



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

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THE O. N. A. - C. N. E. COIN EXHIBIT

Canadian National Exhibition

August 19 to September 5, 1966

The Ontario Numismatic Association has again been invited to bring to the attention of the general public the world's greatest hobby - Numismatics - at the 1966 Canadian National Exhibition to be held in Toronto from August 19 to September 5 inclusive (not including Sundays).

The O. N. A. booth will consist of over 2,000 square feet of space, consisting of 48 displays housed in specially-constructed tables plus a number of exhibits made up by Banking Institutions. In addition, the films "Money Minters" and "Money in your Pocket" will be shown to the non-collecting public in a specially-constructed theatre that will house approximately 50 people per showing. Last year, over 1,000 people viewed the films and, judging by their comments, many have now joined their local coin club and/or the O. N. A. Canadian National Exhibition Management estimated that approximately a quarter of a million people passed through the General Exhibits Building in which the Coin Display was housed and it is estimated that the same number will again pass through this building's doors.

Readers are requested to volunteer displays for this event. The theme of this year's exhibits is "World Coins and Currencies" and all displays must fit the O. N. A. Display Cases, which we will supply. You are requested to write to either the Chairman or the Assistant Chairman of the O. N. A.-C. N. E. Coin Exhibit to let them know what you are will to display, how many display cases are necessary, etc. Displays of Canadian material will be kept to a minimum as it is planned to make 1967 displays "all Canadian," very timely on account of the Centennial year.

It should be pointed out that the type of displays required are the type that would be of the most interest to the non-collecting public. The information in the display should not be too lengthy, the display should be neat and eye-appealing. All material in your display will be insured for its full replacement value while on display and in addition, 24-hour security guards will be on hand for the duration of the C. N. E.

Coin Clubs and individuals are also requested to write and let us know when they would be willing to come to the CNE and help us man the booth. The duties of ONA attendants will be to answer visitors' numismatic questions with the help of a reference Library provided by the ONA, distribute certain literature provided for the occasion, receive membership applications to the ONA and coin clubs in Ontario, assist in maintaining order around the coin displays, etc. Attendants will receive a free admission ticket to the CNE grounds for which they must spend a few hours helping us man the booth, then they are free to roam the spacious grounds as they see fit. They will also receive a special ONA-CNE ribbon so as to identify them to the public, which they will be allowed to keep as a souvenir. If a group of people are coming from out-of-town to man the booth, please let us know and we will supply a car-pass that will allow you, in addition to saving you \$1.00 in parking fees and the problem of finding a parking space, to drive right into the CNE behind the General Exhibits Building where our booth is located.

Displays should be set up between 7:00 and 9:00 p. m. on Wednesday, August 17, if possible and will be taken down after the closing of the CNE on Monday, September 5, or anytime on September 6. If you are unable to come to Toronto at these times, we will make the necessary arrangements to pick up and deliver the display for you, through the co-operation of the Regional Directors of the ONA.

Exhibits should include the exhibitors name and club affiliation, or if desired, just the club affiliation; i. e. "Alex Munro, Toronto Coin Club."

In undertaking this Exhibition, the ONA is fulfilling one of its duties by bringing the co-ordinated efforts of its member clubs together in what is probably the largest undertaking of the ONA in bringing numismatics to the attention of the general public. Do your share - volunteer a display or two - help us man the booth.

ONA member coin clubs are asked to supply us with a publicity release that can be handed out at the show. This can be of any size desired, and we suggest a quantity of approximately 200 to 250 copies, as these will not be handed out indiscriminately but only to those people showing a genuine interest in a coin club in your area. These should be mailed to John Regitko Jr., c/o Remington Rand Ltd., 984 Bay Street, Toronto 5, Ontario, to arrive no later than August 15, 1966.

If desired, coin clubs should also make up a poster, preferably of letter or legal size, which we will put on our bulletin board at the CNE. This poster should state the time and day of meetings, location, and what programme is provided (guest speakers, auction, bourse dealers, etc.), plus any other information of interest. These posters

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should also be sent to John Regitko at the above address.

Write to: John Regitko Jr., Chairman, or Vince Doran, Assistant Chairman,
1966 ONA-CNE Coin Exhibition, 1966 ONA-CNE Coin Exhibition,
29 Spruce Street, 606 Pape Avenue,
Toronto 2, Ontario. Toronto, Ontario.

COMING EVENTS

- June 18 VICTORIA-SHICOE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Annual Banquet, Legion Hall, Woodville, Ontario. Tickets: \$2.50 complete with dinner. Bourse tables \$5.50 dinner included. Guest speaker - Mr. Donald Flick, Oakville. Turkey dinner at 6:00 p. m.
- July 24 OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB 6th Annual Coin Show, Sauble Beach Pavillion, Sauble Beach, Ontario. Fifteen bourse tables available. Write: Bourse Chairman, Ken MacIntosh, Box 94, Owen Sound, Ont. General Chairman - Elliott Jephson; Display - Jim Lougheed; Auction - Harold Stobbe; Judging - Del Curtis; Publicity - George Grimoldby.
- August 25, 26, and 27 CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 13th Annual Convention, New Marlborough Hotel, Smith St., and Elliott Ave., Winnipeg, Man. General Chairman - Albert Stern, 457 Main St., Winnipeg, Man.
- October 15 ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB Annual Banquet, Queensway Hotel. Co-chairmen: Pat Lambert and Sam McMullen

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NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the May issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted. The following applications have been received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the July issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

543. Mrs. Eleanor Shantz, 1142 Victoria Street North, Kitchener, Ont.
544. John H. Neufeld, 65 Byng Ave., Kapuskasing, Ont.
545. Jack C. Summerlin, Room 202 - 500 East Markham, Little Rock, Arkansas, U. S. A.
546. Ken L. Laframboise, 131 Niagara St., St. Catharines, Ont.
547. L. A. Frank, 187 Main St. W., Listowel, Ont.
548. Thomas F. Franke, 1860 Cragin Dr., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013, U. S. A.
- C55 NICKEL BELT COIN CLUB, c/o Gerald J. Albert, P. O. Box 593, Sudbury, Ont.

CLUB NEWS

BRANTFORD COIN CLUB had as their guest speaker in April, Mr. Jim Turvey who gave a slide by slide description on the life of the people inside the Bamboo Curtain of China. He was very interesting and all enjoyed his talk. There were several displays and a table auction was held.

CENTRAL COIN CLUB (Toronto) held a very successful coin show April 22, 23 and 24, at the Westbury Hotel. Fifty bourse dealers were active in the Maple Leaf Ballroom. Forty-six displays in 5 categories were judged by Alex Munro (Head Judge), Mrs. Winnifred Mather,

David Ashe, Bill English and Steve Oko. Winners in the various categories were: Canadian Decimal: 1st - Ed Burne; 2nd. - Arnold Linetsky; 3rd. - Arnold Linetsky; Foreign: 1st. - Steve Oko; 2nd. Reanus Holtman; 3rd. Vince Foran. Paper Money: 1st. - Walter Allan; 2nd. - Bob Reidelmeier. Medals and Tokens: 1st. - Bert Wooning; 2nd. - Allan Weighell; 3rd. - Jack Brown and Walter Brink. Miscellaneous: 1st. - Fred Ruby; 2nd. - John Curtis; 3rd. - Irene Wooning. Educational programmes included Mr. Bill English, Waterloo, on "Mint Errors" and also a short summary on the Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association; Walter D. Allan, Oakville, on "Canadian Paper Money" who also spoke briefly on the merits of joining the Canadian Paper Money Society; Dr. Marvin Kay, Scarborough, spoke on "Medical Medals and Tokens"; and John Regitko, Jr., conducted a quiz on Canadian coins.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB, April meeting, was chaired by President, Fred Carter, and time was devoted to discussion of several important topics. A special donation (1st and 2nd World War medals) to the club was sold to Mrs. S. Tregenza, with the approval of the club.

GUELPH COIN CLUB is planning a coin quiz for their May meeting.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB plans to hear a brief talk on the origin of coinage in the western world, at the May meeting, by Mr. Bruce Brace.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION had 40 members and guests out to their April meeting to view the O. N. A. Audio-visual by Alex Munro, "Seafaring." A very interesting item shown by Howard Johnston was an 1854 French Centime that opened in the centre in which secret messages were passed in the 1800's.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB was attended by 27 members and guests, who enjoyed a talk on "Canadian Paper Money" given by Alan Macnab and researched and prepared by The Canadian Paper Money Society. The 73 slides shown served as an introduction to Canadian paper money and covered issues by both Federal and Provincial Governments, Chartered banks, etc. Six cases of Canadian notes were on display. Mr. Jack Herbert, chairman of the Easter Seal Campaign told of the need and the work being done by the Kiwanis for the crippled children. Twenty-one dollars, realized from the Dutch Auction was presented to Mr. Herbert by Norm. Burnes, the I.C.C. treasurer.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, chaired by President, Thomas Masters, welcomed 72 members and guests in May. Feature of the evening was a four-part talk on "Numismatic Books and Periodicals" by Messrs. Alex Sweeton, William Clarke, Bud Masters and Lloyd T. Smith. Displays were exhibited by Wm. Clarke, L. T. Smith and Graham Esler.

ONKVILLE COIN CLUB had the largest turnout of the year at the May meeting to hear Mrs. Ethel Sentes, Hamilton, who gave a very interesting talk on Chinese money. She described the cowrie shells and nose money which date from 1766 to 255 B. C. The first coins were pu and spades. The most interesting varieties of these were knife-shaped coins which were used up until the first half of the 19th century. Mrs. Sentes accented her talk with a display of Chinese coins.

OWEN SOUND COIN CLUB is going all out in preparations for their forthcoming 6th Annual Show, July 24th, Sauble Beach, Ontario.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. At the April meeting, President Jim Moore presented Past-president Dave Price, with a plaque as a token of appreciation for his services as president of the club for the years 1964-1965. During his two years in office, Dave initiated several new ideas in the club and spent many hours arranging programmes, preparing lectures and other matters that contribute to a smooth running club.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB issued ribbons for displays at their April meeting as follows: 1st. Award - G. Oblinsky; 2nd. - Alf. Roebuck; 3rd. - John Sawatzky. Many long time absentees were present and welcomed by the club. Mrs. Bernard Cook donated lapel labels for members and guests identification.

for members and guests identification.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is adding the final touches for their Annual Coin Show. The May meeting is to feature "Foreign Coin Night."

THUNDER BAY COIN CLUB (Port Arthur and Fort William) is also in the midst of Coin Show activities (April 30) and an Annual dinner of the Thunder Bay Coin Club is planned for May 25. Lots of festivities ... let us hear the results.

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY display winners for April were Agnes Whetham and Albert Fuller. In the junior group, it was Sherry English and John English.

IDENTIFICATION OF COINS AND TOKENS

A new Service suggested and activated by Howard Whitfield for the Ontario Numismatic Association ... Identification of Coins and Tokens.

Members may send a description of items to be identified to the editor to be published in THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST. Anyone recognizing the pieces, write to the editor, giving the no. and information.

1. Token. Aluminum. $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. -- $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Obverse - C. O. Gardiner General Merchant The People's Store. Reverse - Good for 5c on trade.
2. Token. Brass. $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. -- $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Obverse - P. W. McQueen Tobacconist. Reverse - Good for 5¢ in Trade.
3. Token. Brass. 24mm -- $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Obverse - J. T. S. Reverse - Good for 25 ¢ in Trade.

FOURTH ANNUAL O. N. A. CONVENTION ADDRESS

by R. C. Willey

It is a very great honour to be asked to address the Annual Convention of the Ontario Numismatic Association a second time, and a great pleasure indeed to do so in Windsor, whose Coin Club is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary year. It may be a lot of old rope to the members of the Windsor Coin Club, but I think that a little bit of history of Ontario's third oldest coin club may be in order at this point.

The first meeting of the Windsor Coin Club was held in October, 1951, in the Girl Guide Offices above the old Royal Bank branch at Ouellette Avenue and Pitt Street, through the kindness of Mrs. Austin. At this meeting I was elected interim president, with Mrs. Austin as Vice-president, and Frank Hicks as Secretary-Treasurer. In January, 1952, this temporary executive was elected to carry on for the year. By this time the Club had outgrown the Girl Guide Office and had moved to the old Mercer Street school. The Club met in the pottery room, through the good offices of the late Miss Mabel Moncy.

During the Mercer St. era the Club was assisted financially by the Detroit Coin Club. In the summer of 1952 several Detroit members came over and ran a donation auction for the benefit of the Windsor Club. This was the beginning of a long and pleasant association with our neighbours over the river. When the pottery room in its turn proved too small, the Club was able to secure quarters in the Willistead Library. The Club was still meeting at the Library when, on graduation from the University of Windsor, I departed these scenes in search of a cooler summer climate.

The early members of the club were very cosmopolitan in their interests. Indeed there was a greater variety of numismatic interests in Windsor's Club than in many new clubs organized today. A few examples will illustrate this very well. Mrs. Austin

collects coins of India and of the British Commonwealth. The late Miss Money collected Chinese coins and could show beautiful specimens of the Republican coinage of Szechuan, which she had gathered during her years of teaching at a missionary school in China. The late Mr. A. H. Browning owned some of the finest eighteenth-century English silver I have ever seen. The late Mr. G. F. Biggs had an excellent general foreign collection. Everybody in the Club collected the coins of at least one country other than Canada.

Since those early days the Windsor Coin Club has grown in size and influence, experiencing the usual ups and downs of coin clubs everywhere. It has two outstanding honours to its credit. The first is its sponsoring of the late Miss Elizabeth Wyn Wood's exhibit of plaster casts by Emmanuel Hahn and herself during the joint A.N.A.-C.N.A. Convention in 1962. The second is its acting as gracious host to the present Convention of the O. N. A.

Now it is time to introduce the main subject of my address. Wherever I have spoken in public, with the exception of in Hamilton in 1963, I have dealt with the Coinages of Canada in Colonial times. Tonight, however, I plan to be different, and speak on another specialty of mine, the old coinages of China.

Centuries before Christ, the Chinese bartered knives, weeding tools, and rings. The values of all goods were expressed in terms of these articles, and so it is not surprising that the first coins were made in the shape of a knife, weeding tool, or ring. In common with the history of all ancient civilizations, China's history is a few bits of fact buried in an enormous welter of myths and legends. It is not known with certainty when Chinese coins were first used. Some writers have placed them as early as the Hsia dynasty (2122-1766 B. C.) or the Shang dynasty (1766-1122 B. C.). Recent scholars believe that coins were not used in China earlier than the ninth century B. C., when the Chou dynasty was ruling. Spades have been found dating from the eighth century B. C., which is long before the Lydians introduced coins in the West.

Spade, or Fu money, evolved from copper weeding tools. The first spade coins were about six inches long and hollow-handled, the hollow extending into the blade. Thus they could be used as tools or coins, as circumstances required. A little later the hollow handle terminated at the shoulder of the spade. As time went on, the hollow handle was eliminated, and the spades lost their original function. Flat-handled spades were in use throughout China between the Yangtze Kiang and Hwang Ho during the seventh to third centuries B. C., spreading into Manchuria and north Korea. These flat-handled spades diminished in size until, about 300 B. C., they were only two inches long. These late spades of small size are sometime referred to by that abysmally stupid term "Fants money". They are inscribed with the names of the issuing cities, such as An Yang and P'ing Yang. In this form they continued to the establishment of the Ch'in dynasty in 256 B. C.

Knife, or Tao, money is known dating from the early ninth century B. C., during which time the prophet Elijah was defying the power of Ahab and Jezebel in Israel. Originating in the Shantung Peninsula, the knives spread into the eastern and north-eastern states of China and into Manchuria and north Korea in the course of trade. These early knives, some eight inches long and shaped like a straight razor, were cast by the states of Ch'i, Chi-mo, An Yang, and T'an. The early knives have a ring on the end, presumably to make it easier to carry them about. Like the spades, the knives decreased in size, nevertheless preserving their original shape, until they were abolished by the Ch'in dynasty.

About 600 B. C., when Assyria's bloodthirsty armies were no more and Nineveh a heap of rubble, the knife coins were about six inches long and sharp-pointed. They were inscribed with single characters, mostly from the Chinese classics. Very few were inscribed with the name of the issuing city or state. The Chinese were using these and flat-handled spades four inches long during the days of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian

captivity of the Jews, Belshazzar's impious feast, and the conquests of the Persians under Cyrus and Cambyses.

Somewhere in the fifth century B. C. the knife coins assumed their final form, that of the Ming knife. The Ming knife is the commonest of knife coins, and is four inches long, inscribed with the character Ming. Other small knives are known, but they are rare.

Perhaps the oldest form of Chinese money is ring money. According to Coole, a decree of 1091 B. C. limited the forms of money to gold cubes weighing one ounce, copper rings, and silk. The copper rings were originally used in payments made to commute the punishments prescribed for crimes. Even the death penalty could be avoided if one had enough copper. Eventually the rings were allowed to be used for ordinary commerce.

Two other ancient forms of coinage were used in the state of Ch'u in the south. In the seventh century B. C. the "Ant nose" coins were cast to replace cowrie shells, which had been in use for centuries. These coins were called "ant nose" coins by numismatists in China because of the fanciful resemblance of some specimens to the head of an ant. It was at one time believed that the coins were placed in graves to ward off ants. They were also called "Ghost-head" coins, since the inscription on one variety made the coin appear to portray a face suggestive of a ghost. These coins were used down to the third century B. C. They are the only ancient Chinese coins remotely resembling Western coins.

The same state made use of flat, irregularly-shaped pieces of gold with characters stamped in squares all over them. According to Yü-ch'uan Wang, they were used from the eighth century B. C. to the Ch'in conquest. Because the monetary designation "Yüan" is on all specimens, they are known as yüan kin. Specimens in silver, copper, lead, and clay have been found, but they are much rarer than the gold. The lead and clay pieces were probably buried in graves.

About the time of Confucius (552-479 B.C.), the first round coins were cast. They are rather large, with round central holes. These round coins were found to be much more convenient than the knives and spades. Many more could be strung up and carried inside one's sleeve. In 221 B.C. the emperor Shih Huang Ti of the Ch'in dynasty abolished the knives and spades and introduced throughout the empire the round coins of the state of Ch'in, his ancestral home. These coins are large, with a square hole, and inscribed with the weight - Pan Liang, or half an ounce. These became China's first uniform coinage, and were in use till the reign of the emperor Wu Ti of the Han dynasty. During this period of tyranny and innovation in China, the Romans were locked in their struggles with Carthage for mastery of the Mediterranean and were beginning to look east. By the reign of Wu Ti, these early Roman aims were realized. Carthage had been destroyed, Greece conquered, and the East lay within Rome's grasp.

The Pan Liang coinage had dwindled in size and quality to a point where a very small, thin coinage in this design, known as "elm leaves", flooded the empire. People were resorting to barter. The emperor Wu Ti, in 118 B.C. introduced a new coinage, but was first obliged to deal with widespread forgery. This was dealt with in an interesting way. All counterfeiters were rounded up, together with samples of their work. Those whose work was good were hired in the new mints set up by the emperor. Those whose work was poor were bowstrung, crushed, sawn, beheaded, or otherwise removed from the earthly scene. The new coinage was inscribed only with its weight - five chu or grains - and was used for the next seven hundred years with only one interruption. It is known as the Wu Chu coinage, and shows very few variations during its lifetime. Only the most experienced scholars can distinguish with certainty all the castings of every issuing dynasty.

The Wu Chu coins were interrupted by the usurpation of Wang Mang, who poisoned the child emperor P'ing Ti in A. D. 9 and seized the throne. He called his reign the first of the Sin, or new, Dynasty. The people indeed called it Sin, but they did not mean New.

Among other things, Wang Mang began to tamper with the coinage, an act far worse than any of the tamperings of our own legislators with the time. The storms aroused by changing the time in a province or city are innocuous compared to the Chinese reaction to Wang Mang and his monetary jiggery-pokery. First he introduced a series of high denominations in a knife coinage of small module. These pieces were about three inches long, with a ring the size of a Wu Chu cash on the ends, and resembled keys. They appeared soon after the usurper came to power. Then he introduced a set of small spade coins in 11 A. D. These pieces were denominated decimally. Then came a decimal round coinage, and finally a single round coin called the Huo Chuan or Source of Value.

All this monetary confusion added to the people's resentment of his rule, and by 23 A.D. the people had had enough of Wang Mang. Rebellions broke out all over the empire, and a prince of Han organized a drive on the capital. Wang Mang, who lived by treachery, died by it, for his own soldiers turned on him and slew him. The restored Han dynasty ruled till 206 A. D., and restored the Wu Chu coinage. The end of the Han dynasty introduced the Chinese Dark Ages, when the empire was broken up into a number of continually fighting states and dynasties. The Wu Chu coinage was continued, but in ever poorer workmanship. No major changes in the coinage took place, except for a few local issues such as the Wu Chu Chih Pai coinage of the kingdom of Shu in the third century. During this period Jesus Christ illuminated the world, and His apostles began to spread Christianity into a Roman world dying of political, social, and economic conflicts resulting from self-inflicted wounds.

The Chinese Dark Ages were ended on the establishment of the T'ang dynasty in 617 A. D. All of China was quickly brought under one government again, and a new coinage introduced. Forgery was so widespread that the people lost confidence in money and were resorting to barter.

The new coinage was inscribed in the modern Chinese script instead of the ancient seal script, with the name of the emperor's era and the characters T'ung Pao, or current treasure. This standard form of inscription was used by every succeeding dynasty for the next 1300 years. The first were known as the Kai Yüan T'ung Pao, or Current Treasure of the New Beginning. This legend was used by most of the T'ang emperors on their coins perhaps out of respect for Kao Tsu, the first T'ang emperor. The T'ang dynasty lasted three hundred years, after which China collapsed into fifty years of anarchy from which it was rescued by the house of Sung.

The Sung dynasty, established in 960, speedily restored order, and the Chinese coinage entered one of its most beautiful periods. The Sung emperors were highly artistic individuals, and often wrote personally upon the moulds the characters to be used for the coinage. The most beautiful examples of Chinese calligraphy are seen on the coins of the eras of Ta Kuan and Chung Ming of the reign of the painter emperor Hui Tsung.

During the Sung dynasty, three types of script were used on the coinage. The ancient seal script, so called because it was by this time used only on seals and for ornamental purposes, was used chiefly in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The present conventional Chinese script, first used on coins during the T'ang dynasty, was used continuously, its best examples being on the coins of Hui Tsung. Grass script, a delicate cursive version of the conventional, was used at the same time. The name comes from the resemblance of the strokes of the characters to blades of grass. During many eras all three scripts were used concurrently.

The Sung emperors, however, grew effete, and neglected the frontiers. In the eleventh century they lost much of the north of China to the Khitan Tartars, who are known in Chinese annals as the Liao dynasty. A Tangut state in what is now Kan Su organized at the same time as the independent principality of Hsia. Some of its coins are in Tangut script. Both these realms fought the Sung intermittently until they fell before the Nu Chen Tartars, or Golden Horde. The Golden Horde advanced into China early in the

twelfth century, and in 1126 they possessed themselves of the whole of China north of the Yangtze Kiang, calling their government the Kin or Golden dynasty. From this date the Sung dynasty, confined to the south, is known as the Southern Sung.

The Liao, Hsia, and Kin dynasty coinages were somewhat coarser in style than those of the Sung. The coins of the Kin dynasty include many with pictorial reverses, such as a cow and moon, and a sword, snake, turtle, and dipper design. The Southern Sung dynasty continued the traditions of the Sung, adding a few large pieces in the thirteenth century and gradually discarding seal and grass script. The last coinage of the Southern Sung were oblong copper pieces of 300 and 500 cash, cast at Linanfu in Chekiang. These are the first Chinese coins in over twelve hundred years that were not round.

In the last third of the thirteenth century the Mongols under Kublai Khan appeared upon the scene. They had, under Genghis Khan, inflicted a terrible defeat upon the Golden Horde, but had turned elsewhere until Kublai was given the Far East as his share of Genghis's empire. The Southern Sung, in conflict with the Kin, had asked the Mongols for aid. *Veniunt, vidiunt, vicunt.* The Mongols overthrew the Kin dynasty, occupying all the north of China. To the consternation of the Southern Sung, the Mongols crossed the Yangtze Kiang, resolved on the occupation of the whole country. The south of China fell like an overripe plum into the hands of Kublai Khan, who established a new dynasty in 1280.

Kublai Khan styled his dynasty the Yuan, or Beginning. His reign was indeed a new beginning for China. Government was reorganized, law was reformed, and a network of roads and canals was built to hold the empire together. There was little change in the coinage until after the death of Kublai, when his successors began to use Mongol script instead of Chinese. During this dynasty the first paper money in the world was used. The notes were seen in circulation by Marco Polo during his famous visit to China.

Under Kublai Khan the Chinese were content to accept foreign rule, for he governed wisely and benevolently. His successors, however, relapsed into heavy-handed cruelty, and in 1353 the first flames of revolt were kindled. Led by a monk named Chu Yuan-chang, the rebels fought for fifteen years before overthrowing the Mongols. On achieving power Chu Yuan-chang proved anything but monkish. He began a vigorously reactionary dynasty and ruled by naked force. Taking the name of Hung Wu for himself, he first called his dynasty Ta Chung, or the Great Middle Kingdome, to emphasise the expulsion of the foreigner and the re-establishment of China as the centre of the Far Eastern world. Later he changed the name of the dynasty to Ming, or Bright. A coinage of traditional style was cast, with a few large coins added by Hung Wu himself. The Ming coinage is common only in the eras of Hung Wu, Yung Lo, Wan Li, and Chung Chen. By the era of Wan Li (1573-1620), brass was being used instead of copper.

Paper money was continued by Hung Wu. Notwithstanding its being a foreign invention the emperor realized the uses of paper money. As in the West, the temptation to "create" money was irresistible, and the empire underwent a serious inflation. The sad awakening occurred in 1425, and paper was discontinued. So great was the shock that China did not use paper again till 1875. Until 1900 the notes of the Ming dynasty were very rare. During the Boxer Rebellion, when a temple in Peiping was being sacked, a huge urn was overturned during the fighting and smashed. It was discovered to have been stuffed with Ming notes nearly five hundred years before. These notes were quickly dispersed, and most specimens known today came from this hoard.

As with so many dynasties in China in the past, the Ming became feeble from self-indulgence, and towards the end of the sixteenth century outlying districts were in revolt. About this time a Manchu prince and his son were put to death by the Ming dynasty at the instigation of a rival prince. The grandson took up the leadership of the family and swore revenge. He fought and defeated all rivals and became head of all the Manchu tribes. In 1616 he started fighting with the armies of the Ming dynasty and proclaimed

himself emperor of China. On his death his son carried on, and invaded China in earnest. Crossing the Swang Ho, he encountered little resistance. The last Ming emperor, seeing that all was lost, committed suicide in 1644. The Manchu leader entered Peiping in triumph and styled himself emperor with the name Shun Chih. This Manchu dynasty was called Ch'ing, and was last imperial dynasty of China. This was the dynasty in power when Europeans began knocking in earnest at the gates of China.

The era of Shun Chih was spent in pacifying the country and consolidating the Ch'ing power. Many Ming claimants and sympathizers rebelled, chiefly in the south, and not until the era of K'ang Hsi was the empire completely pacified.

In recent years, at long last, several works have been published in English on the coins of the Ch'ing dynasty. An illustrated monograph on the mint marks of the eras of K'ang Hsi, Yung Cheng, and Ch'ien Lung was published a few years ago by Alfred E. H. Petrie. Rev. A. B. Coole has greatly expanded his treatment of Ch'ing dynasty mint marks in his fourth edition of "Coins in China's History." Schjøth's work on Chinese coins, originally published in Europe, has been reprinted in the United States, with additions. An excellent treatise on Ch'ing dynasty mint marks is included in the 1965 Museum Notes of the American Numismatic Society. It had long been my fond hope to engage in research in this field, but others were ready long before me. What the sudden appearance of this spate of excellent literature will do to the price of Ch'ing dynasty cash is yet to be known.

The cash of the Ch'ing dynasty fall into four groups. The first group, cast only in the era of Shun Chih, bears the mint mark in Chinese on the reverse, in the form of a single character. This character appears usually at the top, but is sometimes found on right side and rarely on the left.

The second group, again cast only in the era of Shun Chih and K'ang Hsi, but a few mints cast this group until the era of Hsien Feng. It has the mint name in Chinese at the right and the Manchu Bao, or Treasure, on the left. It is the commonest group of Ch'ing coins. This group was cast during every era of the dynasty, and is most plentiful after the era of Shun Chih.

The cash of Shun Chih (1644-1662) are generally broad and thin, and well made. They are in yellow brass, and inscribed in a vigorous style befitting the leader of a conquering dynasty. The Cash of the era of K'ang Hsi (1662-1723) are at first in the same style, but become smaller towards the end of the era, and exhibit a finer fabric towards the end. The emperor K'ang Hsi ruling for sixty years, opportunity for the old Oriental custom known as "squeeze" arose. Whenever a set of moulds wore out, the new moulds were made the size of the coins from the old ones. Thus the new coins would be everyso slightly smaller than the old. When these moulds in turn wore out, the process was repeated and the coins made smaller yet. So the subtle shrinkage of the coin and the swelling of the mint masters' sleeves went on until it became too obvious. In the case of an emperor whose reign was long, the coins cast in his old age were as wizened as the old emperor himself. Sometimes the people petitioned for redress, and the emperor would order an inquiry. The offenders would then be compelled to disgorge their ill-gotten gains and relieved of their duties and sometimes their lives. New officials would be chosen and carefully watched to see that this form of dishonesty did not happen again.

The short era of Yung Cheng (1723-1736) saw the continuation of the original vigorous style side by side with the newer, finer style of casting of the later years of K'ang Hsi. The cash of this era are on broad, relatively thin flans.

To be continued next month.