

Japanese Money over the Ages, in Life Size

Tensho Naga Oban gold coin
approx. 170 mm in length
second half of 16th century

Sekishu-gin silver coin
approx. 160 mm in length
16th century



Today's 1-yen aluminum coin
20 mm in diameter



Today's 100-yen cupro-nickel coin
22.6 mm in diameter



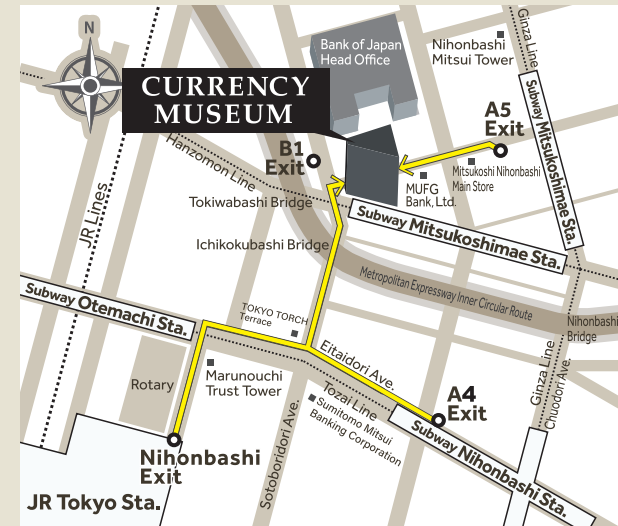
Meiwa Nanryo Nishu-gin silver coin
approx. 26 mm in length
second half of 18th century

Tempo Koban gold coin
approx. 60 mm in length
first half of 19th century

Wado-kaichin copper coin
approx. 24 mm in diameter
first half of 8th century



Museum Visit Stamp



Hours: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (no entry after 4:00 pm)

Closed: Mondays (open when Monday is a holiday),
New Year's holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 4)

Note: In addition to the above dates, the Museum may close temporarily at other times to change exhibits or for other reasons.

Admission: Free (reservations required for groups of 20 or more)
Address: 1-3-1 Nihonbashi Hongokucho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0021, Japan (inside the Bank of Japan Annex Building)

Tel.: 03-3277-3037

Access: **Subway**

- 1 min. on foot from Mitsukoshimae Station on the Hanzomon Line (Exit B1)
- 2 min. on foot from Mitsukoshimae Station on the Ginza Line (Exit A5)
- 6 min. on foot from Nihonbashi Station on the Tozai Line (Exit A4)

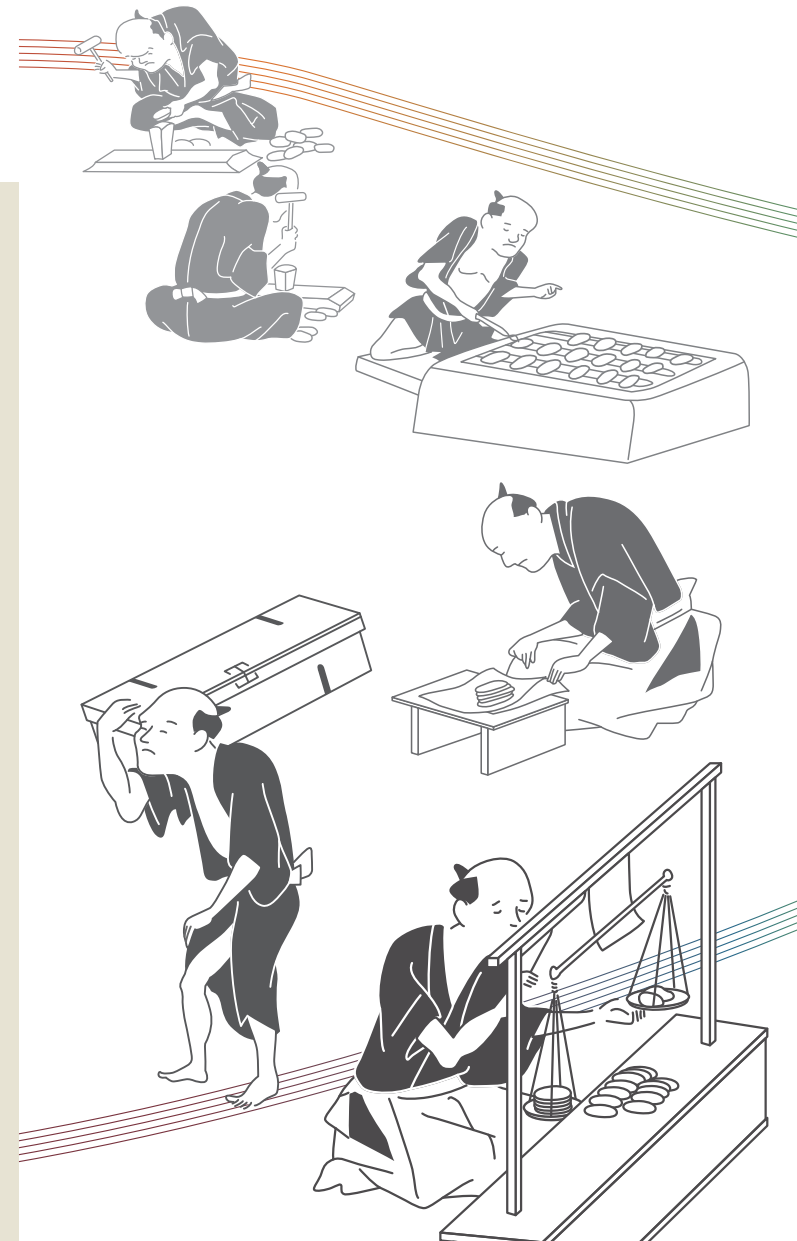
JR

- 8 min. on foot from Tokyo Station's Nihonbashi Exit

www.imes.boj.or.jp/cm/english/

Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies
Bank of Japan

CURRENCY MUSEUM



Greetings

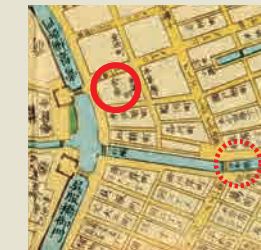
The Currency Museum of the Bank of Japan's Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies collects, preserves, and studies currency and currency-related historical and cultural materials. The Currency Museum is open to the public.

The Sempeikan Collection, the core of the Currency Museum's holdings, comprises the private collection of Keibun Tanaka (1884-1956), a numismatist of old currency. Tanaka collected not only the currencies of ancient to modern Japan but also those of other East Asian countries, mainly China, and a wide range of currency-related materials. The Sempeikan was a museum that exhibited and stored these materials. Its collection was donated to the Bank of Japan in 1944 to prevent its loss amid the destruction of World War II.

Organized as a part of the commemoration of the Bank's 100th anniversary in 1982, the Currency Museum opened in November 1985 to display these materials to the public. We hope visitors have an opportunity to think about the history and role of currency and its relation to culture and society through viewing the Museum's collection of coins, notes, related materials, and research results.

About Nihonbashi

From the Kinza to the Bank of Japan



The spot where the Bank of Japan Head Office is located today was home to the *Kinza* (gold mint) during the Edo Era (the neighborhood was called Honcho 1-chome at the time). Gold coins were minted here until the closing days of the Edo Shogunate.

The Bank of Japan opened in 1882 in a temporary office in Eitaibashi. It moved to the current location in 1896, when the Bank of Japan Head Office (now the Old Building), designed by Kingo Tatsuno, was completed. Tatsuno was a student of the architect Josiah Conder, and his other works included the Marunouchi side of Tokyo Station.

The Bank of Japan Head Office Old Building



The Museum's exhibits trace "the History of Money"

People have used various things as money from ancient through modern times.

Money has a number of properties

It can be used by anybody

It can be exchanged for various things

It can be saved to use later

Let's take a look around the Museum to see what people have chosen to use as money and how they have used it.

Key features of the Currency Museum

1. The brilliant beauty of gold ingots!
2. Large and small gold coins over the years!
3. Bank of Japan notes over the years!

01 Ancient Times

The First Coins

7th-mid-12th centuries

Japan began to issue metal coins, as it aimed to build a centralized nation-state based on the *ritsuryo* codes, patterned on China.



02 Medieval Times

Inflow of Coins from Overseas

Mid-12th-late 16th centuries

Chinese coins (*toraisen*) came into use. Coins circulated widely with the growth of the commodity economy.



03 Early Modern Times

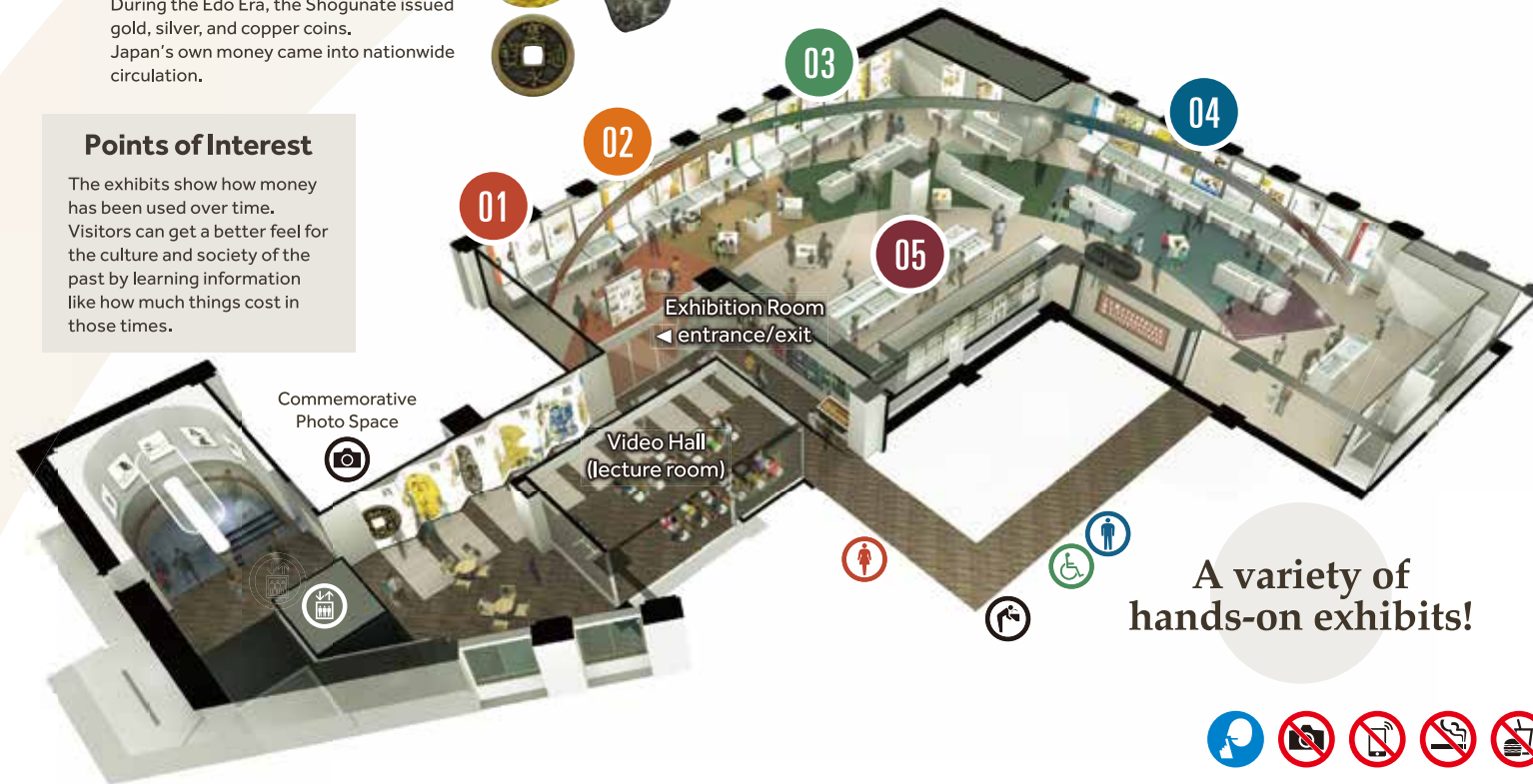
Toward a Unification of Currency

Late 16th-late 19th centuries

During the Edo Era, the Shogunate issued gold, silver, and copper coins. Japan's own money came into nationwide circulation.

Points of Interest

The exhibits show how money has been used over time. Visitors can get a better feel for the culture and society of the past by learning information like how much things cost in those times.



04 Modern Times

The Era of the Yen and the Bank of Japan
Late 19th-20th centuries

Japan developed a new currency system and adopted the yen as its single currency. Banknotes issued by the Bank of Japan started to circulate nationwide.



The *Daikoku-satsu*, the first Bank of Japan note

05 Thematic Exhibitions

(Temporary exhibition space)

These exhibits provide an introduction to the Museum's collection from various perspectives related to money, such as minting technologies, customs, practices, and foreign money.

The content of exhibits may vary during temporary exhibitions and other events.

A variety of hands-on exhibits!



Ancient Times



Fuhonsen copper coin
Late 7th century
Japan's first metal minted coin.



Medieval Times

Money pot

c. 16th century
This pot contained about 7,700 coins, including Chinese coins.

Early Modern Times



Tensho Hishi Oban gold coin

Late 16th century
The first *oban* oval gold coin, minted by the Goto goldsmith family under orders from Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

Yamada Hagaki note

c. 1600
Japan's first paper money, issued in Ise. Individual clans issued their own paper money (clan notes) throughout the Edo Era.



Gembun Koban gold coin

1736
To increase the supply of money in circulation, the weight and gold content of *koban* coins were reduced.

Modern Times



20-yen gold coin

1871
The yen replaced the units of *ryo*, *bu*, and *shu* that had been used since the Edo Era.



Government-issued paper money:

Jingu Kogo Satsu

(Empress Jingu note)
1881
This banknote adopted the landscape orientation of Western banknotes and was the first one in Japan to have a portrait printed on it.



Bank of Japan 100-yen note (reverse)

1900
The design on the reverse of this 100-yen banknote featured an illustration of the newly completed Bank of Japan Head Office.