

中国现代金银纪念币大全

A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF MODERN CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS



中国大百科全书出版社



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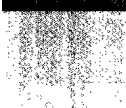
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GOLD AND SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS

- (一) 中国人民银行从1979年开始发行金银纪念币。本书收录了自1979年至1999年我国发行的所有金银纪念币共1210枚，同时也收录了中国金币总公司发行的金银纪念章共133枚。
- (二) 序之后，有《中国现代金银纪念币20年》长文一篇，从历史的角度叙述了中国现代金银纪念币20年来设计、铸造和营销的发展过程。
- (三) 本书以年代为编排顺序，每年有简短的说明文字一篇，概述该年度金银纪念币的发行种类和特色。
- (四) 书中对每项金银纪念币的内容（金银纪念章除外）均有文字介绍。
- (五) 书中每一枚市的技术规格（直径、重量、成色、生产厂家等）均列表附在每页下端。
- (六) 书中除个别大规格币种因版面有限适当缩小（图中均有标注）之外，其余均按币的原大表现。
- (七) 本书每套币凡正面图案相同时，均不再重复表现。
- (八) 本书的目录、序、《中国现代金银纪念币20年》及每年的文字说明为中英文对照。
- (九) 为便于读者解读，本书还附有金银纪念币相关知识的名词解释。

GOLD AND SILVER





A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF MODERN CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS

货币是商品经济的必然产物。货币实物反映不同国家不同时代的特征，每个时代都可以找到有时代特征的货币。我国原始社会末期出现了贝币，以后出现不同形态的金属币，宋代出现了纸币雏形——交子。发展到现代，纸币已成为流通主币，硬币只作为辅币。钱币也是一种文化，它反映不同时代的技术和文化特色。而作为贵金属的黄金、白银，自从一出现，就天然地作为币材被人们利用。东西方的历史皆是如此。使用黄金铸造金币在我国最早可追溯到春秋战国时代。司马迁把金币称为上币，意指金币在各种由金属材料铸造成的钱币中占有最高的位置。经过许多世纪的发展，金币在钱币之中有着特别突出的地位，是钱币文化中一颗璀璨的明珠。


中国现代金银纪念币自1979年发行至今已有20年了。时间虽然不长，但由于起点高，又融入了中华文化的精华，所以，从一开始它就以设计的精美独特、铸造工艺的新颖、题材的民族特色而受到世人瞩目。

从题材上讲，上下五千年，既有重大历史事件，又有杰出人物；既有文物古迹、民族文化，又有珍贵稀有的动物、植物，林林总总，不胜枚举。20年来，中国现代金银纪念币已形成了10个大的选题系列，开发了上千个品种，题材内容构成了丰富的历史画卷，展现了中国文化的精华。

设计上的民族化是中国现代金银纪念币的独特之处，它的币面设计经常采用主景与背景相结合的构图方式，是中国传统绘画和浮雕常用的艺术手法，深受钱币爱好者的欢迎。

鲜明的民族特色使中国现代金银纪念币在国际上多次获得世界最佳金币、最佳银币大奖。例如，熊猫币就是用特殊的工艺手法把熊猫特有的黑白外形和憨态可掬的神态表达得格外鲜明，从而获得世界最佳金币大奖。方寸之间，中国现代金银纪念币展现了中国灿烂文化和历史，为我国赢得了国际声誉。

《中国现代金银纪念币大全》收集了我国建国以来发行的所有金银纪念币和中国金币总公司发行的大部分金银纪念章。其资料的完整性和内容的丰富性是以前同类书所不及的。它的问世，为广大钱币爱好者鉴赏和研究中国现代金银纪念币提供了权威的资料，同时也为中国金银纪念币文化增添了灿烂的篇章。

中国人民银行行长 

1999年12月31日

1979-1999

中国现代金银纪念币大全

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Forward

Money is an inevitable outcome of commercialized economy. The physical money reflects features of different countries at different times, while different times found their unique characteristics in their money. In China, shell coins appeared at the end of primitive society. Then bronze coins in diverse shapes followed. The rudiment of paper money appeared in Song Dynasty, which was called Jiao Zi. When it comes into modern times, banknote has become the main currency in circulation, while coin is regarded as fractional money only. As part of culture, coinage reflects technologies and cultures of different times. Histories of both the west and the east showed that gold and silver, as precious metals, were naturally taken as money when first found by people. In China casting coins with gold can be traced back to the Spring Autumn and Warring States Periods. Siva Qian called gold coins as "supreme coins", meaning that gold coins are the most valuable ones and take the most prominent position amongst coins in other metals. With developments in the past centuries, gold coinage, like a brilliant gem, continues to occupy a specially outstanding position in the coin culture.

It has been 20 years since Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins were inceptioned in 1979. Although with not a long history, Chinese modern gold and silver coinage started at a high standard and has combined the essence of Chinese culture. They have attracted much attention for their spectacular designs, novel coining techniques and themes with typical Chinese characteristics from the very beginning of their appearance.

In terms of themes, Chinese modern gold and silver coins cover China's history of over 5000 years. Not only major historical events, but also outstanding historical figures; not only historic sites and national cultures, but also rare animals and plants, and many more have been depicted in the coins. In the past 20 years, Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins have grown into 10 theme categories and over kinds of different coins, revealing the essence of Chinese culture with their abundant historical themes.

The strong national style in designing is another unique aspect for Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins. The designs often compose of two parts: a foreground design and a background design. This is an artistic method frequently used in traditional Chinese paintings and engravings, and has been highly appreciated by coin collectors.

The distinctive national style has brought about many international awards to Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins as the best gold coin or the best silver coin of the year. Take the Panda coin as an example. With the application of a special technique, the unique black and white colors of the giant panda and its charmingly naive manners are vividly represented on the coin, for which Chinese Panda coin was awarded the Best Gold Coin. The tiny coins have displayed the splendid culture and history of China, and have brought worldwide reputation for the country in this special field.

A Complete Collection of Chinese Modern Gold and Silver Commemorative Coins has filed all gold and silver coins ever issued after the founding of P. R. China, and most the gold and silver medals issued by China Gold Coin Inc as well. The completeness of its material and the abundance of its content can not be compared by other pictorials of its kind. It will provide authoritative information for coin collectors to appreciate and study Chinese modern gold and silver coins. Meanwhile, it has added a brilliant chapter for Chinese gold and silver coin culture.

Dai Xianglong
Governor
The People's Bank of China
Dec. 31, 1999

中国现代金银纪念币二十年

中国现代金银纪念币自1979年开始发行，至今已有20年的历史。在这20年中，中国现代金银纪念币以弘扬中华钱币文化，展现中华文化风采和社会主义精神文明建设的成果为宗旨，通过方寸天地，创造了新新的现代金银纪念币文化，以璀璨的光彩，闪烁于国际币坛，为中国改革开放辉煌的发展史增添了闪光的一页。

20年来，中国现代金银纪念币在开拓中前进，在创新中提高，并在发展中不断完善，已逐步形成了独具中国特色的金银纪念币发行、铸造及营销体系，实现了项目发行的规范化、题材选择的系列化、艺术设计的民族化、生产铸造的现代化、技术规格标准化、经营销售的市场化。中国现代金银纪念币在发行之始，即与国际钱币市场接轨，在艺术设计上坚持了独特的中国民族风格，在生产铸造技术上逐步采用国际最新的设备技术，使得中国现代金银纪念币具有世界一流的质量水平。为钱币收藏家、爱好者提供了大量独具风采的现代金银纪念币珍品，在国际钱币之林占有重要的一席，迄今为止，中国现代金银纪念币(章)已发行了1300多个品种，内容涉及重大纪念题材，国内外杰出历史人物题材，大熊猫等珍稀动物题材，中国十二生肖题材，中国古典文学名著题材，中国古代科技发明发现题材，中国古代及近代名(画)家题材，中国佛教艺术及民族吉祥题材，体育运动题材等。这些不同的题材形成了多姿多彩的由金银纪念币浮雕组成的长幅画卷，令人目不暇接，收藏者可以通过观赏、研究，得到历史、文化、科技等多方面知识的陶冶和艺术的享受。

中国现代金银纪念币20年的发展历史，蕴藏着很多个“第一”，把这些“第一”揭示出来，可以展示中国现代金银纪念币发展的一些历史细节，使人趣味盎然，回味无穷。

1979年国务院正式授权中国人民银行对外发行纪念币，这是中国现代金银纪念币发行的起点。

中国现代金银纪念币的启动作品是中华人民共和国成立30周年紀念金幣。這套金幣的發行包含兩個重要的第一：它是我國發行的第一套現代紀念金幣，同時又是新中國成立至改革開放初期向海外發行的第一套現代紀念金幣。這套紀念金幣共4枚，共含2盎司黃金，在海內外產生了很好的影響，為中國現代金銀紀念幣的發展打下了堅實的基礎，積累了寶貴的经验。

中国现代金银纪念币事业的发展始终得到了党和国家领导人的亲切关怀和支持。1995年，中国人民银行为了迎接1997年中国对香港恢复行使主权，拟从1995年起至1997年之间每年发行一組金銀紀念幣。第1組主題表現邓小平倡導的“一國兩制”的伟大方針；第2組主題表現中華人民共和國香港特別行政區基本法；第3組主題表現中華人民共和國香港特別行政區成立。中國人民銀行上報發行方案以後，江澤民總書記等黨和國家領導人批准發行。這套金銀紀念幣的發行獲得了極大成功，它將永載我國錢幣的史冊。

中国现代金银纪念币表现的第一位伟人是孙中山先生，1981年是辛亥革命70周年。中国人民银行决定发行一套金银纪念币，以表现孙中山先生领导的辛亥革命推翻满清王朝的伟大历史功绩。在设计上，金币的正面是孙中山先生的肖像，表示对孙中山先生这位中国革命先行者的缅怀；而银币正面则是孙中山的立像，展现了一代伟人的风采。这套金银币发行以后，在海内外尤其是台湾地区受到很高评价。

中国共产党的创始人和新中国杰出的国家领导人李大钊、毛泽东、周恩来、刘少奇、朱德，第一次出现在中国现代金银纪念币上，是1993年发行的中国杰出历史人物系列金银纪念币的第10组。这

组领袖人物金银纪念币，每一个画面都在典型的历史环境中展现人物的特征，使人物栩栩如生，呼之欲出。如金币上出现了建国初期毛泽东的形象，表现了毛泽东领导全国人民创建中华人民共和国的丰功伟绩；周恩来在人民大会堂作政府工作报告的画面，表现了周恩来为人民的事业，鞠躬尽瘁，死而后已的伟人气概；刘少奇手提外衣在祖国大地风尘仆仆进行考察，把刘少奇热爱人民的形象真实地再现出来；朱德身着元帅服乘坐检阅车，表现了人民军队统帅的雄姿。这组纪念币的发行深受人们的欢迎。

中国杰出历史人物系列金银纪念币，共发行了10组，这些人物都是一些对中国历史发展做出杰出贡献的政治家、思想家、军事家、科学家、文学家等。在这组金银纪念币中分别显示中国第一位皇帝秦始皇，第一位哲学家老子，第一位教育家孔子，第一位诗人屈原，第一次农民起义的领袖陈胜、吴广，第一位历史学家司马迁，第一位天文学家张衡，第一位造纸科学家蔡伦，第一位数学家祖冲之，第一位民间造桥专家李春，第一位藏族领袖实现汉藏联姻的松赞干布，第一位女词人李清照，第一位中国少数民族皇帝忽必烈，第一位古典小说家罗贯中，等等，这些古代杰出人物，通过金银纪念币活灵活现地再现在人们的眼前。特别要指出的是，在中国杰出历史人物系列金银纪念币当中，第9组是中国杰出妇女的形象，这组金银纪念币包括中国历史上惟一的女皇帝武则天，以及王昭君、蔡文姬、花木兰等中国古代妇女的代表人物，再现了中国妇女的风采，是中国现代金银纪念币的特别贡献。此外，在历史人物金银纪念币中还有一位在欧洲几乎是家喻户晓的人物——马可·波罗，他是把中国文化传播到欧洲的第一人，也是中国现代金银币上表现的第一位外国人，把马可·波罗列为金银纪念币的主题对促进中国和世界的文化交流，加深世界各国对中国改革开放的了解，具有重要的意义。纪念币在设计上把马可·波罗标准像放在中国元代京城——元大都的背景之中，深化了主题，增加了艺术魅力。这枚币在世界硬币评比中获得最佳历史题材奖。

生肖属相是中国特有的民俗文化，在汉民族的历史文化中源远流长，因此1981年确定发行中国十二生肖金银纪念币后，海内外华人对此热烈欢迎。此后中国生肖币成为中国现代金银纪念币的重要币种之一。这套餐币在艺术设计中采用中国著名画家笔下的十二生肖动物形象，表现了鼠的狡黠聪敏，牛的稳重坚强，虎的矫健强悍，兔的轻盈温柔，龙的神秘潇洒，蛇的蜿蜒娇美，马的奔放遒劲，羊的温婉儒雅，猴的聪慧敏捷，鸡的英气凛凛，狗的警觉忠良，猪的憨厚淳朴。经过硬币雕刻师的精雕细刻，每枚生肖金银纪念币形神兼备，令人爱不释手，极具收藏价值。中国十二生肖金银纪念币还具有两项美好的第一，一是1982年壬戌(狗)年硬币在国际上获国际大奖——1982年度最佳银币奖；二是在此之后，中国生肖币又荣获工艺美术作品百花奖金奖，这是当时中国工艺美术作品的国家级最高奖。这反映了我国现代金银纪念币的设计铸造技术水平已具有国际水平。

大熊猫作为中国独有的珍稀动物而闻名于世，中国熊猫系列金银币属非纪念性金银币。此类金银币在国际上一般又被称为投资币，它的图案一般选择一个国家具有代表特征的题材，如加拿大管制金银币采用的图案是枫叶，而且每年不变。熊猫金银币是我国第一种管制金银币，从1982年开始发行，其发行量按国际惯例为不限量，由消费者或投资者自由买卖，具有投资保值的作用。

中国熊猫金银币已成为国际上投资币的币种之一，它不仅适合投资，也适合收藏。它每年更换一次图案，更增加了币的艺术魅力和收藏价值。熊猫金银币是我国每年发行的金银币当中的第一大币种。1982年设计生产熊猫金币时，遇到一个难题，就是在黄金上如何表现大熊猫黑白两色的皮毛。中国人民银行印制局设计专家和造币厂雕刻家共同努力，创造出一种“凹刻法”，即利用黄金镜面可折出黑色的原理，终于使得大熊猫黑白两色在金币上得到了体现。之后，在银币上也取得成功。1983年即获得了国际最佳金币大奖，这是我国管制金币第一次获国际大奖。

中国是多民族的国家，我们不仅将中原文化或汉族文化，同时也把少数民族悠久的历史、灿烂的文化、杰出的人物列入到了中国现代金银纪念币的选题内容之中。从中国少数民族文化系列纪念币第1组开始，我国少数民族文化就被列入金银纪念币发行项目。第1组反映了几位少数民族的民族英雄，

1979-1999 中国现代金银纪念币大全

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如黎族（当时称“俚人”）的冻丈人、彝族的奢香夫人、藏族的格萨尔王、蒙古族的嘎达梅林等。这是中国少数民族文化第一次集中表现在中国现代金银纪念币上，是中国现代金银纪念币的得意之作。

中国现代金银纪念币在内容、选题、设计上约诸多第一是我国古今文化精华的荟萃，是中华钱币文化的新创造。中国现代金银纪念币在工艺技术方面还有很多第一，它标志着我国现代金银纪念币生产工艺的不断完善、不断发展、不断提高，达到了国际一流水平。为纪念中国熊猫金币发行10周年，1991年中国人民银行发行了5公斤的熊猫金币。这是中国第一枚5公斤金币，也是世界现代金银币迄今为止的第一枚5公斤金币，它创造了现代金银纪念币铸造史上的奇迹。虽然它仅发行了10枚，但它是当今世界上最珍贵的金币之一。该币图案清晰，立体感强，尺寸规范，厚度、成色、重量准确。中国熊猫5公斤金币的铸造，使得中国金币铸造技术达到了一个新高度。

中国现代金银纪念币的形制多数采用圆形，随着铸造技术的发展，各类异形币也出现在中国现代金银纪念币的模式之中。如第一套方形连续币是长江三峡纪念银币，它的独特之处是四枚币背面图案相连，形成一幅壮丽的长江三峡图，具有浓郁的中国国画的传统风格。四枚币相连接成画面创造了铸币技术的新工艺。这套币一经发行便受到我国钱币界的欢迎，成为钱币珍品。之后又发行了宋代名画《清明上河图》六枚方形连续币，香港新貌四枚方形连续币等。这些币都已成为中国现代金银纪念币中的精品。

随着现代铸币技术的发展，近几年彩色币的生产风靡国际币坛。我国第一枚彩色币是虎年彩色银币。币面的彩色设计具有浓厚的民间喜悦、欢快气氛，体现吉祥喜庆的主题，深受人们青睐。

1998年11月，我们又隆重推出了第一枚方形彩色银币——唐代名画《簪花仕女图》银币。由于设计新颖，铸造精良，再现了古代名画的风采。发行后受到钱币市场的欢迎，一时成为人们争购收藏的银币。

在20年的中国现代金银纪念币发展史中，中国和外国的第一次联合发行的币是为纪念伟人国际主义战士白求恩到达中国60周年，由中国人民银行与加拿大皇家造币厂联合发行的。中、加两国各发行一枚银币，两枚为一套，放在一个包装礼品盒内同时销售。一时在国际钱币界成为佳话。

中国现代金银纪念币是改革开放的产物。在党和政府的关怀下，中国现代金银纪念币事业将进一步得到健康稳步地发展，中国金币工作者必将创造出更美更好的金银纪念币珍品，奉献于社会，奉献于广大钱币爱好者和收藏家。

2000年1月




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Twenty Years of Modern Chinese Gold and Silver Commemorative Coinage

It has been 20 years since Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins were first issued in 1979. Within this 20 years, Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage has been committed to the enhancement of Chinese numismatic culture, the publicizing of the elegance of Chinese culture and the progress of socialist spiritual construction. With its unique glamour, Chinese modern gold and silver coinage has been shining in the world numismatic field, adding a brilliant part to the history of China's development in its reform and opening up to the outside world.

In the 20 years, Chinese modern gold and silver coinage has developed through continuous improvement and innovation, and has gradually formed its own system of minting, distribution and marketing with unique Chinese characteristics. A series of goals have been achieved, including the standardization in issuing programs, the serialization in selecting themes, the nationalization in artistic designs, the modernization in production, the standardization in technical specification and the marketization in distributing the coins. From the very beginning, Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins have followed the track of the international numismatic market, persisted in its own unique style in artistic design, and gradually applied the internationally advanced equipment and techniques in production, thus became well received by coin collectors and coin lovers for their top quality and unique national styles. Up to now, there are over 1300 categories of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins already issued, covering such different themes as important historical events, outstanding Chinese and foreign historical figures, Chinese giant panda and other endangered wildlife, Chinese lunar animals, selected works of ancient Chinese literature, scientific and technical inventions and discoveries of ancient China, famous painters and their paintings of ancient and modern China, Chinese traditional culture, Chinese Buddhist art and national mascots, and sports, etc.. After 20 years of accumulation, these coins on different themes have formed into a long gallery of relieves, by studying and appreciating of which coin collectors will enjoy a kind of spiritual fulfillment and learn a lot about the history, science and technology, art and cultures.

There appeared many "firsts" in the 20 years of history of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage. By revealing these "firsts", people will find many interesting and worthy of recalling details in the history of issuance of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins.

It was the year 1979 that the State Council formally authorized the People's Bank of China to issue gold and silver commemorative coins abroad. This is the starting point of issuance of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins.

The initial piece of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage is the gold coin set marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. This set of coin contains two important "firsts". First of all, it is the "first" modern commemorative gold coin set of the country. Meanwhile, it is the "first" set of modern gold coins ever issued to the abroad from the founding of new China till the early years of the reform and



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opening-up. This set of gold coins is composed of 4 pieces, containing 2 ounces of pure gold. It was issued to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of P. R. of China, and was well received at home and abroad. This laid a firm basis for the development of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage afterwards and accumulated valuable experience.

The development of the cause of Chinese modern gold and silver coinage has always been kindly concerned and supported by leaders of the Party and the State. In 1995, the People's Bank of China proposed to issue every year from 1995 to 1997 a set of gold and silver commemorative coins to mark the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997. The theme of the first set is on the great policy of "One Country Two Systems" initiated by Comrade Deng Xiaoping; the theme of the second set is mainly focused on the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of P. R. of China; and the third set depicts the founding of HKSAR. The project of this coin issue was approved by major leaders of the Party and the State including Jiang Zeming, General Secretary of CCCPC. This coin issue made a great success, which will be forever recorded in China's numismatic history.

The first great historical giant depicted on Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins is Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The year 1981 was the 70th anniversary of the Xin Hai Revolution (the Revolution of 1911). To mark the great deed of overthrowing the Qing Dynasty during the Xin Hai Revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the People's Bank of China decided to issue a set of gold and silver coins. Obverse design of the gold coin uses the portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, showing the great respect to this revolutionary "pioneer"; and the silver coin bears a design of standing statue of Dr. Sun Yat-sen on the obverse, displaying the graceful demeanor of Dr. Sun as a historical giant. The coin received high appraisal from both home and abroad, especially from Taiwan.

The first time, for the founders of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and leaders of new China such as Li Dazhao, Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Zhou Enlai, and Liu Shaoqi to appear on Chinese modern gold and silver coins was in 1993 when the 10th set of China's Outstanding Historical Figures Coin Series was issued. Designs of this coin set were very successful. Every design catches features of each person in a typical environment, making a vivid depiction of the people. For instance, the design of Mao Zedong on the gold coin is based on the image of him in the early days of new China, revealing his great achievement to lead people building P.R. of China. The design of Zhou Enlai depicts him in delivering the governmental working report at the Great Hall, showing the elegance of Zhou as a great statesman. The coin depicts Liu Shaoqi carrying his overcoat in the hand and making investigations in a work tour across the country, which vividly displays the love of Liu Shaoqi to the people. The design of Comrade Zhu De shows his mighty force when sitting in an inspection car in a marshal costume and inspecting the parade of the armed forces. This set of commemorative coins was warmly welcomed by people.

Chinese Outstanding Historical Figures Commemorative Coin Series is composed of ten sets. Many politicians, thinkers, militarists, scientists and literatures etc. who have done great contribution in driving the development of China's history are displayed in the coin series. In these sets showed that these people are vividly depicted on the coins including Qin Shihuang, the first emperor; Lao Zi, the first philosopher; Confucius, the first educationist; Qu Yuan, the first poet; Chen Shen and Wu Guang, the first peasant uprising leaders; Sima Qian, the first historian; Zhang Heng, the first astronomy scientist; Cai Lun, the first paper maker; Zu Chongzhi, the first great mathematician; Li Chun, the first civilian bridge-building specialist; Songzan Gambo, the first Tibetan leader who married Princess Wencheng of Han Nationality; Li Qingzhao, the first women poet; Kublai Khan, the first emperor of a minority nationality; and the classical novelist Luo Guanzhong, and so on. The 9th Set of the

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Series is worth of particular mentioning because this is the first coin set specially featuring outstanding women in history. This is a special contribution from Chinese modern gold and silver coinage. The outstanding women coin set depicts the only empress in China's history, Wu Zetian, and other representative women of ancient China such as Wang Zhaojun, Cai Wenji and Hua Mulan, revealing the elegance and beauty of Chinese women. Marco Polo is almost a household name in Europe. He is the first person who brought the Chinese culture to Europe. Thus choosing him as the theme of a commemorative coin is of great significance in promoting the cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, and furthering the understanding of China's reform and opening up by the rest of the world. The coin depicts the portrait of Marco Polo in the background of the capital city of Yuan Dynasty, which further deepens the motif and the artistic attraction. This coin was well praised at home and abroad, and was awarded the Most Historically Significant Coin of the Year in the international coin competition.

The concept of 12 Lunar Animals is part of the typical Chinese folk culture. It is associated with a 12-year cycle denoted the year of a person's birth, thus is concerned with every person especially the Han people. So the issuance of the Lunar Animal Coin Series starting from 1981 was warmly welcomed by Chinese people at home and abroad. It becomes one of the most important Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coin series with a very good secondary market. Designs for the animals are taken from famous paintings by celebrated Chinese painters. After exquisite engravings of the sculptors, the coins form a typical Chinese national characteristics showing the cunning and wisdom of the rat, the steadiness and strength of the ox, the robust and fierceness of the tiger, the gentle disposition and the graceful carriage of the rabbit, the mysterious nature and unrestrained character of the dragon, the triggering beauty of the snake, the bold and unrestrained strength of the horse, the tameness and timidity of the sheep, the wisdom and swiftness of the monkey, the animated heroic spirit of the rooster, the alertness and royalty of the dog, the simple and gentle temperament of the pig, etc.. Each animal is vividly depicted based on the fine paintings of the painting masters and the careful engravings of the sculptors, making the coin piece irresistible and highly valuable for collection. The coins thus won two wonderful first prizes. In 1982, Year of the Dog silver Coin was awarded the Best Crown Coin of the Year in the international coin competition. Later, Chinese Lunar Animal Coin Series won the Gold Prize of Chinese Handicraft Hundred Flower Award, which was then the highest award of the country for arts and crafts, revealing that China's technical capability in designing and minting modern gold and silver commemorative coins had already reached the international level.

Chinese Panda gold and silver coins are sorted as investment coins in the world market. The designs of investment coins often choose a representative motif of a country. For instance, maple is taken as the design for the Canadian bullion gold and silver coins, and the design remains unchanged for years. Panda gold and silver coins are the first bullion coins in China issued from 1982. The mintage of Panda coins is unlimited according to the international practice, maintaining their value while being traded and invested freely by the customers and investors.

Chinese Panda gold and silver coins have become one of the major investment coins in the world coin market. They are characterized not only by their investability but also their collectability for the design of Panda coin change every year, which increases the artistic attraction and collective value of the coin. Panda coin is one of China's most important coin programs each year. As a unique rare animal in China, giant panda has black and white fur, black eyes and charmingly naive manners. Chinese people regard the giant panda as a national treasure. World Wildlife Fund uses the image of a panda as its logo, bringing world fame to the panda. The first difficulty that the Chinese technicians encountered when designing and minting panda gold coins in 1982 was

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how to display the black and white colors on the gold. After joint efforts from the designing experts of the Banknote Printing and Minting Bureau of the People's Bank of China and the engravers of the mints, a new engraving method called "intaglio engraving" was created, which was based on the fact that the mirror surface of gold can diffract black color. After careful designing and engraving, the black and white colors of the panda were successfully represented on the gold coin, as well as on the silver coin afterwards. In 1983, Panda gold coin was awarded the World's Best Gold Coin of the Year, which was the first international award for Chinese bullion coins.

China is a country of many ethnics. When Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage reflect the Central Plain culture or the culture of Han nationality, it also depicts the long history, brilliant culture and outstanding historical figures of the minorities. This was started from the issuance of 1st set of Chinese Minority Culture Commemorative Coin Series. The 1st set of the series displays the national heroes and heroines of some minorities such as Madame Xian Li Nationality, Madame Shexiang of the Yi nationality, King Gesal of the Tibetan nationality and Gadameilin of the Mongolian nationality. This is the first time that Chinese minority cultures are focused on the country's modern gold and silver commemorative coins, which is a proud work among Chinese gold and silver commemorative coins.

These mentioned above are the many "firsts" of Chinese modern gold and silver coinage in terms of sphere of contents, theme selection and designing. From which we can see that Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins have covered the essence of China's long history and its brilliant culture. The coins themselves are also a new creation in promoting the Chinese culture and the numismatic culture.

There are also many "firsts" of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage in terms of techniques. They symbolize the continuous development and improvement of the minting techniques of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage in coming up to the world first class standard. In 1991, the People's Bank of China issued a 5 Kilogram Panda gold coin to mark the 10th anniversary of the issuance of Chinese Panda Gold Coins, which was the first 5 kilo gold coin ever minted in China and also the first of its kind in the world. It made a marvel in the history of modern gold and silver coin industry. Although its mintage is only 10 pieces, it is one of the most valuable gold coins in the world. Its minting technology requirement was very complicated. It required not only a clear design with strong three-dimensional effect, but also absolutely precise specifications including the height, fineness and weight. The minting of 5-kilo Panda gold coin marks a new level of techniques achieved for Chinese gold coinage.

Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins are often round shaped. With the development of minting technique, diverse shaped coins appeared. For instance, the first rectangular serial coins are the Three Gorges Commemorative Silver Coins. The uniqueness of the coins is that the reverse designs of the 4 coins form into a spectacular panorama of the Three Gorges. With strong traditional style of Chinese painting, the coins created a new coining technique in making the coins join to form a complete picture. The coins were warmly welcomed by Chinese numismatist immediately after their issuance. After this, the 6 piece rectangular serial coins depicting A City of Cathay, the famous painting of Song Dynasty and Hong Kong's New Scenery rectangular serial coins (4 pieces) followed to be issued. All have become fine works of Chinese modern gold and silver coinage.

Following the development of the technologies of modern coinage, colored coins have been very popular in the market in recent years. The first Chinese colored coin is 1998 Chinese Wu Yin Year (Year of the Tiger) Commemorative Colored Silver Coin. The design of the coin applied colors of strong Chinese flavor, showing the happy and auspicious



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atmosphere of the theme. The coin was highly appreciated by coin collectors

The rectangular colored silver coin featuring *Elegant Ladies of Tang Dynasty*, the famous painting of Tang Dynasty, was issued in Nov. 1998. With its novel design, exquisite engraving, the coin vividly displays the glamour of the ancient painting, thus was well received in the coin market and became the most demanded coin at that time.

In the 20 years development of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage, the first jointly issued coin program between China and a foreign country was the silver coin set marking the 60th Anniversary of the Arrival of Norman Bethune in China. The coins were jointly issued by the People's Bank of China and Royal Canadian Mint. Each country issued one piece of the two-coin set. The two coins are sold together in a presentation case, making it a much-talked story in the world numismatic circle.

Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coins are a product of China's reform and opening-up. Under the concern of the Party and the state, the course of Chinese modern gold and silver commemorative coinage will continue to develop healthily at a steady pace. Chinese coin workers will create more and better gold and silver commemorative coin pieces to meet the demand of the coin collectors.

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《中国现代金银纪念币大全》编辑委员会

编辑说明

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