

# Money in Java and Bali

originally: shells as money  
cowri shells: best quality from  
India  
demi and kupang: terms for shell  
money, later terms for gold/silver  
coins

# Cowri shell - *Cypraea moneta*



other islands: shell money on  
bags and clothes





# artha (Skt): what gives material well-being, progress

- Artha, Indian concept, introduced in Java
- One of the stages in one's life, after dharma, is following artha, that is gathering wealth (Kres, 1104 A.D.)
- What is artha? Possessions in money, gold, jewels as well as silver, cattle and rice (Kunj, 14<sup>th</sup> cy)

# How to do it?

## Do's and dont's

- To collect riches is difficult. Begin with trade to create a basis.
- The best money is acquired as war booty.
- When the money is gone, one suffers: sadness, remorse and poverty.
- In short: money involves sadness, therefore a good man should abstain from money.  
(Niti 1365 A.D.)

## more warnings

- One cannot take money with one when one dies (Niti 1365 A.D.)
- Wealth, artha, possessions do not go further than being left behind at home on one's death (Kunj., 14<sup>th</sup> A.D.)

# Ancient Java

- gold coins from end 8<sup>th</sup> cy A.D. onwards
- silver coins from end 8<sup>th</sup> cy A.D. Onwards
- Indian introduction
- coins not minted by a ruler with emblem
- weight is important
- coins melted for jewellery

# gold and silver coins

- coins distributed at consecration-of-freehold ceremony among witnesses
- coins to pay death rituals
- coins given to temples during rituals
- coins & textile donated to kings and royalty in the hope of receiving privileges
- coins not used for paying at market
- barter system also existed

# incidental finds of foreign coins



Indo-Greek coin found in Pekalongan

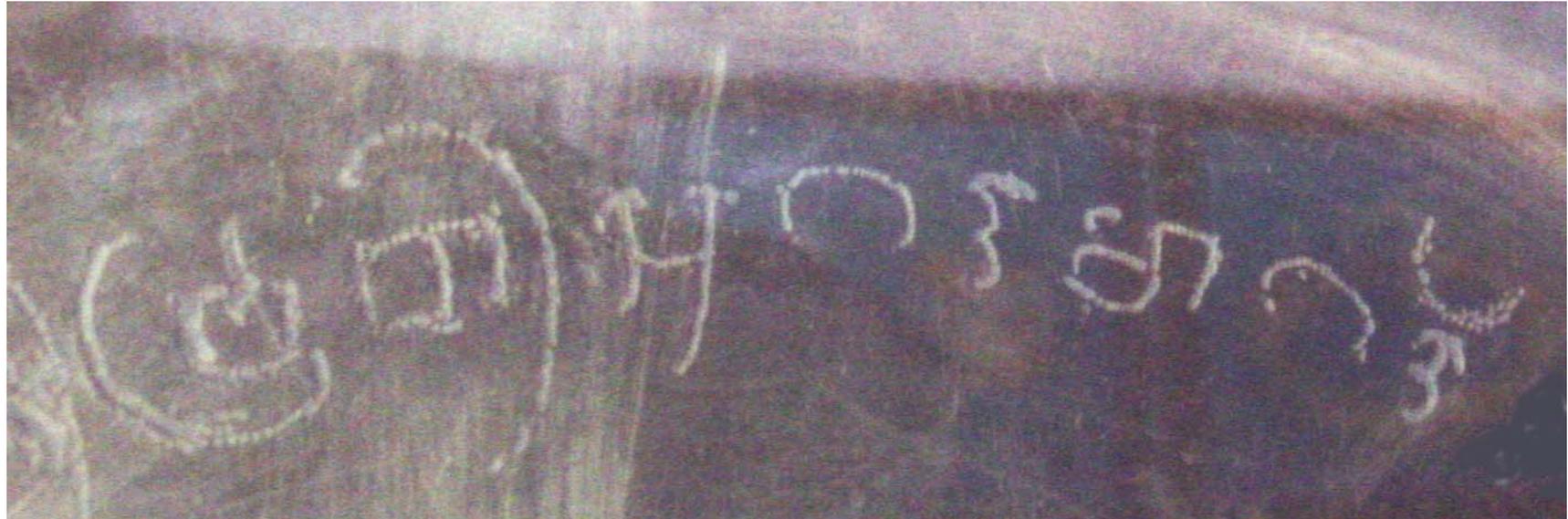
# Measures of gold and silver

- Ku (kupang, Jav) – 1 ku = 0,603 gr
- Ma (masa, Skt, gold) – 1 ma = 2,41 gr; 4 ku = 1 ma
- Su (suwarna, Skt, gold) – 1 su = 38,601 gr
- Dha (dharana, Skt, silver) – 1 dha = 38,601 gr
- Ta (tahlil, Jav) – 1 ta = 424,611 gr; 1 ta = 11 su
- Ka (kati, Jav) – 617,61 gr; 1ka = 16 dha = 250 ma

# weight is important

- Golden knob, weighing 9 kati (9 x 617,61 gr = 5558,49 gr), three of which are a gift from King Kayuwangi (Salingsingan 880 A.D.)
- Umbrella of gold is given to a statue, weight: 5 tahl (2123,055 gr) (Sucen II, 9<sup>th</sup> A.D.)

# Prambanan-inscription gold dish



brat su 14 ma 19

Gold coins – piloncito

1.2 - 2.6 gr., 7 – 12 mm diam.

Letter: ta

# Piloncito gold coins - Java



# Piloncito gold coins Wonoboyo hoard



# Piloncito top and reverse, letter ta in Indian Nagari script



Silver coins

sandalwood flower – letter ma

1 masa = 2.412 gr.

# Sandalwood flower money, silver



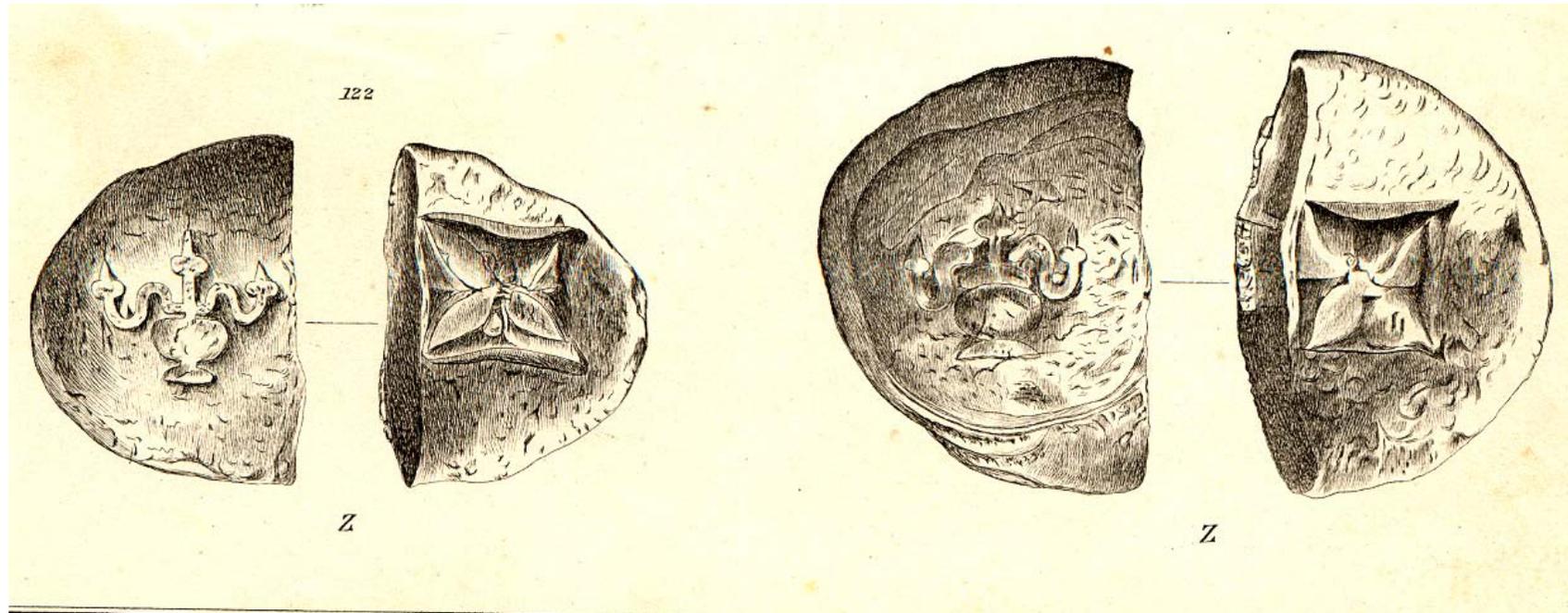
# Sandalwood flower silver money Wonoboyo hoard



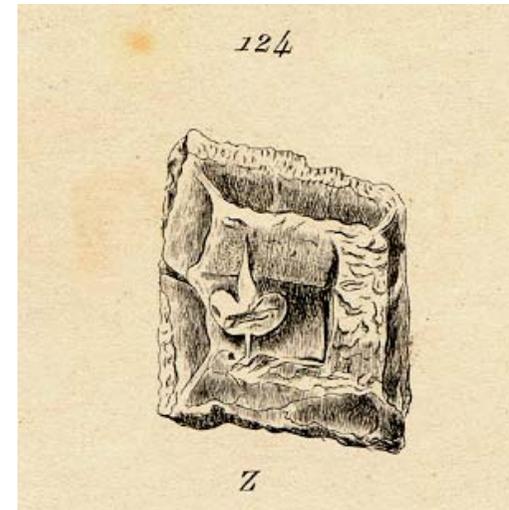
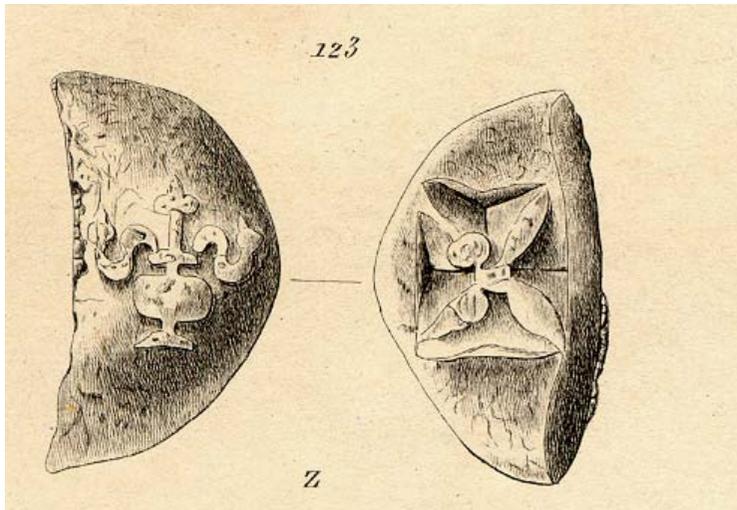
# Sandalwood flower silver money



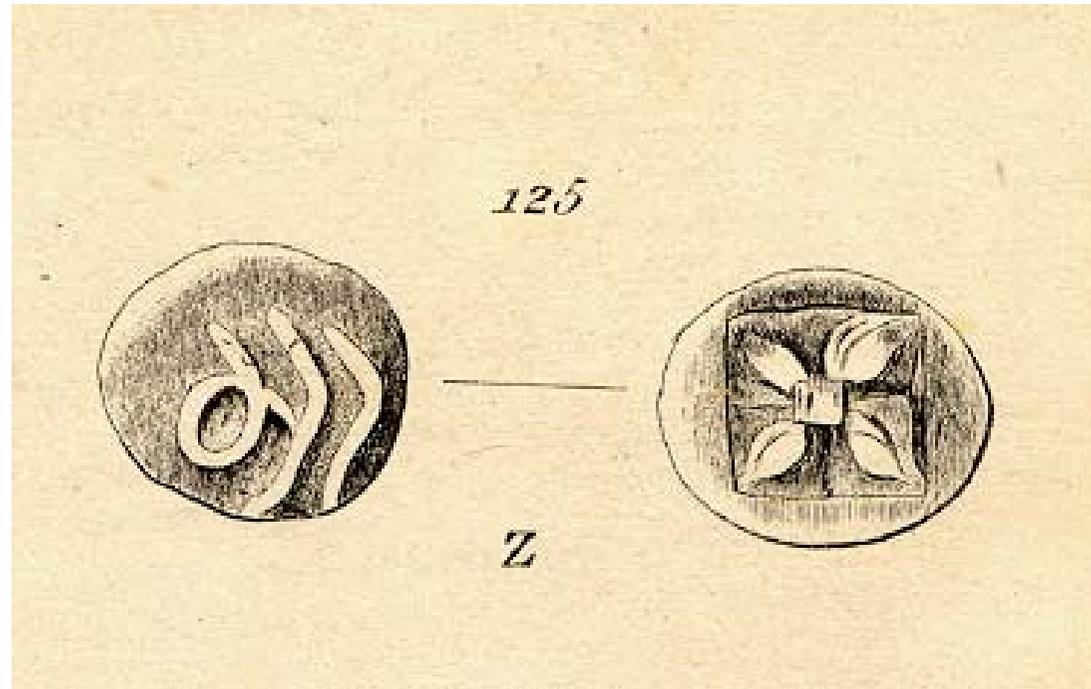
# Sandalwood flower money stone moulds



# Sandalwood flower money stone moulds



# Sandalwood silver money letter ma and flower



Giving away money, gold & jewels –  
a good deed among Buddhists

# Borobudur- giving bags away



# Borobudur - coins



# Borobudur- queen and money in bag



# Borobudur-money in bags on tray jewellery in coffin



happy faces



# Borobudur- money bags on trays







Money in bags and textile

# Borobudur-money and jewellery falls from heaven



# Borobudur- money falls from heaven



# Borobudur – money, jewellery fall from heaven



# Borobudur – man admires necklace



# Pawon-sage- jewellery from pot



# Borobudur-jewellery in bags,sacks,pots



# Borobudur- jewellery in pots



# Prambanan-Wisnu temple money bags in pots



# Prambanan- Wisnu temple money bags in pots



# Prambanan-Siwa temple money bags in pot



how to recognize a rich man?  
money bags near his seat



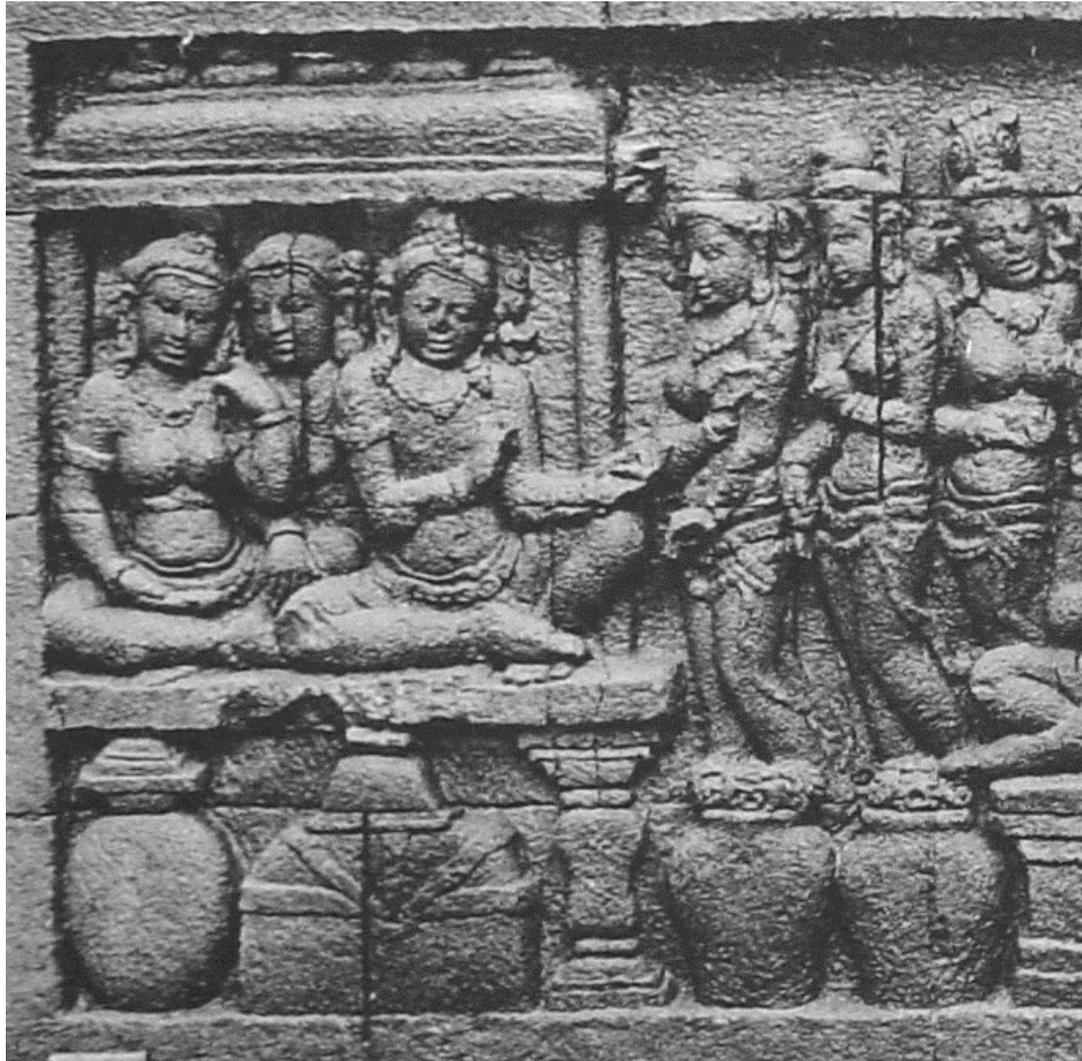
# Borobudur-house merchant



# Borobudur – house rich man – pots with jewels



# Borobudur-house rich man – pots with jewels



new money from China

# Chinese copper and bronze coins

in strings/*tali* of 200 - *atak/satak*

first evidence 1021 A.D.

in inscription from Cane, E. Java

*pisip* – coin - mentioned 1<sup>st</sup> time in 1360 A.D.

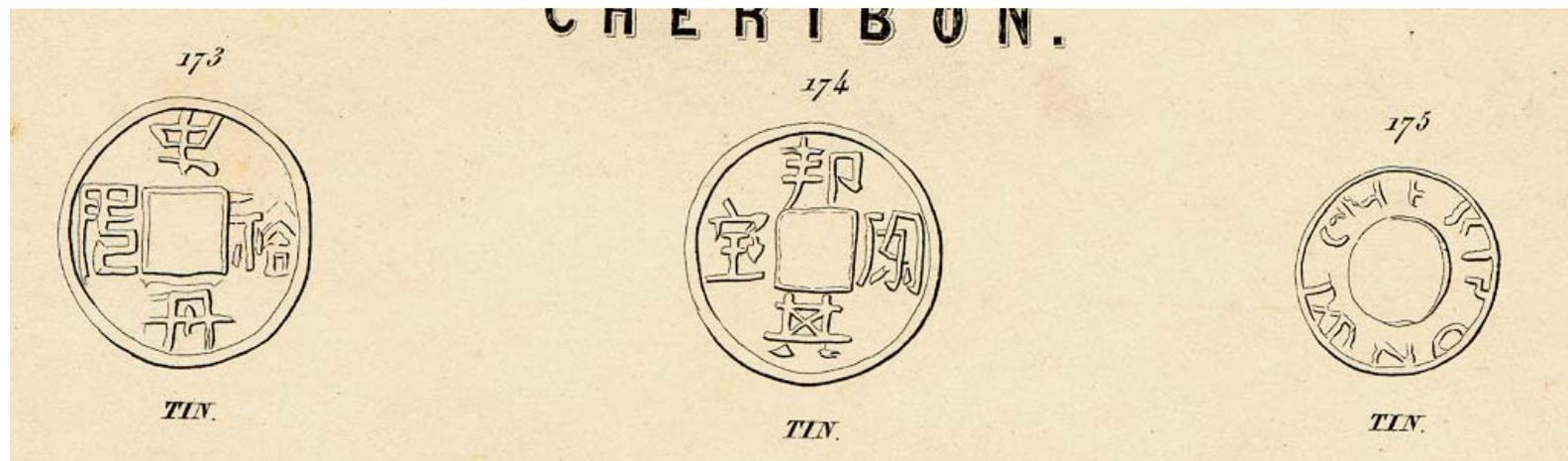
in inscription from Bendosari, E. Java

later terms, after 1600: *gebog*, *kepeng*, *keteng*

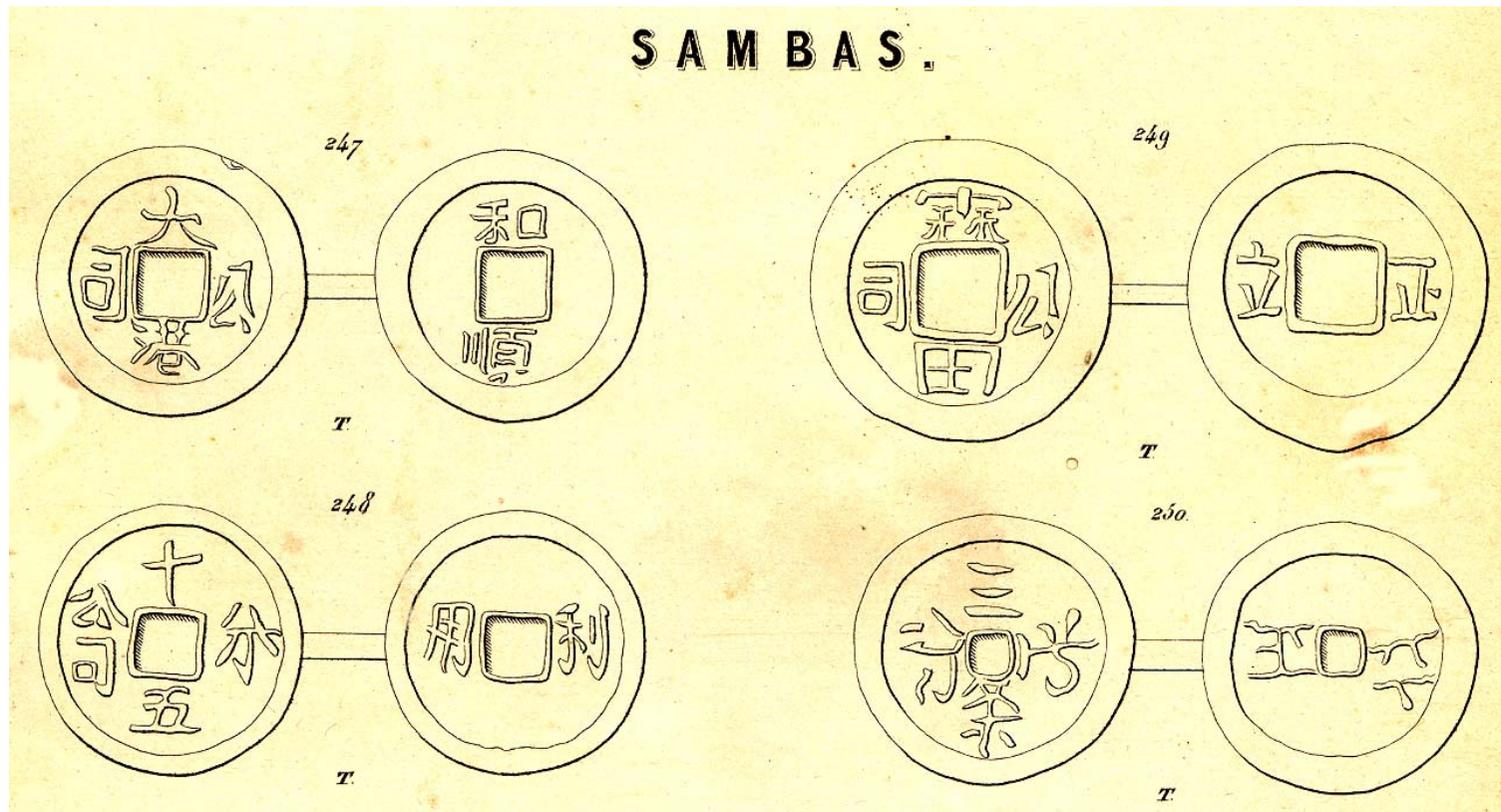
Chinese coin on relief, 14<sup>th</sup> cy A.D.



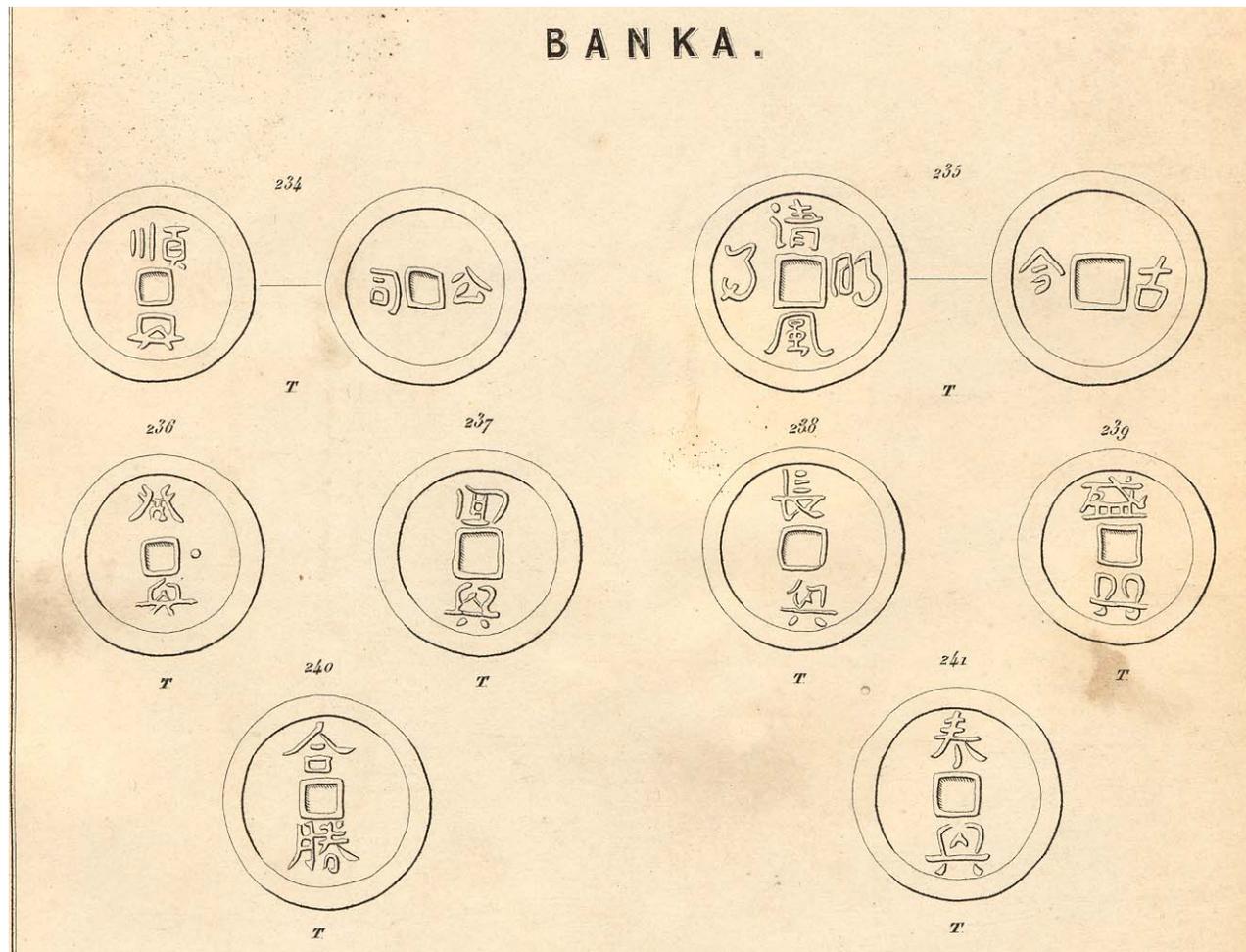
# Chinese coins made in W. Java



# Chinese coins from Sambas



# Chinese coins from Banka



Chinese coins became amulets  
pipis Arjuna – love amulet



Pipis Arjuna – love amulets  
reverse



# Pipis wayang- amulet, front



# Pipis wayang - obverse



# Pipis Arjuna – love amulet obverse



Pipis Arjuna – love amulet  
reverse: Petruk



# Pipis Arjuna – obverse Jaya



# Pipis Arjuna – obverse: Semar



# Pipis Cintya - Bali



# Pipis Cintya – Bali: obverse



# Pipis Panasar – Bali



# Pipis Panasar – Bali

obverse: text

