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OLD CHINESE AND JAPANESE PAPER MONEY IN THE NEW NUMISMATIC EXPOSITION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM IN ŁÓDŹ

The new permanent exhibition of the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź was opened in the early spring 1978. It is divided in three separate parts devoted to the archaeology, ethnography and numismatics. The latter one will display the history of the metal and paper money in the whole world from the ancient time up to the present. Untill now most of the numismatic exhibitions in the Polish museums used to display the metal money only for the numismatic collections were mainly consisted of the coins. Therefore the historical development of the money has not been presented in a full light because the banknotes and similar legal tenders made of paper were omitted. Fortunately in disposition of the Numismatic Department of the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź there is the valuable and large collection of the paper money from all over the world including the earliest issues. This opportunity enables us to exhibit the exemplary specimens in order to illustrate the interesting history of money in question from its very beginning.

This history begins in China. It is suggested that the first paper money were produced as early as in the middle of the 7th century A.D. during the reigns of T'ang dynasty. According to their lightness they were called the "flying money". Unfortunately their value has not been solid and constant, too. The history of the paper money seems to be the history of inflation. In the times of the Sung (960—1279) and Yuan (1280—1367)

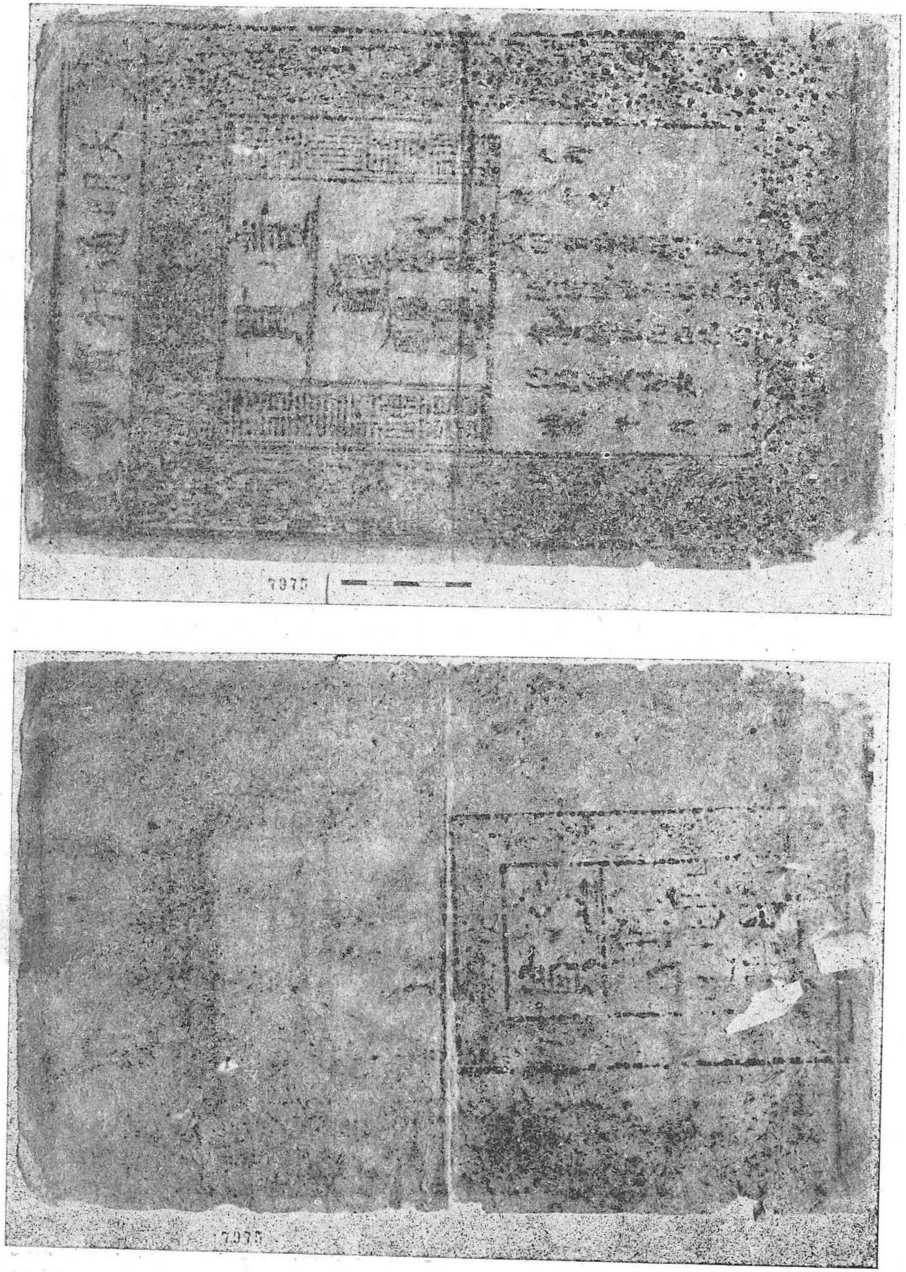

Fig. 1 a, b. 1000 cashnote of Hung-Wu (1369—1398), fot. K. Wecel

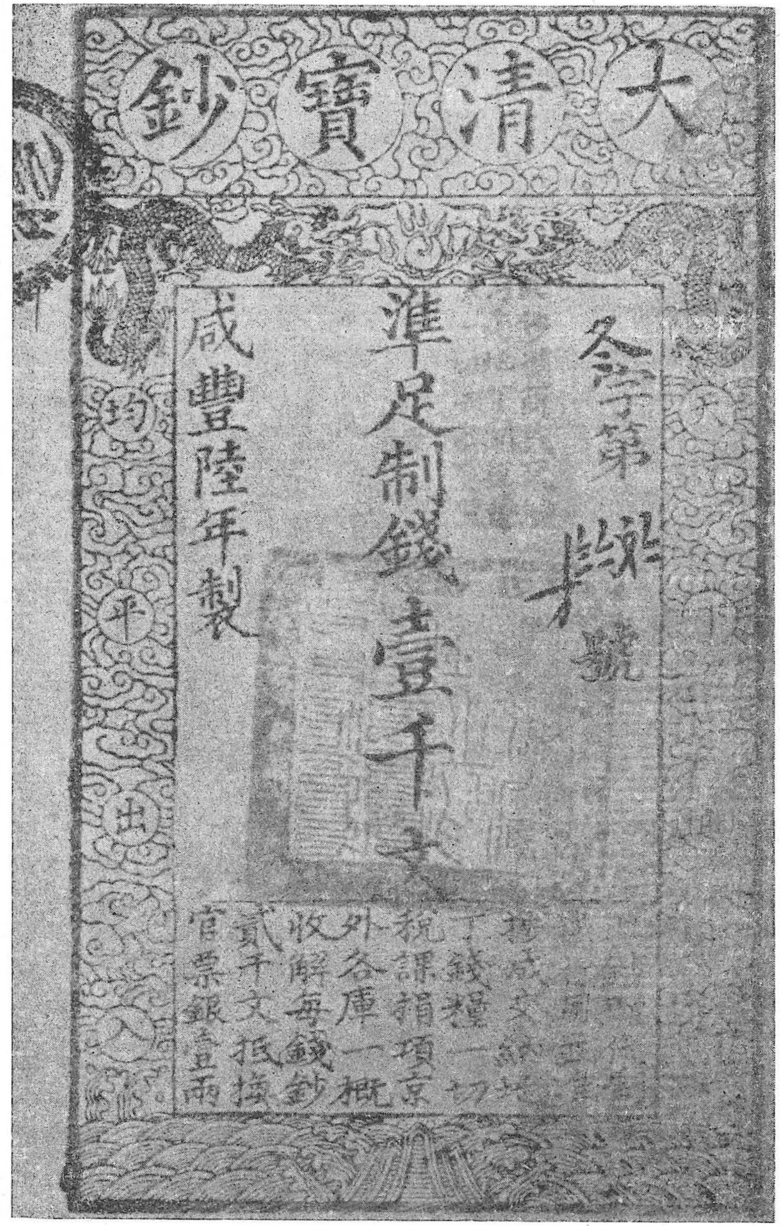

Fig. 2. 1000 cashnote 1856

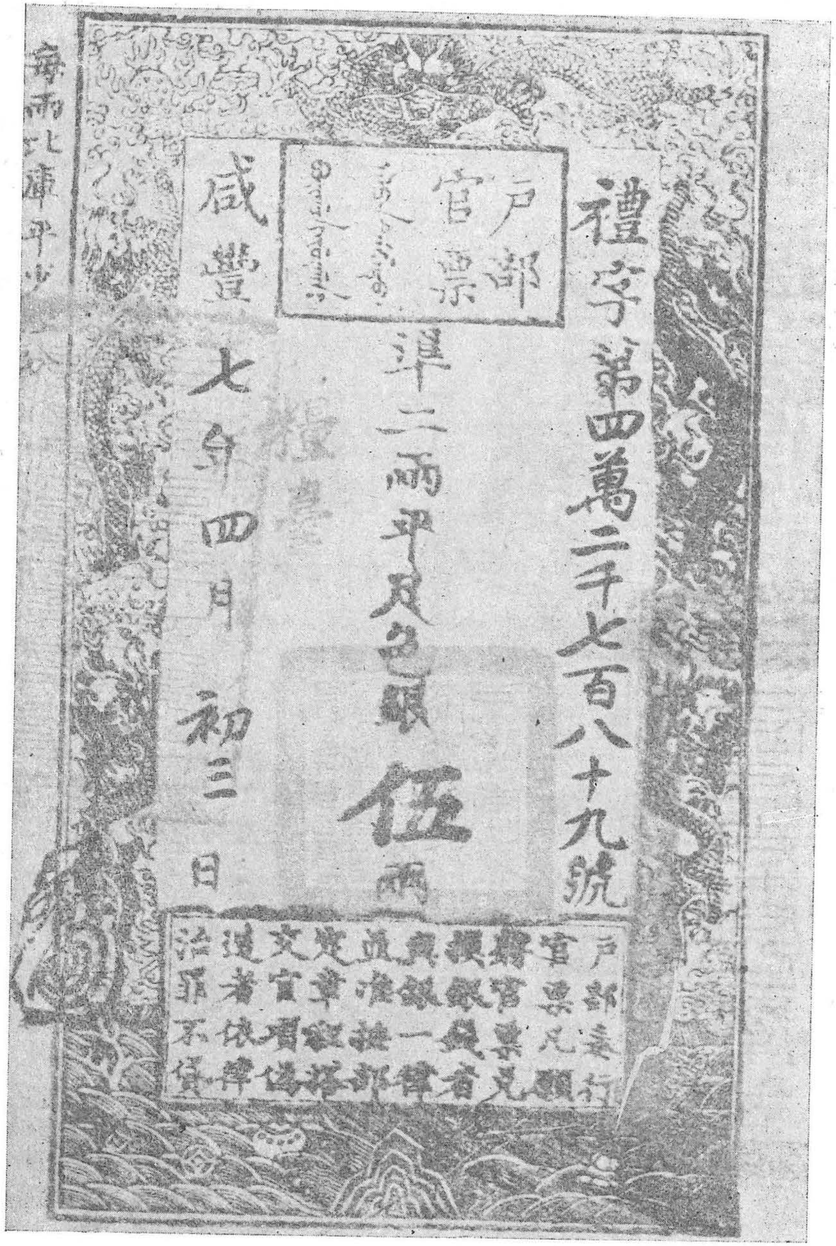

Fig. 3. 5 liangs of silver note 3 IV 1857

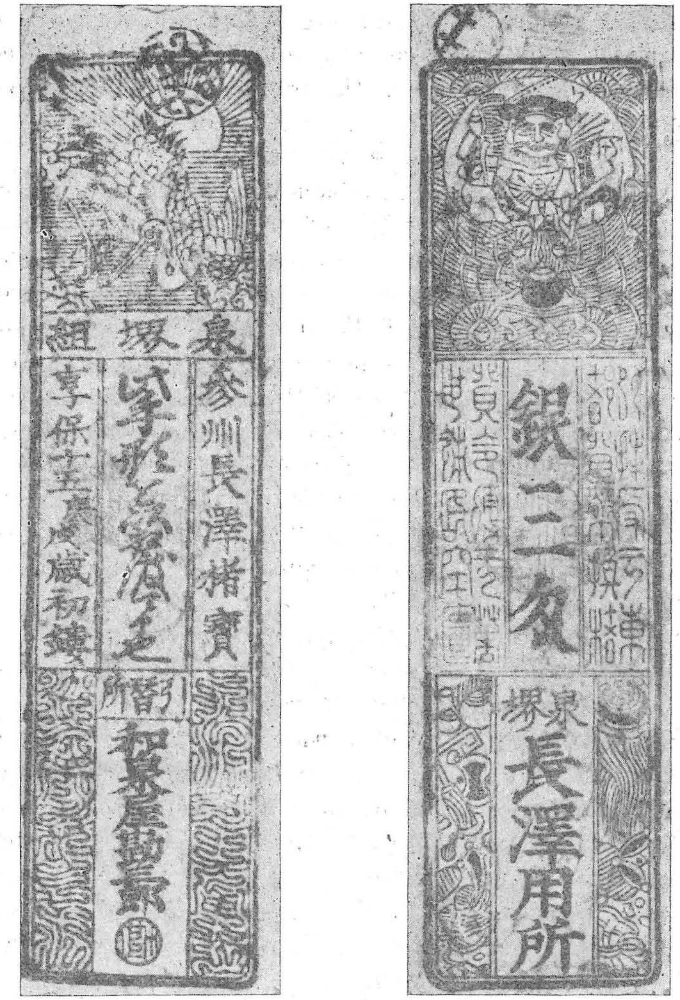

Fig. 4 a, b. 3 nomme of silver note, Sanshū, Mikawa, 1730

dynasties paper money declined in their real price falling down to ca 1—2 % of their face value. In the early 13th century — it is said — the total sum of the paper money in circulation was equal to 329 milliard cooper coins (cash) and people have been forced to exchange their 5 old notes for a new one each 3 years. The Chinese paper money circulated not only within China but in the almost whole East Asia, too. Marco Polo's reports on the Chinese paper money were called in question in the 13th century Europe as people didn't know the money made of the worthless paper instead of the precious metals. Unfortunately no example of those issues has survived to present time. The world's oldest baknotes (that survived) date back to the late 14th century. They were issued by Hung Wu of Ming dynasty (1369—1398). The banknote presented in the new exposition and illustrated on fig. 1 is the 1000 cashnote, made of dark-grey and thick, wool-like paper printed in black on both sides. As the people opposed frequently the inflation of paper money, the Ming notes were withdrawn from circulation in about the middle of the 15th century and have not been produced untill 1644 when — it is suggested — the Ts'in rulers attempted to reintroduce the paper notes. Next and completely evidenced issue of the Chinese paper money dates to 1852. The notes from the early 2nd half of the 19th century were printed in various denominations of the wen coppers (cash) and liangs of silver (fig. 2—3).

In neighbouring Japan the paper money appeared in the 17th century. With a consent of Shōgun the Fukui stock introduced in 1661 the so called "Han-satsu" in order to get over its financial troubles. This idea was immediately followed also by other Japanese feudals, monasteries and merchants who began to issue the cardboard notes on their own. Among exhibited early Japanese notes of the 18th and 19th centuries there is the cardboard note of 3 nomme of silver issued in the 15th year of Kyohō era (1730) at Sanshū, Mikawa, by the exchange office of Izumiya Kanzaburō of Nagasawa (fig. 4). The "Han-satsu" circulated in Japan untill the Meji Reform.

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W. W. SCHUHMACHER

AN ESKIMO REFLEX OF THE HAWAIIAN WHALING ERA

To Postmaster David F. Jorgensen, Alakanuk, Alaska

To connect Hawaiians with Alaska and northern Canada, does not turn out as such an anachronism as one may think in the first place; this Arctic region has not been that far away cold country for the natives from the Hawaiian Islands — as it is not for the Kolea or American Golden Plover[1]. From their first appearance in 1788 until the middle of the 19th century, Hawaiians came to the Northwest Coast, especially as unskilled laborers for the fur companies. The Hudson's Bay Company employed the "Kanakas" as voyageurs, lumbermen, and seamen; and farther north the Russian-American Company, too, employed people from the Islands[2]. There was however another — more appropriate — opportunity for the Hawaiians at that time to come to the North Pacific area...

"South Sea Whaling", reaching its zenith in the '40's and '50's of last century, only in the beginning of the era referred to cachelot fishery in the Pacific waters south of the equator. Later, the entire whaling in both North and South Pacific, and even in the Polar seas, was called by the name. Lahaina and Honolulu being the only Hawaiian towns of any size at that time became the whalers' main-equipment stations, whence the ships during the

[1] Arriving in Hawaii from the Arctic nesting grounds in August, leaving the Islands by early May. In the summer of 1977, the author introduced another Kolea voyage version when he flew from Copenhagen to Honolulu via Anchorage (and back).

[2] See for instance Janice K. Duncan, *Minority without a Champion*: Kanakas on the Pacific Coast, 1788—1850, Portland, Oregon 1972