

OCEAN COUNTY COIN CLUB, INC.

JUNIOR NUMISMATIC NEWSLETTER (JNN) # 9

This JNN will take you back in time to find out what unusual types of money was used before printed money and minted coins became the standard. We all seem to know what money is but do we really know what was used as money in other times.

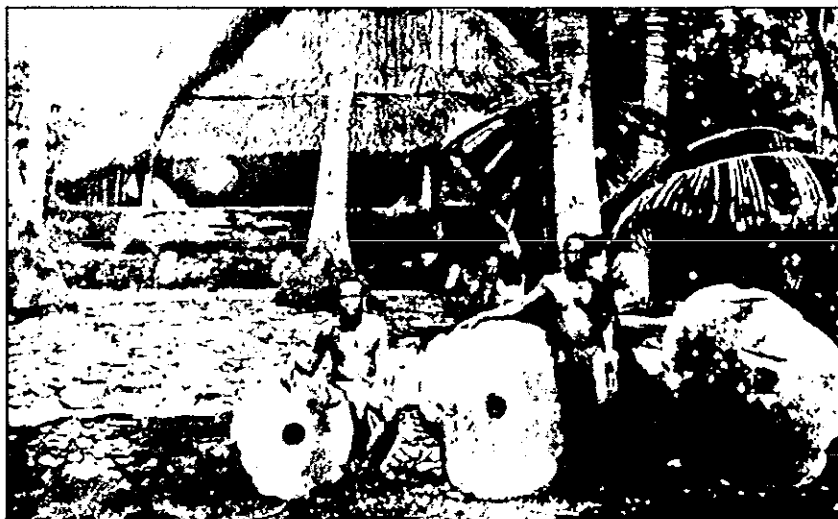
It's difficult to imagine a world without money. Every country has its own--and the history of money, as we know it, reaches back to before classical times. But what exactly is money?

It can be many different things. For most people, it's coins, currency, credit cards and checks. But for some cultures, it can be beads, stones, feathers, shells and other objects that collectors call "primitive," or "odd and curious" money. Let's look at two of the more exotic pieces of money.

The "Yap stone," from the tiny Micronesian island of Yap, is the largest and heaviest form of money ever used. The largest Yap stones measure up to 12 feet in diameter and weigh several thousand pounds. You didn't need to put them in a bank for safekeeping. The larger stones were lined up, like a fence, in front of homes, clear evidence of a family's wealth, like parking a Cadillac in your driveway. The stones--or-money--were quarried on a neighboring island 250 miles away, and brought by a outrigger to Yap. The stones were used to purchase food, as payment for canoes and fishing rights, or to arrange marriages.

Another odd piece of money was Sweden's "plate money" - which was rectangular, rather than round. These copper coins were issued for more than 130 years, starting in 1644. Nearly 50 million of these pieces of place money circulated throughout Europe. Copper was used because of a worldwide shortage of silver. The largest plates weighed about 44 pounds and measured nearly 13 by 26 inches. Try fitting that into your pocket or purse!

With coins so large, is it any wonder Sweden was the first European nation to issue paper money?



The largest Yap stones are up to 12 feet in diameter and weigh several thousand pounds. They were used for purchasing food, as payment for canoes or to arrange marriages.

HERE IS YOUR QUIZ FOR FREE COINS - Match the answer in Column "B" to the statement in Column "A" -

ANSWER

COLUMN A

COLUMN B

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------|
| ---- | (1) The shape of plate money was | (A) Primitive |
| ---- | (2) Yap stones measured up to how many feet in diameter? | (B) Copper |
| ---- | (3) The largest & heaviest form of money ever used was called | (C) Sweden |
| ---- | (4) The largest plate money weighed about how many pounds | (D) 1644 |
| ---- | (5) The 1st European country to issue paper money was | (E) 12 |
| ---- | (6) In some cultures, collectors may call coins or currency as | (F) rectangular |
| ---- | (7) Plate money was made of | (G) Sweden |
| ---- | (8) Plate money was from the country of | (H) 44 |
| ---- | (9) Plate money was issued beginning of year | (I) Yap money |

_____ True or False: Beads, stones, feathers, shells was also used as money.

FOR A BONUS COIN: Give an example of someone using primitive money to obtain something else. _____

(date)

(name - please print)

(age)