

Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of the World

# HONG KONG

HONG KONG, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
BIRMINGHAM MINT

TEN CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.71 GRAMS

1872	88,000	
1873	128,000	
1874	200,000	
1875	200,000	
1876	480,000	
1877	240,000	
1880	300,000	
1882	500,000	
1883	250,000	
1889	2,100,000	
1890	5,400,000	
1891	1,750,000	
1892	1,100,000	
1897	10,500,000	frozen date
1900	41,500,000	

△OV: Crowned head of Victoria, facing left VICTORIA left, QUEEN right / H (mintmark) under bust.

▽RV: Around a center dot, Chinese characters (Hsiang Chiang I Hao = Hong Kong one tenth) within a circle of pearls, \* (rosette of nine dots), HONG - KONG \* (rosette of nine dots) above, TEN CENTS DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: H = The Mint, BIRMINGHAM, Ltd. (Name changed January 1, 1889 from R. Heaton & Sons).

DESIGNER: William Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-4, HK5, KM-6.3

POPULATION:: Hong Kong in 1901 - 297,212 including 6,454 Europeans and Americans, about 2,000 East Indians and Japanese, and 283,975 Chinese. The boat population numbers nearly 40,000.

FOOTNOTE: The Birmingham issue dated 1897 was struck in two years; 7,000,000 in 1897 and 3,500,000 in 1898 but dated 1897.

FOOTNOTE: The *Dime Size Silver Coins* of Hong Kong were first minted at the new Hong Kong mint, starting in 1863. These were supplemented with shipments from the Royal Mint, London each year from 1863-1866. With the closing of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Mint in 1868 followed by the sale and shipping of the minting equipment to Osaka, Japan. New ten cents coins were ordered from Birmingham, England mint of R. Heaton & Sons, Ltd. beginning with a date of 1872. One more shipment dated 1873 came from London of the same type. The ten cents series continued intermittently from Birmingham with the H mintmark to near the end of the Victoria era with the last issue date 1900. Shipments also continued from The Royal Mint, London starting again in 1879. Silver Hong Kong ten cents coins continued for a few more year with the effigy of King & Emperor Edward VII. His last issued was melted with only a few coins reaching the collector market, thus it is considered rare.

FOOTNOTE: The Hong Kong British dollar has the same legal value (equal to U.S.\$ .498) as the Mexican dollar in the Straits Settlements and Lebanon piastre. *Director of U.S. Mint, April 1906.*



1889 - TEN CENTS - OBVERSE



1889 - TEN CENTS - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Hong Kong as a British Crown Colony came to an end in 1997, when it was returned to China by Great Britain.



## 1863 - TEN CENTS

HONG KONG, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
HONG KONG MINT

10 CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.71 GRAMS

1866	2,479,216
1867	i/a
1868	i/a

▲OV: Crowned head of Victoria, facing left VICTORIA left, QUEEN right (**11 pearls** in right arch of crown for mintmark).

▼RV: Around a center dot, Chinese characters (Hsiang Chiang I Hao = Hong Kong one tenth) within a circle of pearls, \* (rosette of nine dots), HONG - KONG \* (rosette of nine dots) above, TEN CENTS DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**11 pearls** in right arch of crown) = Royal Branch mint, HONG KONG

DESIGNER: William Wyon

TYPE: I - 11 pearls in right arch of crown

REFERENCE: Y-4, KM-6.3

FOOTNOTE: Approval was given on April 10, 1863 to establish a branch of the Royal Mint at Hong Kong. The mint opened on May 7, 1866 and was closed after a financial failure in April 1868, (with the minting machinery sold, to be installed as the Osaka mint, Japan).



## The Proclamation of Hong kong to the British



## Victoria, Hong Kong

FOOTNOTE: When in 1839 the Chinese Government tried to put a stop to the opium trade by English merchants and informed the British Government that the traffic would have to be given up, the Opium War broke out with the British victorious. The Chinese were forced to agree in the Treaty of Nanking to pay a heavy indemnity and cede to the British the Island of Hong Kong (which means the fragrant or flowing streams) off the southeast coast of China in the Province of Kwang-Tung. Since 1841 Hong Kong has been a British Crown Colony. It is situated at the mouth of the estuary that leads to Canton, a distance of seventy-five miles in land. Hong-Kong is a free port.

FOOTNOTE: Hong Kong in 1887 - Forty years ago Hong Kong was only a barren island in the midst of an archipelago at the entrance of the Canton River, inhabited by a male population, who combined the innocent pursuits of fishing and stone-quarrying with the more exciting pastime of piracy. Piracy still exists, every Chinese sea-going junk carries a couple of cannon and a stand of small arms, ostensibly for protection from pirates, but in reality to enable them to do a little piracy on their own account. The island of Hong Kong presents a very picturesque appearance from the sea. It is a single rugged mountain ridge, broken into several striking peaks with wooden ravines running down between them to the sea shore. The harbor is one of the finest in the world. The harbor and its inlets swarm with fish of many kinds, and the Hong Kong fish market is one of the best in the East. The number of fishing boats frequenting the harbor and bays on Hong Kong is estimated at 3,000; the families all live on board their boats, and it is said, reach a total of 30,000 souls. Hong Kong is a British Crown Colony, with a Governor and Council. Government House is about 150 feet above the town, surrounded by private grounds, and a public garden beautifully situated and charmingly laid out. Hong Kong is virtually two towns. In one the European merchants and their clerks, with the military and navel forces, live; in the other the Chinese. There are 8,000 population in the one, 160,000 in the other, and the smaller population covers the most ground. Two leading thoroughfares, Queen's Road, and the Praya or Quay, run through both quarters. The Queen's Road contains the shops, clubs, banks, and hotels, the Praya the merchants' offices and warehouses, with wharves and jetties innumerable. China town consists of three or four good wide thoroughfares, parallel with the Praya, out of which wander narrow filthy lanes, swarming with people of all ages and both sexes, and suggesting a very maggoty, moldy cheese more than anything else. The people are rough, brutal, uncivil, villainous - looking, in marked contrast to the charming and delightful population of Japan. The open shops and pleasant tradesmen there give way to grimy, dark little dens, the windows of which are covered with glass, it being unsafe to leave goods exposed to view, in Hong Kong thieves being not only abundant but universal, while escaping in the crowded streets is certain and easy. The Hong Kong shops are famous emporiums for Chinese curiosities, and here one may purchase silk and satin embroideries, filigree work, pipes, gold bangles, and earrings, sandal wood boxes and fans, carved ivory, carved walking - sticks, carved horns, tortoise - shell work, and dead birds of wonderful plumage; the workmen who are manipulating these various articles sitting in the window to be stared at by the passers by. The average rate of wages for labor in Hong Kong is very low. Domestic servants, all male \$1.10 a week without food; \$.30 per week with food. Chinese workmen at trades \$.85 with food. Day laborers \$.15 per day; blacksmiths \$.50; carpenters \$.32; masons and bricklayers \$.30. The currency of Hong Kong is the Mexican Silver Dollar and a colonial silver currency of 20, 10 and 5 Cent pieces. There is about four millions of paper money issued by three banks. The Chinese are terrible thieves, nearly 17,000 persons were brought before the police magistrates in 1886 for various offenses, larceny and unlawful possession being the majority; about 400 for drunkenness, piracy, and kidnapping. Burglary, highway robbery, and assaults make up most of the balance. It must, however, be borne in mind that many of these criminals ought to be in Canton Prison instead of Hong Kong. *Trip Around the World by W.S.Caine, London, 1888.*



### 1863 - TEN CENTS - OBVERSE

HONG KONG, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of LONDON MINT

TEN CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.71 GRAMS

1863	100,000
1864	200,000
1865	550,000
1866	300,000
1873	196,987

^OV: Crowned head of Victoria, facing left VICTORIA left, QUEEN right (**10 Pearls** in right arch of crown for mint-mark).

▽RV: Around a center dot, Chinese characters (Hsiang Chiang I Hao = Hong Kong one tenth) within a circle of pearls, \* (rosette of nine dots), HONG - KONG \*(rosette of nine dots) above, TEN CENTS DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**10 Pearls** in right arch of crown) = The Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: William Wyon

TYPE: II - 10 pearls in right arch of crown

REFERENCE: Y-4, KM-6.1

1863



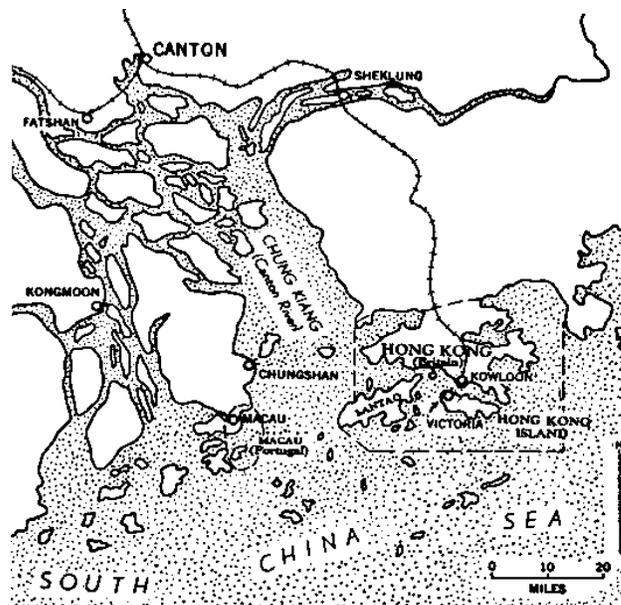
10 pearl crown

FOOTNOTE: There is a Hong Kong proof ten cents dated 1863 with plain edge.



### 1863 - TEN CENTS - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Hong Kong has suffered from a terrible calamity. On September 18, 19 and 20, 1906 two of those terrible tropical wind-storms of mysterious origin, known as typhoons, bore down upon the island port of Hong Kong and caused great destruction of life and property. The American Consul General Wilder, at that city announced that five thousand lives had been lost and twenty million dollars worth of property destroyed, including the absolute loss of thirty steamers. *American Monthly Review of Reviews, 1906.*



Map of Hong Kong

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HONG KONG, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
LONDON MINT

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TEN CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.71 GRAMS

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1879	288,000
1881	300,000
1883	550,000
1884	960,000
1885	3,120,000
1886	2,100,000
1887	2,440,858
1888	7,027,454
1889	4,026,700
1890	1,500,000
1891	6,150,000
1892	5,500,000
1893	11,250,000
1894	16,750,000
1895	19,000,000
1896	16,500,000
1897	23,500,000
1898	29,500,000
1899	33,841,564
1900	7,758,436
1901	25,000,000

^OV: Crowned head of Victoria, facing left VICTORIA left, QUEEN right (**11 Pearls** in right arch of crown for mintmark).

▽RV: Around a center dot, Chinese characters (Hsiang Chiang I Hao = Hong Kong one tenth) within a circle of pearls, \* (rosette of nine dots), HONG - KONG \* (rosette of nine dots) above, TEN CENTS DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**11 pearls** in right arch of crown) = The Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: William Wyon

TYPE: I - 11 Pearls in right arch of Crown

REFERENCE: Y-4, KM-6.3

POPULATION: Hong Kong - 1900 - 283,975

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1888



11 pearl crown

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FOOTNOTE: Hong Kong itself is openly permitted by the British authorities to be made a depot, and the harbor of Victoria a roadstead for receiving-ships for opium. Opium enervates, demoralizes, and destroys, the subjects of a nation with whom the British are united by commercial treaty. The conduct of the colonial government at Hong Kong is highly reprehensible, in permitting the colony to be made a depot for this bane of China. *Sears New and Complete History of China, New York, 1850.*



1888 - TEN CENTS - OBVERSE

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1888 - TEN CENTS - REVERSE

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Chinaman with opium pipe



### 1902 - TEN CENTS - OBVERSE

HONG KONG, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
LONDON MINT

TEN CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.71 GRAMS

1902	18,000,000	
1903	25,000,000	
1904	30,000,000	
1905	33,487,270	rare

^OV: Crowned bust of Edward VII, facing right  
EDWARD VII left, KING & EMPEROR right / Des. under bust.

∇RV: Around a center dot, Chinese characters  
(Hsiang Chiang I Hao = Hong Kong one tenth) within a circle of  
pearls, \* (rosette of seven dots), HONG - KONG \* (rosette of  
seven dots) above, TEN CENTS DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = The Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: Des. = George William DeSaulles

REFERENCE: Y-11, KM-13

FOOTNOTE: The population of Hong Kong, excluding the Military and Naval establishments (4,463 and 2,513 respectively) and that portion of the new territory outside New Kowloon, was according to the 1911 census, as follows: Chinese 854,187, European and American 8,074, other nationalities 3,884. The currency of the Colony consists of notes of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd. and British, Hong Kong, and Mexican dollars and subsidiary coins. The British Dollar is 416 grains of silver, 90 fine as compared with 417.74 grains of 902.7 fineness of the Mexican dollar. The circulation of foreign copper coin was prohibited in 1912 and similar action is being taken regard to foreign silver and nickel coins and bank notes. *The Statesman's Year-Book, London 1916.*



### 1902 - TEN CENTS - REVERSE



### Edward VII King & Emperor



FOOTNOTE: Hong Kong was one of the British colonies which issued a 10 CENTS paper note in 1941.

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FOOTNOTE: Hong Kong, an island off the S.E. coast of China belonging to the British, at the mouth of the estuary that leads to Canton, from which it is distant 75 miles. It is about 10 miles in extreme length, and 7 1/2 miles in extreme breadth, separated from the mainland by a narrow strait, and with Cowloon on the mainland form a Crown Colony, area 32 sq. miles. The island consists almost entirely of barren rocks, which rise to heights of 1000 to 2000 feet, and is almost destitute of vegetation. Good water, however, is abundant. On the north side of the island, on a splendid harbor, is Victoria, the chief town of the island and center of its commerce. It is well laid out with handsome streets, and has a Cathedral, a Bishop's Palace, a Government-House, Court-House, etc.; while handsome residences of the merchants are scattered about the town and its suburbs. Hong Kong is a great entrepot for the foreign commerce of China, and is a free port without customs' dues. It is also a station of the British Fleet. The revenue of the Government is derived from the land rents, licenses to sell opium, spirits, etc., taxes, postage, fines, fees of office, etc. The prosperity of the Colony is chiefly owing to the presence of large numbers of Chinese, engaged in trade or in working the building-stone, which is one of the principal products of the island. Population - 1891 - 221,441, more than nine-tenths being Chinese. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Phila., 1896.*

FOOTNOTE: The subsidiary coinage of Hong Kong during the reign of Edward VII reflects the changes in the price of silver "Which had reached an all-time low of 46 5/8 U.S. cents per ounce in 1902, and had begun to rise and continued fairly steadily upward to a high point of 71 5/8 U.S. cents per ounce at the end of 1906." The 10 cents 1905 Hong Kong of Edward VII was minted in London with mintage of 33,487,270, most of which were melted as the bullion content exceeded the denomination. Because of the lack of 'small money' and the premium on bank notes which reached 3 1/2 percent in 1908, the Colony turned to a "chit" system. In the "chit" system it takes three months to establish your identity. There after all your purchases are signed for by I.O.U.'s, or "chits", which are torn out of the merchant's stub book. No one carries the money of the British or Chinese realms, which happens to be Mexican silver, - it is too heavy. Even at the hotel bars, you do not pay for your liquor when it is drawn for you, for obliging Sam Lin, whose legend is that "Heaven's smile, like his own, is wide," hands you an account-book in which you are asked to make your own entry. On the irregularity of the writing, when the chit is presented, hangs many a tale. Once a month, the various merchants bring these signed chits to your hong comprador or cashier, who deducts them from your wages or account, and the balance is brought to you, together with the canceled chits thus every firm's cashier acts as the private banker of the employee. No interest is allowed or charged, but if it were the credit would be on the side of the patient, kindly Chinese. The compradors are of course heavily bonded to the firms or companies. The word "hong" literally is a row, and was first applied in the old days to the dreary line of windows in the foreign warehouses at Whompoa, near Canton. It is now used to cover a firm, as well as its building. In 1934 China abandoned the Silver Standard, forcing Hong Kong to do the Same. *The Chinese by J.S.Thompson, Indianapolis, 1909.*



FOOTNOTE: The entire waterfront is alive with little houseboats, these sampans, where thousands of Hong Kong Chinese families live - born there, grow up there, die there. *A Globegaddler's Diary, Ralph Parlette, Chicago, 1927.*



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## Hong Kong street scene 1926

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FOOTNOTE: "Is there opium smoking here?" I asked the Hindu policeman on the busy shopping-street, Queens Road. All of us naturally think about this after having read so often about it. That original Aryan stuck an attitude of injured innocence. I shriveled and expected to be arrested for insulting the British Empire. "Opium is not allowed, and you cannot see it or buy it anywhere in Hong Kong." But as I still listened to his denunciations of the nefarious thing, a little weazened-faced Chinese spoke up at my side, right into the face of the empire's defender. "You wont opium, want see opium-smoke? I take you." I was frozen with fear. Now we would both be arrested. But the Chinese, who looked like an evaporated peach, with a "smile that was childlike and bland," had no more regard for the policeman than for a fly on his sleeve, though he was twice as big. "Come on with me to opium-place." And I followed him. He asked me a dollar "Mex" - you know the silver dollar of China is the Mexican dollar worth around 50 cents. He took me right away from the un-opposing and non-inquisitive officer, up a couple of narrow hill streets and then into a side alley. We went thru a hallway into a back-court, then up two rickety flights of stairs, where after much knocking and exchange of Chinese language, a door was opened about wide enough for me to slip past the Chinese man who held it. I was welcomed into a room where there were some long counters ranged along the wall on one side, these covered with straw matting, and Chinamen lying on them. They had little oil-lamps and long pipes with the little metal bowls I had so often seen in the pictures of what's the matter with China. The guide took me to one man who was "rolling the pill." He let me see him prepare for his ethereal jag. Out of a little wooden box he took a pellet of the dark, soft opium and rolled it on a needle. This he held over the flame of the lamp, "cooking the pill." Then he packed this pellet into the bowl of the pipe, and as he lay there he held the bowl downwards so the flame of the lamp entered it and again heated the pill. He then inhaled the smoke from the pellet and flame deeper and deeper into his lungs. A long time he inhaled and held the smoke in his lungs to get the precious kick out of all of it. One inhalation and the pill was done for. He next went to work cooking another pill and inhaling it the same way. They smoke as many pills as they can afford, or as are necessary to boost them into the particular heaven they wish to visit. Pretty soon he quit and lay down on the matting to commune with his narcotic angels. The little wooden box contains opium enough for about five pills, and the government sells it for two dollars, they said. If this is true, it would seem that the government is in the selling business and the policeman is in the denying business. My guide assured me that smoking opium is really a fine thing and good for the soul. "When you are tired with hard day work, mighty fine to smoke opium and rest." "Tonight I show you very fine opium place. Ladies and gents all go there and have grand time. I show you opium place." Which I didn't see. *A Globegaddler's Diary, Ralph Parlette, Chicago, 1927.*