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More choice for worshippers as ghost money goes global

給好兄弟燒外幣

It's not just the human world that has been globalized — now it appears that even the **afterlife** has been unable to resist the pull of globalization. Worshippers no longer need to confine themselves to burning the traditional ghost money printed to look like New Taiwan dollars. Companies printing ghost money now offer US dollars, euros, Japanese yen and Chinese yuan as well as gold **nuggets** and gold bars made of paper, perhaps indicating that the market for **offerings** to the deceased has become more diversified in response to consumer demand.

A ghost money retailer from Taichung City's southern district explained that in recent years society has undergone rapid changes. Many innovative products are hitting the markets, such as the foreign **currency** ghost money that is now in production. Although these new products are two or three times more expensive than regular ghost money, they've gone down very well with consumers.

The retailer, surnamed Lin, said that a few years ago ghost money manufacturers came

up with the idea of producing replica NT\$1,000 notes that could be offered directly to a ghost to spend in the afterlife. Later on, some manufacturers shook up the market by producing look-alike US dollars, Euros, Japanese Yen and Chinese yuan. It's even possible to buy five currencies in one package, giving yet more choice to the consumer.

But is burning ghost money in foreign currencies as effective as burning traditional notes? Lin said ghost money is intended to be spent in the afterlife, so burning foreign currency could let the ghost travel overseas, which is a positive effect.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY TAIJING WU)

國際化現在已經不限於陽間，近日往生後的世界，似乎抵不住世界潮流，也跟著吹起一股國際化風潮。目前市面上傳統的金紙之外，除了新台幣，製造廠也推出美金、歐元、日幣及人民幣的金紙，而且還有紙製的金塊、金條等物品，以供民衆購買焚化，可說是因應市場需求而變化多端。

台中市南區販售金紙的一個業者解釋道，近年來社會變化較快，許多創新的產品紛紛出籠，其中廠

商推出以各國紙幣為圖案的金紙，其價格雖然比傳統金紙貴上二到三倍，卻最受大家歡迎。

林姓業者說，在幾年前就有金紙製造商想到了好點子，以新台幣千元大鈔圖案來製作金紙，讓消費者可以直接「燒」給好兄弟使用，後來又有製造商推陳出新，目前已有美金、歐元、日幣及人民幣等外國貨幣的金紙出現，甚至有製造商將五種貨幣的金紙打包在一起，讓消費者可以有多種選擇。

至於燒這些外幣的金紙是否能達到原本的功效？林姓業者表示，其實金紙就是讓陰間的好兄弟花用的紙鈔，燒外幣給他們，就是讓好兄弟能出國旅行，也算是功德一件。

(自由時報記者林良哲)

Top: A man burns ghost money on Aug. 14.

PHOTO: HUANG SHU-LI, LIBERTY TIMES

Right: A package of ghost money in five currencies, Japanese yen, Chinese yuan, New Taiwan dollars, US dollars and euros.

PHOTO: LIN LIANG-JHE, LIBERTY TIMES

上圖：這張攝於八月十四日的照片中，一位男子正顧著燃燒中的金紙。

照片：自由時報記者黃淑莉

右圖：這張照片展示一整套貨幣紙錢，當中包括日圓、人民幣、新台幣、美元與歐元。

照片：自由時報記者林良哲



TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **afterlife** /'æftə'laf/ n.

來生 (lai2 sheng1)

例: Theists generally believe in some kind of afterlife.
(有神論者通常相信有來生。)

2. **nugget** /'nʌgit/ n.

金塊 (jin1 kua1)

例: A large gold nugget was extracted by a team of miners.
(一隊礦工取出了一大塊金塊。)

3. **offering** /'ɔfərɪŋ/ n.

供品 (gong4 pin3)

例: The worshippers made offerings of food, drinks and flowers.
(崇拜者以食物、飲料與花作為供品。)

4. **currency** /'kɜːnsɪ/ n.

貨幣 (huo4 bi4)

例: We changed our money into the local currency at the airport.
(我們將身上的錢在機場換成當地貨幣。)