

OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 11CHINA - Additional Mintage Figures for the Peiyang ArsenalFukien & Mukden Mintsby Richard Wright

Occasional Papers No. 7, 8 and 10 were written in an attempt to marshal the evidence concerning the workings of the Peiyang, Foochow and Mukden mints, with particular emphasis on their silver coinage. Such mintage figures as were then immediately to hand were quoted but since publication of these papers, further mintage information has come to light, scattered throughout a surprising variety of reports. These comprise, notably a fairly complete breakdown of Chinese provincial and central mint figures for the period 1906-1910, obtained from the Foreign Office files in the Public Record Office, London (1) (edited and published in T'ung Pao (2); a complementary list of figures for China for 1911 quoted in the China Yearbook (3); an incomplete table of figures for Mukden 1903-1911, given in the Imperial Maritime Customs Decennial Reports (IMCDR)(4); and figures for the Fukien mints and Mukden mint appearing in various US Mint Reports (USMR). Thus now seems to be a suitable time to co-ordinate and tabulate this new information and to publish it as an addendum to those three Occasional Papers.

But first, a word or two of warning. It is evident that a sense of humour is required when dealing with Chinese mintage figures obtained from western reports, as when information in these reports overlaps it is frequently found to be contradictory. Two sets of figures for a given year may not be so surprising when one considers that the information may have been obtained from different sources, and could refer to differing time spans, e.g. the Chinese Year and the Western Year; much more irritating are the transmission errors, whereby a denomination is incorrectly transcribed or a nought is accidentally added to or lost from a figure. Examples of these errors will be found in the following tables, where for the sake of completeness, alternative sets of figures and their sources are given as footnotes. The Mukden mint is especially well supplied with contradictory figures for some years yet has some curious gaps in others, e.g. 1907.

CHIHLI Province - The Peiyang Mint

One particular point of interest is contained in the US Mint Report for 1904 (5). Here it is stated in a report from the Tientsin (Peiyang) Mint director that, having coined 5, 10 and 20 Cash coins, he had received instructions to mint a 1 Cash coin. This he had done, and put the coin on the market. The coin bore on the reverse the words: "One Cash; for fractional use". The only 1 Cash coin to fit this description is the Peiyang 1 Cash (Y.66); and where the IMCDR quotes mintage figures for Peiyang for 1904 as:-

<u>20 Cash</u>	<u>10 Cash</u>	<u>5 Cash</u>
3,997,710	81,946,060	1,077,120

It may be significant that the USMR for 1905, giving figures for Tientsin in 1904, quotes:-

<u>20 Cash</u>	<u>10 Cash</u>	<u>1 Cash (brass)</u>
3,997,710	81,946,060	1,077,120

Additional Mintage Figures

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>20 Cash</u>	<u>10 Cash</u>	<u>5 Cash</u>	<u>1 Cash</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1902(28)						(6)
1903(29)		1,288,725	51,109,757	2,594,020		(7)
1904(30)	1,405,017	3,997,710	81,946,060	1,077,120		(8)
1905(31)	(2 million)	16,494,680	148,116,750			(9)
1906(32)	1,705,658	4,118,790	195,454,140	2,546,510	8,062,423	(10)
1907(33)	2,341,004	1,861,000	89,760,000	2,998,590	8,802,434	(11)
1908(34)	9,105,956		30,339,070	730,230	6,107,220	
1909(1)	8,842,213					(12)

Identification of the silver coinage is probably:-

1904-6	minted dollars	-	Dated 29th Year (of Kuang Hsu)
1906	" 20 cent	-	" 31st "
1907	" dollars	-	" 33rd (sic)
1908-09	" dollars	-	" 34th Year

There is not much information concerning the copper coinage. However, from the evidence of the figures it would appear that copper coin was minted in the order: Hu Poo (Y.3-5), Peiyang (Y.67-8) and Tai Ching CHIH LI (Y.7c-11c), with Peiyang 1 Cash (Y.66) being struck between 1904 and 1907.

FUKIEN Province

The Arsenal mint was shut down in 1906, and the City mint converted the same year into a power house for electric light. The West, (Upper Bridge or Hungshanchiao) mint, continued in operation under the Central Government control until July 1909. It was subsequently resurrected for use as the main Fukien mint during the republican era (13).

The Foochow City Mint

<u>Year</u>	<u>20 cent</u>	<u>10 cent</u>	<u>5 Cent</u>	<u>Note</u>
1896	842,291	1,901,751	5,556	(14)

The Fukien Mints

<u>Year</u>	<u>20 Cash</u>	<u>10 Cash</u>	<u>15 Cash</u>	<u>2 Cash</u>	<u>1 Cash</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1901						
1902	18,650	15,624,893	123,927			
1903		45,927,486	467,985			
1904		106,257,790				(15)
1905		249,223,675				(16)
1906		64,853,992				(17)
1907		37,700,000				
1908		100,218,000		1,685,054	103,008,500	(18)
1909		55,770,470		1,753,000	2,251,500	

MANCHURIAN Provinces - The Mukden Mint (based on the table in IMCDR, 1902-II, Vol. III)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>20 cents</u>	<u>10 cents</u>	<u>20 Cash</u>	<u>10 Cash</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1903	262,521			?	?	
1904		604,376		?	?	
1905		828,066			77,153,000	(19)
1906		Token		8,526,863	22,209,466	(20)
1907	?	?	?	24,213,326	76,366,945	(21)
1908		(10 million)		14,931,345	40,590,315	(22)(23)
1909		53,634,153		5,588,344	12,442,275	(24)
1910		29,368,523				(25)
1911		63,687,300				
	60,200	60,200	765,750			'old currency' (26)
						'new currency' (27)
1912		22,227,540				
1913		?				
1914		28,707,920				
1915		79,244,650	163,700			
1916	451,989	11,059,550				(28)

Note: Semi-official totals for the Mukden mint for the period 1905-1917 are given as: 11,709,259 dollars, 249,219,912 x 20 cents and 1,078,450 x 10 cents (29). It seems probable therefore, that some dollar mintage figures are missing from the above table, possibly between 1912 and 1915.

References and Notes

1. Public Record Office reference : FO-228-2203
2. The Journal of the Society for Oriental Numismatics, Vol. 2, No. 2
3. The China Yearbook, 1912 et seq., Tientsin
4. IMCDR. 1902-II, Vol. III
5. USMR 1904, p.225
6. The mint opened in December 1902
7. From IMCDR
8. From IMCDR and USMR 1905
9. From USMR 1906. The report quotes 18,908,663 dollars minted at Tientsin. This total seems improbable in view of the preceding and succeeding figures, and may be a misprint, e.g. 1,890,866
10. From FO-228. Also reported were 161,993 x 20 cents
11. Data for 1907-09 from FO-228
12. The Peiyang mint was amalgamated with the Tientsin Central Mint 10/2/1910 (Chinese New Year)
13. From FO-228
14. From USMR 1897 (courtesy Mr. B. Smith, USA). The figures seem rather high for a 2-3 month period of operation
15. See Occasional Paper No. 8, p.5.
16. From USMR 1906
17. Data for 1906-1909 from FO-228
18. USMR 1909 gives the more likely figure of 10,308,500 x 1 cash; and 134,400,000 x 10 cash.
19. Total of 20 and 10 cash from USMR 1906
20. FO-228 quotes that enough silver coin was minted to pay the staff. Gives copper coinage as 35,035,767 x 10 cash
21. Also quoted in various reports as 100 million 10 cash pieces.
22. FO-228 states that silver coins to the value of \$1,800,000 in dollar, 50c, 20c and 10c pieces, containing 90% pure silver (sic), were recoined into 20 cent pieces containing 80% pure silver.
23. Copper coinage also quoted in various reports as 30 million 20 cash and 27 million 10 cash
24. Dollars 870,000 and Sycee Taels 6,000,000 were coined into 20 cent pieces. Foreign Office calculations make this 47,850,000 pieces, USMR 1910 quotes 56,995,835 from the same data.
25. FO-228 states that the mint coined 11,992,868 x 20 cent pieces during the 1st to 4th moons, and 19,686,735 pieces from the 10th moon to the end of the (Chinese) year. USMR 1911 quotes only 19,686,735 pieces for the year.
26. Figures are taken from the most detailed source, which is USMR 1912. The China Yearbook totals for 1911 are 60,200 dollars, 12,749,500 x 20c and 76,570 x 10c. 'New Currency' presumably refers to the 1911 dated unified coinage (r.28-31).
27. Remaining figures are from the USMR
28. Probably Yuan Shih-kai coinage, (Y.326-329)
29. Report on Progress in Manchuria, by the South Manchuria Railway. Dairen 1929.