

Preliminary exploration of gold and silver money unearthed from the tomb of Ming Dynasty princes

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ABSTRACT

Through the review of the research and the development of gold and silver money, as well as the combing of the gold and silver money unearthed from the tombs of the prince, the author focuses on the Ming Dynasty, and talks about a little understanding of the gold and silver money buried in the Ming Dynasty.

KEYWORDS

Ming Dynasty prince tomb; gold and silver ghost money inscription

1 Gold and silver ghost money and its related research

Ghost money refers to the coins buried in the tomb, for the tomb owner to continue to use and own in the underworld. The broad ghost money includes not only the actual circulation of coins but also the money and paper money made after the actual money. The history of ghost money in China can be traced back to the burial custom of seashells unearthed in the tombs of Erlitou period. And the history of making ghost money is no later than the Shang and Zhou dynasties.

The study of ghost money has always been a concern of the archaeological and coin circles. For example, Yang Haichens "Warring States, Qin and Han Dynasties" discusses the use of lead and mud gold cakes in the burial custom. Lu Xixings Mud Money since the Han and Wei Dynasties discusses the types and cultures of mud money buried in tombs during the Wei and Jin dynasties. In the study of metal money, Jiang Ruos Brief of Qin and Han Metal Money in Shaanxi and Luoyang intended to explore the burial customs and forms of metal money in the Qin and Han dynasties. For the study of the ghost money in the Ming Dynasty, Zhang Jianhuas "Ming Zhu Tan Tomb in Zoucheng City, Shandong Province" is intended to explore the relationship between the shape of the ghost money and the amount of ghost money and the age of the tomb owner. Liu Xiaoyans Preliminary Exploration of gold coins unearthed from the Tomb of King Ming Dynasty in Jiangxi Province combs the shape and meaning of ghost money in the tomb of Ming Dynasty princes in Jiangxi province. Wu Juns Study on tombs of Mu Family in Ming Dynasty involves the comparison between gold and silver ghost money unearthed from Mu family and ghost money unearthed from other noble tombs.¹

Gold and silver money will also be unearthed in high-grade tombs. Gold and silver money not only includes gold and silver buried in the tomb, but also makes coins made of gold and silver for burial. Many tombs of the Warring States Period have unearthed "Ying Yuan" plate type of gold coins. In the Han Dynasty, due to the development of social economy, a large number of gold coins

¹ Yang Haichen, Mud Money since the Han and Wei Dynasty, Jiangsu Coin, no. 11, 2009.

appeared, such as gold cake, Lin gold, horseshoe gold and so on. Gold cakes, Lin gold and horseshoe gold were unearthed from the tomb of Marquis Haihun of the Western Han Dynasty in 2015. 478 coins. In addition, 2 large gold cakes and 40 small gold cakes were unearthed in the tomb of King Huai of Zhongshan in the Han Dynasty, and 40 mud gold cakes were unearthed in the tomb of Liu Sheng, King Jing of Zhongshan. It can be seen that the king of the princes also liked to be buried with gold coins. During the period of Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty, the supply of gold exceeded the supply. Once, silver tin was platinum, and silver began to appear as the material for coin.

From the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty to the Wei and Jin dynasties, with the decrease of gold coins and the rise of "thin burial", less and less gold and silver coins were buried in tombs. During the Northern and Southern Dynasties, influenced by the exchange of Chinese and Western civilizations, gold coins and Persian Sassanid silver coins were unearthed in many of the high-level noble tombs. This burial custom was always used until the Sui and Tang Dynasties. For example, two gold coins from the Eastern Roman period were unearthed in the tomb of Princess Ru in the Eastern Wei Dynasty in Handan, and one Eastern Roman gold coin was also unearthed in the Sui Tomb in Xianyang. Mr. Xia Nai once said that the eastern Roman gold coins and Sasanian silver coins could be circulated in the Hexi area. It can be seen that the burial of foreign gold and silver coins as ghost money may be related to the burial customs of the Sogdian people and other Central Asian peoples. Later, in the Tang Dynasty, gold and silver money buried with them was not much, such as two silver coins unearthed in the Xingyuan Tang Tomb in Yanshi, Henan Province, etc. The reason may be that private gold and silver coins were not allowed to be cast in the Tang Dynasty. The gold and silver currency made of gold and silver was mainly made by the central government for the emperor to reward the clan and ministers.²

In the Song and Yuan dynasties, due to the prosperity of commerce and the common use of gold and silver, it was not uncommon to bury gold and silver coins in tombs. For example, 121 pieces of gold and silver were unearthed in the tomb of the Southern Song Dynasty in Pingwu, Sichuan. This kind of money is not actually circulated, but made of very thin pieces of gold and silver. Belongs to the advanced bright device. Forty-eight pieces of gold and silver were also unearthed from the tomb of Zhang Shicheng's mother in the Yuan Dynasty in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. It can be seen that gold and silver money were used widely. In the Ming Dynasty, gold and silver money increased greatly, from the emperor to the rich businessmen may be buried with him. This paper mainly studies the gold and silver unearthed in the tombs of Ming dynasty princes, gold and silver and other imperial family tombs. Comparison and analysis.³

2 A physical analysis of the gold and silver money in the tomb of the Ming Dynasty prince has been unearthed

2.1 Gold and silver money from the tombs of Ming Dynasty princes have been unearthed

The tombs of princes in the Ming Dynasty are a very important part of the tombs of the Ming dynasty. The large number of tombs are the typical representative of the high grade tombs of the Ming Dynasty in each area, and they are of great research value. At present, the tombs of the Ming

2 Xia Nai, Eastern Roman Gold Coins unearthed from the Sui Tomb of Zhangwan in Taiwan, Xianyang, Journal of Archaeology, No.3, 1959.

3 Wu Jun, Research on Mu Family Tombs in Ming Dynasty, Nanjing University, 2012. Page 38

Dynasty have been excavated, such as the tomb of Zhu Tan of Lu in the 22nd year of Hongwu, the tomb of Zhu Dong of King Ying Jing in the 12th year of Yongle, the tomb of Zhu Zhan in the 6th year of orthodoxy, the tomb of Zhu Quan of King Zhuang of Ning in the 14th year of orthodoxy, the tomb of Zhu Houye of Yizhuang in the 35th year of Jiajing, and the tomb of Zhu Youmu, King of Yiting in the seventh year of Chongzhen, etc. The princes tombs should be buried with gold and silver, but due to theft and other reasons, many princes tombs are no longer their original appearance. therefore. This article will be the well preserved prince tomb buried gold and silver money listed as follows.

19 "Hongwu Tongbao" coins were unearthed from the tomb of King Lu Huang. It was unearthed on the bed of the King of Lu. Under the mattress is a layer of cocos board, board carved on the big dipper round hole. Money is cut out of gold slices. There are perforations on the four sides. The front shade engraved text and edge line, the back plain surface. The text is double Yin line regular script character. Each piece is about 3 cm in diameter and weighs about 8 grams.⁴

33 gold coins were unearthed from the tomb of King Liangzhuang. Round money, diamond hole, the front of the edge, the edge of a week of single circular string pattern, the back for the plain surface. Is 6.3 cm in diameter, 0.1 cm thick, and weighs about 33-36 grams. 37 silver coins, 5 of which, "generation of prosperity" silver money buried in the coffin bed of Princess Liangzhuang. The front shade engraved text and edge line, the back plain surface. The text is double Yin line regular script character. It is 7.7 cm in diameter, 0.1 cm thick, and weighs about 13.5 grams. In addition, two fifty-two gold ingots were buried together. An ingot face engraved with "Yongle 17 years April western and other places to buy eight gold ingot fifty-two weight", a engraved "with the driving silver for the sale of eight gold fifty-two weight". It is about 14 cm long, about 10 cm wide at both ends, 4.6 and 5.3 cm wide in the middle, and weighs about 1874 and 1937 grams. Fifty-two silver ingots a, the upper right corner of the ingot face cast with the inscription "flower silver fifty-two weight", weighing about 1861 grams. One of twenty-two silver ingots, with no inscription, weighs about 748 grams. Are unearthed from the coffin bed.⁵

Thirteen pieces of money were unearthed from the tomb of King Zhu Quan, one smaller and the rest the same. The smaller one was contained in the mouth of King Ning Xian, and the remaining 12 were spread in two rows in the cloth. Are for the plain surface square hole round money.⁶

A total of 21 gold coins and 7 silver coins were unearthed from the tomb of Zhu Houye, the king of Yizhuang. Zhu Houyes coffin unearthed seven square holes, 4.7 centimeters in diameter and weighing about 26 grams. On the front, there are five figures of the I Ching and five sides on the back. The seven gold coins are arranged in the shape of the Big Dipper on the bottom plate of the coffin. Seven pieces of money, weighing about 25.9 grams, were also unearthed from her coffin. The shape and the unearthed situation are all like Zhu Houyes coffin, but the hexagrams are different. Jin Jin was unearthed in the coffin of the imperial concubine Wan. 7 silver coins each, shape. The unearthed situation is consistent with the other two coffins, only a gold coin pad under a silver coin. And the decoration is no longer the hexagrams, but the text, wu, yi, lian, lian, broken, greed, lu and different characters.

Seven pieces of money and six pieces of silver money were unearthed from the tomb of Zhu Yi, King of Yixuan. Fang Kong round money.

4 See Zhang Jianhua: Ming And Zhu Tan Tomb unearthed in Zoucheng City, Shandong Province, Chinese Coin, no. 11, 2003.

5 For details, see Liang Zhu: Brief on Excavation of the Tomb of King Liangzhuang in Ming Dynasty, Hubei Province, Cultural Relics, No.5, 2003.

6 See Liu Xiaoyan: Preliminary Exploration of gold coins unearthed from the Tomb of King Ming Dynasty in Jiangxi Province, Southern Cultural Relics, No.3, 1992.

Money is 4.6 cm in diameter and each weighs 22.5 grams. On the front of the money is a diagram of a small gold wire and a plain surface on the back. Silver money shape is made with money, only the front cast "ding", gold and silver money in the tomb owner under the cross plate of the big Dipper shaped round hole.

Eight pieces of money were unearthed from the tomb of Yiting King Zhu Youmu. A money unearthed in Zhu Yous wooden coffin, for a square hole, a diameter of 5.3 centimeters, weighing 7 grams, the front engraved with "golden light lead". Seven gold coins were unearthed in the coffin of the second concubine Wang, with a square hole with a diameter of 4.2 centimeters and weighing about 2.5 grams. The four are engraved with the front "path on the west sky", and the three are engraved with "golden light".

In addition, the tomb of King Ying Jing also unearthed gold and silver money, but so far has not yet issued a briefing, the specific situation is unknown. The tomb of King Jian of Liao has been stolen, and silver coins were unearthed during archaeological clearance.

2.2 Analysis of the quantity and specifications of gold and silver ghost money

According to the data obtained from the archaeological excavation of the above, 19 and 13 pieces of money were unearthed from the tomb of King Lu and the tomb of King NingXian respectively. The tomb of King Liangzhuang is the joint tomb of king and princess.

A total of 33 pieces of money and 37 silver money were unearthed. It can be seen that in the early Ming Dynasty, more than a dozen pieces of money were generally buried in the tombs of princes. In the late Ming Dynasty, the tomb of King Yizhuang, the tomb of King Yixuan and the tomb of King Yiting were mostly 7, the number of money decreased, on the one hand, it may be related to the financial resources of the royal family, on the other hand, it may also be related to the change of burial customs.

In terms of specifications, the money in the liang zhuang king tomb diameter 6.3 cm, weighs about 33-35 grams, and yi zhuang king tomb unearthed money a diameter of 4.7 cm, weighing about 26 grams, later yi xuan king tomb unearthed money 4.6 cm diameter, weighs about 22 grams, the latest yi ding king tomb unearthed money 5.3 centimeters in diameter, weight is only 7 grams, second princess unearthed money only 2.5 grams. In terms of specifications, however, they are made of thin gold and silver pieces, rather than practical utensils, but belong to the autocratic burial custom. However, compared with the early period, the money of the late Ming Dynasty was less. Take the tomb of the Wang family as an example, may be due to the further reproduction of the royal descendants, increased expenses, had to be reduced in the burial goods.

2.3 Gold and silver ghost money inscription analysis

From these unearthed gold and silver ghost money inscriptions, they can be divided into four kinds. The first is the ghost money decorated with plain noodles, represented by the tomb of King Liang Zhuang and King Ning Xian. The second is the ghost money, represented by the tomb of King Lu. The third is the auspicious language, to the coffin of Princess Liang Zhuang. The tomb of King Yiting is a representative. The fourth is the ghost money based on the hexagrams of the Book of Changes, with the tomb of King Yizhuang. The tomb of King Yixuan is a representative.

If seen, 117 money and 192 gold and silver money were unearthed in Dingling, and the front is engraved with the words "good luck" and "eliminate disasters and prolong life". East ou king soup and tomb also unearthed "long life wealth" "Ming Dao Tongbao" gold and silver money. Nanjing Mu family tomb also unearthed "the world" "life see Buddha" gold money. The tomb of Qiu Cheng of the state of Anhui also unearthed "gold and jade full hall", "descendants wealth", "Ming road tong

treasure", "billions of descendants", "long gold wealth" six kinds of gold money.wait a minute⁷

It can be seen that the year number of money is relatively rare, usually the year number of the emperor of the Ming Dynasty, there are also indicated specific time, such as the tomb of Zhao Bingran in the Wanli period unearthed "Wanli five years", "Ding Chou Tongbao" gold ghost money and so on."Ming Dao Tongbao" should not belong to the period money. Although Renzong of the Northern Song Dynasty had the Ming Dynasty ingot money, there was no copper money of Ming Dao Tongbao, and "Ming Dao Tongbao" appeared from the tomb of Zhang Shicheng's mother to the tomb of Duke Xu of Wei in the twelfth year of Zhengde, concentrated in the late Yuan and early Ming dynasties. It may mean something else. The ghost money of plain face decoration may be the money blank without carving the text, and the burial is in a hurry, so there is no time to carve the text or decoration on it. And ghost money is the most common. Through this money, we can see the expectation of family prosperity at that time. This kind of auspicious language money has some obvious Buddhist terms, such as "golden light leads" and "see Buddha in the world". It can be seen that in the Ming Dynasty, Buddhism and burial customs are closely related.

Finally, the rarely seen money based on the images of the Book of Changes. This kind of ghost money appeared more often in the Jiajing period. The Jiajing period was one of the most prosperous periods of Taoism in the Ming Dynasty. Both the emperor and the people advocated Taoism. Therefore, the two yi Kings buried in the Jiajing period may have been influenced by the social atmosphere at that time, so the hexagrams appeared in the golden money.

2.4 the location of gold and silver money

From the position of the placement, gold and silver money are generally buried in the coffin of the tomb owner, especially placed in the body of the tomb owner under the mattress, some money has holes on the four sides, indicating that the silk wire will sew the money on the mattress. There are such as the tomb of the yi Wang family money in the shape of the Big Dipper on the plate. The practice of placing gold and silver money under the tomb owner was not only started in the Ming Dynasty. In 2016, when cleaning the coffin of the tomb of Marquis Haihunhou in the Western Han Dynasty, it was also found that there were five rows of 20 golden cakes arranged under the body of the tomb owner Liu He.

In addition, it is also possible to bury the money in the filling of the tomb owners coffin bed. This may be more meaningful about allowing the dead to rest in peace. Except for this ghost money made of thinner gold and silver tablets. For example, the tomb of King Liang Zhuang was also buried with gold and silver ingots, which should be given from the emperor. Such objects are rarely found in other princes tombs. Only gold and silver ingots unearthed in Dingling. On the one hand, this is the manifestation of the identity and financial resources of the tomb owner, on the other hand, it may be that King Liang Zhuang and his wife have no children, no one inherited the reward, only to be buried with the tomb.

In a word, the burial custom of gold and silver unearthed in the tombs of princes in the Ming Dynasty is not only the practice of the previous generation, but also the general example of the burial custom of high-level noble tombs in the Ming Dynasty. From the perspective of The Times, generally speaking, the tombs of the same grade in the early Ming Dynasty were large in number and the specification, and smaller in the late Ming Dynasty. At the same period, it cannot be generalized. It must be noted that the wealth of the prince and the presence of heirs are also important factors.

⁷ Wu Jun, Research on Mu Family Tombs in Ming Dynasty, Nanjing University, 2012. Page 38.

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