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中國貨幣史上的用銀轉變——切片、秤重、入帳的白銀

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中國通貨系統中的銀兩(yinliang),在古代帝國時期的國際貿易上扮演絲綢的輔助品。元代發行的紙鈔面額為銅錢,但以銀的重量為計價標準。銀在明代成為稅收計算的標準,加上輸出瓷器、茶葉、絲綢向日本、南美換取的白銀流入,使得切成小片的銀片廣為地方貿易使用。18世紀中葉大量銅錢(乾隆通寶)的發行,導致銀在地區性交易使用量下滑。本地貿易使用的銅錢和跨地區貿易使用的銀兩之間,產生互補性。與現代普遍認知不同的是,銀兩和銅幣間的不固定關係,以及地方商人在過帳時使用虛銀兩為單位,穩定了地方經濟,使其不受動盪的區際貿易所影響。

Transformation of Silver Usage in Chinese Monetary History Silvers Cut, Weighed, and Booked

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Silver by weight system in China, *yinliang* 銀兩, originated from supplementary role for silk which worked as device for distant exchange in early Chinese empire. The Yuan issued state paper money which had face values in copper coin but was calculated in silver by weight. The introduction of silver by weight to tax collection by the Ming happened to bring to Chinese society the usage of silver pieces even for local exchanges of daily necessities after the huge influx of silver from Japan and South America in exchange of silk, porcelain and, later, tea. Supply of huge quantity of copper coins, 乾隆通寶 in mid 18th century caused silver usages to retreat from local transactions and established a complementary 互補性 structure between copper coins for local transactions and silver ingots for distant exchanges.

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Unlike modern common sense, the unfixed relationship between silver and copper coin and the imaginary unit of silver by weight for book transfers 過賬 among local merchants brought a stability to local economies against turbulent interregional trade.

主講人簡介:

黑田明伸(Kuroda, Akinobu),日本籍,現任東京大學東洋文化研究所東亞細亞研究部門教授。黑田教授係京都大學(Kyoto University)經濟學博士,曾任教於大阪教育大學(Osaka Kyoiku University)、名古屋大學(Nagoya University)等校。兼具東洋史學和經濟學的背景,使黑田教授善於援引中西史事相互參照、比較。本年獲得漢學中心獎助,來臺研究主題為「Revisiting history of Chinese currencies: from the viewpoint of complementarity among monies」。