

Japanese coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

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1. The Fitzwilliam Museum and its Coin Collection

The Fitzwilliam Museum is part of the University of Cambridge and was founded in 1816 when the third Viscount Fitzwilliam bequeathed his remarkable collection of paintings, prints, manuscripts and books to the University, together with a large sum of money to build an Art Museum to house it. The fine neo-classical building which enhances the centre of Cambridge was completed and opened in 1849. Its collections grew rapidly, and still continue to expand, so that it is now one of Europe's great museums of art and antiquities. Among the five curatorial departments of the Museum, Coins and Medals has the lowest profile, but its collections are equally distinguished.

Although the Museum was only founded in the 19th century, the origins of the coin collection can be traced back to the 16th century when Andrew Perne (c. 1519-89), Master of the College of Peterhouse, bequeathed his collection of Roman coins to the University. Some of these coins would have been acquired by Perne more than 450 years ago—something to contemplate! Other significant donations of coins are recorded in the 17th and 18th centuries, when the collection was housed in the University Library; it was only transferred to the Museum in 1856. Within the University there are some 30 autonomous colleges, many of which were founded in the middle ages. Several of these Colleges formed their own coin collections; most notably Trinity College, whose collections goes back to at least the mid-17th century, when the daughter-in-law of the famous Chief Justice Lord Coke (1552-1634) gave the College a collection of coins of the English Civil War of 1639-46. Most of the College collections were deposited with the Fitzwilliam in the 1930s. The Museum's own collection has been built up through donations, large and small, and through purchases, in which it has been very active.

Table 1. Coins and Medals in the Fitzwilliam Museum

Ancient Greek 35,000	Oriental coins 22,000
Roman 20,000	Pre-Islamic Iranian etc. 1,000
Medieval European 35,000	Islamic 4,000
Modern 42,000	Indian 12,000
Paper money 6,000	Far Eastern 5,000
Medals and plaquettes 6,500	China 4,500
	Japan 267 + 113
	Korea 95
	Annam 135

In principle the collection is universal in scope, ranging from the earliest forms of money in Ancient Greece, China and India, through to modern coins and banknotes from all

parts of the world (Table 1). Inevitably, it is stronger in some series than others, depending on the interests of its benefactors, and the expertise of its keepers. The two fields in which its holdings are of world class are Ancient Greek and Medieval European (AD 500-1500). The Fitzwilliam's Greek coins had been notable since the purchase of Colonel W. M. Leake's collection in 1864, and these have been built upon by the donation of several other major collections. By contrast the Museum's strength in Medieval European coins—now the most comprehensive collection in existence—is comparatively recent. Its growth has been inspired by Professor Philip Grierson (b.1910), who during his career as a historian in Cambridge University built up the finest collection of Continental coins ever formed with the intention of donating it to the Fitzwilliam. Through his influence the Museum has also become a centre of research into medieval coinage, with a team of assistants and associated scholars working on the publication of his collection in some 15 volumes of *Medieval European Coinage*. To complement Grierson's coins of Continental Europe, the Museum has been fortunate to acquire two outstanding collections of English medieval coins, C. E. Blunt (1990) and Dr W. J. Conte (2001).

In other series the Museum's collection is more haphazard, often dependant on the items that happen to have been donated. Like so many museum collections, they can include some great rarities, yet lack specimens of common coins that were the basis of normal circulation. The Indian collection is particularly susceptible to this. For some 40 years before Independence in 1947 the Fitzwilliam Museum was one of two European museums (the other being the British Museum) that were on the distribution list for treasure trove found in India. It would receive regular parcels of coins from recent hoards, but there was not the opportunity for the keeper to build up a systematic and representative collection of Indian coins. In the last three years the Museum has invited scholars from India to come to Cambridge for three months to study and prepare catalogues of different parts of the Indian collection. It has then taken the opportunity to acquire coins to fill some of the weak areas revealed by these visitors.

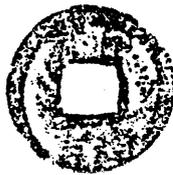
The Far Eastern coins have the same haphazard character. The Chinese collection consisted of some 4,000 coins, mostly common cash from the Former Han to Qing dynasties acquired from many different sources mainly derived from collections formed by missionaries or diplomats in the 19th century. However, it was transformed in 1999 by the donation of a small but choice collection of 556 carefully selected specimens, including many rarities and a good series of early money-spade and knife coins. This had been formed in the 1980s by a well-known Singapore collector, Mr Vikram Chand, with good advice on the avoidance of modern fakes that are such a danger to collectors, and a generous benefactor, Mr Christopher Jeeps, kindly purchased the collection for the Museum. The Fitzwilliam's collections of Japan, Korea, Annam and Indonesia are small and unsystematic, mainly comprising common coins of the 18th and 19th centuries. This is an area in which the Museum needs seriously to improve its collection. There are some significant pieces, such as a group of 'magic coins' of Java, which had been collected by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles in the early 19th century, or 16 medieval coins of Korea that were recently purchased.

2. Japanese cash (sen) coins

The Fitzwilliam Museum held 99 Japanese cash coins before the donation of 113 coins of the Kan-ei Tsu-ho type by the Institute for Oriental Currency mentioned below. These are the round coins with a square hole in the Chinese style, normally made of bronze, but exceptionally



Ei-raku Tsu-ho
[1]



Kei-cho Tsu-ho
[2]



Gen-pu Tsu-ho
[3]



Ko-bu Tsu-ho
[4]



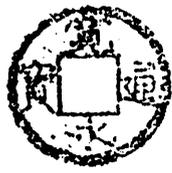
Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[8]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[16]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[28]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[37]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[43]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[48]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[51]



Kan-ei Tsu-ho
[52]



Ten-sei Gen-po
[55]



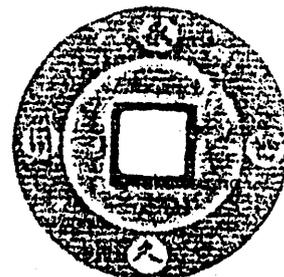
Gen-po Tsu-ho
[59]



Sho-sei Gen-po
[75]



Ei-reki Tsu-ho
[78]



Ho-ei Tsu-ho
[81]



Ei-reki Tsu-ho
[80]

PLATE 1

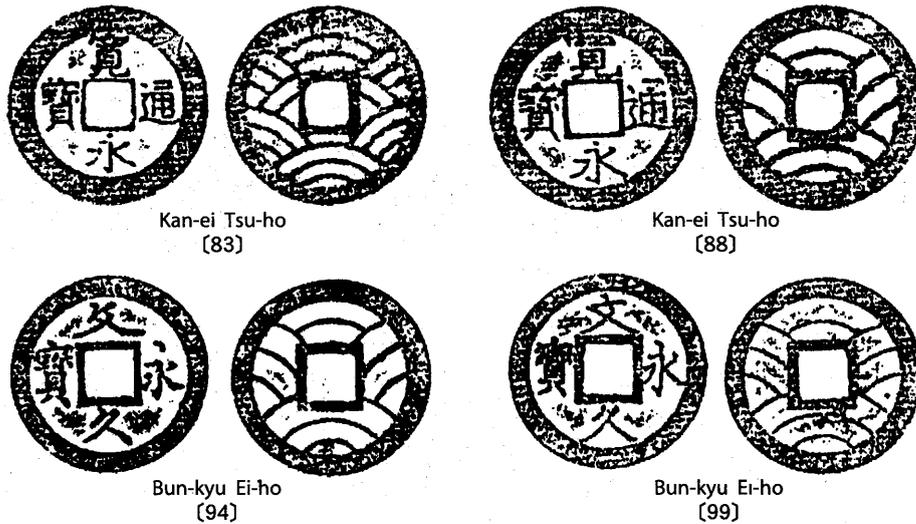


PLATE 2

they can be made of iron, brass, silver or some other alloy. (In this article, however, all alloys of copper are referred to as copper (Cu) following established practice.) These 99 cash coins are listed below, preceded by some comments of the different categories. They are all 1 mon sen unless described otherwise. Selected coins are illustrated here, and these are marked in the catalogue by an asterisk after the number. The earliest Japanese coins date from the 7th to 10th centuries, but none of these are present in the Fitzwilliam collection.

No.1 is of the Ei-raku Tsu-ho type. The prototype for this is a copper coin from the Chinese Ming dynasty of Yung Lo T'ung Pao type (1408), but this Japanese piece is a silver coin made for the payment of tribute, not for circulation in the public market. It is said that Hideyoshi Toyotomi (1587-1598) awarded gold and silver coins to his subordinates on the battlefield. This is one such coin, made in about Ten-sho year 15 (1587).

No. 2 is of the Kei-cho Tsu-ho type. In Japan, for a long period from the 10th to the early 17th centuries no official currency was issued by the government. This coin has an era name Kei-cho, so it is thought to have been issued during the Kei-cho era (1596-1615). It is generally attributed to the year 1606, however, as this is after establishment of Shogunate Government, it is strange that there are no official government records about this issue. It is arguable, therefore, that this coin was privately issued. Its place of minting is unknown.

No. 3 is a copy of a Chinese coin of the Northern Sung dynasty, but with characters in a distinctive style. It is privately issued and the mint is unknown. The reverse is very flat, and may be compared with nos. 55-75.

Nos. 4-7 are of the Ko-bu Tsu-ho type. The prototype for these is a coin of the Chinese Ming dynasty's Hung Wu T'ung Pao type (1368), but with the addition of a special feature, the character "Ji" inscribed on the reverse, indicating the mint place, Kajiki in Ohsumi Domain, in southern Kyushu Island. "Ji" is the second character in the name Ka-ji-ki. The Shimazu family, feudal lords of the Ohsumi and Satsuma Domain, was responsible for issuing these coins from the late 16th or early 17th century until the introduction of the national Kan-ei Tsu-ho coinage in 1636. They are characterized by a slightly rich iron and arsenic content of the metal, so magnets attract them.

Nos. 8-54 are of the Kan-ei Tsu-ho type. In Japan, copper coins were imported from China or

minted privately during the 13th to 16th centuries. The Shogunate Government sought to replace this 'Chinese' currency by issuing the well-known Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins beginning in year 13 of the Kan-ei era (1624-1644), i.e. in 1636. After this, the majority of copper coins issued during the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1867) were inscribed Kan-ei Tsu-ho in spite of the era changing. The Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins were made at many different mints, some identified by a character on the reverse, but for many they can be distinguished only by the style of the inscription and the fabric of the coin. From 1739 iron was used at some mints rather than copper, when this was in short supply. The Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins are classified here according to the standard catalogue published by the Institute of Oriental Currency ('*IOC Cat.*'). Two Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins in the Fitzwilliam's collection are particularly rare:

No. 8 is a silver coin of the issue of 1636, from the mint of Okayama (Bizen). This was not made for general circulation. When a mint was opened the first coins were made in silver by way of experiment, and these were distributed among the people attending the opening ceremony. This appears to be such a coin.

No. 52 is a silver coin of the mint of Kuji (Hitachi), indicated by the character "Ku" on the reverse. The normal currency coins of this mint are in iron, and this specimen in silver was presumably an experimental production like no. 8. The type is previously unpublished in silver.

Nos. 55-75 are called "Nagasaki trade money". These are direct copies of various Chinese coins of the Northern Sung dynasty (960-1127). Three different types are represented. The style of the characters is different from that on original coins, and it is clear, therefore, that new mother coins were made in Japan. These coins were made for Chinese and Dutch merchants to use in the China Sea trade. By law the Tokugawa Shogunate had forbidden the export of the Kan-ei Tsu-ho that circulated in Japan, so in 1659 the Tokugawa Shogunate permitted the production of coins for export, but only ones that copied Chinese coins of the Sung dynasty. Records show that their production ceased in 1685. The mint was in Nagasaki, Hizen Domain. In contrast to the official Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins of this period, the reverses of the Nagasaki issues are in very low relief and sometimes virtually flat, as also on the Northern Sung originals.

Nos. 76-80 are thought to be coins minted in 1651 at Nagasaki to the order of the Chinese Zheng Cheng Gong (1624-1662), who led the Ming rebellion in Taiwan against the new Qing dynasty. The coins copy contemporary Chinese Yung Li T'ung Pao coins of the pretender Prince Gui (Yung Ming, 1646-1662). The original coins came in four denominations: 1, 2, 5 and 10 cash. In Japan, only the 2 cash type was copied, and the inscription Yung Li T'ung Pao is transcribed in Japanese as "Ei-reki Tsu-ho". There are two varieties, in running script (*gyo-sho*) and in seal script (*ten-sho*), both of very different style from the Chinese originals.

Nos. 81-82 are 10 mon sen of the Ho-ei Tsu-ho type, valued at ten of the Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins. This was the first large denomination in Japan, issued in 1708, but it was not popular among the people and thus it was withdrawn in following year.

Nos. 83-91 are 4 mon sen of the Kan-ei Tsu-ho type, which represent a second attempt, in 1768, to introduce a multiple denomination. However, by this time it was in line with economic growth, and the people accepted these 4 mon sen as convenient coins. They were made in brass rather than bronze as the 1 mon coins were. No. 83 belongs to the first issue (1768), which has 21 waves on the reverse. In following year the number of waves was decreased to 11, and nos. 84-91 are of this type.

Nos. 92-99 are 4 mon sen of the Bun-kyu Ei-ho type, which was issued from 1863 until 1865.

These coins circulated at the same value as the previous 4 mon sen of Kan-ei Tsu-ho type, which in latter years had been made in iron.

No.	Metal	Date	Mint	Features	Weight	Reference
	Ei-raku Tsu-ho type					
1*	Ar	c.1587	unknown	a tribute issue	4.97g	CoJ 1,652-659
	Kei-cho Tsu-ho type					
2*	Cu	early 17th	unknown		1.62g	CoJ 2, 38-40
	Gen-pu Tsu-ho type (copy of Yuan Fu, 1098-1100)					
3*	Cu	16th-17th	unknown	flat on rev.	3.25g	CoJ 1,388
	Ko-bu Tsu-ho type					
4*	Cu	16th-17th	Kajiki, Osumi	"Ji" on rev.	2.78g	CoJ 1,424-437
5	Cu	16th-17th	Kajiki, Osumi	"Ji" on rev.	2.49g	CoJ 1,424-437
6	Cu	16th-17th	Kajiki, Osumi	"Ji" on rev.	2.53g	CoJ 1,424-437
7	Cu	16th-17th	Kajiki, Osumi	"Ji" on rev.	2.74g	CoJ 1,424-437
	Kan-ei Tsu-ho type					
8*	Ar	1636-	Okayama, Bizen?	ceremonial coin, Shou-Okayama	3.68g	CoJ 2, 157-158
9	Cu	1636-	Mito, Hitachi?	Shou-Mito	3.39g	CoJ 2, 66-70
10	Cu	1636-	Mito, Hitachi?	Shou-Mito	2.66g	CoJ 2, 66-70
11	Cu	1636-	Sakamoto, Omi?	Shou-Sakamoto	3.02g	CoJ 2, 60-62
12	Cu	1639-	Okayama, Bizen	Sui-Okayama	3.20g	CoJ 2, 88-89
13	Cu	1656-1659	Kutsunoya, Suruga?	Shou-Kutsunoya	2.82g	CoJ 2, 92-93
14	Cu	1668-1683	Kameido, Edo	"Bun" on rev.	3.72g	IOC Cat. 1
15	Cu	1668-1683	Kameido, Edo	"Bun" on rev.	3.63g	IOC Cat. 1
16*	Cu	1668-1683	Kameido, Edo	"Bun" on rev.	3.88g	IOC Cat. 23
17	Cu	1668-1683	Kameido, Edo	"Bun" on rev.	3.84g	IOC Cat. 23
18	Cu	1668-1683	Kameido, Edo	"Bun" on rev.	3.57g	IOC Cat. 43
19	Cu	1668-1683	Kameido, Edo	"Bun" on rev.	3.29g	IOC Cat. 62
20	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.64g	IOC Cat. 99
21	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.91g	IOC Cat. 100
22	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.22g	IOC Cat. 105
23	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.20g	IOC Cat. 110
24	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.97g	IOC Cat. 110
25	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.90g	IOC Cat. 127
26	Cu	1697-	unknown		2.89g	IOC Cat. 436
27	Cu	1714-	Aikawa, Sado	"Sa" on rev.	3.37g	IOC Cat. 175
28*	Cu	1714-	Aikawa, Sado	"Sa" on rev.	3.29g	IOC Cat. 176
29	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		2.92g	IOC Cat. 209
30	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		3.33g	IOC Cat. 216
31	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		3.38g	IOC Cat. 216
32	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		2.84g	IOC Cat. 216
33	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		3.54g	IOC Cat. 218
34	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		3.37g	IOC Cat. 227
35	Cu	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		3.28g	IOC Cat. 231
36	Fe	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu		2.72g	IOC Cat. 254
37*	Fe	1728-	Ishinomaki, Mutsu	"Sen" on rev.	2.61g	IOC Cat. 247
38	Cu	1736-	Yokooji, Yamashiro		3.10g	IOC Cat. 133
39	Cu	1736-	Yokooji, Yamashiro		3.11g	IOC Cat. 143
40	Cu	1736-	Juhmantsubo, Edo		2.60g	IOC Cat. 307

41	Cu	1736-	Juhmantsubo, Edo		3.03g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 310
42	Cu	1737-	Koume, Edo	"Ko" on rev.	2.90g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 331
43*	Cu	1737-	Koume, Edo	"Ko" on rev.	2.70g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 331
44	Cu	1738-	Akita, Dewa		2.86g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 373
45	Cu	1739-	Fujisawa, Sagami		2.78g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 397
46	Cu	1739-	Fujisawa, Sagami		2.08g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 397
47	Cu	1741-	Kohzu, Settsu	"Gen" on rev.	2.29g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 454
48*	Cu	1741-	Kohzu, Settsu	"Gen" on rev.	2.28g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 454
49	Cu	1741-	Kohzu, Settsu	"Gen" on rev.	3.06g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 462
50	Cu	1741-	Ashio, Shimotsuke	"Ashi" on rev.	2.55g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 466
51*	Cu	1767-	Nagasaki, Hizen	"Chou" on rev.	2.90g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 486
52*	Ar	1768-	Kuji, Hitachi	ceremonial coin, "Ku" on rev.	3.92g	cf. <i>IOC Cat.</i> 490
53	Fe	1768-	Kuji, Hitachi	"Ku" on rev.	2.83g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 497
54	Fe	1859-	Kosuge, Musashi		2.84g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 507
Ten-sei Gen-po type (copy of T'ien Shêng, 1023-1031)						
55*	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.05g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 323
Gen-po Tsu-ho type (copy of Yüan Fêng, 1078-1085)						
56	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.45g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
57	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.82g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
58	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.96g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
59*	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.87g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
60	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.19g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
61	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.46g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
62	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.97g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
63	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.49g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
64	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.97g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
65	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.04g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
66	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.75g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
67	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.07g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
68	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.54g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
69	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.31g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
70	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.89g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
71	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.10g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
72	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.43g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
73	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	3.68g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
74	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.03g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 311-320
Sho-sei Gen-po type (copy of Shao Shêng, 1094-1097)						
75*	Cu	1659-1685	Nagasaki, Hizen	Nagasaki trade money	2.94g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 327
Ei-reki Tsu-ho type (in the name of Prince Gui (Yung Ming), 1646-1662)						
76	Cu	1651	Nagasaki, Hizen	2 cash, in running script	5.18g	cf. <i>CoJ</i> 1, 256-257
77	Cu	1651	Nagasaki, Hizen	2 cash, in running script	4.97g	cf. <i>CoJ</i> 1, 256-257
78*	Cu	1651	Nagasaki, Hizen	2 cash, in running script	6.11g	cf. <i>CoJ</i> 1, 256-257
79	Cu	1651	Nagasaki, Hizen	2 cash, in seal script	6.27g	cf. <i>CoJ</i> 1, 256-257
80*	Cu	1651	Nagasaki, Hizen	2 cash, in seal script	4.80g	cf. <i>CoJ</i> 1, 256-257

	Ho-ei Tsu-ho type					
81*	Cu	1708-1709	Shichijo, Kyoto	10 mon, "Ei-Sei-Tsu-Yo" on rev.	8.13g	<i>CoJ</i> 3, 32-34
82	Cu	1708-1709	Shichijo, Kyoto	10 mon, "Ei-Sei-Tsu-Yo" on rev.	8.68g	<i>CoJ</i> 3, 32-34
	Kan-ei Tsu-ho type					
83*	Cu/Zn	1768	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 21 waves on rev.	5.30g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 516
84	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	4.46g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 517
85	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	5.37g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 517
86	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	4.55g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 517
87	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	4.37g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 517
88*	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	5.35g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 517
89	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	5.01g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 521
90	Cu/Zn	1769-1788	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	4.96g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 522
91	Cu/Zn	1821-1825	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	4.78g	<i>IOC Cat.</i> 548
	Bun-kyu Ei-ho type					
92	Cu	1863-1865	Masaki Kosuge, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.75g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 113-114
93	Cu	1863-1865	Masaki Kosuge, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.77g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 113-114
94*	Cu	1863-1865	Masaki Kosuge, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.10g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 113-114
95	Cu	1863-1865	Masaki Kosuge, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.98g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 113-114
96	Cu	1863-1865	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.14g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 115-116
97	Cu	1863-1865	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	4.66g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 115-116
98	Cu	1863-1865	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.46g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 115-116
99*	Cu	1863-1865	Fukagawa, Edo	4 mon, 11 waves on rev.	3.33g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 115-116

IOC Cat. Institute of Oriental Currency Catalogue (Shinkaneizue ed. Yuji Kudo), (Sapporo, 1998)

CoJ Currencies of Japan (Zuroku Nihon no Kahei ed. Takao Tsuchiya/Kazuo Yamaguchi), 11 vols. (Tokyo, 1973)

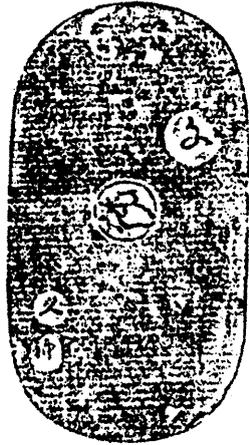
3. Japanese gold and silver coins and related issues

The Fitzwilliam Museum holds 25 Japanese gold and silver coins, and 20 high-value 100 mon copper coins of a type associated with the gold mint. All of these are 19th-century issues, and the collection has no coins from the first half of the Tokugawa period. There are also 15 fake gold and silver coins, which although not catalogued here are interesting since they were probably acquired by the Museum in the late 19th century with the other coins.

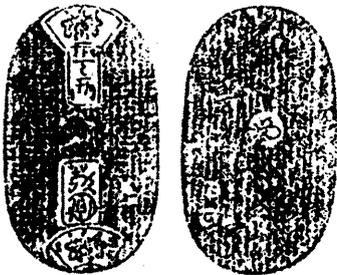
After Ieyasu Tokugawa won a battle against Toyotomi at Sekigahara in 1600, he gained complete political power. The following year he set up a new currency system, establishing separate mints for gold and silver. These were a Shogunate commission. The post of gold-mint master was a hereditary position held by the Goto family and that of silver-mint master was held by the Daikokujouze family. The gold coin units, ryo, bu and shu, had a fixed relationship (i.e. 1 ryo to 4 bu to 16 shu), but the silver coins, Cho-gin (silver bar money) and Maneitagin (bean silver), were exchanged by weight. In the latter half of 18th century fixed weight silver coins appeared. Thus there were three different systems of coinage – gold, silver and copper – during the Tokugawa Shogunate. Although the exchange rate had been fixed between these coins, in practice, conversion followed current market values.



Bun-sei Koban
[101]



Ten-po Koban
[102]



Man-en Koban
[104]



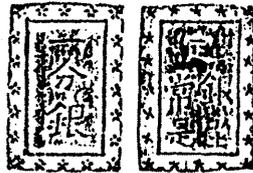
Bun-sei Mameita-gin
[111]



Ten-po Mameita-gin
[112]



An-sei Mameita-gin
[114]



An-sei 1 bu-gin
[115]



Ka-ei 1 shu-gin
[122]



Mei-ji 1 shu-gin
[124]



Man-en 2 shu-kin
[107]



Mei-ji 2 bu-kin
[109]



Ten-po Tsu-ho
[135]



Ryu-kyu Tsu-ho
[143]



Ryu-kyu Tsu-ho
[144]

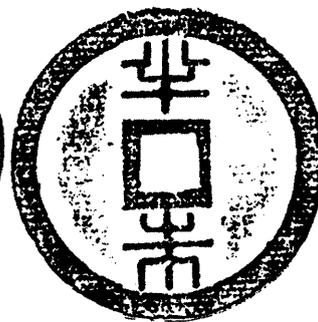


PLATE 3

Nos. 100-105 are thin oval gold coins the Koban type. On the obverse these have the paulownia crest at the top and bottom, with the value (1 ryo) and the signature "Mitsutsugu", a first name, in the centre. The reverses have various signature-marks and characters. There are three kinds of Koban in the collection, the latest, Man-en type, being significantly smaller than the others. Two of the Kobans have small punch-marks on reverse; no. 100 with three and no. 101 with two, both are Bun-sei Kobans. These punch-marks were put on them not at the mint, but by money changers after they had checked the fineness of the coins.

Nos. 106-110 are small rectangular gold coins of the Bankin type. Although much smaller than the Kobans, they also have on the obverse the paulownia crest above and below the mark of value (2 shu and 2 bu) and the signature "Mitsutsugu". Nos. 108-110 were issued under the new Meiji government, which for two years after the downfall of the Shogunate continued the traditional gold coins.

Nos. 111-114 are Mameitagin, silver coins of variable weight that were negotiated according to their intrinsic value. The characters "Ho" (treasure), "Jouze" (mint master's name) and "Daikoku" (the God of Wealth) were punched on them for identification and validation. However, as the Mameitagin are small, they do not have all three characters on each coin. No. 111 has "Ho" and "Daikoku", while nos. 112-114 have "Daikoku" on both sides.

Nos. 115-124 are silver coins of the Bangin type which had a fixed value in bu or shu, the units of the Bankin gold coins. They are inscribed on the obverse with their value (1-bu or 1-shu) and on the reverse the names of the mint ("Ginza") and mint-master ("Jouze"). Nos. 123-124 were issued in the first two years of the Meiji era, like nos. 107-108. Thus two quite different series of silver coins—Mameitagin exchanged by weight, and Bangin by number—circulated in parallel for a period towards the end of the Edo era.

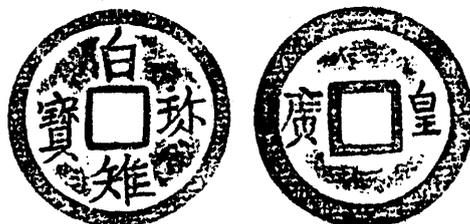
Nos. 125-142 are oval coins of the Ten-po Tsu-ho type. This 100 mon coin, shaped like a Koban, was introduced by the Shogunate Government in 1835 and it became widely used. The official gold mint (Kinza) was given the responsibility for issuing this coin, but in due course the normal provincial mints also produced them. The provincial coins can only be distinguished by their style and fabric, and the mint attributions are somewhat uncertain. Five of the 18 Ten-po Tsu-ho coins in this collection are thought to be provincial issues (nos. 138-142).

Nos. 143-144 are 100 and 200 mon coins of related type but with the inscription Ryu-kyu Tsu-ho. There are two types, one of the normal oval shape and the other a large round coin, with characters in seal script. Although they carry the name of Ryukyu (Okinawa Island) which was part of Satsuma Domain, the coins were minted at Satsuma itself, on Kyushu Island for local circulation there.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Metal</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Features</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Gold: Koban type						
100	Au	1819-1837	Kinza, Edo	Bun-sei Koban	13.04g	<i>CoJ</i> 3, 258-260
101*	Au	1819-1837	Kinza, Edo	Bun-sei Koban	13.16g	<i>CoJ</i> 3, 258-260
102*	Au	1837-1858	Kinza, Edo	Ten-po Koban	11.23g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 11-13
103	Au	1860-1867	Kinza, Edo	Man-en Koban	3.32g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 94-96
104*	Au	1860-1867	Kinza, Edo	Man-en Koban	3.32g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 94-96
105	Au	1860-1867	Kinza, Edo	Man-en Koban	3.34g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 94-96
Gold: Bankin type						
106	Au	1860	Kinza, Edo	Man-en 2 shu-kin	0.75g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 105-108
107*	Au	1860	Kinza, Edo	Man-en 2 shu-kin	0.74g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 105-108
108	Au	1868-1869	Masaki, Edo or Osaka	Mei-ji 2 bu-kin	3.02g	<i>CoJ</i> 7, 108-111

109*	Au	1868-1869	Masaki, Edo or Osaka	Mei-ji 2 bu-kin	2.99g	<i>CoJ</i> 7, 108-111
110	Au	1868-1869	Masaki, Edo or Osaka	Mei-ji 2 bu-kin	3.02g	<i>CoJ</i> 7, 108-111
Silver: Mameitagin type						
111*	Ar	1820-1837	Ginza, Edo	Bun-sei Mameitagin	6.66g	<i>CoJ</i> 3, 269-281
112*	Ar	1837-1858	Ginza, Edo	Ten-po Mameitagin	6.59g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 23-32
113	Ar	1837-1858	Ginza, Edo	Ten-po Mameitagin	3.66g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 23-32
114*	Ar	1859-1865	Ginza, Edo	An-sei Mameitagin	14.31g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 62-67
Silver: Bangin type						
115*	Ar	1859-1868	Ginza, Edo	An-sei 1 bu-gin	8.59g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 72-75
116	Ar	1859-1868	Ginza, Edo	An-sei 1 bu-gin	8.66g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 72-75
117	Ar	1859-1868	Ginza, Edo	An-sei 1 bu-gin	8.67g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 72-75
118	Ar	1859-1868	Ginza, Edo	An-sei 1 bu-gin	8.53g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 72-75
119	Ar	1859-1868	Ginza, Edo	An-sei 1 bu-gin	8.48g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 72-75
120	Ar	1853-1865	Ginza, Edo	Ka-ei 1 shu-gin	1.85g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 44-47
121	Ar	1853-1865	Ginza, Edo	Ka-ei 1 shu-gin	1.83g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 44-47
122*	Ar	1853-1865	Ginza, Edo	Ka-ei 1 shu-gin	1.95g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 44-47
123	Ar	1868-1869	Ginza, Edo	Mei-ji 1 shu-gin	1.83g	<i>CoJ</i> 7, 116-119
124*	Ar	1868-1869	Ginza, Edo	Mei-ji 1 shu-gin	1.75g	<i>CoJ</i> 7, 116-119
Copper: Ten-po Tsu-ho type						
125	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	20.22g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
126	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	22.73g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
127	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	21.28g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
128	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	22.17g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
129	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	19.55g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
130	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	21.52g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
131	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	21.73g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
132	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	22.40g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
133	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	21.40g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
134	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	20.09g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
135*	Cu	1835-1870	Kinza, Edo	100 mon	21.38g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 5-8
136	Cu	c.1865	Koume,Edo	100 mon	18.64g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 235-239
137	Cu	c.1865	Koume,Edo	100 mon	19.04g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 235-239
138	Cu	1835-1870	Satsuma	100 mon	16.63g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 254-255
139	Cu	1835-1870	Satsuma	100 mon	22.21g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 254-255
140	Cu	1835-1870	Kurume, Chikugo?	100 mon	15.85g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 256-270
141	Cu	1835-1870	Akita,Dewa	100 mon	15.57g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 250-251
142	Cu	1835-1870	unknown	100 mon	19.04g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 256-270
Copper: Ryu-kyu Tsu-ho type						
143*	Cu	c.1863	Satsuma	100 mon	18.87g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 211-214
144*	Cu	c.1863	Satsuma	round 200 mon, in seal script	30.42g	<i>CoJ</i> 4, 215

4. Modern Coins and Japanese Charms



Haku-chi Chin-po

In addition to the coins described above, the Museum has some 117 coins of the Meiji, Taisho, Showa and Heisei eras, and it continues to collect new issues when it can. The collection also contains six Japanese charms (*esen*). The types are well-known, Daimoku (invocation), Komabiki (leading a horse), Ebisu (the god of the wealth) and so on. One of them, however, is a very rare 18th-century piece inscribed Haku-chi Chin-po (auspicious white pheasant, treasure), and on the reverse Ko-Ko (uncertain meaning). This charm was published in *Kokonsenkakagami* (1798) by Masatsuna Kutsuki, the famous collector of the Edo era, and said there to have been made in three metals—gold, silver and copper—but no gold specimen is known today. The Fitzwilliam's specimen is in silver. This charm was probably made for the growing number of collectors in the Edo era, and the unusual use of silver for some specimens may have been intended to associate them with the rare silver Kan-ei Tsu-ho coins presented at the mint ceremonies.

5. Future Review

Much work on the study of numismatics, coin finds and monetary circulation has been taking place in Europe and there are many distinguished scholars in European universities and museums. Their interests and areas of expertise are broad, following not only the ancient, medieval and modern coinages of Europe, but also those of Asia and America. However, while there are specialists in Chinese, Indian and Islamic coinages, knowledge of the Japanese monetary system is weak. Equally, it must be said, that scholars in Japan have not generally established good contacts with numismatists and monetary historians in Europe, or kept abreast of their publications, in part because of the difficulty of understanding the European languages. Yet there is much to be learnt by both sides, particularly in the interpretation of coin finds and patterns of coin circulation.

In order to establish such a collaboration, Prof. Shinichi Sakuraki has spent a sabbatical year (April 2001–March 2002) at Cambridge University working in the Fitzwilliam Museum with Dr Mark Blackburn, the Keeper of Coins and Medals and a specialist in European medieval coinages. The Fitzwilliam Museum has very generously provided Sakuraki with facilities and practical support for his one-year stay, while Wolfson College has welcomed him by electing him a Visiting Scholar. Our aim is to understand each other's currencies better, and in particular to exchange ideas about the methodologies and techniques of analysis. We hope that through this personal contact we will be able to encourage further scholarly exchanges between Japan and the United Kingdom. This would include joint research projects, attending

conferences and periods of sabbatical study. Already through Sakuraki's presence in Cambridge, Mr Nobuhisa Furuta of the Institute for Oriental Currency and Mr Satoru Shibata, an archaeologist in Ishikawa Prefecture, have visited the United Kingdom and studied part of the coin collections of the Fitzwilliam Museum and British Museum.

Cambridge University has excellent resources for studying Japanese History, particularly in the University Library and Oriental Faculty Library. As indicated above, the Fitzwilliam Museum is also a good centre for numismatics in general, but it is our wish to strengthen its facilities for Japanese numismatics. Hence, on the occasion of Sakuraki's arrival in Cambridge, the Institute for Oriental Currency at Sapporo donated 96 pieces of Kan-ei Tsuho type and has followed this by a further donation of 17 further coins of the Edo era. A number of books on Japanese coinage and monetary circulation have also been given to the library of Coins and Medals Department. We are very grateful for these generous gestures, and believe that acts like this will go a long way toward development of scholarship and friendship between our two nations. The Museum has only a small budget for library and coin acquisition, and to develop the resources for the Japanese section it needs the assistance of other bodies.

We will continue the collaboration with each other, and this article is only a first step for us.

Footnote. This article is a result of our co-operative study. Section 1 is written by Dr Blackburn, and Prof. Sakuraki has written Sections 2-3, while Section 4-5 is our joint responsibility. For the attribution of these coins we have relied heavily upon the advice of Mr Nobuhisa Furuta, chief researcher at the Institute for Oriental Currency. We thank him very much. The final editing of this article has been done by Dr Blackburn.