



Yunnan plaque-shaped silver ingot

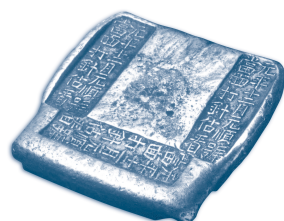
This five-tael (187 grams) silver ingot was made in the first year of the reign of Emperor Guangxu (AD 1874) of the Qing Dynasty of 98.5% pure silver.

Yunnan Province produced large quantities of high-quality silver. Silver had been the medium of exchange for high-volume trades since the Tang and Sung Dynasties. In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, silver and copper coins had become the main medium of exchange in the province.

There was a variety of shapes and sizes of silver ingots in circulation in Yunnan, including boat-shaped, round, horse-saddle-shaped and plaque-shaped ingots.

The ingot shown in the photos resembles a plaque because of the position of the texts in its markings. The markings state the name of the government-appointed assayer and the year and month the ingot was assayed.

The ingot was assayed by drilling a hole into it and observing the inside of the metal. Alternatively, a small amount of silver dust would be collected from the ingot and tested.



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Correction:

In the last issue, No. 49 (December 2006), the last two columns of Table 5 on page 36 should read:

Property price shock ^b	Interest rate shock ^c
0.34	0.13
0.55	0.25
0.64	0.32
0.83	0.50
1.12	0.84
1.41	1.33

And the last two columns of Table 6 on the same page should read:

Property price shock ^b	Interest rate shock ^c
2,866	2,951
2,787	2,901
2,751	2,875
2,677	2,803
2,564	2,674
2,449	2,481

The soft copy of the article available on the HKMA website (www.hkma.gov.hk) has been updated to reflect these amendments.