

**法定貨幣：**

經政府頒布為法定貨幣的貨幣，在該政府的管轄地區內應該被接納用作償付任何債務。現時香港的法定貨幣是港元，不過在香港的歷史中，曾以多種不同貨幣為法定貨幣。

**香港硬幣**

**過去**，香港並沒有完善和有系統的硬幣發行計劃。在香港發展為貿易中心的過程中，曾倚賴多種不同硬幣作為日常的交易媒介。除了香港本身的硬幣以外，當時在香港流通的還有：

- 中國制錢、銀兩，後來再加上中國銀幣
- 英鎊、先令和便士
- 西班牙、墨西哥和其他南美國家的銀元
- 印度盧比和其他硬幣，以及在印度鑄造的英國貿易銀元
- 美國銀元和日圓

香港的第一批硬幣是在英國皇家鑄幣廠以白銀和銅鑄造，鑄有 1863 年字樣，並於 1864 年面世。在 1860 年代後期，由位於銅鑼灣的香港造幣廠負責鑄幣。然而，這家造幣廠所鑄硬幣不受歡迎，最後停產，造幣廠也在 1868 年倒閉，政府因此蒙受 444,000 元的財政損失。

有一段長時間，香港的硬幣處於比較混亂的情況。由 1868 年至 1960 年接近 100 年間，港府並沒有發行 1 元硬幣。在這段期間，公眾主要用其他司法地區的硬幣、在印度鑄造的英國貿易銀元，以及銀行或政府發行的紙幣。在 1872 年至 1905 年間，英國為香港鑄造了大量面額較小的銀幣。在 1906 年至 1931 年間，為香港所鑄造的唯一一種硬幣是 1 仙銅幣。

19 世紀在香港流通的部分硬幣  
Some coins current in  
nineteenth-century Hong Kong



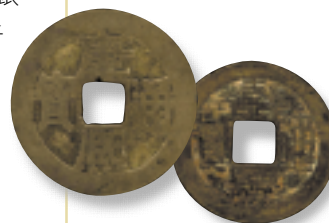
印度盧比  
Indian rupee



西班牙銀元  
Spanish silver dollar



墨西哥銀元  
Mexican dollar



中國銅錢  
Chinese cash

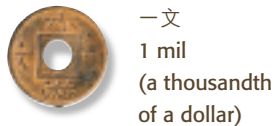


英國貿易銀元  
British trade dollar



儘管各方就香港發行的首批硬幣提出了多款極富創意的設計，但最後還是採用了簡單而傳統的設計，並成為百多年來來的標準樣式。Although a number of imaginative designs were proposed for Hong Kong's first coin issue, a simple, traditional design was adopted, and became the standard design for over a hundred years.

香港第一批硬幣(1863年)  
The first Hong Kong coins, 1863



一文  
1 mil  
(a thousandth of a dollar)



一仙  
1 cent



一毫  
10 cents

## THE HONG KONG COINAGE

*Until* recent decades, coin issue in Hong Kong was sporadic. For much of its history as a trading city, Hong Kong relied on a wide variety of coins (whether legal tender or not) for its daily business:

- Chinese cash, silver taels, and - later on - Chinese silver coins
- British pounds, shillings and pence
- Silver dollars from Spain and Mexico and other South American countries
- Indian Rupees and other coins, and British trade dollars minted in India
- US silver dollars and Japanese yen

The first Hong Kong coins, minted at the Royal Mint in England in silver and bronze, bear the year 1863 and appeared in Hong Kong in 1864. For a brief period in the late 1860s, coins were minted at the new Hong Kong Mint in Causeway Bay. These coins were not well received. Production soon ceased, and the Mint closed down in 1868, with a financial loss of \$440,000 to the government.

For a long period, Hong Kong's Coinage was in some confusion. No dollar coins were issued by the Hong Kong Government for nearly a century, between 1868 and 1960. For much of this time people used dollar coins from other jurisdictions, the British trade dollar minted in India, or banknotes issued by banks or by the Government. Between 1872 and 1905, smaller denomination silver coins were minted in England for Hong Kong in larger and larger quantities. Between 1906 and 1931 the only Hong Kong coin minted was the bronze one cent piece.

### LEGAL TENDER :

*the currency declared by a government to be legal tender, which should be acceptable for the discharge of a financial obligation within the jurisdiction of that government. In Hong Kong the legal tender is now the Hong Kong dollar, but various currencies have been legal tender at various times in Hong Kong's history.*



位於銅鑼灣的香港鑄幣廠，於 1864 年興建，1868 年關閉。  
The Hong Kong Mint at Causeway Bay, constructed in 1864, closed down in 1868.

20 世紀初，香港政府嘗試逐步收窄日常流通的硬幣種類，在 1912 年至 1913 年間推出連串措施，禁止外國硬幣在香港流通。然而，直到 1937 年 8 月 1 日政府宣布英國貿易銀元不再是法定貨幣後，在香港流通的硬幣才變為僅限於在英國鑄造的香港硬幣。1975 年港府再次就鑄幣進行重大改革，推出全新設計的硬幣，當中包括首次推出的 2 元和 5 元硬幣。

百多年來，香港大部分硬幣的基本設計沒有多大變化，都是一面有君主頭像和稱謂，另一面則為面額。此外，港府還會不時為慶祝特別盛事，發行紀念錢幣。

在 1990 年代中國恢復對香港行使主權前，英女皇頭像設計硬幣逐步由新的洋紫荊設計硬幣取代。



#### 1913 年 抵 制 電 車 事 件

1912 年 7 月 1 日，政府立例禁止外國貨幣在香港市面流通，包括中國的單毫（1 毫）和雙毫（2 毫）。電車公司遂於 1913 年 10 月宣布不再接受中國的輔幣。

此舉立即引起群眾發起抵制電車行動。抵制一直持續到 1914 年初才告平息。

#### THE 1913 TRAM BOYCOTT

*On 1 July 1912 the Hong Kong Government promulgated a law prohibiting the circulation of foreign currencies in Hong Kong, including one-cent and two-cent coins from China. Accordingly, Hong Kong Tramways Limited refused to accept coins from China in October 1913.*

*This action resulted in an immediate mass boycott of the tram service. The boycott was finally settled in early 1914.*

Early in the twentieth century, the Hong Kong Government tried to tighten up the coinage in daily circulation with a series of measures between 1912 and 1913 aimed at prohibiting the import and circulation of foreign coins. But it was not until 1 August 1937, when the British trade dollar was declared to be no longer legal tender, that the coins in general circulation in Hong Kong were confined to Hong Kong coins.

A further major reform of the coinage took place in 1975, when new designs, and the \$2 and \$5 denomination were introduced.

For over a hundred years the basic design for most of Hong Kong's coins remained the same, with the monarch's head and name on one side and the denomination on the other side. From time to time special commemorative coins were also issued to celebrate special events.

In the 1990s, prior to the resumption by China of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, the Queen's Head coins were progressively replaced by the new Bauhinia design.



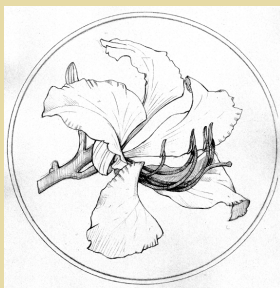
1975年英女皇訪港金幣正背面  
1975 Royal visit commemorative coin



新的洋紫荊設計硬幣, 1994年  
The New Bauhinia Coin Design, 1994



洋紫荊圖案原貌  
Photograph of a bauhinia flower,  
on which the original design is based



洋紫荊圖案初繪圖  
Original approved sketch of  
the bauhinia flower



洋紫荊圖案硬幣定稿  
Approved sketch, together with  
the circumferential lettering