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LA MONETAZIONE DELLA CINA PRE-IMPERIALE

Abstract

This paper focuses on the coinage of ancient China previous to the Empire unification in 221 B.C. Starting from the barter experience of early Chinese communities, the author analyzes the evolution of coinage from its origins to III century B.C. discussing the importance of cowry used as money, as well as spades coins, knife coins and early round coins coined during the Warring States.