

# **An Overview of China's Gold & Silver Coins of Past Ages — the Gold and Silver Coins and Medals of Modern China**

General Chief Editor: Dong Wenchao

**Compiled by:**

Editorial Department of "An Overview of China's Gold &  
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# 四、太平天國農民革命 政權造銀幣

**SILVER COINS MINTED BY THE PEASANT  
REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL POWER OF THE  
TAIPING HEAVENLY KINGDOM**

1851年1月11日，洪秀全、馮雲山等人率衆於廣西桂平縣金田村發動武裝起義，建立太平天國農民革命政權，1853年3月佔領南京并定都於此。是次農民革命運動歷時十四年、縱橫十八省，將中國歷代農民戰爭推向最高峯，全面沖擊封建制度，嚴重動搖清朝腐朽統治，迎頭痛擊外國侵略勢力，充分體現中國民衆英勇頑強之反抗精神，對中國近代歷史發展產生深遠影響。

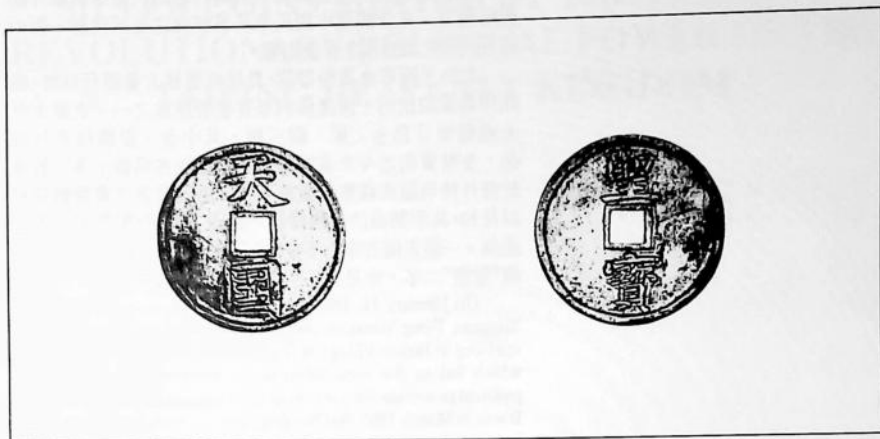
太平天國革命運動期間，農民政權曾大量鑄行貨幣，將此作為鞏固統治，維護勝利果實重要措施之一。史載太平天國鑄幣分為金、銀、銅三類，其中金、銀幣為非行用品。金幣實物迄今未有披露，銀幣存世亦為數不多，散見於海外博物館或錢幣收藏家手中。由已發表之實物圖版可以見知，其形制沿仿中國傳統外圓內方制錢，幣型可分大小兩種。一般正面方穿上下分鑄“天國”二字，背面方穿上下鑄“聖寶”二字，亦見有二字鑄於方穿左右者。

On January 11, 1851 a multitude of peasants led by Hong Xiuquan, Feng Yunshan and other personnel waged an armed uprising in Jintian Village of Guiping County, Guangxi Province, which led to the establishment of the peasant revolutionary political power under the rule of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom. It was in March 1853 that Nanjing, after being occupied by them, became the capital. It took as long as 14 years for the peasant revolutionary movement, by overrunning a wide spread of 18 provinces, to push the Chinese peasant war of all ages to a climax, in which the feudal system suffered overall assaults, the decadent rule of the Qing Dynasty was seriously shaken and the foreign invading forces were dealt head-on-blows. It fully manifests the heroic and undaunted rebellious spirit typical of the Chinese populace, thereby producing far-reaching influence on the historical development of modern China.

During the revolutionary movement period of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, a great quantity of coins were minted and issued by the peasant political power, aimed at consolidating their reign as one of the important measures to protect the fruit of their victory. According to historical data, the coins minted during the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom period were of three categories, namely the gold, silver and copper coins, of which the gold and silver coins were non-issuable. So far no gold coins have ever been revealed, while the existing silver coins amount to a small number, either scattered as exhibits in overseas museums or stored up as treasures by coin collectors. However, judged from the plates of the material objects already issued, the form and structure of the coins followed the traditional Chinese coins, round outside but square in the middle, available in two models, namely the big and the small. Generally, inscribed on the obverse were the Chinese characters "Tian Guo" meaning the "Taiping Heavenly Kingdom"; on the reverse the two characters "Sheng Bao" meaning "sacred treasure" were inscribed separately either above and underneath or on the right & left.

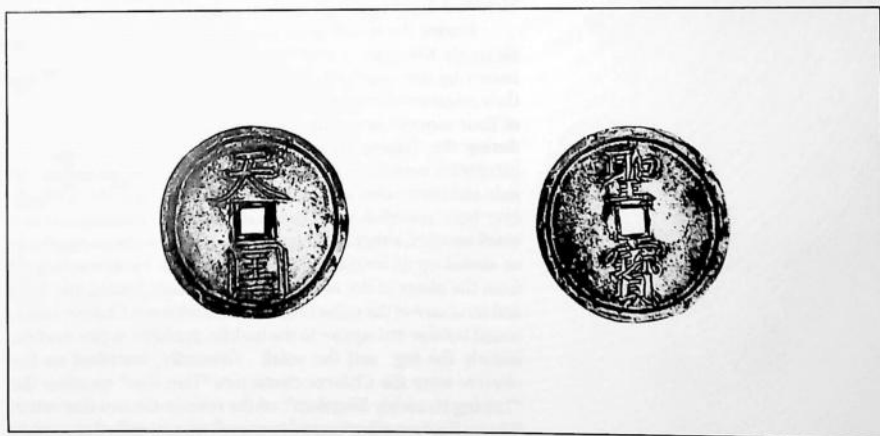
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