

# Southeast Asian Numismatic Extremes

Numismatics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

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**1. What is considered the largest denomination ever officially minted and circulated in pre-colonial Southeast Asia, based on weight and intrinsic metal value?**

- A) A silver Tael coin from the Qing Dynasty in Vietnam
- B) A large gold 'Kula' coin from the Lanna Kingdom (Thailand)**
- C) A colossal bronze 'Chi' coin from the Khmer Empire (Cambodia)
- D) A heavy iron 'Keping' from the Sultanate of Malacca

**2. Which Southeast Asian country holds the record for the longest continuous use of a single, virtually unchanged coin design throughout centuries of dynastic rule?**

- A) Joseon Dynasty Korea**
- B) Sukhothai Kingdom of Thailand
- C) Champa Kingdom of Vietnam
- D) Majapahit Empire of Indonesia

**3. The 'Sea Turtle' coinage of which pre-modern Southeast Asian polity is the earliest example of a government officially issuing currency shaped like a specific animal?**

- A) Kingdom of Pagan (Myanmar)
- B) Kingdom of Ayutthaya (Thailand)
- C) Sultanate of Brunei
- D) Kingdom of Singhasari (Indonesia)**

**4. Which Southeast Asian nation produced what is widely believed to be the smallest officially minted coin by diameter for everyday circulation in its history?**

- A) Singapore
- B) Philippines
- C) Malaysia**
- D) Indonesia

**5. The 'Sari' coinage of the Pagan Kingdom (modern-day Myanmar) featured what unusual metallic composition for its time, setting it apart from many contemporary regional currencies?**

- A) Pure electrum (gold-silver alloy)
- B) A lead-tin alloy**
- C) A very high percentage of nickel
- D) Primarily traded cowrie shells treated with metal

**6. What Southeast Asian kingdom is credited with issuing the earliest known examples of a currency featuring complex pictorial representations of mythological creatures rather than just abstract symbols or rulers' portraits?**

**A) Khmer Empire (Cambodia)**

- B) Srivijaya Empire (Indonesia/Malaysia)
- C) Lanna Kingdom (Thailand)
- D) Champa Kingdom (Vietnam)

**7. The 'Piso Fuerte' (Strong Peso) of the First Philippine Republic was an attempt to create a currency with an extremely high intrinsic value for its era. What was its primary metal composition?**

**A) Pure silver**

- B) A gold alloy
- C) Nickel-bronze
- D) Copper with a silver plating

**8. Which Southeast Asian nation, during its colonial period, produced the highest denomination banknote that was also the largest in physical dimensions ever issued by a national bank in the region?**

A) Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)

**B) French Indochina**

- C) British Malaya
- D) Kingdom of Siam (Thailand)

**9. The 'Kinnaree' coin, associated with the ancient Kingdom of Sukhothai (Thailand), is notable for its exceptionally intricate and detailed depiction of a mythical creature. This level of artistic detail was rare for coins of its period in the region.**

**A) True**

- B) False
- C) Partially true, but other kingdoms had comparable detail
- D) The depiction was standard for the time

**10. What is the rarest known specimen of a non-commemorative, officially issued banknote from post-WWII Vietnam, making it a superlative for collectors?**

**A) A 100 Dong note from 1955 (South Vietnam)**

- B) A 500 Dong note from 1975 (North Vietnam)
- C) A 10 Dong note from 1958 (South Vietnam)
- D) A 1000 Dong note from 1978 (Unified Vietnam)

**11. The use of cowrie shells as currency was widespread in Southeast Asia. Which Sultanate is known to have issued the largest and heaviest standardized cowrie shell currency units?**

- A) Sultanate of Sulu (Philippines)
- B) Sultanate of Aceh (Indonesia)
- C) Sultanate of Brunei
- D) Sultanate of Maguindanao (Philippines)**

**12. Which Southeast Asian nation holds the record for issuing the banknote with the most complex and layered anti-counterfeiting features for its time, upon its introduction in the early 21st century?**

- A) Singapore**
- B) Malaysia
- C) Thailand
- D) Philippines

**13. The 'Elephant Tical' of Siam (Thailand) is renowned for its artistic quality. Which metal was most commonly used for these coins, representing a significant economic output for the kingdom?**

- A) Gold
- B) Silver**
- C) Bronze
- D) Tin

**14. What is considered the oldest surviving example of a distinctly Southeast Asian metallic currency that predates the widespread adoption of coinage shaped like animals or abstract forms?**

- A) The bar or ring money of the Dong Son culture**
- B) The spade or knife money of the Warring States period (influencing Northern Vietnam)
- C) The early inscribed bronze tokens of the Khmer Kingdom
- D) The rudimentary copper tokens of the Srivijaya Empire

**15. The 'Dragon Dollar' of the Straits Settlements is highly sought after. Which mint produced the largest quantity of these coins during their issuance period?**

- A) The Royal Mint, London**
- B) The Calcutta Mint, India
- C) The Birmingham Mint, England
- D) The Royal Canadian Mint