

## (8) Chinese COMMUNIST ARMIES Silver Coinage

[An excerpt from Eduard Kann`s 1954 book on Chinese coins]

Beginnings of the communist forces in China may be traced back to 1927. With the growth of the movement the Chinese Communists field armies established their own banks which arranged the issue of paper money and copper and silver money. These banks were mobile and moved along with the armies.

The sundry emissions of Chinese soviet money, be it paper or metallic, in their chronological order, are as follows:

- (1) Soviet Government of Hunan Province
- (2) “ “ Hupeh, Honan and Anhui Provinces
- (3) “ “ Kiangsi Province
- (4) “ “ Fukien, Chekiang and Kiangsi Provinces
- (5) “ “ Szechuan and Shensi Provinces

The narrative about communist coinage in China cannot be conclusive, for only inadequate particulars have so far been available. Our researches must by necessity be based upon those specimens which have come into the possession of collectors. But it may confidently be expected that more details will be divulged as time goes on.

During World War II, the communist armies of China fought the Japanese side by side with the nationalist forces. But after the termination of hostilities, to wit in 1946, negotiations about rights and duties of the 2 groups broke down, causing open civil war between the contending factions. In a comparatively short period the Chinese communist armies occupied the entire country and established themselves as masters there. Banknote issues were consolidated and enormously extended in volume. In fact, throughout the territories occupied by the Chinese communists, the currency was exclusively paper money, seemingly well managed. At least until the summer of 1953, when these lines were written, one did not hear of new communist coinage in China, neither as regards copper nor silver.

The first Chinese soviet coin in silver -- a 1-dollar piece -- is a great rarity. It was discovered in Hupeh Province and must have originated either there, or in the neighboring province of Hunan. The date of its birth can be estimated by circumstantial evidence only. In accepting 1930 as correct, one cannot err to the extent of more than one year.

A description of the said first communist silver dollar, taken from a rubbing, follows:

Obverse: Within linear and pearly ring the effigy of Lenin in profile to the right. In the upper outer circle in Chinese [Chinese Characters] standing for: Minted by the Chinese Soviets, Right and left arabesques.

Reverse: Parallel circles, the one linear, the other one pearly, enclosing the Chinese ideograms [Chinese Characters], i.e. ONE YUAN. To the right thereof the sickle; the left the hammer.

**1930** (abt) **1-Dollar Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (undated).

**800** *Obv:* Portrait of Lenin in profile to the right. Above the legend in Chinese. Right and left arabesques.  
*Rev:* In the center [Chinese Characters]= 1 YUAN, flanked by hammer and sickle, encompassed in 2 parallel rings.

The second communist dollar is of better workmanship and shows 1931 as the year of its birth. However, its outward appearance is merely relatively good, for the workmanship still is defective. The machinery which the mobile soviet armies then had at their disposal must have been very primitive.

*Obverse:* In the center large 5-pointed star, enclosing the hammer and sickle emblem in a linear and a pearled ring. Above, in Chinese [Chinese Characters] standing for: Soviet Government of Hunan Province. In the lower outer circle, also in Chinese, [Chinese Characters], meaning: Made in the year 1931. Right and left, small rosettes.

*Reverse:* In the center, in Chinese [Chinese Characters], i.e. 1 YUAN, enclosed in an open wreath of grain.

**1931 1-Dollar Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (dated in Chinese 1931) 39 mm in diameter; 2 1/2 mm thick; weight 25.1 grams (Hunan).

**801** *Obv:* Within 2 parallel circles large 5-pointed star, containing hammer and sickle. Above a Chinese legend, as described. Below is the date in Chinese [Chinese Characters].

*Rev:* In the center [Chinese Characters] = 1 YUAN, encompassed in an open wreath of grain.

**1932 1-Dollar Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (dated in Chinese 1932) 39 mm in diameter; 2 1/2 mm thick; weight 26.8 grams (Hupeh, Honan, and Anhwei).

**802** *Obv:* Within a linear circle [Chinese Characters], standing for 1 YUAN. Above in Chinese: Made in 1932. Right and left 5-pointed stars. Below, in pseudo-Russian (actually a meaningless scrawl), meant to be: Soviet Chinese Republic.

*Rev:* In the middle, within 2 parallel circles, eastern hemisphere with hammer and sickle superimposed. Surrounding this design one finds in Chinese the slogan [Chinese Characters], translating: Rise and unite the proletariat of the entire world.

**802a** *Obv:* Type 802

*Rev:* Hammer wider. Lines on globe vary in shape.

The foregoing coin almost invariably is badly stamped, so that one rarely meets it in perfect condition; usually a part of the design remains invisible. Types 801 and 802 are scarce.

**1932 1-Dollar Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (dated in Chinese 1932) 39 mm in diameter; 2 1/2 mm thick; weight 27.2 grams (Hupeh, Honan, and Anhwei).

**803** *Obv:* Center like type 802. Above in Chinese [Chinese Characters] denoting: Soviet Government of Hupeh, Honan, and Anhwei Provinces. Right and left 5-pointed star. Below, in Chinese [Chinese Characters] translating: Made in 1932 by the Laborers and Farmers Bank.

*Rev:* Similar to type 802, but hammer and sickle differently shaped. The legend is identical.

**803a** *Obv:* Type 803, but Chinese denomination written in a different hand {script style}.

*Rev:* Type 803, but Chinese calligraphy deviating in style.

**803b** *Obv:* Type 803a.

*Rev:* Type 803a. Border lines forming the map of China varying in form.

The author was shown a photograph of a 20-cents communist coin from the Szechuan-Shensi district. The Chinese legend is somewhat similar to that found on the 1-dollar pieces.

On the obverse in the center is seen a linear ring, 1 cm in diameter. Probably the denomination was encompassed there, but most likely due to poor minting, is invisible. This means that the central area is blank. Then follows a parallel pearly ring, and in the outer circle the Chinese inscription, reading [Chinese Characters], indubitably slogans. Its exact meaning is not clear to even well-educated Chinese, so that outsiders cannot supply a correct interpretation in translation.

The reverse displays within a pearly circle, 15 mm in diameter, 2 crossed flags. On the right the 5-barred republican flag; on the left the communist flag; between the 2 emblems a star. In outer ring the Chinese legend [Chinese Characters]. A translation of this is almost impossible to obtain. Right and left 5-pointed star.

**1932 (abt) 20-Cents Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (undated)

**804** *Obv:* As described in detail in the foregoing paragraph.

*Rev:* As described in detail in the foregoing paragraph.

Kiangsi Province produced no 1-dollar communist coins, but banknotes and 20-cents silver pieces. These latter measure 24 mm in diameter and milled edges.

*Obverse:* In center [Chinese Characters], meaning 20 Cents. Above [Chinese Characters], denoting: Chinese Soviet Republic. Right and left 5-pointed stars. At bottom [Chinese Characters], translating: Western calendar, 1932.

*Reverse:* Enclosed in an open wreath of grain, eastern hemisphere with hammer and sickle superimposed, 5-pointed star above. On top in Chinese [Chinese characters], meaning: Every 5 pieces equal to 1 dollar.

**1932 20-Cents Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (dated in Chinese 1932) 24 mm in diameter; 1 ¼ mm thick; weight 5.5 grams (Kiangsi).

**805** *Obv:* In center denomination. Above, in Chinese: Soviet Republic. At bottom: 1932 in Chinese figures, but per western calendar.

*Rev:* Eastern hemisphere, surrounded by an open wreath. Hammer and sickle. Above is a star.

**805a** *Obv:* Type 805. Style of Chinese calligraphy varying. Right star larger than left one.

*Rev:* Type 805. Hammer and sickle design and lines on globe deviating.

**805b** *Obv:* Type 805. Chinese calligraphy diversified again in type.

*Rev:* Type 805. Chinese calligraphy and hammer and sickle varying in form.

**805g** *Obv:* Type 805. Chinese handwriting varying once again in style.

*Rev:* Type 805. Star, Chinese calligraphy, border lines on globe and wreath varying in shape. Last character above [Chinese character], instead of [Chinese character].

Further such deviations are common. The author owns 18 varieties of type 805, but there are many more extant.

In the summer of 1948 a new model 1-dollar communist coin made its appearance in the Shanghai market, a pattern which is similar to type 808, the 1934 issue. The said coin was dated 1933 (in Chinese characters) and represented a ‘find’, only one being known then. About 6 months later the author was lucky (or unlucky!) enough to obtain a second such specimen in return for US\$250. The best Shanghai connoisseurs, while wondering, could not prove that anything was wrong. The two coins, coming allegedly from Szechuen {sp}, were perfect in make-up and distinctly rare. It took 3 years before the pundits resolved that they “hand been taken for a ride”, and that the 2 rarities were extremely well-finished forgeries. There is no 1933 dollar model. The details are supplied as a warning to unwary numismatists.

**1933 20-Cents Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (dated in Chinese 1933) 24 mm in diameter; 1 ¼ mm thick; weight 4.6 grams.

**807** *Obv:* Type 805, except dated in Chinese 1933.

*Rev:* Type 805.

**807a** *Obv:* Type 807. Chinese calligraphy varying in shape. Weight 5.6 grams.

*Rev:* Type 807. Chinese calligraphy varying in shape.

**807e** *Obv:* Type 807. Renewed deviations in the style of handwriting.

*Rev:* Type 807. Lines in terrestrial globe vary in shape.

**807f** *Obv:* Type 807. Style of Chinese legend deviating. Last character [Chinese character] instead of [Chinese character].

*Rev:* Type 807. Shape of design on hemisphere changed again.

**807g** *Obv:* Type 807. Stars right and left larger.

*Rev:* Type 807g. Curves on globe varying in shape.

The author's collection contains 24 varieties of type 807, only a few of which have been specified here. Most deviations are due to diversified Chinese calligraphy and to the lines on the terrestrial globe.

There exists another 1-dollar Chinese communist coin minted (or dated) in 1934 and issued in large quantities by the communist armies in Szechuen and Shensi. The coin referred to has the usual dollar size of 39.5 mm and a milled rim. It exists in numerous patterns.

*Obverse:* Within a beaded circle [Chinese characters], i.e. ONE YUAN. Op top [Chinese characters], denoting: Soviet Republic of China. At bottom, equally in Chinese [Chinese characters], translating: Made in the Szechuen-Shensi Provincial Mint. Right and left solid-bodied 5-pointed stars as rosettes.

*Reverse:* Hemisphere with hammer and sickle superimposed. Above [Chinese characters], translating: Rise and unite the proletariat of the whole world. Right and left 4-petalled rosaces {sp}. Below, also in Chinese [Chinese characters], standing for the year 1934.

Of this issue more than 20 distinct varieties are known to exist. The principle differences are found on the obverse in the size and shape of the star; also in the style of the central inscription [Chinese characters]. Finally, in the Chinese calligraphy. But still more flagrant diversifications are seen on the reverse, especially as regards the design of both, hammer and sickle.

**1934 1-Dollar Chinese COMMUNIST Silver Coin** (dated in Chinese 1934) 39 ½ mm in diameter; 2 ½ mm thick; weight 26.3 grams. (Szechuen and Shensi Provinces).

**808** *Obv:* Within a pearled ring [Chinese characters]. Right and left solid-bodied 5-pointed stars. At bottom [Chinese characters].

*Rev:* Eastern hemisphere with hammer and sickle superimposed. Above, in Chinese, slogan as described. Below in Chinese: 1934. Right and left 4-leaved rosettes.

**808a** *Obv:* Type 808. Different stars with curved lines. Chinese lettering deviating in style.

*Rev:* Type 808.

**808b** *Obv:* Type 808. Different star, consisting of 5 triangles interlaced.

*Rev:* Type 808. Hammer and sickle of differing design (weight 25 grams).

**808c** *Obv:* Type 808b, but interlaced stars varying in shape. Chinese legend deviating in type (25.8 gm).

*Rev:* Type 808b, but hammer diversified in design. Chinese lettering showing variations in design.

**808d** *Obv:* Type 808 with smaller stars right and left, the points of which are rounded off.

*Rev:* Type 808a, Sickle wider. No dots near rosettes. Tiny circlet on hemisphere. Handle of hammer superimposed upon the sickle (weight 26 grams).

**808e** *Obv:* Type 808d. Style of Chinese characters varying.

*Rev:* Type 808d, but sickle superimposed on hammer (weight 25.3 grams).

- 808f** *Obv:* Type 808e, but stars a little smaller, Chinese letters varying in design. Pearled circle irregular. Inner ring 23 mm in diameter (weight 26 grams).  
*Rev:* Type 808c, Hammer and sickle, as well as calligraphy, deviating.
- 808g** *Obv:* Type 808e. Renewed variation in the style of the Chinese handwriting. Stars smaller. Inner circle 19 mm in diameter.  
*Rev:* Type 808. New-design hammer. Sickle superimposed on hammer's handle (weight 26 grams).
- 808h** *Obv:* Type 808g. Chinese handwriting diversified once more. Inner ring 21 mm in diameter (weight 24.5 grams).  
*Rev:* Type 808g. Hammer and sickle deviating again. None superimposed.
- 808i** *Obv:* Type 808g. Again diversification in style of calligraphy. Inner circle 23 mm in diameter (weight 24.9 grams).  
*Rev:* Type 808f. Hammer slightly varying in shape.
- 808j** *Obv:* Type 808d. Inner circle 21 mm in diameter; weight 25.2 grams.  
*Rev:* Type 808a. Inner circle 21 mm in diameter; weight 25.2 grams.
- 808k** *Obv:* Type 808i. Inner ring 23 mm in diameter; weight 25.6 grams.  
*Rev:* Type 808g, but deviating calligraphy. Inner circle 24 mm in size.
- 808l** *Obv:* Type 808f. Pearled circle irregularly round; (weight 25.7 grams).  
*Rev:* Type 808f. Hammer, sickle and lettering varying in shape.
- 808m** *Obv:* Type 808k. Inner circle 21 mm in diameter; (weight 26.5 grams).  
*Rev:* Type 808b. but hammer and sickle deviating in form. Hemisphere's circumference not perfectly round and only 21 mm large.
- 808n** *Obv:* Type 808e. Style of Chinese legend varying. Beaded circle without distance between pearls; (weight 25.9 grams).  
*Rev:* Type 808e.
- 808o** *Obv:* Type 808d. Pearled ring without distance between beads. Inner circle 23 mm in diameter.  
*Rev:* Type 808d. Lines on hemisphere deviating; (weight 26.4 grams).
- 808p** *Obv:* Type 808e. Denomination in inner circle deviating in design.  
*Rev:* Type 808e.
- 808q** *Obv:* Type 808i. Renewed variation in the style of Chinese ideograms.  
*Rev:* Type 808i. Chinese characters and lines on globe varying in form.
- 808r** *Obv:* Type 808. Chinese calligraphy diversified again. On right and left relief outlines of a 5-pointed star (inside space hollow).  
*Rev:* Type 808. Hammer and sickle design deviating once again in shape.
- 808s** *Obv:* Type 808. Stars deviating in style. Chinese characters varying in shape and larger in size.  
*Rev:* Type 808c.

- 808t** *Obv:* Type 808q. Chinese inscriptions variegated in design.  
*Rev:* Type 808c.
- 808u** *Obv:* Type 808q.  
*Rev:* Type 808. Chinese handwriting, lines on terrestrial globe and hammer deviating in design.
- 808v** *Obv:* Type 808m. Variations in the design of Chinese inscriptions.  
*Rev:* Type 808f.
- 808w** *Obv:* Type 808g. Design of Chinese legend diversified in form.  
*Rev:* Type 808s. Hammer in different shape; sickle superimposed.

## Chinese Character Images & Translations

- |      |              |  |
|------|--------------|--|
| [1]  | 紅幣           | COMMUNIST ARMIES (title)                               |
| [2]  | 中國蘇維埃造       | Minted by the Chinese Soviets                          |
| [3]  | 壹圓           | ONE YUAN   |
| [4]  | 壹圓           | ONE YUAN   |
| [5]  | 湖南省蘇維埃政府     | Soviet Government of Hunan Province                    |
| [6]  | 一九三一年製       | Made in the year 1931                                  |
| [7]  | 壹圓           | ONE YUAN   |
| [8]  | 一九三一年製       | 1931   |
| [9]  | 壹圓           | ONE YUAN   |
| [10] | 全世界湘產階級聯合起來啊 | Rise and unite the proletariat of the world            |
| [11] | 鄂豫皖省蘇維埃政府    | Soviet Government of Hupeh, Honan and Anhwei Provinces |
| [12] | 工農銀行一九三一年造   | Made in 1932 by the Laborers and Farmers Bank          |
| [13] | 振興土貨安興造反弱爲   | Unknown slogan undetermined meaning.                   |
| [14] | 共和紀念鑄成新世界    | Unknown slogan undetermined meaning.                   |
| [15] | 貳角           | 20 Cents   |
| [16] | 中華蘇維埃共和國     | Chinese Soviet Republic                                |
| [17] | 公曆一九三二年      | Western calendar, 1932                                 |

## Chinese Character Images & Translations - continued

- [18] 每五枚當一圓 Every 5pieces equal to 1 dollar.
- [19] 囙 instead of 圓 (character variation)
- [20] 壹圓 ONE YUAN
- [21] 中華蘇維埃共和國 Chinese Soviet Republic
- [22] 全世界無產階級聯合起來 Made in the Szechuen-Shensi Provincial Mint
- [23] 全世界無產階級聯合起來 Rise and unite the proletariat of the world
- [24] 一九三四年 standing for the year 1934
- [25] 壹圓 ONE YUAN
- [26] 壹圓 ONE YUAN
- [27] 中華蘇維埃共和國 Chinese Soviet Republic
- [28] 川陝省造幣廠造 not translated by Kann; might refer to mintage in the Szechuan-Shensi Province

Images from Kann - Plate 114 & 115



808d:



808e:



808f:



808g:

Images from Kann - Plate 114 & 115 continued



808h:



808i:



808j:

Images from Kann - Plate 114 & 115 continued



808k:



808l:



808m:

Images from Kann - Plate 114 & 115 continued



808n:



808o:



808p:



Images from Kann - Plate 114 & 115 continued



808q:



808r:



808s:

Images from Kann - Plate 114 & 115 continued



808u:



808w:



Chinese Soviet Coins - Plate 117  
 Stars & Chinese Character Deviations - Obverse



808



808a



808b



808d



808f



808g



808h



808c



808r

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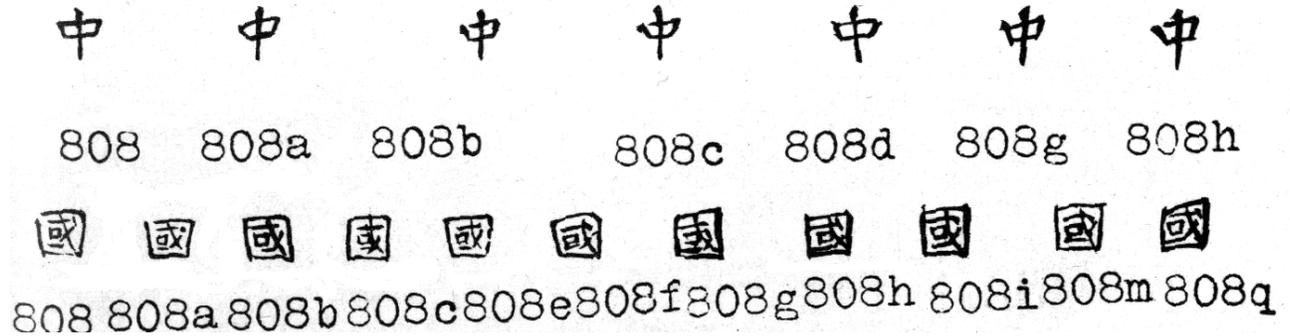
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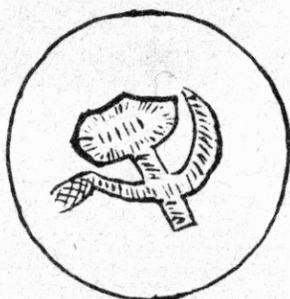
**Chinese Soviet Coins - Plate 117**  
**Stars & Chinese Character Deviations - continued**



**Chinese Soviet Coin Values around 1954**

Kann#	\$
800	* (No Value given)
801	500
802	100
802a	100
803	30
803a	30
803b	30
804	400
805	4
805a	4
805b	4
805g	4
807	2
807a	2
807e	2
807f	2
807g	2
808	12
808a	18
808b	18
808c	20
808d-q	12
808r	100
808s-v	12
808w	15

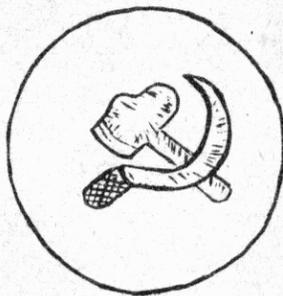
Chinese Soviet Coins - Plate 118  
 Hammer & Sickle Deviations - Reverse



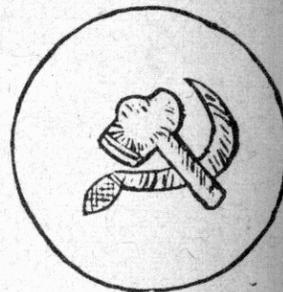
808b



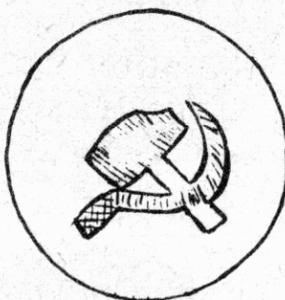
808



808e



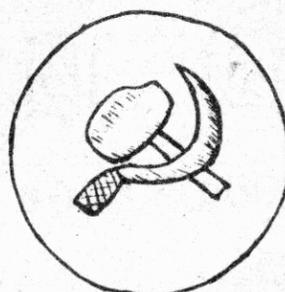
808d



808c



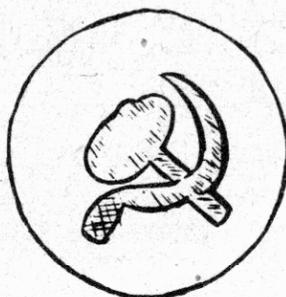
808h



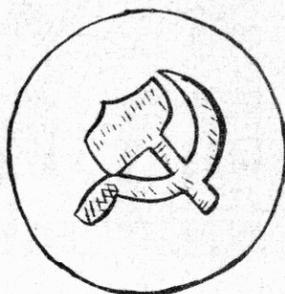
808g



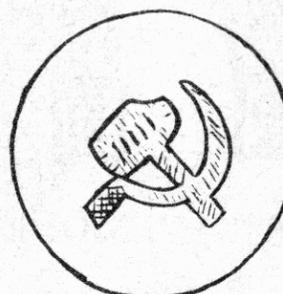
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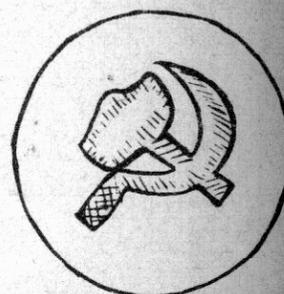
808k



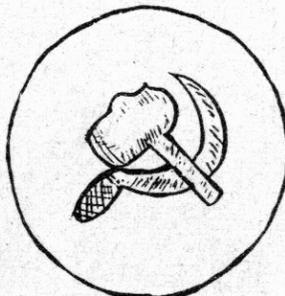
808m



808l



808q



808o



808w

Reverse of

808a = 800

808p = 808e

808t = 808c

808s = 808c

808v = 808f