

COINS ■ SHANGHAI PEOPLE'S FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE



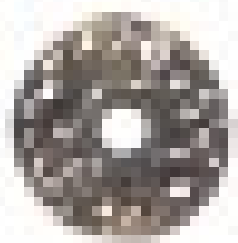
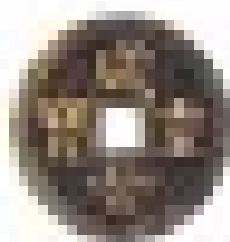
■ 艺林撷珍丛书
A COLLECTION OF BEST ARTISTIC WORKS
COINS



【钱币】

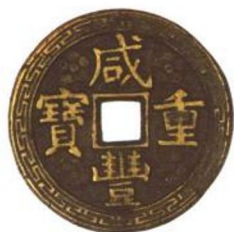


「钱币」



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■ 艺林撷珍丛书上海人民美术出版社

【钱币】

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Chinese coin

Numismatics is a splendid chapter of Chinese cultures. It is widely accepted that no other culture have hundreds of thousands of kinds of coins and more than 70 world records of numismatics.

Chinese coins are quite varied and roughly classified into four groups: ancient coin, gold or silver coin, note and copper coin. Each group is also composed of various pieces. For instance, the materials of the ancient coin are mainly copper, iron, silver, tin and pottery. Apropos of varieties of copper they are able to divided to red copper, bronze, copper-nickel alloy and brass. Being light or heavy, thick or thin, of high quality or low quality, Chinese coins are not only the reflection of the economy of a given society, but the reflections of politics, military, science, culture and religion to a certain extent. Chinese coins are creams of Chinese traditional culture.

The coins are bound up with commodity production and circulation. The earliest Chinese coins dates from the Shang Dynasty. Suiting the needs of commodity circulation, the shells were regarded as coins. However, with the frequent exchanges of commodities, natural shells were short of supplies and the imitations made of different materials emerged. Bronze "shell" became the earliest metal coin.

During the Spring and Autumn Period and Warring states Period, various kinds of coins

emerged, and most of their shapes imitated that of tools of production or articles for daily use. "Bubi", "Daobi" and "Quanbi" were all representatives.

Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of Qin, unified China as well as monetary system. He launched and completed the first Chinese monetary system reform, and "banliangqian", round shaped with square hole, was in vogue throughout the country. The beautiful copper coins were strung by a cord so that they were easy to carry. Unlike the previous coins, "Banliangqian" had not such drawbacks as unreadable inscriptions, various shapes, different weight and indistinct currency value. The favorable weight and shape of coin were stipulated. "Banliangqian" was a milestone in the history of Chinese coins, and its peculiar round shape with square hole went on until late Qing.

"Wuzhuqian" was popular in the Han and Sui Dynasties. During the Tang the emperor Li Yuan abolished "Wuzhuqian" and minted "kaiyuan Tongbao". A standard piece of "Kaiyuan Tongbao" had a diameter of 2.5 centimeters and a weight of 3.5 kilograms. It was modelled on Han "wuzhuqian". Its appearance announced the end of currency system of "zhu-and-liang". From then on the coins were not named for their weight. The kind of "bao" coin also marked the second Chinese monetary system reform.

During the Song Dynasty iron and copper coins were widely used. The amount of coins

the Ming and Qing, were always designed by scholars directly or indirectly. The scholars had special requirements of the design and craftsmanship to seek the style of succinctness and refinement.

Often richly grained, excellent hardwoods of very fine texture are used in the making of Ming Dynasty furniture. Their colors are very beautiful. The construction of Ming furniture utilizes a sophisticated system of joinery in which one member is joined to the next in a precise fashion, taking into account stress, function, and beauty. It is widely accepted that no other culture has produced furniture as beautiful in its integration of design and structure, with every member joined in a manner calculated not only to support the necessary stress, but also to enhance the beauty of the whole design. In the Ming the makers arrived at their pure forms--with sometimes elegant, sometimes powerful but always perfect proportions. Especially the linear design is the soul of Ming Dynasty furniture. For instance the backs of many chairs have the shapes of letter S, which are called "Ming Dynasty Curve" by western scientists.

The representatives of Qing Dynasty furniture are high-quality hardwood pieces made under the reigns of

Yongzheng and Kangxi Emperors. Unlike unsophisticated and refined Ming Dynasty furniture, they are in a magnificent and luxurious style. "Mingshi" furniture with fine design lay stress on practical functions. Through graining and lacquering, the furniture become bright and soft. "Qingshi" furniture is mainly used for interior decoration. While it is made of excellent material and finely crafted, "Qingshi" furniture is often decorated with overly ornate carvings, thus it is of considerable size and have a rich color variation. The creative furniture design, exquisite decoration and appropriate combination of furniture often met the stringent requirement for new styles, however, sometimes "Qingshi" furniture-making deteriorated to such an extent that the outcome was only suitable for utilitarian functions in the civilized world.

中国钱币

● 中国钱币的渊源

中国是一个文明古国，它有着悠久的历史，更有灿烂的文化，而钱币文化正是中国文化史中光彩夺目的一章。数万种千姿百态的钱币实物，七十多项世界货币之最，这是任何一个国家都无法比拟的。

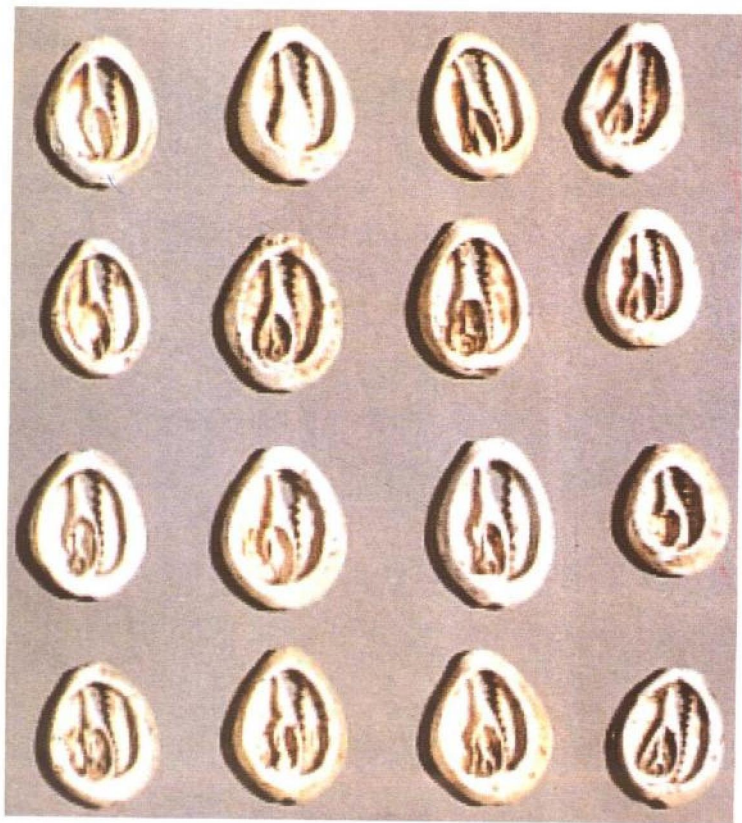
我国的钱币品种繁多，有古钱、金银币、纸币、铜元等四大门类，真是浩如烟海，探索不尽。仅古钱一类，质地有铜、铁、铅、银、锡、陶等，而铜又有红、青、紫、白、黄之分。从商代的贝币、战国的刀、布、圜钱，到秦代的方孔圆钱，清末的机制币……这一长串古钱币时大时小，时重时轻，时厚时薄，时优时劣，它们不仅反映了当时的经济状况，而且受到政治、军事、科技、文化、宗教等方面的影响，它们是历史的见证，是中华民族传统文化中的瑰宝。为此，钱币专家朱卓鹏先生精辟而又形象地把中国历代古钱比喻为社会化石。

自从有了商品生产与商品交换，钱币便作为一般等价物的特殊商品诞生了。早在三千多年以前，我国商代使用的钱币是“贝”。随着商品交换的进一步深化，对自然界天然“贝”币的需要量逐步提高，真贝开始供不应求，于是出现了不同质地的仿制贝钱。青铜贝钱则是其中的代表。由于铜贝大小、重量、价值比较统一，因而具有天然贝钱无法相比的优越性。铜贝的出现，开启了金属铸币的先河，在我国钱币发展史上具有非常重要的意义。当我们祖先已经广泛使用铜贝时，世界上其他国家尚未出现金属铸币，因此，铜贝可谓我国古代文明走在世界前列的又一项重要实物例证。

春秋战国时期，由于商品经济的迅速发展，开始出现了形态各异的古钱，其形大多模仿当时的生产工具或生活用具，有布币、刀币、带铭铜贝以及圜币等。

秦始皇兼并六国，为巩固封建统治和发展封建经济，统

一了钱币政策,在全国范围内推行外圆内方的半两钱,这是中国历史上的一次币制改革。这种铜币外形美观,方孔穿以绳索,携带便利,更重要的是它避免了以往钱文复杂难辨,大小各异,轻重不一,币值不明等弊病,制定了适应需要的重量和形制。半两钱作为我国钱币发展史上的一座里程碑,标志着这种外圆内方的钱币在形制上从此固定下来,并为历代沿袭,直至清末。



1 最早的钱币是原始真贝
Shell--the earliest money

2 鎏金的铜贝
Gilt bronze shell



3 由铜贝演变而成的鬼脸钱, 蚁鼻钱
Guilianqian and Yibiqian-evolved from the bronze shell

汉代商业活动繁荣,钱币制度也有了重大改革。汉武帝元狩五年(公元前118年)开始铸造五铢钱,该钱轻重适宜,其大小、形制一直到隋代还继续沿用。

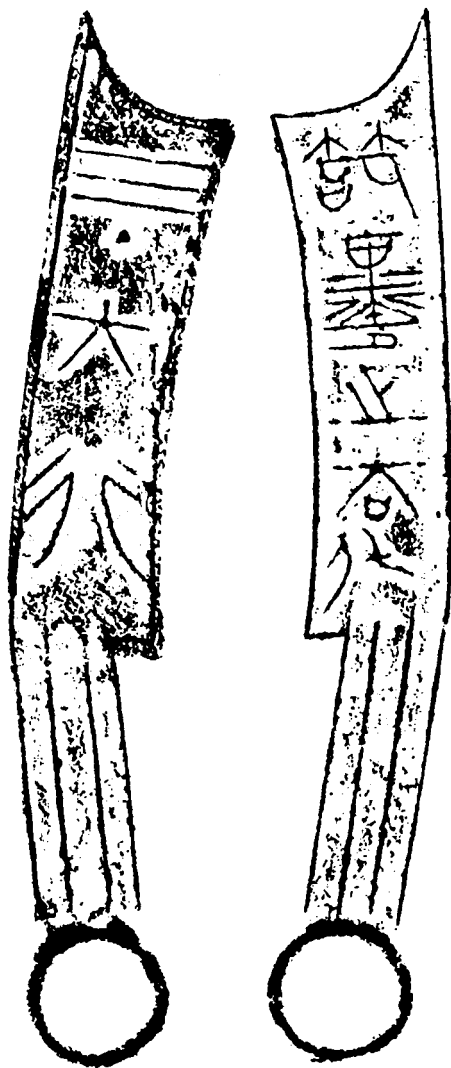
唐代,我国封建经济稳步发展,呈现出前所未有的繁盛景象。唐王朝成为当时最大的统一国家,处于世界先进国家之列。唐高祖武德四年宣布废除五铢钱,改铸开元通宝。一枚标准的开元通宝,直径2.5厘米,重约3.5克,仿汉代标准五铢钱铸造。从此,以重量为钱文的铢两钱制系统宣告结束,“宝”字辈钱币登上历史舞台,标志着中国钱币自秦始皇统一货币后的第二次钱币革命,它持续流行了一千三百年。

宋代铜、铁钱并用,铸钱数量相当可观,十几位皇帝共有四五十种年号钱。南宋淳熙七年铸行的淳熙通宝,钱背穿上有“柒”字纪年,至淳熙九年后改成小写,这就是所谓的纪年钱。这种钱币纪年制度一直沿用到宋末,是宋钱的一大特征,比欧洲钱币纪年要早三百余年。宋代不仅铸币数量极丰,更值得一提的是,宋代钱文具有高度的艺术性,其书法多姿多彩,把我国钱币文化推向高潮。元明推行纸币,铜钱铸造较少。

明中叶以后,白银成了主要货币,铜钱仅用于小额支付,但其仍是政府发行重点。清光绪年间,两广总督张之洞吸收西方铸币的先进技术,向英国购置了造币机器,在广州筹建造币厂,率先开创机器制币,实施了中国钱币史上的第三次革命。先进的制币技术,在光绪后期取得了成功。从此,机制币全面进入我国的货币领域。我国机制币主要有银元和铜板两大类,偶尔也用其他材料作币,如金币、镍币、锡币、铝币、陶币等等。

民国中期,主币从银元让位于纸币,按理说,纸币是更先进的一种货币,但在封建社会,我国有许多纸币是外商银行印制发行的,大量的洋商客钞占领了我国的商品市场。

新中国成立以后,人民币稳定期长,信誉佳,纸币的先进功能终于真正得到充分发挥。



4 战国的齐刀

Qidao--the money of Qi (the Warring States period)



5 战国的齐明刀

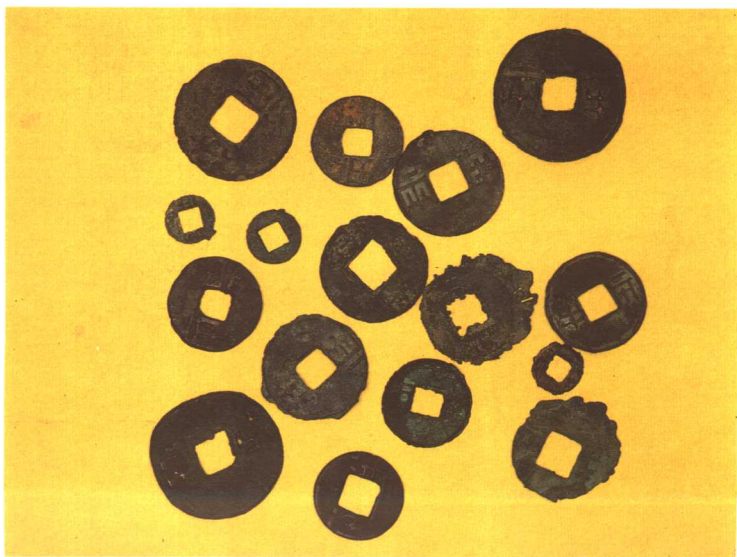
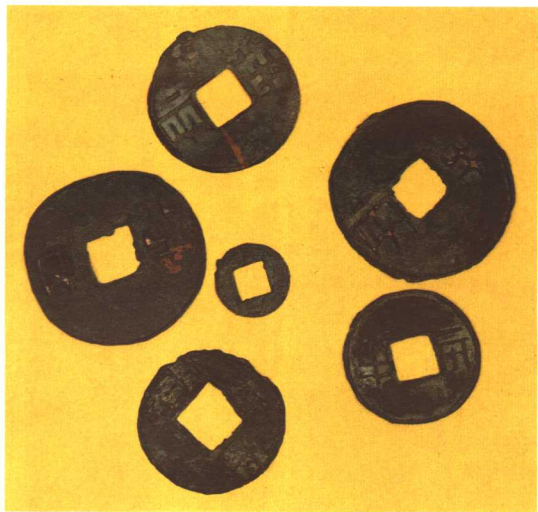
Qimingdao--a special kind of Ming-inscribed Qidao (the Warring States period)

6 战国的齐明刀、赵刀、齐明刀、尖首刀

Mingdao, Zhaodao, Qimingdao and Jianshoudao (the Warring States period)

7 战国的各式布币

Various cloth moneys (the Warring States period)



8.9 秦代至西汉初期流通半两钱
Banliangqian (Qin-early Western Han)

● 历代钱币纵横

始皇一声令，方圆乾坤定

秦始皇先后兼并六国，建立了统一的多民族的中央集权的封建国家。秦的统一，结束了长期以来诸侯割据称雄的局面，促进了政治、经济和文化的发展，也推动了中国钱币的发展。

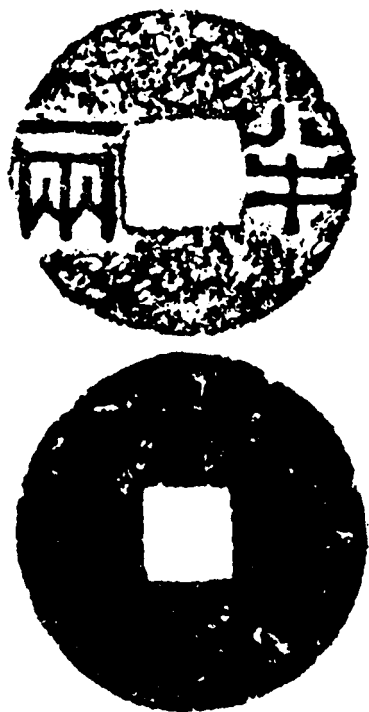
秦始皇建立秦朝后，统一币制，规定以“半两”方孔圆钱为通行货币。其实，方孔圆钱并非始皇首创。在秦半两钱以前，就有“一刀”、“𠄎化”等方孔圆钱存在，但远不及秦半两钱影响巨大。

“圆方者，天地之形。方属地，圆属天。天圆地方。”天和地和君主之间的关系是：“尝得学黄帝之所以海颞颥矣，爰有大圆在上，大矩在下，汝能法之，为民父母……。”秦的祖先起源于西北地区，春秋时代的西北是“天命”思想的发源地。秦统一六国，采用阴阳学说作为国家哲学，这其中就包含了很多天命思想和天圆地方观念。

古人不知道天是怎么回事，茫茫苍天无边无际，自然界的风雨雷电，都成了“天”的意志。皇帝乃天之骄子，“替天行道”，皇权就是天命。秦始皇祭泰山，四处巡游，利用各种形式，炫耀天下，昭示天命。他把天命、皇权巧妙地熔于一体，投影在秦半两钱的形制上，外圆代表天命，内方象征皇权。“外圆内方”也就成了“天命皇权”的符端。

秦始皇统一货币后，随着经济的发展，货币的需求量增多，始皇把货币的发行权和铸造权都收归中央，私铸铜钱要处以极刑。秦半两就成了皇权的代表，货币流到何处，皇权的威力就延伸到哪里。这种代表皇权的方孔圆钱直到清末皇权衰微，才告终结。

小小外圆内方的秦半两钱，却包含着特殊的意义，它既反映了钱币本身的发展史，也反映了政治、经济、意识形态的发展情况，这在中国和世界文化史上都是不多见的。



10 厚重精美的秦半两
Elegant Qinbanliang (Qin)