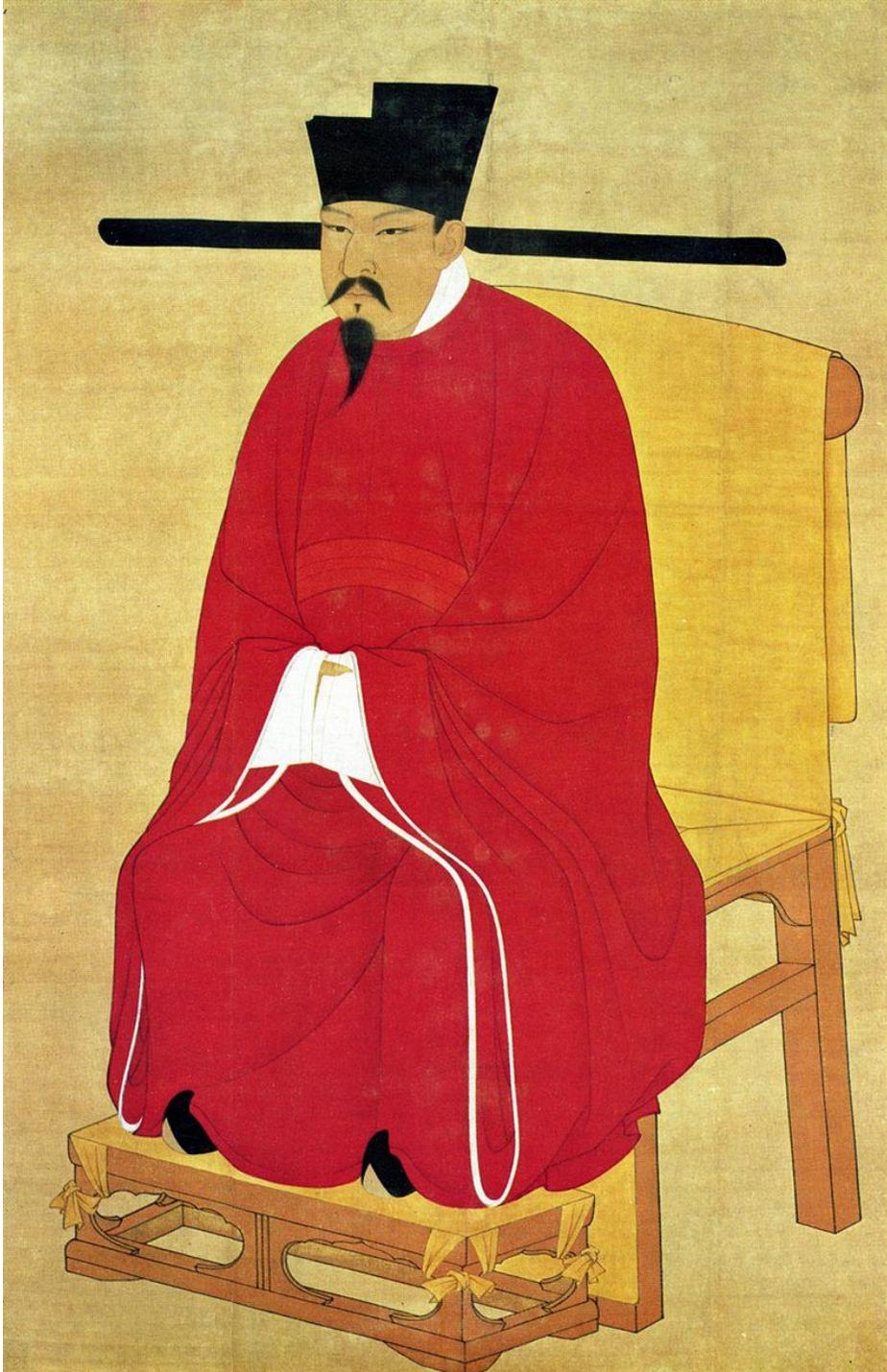


Zhao Shu (1063 – 1067 AD)



"Coin of Healing Peace"

Zhao Xu (1067 – 1085 AD)



Zhao Xu (1085 – 1100 AD)



Zhao Ji (1100 – 1125 AD)



Zhao Huan (1126 – 1127 AD)



Southern Sung

Zhao Gou (1127 – 1162 AD)





Seal Script "Shao Hsing Yuan Pao"

Zhao Shen (1162 – 1189 AD)



Zhao Dun (1189 – 1194 AD)



CHIN DYNASTY

Legend reads 'AI HO CHUNG PAO (Heavy Coinage of Honorable Peace) (1201 – 1208 AD)



Calgary Coin says that this is a "Bronze 10 cash. Obverse: 'AI-HO CHUNG-PAO' in seal script. Reverse: blank. The two different Schjoth numbers are for narrow (1093) and wide (1094) rims, with the wide rim variation being the scarcer. We have seen narrow rim examples from 16.29 to 24.3 grams with the average of 3 specimens was 19.91 grams, 44.5 mm. The single wide rim example we saw was 27.75 grams, 47.6 mm."

Zhao Kuo (1194 – 1224 AD)



Zhao Yun (1224 – 1264 AD)



Zhao Qi (1264 – 1274 AD)



Zhao Xian (1275 AD)



Zhao Shi (1276 – 1278 AD)



Zhao Bing (1278 – 1279 AD)



Yuan

Genghis Khan (1206 – 1227 AD)



Tolui (1227 – 1229 AD)



Ogedei Khan (1229 – 1241 AD)



Guyuk Khan (1246 – 1248 AD)

Mongke Khan (1251 – 1259 AD)

Kublai Khan (1260 – 1294 AD)



Temur Khan (1294 – 1307 AD)



Kulug Khan (1307 – 1311 AD)



Buyantu Khan (1311 – 1320 AD)



Gegreen Khan (1320 – 1323 AD)

Chih Chih Period (1321 – 1323 AD) This piece, presumably cast in 1321 AD by Ying Tsung, is rare, and must not be considered an official issue. "CHIH-CHENG T'UNG-PAO" in Mongol seal-writing. Value 2. RARE. The only specimen I have handled is the one you see below. Mentioned in Creswell and Calgary coin but not in Coole.



Yesun Temur (1323 – 1328 AD)
Ragibagh Khan (1328 AD)

Jayaatu Kuan (1328 – 1329, 1329 – 1332 AD)



Khutughtu Khan (1329 AD)

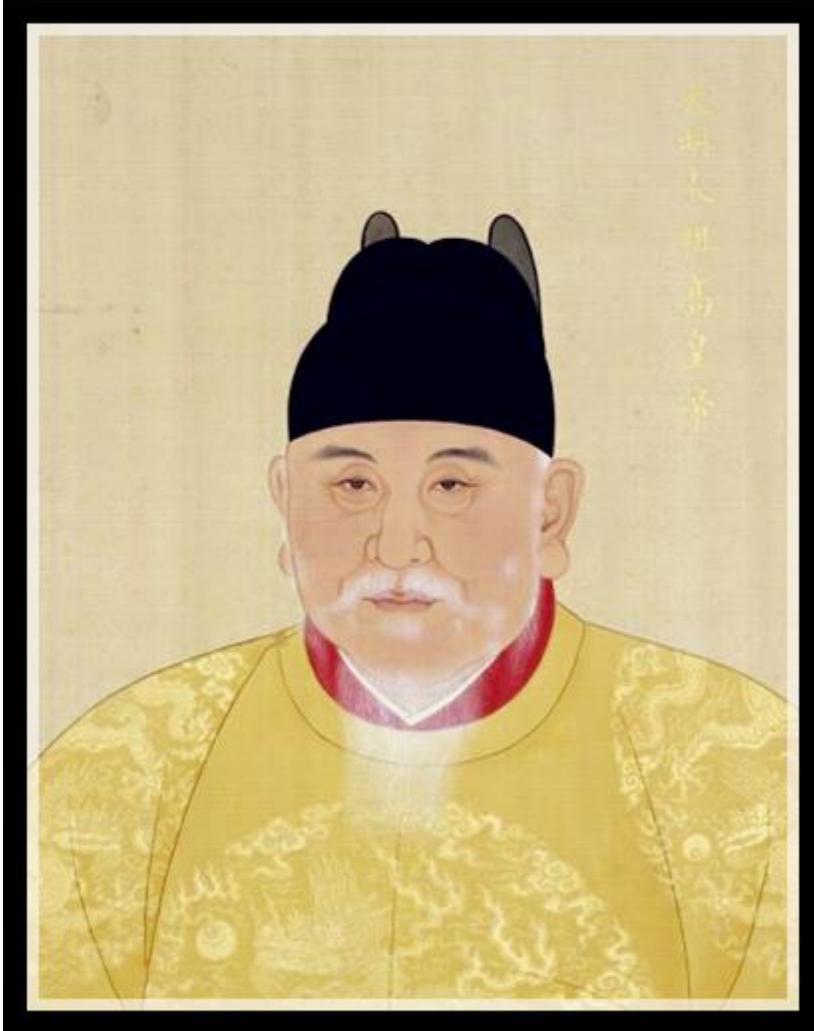
Rinchinbal Khan(1332 AD)



Toghon Temur (1333 – 1368 AD)

Ming

Hongwu (1368 – 1398 AD)



Jianwen (1398 – 1402 AD)



Yongle (1402 – 1424 AD)



Hongxi

(1424 – 1425 AD)



Xuande (1425 – 1435 AD)



Zhengtong (1435 – 1449, 1457 – 1464 AD)



Jingtai (1449 – 1457 AD)



Chenghua (1464 – 1487 AD)



Hongzhi (1487 – 1505 AD)



This rare coin was issued as a supplement by Emperor Shih Tsung in 1527 AD.

Zhengde (1505 – 1521 AD)



Xian

(-)



Jiajing

(1521 – 1567 AD)

CHIA CHING



Legend reads CHIA CH'ING T'UNG PAO or Coinage of Increasing Good. Reverse reads "Board of Works Mint." Calgaryin reports that "This type is reported to have been cast in very large numbers in AD 1527 (6th year of Chia Ching). Schjoth (page 48) notes that in AD AD 1553 (32nd year of Chia Ching) there was another large issue of coins, but using the 9 earlier Ming reign titles following Hung-wu. It is very possible some of those reign titles were only cast at this time."

Longqing (1567 – 1572 AD)



Wanli

(1572 – 1620 AD)



Taichang (1620 AD)



Tianqi (1620 – 1627 AD)



Chongzhen (1627 – 1644 AD)



“Coinage of Celestial Understanding” the legend reads. The script is Manchu and only one of two coins written in Manchu with both coins being rather rare.

Ch'ing or Qing
Nurhaci

(1616 – 1626 AD)



Hong Taiji (1626 – 1643 AD)





This emperor, the last Ming, probably issued more coins than all of his predecessors. There were two varieties the one above being type 2.



Mentioned only in Cresswell's "Chinese Cash" book as being rather rare, Coole doesn't even list it.

The legend reads SURA NI HAN JIHA or (Coinage of Celestial Understanding). Note that the legend is written in Manchu and is read – left, bottom, top and right. T'ai Tsung was in reality a Manchu chieftain to whom after his death the titles and honors due to an Emperor were given. In 1636 AD T'ai Tsung adopted the title Ch'ing (pure) as the name of the dynasty and so it is rather surprising that he did not issue any coinage with Chinese legends. In the same year he adopted Ch'ing Te as a period title but though it continued as such until his death no coinage was issued using this period title in the legend. This is the second of only two Chinese coins with Manchu legends and both are rather rare. (Cresswell)

There are only two other coins like this and they're in the Beijing National Museum. This piece, then, is the third known to exist.

Hong Taiji (28 November 1592 – 21 September 1643), sometimes written as Huang Taiji and also referred to as Abahai in Western literature, was an Emperor of the Qing dynasty. He was responsible for consolidating the empire that his father Nurhaci had founded and laid the groundwork for the conquest of the Ming dynasty, although he died before this was accomplished. He was also responsible for changing the name of his people from Jurchen to Manchu in 1635, as well as that of the dynasty from Later Jin to Qing in 1636. The Qing dynasty lasted until 1912.

Because his father, Nurhaci, did not assume an imperial title while alive, Hong Taiji is sometimes considered to be the first Qing emperor, but because Nurhaci was posthumously awarded the imperial title, Hong Taiji is usually called the second emperor of the Qing. (Wikipedia)

I got this coin from a person in China and it took some doing to convince myself it was real, but I'm inclined to think it is, unless someone presents irrefutable evidence otherwise. The reason I think it's real is that it has existed longer than the museum has.

Dorgon (1643 – 1650 AD)



Shunzhi (1644 – 1661 AD)



Kangxi

(1662 – 1722 AD)







Note that the second coin is from a different in that the bottom character is different from the first coin in that it is missing the strong downward stroke called "Hsi." These are called Lohan cash. This is important because the Lohan disciples of Buddha manufactured their coins by melting down statues of Buddha that contained surfaces burnished with gold. No one has been able to prove any of these coins were ever manufactured by this method. It would be interesting to test this with mass spectroscopy and find out for sure.

Yongzheng (1723 – 1735 AD)



Qianlong (1736 – 1796 AD)



Jiaqing (1796 – 1820 AD)



Daoguang (1821 – 1850 AD)





Chinese bronze coin from HSUANG TSUNG, reign name TAO KUANG, who ruled from 1821 to 1850. Script reads TAO KUANG TUNG PAO or "Coinage of Brilliant Reason." His reign saw the Opium War, 1839-1842, between Britain and China. This led, eventually, to the end of the Ching Dynasty. Large Palace Coins of this emperor were uncommon but not rare. The coin measures a whopping 40.7 mm across, 2.2 mm thick, and weighs 19.6 grams.

Xianfeng (1851 – 1861 AD)



Tongzhi (1862 – 1875 AD)





Mu Tsung is unusual amongst Ch'ing dynasty emperors in that he had two reign titles, although one of them was only in use for a very short period of time (probably a few weeks). Coins of this reign title are very rare and most, if not all, examples are either seed or mother cash. Hartill (page 393) says he does not believe any circulation examples were cast, and only lists examples from Board of Works and Board of Revenue mint. Schjoth did not list any examples.

Guangxu (1875 – 1908 AD)





Reads Kwang Hsu Tung Pao. (Coinage of the Succession of Glory)

The reverse refers to Dagu, which is the Dagu Imperial Navy Yard in Chihli, which is a Manchu mint name. Coins of this type are very typically poorly cast even the nice ones are rough. The mint mark is much clearer in the second example.

Xuantong (1909 – 1912 AD)



REBELS

1674 – 1678 Li Yung

Wu San-Kuei





1850 – 1864 T'ai P'ing Cheng (It reads "True Coinage of Great Peace")
This is quite a rare coin and in smaller denominations has been heavily counterfeited.



This piece does not show the classic signs of a forger. Because of that I believe it is real.

Wikipedia:

The Taiping Rebellion or Taiping Civil War (simplified Chinese: 太平天国运动; traditional Chinese: 太平天國運動; pinyin: Taipíng Tiānguó Yùndòng, literally "Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Movement") was a massive rebellion or civil war in China that lasted from 1850 to 1864 fought between the established Manchu-led Qing dynasty and the millenarian movement of the Heavenly Kingdom of Peace. The Taiping Rebellion began in the southern province of Guangxi when local officials launched a campaign of persecution against a millenarian sect known as the God Worshipping Society led by Hong Xiuquan, who believed himself to be the younger brother of Jesus Christ. The goals of the Taipings were religious, nationalist, and political in nature; they sought the conversion of the Chinese people to the Taiping's version of Christianity, the overthrow of the ruling Manchus, and a wholesale transformation and reformation of the state. Rather than simply supplanting the ruling class, the Taipings sought to upend the moral and social order of China. The war was mostly fought in the provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi and Hubei, but over 14 years of war the Taiping Army had marched through every province of China proper except Gansu. The war was the largest in China since the Qing conquest in 1644, and ranks as one of the bloodiest wars in human history, the bloodiest civil war and the largest conflict of the 19th century, with estimates of war dead ranging from 20–70 million to as much as 100 million, with millions more displaced.



As you can see it is a quite large piece measuring 65 mm. This is neither a coin or a token, it is instead a palace coin.



Image of the Battle of Anqing (1861)

CASTING METHODS

The development of coins in China really came about with the discovery of copper production then the invention of bronze casting technology. The following is an excerpt from "Asia for Educators." 3700 BC oldest archaeology records of bronze in Tigris - Euphrates valley.

The Chinese Bronze Age had begun by 1700 BC in the kingdom of the Shang dynasty along the banks of the Yellow River in northern China. At times the Shang kings ruled even larger areas.

In ancient China, bronze vessels were cast by an indigenous process that employed a mold made of sections (see diagram, right). After fashioning a clay model of the object, the founder packed it with another layer of clay that was allowed to dry, cut into sections, pried off, and fired. The model was then shaved down to become the core of the mold, the sections assembled around it, and the molten metal poured between the two. Once the bronze had cooled, the mold was removed and the surface of the vessel burnished smooth.

WRITING SYSTEMS

on an "oracle bone" — that is, an animal shoulder blade or the breast bone of a turtle. A priest then held a hot rod to the bone until it cracked and interpreted the pattern of the cracks for the answer.

The Importance of Archaeology

Until less than a hundred years ago the Shang Dynasty was only legend. In 1898, a few oracle bones were found accidentally. Two scholars recognized that the scratches on the bones were an ancient form of Chinese writing and managed to decipher the inscriptions. In 1928 the first scientific excavations of an ancient Chinese site began at Anyang, the last capital of the Shang dynasty. Within the beaten earth walls of the city archaeologists uncovered hundreds of oracle bones. In the tombs of kings and nobles they found magnificent bronzes, fine grey pottery, marble figures of animals and jade carvings. What has not survived and what must be filled in with the imagination are the colorfully painted wooden palaces and temples, the royal gardens, royal zoo, the silk robes, flags and trappings of the court, the earth and thatch huts of the townspeople and peasants and their rough clothes made of hemp and leather.

DEVELOPMENT OF MONEY IN CHINA

cowrie shells, which were used for money.

Pei

Ant nose money

Spade money

Knife money

Bridge money

Dragon head money

Cash

Round holes

Square holes
Printed silk money
Stamped money

DETERMINING BRONZE CONDITION

When bronze has been buried a long time, it reacts to the minerals in the ground. The exact way it reacts depends upon the amounts of copper, tin and lead in its composition. As a result the surface colors, called "patinas," are variations of green, blue-green, blackish green, red, rust, and blackish brown.

DETERMINING A COINS AGE

Patina
Corrosion
Casting method
Style
Characters

MONEY OF THE DIFFERENT PERIODS AND DYNASTIES

2,000 BC	PRE HSIA
2100 - 1600 BC	HSIA OR XIA
1600 - 1050 BC	SHANG
1046 - 771 BC	WESTERN CHOU
771 - 256 BC	EASTERN CHOU
255 BC - 207 BC	CH'IN
206 BC - 24 AD	WESTERN HAN
6 AD - 23 AD	USERPER WANG MANG
25 AD - 221 AD	EASTERN HAN
221 AD - 280 AD	THREE KINGDOMS
221 AD - 265 AD	MINOR HAN
222 AD - 280 AD	WU
256 AD - 420 AD	CH'IN OR QIN
420 AD - 581 AD	DIVISION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH
420 AD - 479 AD	LIU SUNG
502 AD - 557 AD	LIANG
557 AD - 589 AD	CH'EN
386 AD - 534 AD	NORTHERN WEI
550 AD - 577 AD	NORTHERN CH'I
557 AD - 581 AD	NORTHERN CHOU
206 BCE - 9 CE	WESTERN OR FORMER HAN
23 - 220 CE	EASTERN OR LATER HAN
220 - 589 CE	SIX DYNASTIES PERIOD
581 - 618 CE	SUI DYNASTY
618 AD - 907 AD	T'ANG OF TANG
907 AD - 960 AD	FIVE DYNASTIES
907 AD - 922 AD	LATER LIANG

923 AD - 935 AD	LATER T'ANG
936 AD - 947 AD	LATER CHIN
947 AD - 951 AD	LATER HAN
951 AD - 960 AD	LATER CHOU
960 - 1279	SUNG OR SONG
960 - 1127	NORTHERN SUNG
1127 - 1279	SOUTHERN SUNG
1279 - 1368	YUAN
1368 - 1644	MING
1644 - 1912	CH'ING OR QING
1912 - 1949	REPUBLIC PERIOD

ANAMISE MONEY

Anamise or Korean money

COINS TO BE ENTERED INTO BOOK



SHANG DYNASTY PU
c. 1000 BC



Pu Money

LIANG ZHENG BI BAI DANG LIE

200 BC

Manufactured by Liang Zheng Bi Bai Dang Lie about 200 BC possibly in Anyi. Coin reads "Liang regular coin 100 to a lie." To be honest it's the only spade coin like this I have personally seen. The coin measures 34.6 mm x 52.5 mm, is 1.2 mm thick, and weighs 12.6 grams.



Approximately 1900 BC

This Ant Nose or Ghost Face Money was produced somewhere between 2700 BC and 1100 BC when the Shang Dynasty or era began. The Chinese term for these early coins was Pei, which refers to a childhood counting poem, where Pei means "one." The character on the Pei is P'an which means "half." The "Jin" and a couple of other Pei are heavily counterfeited but as yet the P'an is only available as an original. It is cast in bronze. There are two variations of P'an, one without a circle and one a half circle.



EMPEROR WU TI
"Wu Chu"
140 – 87 BC
Five Chu value



WANG MANG 9 - 23 AD
Suspended Needle Script

This is a Chinese bronze coins were issued by WANG MANG as emperor between 9 AD and 23 AD. The writing style on the coin is known as The Suspended Needle. It measures 22.9 mm which places it on the larger end of variability as 22.9 mmx 1.3 mm, and weighs 3.4 grams. The Pu money below measures 58.0 x 35.5 mm and weighs 16.9 gr.





Measures

×

1 of 1



Measures 41.1 mm x 3.4 mm 2 specimens
Weights 27.4 and 21.6 gr

EMPEROR CHIHU HUA WU
"Ta Chan Tang Chien"
238 AD



CHING HO
465 AD

This little bronze coin is extremely rare. Issued under the reign name CHING HO (meaning Brilliant Concord or sometimes Harmonious Garden) was only available for 3 months during 465 AD according to both Calgary Coin and Cresswell, who wrote Chinese Cash. There is a reference to YEN HUAN coins and Schjoth reports some of these might have been privately cast by CH' IEN FEI TI and cast at very low weight but Calgary Coin has never seen either example and lists this issue as "very rare." This coin measures 19.1 mm wide, 1.1 mm thick, and weighs 2.5 grams.

Anecdotally, this coin was thought a myth generated by a reference to it in The Grand Historian. About a thousand years ago a specimen of this issue was found and found its way into the Historical Museum in Tai Pei. This, until now, was the only example of this very rare coin known to exist. It is that example that Cresswell sketched and published in his little book "Chinese Cash." According to the Grand Historian only one tree of seven coins were ever issued. Many mysteries surround this coin.



Coin reads in a counter-clockwise direction
EMPEROR HSIAO CH'ANG
"YUNG-AN T'UNG CH'UAN"
528 – 529 AD
Coin was privately cast by T'ai-ho Wu Shu

The Grand Historian records this coin in the second year of Yung-an (530 AD). Schjoth had two specimens that weighed 3.01 and 3.57 grams but does not record the diameter. This example weighs 9.1 g and measures 31.2 mm in diameter which would make it a 10 Shu value. The Grand Historian records both a 5 and 10 Shu cast in bronze. A value of this coin has never been recorded, a 5 Shu usually brings \$45 but this coin has never been publically traded and can't be appraised.



Emperor Hsuan Ti
"Tai Huo Liu-Shu"
"Six-Shu Great Currency"
557 – 589 AD



EMPEROR WU TI
WU HS'ING TA PU
"Great Coin of the Five Elements"
Reign name was Ch'ien-Te
575 – 578 AD
Seal Script
Measures 27.0 mm x 1.7 mm
Weighs 5.8 gr



EMPEROR CHING TI
YUNG T'UNG WANN KUO
"Everlasting Coin of the Empire"

579 – 581 AD

Seal Script

Measures 27.7 mm x 1.7 mm, quite thin for this time period,

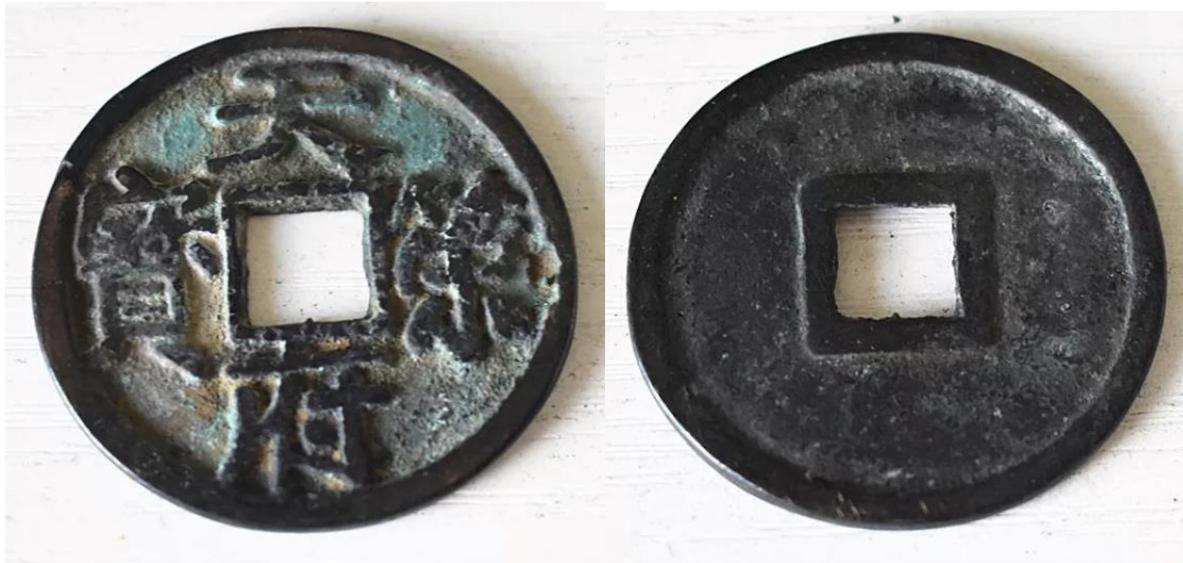
Weighs 6.9 g

This issue is unusual in that it is double sided. Both sides appear identical and became the first Chinese coin issued that carried a design on both sides. Considering its date it could be the first double sided coin minted in the world. This coin bears the characteristics of a great technical revolution in Chinese numismatics.



EMPEROR KAO TSU
YUNG P'ING YUAN PAO
"Coinage of Endless Peace"
907 – 918 AD
Characters read clockwise
Measures 23.0 mm x 1.4 mm
Weighs 4.1 gr

Calgary Coin does not list this coin. Schjoth does list it but does not attribute it to any emperor. It is probably the first issue of Kao Tsu in 907 AD. Because of its rarity it has never been appraised.



Rebel State of Chu
T' IEN TS' E FU PAO
"Coinage of T' ien Ti' e Prefecture
Prince Ma Yin
927 – 930 AD
Measures 39.6 mm x 2.0 mm
Weighs 15.5 gr

There has never been an established value of this issue as it is very rare.



SOUTHERN T'ANG DYNASTY

EMPEROR YUAN TSUNG

943 – 961 AD

Measures 30.3 mm x 2.0 mm

Weighs 9.5 gr

PAO TA YUAN PAO "Coinage of Great Value"

Most records indicate an issue date of 960 AD which is the year the Northern Sung Dynasty was established.



Tai Ping Rebel
HAN PING TUNG PAO
"Coinage of Heavenly Kingdon"
976 – 997 AD



EMPRESS REGNANT WU ZETIAN MISHI
"T'ien Ts'e Fu Pao"
Daughter of Han Ping
Ten Cash denomination



EMPEROR SHENG TSUNG
T'UNG HO YUAN PAO
"Coinage of Harmonious Unity"
982 – 1031 AD
Coin reads in a clockwise direction
Orthodox Script
Measures 24.0 mm x 1.5 mm
Weighs 4.4 gr

Calgary Coin records this coin as HSIANG-FU, 1008 – 1016 AD. I tend to agree with Cresswell. In spite of its cool factor it is relatively abundant.



CHIH HO YUAN PAO
SEAL SCRIPT
1054 – 1055 AD



CHIH HO T'UNG PAO

"Pao-Yuan Huang-Sung" is probably more accurate

"Coinage of Perfect Harmony"

Seal Script

1054 – 1056 AD

Measures 27.0 mm x 1.2 mm

Weighs 4.8 gr

Calgary Coin records this coin as Emperor Pao-Yuan 1038 – 1039 AD. This issue is relatively abundant. I used Cresswell's translation as it appears more accurate.



CHIH HO 1055-1055

Chinese bronze coin from CHIH HO from 1054-1055. Script reads CHIH HO YUAN PAO. Reverse side of the coin is blank. Coin measures 24.9 mm wide, 1.3 mm thick, and weighs 4.7 grams. In spite its beautiful nature it's relatively abundant.



EMPEROR SHEN TSUNG
HSI NING YUAN PAO
"Coinage of Greater Peace"
1067 – 1085 AD



Coin reads in a clockwise fashion.

YUEH FENG TUNG PAO or YUAN FENG T'UNG PAO

Perhaps Upper or Northern Song 1078 – 1085 AD

I don't agree with any of these translations and neither Cresswell or Calgary Coin lists a reference so I can be sure. Technology places it firmly in this time-period. Need to do more research.



CHUNG NING 1102 – 1106 AD

This 5 cash coin minted between 1102-1106 AD by Chung Ning is an exceptionally nice example of a fairly rare coin. Known in the one cash size it carries a value of \$95, when you can find them. I am not aware of any counterfeit issues of the 5 cash but there are a few 1 cash counterfeited examples. After a careful examination of this artifact I will guarantee its authenticity and rarity. It measures 32.4 mm and weighs 10.1 grams. It is in exceptional condition for an original example.



Measures 25.0 mm x 1.1 mm
Weighs 3.3 gr



Measures 38.6 mm x 2.2 mm
Weighs 13.3 gr

NORTHERN SUNG DYNASTY
TA KUAN T'UNG PAO
"Coinage of Visible Greatness"
1107 – 1111 AD

Rumor has it that the script was in the Emperor's own hand.



CHENG HO CHUNG PAO

1111 AD

“Heavy Coinage of Official Harmony”

Palace Money

Measures 43.5 mm x 4.0 mm

Weighs 39.0 gr



SOUTHERN SUNG DYNASTY
CH' IEN YEN CHUNG PAO or JIAN YAN ZHONG BAO
1127 – 1130 AD
Seal Script
Measures 31.1 mm and weighs 7.5 g

During the last emperor's reign when the Mongols were advancing and the Sung was disintegrating the Chinese the money standards did not change.



SHAO-HSING 1131 – 1162 AD

Chinese bronze 1 cash coin minted by SHAO-HSING between 1131 and 1162 AD. The coin is written in seal script and measures 23.8 mm wide, 1.4 mm thick, and weighs 3.6 grams.



KAN HSING (?) PAO

Probably referring to Kublai Khan's General Kan Hsing
"To Conduct a Shield."

1293 AD

Measures 32.6 mm x 2.1 mm

Weighs 9.9 gr

Kan Hsing was Kublai Khan's most successful general and this issue was probably in his honor. The Grand Historian does not record this coin but the "Pao" (coinage) reference would indicate a trade value.



EMPEROR CHIH CHENG
"Chih Cheng T'ung Pao"
1342 – 1367 AD
Five Cash value
Measures 39.2 mm x 2.1 mm
Weighs 17.4 gr



LUNG FENG TUNG PAO

Issued by Han Lin

1355 AD

Measures 26.8 mm x 2.0 mm

Weighs 8.3 gr



HUNG WU 1364 – 1367 AD

This Chinese bronze coin was minted by TAI TSU the first Emperor of the Ming Dynasty HUNG WU. The inscription on the coin reads TA CHUNG TUNG PAO which was never a reign name. On the reverse side of the coin is YU of Ho Nan mint. His coin issued as emperor reads HUNG WU TUNG PAO. This coin offered here is an uncommon Three Cash denomination. The coin measures 38.8 mm wide, 3.0 mm thick and weighs 23.0 grams.



TAI TSU 1364 – 1367 AD

These Chinese bronze coins were minted by TAI TSU first as the Rebel Prince WU between the year 1364 and 1367 AD, and later became the first Emperor of the Ming Dynasty HUNG WU. The inscription on the coin reads TA CHUNG TUNG PAO which was never a reign name. On the reverse side of the coin is YU of Ho Nan mint. His coin issued as emperor reads HUNG WU TUNG PAO. This coin offered here is an amazing and uncommon Three Cash denomination. This set is in excellent condition being Very Fine and the Prince of Wu measures 38.5 mm wide, 2.0 mm thick, and weighs 14.6 grams. The first Ming emperor coin measures 38.8 mm wide, 3.0 mm thick and weighs 23.0 grams.



T'AI TSU the Prince of Wu

“Ta-Chung T'ung Pao”

“Coinage of Great Moderation”

1368 – 1398

Top coin measures 43.3 mm x 2.5 mm

Weighs 22.4 gr

Bottom coin measures 38.7 mm x 2.2 mm and 38.1 mm x 2.6 mm

Weighs 14.6 and 18.8 gr

Became first Ming Emperor.



MING DYNASTY
ZHU YUAN ZHANG

1368 AD

Measures 38.5 mm x 2.9 mm

Weighs 23.0 gr

This is a part of a supplementary issue of Ming Dynasty coins by Emperor Shih Tsung in 1527 AD. Zhu Yuan Zhang did not issue any bronze coins only silk paper money based on silver. I have heard of this series since childhood. Not many of this series were issued and are significant if not very rare.



MING DYNASTY
EMPEROR HSIAO TSUNG
HUNG CHIH T'UNG PAO
"Coinage of Healing Lustre"
1487 – 1505 AD

This is a part of a supplementary issue of Ming Dynasty coins by Emperor Shih Tsung in 1527 AD. Hsiao Tsung did not issue any bronze coins only silk paper money based on silver. I have heard of this series since childhood but until I acquired this example had never seen one even in pictures.

Cresswell nor Calgary Coin lists this rare coin and because of its rarity and historical significance its value is significant.



EMPEROR TIEN MING

1616 – 1626 AD

Mutha Chi was never an emperor of China. After he died history granted him the title and this coin bears his reign name, Tien Ming. The script on the coin reads "TEIN MING TUNG PAO." On the reverse side of the coin is a small circle, the purpose of which I have yet to figure out. It is fairly rare and can command a goodly sum of money when they come up for sale. Measures 42.5 mm x 3.0 mm, weighs 26.5 gr.



SURA NI HAN JIHA

Was a Manchu chieftain T'ai Tsung

1626 – 1643 AD

Measures 41.3 mm x 2.1 mm and 41.4 mm x 2.2 mm

Weigh 20.4 and 17.1 gr



LI YUNG 1674-1677

The legend on this coin reads LI YUNG TUNG PAO which means "Coinage of the Rising Dynasty." This coin was issued by WU SAN KWEI who was a Chinese General that allied his army with the Manchus after LI TSU CHENG murdered his family. He was made governor of Yun-Nan where this coin was cast. In 1674 he proclaimed himself emperor and began minting other more common coins. The back of this coin reads YI FENG which means "one candareen." Large coinage of this issue fairly scarce and command good prices. The coin measures 44.6 mm wide, 4.6 mm thick, and weighs 47.2 grams, which makes this a good sized piece.



EMPEROR WU SAN KWEI
CH'AO WU T'UNG PAO
"Coinage of Brilliant Success"

1674 – 1678 AD

Seal Script

Measures 44.7 mm x 4.5 mm

Weighs 37.8 gr

Is a Palace issue probably from the initial period of Wu San Kwei's reign.



CHAO-WU T'UNG PAO
1678 AD
"Coinage of Brilliant Success"
Measures 23.4 mm x 1.3 mm
Weighs 3.5 gr

This Chinese bronze coin, written in orthodox script, reads CHAO-WU T'UNG PAO. Issued in 1678 AD in the half cash demonization it is quite small and relatively abundant. The coin measures 23.2 mm, 1.1 thick, and weighs 3.5 grams.



KANGXI-LOHAN EXCHANGE 1712 AD

In 495 AD the first Buddhist monk entered China and transformed Shaolin temple forever. In the Ming Dynasty Empress Hongxi was honored as the most beautiful women to ever live. It was said that she was so beautiful that when she visited the pond the fish would faint and sink to the bottom of the pond. It would become one of only two coins cast during the Ming Dynasty. During the reign of Kangxi 1640 -1720 economic times were very depressed making it difficult to get money or cash coins in any quantity. Consequently most real Kangxi cash coins are very worn and finding one in good condition is quite rare. In an effort to break free from an unpopular government the Shaolin found themselves backing a faction to break free. In an effort to break free from that unpopular government the Shaolin melted down a couple of bronze statues and cast the Lohan you see in the pictures. Those coins, rumor has it, were gold filled as the statues used as base metal were clad in gold. So you see the three coins you have before you is the basis of a story that unfolded in 1712. By 1713 the Chinese government sent in the military to overpower the Shaolin monks and destroy their temple. From 1714 until just recently when the Communist Chinese Government allowed them to rebuild, Shaolin temple lay in ruin. For 300 or more years only half a dozen monks lived there. With this collection of three coins comes a write up of professional quality that will contain beautiful pictures of Kangxi, Hongxi, Shaolin temple, and comparable images posted by other reputable coin dealers demonstrating the collections authenticity. This collection comes fully guaranteed to meet the highest standards. There are too many details to present here that will be included in your future delivery. I have also included an example of what appears to be a Kangxi temple coin. If it were real it would be extremely rare. It's a modern fake and I have included it as an example of what to look for in valuable Bronze Age artifacts. Kangxi, to my knowledge, didn't make a temple piece.



TAO KUANG 1821 – 1850 AD

Chinese bronze coin from HSUANG TSUNG, reign name TAO KUANG, who ruled from 1821 to 1850. Script reads TAO KUANG TUNG PAO or “Coinage of Brilliant Reason.” His reign saw the Opium War, 1839-1842, between Britain and China. This led, eventually, to the end of the Ching Dynasty. Large Palace Coins of this emperor were uncommon but not rare. The coin measures a whopping 40.7 mm across, 2.2 mm thick, and weighs 19.6 grams.



HSIEN FENG TUNG PAO 1851-1861

Legend reads HSIEN FENG TUNG PAO on the face and the back indicates 1000 cash. There are a huge variety in mint marks. In spite of their rather unique nature these aren't especially rare. This coin is in very good condition and measures 41.5 mm wide, 1.8 mm thick, and weighs 18.8 grams.



BRITISH "VICTORIA BUN"

1866 AD

Victoria Bun with Chinese Crop. Used extensively in the Opium Trade which lead to the Boxer Rebellion.



T' IEN TS' E FU PAO

Legend reads "T'ien Ts'e Fu Pao" or Coinage of T'ien Ts'e Prefecture. Most of these coins weigh a full 18 grams and were probably circulated as 10 cash. This coin weighs 17.3 grams and measures 39.6 mm. The back is blank though some examples carry the character "Yin" which refers to Ma Yin. Calgary Coin lists an example of issue that is poorly cast. I feel this example up for sale is an amazing example of a fairly uncommon issue.



TA CHUAN TANG CHIEN

This Chinese bronze coin carries a reign title of CHIHUAHUA WU. It was based on Coinage of Wang Mang and is generally inferior casting methods. This coin is no exception, in fact I thought at first it might be counterfeit but after close examination of both this piece and others from the same mint they all were poorly cast. The legend on the coin reads "Great coin value 1000" with a blank back. This coin measures 40.9 mm wide, 2.7 mm thick, and weighs 21.3 grams, which is large for even this issue. Most coins of this type measure less than 34.2 mm which makes the above coin the largest I have encountered.





Okinawa/Japanese 1863 Bronze Coin

This is a bronze coin minted by the Japanese government for the Okinawa/Ryukyu islands in 1863. There are a few other examples of this coin available but they aren't a very common coin. As the back is blank it is difficult to determine the SHU or denomination of it. There are other examples on the market going for around \$275 so this coin I have appraised at \$225. The coin measures 39.6 mm, is 2.2 mm thick, and weighs 18.8 grams.



This bronze coin was issued by Han Lin, who claimed to be a descendant of Sung Emperors seized Ngan-Hui in An-Hui Province in 1355 AD and held out against the Mongol armies until 1367. Han Lin made Po-chap his capital. The characters on the coin "LUNG FENG T'UNG PAO" translates to "Coinage of Changing Strength." This was during the period of T'ien Ho. This would have been during the reign of Chih-Cheng who was a Mongol ruler of the Yuan Dynasty. It is pretty rare. The design on the back of the coin is a dragon and tiger locked in mortal combat, a symbol common to the Shaolin who, in 1713, tried to help overthrow the Ching Dynasty emperor Fungxi. That attempt wasn't very successful either. The coin measures 26.8 mm in diameter, is 1.9 mm thick, and weighs 8.3 grams.



LI YUNG 1674-1677

The legend on this coin reads LI YUNG TUNG PAO which means "Coinage of the Rising Dynasty." This coin was issued by WU SAN KWEI who was a Chinese General that allied his army with the Manchus after LI TSU CHENG murdered his family. He was made governor of Yun-Nan. In 1674 he proclaimed himself emperor and began minting other more common coins. The back of this coin reads YI FENG which means "one candareen." Large coinage of this issue fairly scarce and command good prices. The coin measures 44.6 mm wide, 4.6 mm thick, and weighs 47.2 grams, which makes this a good sized piece.



EMPEROR HSUAN TSUNG
TAO KUANG T'UNG PAO
Measures 40.5 mm x 2.1 mm
Weighs 19.6 gr



Emperor Hung Hsui Ch'uan 1850 – 1864 AD

HUANG TI T'UNG PAO

“Coinage of the Empire”: Mint marks are Pao and Sheng or Sacred Measures 24.3 mm x 1.2 mm and 25.2 mm x 1.2 mm and weighs 4.4 and 4.5 gr



THE REBEL HUANG TI
1864 AD
Measures 38.7 mm x 1.9 mm
Weighs 17.0 gr



PING AN CHEN PAO

“Peaceful God’s Treasure”

Measures 25.5 mm x 1.4 mm

Weighs 5.5 gr

I can find no record of this coin, or date. It is typical grass script and was probably cast around 1000 AD.



A CHARM
READS SHENG BAO WAN SUI
“May the Emperor Live Ten Thousand Years”
Measures 40.5 mm x 2.3 mm
Weighs 21.0 gr

No date or value.



A Charm: YAN NIAN YI SHOU: To make your life longer.

JADE AND METEORITE ARTIFACTS
CHAPTER 6

THE ARTIFACTS AND THEIR DESCRIPTIONS

Background

There are a great number of stone artifacts in the Tucker Collection, and there was by necessity a need to limit the numbers for analysis. Typologically all artifacts analyzed were “*Bi*.” They, as discussed earlier, are discs normally found as grave objects of important people. Typically, found over the naval or *Dan Tien* of the interred, they are thought to represent a portal or way to heaven. All the discs included in the study were found to be Nephrite Jade, or a meteor fragment. The measurements were remarkably similar and their examination followed current trends in archeoastronomy. All the stone artifacts that represented a time period before 4,500 years ago. Because no one has ever developed a way to reliably predict and measure the age of a piece of Jade the artifacts were examined for patina type, manufacturing techniques, microscopic observation, magnetic attraction, streak test, degree of magnetism, art pattern identification, and dimension. To verify the art pattern attributes involving star cluster patterns astronomical calculations were employed.

To accomplish these goals the following equipment was employed: Strong duodenum magnet, a Military Class Four multiplexed 6 core main-frame computer with 7 terabits of drive space, Omax binocular digital microscope, 5000 DPI and 3500 DPI digital high and low resolution microscope cameras, Topmax software to drive the digital microscope, and an 802-nanometer interferometer (Microwave antenna), and a ceramic plate for the streak test. Several things became clear.

1. Once a piece of stone was worked, it became an artifact and no amount of time can disguise that fact. It will always remain an artifact. Until the worked surface returns to a natural state it will remain an artifact.
2. The rate at which an artifact's abraded surface responds depends entirely on its local micro-environment.
3. Microscopic observations were employed to determine crystal structure.
4. Analysis of the manufacturing technology was needed to determine maximum possible age.
5. Tests to determine how strongly an artifact reacted to the Earth's magnetic structure were necessary.
6. Apparent star patterns on four artifacts were utilized to suggest an approximate star date.

The goal was to develop a series of tests that could be employed to determine an artifact's age, place of origin, and material type. These six tests, then, became the matrix of this analysis.

It was obvious, through microscopy, that it was not possible to disguise a recently abraded surface. Even though the rate of return was unpredictable from one specimen to another, the artifacts' surface differences, from one location to another on the artifact, were. Any specimen deemed an object of recent manufacture or that was created using material not available to the

Hongshan Culture was excluded from this study.

Along with this "rate of return" was added stylistic and technological differences. For instance, the profile of the center cut hole could be reproduced by modern commercial processes, but by comparing a surface between the polished surface and one that was protected from re-polish was

very accurate.

The comparisons between abraded surfaces, with stylistic changes, and changes in manufacturing technologies were used and patterns began to reveal themselves. These comparative patterns will be discussed as each artifact is analyzed. The great age of some of these artifacts started to emerge and the data used to make these comparisons will be highlighted as the discussion proceeds.

First, a baseline was needed. A piece of natural freestone, when crushed, will create a natural unweathered fracture pattern. That same surface will begin to immediately suffer change by disparate mechanisms.

Again, no artifact that showed the use of modern technology, less than 4,500 years old, was used for anything but simple comparative analysis. Those modern technologies included both mechanical and chemical abrasion. It became very easy to spot those patterns left by modern tools when the protected surfaces were analyzed.

Artifact attributes analyzed were:

1. patina type and degree
2. stone modification technology
3. microscopic analysis
4. degree of attraction to a strong magnet
5. art and written character pattern identification
6. physical dimensions
7. result of limited astronomical calculations

In the final analysis it was specific measurements of the artifacts that produced the most meaningful information. Note that all measurement units used were metric, then converted to more appropriate local units of measure. A brief translation of the characters scribed on the stone

artifacts turned out to be interesting, perhaps, and will be included on a limited basis.

Translations of them all was unimportant to this study because of the conclusions that can be

drawn from other data.

The Meteoric *Bi*





Obverse image of the last in this group is of the giant turtle mentioned in the *Nu wa* story. All the reverse images on these *Bi* are star charts typical of Asian burials and honorific megaliths called dolmans. It is possible, although mathematically difficult, to calculate a star date from the star cluster. The theory is that as the earth swings through its orbital escentricities the apparent north image changes. Those appearent shifts in the stars position can be converted to a calendar date mathematically. The date of the first meteorite *Bi* was calculated and will be discussed later.

Nephrite Jade *Bi*



Discussion

Despite the crude and handmade nature of the images all *Bi* were very similar in dimension. All the diameters of the artifacts were measured, save the two from another collection. This, then, became the focus of the next chapter.

