

# NUMISMATIQUE ASIATIQUE



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## SOMMAIRE

EDITORIAL .....	5
Thuan Luc Vietnamese Measuring Device <i>Vi Tiền</i> for Counting Coins .....	7
Craig Greenbaum Newly Discovered Tin Coins of Vietnam .....	13
Alain Escabasse Les animaux mythiques des monnaies cambodgiennes : Recherches sur les quadrupèdes associés à l' <i>hippogriffe</i> .....	19
Guillaume Epinal Quelques remarques relatives aux découvertes monétaires d'Angkor Borei .....	31
ARCHIVES Monnaies du Laos et du Yunnan, d'après Francis Garnier .....	45
RECHERCHE BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE	
Craig Greenbaum The book <i>Tozai Senpu</i> and Kutsuki Masatsuna's Coin Collection .....	51
ACTUALITÉ ET BIBLIOGRAPHIE	
<i>The early coins of Myanmar (Burma)</i> , by D. Mahlo .....	57
Dans le <i>Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society</i> .....	58
Monnaies tibétaines et himalayennes de Nicholas Rhodes .....	58
<i>History of Chinese Numismatics</i> , by Helen Wang .....	59
<i>An Irish Engineer</i> , by Meg Vivers .....	60
<i>Monnaies d'Indochine française</i> , par Jean Lecompte .....	60
<i>Monnaies Hồng Đức thông bảo</i> , par F. Thierry et M. Blet-Lemarquand ..	62
<i>Cast Korean Coins and Charms</i> , by W. Op Den Velde and D. Hartill .....	63

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## RECHERCHE BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE

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### The book *Tozai Senpu* and the Kutsuki Masatsuna's Coin Collection

Craig Greenbaum\*

**Résumé.** La bibliothèque de l'Université Waseda, au Japon, possède de nombreux livres anciens de numismatique datant de la fin des années 1700 et du début des années 1800. L'un de ces livres porte un titre manuscrit *Tozai Senpu* : il consiste en une série d'estampages de monnaies et d'amulettes provenant d'Asie et d'Europe. Il n'y a aucune information sur la date et le nom de l'auteur. En comparant les estampages du *Tozai Senpu* aux ouvrages japonais de numismatique qui ont été publiés, on s'aperçoit que cet ouvrage représente une partie de la collection qui appartenait autrefois au célèbre numismate Kutsuki Masatsuna (1750-1802). Ce dernier a publié plusieurs livres de numismatique, or les monnaies du *Tozai Senpu* correspondent dans le détail aux estampages de ses livres. Sa collection fut vendue après son décès et une partie de celle-ci est maintenant conservée au British Museum. Ainsi ce livre constitue une source supplémentaire d'information concernant ce remarquable numismate.

**Summary.** The library of Waseda University of Japan has many old Japanese coin books dating to the late 1700's to the early 1800's. One of these books has a hand-written title *Tozai Senpu* and consists of a series of coin and amulet rubbings from countries in Asia and Europe. There is no information as to date or the name of the compiler. The author compared the rubbings in *Tozai Senpu* to published Japanese coin books and found this book represents part of the collection that once belonged to the noted numismatist Kutsuki Masatsuna (1750-1802). Kutsuki published several coin books and the coins in *Tozai Senpu* match in every detail to the wood cut image in his books. His collection was sold after his death and some of the collection is now housed in the British Museum. This book gives us another source of information about this noted numismatist.

Note : All images are courtesy of Waseda University

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\*Chercheur indépendant, spécialiste de numismatique vietnamienne.



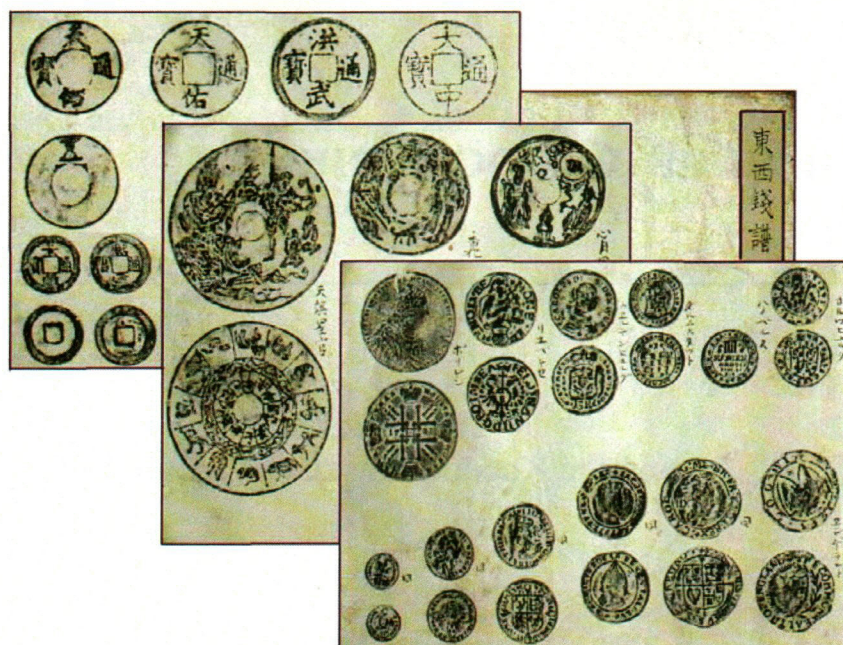


Fig. 1 Pages from *Tozai Senpu*

In my research of old Japanese coin books, I found a unique book with the handwritten title *Tozai Senpu* [東西錢譜]. *Tozai Senpu* means "Eastern and Western Coin Book". This book is in the library of Waseda University in Japan. The book itself has very few written remarks but is a series of rubbings of coins, medals and amulets from Japan, China, Vietnam and European countries. The rubbings of these pieces are not expertly done but gives us a picture of a special numismatic collection.

When I began to study this book, I noticed that many of these coins, medals and amulets were depicted in other old Japanese coin books. Through these comparisons, I realized the book *Tozai Senpu* is from the collection of the famous numismatist Kutsuki Masatsuna (1750-1802). This paper is a brief introduction search to expose the details of this book entitled *Tozai Senpu*.

### The bibliography of Kutsuki Masatsuna

Who was Kutsuki Masatsuna ?

Before I begin the comparison of the rubbings in *Tozai Senpu* to the works of Kutsuki Masatsuna, it is important to explain about his life and publications. He was born 1750 into a noble family that were part of the ruling class known as *daimyo*<sup>56</sup>. Later in life, he became the Lord of Tamba province (Fukuchiyama). Due to his position and wealth, Kutsuki Masatsuna could pursue various intellectual activities such as the tea ceremony, geography as well as numismatics. He became a genuine connoisseur and avid collector of coins. His collection grew to be about 9000 coins and included coins from Japan, all of Asia and Western countries. His interest in coins led him to publish several coin books and a book on world geography :

List of his books (available on the Internet) :

<sup>56</sup>Catalogue of the Japanese Coin Collection (pre-Meiji) at the British Museum, p. 33.



-*Kokon Senka Kagami* 古今泉貨鑑. 卷之 1-20, (Mirror of Ancient and Modern Coins) published 1790, 1791, 1796, 1798 and 1804

[http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ne04/ne04\\_01119/index.html](http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ne04/ne04_01119/index.html)

-*Seiyo Senpu* 西洋錢譜 (Western Coins), 1787 and 1790

[http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ne04/ne04\\_04164/index.html](http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ne04/ne04_04164/index.html)

-*Shinsen Senpu* 新撰錢譜, (New Compilation of Money), 1782

[http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ne04/ne04\\_01748/index.html](http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ne04/ne04_01748/index.html)

-*Senka Bunryo Ko* 泉貨分量考, Consideration of Measure in Coins), 1794

<http://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/2538941>

-*Rosen Kikan* 弄錢奇鑑, (Strange Mirror of Numismatics), 1796

<http://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/2538937>

-Taisei Yochi Zusetsu, (Illustrated Explanation of European Geography), 1789

[http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ru08/ru08\\_02859/index.html](http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ru08/ru08_02859/index.html)

Books published with the name Ozawa Tatsumoto ("Keeper of Coins" for Kutsuki Masatsuna<sup>57</sup>)

-*Kaisei Chinka Koho Zukan* 改正珍貨孔方図鑑, (Amended Picture Book of Rare Square Holed Coins), 1790

[http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/bunko30/bunko30\\_f0020/index.html](http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/bunko30/bunko30_f0020/index.html)

-*Kaisei Koho Zukan* 改正孔方図 (Amended Square Hole Picture Book), 1799

[http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/bunko30/bunko30\\_f0026/index.html](http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/bunko30/bunko30_f0026/index.html)

-*Keicho Senzu* 皇朝錢図 (Imperial Period Money), 1799

<http://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/2538936>

### **Comparison of Rubbings in Tozai Senpu to the Works of Kutsuki Masatsuna**

The book *Tozai Senpu* in the library collection of Waseda University is a small book (17 x 24 cm / 6.7" x 9.5") with 53 pages that have images of coins. The University bought the book from a Japanese book dealer in 1911. I examined the rubbings in *Tozai Senpu* and found it contains approximately 420 coins medals and amulets. There are 247 Chinese coins, 108 Western coins or medals, 50 Chinese amulets, 14 Vietnamese coins and one coin from Cambodia. In each category, I made comparisons and tried to determine if the rubbings could be the same coins illustrated in Kutsuki Masatsuna's books.

Most of the 247 Chinese coins are relatively common and these coins are mostly uniform. It is impossible to conclude if a rubbing in *Tozai Senpu* are the same coins in Kutsuki Masatsuna's books. I did however find that all the rubbings are well represented in Kutsuki Masatsuna's books. The coins in *Tozai Senpu* can be found in *Shinsen Senpu* (1787), *Kokon Senka Kagami* (1790), *Rosen Kikan* (1796) and the books published under the name Ozawa Tatsumoto.

The comparison below shows that the rubbings from *Tozai Senpu* and the drawings from *Shinsen Senpu* of the *Da Kang Yuan Bao* (Liao Dynasty) and the *Xian Yong Tong Bao* (Liao Dynasty) coins are very similar (Fig. 2). It would be very hard to say they are the same coins but the drawing in *Shinsen Senpu* is very similar.

<sup>57</sup> Catalogue of the Japanese Coin Collection (pre-Meiji) at the British Museum page 37





Fig. 2 *Da Kang Yuan Bao* and *Xian Yong Tong Bao*

There are 108 Western coins and medals in *Tozai Senpu*. I was able to match 57 of these coins to either the *Seiyo Senpu* (54 coins) or *Wakan Kokon Senka Kagami* (3 coins). Here is a sample of those coins and medals that were matching (Fig. 3):



Fig. 3 Spanish "Cob"

This is a Spanish "Cob", probably from a Spanish colony in the Americas. The irregular shape of the rubbings and the drawing are very close. The details of the stamps also match. It can be concluded this is the same coin in both books.



Fig. 4 Drappentier (Jan), Holland, 1736, silver, 64 mm



The above medal commemorates the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the University of Utrecht in 1636 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. This is a rare medal. At this time, in 1800, it is unlikely that the source for the rubbing and the drawing would be from two different collections.

There are 50 Chinese amulets in the *Tozai Senpu* book. The *Wakan Kokon Senka Kagami* has a total of 67 Chinese amulets and 45 of these match the rubbings in *Tozai Senpu*. Since so many of these amulets are in both books it would confirm that they are all from Kutsuki Masatsuna's collection. Here is a sample of two Chinese amulets found in both books (Fig. 5 and 6) :

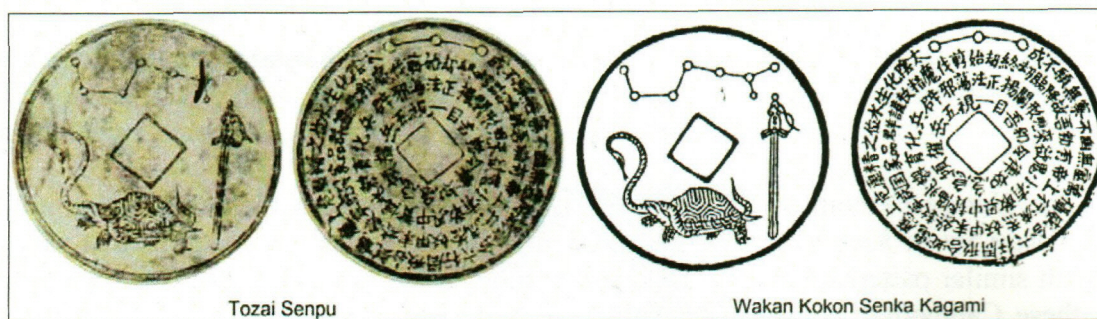


Fig. 5 Sword of Xuan Wu Amulet



Fig. 6 Yong Quan Tong Bao Amulet

Both amulets are very rare and are pictured in both books. This also indicates they are from the same collection.

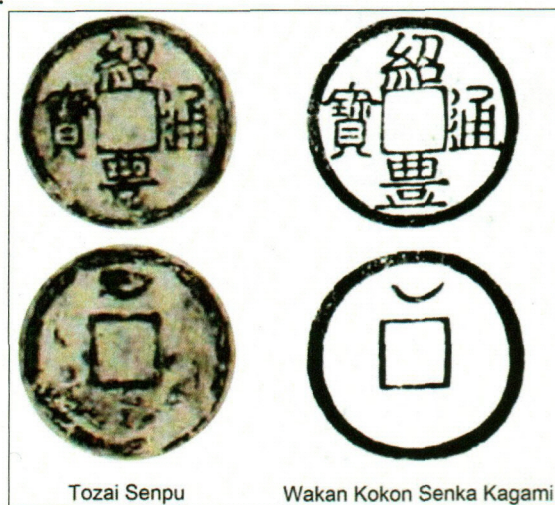


Fig. 7 Vietnam Thiệu Phong Thông Bảo Coin



There were 14 Vietnamese coins in *Tozai Senpu*. All these coins can be found in *Wakan Kokon Senka Kagami*. The *Thiệu Phong Thông Bảo* with a crescent on the reverse is a rare coin and it is in both books.



Fig. 8 Silver *Hamsa Pe* of Cambodia

The *Hamsa Pe* coin of Cambodia (Fig. 8) matches in both the *Tozai Senpu* and the *Wakan Kokon Senka Kagami*. However these are common coins with patterns that vary, but coins with similar patterns can be found especially from the same coin hoard. At this time in Japan, these Cambodian coins would have been somewhat scarce and it would be probable that the coin pictured in both books is the same. This type coin was first mentioned illustrated in *Wakan Kokon Senka Kagami*.

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Based upon my comparisons of the coins in *Tozai Senpu* to the books of Kutsuki Masatsuna, it can be concluded that the book is from the collection of this famous numismatist of Japan.

**Note:** A special thanks to the Waseda University for permitting the use of images from their library.

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