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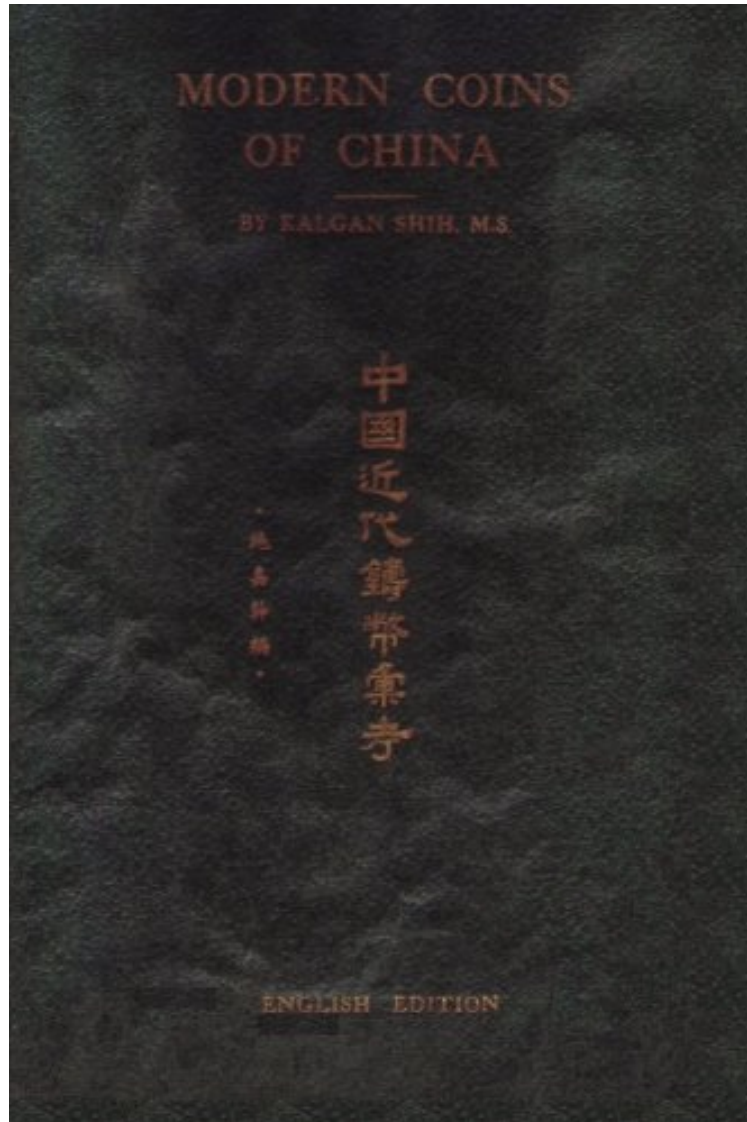
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Modern Coins of China

Kalgan Shih : Modern Coins of China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern Coins of China:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Kalgan Shih and the BookBy SharonAlmost two years ago, I was surprised when this book arrived unannounced and originated from a rare book set auctioned out of China. Then as time goes by, I start to appreciate its existence when Mr. Shih's relatives ordered copies of the book and his great-grandchildren, who do not read Chinese, were so proud to know him from this book and did show-and-tell at their schools. Hence, I provide this short review to clarify Mr. Shih as a person and the value of this book.Kalgan (Jiagan)

Shih was born in Shanghai, China in Oct. 1896. For his post-secondary education, he studied civil engineering at Tangshan Railway and Mining School in China. He then came to North America on a government scholarship. Between 1921 and 1924, He obtained a Master degree in civil engineering at MIT and interned with construction companies building bridges and factories to gain experience. It was at this time that he became interested in coins and joined American Numismatic Society; he started his Chinese and foreign coin collection. Professionally, he was a civil engineer all his life and due to his dedication and professional credibility he was highly respected by the governing power, be it war lords, nationalists or communists. In more than 20 years after his first visit to North America, he lectured in several American cities on his subsequent visit to North America. He compiled the first book on Chinese machine-made coins to catalog the real Chinese coins. The book was written in Chinese. He also published the text of the book in English, in hope that "the spurious might readily be distinguished from the genuine and the erroneous views created by imitations corrected." (Introduction of the book). The book in English was sold in Europe and America, and he was asked to compile the English version of the book with pictures. As mentioned in the preface to the second edition - this book, Mr. Shih enlarged the pictures and improved text and picture association. Therefore, the first edition published in 1949 consisted of a full length book in Chinese and an English version of the text. This book is a copy of the second edition, which had pictures and updated text in English, published in 1951. The Chinese version of this book is highly regarded in academic circles and its effects are still irreplaceable as an important reference book essential to understanding and cognizing the machine-made coins of modern China. The entire collection of the coins, part of which is pictured in this book, was donated by his family to Shanghai museum. The museum published a book with collection of colorful pictures of selected coins (ISBN 7-5322-2482-1) and coins from his collection are on exhibit year around at the museum [...]

This book covers the field of all modern Chinese coins in Gold, Silver, Nickel and Aluminum. It has 185 plates, 14 figures and about 900 illustrations. It was first published in 1951 in Shanghai, China. It is an amazing book. It was purchased as part of a batch of rare books in a China Guardian Auction held at the Beijing International Hotel in Beijing China on June 30, 2009. No previous information was known about this book.

About the Author Kalgan Shih was Chinese. Shih is the traditional spelling of a common Chinese name. Kalgan is the traditional name for the city of Zhangjiakou. The author says that he is a civil engineer who designed and built the Liangchiatu Bridge across the Pu River on the Chekiang-Kiangse Railway. Kiangse is the name of a major street in Shanghai. It is unlikely that the author is alive today because he would be too old. It also seems unlikely that he survived the Cultural Revolution, because people like him often did not make it. Except for the publication of this book, there is no mention of anybody by the name of Kalgan Shih.