



# Lessons from China

Two journeys in China in 2019 leading to comments that are part travelogue (Nanjing and Shanghai), (2) a bit on the history of the Japanese attacks on China in 1937, (3) a wander through ancient money that was tool-shaped and several popular reasons why there are square holes in ancient Chinese coins, and primarily (4) *what lessons we can learn from China in medicine, money, and transportation for our own future.*

Nearly 100-degrees in Nanjing – flights delayed due to heat?



# 2 AM cell phone call – Poppy died the night I arrived



22 hours of air travel selfie



# CHINA



# Nanjing – Capital of China at various times and known for textiles, silk, and brocade

- It was the capital of China from the 3d to 6th century AD and again from 1368 to 1421, and again 1912 - 1937. It is a walled city. It was largely destroyed in 1937 by the Japanese.



# Nanjing Memorial Hall of the 300,000



Notice the popularity of umbrellas in the sun.



See short comments on 1937

# First Leap – where my daughter Sarah teaches



An old shopping mall becomes an after-school educational facility.



# More from Sarah's Mall & area

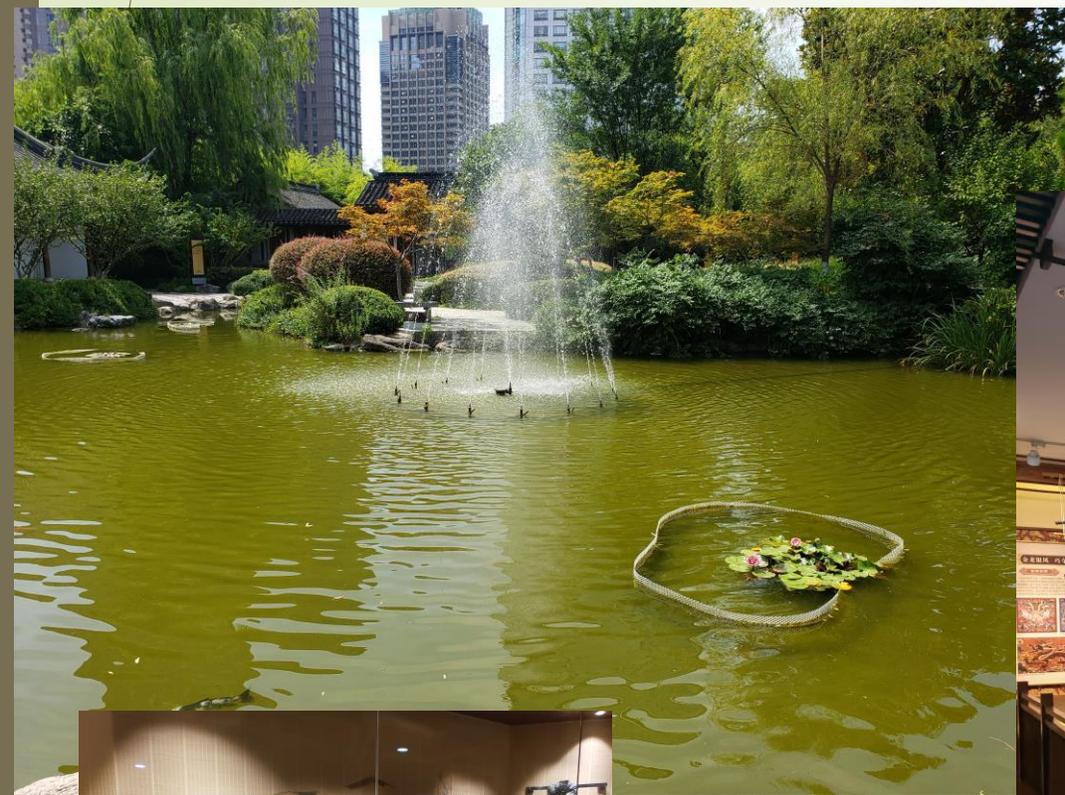


**Price haggling** when you don't speak Chinese - Shop keepers have calculators and type a price. You nod yes, or retype something lower.

# The Temple of Confucius in Nanjing



# Nanjing Palace for Textiles



# More textiles – often with dragons



# Hong Kong, French, and Vietnamese Restaurants



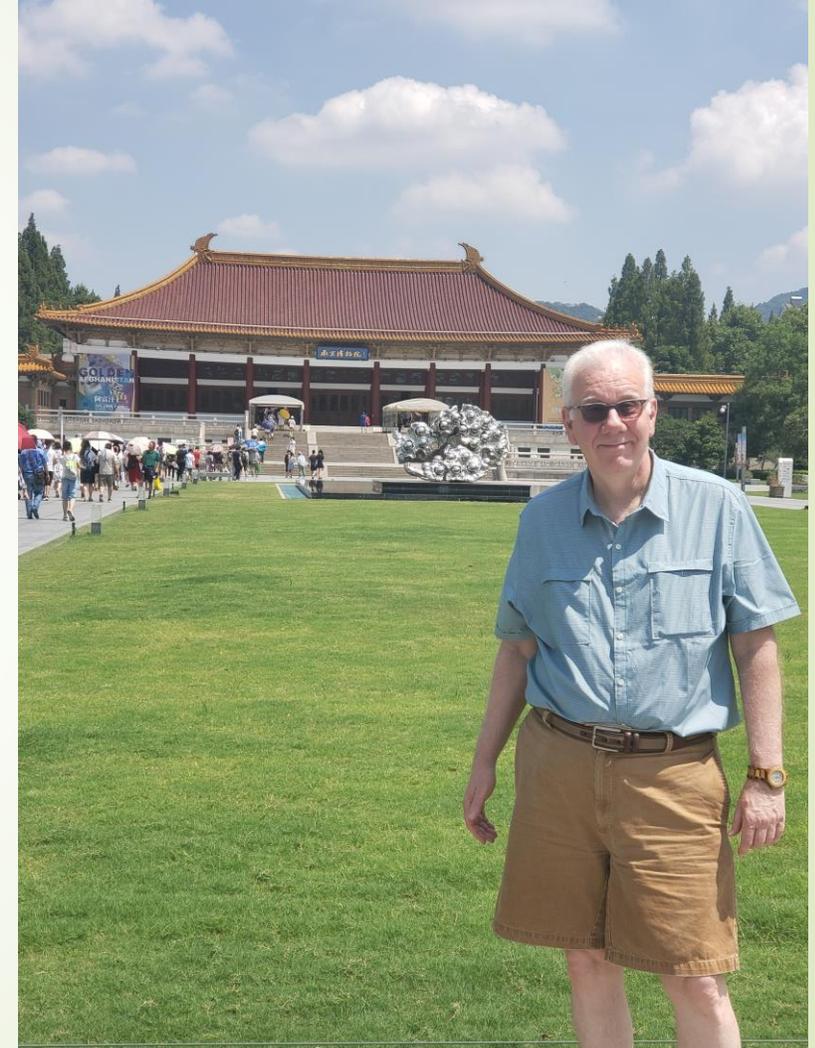
Bifengtang (above) and

*Le Beaute* – French (right)



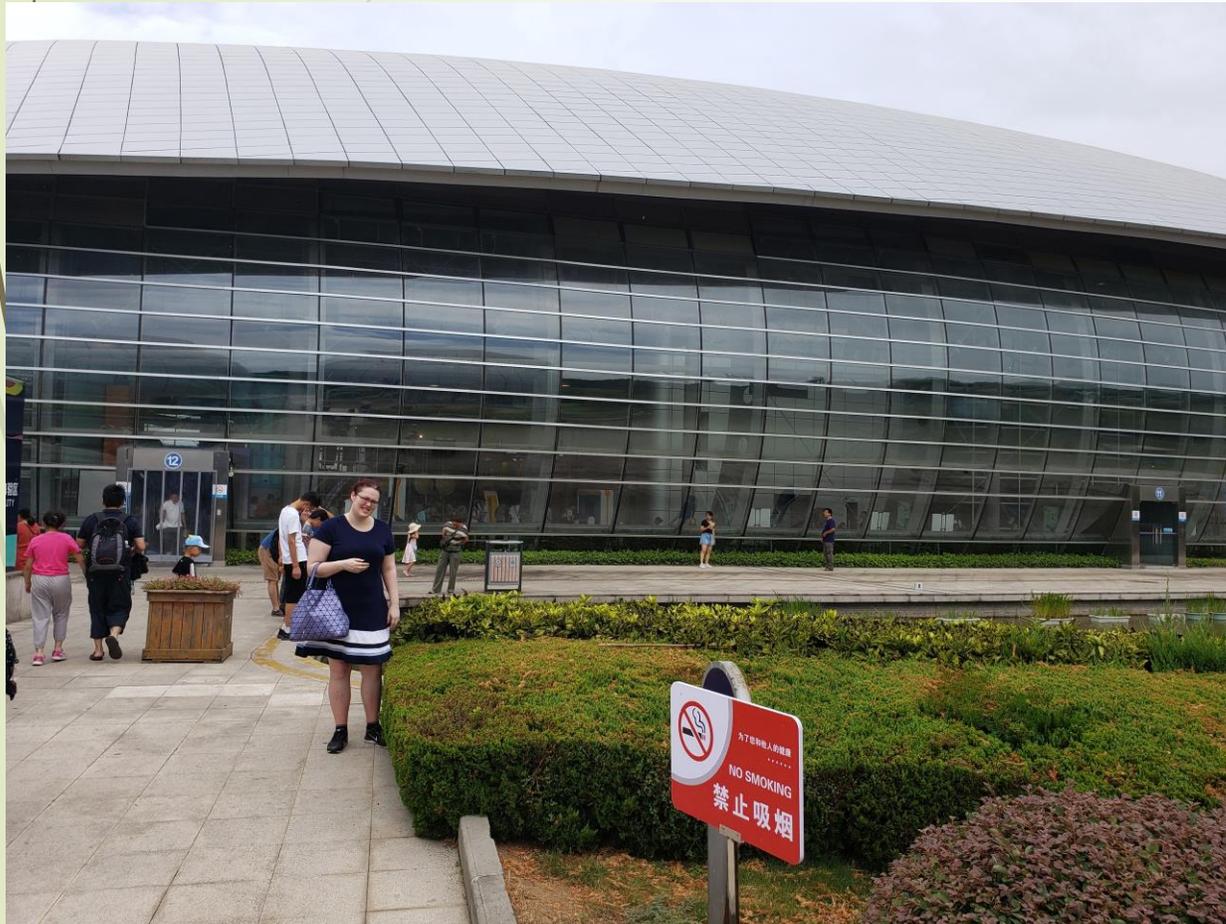
↑ Discussion of  
kwai and the future of  
cash, based on Rice  
Paper restaurant.

# Nanjing Museum – natural history, art, bronze age history



# Nanjing Science and Technology Museum

– sort of a Discovery World place.



# Mall near Sarah's apartment called **GE. World** (not General Electric)



Golden  
Eagle  
World



Automobile dealers on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor!



# Take a fast train to Shanghai



189 miles per hour.

More umbrellas for shade against the sun.



25 million people in Shanghai and the city was definitely **Top Tier**

Shanghai World Financial Tower →



# Views from above Shanghai



100 floors above Shanghai



Very meta –  
I'm photographed  
taking pictures.

# Shanghai Oceanic Aquarium

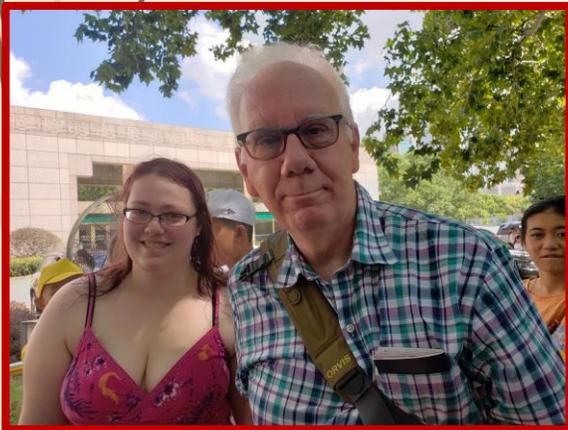


Visitors follow the one-directional path through

# The Shanghai Museum – my favorite



Hot day. Air conditioned inside. Free. So, naturally there are lines.



# A brief history of money & the early Chinese money.



同。山西侯马铸铜遗址曾发现大量用于铸造耸肩尖足空首布币的钱范。

## Cast Coins of the Jin State

The Jin State (770 – 376 BC), being quite prosperous during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, cast and used different sized shrugged-shouldered, pointed-footed and hollow-handled spade coins in different times. A large number of casting moulds of them have been found at the bronze casting site at Houma, Shanxi province.



耸肩尖足空首布 春秋 晋

Bronze Tools as Money  
770 BC

## 齐、楚、秦铸币

齐国在战国时期主要铸造大型且厚重的刀币，后又铸造明刀，并使用方孔圆钱。楚国使用被称之为“金版”的黄金称量货币外，还铸有铜布币及仿制天然贝的铜贝币。秦国则从公元前336年（秦惠文王二年）起铸造钱文为“半两”的铢两货币。

## Cast Coins of Qi, Chu and Qin States

During the Warring States period (475 – 221 BC), the Qi state (475 – 221 BC) mainly cast large and heavy sword coins, and sword coins with inscription *Ming* and round-with-a-central-square-hole coins later. The Chu state (475 – 223 BC) circulated both the unwrought weighted gold *Jinban* and cast bronze coins in a spade or cowry shape. And the Qin state (336 – 221 BC) cast *Banliang* (half tael) coin since 336 BC.



齐返邦铸大刀 安阳之大刀 即墨之大刀



楚刀 明四刀 明六刀  
方孔圆钱 战国 齐

Knives as Money

Coins with square holes.

# Theories on the shape of Chinese early coins



1. Holes in coins make it cheaper to create, due to the ability to use the bronze from the center to make more coins.
2. Holes can be used to string coins on a chain or rope for easy transport or to wear as necklaces, but of course round holes could do this too.
3. The shapes make it easier for the coin maker to file many coins at once a square rod. It keeps the aligned, holding them in place, while filing the edges.
4. *Symbolism #1: **Heaven & Earth***. Heaven is round and the earth is square.
5. *Symbolism #2: **The Universe & China***. For a secular China, the round is the universe and China is its center.

I tend to think 1 & 3 are correct as an economist, but the romantic in me likes the two symbolic reasons

# Paper money – first in China but not much used.

## 清代纸币

清政府先后发行顺治钞贯、大清宝钞、户部官票，及大清（户部）银行兑换券。各省官银钱局、各类银行和民间金融机构也发行纸币。1840年以后，外国金融势力开始涌入中国，在华设立的银行亦发行纸币。

## Paper Money of the Qing Dynasty

In the Qing dynasty, while the central government issued the notes of Shunzhi Chaoguan, Daqing Baochao, Hubei Guanpiao and official bank exchange notes, provincial banks and financial institutes throughout the country issued their own paper money, too. And since 1840, foreign countries started to send financial forces into China, setting up their own banks and issuing their bank notes in China.



➤ First paper money: Ts'ai Lun in 1<sup>st</sup> Century China

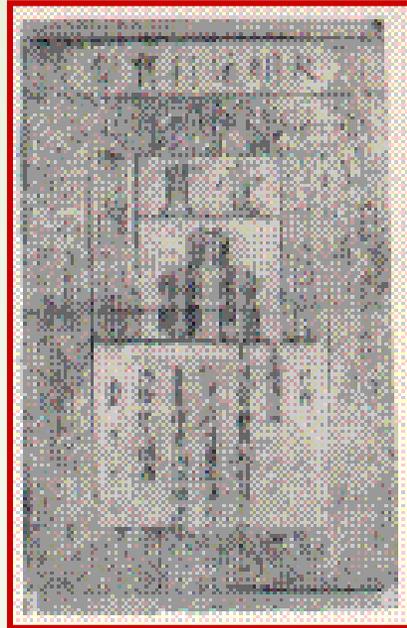
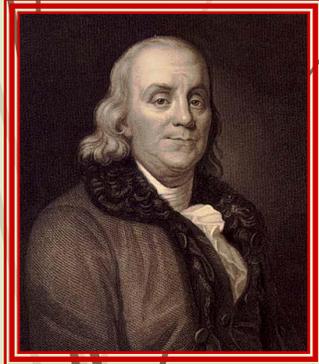
- Size of notebook paper
- None now still exist
- Paper made of rags and mulberry bark

➤ First Western paper money:

- Benjamin Franklin
  - A printer and writer of:

“A Modest Enquiry into the Nature and Necessity of Paper Currency” (1729)

- The \$3 Bill of May 1775
- These “**continentals**” circulated, until Chinese early paper money.



# Chinese medical system

## The Jiangsu People's Provincial Hospital in Nanjing, China



- Pay for each thing done
- Price is relatively low
- Streamlined – take your X-rays with you
- DMV like signs for patients
- Efficient but impersonal

# Scooters and transportation in Nanjing



The Gannet in Nanjing



Electric motor bikes  
And scooters galore.

Subway trains metered by distance. Using a fob that scanned as you enter and scanned again as you pay to leave the system.



