

INDIA: INDIAN NATIVE STATES.

THE COINAGE OF KISHANGARH. PART II.

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In a previous information sheet a description was given of the various types of coin struck in the State of Kishangarh. The original purpose of this paper was to give an account of some later silver coins originating in the same State, which, as far as I am aware, have not been published before and about which very little is known. However, some further pieces have now come to light and it seems appropriate to present them as Part 2 of this paper in the hope that a complete record of the silver coins of Kishangarh now exists. This is doubtful and if any member has coins which may help with this series it is hoped that they will communicate with the secretary so that further amendments may be made in due course.

It was stated in the previous paper that the mint at Kishangarh closed about 1900. This is obviously incorrect, in view of the later coins that have now been found. It would appear that Kishangarh was striking its own coins well into the 20th century, although probably on a much reduced scale.

It is a matter of record that in 1876 the British Government offered to mint the coins of the various Indian Native States without charge on condition that they closed down their own mints. This offer was apparently never accepted by the Kishangarh authorities. In 1893 the British Government withdrew their offer and this action brought about such a depreciation in the value of the Native States coins that most of them readily agreed to surrender their right of striking their own money. Much of the States' coinage was purchased by the British Government at face value. Kishangarh, however, retained their right to strike their own coins in silver.

Various other states retained their right to strike money in either gold, silver or copper and sometimes all metals, but whether any strict control was kept over the minting activities of these States is doubtful. It will be found that States that retained the right to mint copper coins periodically issued gold and silver, and others with the authority to issue their own silver sometimes struck in copper. No doubt any issue in an unauthorised metal would have been frowned upon had it been on a large scale but such issues that did occur were small and infrequent.

The coins listed herein are all in silver. An attempt has been made to give as much of the legends as possible, with a translation and a transliteration, but generally only one specimen is available for examination making an accurate reading almost impossible and a complete one certainly impossible.

I am greatly indebted to our members, Mr. Jan Lingen and Col. C.K. Panish who provided much information and assistance for this paper.

DESCRIPTION OF COINS

Fig. VII Rupee. 21 diam. 168 grains.

Obverse

	(.....)	(Kaisar-i-Hind?)	Struck coin
	وکتوریا	VICTORIA	of the
	مہظمہ	MU'AZZAMAH	Sultanate of
	سلطنت	SULTANAT	Her Majesty
	سکہ	SIKKA	Victoria

"Victoria" may be "sikka mabarak" انگلستان or "Inglestan" سکہ مبارک

Reverse

	(.....)	(Prithvi Singh or Sardul Singh?)	Struck at
	مہمانت	MAIMANAT	Kishangarh
	جلوس	JALUS	year 24 of his
	کشنگارہ	KISHANGARH	prosperous reign
	ضرب ۲۴	ZARB 24	(Sanah?)

NOTE

It was stated previously that the "1858" rupee was issued spasmodically between 1858 and 1900. This would appear to be incorrect, for this rupee, although having the name of Queen Victoria, bears an entirely different obverse legend. On the coin itself, it is far from complete and may contain a date, which falls off the flan at the top of the coin. It is evidently a later type than the "1858" rupee.

DESCRIPTION OF COINS (Continued)

Fig. VIII Rupee. 20mm diam. 167 grains.

Obverse



۱۸۸۰

ہند
قیصر
مظاہرہ و کتوریا
سلطنت

1880

HIND
KAISAR-I-

MU'AZZAMAH VICTORIA

SULTANAT

Sultanate

of Her Majesty

Victoria

Emperor of India

1880

The words "sikka mabarak" probably fall off the flan.

Reverse



(.....)

میمنت
جلوس
کشنگرہ
ضرب ۲۴

(.....)

(Sardul Singh?)

MAIMANAT

JALUS

KISHANGARH

ZARB 24

(Sanah?)

Struck at

Kishangarh

in the year 24

of his

prosperous reign

Note

This rupee shows a different arrangement of what may be the same obverse legend of Fig. VII. The words 'Kaisar-i-Hind' are apparent below the date, whereas they do not appear at all on the preceding coin. The date clearly shows that this type of coin had by 1880 taken the place of the "1858" rupee.

DESCRIPTION OF COINS (Continued)

Fig. IX Half Rupee 17mm diam. 84 grains.

Obverse

	۹۰۲ سید قیصر ایڑ و (۷)	(.....) SANAH KAISAR-I-HIND EDWARD	(.....) year Emperor of India Edward
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Obviously some of the legend is off the flan of the coin and the only words that can be read with any assurance are given above. The date is questionable but appears to be an attempt at 1902 in Persian numerals. The character before the numerals may be the commencement of the word "Iswy" reading "Sanah Iswy 1902" (Year of Jesus 1902) or may be the die cutter's attempt at >۴ (AD in Urdu); a practice not hitherto known.

Reverse

	(.....) بہادر کشنگرہ ۲۴	BAHADUR KISHANGAR 24
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Note

The date when this solitary half rupee, bearing the name Edward, was issued is not free from doubt. The words "Edward and "Kaisar-i-Hind" are clear and the legend contains a rather obscure date preceded by the word "Sanah" and another character or characters indicating that the date is of the Christian era and not the Muhammadan. In all probability the date is 1902, indicating that the ruler was Edward VII (1902-1910) and the coin was struck during the time of Maharajah Madan Singh (1900-1926). Unfortunately, nothing else appears on the coin which could confirm this. The striking of rupees at Kishangarh had probably ceased by this time, or, it is thought, specimens would have come to notice. It is probable that a quarter rupee of the above type exists.

DESCRIPTION OF COINS (Continued)

Fig. X Half Rupee 20mm diam. 83 grains. A quarter Rupee is also known
15mm diam. 42 grains.

Obverse



(.....)
جارج حڪم
جلوس
(سلطنت)
(.....)

(.....)
GEORGE HUKM
JALUS
(Sultanat?)
(.....)

Reverse



(.....)
يگيا نرين
بھادر
كشنگر
۲۴ (سنه)

(.....) Struck in
YAGYANARAIN Year 24 in
BAHADUR Kishangarh
KISHANGARH Lord Yagyanarain
24 (sanah?)

Note

The obverse legend of this piece contains the word George and the reverse appears to have the name of the Maharajah Yagyanarain, who ruled Kishangarh from 1926 until 1938. The coin may therefore have been struck during the reign of George V or George VI. Whether the issue comprises only the ½ and ¼ rupee is not known.

DESCRIPTION OF COINS (Continued)

Fig. XI Rupee. 20-24mm diam. 168 grains. The half, quarter and eighth rupee are also known. Their weights are proportional to the rupee and their diameters are 17-18, 15 and 12mm respectively.

Obverse



مانوس
میمنت
جلوس
کشنگره
ضرب: سنه: ۲۴

MANUS	Struck at
MAIMANAT	Kishangarh
JALUS	in year 24
KISHANGARH	of his
ZARB (sanah?) 24.	fortunate reign

Reverse



चादो

CHANDI	Moonlike
	(a round silver piece)

Note

The above four denominations, having identical inscriptions but bearing no reference to the Emperor of India or the Maharajah of Kishangarh, are thought to be private issues from Kishangarh State. As they are undated their period of issue is unknown and may have extended over a decade or more. These coins appear to be more in the nature of tokens about which nothing is known at the present. Further information on this series would be appreciated.

Castones

DESCRIPTION OF COINS (Continued)

Fig. XII Half Rupee. 16mm diam. 84 grains.

Obverse



کشن مگر ۴
سنہ ۲۴
ضرب

KISHANGARH

Struck in

SANAH 24

Year 24 at

ZARB

Kishangarh

Reverse



आठ आना
اتھ آنہ
॥

In Hindi: ATH ANA

Eight annas

In Urdu: ATH ANA

Eight Annas

Centrally a mark for 8 Annas

Fig. XIII Quarter Rupee 12mm diam. 42 grains.

Obverse

As Fig XII



Reverse



चार आना
چار آنہ
॥

In Hindi: CHAR ANA

Four Annas

In Urdu: CHAHAR ANA

Four Annas

Centrally a mark for 4 annas

Fig. XIV Two Annas 11mm diam. 21 grains

Obverse

As Fig. XII



Reverse



दो आना
दो आने

In Hindi: DU ANA

Two Annas

In Urdu: DUO ANA

Two Annas

Note

The inscriptions shown in Figs. XII, XIII and XIV have been reconstructed from a number of specimens. It will be noted that the name Kishangarh is in two parts and the spelling adopted is कश्न मगर. These coins also have the appearance of local tokens rather than an official State issue, but appear to be more plentiful than the previous type (Fig. XI). They were conceivably Struck at the Kishangarh mint from bullion tendered by private persons and used solely as a local currency.