



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 22, 1977

**ORIENTAL COIN DISPLAY AT THE DENVER MINT**

An extraordinary collection of Oriental coins, some more than 1,000 years old, has been placed on public display at the United States Mint at Denver, Colorado, Acting Director of the Mint Frank H. MacDonald announced today.

According to Betty Higby, Superintendent of the Denver Mint, the collection of 7,320 coins, mounted by artist Kimpo Hanaya in two spectacular abstract arrangements, is on loan to the Denver Mint from the City and County of Denver.

It is a gift from Japan to the people of Denver and was presented in celebration of Colorado's Centennial and America's Bicentennial as an expression of international exchange and good will. The collection first went on public display in the Oriental Gallery of the Denver Art Museum on November 19, 1975.

The larger display of coins measures nine feet wide by seven feet tall, weighs 800 pounds, and contains 7,177 coins (each hand polished) from a variety of Far Eastern countries. The coins, of different metals, sizes, shapes, and eras of history, as well as charms and amulets, are artistically arranged in variations of a "sunburst" pattern. The entire collection is set against red velvet and surrounded by a 12-inch wide, hand-carved cherrywood frame. The smaller display, also framed in hand-carved cherrywood, is a sampling of currency used in Japan spanning approximately 1,300 years and is broadly divided into the following four eras: The Imperial Coin Era, 683 A.D. - 958 A.D.; The Coin Importing Era, 958 A.D. - 1601 A.D.; The Tokugawa Coin System Era, 1601 A.D. - 1868 A.D.; and the Modern Coin Era, 1871 A.D. to the present time.

The ancient pieces were often valued in terms of rice and years of living. As an example, according to one translation, in 729 A.D., 10 "mon" was worth 15 kilograms of rice or enough to feed a man for a month. The "Esen," or picture coins, were inscribed with traditional sayings and often used as charms and amulets.

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NEWS

The Department of the Treasury

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This unique collection of coins can be seen at the Denver Mint, 320 West Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado, during tour hours which are 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Summer tour hours, which usually are from June through Labor Day, are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The tour information number is (303) 837-3582. The visitors' entrance is on Cherokee Street between Colfax Avenue and Fourteenth Avenue.

An extraordinary collection of Oriental coins, more than 1,000 years old, has been placed on public display at the United States Mint at Denver, Colorado. Acting Director of the Mint Frank H. MacDonald announced today.

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It is a gift from Japan to the people of Denver and was presented in celebration of Colorado's Centennial and America's Bicentennial as an expression of international exchange and good will. The collection first went on public display in the Oriental Gallery of the Denver Art Museum on November 18, 1975.

The larger display of coins measures nine feet wide by seven feet tall, weighs 800 pounds, and contains 7,177 coins (each hand polished) from a variety of far Eastern countries. The coins, of different metals, sizes, shapes, and eras of history, as well as charms and amulets, are artistically arranged in variations of a "sunburst" pattern. The entire collection is set against red velvet and surrounded by a 12-inch wide, hand-carved cherrywood frame. The smaller display, also framed in hand-carved cherrywood, is a sampling of currency used in Japan spanning approximately 1,300 years and is broadly divided into the following four eras: The Imperial Coin Era, 683 A.D. - 958 A.D.; The Coin Importing Era, 958 A.D. - 1601 A.D.; The Tokugawa Coin System Era, 1601 A.D. - 1868 A.D.; and the Modern Coin Era, 1871 A.D. to the present time.

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