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Chinese Numismatic References: an Annotated Bibliography

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Naturally, most research in Chinese numismatics has been performed in China and published in Chinese, and unfortunately, not much of it has been translated into English. However, enough material has either been translated or written in English to meet the needs of everyone except the most serious specialists.

China changed radically in 1912 with the fall of the Empire. Since then, Chinese coins and paper money have been typically modern in style, with the issues reflecting the country's chaotic recent history. The following references, and the Seminar lecture, are largely devoted to pre-1912 numismatics. Most information about modern Chinese numismatics can be obtained from commonly used general catalogs.

Bruce, Colin R. II, sr. ed. 2007. *Standard catalog of world coins: eighteenth century, 1701-1800*, 4th ed. Iola, Wis.: Krause Publ. All types and issues covered.

-- 2004. *Standard catalog of world coins: 1801-1900*, 4th ed. Iola, Wis.: KP Books

-- [2009]. *2009 Standard catalog of world coins, 1901-2000*, 36th ed. [Iola,Wis.]: Krause Publ.

Burger, Werner. 1964. Manchu inscriptions on Chinese cash coins. *Museum Notes* 11, p. 313-318, pls. 50-55. New York: American Numismatic Society.

-- 1976. *Ch'ing cash until 1735*. Taipei, Taiwan: Mei Ya Publ. The definitive study of these multitudinous issues.

Coole, Arthur Braddon. 1936. *Coins in China's history*. Tientsin, Hopeh, China: Student work department of the Tientsin Hui Wen Academy. (4th reprint ed., Quarterman Publ., 1965). Brief and comprehensive, it contains inaccuracies corrected in Hartill and Peng. Still sometimes encountered and occasionally useful as a reference.

-- 1967. *A bibliography on Far Eastern numismatology and a coin index*. *Encyclopedia of Chinese coins*, v. 1. Denver, Colo.: The Author, 1967. This at the time rather comprehensive list included all references (especially useful for its annotations on original Far Eastern language works). It was the first of a projected multi-volume series intended to cover all of Chinese Numismatics. Other volumes are listed below. A failing to be noted in Coole's work is his lack of differentiation of forgeries found among the holdings in his extensive personal collection, which formed the basis of his researches and publication; a valuable feature is the extensive number of rubbings included.

-- 1972. *Spade coin types of the Chou dynasty. Encyclopedia of Chinese Coins.* v. 3. Boston: Quarterman Publ.

-- 1973. *The early coins of the Chou Dynasty. Encyclopedia of Chinese coins,* v. 1. Boston: Quarterman Publications,

-- [1975]. *Pointed spade coins of the Chou Dynasty. Encyclopedia of Chinese coins,* v. 4. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publ.

-- 1976. *Ch'i heavy sword coins and debatable pieces of the Chou era. Encyclopedia of Chinese coins,* v. 5. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publ.

-- 1976. *State of Ming knife coins and minor knife coins. Encyclopedia of Chinese Coins,* v. 6. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publs. The principal character on these issues, formerly interpreted as "Ming," is now rendered otherwise.

-- [1981]. *Earliest round coins of China. Encyclopedia of Chinese Coins,* v. 7. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publ. Late Zhou dynasty and Warring States issues.

(DaXi) *Zhongguo lidai huobi daxi.* 1988-. [Shanghai : Shanghai People's Publishing House] 12 vols. (projected). In Chinese; this is "*The Shanghai encyclopedia of the great series of Chinese dynastic currency.*" vol.1 covers Pre-Qin dynasty coinage (to 221 BC); vol.3. the Sui and Tang Dynasties, the five Kingdoms and ten States period; vol. 11 is the *Currency of the Chinese Democratic Revolution*; vol. 7 covers paper money of Qing Dynasty. The most important use of this work is as the single largest source of examples of the earliest types of coins, the spade money, knife money, etc.

Fisher, George Albert. [1990]. *Fisher's ding, or, Ding Fubao's catalog of old Chinese cast coinage, selectively translated and annotated.* Littleton, Colo.: G.A. Fisher, [1990]. A thoroughly numerated, paginated and Anglicized revised version of Ding Fubao's earlier work (Ting Fu-Pao, : *Gu Qian Da Chi Dian, "An encyclopaedia of Ancient coins,"* Shanghai, 1936). Fisher's work became the foremost reference in English for the Traditional coinages due to the high quality of Ding's rubbings and the care with which Fisher annotated the plates. Fisher has also conveniently appended a table of Pinyin Chinese transliteration conversion from the earlier Wade-Giles system, typically used in most prior English-language references.

Hartill, David. 2005. *Cast Chinese coins: a historical catalogue.* Victoria, B.C., Canada: Trafford Publ. This is a comprehensive guide to the identification and context of Chinese cast coins from antiquity through 1912. Recently published, it benefits from current scholarship and is presently the most thorough general compendium.

Jen, David. 2000. *Chinese Cash: Identification and Price Guide.* Iola, Wis.: Krause Publications. Recent enough to have useful price data, and very good guidance on identifying counterfeits. Jen was an expert dealer who helped organize the ANS collection.

Kann, Eduard. 1926. *The currencies of China: an investigation of silver and gold transactions affecting China, with a section on copper*. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd. *The Currencies of China*. Reprint (1954, 1966) eds., *Illustrated catalog of Chinese coins (gold, silver, nickel and aluminum)*. New York [and Los Angeles]: Mint Productions, Inc. A catalog containing a good survey focusing on modern issues, often used as a reference.

(KM) Krause, Chester L., and Clifford Mishler. 2003. *Standard catalog of world coins, 17th century*, 3rd ed. Iola, Wis.: Krause Publ. All types and issues from 1601 to 1700.

Lockhart, James H. Stewart. *The currency of the farther East from the earliest times up to 1895*. 1895. 3 vols. Hong Kong: the Author. Reprint ed. (1992), *The Stewart Lockhart Collection of Chinese Copper Coins*. Merced, Calif.: Joel Anderson. A well-annotated catalog of the extensive Glover collection, now housed at the Smithsonian Institution. V. 1 is *A description of the Glover collection of Chinese, Annamese, Japanese, Korean coins, of coins used as Amulets, and Chinese gov. and private notes*. V. 2 is the *Plates of coins in the Glover Collection*. V. 3 is a *Guide to inscriptions on coins of the Farther East*.

Peng, Xinwei. 1994. *A Monetary History of China*, 2 vols., transl. by Edward H. Kaplan. Western Washington University press, 1994. Written by a Chinese economist and banker, this massive and scholarly book relates all the major issues of Chinese money to the political and economic events of the times. An important book for the serious student.

Schj th, Fredrik. 1929. *The currency of the Far East, the Schj th collections at the Numismatic cabinet of the University of Oslo, Norway: "What the Chinese say about their coins."* Reprint edition (1965), *Chinese Currency*, Iola, Wis.: Krause Publications. A catalog of an extensive private—now public—collection, this book has been rendered obsolete by Hartill's. However, as formerly the most comprehensive work available in English, it has been used for many years as a primary reference, so a student might well need to refer to it to identify a citation. The extensive illustrations are drawings of the coins made by the author's daughter.

Terrien de Lacouperie, Albert. 1892. *Catalogue of Chinese coins from the VIIth cent. B.C., to A.D. 621, including the series in the British museum*. Reginald Stuart Poole, ed. London: The Trustees. This now antique catalog of the extensive (even at the time) British Museum collection is still a useful compendium of information on the earliest coins.

Thierry, Fran ois. 1997. *Monnaies chinoises, 1: L'antiquit  pr imp riale, catalogue*. Biblioth que nationale, D partement des monnaies, m dailles et antiques. Paris: Biblioth que nationale de France.

-- 2003. *Monnaies chinoises, 2: Des Qin aux Cinq Dynasties, catalogue*. Biblioth que nationale, D partement des monnaies, m dailles et antiques. Paris: Biblioth que nationale de France.

Wang, Helen. 2004. *Money on the Silk Road*. London: British Museum Press. This book discusses the money of Eastern Central Asia over 900 years to A.D. 800. Historical records are sparse, so it relies almost entirely on archaeological evidence.

Wang, Yu-Chuan. 1948. *The distribution of coin types in ancient China*, ANS Museum Notes 3, p. 131-151. A very useful survey by an ANS Assistant Curator, based upon pieces in the ANS' vast collection.

-- 1951. *Early Chinese coinage*. Numismatic notes and monographs, no. 122. New York: American Numismatic Society. One of the principal works covering the early spade and knife coins, and including a selection of illustrations of items in the highly important ANS cabinet.