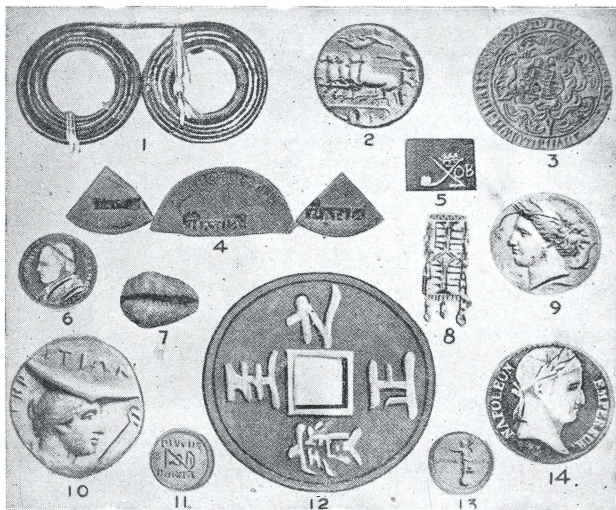


HISTORY SECTION**MONEY: WHAT IT DOES AND HOW IT IS MADE**

MANY KINDS OF MONEY OF MANY PEOPLES

1. Feather money of Santa Cruz 2. Ancient Greek coin 3. Gold coin of Henry VIII of England
 4. Spanish coin cut and used as fractional currency in Peru 5. Swedish money, 17th century
 6. Lira issued by Pope Pius X 7. Cowry shell 8. Indian wampum 9. Greek coin 10. Cretan coin
 11. Coin of Alfred the Great 12. Chinese coin 13. Roman coin 14. Coin of France, 1812

IN THE EARLY DAYS people did not worry about money. They had no money. This does not mean that they had no wealth, for wealth is anything that requires labor to produce and which can be appropriated and exchanged. Money is simply a measure for wealth and a medium of exchange.

Many different things have been used to serve as money as civilization has de-

veloped. Skins have been a medium of exchange in many hunting communities. In a part of colonial America tobacco was once used as money. The early Romans and other early peoples measured their wealth in oxen or cattle. Wampum beads were used as money by North American Indians, and cowry shells were used as money by the natives of some parts of Africa. Salt, rice, tea,

dates, ivory, and numberless other articles have been used as money at different times.

Sooner or later all communities came to use metals as money. Iron was used as money by the ancient Spartans, but because it was so heavy in proportion to its value, its place was taken by gold and silver. These metals are more satisfactory for money because they are precious, durable, and easily stamped.

At first gold and silver passed by weight as gold dust often does in mining communities. Several of the common units of money were originally names of weights—as the Hebrew “shekel”, the Anglo-Saxon “mark”, the later English “pound”, the older French “livre”, the Italian “lira”, and so on.

The earliest known coins are those of the Lydians in Asia Minor, dating from the 7th century B.C. Even after coining began, the coins were often not taken by count but by weight, because dishonest people clipped or filed coins for the sake of the little particles of gold and silver thus gained. It is to prevent this that modern gold and silver coins are made with raised and “milled” edges, which show plainly any clipping or filing.

Even in the ancient city states of Greece coins were usually made by “striking” the smooth gold or silver “blanks” between engraved dies or bronze or hardened iron or steel, one of the dies bearing the design for the face, and the other that for the back of the coin. Only rarely were coins cast in molds, and today casting is the sure sign of the counterfeiter.

Beautiful specimens of the ancient coiner’s art—the “staters” and “drachmas” of Greece, the “aurei”, “solidi”, etc. of imperial Rome—are still preserved in museums and are the joy and wonder of

every true artist.

In the Middle Ages the same methods of making coins were employed, but they were far less artistic, as may be seen in the “bezants” of Constantinople, the “denarii” of the Carolingians, and the silver “solidi” or shillings which were coined everywhere in medieval Europe.

About 1662 the mill and screw press were used in coining instead of the hand hammer. This device marks the beginning of modern machine methods of striking coins which makes all coins of a certain issue alike and which make the “milled” edge to protect the coin from fraudulent clipping or filing of the edges.

“Paper” money must be engraved and printed. The paper is made by a secret process. It is made from the toughest linen rags. It takes about a year to complete the engraved plates for printing a piece of “paper” money, and as a precaution no one engraver prepares a whole plate.

The intricate designs, lettering, and pictures or portraits are each separately engraved by specialists. Great precautions are taken against theft or other loss in the printing process. Each bill contains many symbols which tell the initiated what plate it was printed from, who engraved the plate, who printed the bill, etc.

In about three years of circulation a paper bill is usually worn out. Then it is returned to the government and is destroyed. Some of the money which goes into circulation is never returned, and then the government is the gainer. Bills which are worn, torn, or damaged are redeemable at face value if three-fifths of the bill remains; if less than three-fifths but more than two-fifths re-

(Please turn to page 218.)

PRAYING MANTIS

(Continued from page 207)

is back at its prayers. Fights to the death often take place between two of these insects, and the victor dines on the vanquished.

Members of the mantis family are found in nearly all tropical countries. They are quite common in the Philippines. The commonest species is leaf-green in color. The eggs are laid in tough cases attached to twigs, and as soon as the young hatch, they start killing small insects. Their life history is similar to that of grasshoppers.

As one sees a mantis, how prim and proper it looks with its "arms" folded so nicely and its head bowed between them! That's how it got its name—the praying mantis. But it would be nearer the truth to call it the "preying mantis," for this is just a pose that conceals its fierce, blood-thirsty disposition.

These creatures have been looked upon with superstitious awe since ancient times. In China they are kept in cages and matched in prize fights.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you seen a praying mantis in the Philippines?
2. Describe this insect.

TARANTULA

(Continued from page 207)

spin webs in which to catch their prey, but wait for it like tigers, concealed among leaves or rubbish, or hiding within their burrows. When some unwary insect passes, the tarantula rushes out, bites it, and then drags it into its burrow. The bite either kills the victim at once, or paralyzes it and makes it helpless.

The tarantula does not chew and swallow the substance of its prey, but sucks out the blood and other body juices. Its large jaws, or mandibles as they are called, work up and down and not from side to side as do the jaws of most spiders.

Spiders as a class are not popular, and the tarantula is especially disliked. How quickly it can spring with those long hairy legs and seize its prey! That's why the tarantula does not have to weave a web, as so many spiders do.

QUESTIONS

1. Tell about a tarantula.
2. Does it spin a web? Why not?
3. How does it catch its prey?
4. How does it eat its prey?
5. Are you afraid of a spider? Why?

MONEY

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mains, it is redeemed at half its face value.

Some persons make a hobby of collecting coins and "paper" money. Such a person is called a numismatist. A good collection of coins and bills is quite valuable.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did ancient people not need money?
2. What different things have been used for money?
3. Why are gold and silver used for money?
4. Tell how coins are made.
5. Tell how "paper money" is made.
6. What is a person called who collects coins? Who collects postage stamps?
7. Have you seen any collections of coins?
8. Have you studied the pictures of the coins illustrated on page 209? Tell about some of the coins illustrated there.
9. Which ones interested you the most? Why?
10. Can you name all the Philippine coins of the present time? The bills used as "paper money"?
11. Do you think the money system of the Philippines is good? Why do you think so?