

## JAPAN



1870 - Meiji 3 -10 SEN - OBVERSE

JAPAN, EMPIRE of  
OSAKA MINT

10 SEN 17.57MM .800 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

(1870) Meiji - 3 6,102,674 frozen date

▲OV: Dragon within circle of pearls, inscription ( • DIA NIPPON • MEIJI 3RD YEAR • 10 SEN = Greater Japan 3rd Year of Meiji Era • 10 sen) around.

▲RV: Radiant Sun within circle of pearls, chrysanthemum between two paulownia at top, within wreath of paulownia and chrysanthemum leaves tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = OSAKA

REFERENCE: Y-2, JNDA-23

FOOTNOTE: By the Japanese, Nippon or Nippon is employed to describe the whole Empire. The name 'Jipun', altered to Japan, is the Chinese designation, and it first became familiar to Europeans. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1896.*



1870 - Meiji 3 -10 SEN - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: The 10 sen coins of Japan are listed in chronological order. Currency of Japan - 10 mons - 1 sen, 100 sen = 1 yen



Emperor Meiji

FOOTNOTE: Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito) was born at Kyoto on November 3, 1852. On February 3, 1867 the Mikado, Mutsuhito then fifteen years of age, succeeded his father Komei Tenno and ascended to the throne of Japan. He married Princess Haruko, daughter of Prince Ichijo on February 9, 1869. Shortly thereafter, the Shogun (Commander-in-Chief of the Empire) was forced to resign his office, leaving the Mikado (Emperor) the Ruler of Japan. He emerged from his ancient seclusion in the Sacred City of Kyoto and removed the capital to Yeddo which was given the new name of Tokyo ("Eastern Capital"). The Feudal Princes agreed to peacefully surrender their titles and prerogatives and in July 1871 feudalism was formally abolished throughout the Empire.



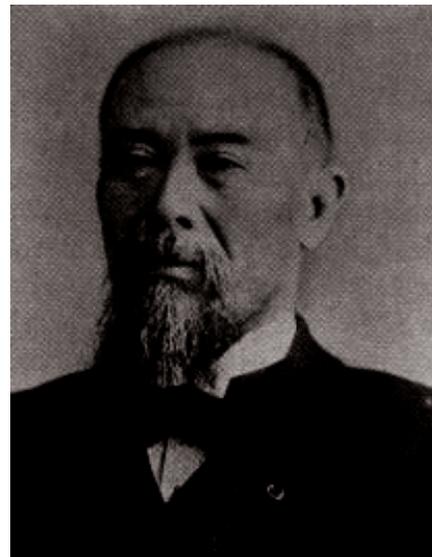
## Four Classes of Japanese Society

FOOTNOTE: A Japanese gentleman's dress is a loose garment made of silk, gathered in at the waist by a girdle, and extending from neck to ankle; while over this is thrown a wide-sleeve jacket. In the country a short cotton gown is worn, while the lower classes generally wear but scant clothing. The hair is shaved off the front part of the head, while on the back and sides it is gathered up into a knot and fastened with long pins. As regards both clothing and hair-dressing the women very much resemble the men. They also paint and powder themselves to excess. A husband can have as many concubines as he can afford. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1896.*



## The Castle of Osaka in 1861

FOOTNOTE: The Osaka mint opened officially on April 4, 1871 with special ceremonies. This was the first time Japanese coins were struck with modern machinery. The mint equipment moved from the now closed Hong Kong mint, was supervised by engineers and technicians brought from Europe as advisers, including a delegation of coinage experts from the Royal Mint, London. Small factories were built within the mint compound for the production of sulfuric acid, soda and coal gas. The mint manufactured its own ink for record keeping and was the first Japanese enterprise to adopt double entry bookkeeping. The mint staff both men and women were required to wear western style clothing, as the traditional topknot and the swords worn by men similar to the Samurai Warrior were abolished at the Osaka mint. The English technicians stayed at the mint until 1889. The 10 sen dated Meiji 3 was struck with frozen date from Meiji 3 to Meiji 5 (1870-72). Another account of the Osaka mint relates as follows: "The Osaka mint is a series of fine and substantial buildings, in the Roman style of architecture, equipped with twelve first-class English coining-presses, thirty-seven melting-furnaces, and a sulfuric and nitric acid manufactory. The mint makes its own tools, cuts its own dies, and performs the usual bullion, assaying, refining, and analyzing business of a mint in other countries. The establishment was organized by Major T.W.Kinder, who was the efficient superintendent from 1870 to 1875. To his energy and ability are due the success and reputation of the mint, which it devolves upon the Japanese to maintain. Three hundred and eighty natives and several Englishmen are employed it. The coins minted are gold, silver and copper, and of the same weight, fineness, denomination, and decimal division as the American coinage. They are round, with milled edges. They are stamped with the devices of the rising sun, coiled dragons, legend of date and denomination, in Chinese and Roman numerals, chrysanthemum, and *Paulownia imperialis* leaves and flowers. Japanese prejudices are against the idea of stamping the mikado's image on their coins... The average metal money now in circulation is nearly two dollars per head of the population..." *The Mikado's Empire, W. E. Griffis, New York, 1877*



## Marquis Hirobumi Ito

FOOTNOTE: Marquis Hirobumi Ito, Japanese statesman was born in the Province of Choshu in 1841. Modern coinage of Japan dates from 1870 with the opening of the Mint at Osaka. The machinery which was manufactured in Birmingham, England had been set up as the Hong Kong mint. But in 1868 the equipment was sold to the Japanese to establish their new mint. Prince Ito in 1871 visited the United States to examine the coinage system, and on his return was successful in establishing modern gold and silver coinage minted at Osaka. He became a Minister in the Japanese Government, again traveling to the United States and to Europe in 1897-98. After the Russo-Japanese War, Ito was the first Resident-General in Korea. He was assassinated on October 26, 1909 on a trip to Harbin, Manchuria.



### 1875 - Meiji 8 -10 SEN - OBV

JAPAN, EMPIRE of  
OSAKA MINT

10 SEN 17.57MM .800 FINE 2.69 GRAMS

(1873)	Meiji - 6	5,109,951	
(1874)	- 7	10,221,571	rare
(1875)	- 8	8,977,419	
(1876)	- 9	11,890,075	
(1877)	- 10	20,352,213	
(1880)	- 13	77	rare
(1885)	- 18	9,763,333	
(1887)	- 20	10,421,616	
(1888)	- 21	8,177,229	
(1891)	- 24	5,000,000	
(1892)	- 25	5,000,000	
(1893)	- 26	12,000,000	
(1894)	- 27	11,000,000	
(1895)	- 28	13,719,054	
(1896)	- 29	15,080,506	
(1897)	- 30	20,357,439	
(1898)	- 31	13,643,001	
(1899)	- 32	26,216,579	
(1900)	- 33	8,183,421	
(1901)	- 34	797,561	rare
(1902)	- 35	1,204,439	rare
(1904)	- 37	11,106,638	
(1905)	- 38	34,182,194	
(1906)	- 39	4,710,168	

▲OV: Dragon within circle of pearls, inscription ( • DIA NIPPON • MEIJI • ..TH YEAR = Greater Japan ..th Year of Meiji Era) around, / • 10 SEN • for denomination in English, below.

▲RV: Chrysanthemum at top, Two Japanese characters for denomination (10 sen) within wreath of paulownia and chrysanthemum leaves tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = OSAKA



### 1875 - Meiji 8 -10 SEN - REV

REFERENCE: Y-23, JNDA-23

*Japanese Numismatic Dealers Association  
Published annually in Tokyo.*

POPULATION: 1890 - 36,358,994 increasing to 43,763,153 by 1900 with Tokyo the capital with 1,440,121 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: The Dragon or Ryu derives from the Chinese and is a symbol for the Emperor. The dragon holds an orb called a Tamashi, which represents spirit or supernatural powers.

FOOTNOTE: Japan: A European modification, brought about through the Portuguese Gepuen, or Japao, of the native Nippon, compounded of Ni, "Sun, Fire", and Pon, "Land", literally "Sun-Land", or "Land of the Rising Sun," and signifying "The Fountain of Light".

FOOTNOTE: The new era in Japan - The day that Perry entered the Bay of Yeddo with his little fleet was to aid the whalers and protect their industries as the chief motive of the United States in sending this expedition to Japan. In 1853, Commodore Perry's fleet arrived from America laden not only with guns but with gifts from the western world, indicating its commercial and scientific advancement. Japan, awakened from her long seclusion, turned suddenly from the traditions of her past to welcome the enlightenment of modern civilization. In 1868 the young Emperor Mutsuhito (Meiji) took the great charter oath, promising to rebuild the Empire according to the right way. During his remarkable reign Japan probably made more rapid progress than any other nation in the world. In 1872 the Army, Navy, and Civil Service were entirely reconstructed; the Imperial mint and the new coinage were introduced; a new educational department, with an Imperial University, was established, new post offices and the first railways were opened. The next year the western calendar was adopted. In 1875 a deliberative assembly was added, followed by provincial assemblies. In 1889 the Emperor granted a written Constitution, and the first Parliament followed in 1890. *The New Era in Asia, 1913.*



### 1910 - Meiji 43 -10 SEN - OBV

JAPAN, EMPIRE of  
OSAKA MINT

10 SEN 17.57MM .720 FINE 2.25 GRAMS

(1907)	Meiji - 40	12,000,000
(1908)	- 41	12,273,239
(1909)	- 42	20,279,846
(1910)	- 43	20,339,816
(1911)	- 44	38,729,680
(1912)	- 45	10,755,009

▲OV: Radiant Sun within circle of 31 kiri blossoms, inscription (• DIA NIPPON • MEIJI • ..TH YEAR = Greater Japan ..th Year of Meiji Era) around, / • 10 SEN • for denomination in English, below.

▲RV: Chrysanthemum at top, Two Japanese characters for denomination (10 sen) within wreath of kiri and chrysanthemum leaves tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = OSAKA

REFERENCE: Y-23, JNDA-24

POPULATION: Japan - 1908 - 67,142,798

FOOTNOTE: Osaka, the second city and free port of Japan, in the Island of Hondo, on the estuary of the Yodo Gawa, 28 miles south west of Kyoto. It is intersected by canals, which are spanned by numerous wooden bridges. The bank of the main channel are lined for 2 or 3 miles with residences of the nobles, and it has a strong citadel. A railway connects it with Yeddo. Population - Osaka - 1891 - 473,541. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1896*

FOOTNOTE: Mikado is the title used by Europeans for the Emperor of Japan, meaning "Exalted Gate". The Mikado claims divine origin through the Sun Goddess.

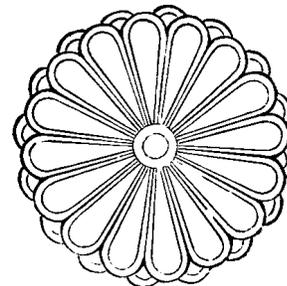


### 1910 - Meiji 43 -10 SEN - REV

FOOTNOTE: The monetary unit of Japan is the yen worth U.S. 49.8 cents in 1910 with 100 sen equal to one yen. *New International Yearbook.*

FOOTNOTE: The steady rise in the price of silver from 1903 to 1906 brought the white metal to a maximum of 71 5/8 U.S.cents per ounce in November, 1906, or slightly above the bullion parity of the 10 sen subsidiary coinage of Japan. In anticipation of a continued rise, a recoinage Law was passed in April, 1906, by which the fine-silver content corresponding to a coinage ratio of 21.60 to 1, or bullion parity of 95.6 U.S.cents per ounce, which made the coins safe from any danger of the melting pot until the great rise of silver occurred during the Great War. *Silver Money by D.Leavens, Bloomington,Ind. 1939.*

FOOTNOTE: Much of the old era still persists. At least one Temple still exists which is endowed by the establishment of houses of ill fame. Nearly all the national religious shrines are surrounded by such immoral resorts; for a pilgrimage often means a spree to the average worshiper. After his penance is performed at the shrine he can begin again to have a good time. Japanese women imported to the cities include one woman in every seven, between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five. According to the 'Japan Man' these poor girls in Tokyo are selling body and soul for an average wage of seven cents (10 sen) a day, even their food is insufficient. *The New Era in Japan, 1913.*



Arms of Japan



### 1912 - Taisho 1 - 10 SEN - OBV

JAPAN, EMPIRE of  
OSAKA MINT

10 SEN 17.57MM .720 FINE 2.25 GRAMS

(1912) Taisho - 1	10,344,307
(1913) - 2	13,321,466
(1914) - 3	10,325,327
(1915) - 4	16,036,225
(1916) - 5	10,324,179
(1917) - 6	35,170,906

^OV: Radiant Sun within circle of 31 kiri blossoms, inscription ( • DIA NIPPON • TAISHO • .. TH YEAR = Greater Japan ..th Year of Taisho Era) around, / • 10 SEN • for denomination in English, below.

^RV: Chrysanthemum at top, Two Japanese characters for denomination (10 sen) within wreath of kiri and chrysanthemum leaves tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = OSAKA

REFERENCE: Y-36, JNDA-24,

*Japanese Coinage by N.Jacobs and C.Vermeule, New York, 1972.*

POPULATION: Japan - 1918 - 57,070,936

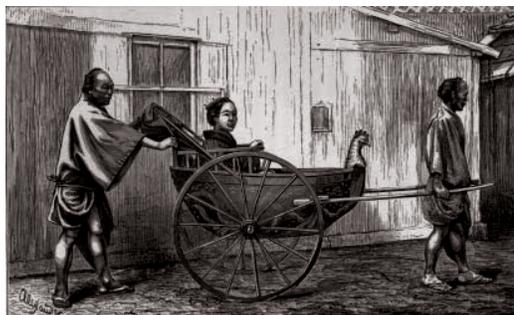
FOOTNOTE: The Japanese character for the Year One ( 一 ) is different than the normal character One ( - ) as noted in the following enlargement from the 1912 Taisho 10 sen.



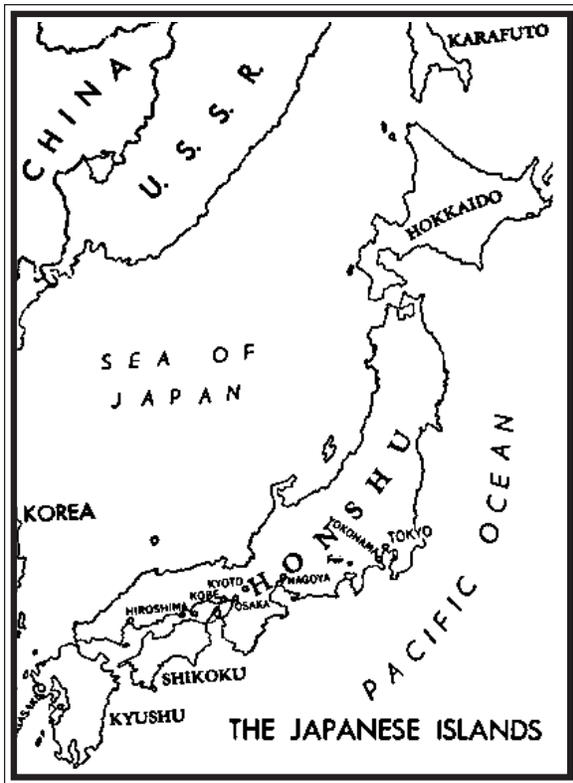
### 1917 - Taisho 6 - 10 SEN - REV

FOOTNOTE: The 10 sen silver series spans 47 years from 1870 to 1917 with a total mintage from the Osaka mint of 483,117,158.

FOOTNOTE: Yoshihito (1879-1926), Emperor or Mikado of Japan. This name is little used in Japanese, the common people calling him 'Tewshi Sama' "August Son of Heaven", and the educated 'Shujo', "Supreme Master". He was born August 31, 1879, the third son of Emperor Meiji Tenno. His elder brother having died, he became Crown Prince November 3, 1890. For eight years he attended the Gaku-shu-in or Peers' School and continued his study at his palace in Aoyama, Toyko. In July, 1897, when he became of age, he took his seat in the House of Peers, and three years later May 10, 1900, married Princess Sada-ko May 10, the fourth daughter of the late Prince Kujo. To them were born three children, Prince Hirohito, the Crown Prince (born 1901), Prince Yasuhito (born 1902), and Prince Nobuhito (born 1905). Soon after his marriage he spent nearly three years in travels of observation that covered the whole realm. Every opportunity was given him to see for himself the real life of the people. On August 30, 1912, upon the death of his father, he ascended the throne. Beloved by his people, he came to be known as the most democratic emperor who ever sat on the throne of Japan. He died December 25, 1926 and heir apparent Prince Hirohito, Born April 29, 1901, became Emperor. *New Standard Encyclopedia, 1937.*



Jin-riki-sha



Japan today



1872 Opening of first railway

FOOTNOTE: Emperor Meiji in traditional Japanese dress opened the first railway in 1872 as Japan moved headlong into modernization after a feudal past.



*Paulownia imperialis* or kiri leaf

FOOTNOTE: Japanese numerals are read from right to left i.e. dates like year 34 are written 4 - 10 - 3 starting on the right.

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Japanese coolie about 1877



Two Japanese travelers