

On Chinese Currency: Coin and Paper Money (Classic Reprint)

Willem Vissering

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On Chinese Currency: Coin and Paper Money (Classic Reprint) Willem Vissering Excerpt from On Chinese Currency: Coin and Paper Money

It is now two years since the first thought occurred to me to write a historical and critical inquiry into the metallic and paper currency of the Chinese, followed from original sources.

The source chiefly drawn upon and consulted by me has been "the Examination on Currency')" by the Chinese scholar Ma-two.n-lin J), treated of in the VIII and IX Volumes of his great Encyclopedia.

Ma-twan-lin 8 life and works have been described by abel, remusat in the "Biographie Universelle." He was born in Po-yangs), province of Kiang-si, probably about the year 1245, when the end of the dynasty was near, and the social condition of China was most miserable in consequence of an over-issue of paper money. Under the last emperor of this dynasty he held an important public office, but when the Mongols had conquered the Chinese empire, he resigned his post aud devoted himself entirely to scientific studies. During twenty years ho was engaged upon the composition of his great work from which the materials of this volume have been gathered.

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