

# Modern Japanese Type Set

## ALBUM SUPPLEMENT

### Prepared by Olympic Coin Gallery

This album can accommodate eighty-one (81) coins, all of which are essential for a modern Japanese coin type set. When completed it will hold (with the exception of gold coinage) every type of coin struck and issued by Japan since 1870. Generally, "type" refers to a coin of a distinct design, weight, size, composition, or denomination.

The coins that constitute this type set can be considered "modern" for two reasons. First, they represent all the machine-struck coinage Japan has ever issued. Secondly, they include all the coins issued since the modernization of Japan, which occurred after the Meiji Restoration following the "opening" of the country to the West.

Prior to this modernization, Japan's coins had been square, oval, or rectangular in shape, classifying them today in the so-called "odd and curious" money category. Their size, weight, and fineness were not uniform and thus often caused monetary chaos. In general, the coins were impractical and more critically, unsuitable for use in foreign trade, a matter of ever-increasing importance in the mid-nineteenth century.

Accordingly, one of Japan's first actions after the Meiji Restoration was to scrutinize the coinage systems of Western nations adopting a similar one. She built a mint in Osaka and imported modern coining machinery, the first of which came from the Royal Mint in Hong Kong. This marked the birth of Japan's modern coinage. Coins for the first time were round in shape, (in fact, the name chosen for the new currency, yen, means "round" or "circle") decimally denominated, and uniform in weight and fineness. Since then, coins have been struck in numerous designs and metals, and this modern coinage of over a century now, mirrors quite accurately the history of Japan for this period.

Note that the coinage designs reflect her ideals and culture. Often they reveal too, the changing mood of the country. For instance, the earlier coinage of the Meiji era tended to use mythological and legendary symbols, indicative of a country whose emperor had been restored to sovereign status, and suggests too a nation with a long history. During the 1920's one can notice that the English legends which had appeared on nearly all previous issues, vanished from the coins. This likely reflected the mood of the period when international relations were faltering, and signaled perhaps the turbulent years ahead. In the 1930's and throughout the subsequent war years there was an increasing use of more nationalistic devices in the designs. After the cessation of the hostilities more peaceful symbols, such as doves, flowers, and rice stalks begin to adorn the nation's coinage.

Truly, the study of coin designs can be an enlightening and interesting part of coin collecting. Through this means a deep understanding of history, art, and culture can be acquired. Such rewarding experiences await you in the course of forming this collection.

Through assembling this type set one can also observe the economic factors which caused the coinage to be frequently altered in order to provide the currency needs of a growing industrial nation. Note that silver at one time made up most of the coinage in circulation. But, then the semi-precious metal became precious. Silver coins were issued in smaller and smaller sizes, their fineness being reduced again and again. They were then discontinued only to be reinstated, and finally faded away once more. (Perhaps, never to return?) Witness too, that at one point coinage compositions were changed frequently, once three times in a single year! This is evidence of the severe metal-shortage caused by the precarious times. Coins in aluminum came to serve as the circulating medium, were reduced in weight at least twice, then finally replaced by tin-zinc alloyed issues. Only the end of World War II saved the country from resorting to issuing porcelain coinage.

In recent years Japan has issued several commemorative coins. Since the Meiji Restoration of over a century ago the nation has grown to become one of the world's major industrial and economic giants. Twice in the span of less than ten years she has hosted two

More—

Olympic Games. The three coins issued to commemorate them will serve as permanent reminders of this fact. Just as they serve as important markers, so too will all the other coins in this album provide an insight into the history of Japan.

In the course of forming this collection, it is likely that you will become knowledgeable in the historical aspects of the country that this type set represents. It is one of the joys which numismatics has to offer. If you take such an interest, it will be much more fun than merely "filling in the holes" in the album.

### Information on use of the type set album

This supplement for the type set album is provided for your convenience. Primarily, it can be used as a checklist, easily carried to coin conventions, allowing you to keep your collection safely stored at home or in a safe-deposit box at the bank. On it you can record useful information for each coin in your collection. These details can include purchase price, condition, date, and other data as you wish. Also, since this album was designed for use in Japan, and thus in Japanese, the supplement can serve as a helpful guide to familiarize you with each coin and where they fit into the album.

The supplement is laid out to conform with the pages in the type set album itself, and pictures each coin in the proper position. Above each illustration is the coins denomination. Below it is the "Y" number assigned to that particular coin. (Note: Yeoman "Y" numbers are from *Modern World Coins* and *Current Coins of the World*, by R.S. Yeoman, and published by Whitman. These numbers are used since they have become the universally accepted system to identify all modern world coin types.

On the actual pages of the album itself, above each opening provided for the coins is listed the regnal years each particular coin was issued. Below the opening are the corresponding Gregorian calendar years. The album is laid out in a logical order, broken into the three regnal eras of Meiji, Taisho, and Showa, with the coins in chronological sequence.

**Special Note on the Care of Your Coins:** When inserting a coin in its opening, it is suggested you take care not to let your fingers come in contact with any surface of the coin except its edge. Gently press the coin into its slot, using a soft cloth or other suitable material. This album is safe to display or store your coins in for limited periods of time. When storing your coins for longer periods, say for more than two years, it is advisable that they be placed in individual holders. If they are stored for longer periods in the album, probably no real damage would come to the coins. However, due to the sulphur content of many paper products or other substances used in the manufacture of such albums, your coins could become toned or otherwise darkened. We have known collectors to house their collections in such albums for fifteen years or more and no harm whatsoever was done to the coins. However, to be on the safe side, especially if you are going to put your set in a safe-deposit box and leave it there for a long period, it may be better to put the coins in individual holders, specially manufactured with inert qualities.



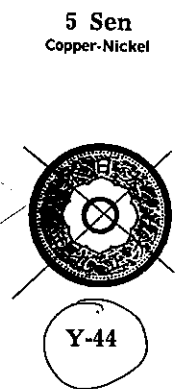
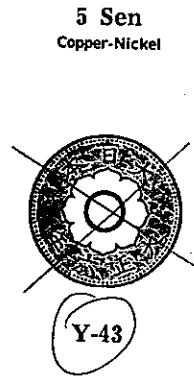
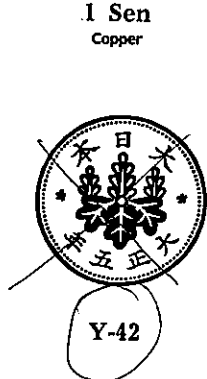
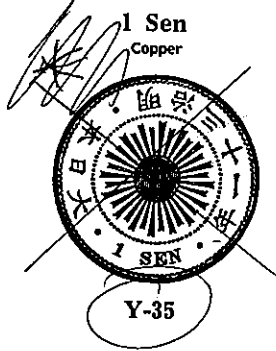
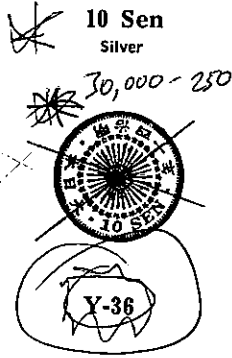
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Hoki Building

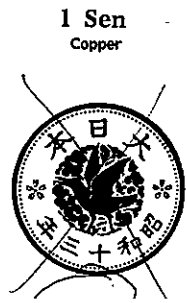
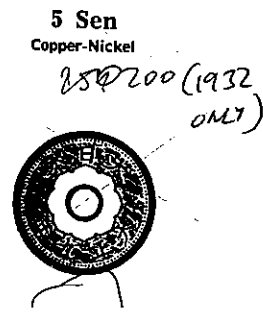
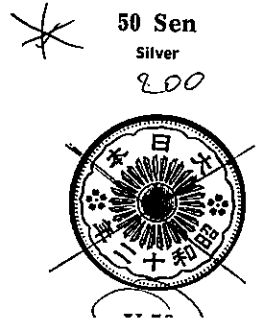
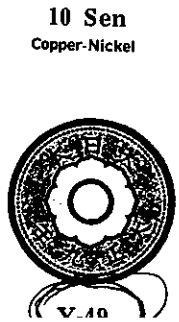
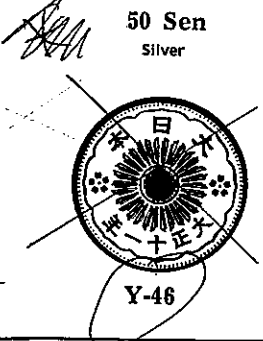
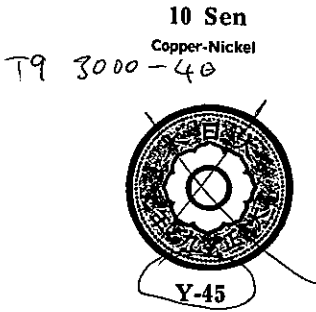
31-8 Taito 4 Chome

Taito-ku Tokyo, Japan 110

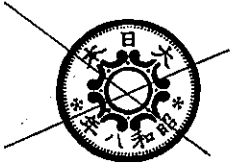
TAISHO ERA 1912-1926



SHOWA ERA 1926-

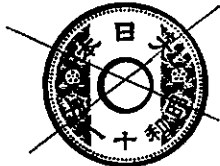


5 Sen  
Nickel



Y-53

10 Sen  
Nickel



Y-54

1 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Type A)

500



Y-56

1 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Type B)



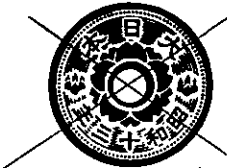
Y-56

5 Sen  
Aluminum-Bronze



Y-57

10 Sen  
Aluminum-Bronze



Y-58

5 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Thick)



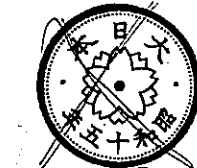
Y-60

5 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Thin)



Y-60a

10 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Thick)



Y-61

10 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Thin)



Y-61a

1 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Thick)



Y-59

1 Sen  
Aluminum  
(Thin)



Y-59a

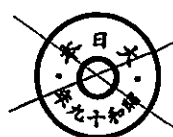
1 Sen  
Tin

30



Y-62

5 Sen  
Tin



Y-63

10 Sen  
Tin

30



Y-64

5 Sen  
Tin



10 Sen  
Aluminum



50 Sen  
Brass

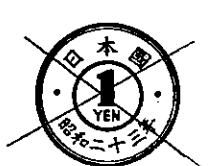
500-80 (1946)



50 Sen  
Brass



1 Yen  
Brass

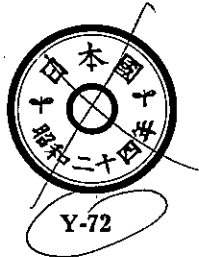


CURRENT COINS

5 Yen  
Brass



5 Yen  
Brass



10 Yen  
Bronze



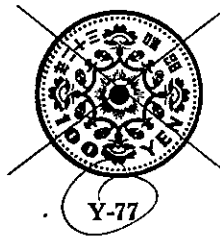
1 Yen  
Aluminum



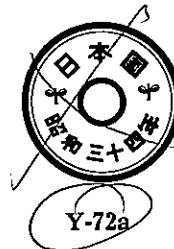
50 Yen  
Nickel



100 Yen  
Silver



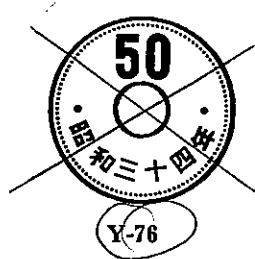
5 Yen  
Brass



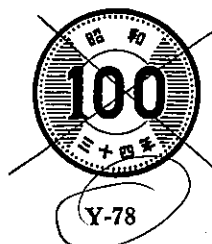
10 Yen  
Bronze



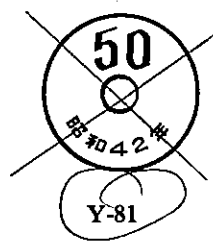
50 Yen  
Nickel



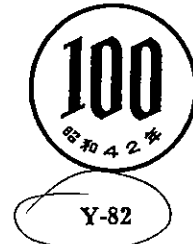
100 Yen  
Silver



50 Yen  
Copper-Nickel



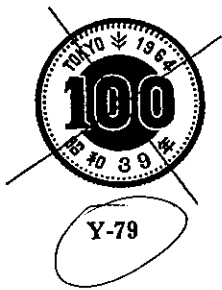
100 Yen  
Copper-Nickel



COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Tokyo Olympic  
100 Yen  
Silver

600-400



~~Tokyo Olympic~~  
~~1000 Yen~~  
~~Silver~~

~~10,000 - 2,500~~  
~~2,500 - 2,100~~  
~~AA~~

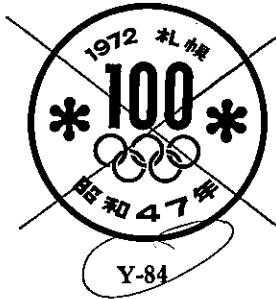


Y-80

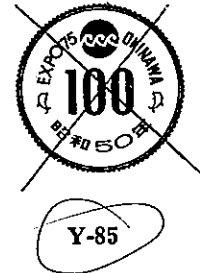
Expo 70  
100 Yen  
Copper-Nickel



Sapporo Olympic  
100 Yen  
Copper-Nickel



Okinawa Expo  
100 Yen  
Copper-Nickel



50th Anniversary  
100 Yen  
Copper-Nickel

