



Coins in early Hong Kong: Hong Kong's first dollar coin

Hong Kong's first dollar coin appeared in 1866. It was a large silver coin weighing 27.11 grams and measuring 38mm in diameter. The coin was among the first coins minted in the Hong Kong Mint, built by the Government in 1864, on a site in today's Cleveland Street, Causeway Bay.

The Hong Kong Mint started minting coins in 1866 in denominations of one mil, one, five, ten and twenty cents, and half-dollar and one dollar. However, it ceased operation in 1868 after great financial loss. In its brief existence, the Mint produced around HK\$2 million worth of coins.

The one dollar silver coin was never popular, partly because it bore the Queen's portrait: it was an offence to follow standard practice in the Hong Kong region and make chop marks on the coin to confirm its genuineness. People in Hong Kong relied instead on silver dollars from other jurisdictions and, later, on the one dollar notes. It was not until nearly a century later, in 1960, that the Hong Kong Government once again began issuing one dollar coins.



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Causeway Bay, 1866–1868.

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This *Bulletin* incorporates information up to
9 December 2003.

Cover picture acknowledgement:
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Full texts of this *Bulletin* and of back issues are
available on the HKMA website at
www.hkma.gov.hk

The Bulletin is published in mid-month of March,
June, September and December each year.

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ISSN 1726-9717

Printed in Hong Kong on recycled paper

HK\$100