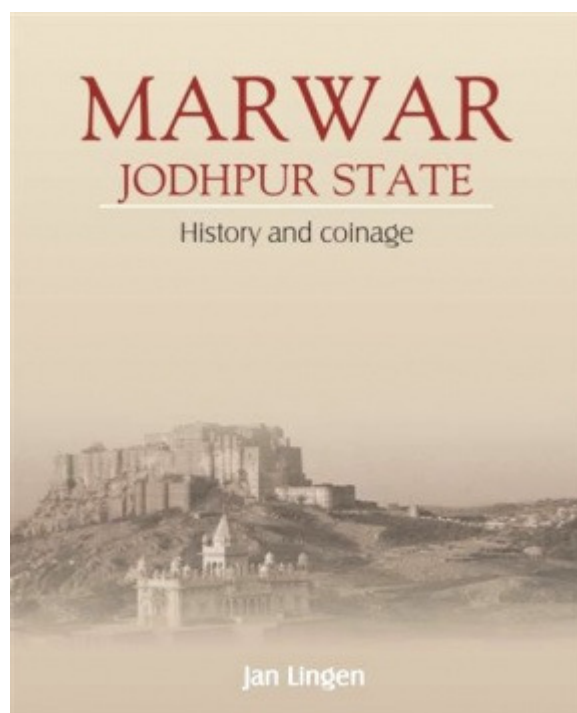


Book Review



Marwar. Jodhpur State. History and Coinage of the former Indian Princely State of Jodhpur. By Jan Lingen

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Jan Lingen and Ken Wiggins co-operated for many years in studying the history and coinage of the former States of Rajputana. Their joint publication on the Sindhias, who ruled Gwalior State, was published in 1978. At the time of Ken Wiggins' death in 2000, they were studying the history and coinage of Marwar, the State of Jodhpur. Jan Lingen continued this study, and the result is the book on Marwar reviewed here. The stages in the development of this study are partly reflected in the coin illustrations. During the early phase, Jan produced a fine series of time consuming line drawings illustrating the details of the coins. The coming of high resolution digital photography has taken

away the need for line drawings. As a result, the illustrations in the book include both line drawings and photographs. The coins are shown natural size and the images are clear.

Following a brief explanation of the catalogue numbering system, the book continues with an introduction of some thirty pages on the history of Marwar and of its coinage. The history is both clear and detailed. It extends from the mediaeval period to August 1947, when Jodhpur State acceded to the Dominion of India. The text, throughout the book, is interspersed with colour pictures of significant places in Marwar, plus portraits of the rulers. These include both the rulers of Jodhpur State and also the sovereigns of British India. The numismatic part of the introduction provides a survey of the coinage and of the mints where it was struck. This is followed by a discussion of minting and a table of the daroga (mint master) marks observed on the coins. Lingen has been able to name the various darogas.

Lingen's statement on page 9: "The former Princely State of Jodhpur – also known as Marwar - ..." could have been amplified. Marwar is the geographical name for an extensive area of central Rajasthan. Jodhpur State was a political unit whose lands embraced Marwar during the period of the Jodhpur State coinage. During that period, the geographical and political names were sometimes used more, or less, interchangeably (as Lingen often does). The relationship between the terms "Marwar" and "Jodhpur State", both of which appear in the title, could have been more clearly defined.

The catalogue of coins is arranged in the chronological order of the rulers named in the coin inscriptions. It is divided into eighteen chapters, starting with coins issued in the name of the Moghul Emperor Ahmad Shah Bahadur (AH 1161-1167: AD 1748-1754) and ending with coins struck in the combined names of King George VI and Maharaja Hanwant Singh dated VS 2004 (AD 1947). For each ruler, the coinage struck at Jodhpur mint is discussed first, followed by coinage struck at other mints (Merta, Nagaur, Pali, Sojat, Budsu).

The catalogue entries are clear and detailed. The catalogue number is accompanied by details of the metal, denomination and weight range. The obverses and reverses are presented in their original script in a left hand column, plus as a western transcription in a right hand column. The location of the daroga marks, and of other symbols, is cited in this description. The details of the daroga marks, in original script plus transcription, are given below. This is followed by citation of known dates for the issue, and by one or more coin illustrations. The presentation is consistent throughout the catalogue. The text presentation, both in original and in transcription, provides considerable help in reading what is written on the coins. As those who have studied these coins are well aware, the coin dies were larger than the coin flans. As a result, the inscriptions seen on the coins are normally lacking some peripheral details. The combination of clear descriptions and clear photos makes this book a pleasure to read.

The main body of the catalogue is followed by two further catalogue chapters. The first (chapter 19) is on the coins of Ajmer mint and the other is on the coins of Kuchaman. In each case, there is an introduction to the local history and coinage.

There are two appendices. The short appendix 1 lists the chronology of the rulers of Marwar. The longer and much more valuable appendix 2 bears the title: "The Official Gazette of Marwar: Mint". The report was written in VS 1940 (AD 1883-1884) by Musahib Alah and Munshi Deviprasad, the former being the Secretary of Jodhpur State. Chapter 16 of this report deals with the mints. This chapter is the subject of Lingen's appendix. Lingen presents the sixteen document pages in facsimile, with the English translation written below. The table of coin drawings is presented in facsimile, with an English translation of its text written on either side. The six pages of charts in the report are given in facsimile in the top part of the page, with an English language version of the same chart in the lower part of the page. The information contained in the report provides a wealth of documentation on the contemporary numismatic scene in Marwar. It is a valuable documentary resource for any study of the coinage minted in Jodhpur State.

Jan Lingen is an acknowledged authority on the field covered by his book. Lingen has succeeded in communicating his knowledge to the reader in a clear, concise and authoritative manner. The scholar will find a wealth of previously unpublished information. The collector with a few coins should find his coins easy to identify, and easy to place in their numismatic and historical contexts. Lingen's book is expected to assume its rightful place as the standard work on Jodhpur State and its coinage. I am happy to recommend it. Congratulations to Jan.

Michael Mitchiner