

There has lately come to Hongkong a newly coined Japanese Foreign Silver Dollar, and Sir BROOKE ROBERTSON, the British Consul, having requested that Officers might be appointed to assay it, the Viceroy and Haikwan thereupon appointed Officers to melt it down and assay it in conjunction with [an Officer from the British Consulate], when taking the Haikwan pure Silver as the standard, an out-turn was obtained of fully .8957; or, Taels 111.6.4 of this new Eagle Dollar are equivalent to 100 Haikwan Taels of pure Silver. Minutes of the Assay were drawn up in proof thereof.

For the convenience of traders and people, therefore, this Coin should be allowed to be tendered in payment of Duties, at the rate of touch obtained at the Assay, and come into daily circulation.

It becomes the duty then of the Viceroy and his colleagues to issue a Proclamation on the subject for general information.

This Proclamation, therefore, is for the information of you merchants, traders, soldiers, and people of every district. You must know that a Japanese Eagle Dollar has lately come to Hongkong, and has been jointly assayed by Officers specially appointed for the purpose. It can be taken in payment of Duties and come into general circulation. You must not look upon it with suspicion. Rogues, sharpers and the like are moreover hereby strictly forbidden to fabricate spurious imitations of this new Eagle Dollar with a view to their own profit; and should they dare to set this prohibition at defiance, and fabricate false Coin, they shall upon discovery most assuredly be at once arrested and punished.

Let every one obey with trembling!  
Let there be no disobedience!

A Special Proclamation.

Tungchih, 12th year, 11th Moon, (January, 1874.)

Translated by

WALTER C. HILLIER.

True Copy,  
R. W. MANSFIELD.

同治十二年十一月 日示

文華殿大學士兵部尚書兩廣總督  
部堂瑞 兵部侍郎廣東巡撫部  
院張 督理粵海關稅務文  
為曉諭事照得廣東省民間日用  
洋銀久已通行向稱利便同治五  
年及十一年香港銀局新造洋銀  
與紋銀比較計足九成又本年八  
月間美國新造洋銀與紋銀比較  
計足八九六一成當經示諭民間  
通行在案近日香港到有日本國  
新造洋銀成圓據英國羅領事官  
請委員試驗當經 本閣部堂  
關部委員會同傾鑄試驗得與海  
關紋銀比較成數計足八九五七  
成以此項新鷹銀一百一十一兩  
六錢四分抵海關紋銀一百兩立  
有單據應即准照傾驗成色輸餉  
並日行通用以便商民合行出示  
曉諭為此示諭各屬商賈軍民人  
等知悉爾等須知香港新到日本  
國鷹銀已經委員會驗成色可以  
輪餉通用不必猜疑觀望前嚴禁  
棍徒人等假冒此項新鷹銀式樣  
私造影射漁利倘敢違玩假造一  
經查出定即嚴拿懲辦各宜凜遵  
毋違特示

No. 15.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Report from the Honorable the Registrar General, covering Returns of Births and Deaths for the Quarter ending 31st December, 1873, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th January, 1874.

No. 10.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 29th January, 1874.

SIR,—During the 4th Quarter of 1873, there were registered in the Colony 588 Births, and 601 Deaths.

Of this number, 43 Births and 49 Deaths occurred among the British and Foreign Community, while among the Chinese there were 545 Births and 552 Deaths.

Among the British and Foreign Community, the Deaths were as follows:—

British,.....	18
Portuguese,.....	6
American,.....	1
Indian,.....	8
Malay,.....	4

the remaining portion was among those who were not residents of the Colony.

The Births were of 27 Boys and 16 Girls.

The Births and Deaths among the Chinese Population were as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
Victoria, .....	Births, 234	230	464	Deaths,	461
Shau-ki Wán, .....	„ 23	8	31	„	13
Stanley, .....	„ 6	10	16	„	13
Aberdeen, .....	„ 5	5	10	„	35
Kowloong, .....	„ 16	8	24	„	30
Total, .....	Births, 284	261	545	Deaths,	552

During the respective Quarters of the past year, the Births and Deaths throughout the Colony are stated as hereunder:—

1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.	
Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
288	699	439	706	481	748	588	601

Total for the year, Births, ...1,796. Deaths,.....2,754.

Of the British and Foreign Community, the Returns are for the same period as follows:—

1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.	
Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
28	49	38	39	47	41	43	49

Total Births, .....156. Deaths,.....178.

From this number of Deaths, so far as the health of the Colony is concerned, should be deducted those of Non-residents, which amounted to 56.

I annex a Return showing the prevailing diseases in the Colony which have resulted in Death.

The rate of Mortality for every thousand persons during 1873 among the British and Foreign Community, was 27.72, and amongst the Chinese 22.29, while for the whole population of the Colony the rate was 22.57 for every thousand persons.

The Ordinance has been very successful in its operation. It must not, however, be supposed that every Birth and Death has been registered, but there is good reason for believing that comparatively few cases (especially as regards the Deaths) have not been recorded.

The success of this important measure at its introduction is, I think, mainly due to the great care and trouble taken by Mr. TONNOCHY in causing its provisions to be thoroughly explained to the Chinese Community, and to the ability he displayed in organizing the staff engaged in carrying out the details of the Ordinance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

CECIL C. SMITH,  
Registrar General.

The Honorable J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
Colonial Secretary,  
HONGKONG.

DEATHS AMONG BRITISH AND FOREIGNERS FROM:—		DEATHS AMONG CHINESE FROM:—		DEATHS AMONG CHINESE FROM:—	
	No.		No.		No.
Phthisis, .....	19	Convulsions, .....	462	Ague, .....	73
Diarrhoea, .....	17	Phthisis, .....	325	Dysentery, .....	62
Heart Disease, .....	16	Fevers, .....	248	Measles, .....	47
Dysentery, .....	10	Exposure, .....	257	Apoplexy, .....	36
Fevers, .....	11	Diarrhoea, .....	195	Dropsy, .....	20
Convulsions, .....	7	Asthma, .....	123	Old age, .....	18
Debility, .....	9	Debility, .....	121	Bronchitis, .....	17
Pneumonia, .....	3	Small Pox, .....	121		