



**CAST
COINAGE
of KOREA**

韓國鑄錢

by **EDGAR J. MANDEL**



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For many years E. J. Mandel has been a student of Far Eastern numismatics and has acquired an extensive knowledge of the coins, charms and amulets of that area. During many trips to the Orient he has conferred with the foremost Korean and Japanese numismatists.

Six years of research have been spent in the preparation of this book, which for the first time provides the collector with a complete catalog of Korean coins, their historical background, dates and places of issue, and relative values, as well as the romanization and translation of the different characters. Whereas each previous publication on Korean coins has usually dealt with its author's collection only, this catalog bases its information on coins from seven major collections, including those of the Bank of Korea and the Bank of Japan, and other coins recorded in many Korean and Japanese publications.

As there has been no dictionary available that gives the Korean romanization of the Chinese characters used on Korean coins, this book includes a Chinese-Korean-English dictionary, giving for each character the Chinese romanization, Korean written form, Korean romanization, and the English translation. The dictionary includes not only the characters found on coins, but all those used on Korean charms and amulets, plus the most common numismatic terms used in Oriental publications.

Cast Coinage of Korea sheds a new light on a fascinating but little known field and should be the standard reference for many years.

No. 9371

HORSE WARRANTS

Korean Horse Warrants, 馬牌 *MAP'AE*, bronze medallions showing from one to five horses, have been appearing in this country and a short section on these pieces may be of interest. They were used by the *Amhaeng-ōsa* 暗行御史 "King's secret mission officer" to investigate local government officials and military commanders. The secret agents, usually young king's aides, were selected by the king from a list of candidates prepared by the three highest ministers. The king would summon the appointed person to a secret meeting and give him a letter of appointment; a letter of instructions with specific directions on which matters to inspect and investigate; a bronze scale to measure the size of implements of punishment such as whips, canes and fetters; and a horse warrant which served as the seal of authority. The horse warrant authorized the owner to use the Royal transportation facilities and the number of horses shown indicated the number of horses which could be requisitioned by the bearer.

Traveling incognito, the King's secret agent would investigate wrongful acts and bribery of government officials and military commanders; meet and talk to the people about their living conditions, taxes, local officers, etc.; survey the fields and market places and check whether well educated and able men were given proper employment.

When the investigation was completed the secret agent would appear at the County Hall and identify himself by means of the *MAP'AE*. If a complaint was to be made he would seize the documents of the county administration as evidence of the officials' wrongful acts, close the county warehouse and put the Seal Label on its door.

The horse warrants were dated by the year of the reign of the Chinese Emperor. This is not unusual as the Koreans used the Ming and Manchu calendars when these dynasties were in power.

The *Amhaeng-ōsa* system originated in the 4th year of *Chungjong* 中宗 (1509 A.D.) and reached its greatest use during the reigns of *Yōngjo* 英祖 and *Chōngjo* 正祖 (1725-1800 A.D.). The system was purely Korean and assumed an important role in the local administration of the *Yi* Dynasty. Nothing resembling it existed in China or Japan.

There are three classifications of these Horse Warrants.

1. The originals. These were large heavy pieces, the earlier ones weighing from 450 to 650 grams and the later dates 250 to 350 grams. They are from 95 to 100 mm. in diameter and 10 to 12 mm. thick. The edges are rounded in almost a semicircle. Those that I have come across are shown as Nos.W1.1 to W4.1. Many others must exist.
2. The copies. These are slightly smaller, much lighter and thinner but of the same general appearance. These are either contemporary counterfeits or modern copies, probably the former. Not illustrated.

WARRANTS

MAP'AE, bronze medallions showing appearing in this country and a short interest. They were used by the "secret mission officer" to investigate secret mission commanders. The secret agents, appointed by the king from a list of candidates, were sent to investigate the ministers. The king would sum up the meeting and give him a letter of appointment with specific directions on which to proceed. The bronze scale to measure the size of the horses, tips, canes and fetters; and a horse warrant authority. The horse warrant authorized transportation facilities and the number of horses which could be

The secret agent would investigate wrongdoings of officials and military commanders; check their living conditions, taxes, local market places and check whether they were in proper employment. When the secret agent would appear at a place by means of the MAP'AE. If a secret agent size the documents of the county officials' wrongful acts, close the MAP'AE Label on its door.

In the year of the reign of the Chinese emperor, the Koreans used the Ming and Manchu coins. In the 4th year of *Chungjong* (中宗, 1505 A.D.). The system was purely Chinese in the local administration of the provinces which existed in China or Japan.

Horse Warrants. Heavy pieces, the earlier ones were larger and the later dates 250 to 300 mm. in diameter and 10 to 15 mm. thick. They were rounded in almost a semicircle. They are shown as Nos. W1.1 to W4.1.

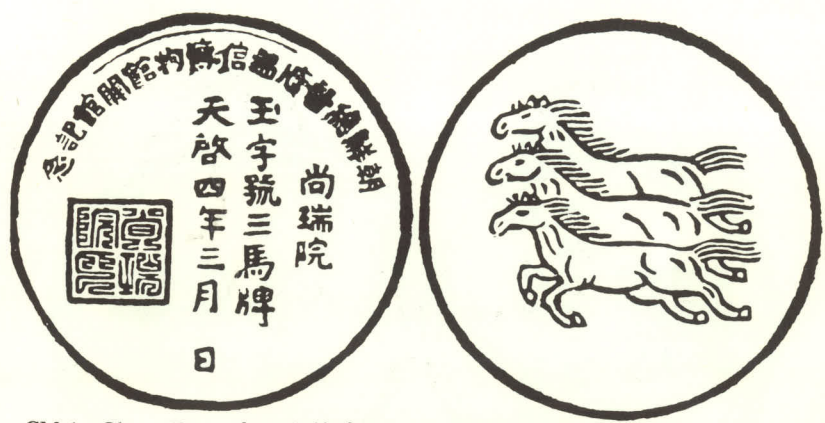
Later, much lighter and thinner. These are either conical or cylindrical. Copies, probably the former.

3. Tourist souvenirs. These are now being manufactured in Korea for sale to tourists. They are much smaller and come in a variety of sizes. They show from one to five horses, are polished brass or antiqued and have square rims. The type without the pendant TS3.1 has the word "KOREA" incused at the bottom of the rim. The type with the pendant TS5.1 is of excellent workmanship and weighs 133.7 grams. Many other imitations exist.



MINT SEAL
尙瑞院印

The Horse Warrant motif was also used to commemorate the opening of the Communication Museum on July 28, 1937 in the present location of the Ministry of Communications opposite City Hall in Seoul.



CM.1 Obv. Top 朝鮮總督府遞信博均館開館記念 *CHOSŌN CH'ONGDOKPU CH'ESIN PANGMULGWAN KAIGWAN KINYŌM* "Korea Governor General Treasury Communications Museum opening to the public commemoration". Right 尙瑞院 *SANGSŌ-WŌN* "Official Government Mint". 玉字號三馬牌 *OKCHAHOSAM MAP'AE* "House of *Ok*, three horse warrant". 天啓四年三月·日 *CH'ŎNGYE SA NYŌN SAM WŌL - IL* "T'ien Ch'i fourth year, third moon, - day". April 1624. Left in seal script 尙瑞院印 *SANGSŌ-WŌN IN* "Official Government Mint Seal".
Rev. Three galloping horses.