Asia-China-Coin-Knife-Needle Tip-Mould-H 4.8 var. R 5

Knife money evolved contemporaneously with spade money in the northeast of China and can be equated with actual knives used during the Zhou Dynasty (1046–256 BCE). This had been an area of the Neolithic Hongshan Culture and examples of jade knife money are known to have existed.

The Type 2 Needle Tip Knife (of which this is a mould) was first discovered in an excavation in 1932 at Chengde (承德, [40°58′N 117°56′E](http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Chengde&params=40_58_N_117_56_E_type:city(3610000)_region:CN-13)), Hebei Province (previously known as **Jehol** or Rèhé**,** 熱河**)**. Other excavations in Chengde County have uncovered more examples. In the late Zhou Dynasty the northeast China was within the orbit of the Xiongnu (Huns) and it has been suggested that these Needle Tip money knives were used for trade by the Chinese with them. This is further supported by the fact that there are unusual characters on many of these knives which may be in the Hunnish language. If so, this type of money would represent an economic acculturation of the Chinese with foreign trading neighbors who were otherwise enemies.







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