

ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETYINFORMATION SHEET NO. 25THE GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE OF THE SIKHSPART III. THE SIKH COINAGE OF KASHMIR.

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INTRODUCTION.

A brief account of the geographical location of Kashmir and its earlier history was given in Information Sheet No. 11, April, 1975 (The Silver Coinage of the Dogra Maharajahs of Jammu and Kashmir), so it seems unnecessary to repeat it here.

In AD 1752 Kashmir passed from the Mughals to the Afghans who had emerged as a conquering force under Ahmad Shah Durrani. The Durrani Shahs ruled Kashmir for 70 years through a succession of Muslim governors appointed from Kabul. Their rule was extremely harsh and oppressive and in AD 1813 the Kashmiris sought an external power to relieve them of this tyranny. They therefore appealed to Ranjit Singh, the Sikh Maharajah of Lahore, whose power in the Punjab was now manifest. Ranjit Singh responded to this appeal and in 1814 he launched an army towards Kashmir via the Pir Panjal pass. It was however repelled by the Afghans and the Pathan governor of the time showed his exultation at his success by a renewed and fiercer persecution of the Kashmiris.

A further personal appeal to Ranjit Singh was made in 1818 by Birbal Dar, an influential refugee from Kashmir, who advised the Sikh ruler that it was an opportune time to invade Kashmir and oust the Afghans.

In April, 1819, Ranjit Singh despatched another army to Kashmir. It was commanded by Misr Diwan Chand, the most competent of the Sikh generals, who was joined by Gulab Singh the Rajah of Jammu. Fortunately for the Sikhs most of the seasoned Afghan troops were absent from Kashmir and beyond the Indus, so their advance was opposed only by raw levies. After a relatively short campaign the capital of Kashmir, Srinagar, was occupied by the Sikhs on the 5th July, 1819.

The Sikhs held Kashmir as a subah of their empire from 1819 until 1846, when at the conclusion of the first Sikh War, Kashmir was ceded to Gulab Singh, Rajah of Jammu, by the British on his agreeing to pay 7½ million Nanakshahi rupees to them on behalf of the defeated Sikhs.

On occupying Kashmir, Misr Diwan Chand was granted the title Zafar Jang and nominated governor. The territory was divided into 20 parganas, had 20 collectors, ten thanas and 400 inhabited villages. Unfortunately for the Kashmiri population the rule of the Sikh Darbar proved no less harsh than that of the Afghans. The people were subjected to exorbitant taxation which amounted to gross extortion and oppression. After generations of Muslim rule over 90% of the population had accepted Islam and it was mainly against the inhabitants of this faith that the Sikhs directed their ruthless policies.

Sikh rule in Kashmir lasted for 27 years and during this time there no less than ten governors who administered the country on behalf of the Sikh Darbar. The probable reason for the frequent change of governors is traceable to Ranjit Singh's fear that one might at any time have declared his independence of Lahore and set up a separate state. As it was, they had hardly time to settle down to begin their task of administration. Of the ten governors, the last two were Muslims, five were Hindus and three Sikhs.

Because the periods of office of these governors have some bearing on the coins that were issued during the Sikh occupation, their names are listed below together with the approximate dates of their governorship and some general remarks concerning them.

Misr Diwan Chand. This man was a Brahmin and a notable of the Sikh state. He was Ranjit Singh's most successful general and responsible for the occupation of Kashmir. He was governor until the end of 1819.

Diwan Moti Ram. A Hindu by religion and the son of a well known minister of Ranjit Singh, he succeeded Misr Diwan Chand at the end of 1819 and governed for 14 months.

Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa was another of Ranjit Singh's generals who won fame during the conquests of Multan, Peshawar and Kashmir. He appears to have accumulated a vast sum of money whilst in Kashmir, mainly by misappropriation and underhand deals. He is said to have introduced a new rupee of base coinage in Kashmir. He was governor from early in 1820 and throughout 1821. His administration was extreme and tyrannical and on being recalled by Ranjit Singh his accumulation of wealth was confiscated.

Diwan Moti Ram was reappointed governor for a further term and served as such throughout 1822 until the end of 1824. Moorcroft is reported as visiting him in 1824.

Diwan Chuni Lal, a Hindu, was governor of Kashmir for two years; throughout 1825 and 1826. On being recalled to Lahore for misgovernment, he committed suicide whilst on route there.

Diwan Kirpa Ram was the son of Moti Ram. He was evidently appointed governor at the end of 1826 and held office for three years and ten months. His term is described by Vigne as being "the kindest and best of all." He was recalled suddenly to Lahore during the summer of 1831.

Bhima Singh Ardali apparently held office as a temporary measure for about 12 months from the middle of 1831. During his governorship he was visited by Victor Jacquemont, a French naturalist.

Sher Singh was the reputed son of Ranjit Singh. He was governor of Kashmir from 1832 until 1834, but the precise dates are not known.

Colonel Mehan Singh Kumedan was governor from 1834 until 1841 and was also Commandant of the Sikh garrison there. He seems to have been the best of the Sikh administrators and did much to restore trade, industry and agriculture in the valley. He would probably have not remained in office for so long but for the death of Ranjit Singh in 1839. Mehan Singh was killed by rebellious soldiers on the 17th April, 1841.

Shaikh Gholam Muhyid Din was the first Muslim governor of Kashmir. He had been chief munshi (clerk) to Moti Ram but had been dismissed when Hari Singh took office. He supported himself as a munshi until Karak Singh became Maharajah of the Punjab. His abilities then seem to have been recognised and he was appointed governor. He held the position until 1845.

Shaikh Imam ud Din was the son of Gholam Muhyid Din and held the office of governor until November, 1846, when Gulab Singh of Jammu took possession of Kashmir.

No information is available on the form of administration under which the mint was worked but it was probably under the overall supervision of the governor of the time, who was responsible for the general economic and monetary policy of the territory. Although all the Sikh coins of Kashmir are dated, it seems that each governor decreed that his special mark or initial should appear on them so that it was known by whose authority they were issued.

THE COINAGE.

Owing to its isolated position and the difficulty of communication with surrounding countries, all the various dynasties that have occupied Kashmir from the time of Kanishka in the 1st century A.D. have struck coins there.

The Muslims conquered the valley about A.D. 1346, founding a dynasty known as the Sultans of Kashmir. They survived until A.D. 1561 and were followed by the short lived dynasty of the Chak tribe, whose last three rulers were vassals of Akbar the Mughal. In A.D. 1589 Kashmir was incorporated in the Mughal empire.

The first Mughal coins struck in Kashmir are dated Ilahi 44 of Akbar (= A.H. 1007 or A.D. 1598-99). Successive emperors coined there until Alamgir II, whose last coins struck in Kashmir are dated A.H. 1174 (A.D. 1759).

Although the Durrani invaded Kashmir in A.D. 1753-74, they did not issue coin there until it was annexed to their empire in A.D. 1762 (A.H. 1176) during the time of Ahmad Shah Durrani. Their last issue was in the name of Ayyub Shah and dated A.H. 1234 (A.D. 1818-19).

On occupying Kashmir the Sikhs lost no time in issuing their own coin. Their first rupees are dated S.1876 (A.D.1819). Thereafter they were struck each year until S.1903 (A.D.1846) but as the following catalogue shows there is much variation in each issue, with differing arrangements of the legends and a plethora of marks and symbols, for which explanations have been advanced.

On their rupees, the same obverse legend, in Persian, was used throughout. The reverse legend appears to have been subject to alteration from time to time and, where known, these are given. Although the Sikhs are reported to have changed the name of the capital town from Kashmir to Srinagar, the latter name does not appear on their silver coins at all and only late in their occupation on their copper.

The copper coins struck during the Sikh occupation of Kashmir were recorded and illustrated by Valentine (1). Although they are of very crude fabric and were probably struck under licence by private contractors, the majority of them have some affinity with the contemporary rupees, particularly with respect to the marks and symbols that appear on them. There appears to be no reliable information available concerning the value of the copper coins against the rupee. The weights of the coppers are far from uniform and the denomination given on some of them is falus. The kauri was, from early times, used as a monetary token in Kashmir as elsewhere in India. In Mughal times in Kashmir eight kauris were equal to one bahagain, two bahagains were equal to one punsu, four punsus were the equivalent of one hath, while ten hath were worth one sasun. The hath was a copper coin corresponding to the dam or one fortieth of a rupee. Most payments were reduced to equivalents of the hath, which was later represented by the pice or one sixtyfourth of a rupee. It is not known for certain whether these terms applied to any of the copper coins of the early 19th century but as common usage dies slowly, it is possible they did. A further report mentions that the tanga or anna ($1/16$ rupee) was the chief circulating coin and all small transactions were carried on with it. Kauris rated at 20 to a tanga.

The silver coins that were produced were confined to the rupee denomination. No fractions appear to have been struck and gold of the Sikh period is unknown. The weight of the rupee remained fairly constant but apparently its silver content fluctuated. It is reported that Diwan Moti Ram first fixed the weight of silver in the rupee at 10 dangs and later at 9. Sardar Hari Singh fixed the weight of pure silver at 12 dangs and his coin was dubbed the Hari Singhji rupee. This name seems to have been applied to all subsequent Sikh rupees of Kashmir. Shaikh Gholam Muhyid Din is said to have gradually reduced the weight of pure silver in the rupee to 8 dangs.

During the Sikh occupation of Kashmir there were three different kinds of rupee in general use. Mughal rupees: these old rupees were valued at only 10 annas against the Delhi (? East India Company) rupee. As well as the rupees formerly minted in Kashmir by the Mughals, presumably any type of Mughal rupee passed current. The transactions in the shawl markets were made in this rupee. Sikh rupees struck in Kashmir: these were worth 12 annas against the Company's rupee and were used for the payment of rents, taxes and customs dues. Nanakshahi rupees: These were the rupees of Lahore and Amritsar which passed current at 16 annas throughout the Sikh domain but were valued at $14\frac{1}{2}$ annas at Delhi. This coin was used for paying the Khalsa troops.

1. Ar rupee. Date: S.1876. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.



Ob.

دیک تے فتح
از ناک گورو گو بند سنگه
نصرت بید رنگ یا

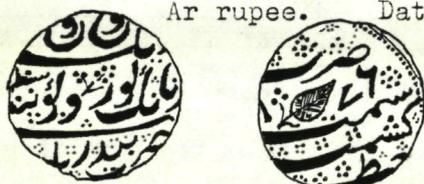
rev.

ضرب
۱۸۷۶
سمت
خطه کشمیر

Mark: Flower spray.

Remarks: Believed to be the first issue of the Sikhs on taking Kashmir in A.D.1819 (S.1876). A rare type in comparison with No.2. Probably issued by the first governor, Misr Diwan Chand.

2. Ar rupee. Date: S.1876. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.



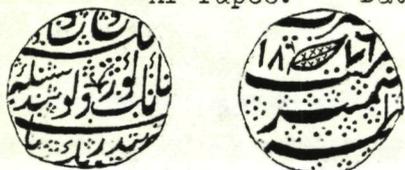
Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.2 but date divided by pipal leaf.

Mark: Flower spray.

Remarks: Probably the second issue under the authority of Misr Diwan Chand or Diwan Moti Ram. Whether the flower spray motif has any special significance as regards either governor is not known. The legends are identical to No.1 but the pipal leaf moved to a central position, dividing the date. Several die variations of this type are known.

2a. Ar rupee. Date: S.1876. Weight: 11.3 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.



A die variety of No.2.

3. Ar rupee. Date: S.1877. Weight: 11.05 grams. Diameter: 23 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

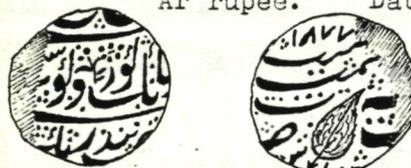
Rev.

۱۸۷۷
سمت
خطه ضرب
جلوس مانوس

Mark: Flower spray.

Remarks: Struck in A.D.1820 during the governorship of Dewan Moti Ram. This coin is characterised by the large ill-formed pipal leaf on the reverse. The reverse legend has been modified to read "Struck in the district of Kashmir in the year of his auspicious reign Sambat 1877."

4. Ar rupee. Date: S.1877. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.3.

Mark: Flower spray.

Remarks: This type has identical legends to No.3 but the pipal leaf has been redrawn to a more realistic form. No doubt another issue of Dewan Moti Ram which may, of course, have preceded No.3.

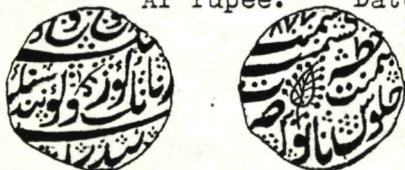
5. Ar rupee. Date: S.1877. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.
Rev. As No.3.
Mark: Flower spray.

Remarks: This coin is a variety of No.4 with a smaller pipal leaf decorated with dots. Struck in A.D.1820 probably by Diwan Moti Ram.

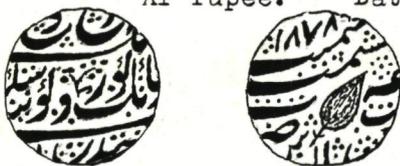
6. Ar rupee. Date: S.1877. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.
Rev. As No.3.
Mark: Flower spray with H added on stem.

Remarks: This coin is virtually identical to No.5 but a small H (Gurmukhi Ha) has been engraved on the stem of the flower spray. This would seem to indicate that this rupee is the first issue of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa, who is said to have come to Kashmir as governor in A.D.1820.

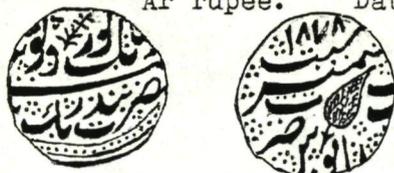
7. Ar rupee. Date: S.1878. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.



Ob. As No.1.
Rev. As No.3.
Mark: Flower spray with H added on stem.

Remarks: A similar type to No.6 but with H (Gurmukhi H) added to the flower spray. Probably the succeeding type and the second issue of Sardar Hari Singh.

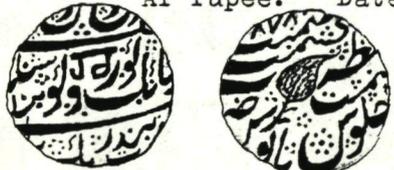
8. Ar rupee. Date: S.1878. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.
Rev. As No.3.
Mark: A sprig or a flower.

Remarks: This coin is dated to the governorship of Sardar Hari Singh but unlike the preceding and following coins bears no letter or letters referring to his name. The mark on the obverse is slightly different and may have been intended to represent a flower or a sprig.

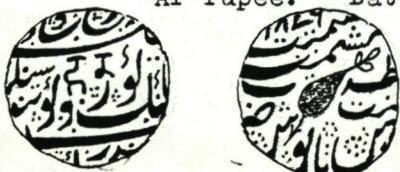
9. Ar rupee. Date: S.1878. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.
Rev. As No.3.
Mark: H (Gurmukhi - Hara).

Remarks: Struck in A.D.1821 during the governorship of Sardar Hari Singh with his abbreviated name boldly shown on the obverse.

10. Ar rupee. Date: S.1879. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 22.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.
Rev. As No.3.
Mark: H (Nagari - Hara).

Remarks: A later type than No.9. The essential differences on this coin are the name Hara appears now in Nagari and there is a leaf like design added at the tip of the pipal leaf. A further issue of Sardar Hari Singh.

11. Ar rupee. Date: S.1879. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.3.

Mark: रु रजी (Nagari - Haraji).

Remarks: Whether this rupee is a later issue than No.10 it is impossible to determine. An examination of the coins reveals no clues. The date indicates that Sardar Hari Singh was still in office during the early part of A.D.1822.

12. Ar rupee. Date: S.1879. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.3.

Mark: जे श्री (Nagari - Um Sri).

Remarks: This is possibly the first type issued during Diwan Moti Ram's second term as governor. The obverse bears the legend Um Sri, a religious invocation that accords with the fact that Moti Ram was a Hindu. The pipal leaf varies slightly in design on different coins.

13. Ar rupee. Date: S.1880. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.3.

Marks: Ob. شرام

Rev. Dagger across the base of the pipal leaf.

Remarks: This rupee, struck in A.D.1823, is a further issue of Moti Ram during his second governorship. Sri Ram (Honourable Ram) may be read on the obverse. The significance of the dagger on the reverse is not known.

14. Ar rupee. Date: S.1881. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev.

1881
سہیت
کشمیر اکال سا
خط
ضرب

Mark: *

Remarks: This coin is probably an issue of Moti Ram, who is said to have been governor until 1824. However, the change in the reverse legend which occurs on this rupee may have been instigated by Diwan Chuni Lal, his successor. If it is a coin struck under Moti Ram then it is possible that he had the symbol changed each year.

15. Ar rupee. Date: S.1881. Weight: 11.05 grams. Diameter: 22 mm.

S.1882.

11.10 grams.

22.5 mm.

S.1883.

11.00 grams.

22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.14.

Mark: Flag.

Remarks: The rupees of these three years are virtually identical and were undoubtedly issued under Chuni Lal, who was Sikh governor of Kashmir during the period A.D.1824-26. He appears to have retained the mark of a flag or pennant throughout his period of rule.

16. Ar rupee. Date: S.1883. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.
 Ob. As No.1.
 Rev. As No.14.
 Mark: ☼



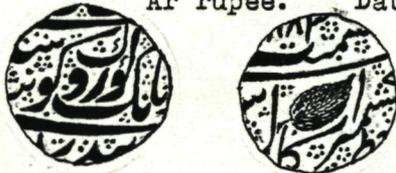
Remarks: This coin bears no particular distinguishing mark; it could therefore have been struck by Chuni Lal or Kirpa Ram. The lack of any significant mark could also indicate that it was struck during an interregnum or handover period.

- 16a. Ar rupee. Date: S.1883. Weight: 11.2 grams. Diameter: 20.5 mm.
 Ob. As No.1.
 Rev. As No.14.
 Mark: Flower spray.



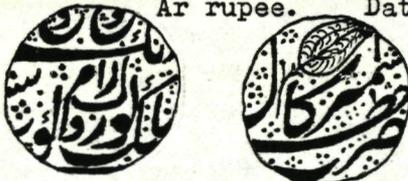
Remarks: This rupee also has no special mark indicating that a particular governor was in office. The remarks under No.16 are also applicable to this coin.

17. Ar rupee. Date: S.1883. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21.3 mm.
 Ob. As No.1.
 Rev. As No.14.
 Mark: ك (Persian Kaf = K).



Remarks: This coin indicates that Kirpa Ram became governor late in A.D.1826 or at the beginning of 1827, as it is assumed that the Persian K is his initial.

- 17a. Ar rupee. Date: ? Weight: 11.5 grams. Diameter: 22.5 mm.
 Ob. As No.1.
 Rev. As No.14.
 Mark: ك رام (Persian - K Ram).



Remarks: Similar to No.17 but bears the inscription K Ram in the centre of the obverse. A dated specimen has not been seen by the authors, but this type was probably struck in S.1883.

18. Ar rupee. Date: S.1884. Weight: 11.2 grams. Diameter: 21.3 mm.
 Ob. As No.1.
 Rev. _____

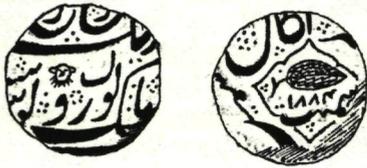


خطه کشمیر
 ۱۸۸۴
 سبیت
 اکال سہ
 ضرب

Mark: ☆ ك

Remarks: The period of Kirpa Ram's governorship appears to have been one of experiment in the designs on the silver coins. In S.1884 a number of unconventional arrangements appear on the reverse with some intriguing marks accompanying the Persian K on the obverse. It will be noted that the reverse legend is arranged differently.

19. Ar rupee. Date: S.1884. Weight: 10.96 grams. Diameter: 20.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. Centre

Around

Mark: 

سجیت ۱۸۸۴
ضرب خطہ کشمیر اکال سہج

Remarks: A further issue of Kirpa Ram, this time with a completely different arrangement of the reverse. Within the central lozenge is the pipal leaf and date, whilst the rest of the inscription, including the mint, is arranged around it. The coin examined was rather poorly struck and most of the circular legend is wanting but it appears to be as given above.

20. Ar rupee. Date: S.1884. Weight: ? Diameter: 21 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.19.

Mark:  (as No.19).

Remarks: A variety of the preceding type. The pipal leaf and date are placed within a circle. This coin was illustrated by Rodgers in 1881.

21. Ar rupee. Date: S.1885. Weight: 11.1 grams. Diameter: 22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

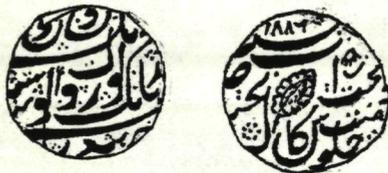
Rev.

Mark: 

شہری
کشمیر
تخت اکال تخت
مہمنت
خلوس مانوس

Remarks: This type was struck by Kirpa Ram in S.1885. The obverse continues to bear the letter . The reverse has changed and bears the "takht akal bakht" inscription that appears on the coins of Amritsar. Two coins of this date are shown. They differ slightly in detail. It will be noted that the mint is now called Sri Kashmir.

22. Ar rupee. Date: S.1886. Weight: 10.9 grams. Diameter: 21.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev.

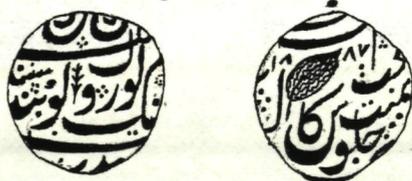
Mark: Obverse 

Reverse 

کشمیر ۱۸۸۶
ضرب
تخت اکال تخت
مہمنت
خلوس مانوس

Remarks: Kirpa Ram - a similar type to No.21 but the date is placed above the word Kashmir and the word Sri appears to be omitted. Struck in S.1886 (A.D.1829).

23. Ar rupee. Date: S.1887. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

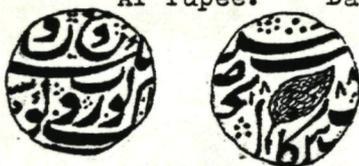
Rev.

Mark: 

کشمیر
ضرب
تخت اکال تخت
مہمنت
خلوس مانوس

Remarks: Another issue of Kirpa Ram struck in S.1887. The obverse still has the letter , which is now accompanied by a leaf spray. The date has moved back to the pipal leaf and the word Sri is definitely missing.

24. Ar rupee. Date: S.1888. Weight: 10.85 grams. Diameter: 22.5 mm.



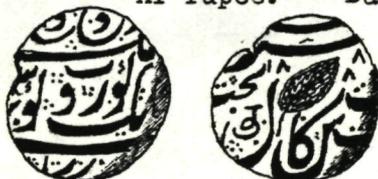
Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.23.

Mark:  (Persian - B).

Remarks: This coin bears the Persian letter B on the obverse, and as it was struck in S.1888, is an issue of Bhima Singh.

25. Ar rupee. Date: S.1888. Weight: 10.95 grams. Diameter: 23 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

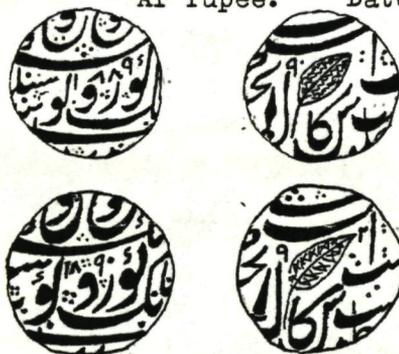
Rev. As No.23.

Mark: Obverse  (Persian B).

Reverse  (Gurmukhi B).

Remarks: This type is similar to No.24 but as well as having the Persian letter on the obverse, also has the Gurmukhi letter  on the reverse. The date remains S.1888.

26. Ar rupee. Date: S.1889. Weight: 10.9 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.
S.1890. 10.85 grams. 22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

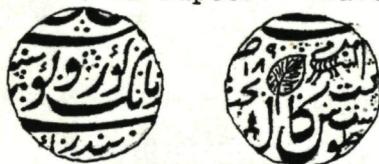
Rev. As No.23.

Mark: Reverse - dagger.

Remarks: Both coins are depicted here. They are virtually identical except for the dates and the figures that can be seen on the reverse side. On the rupee dated S.1889

the figures 90 appear on the reverse. On the one dated S.1890 the figures are 92. It is difficult to suggest a meaning for these numerals. The mark of a dagger can be seen to the left of the word akal. This mark appears in the same place on the two following coins. This type of rupee was apparently issued during the governorship of Sher Singh or perhaps just before he took office.

27. Ar rupee. Date: S.1890. Weight: 8.5 grams. Diameter: 20 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.23.

Mark: Lion.

Remarks: This is a coin of Sher Singh dated S.1890 (A.D.1833). The reverse is characterised by the depiction of a lion. Sher means lion in Persian.

28. Ar rupee. Date: S.1891. Weight: 10.9 grams. Diameter: 20 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.23.

Mark: Reverse - dagger.

Remarks: Similar to No.27 but the lion is absent. The date S.1891 can relate to both Sher Singh or his successor Colonel Mehan Singh Kumedan. The latter's coins otherwise all have the  symbol on them, so this type may be an issue of Sher Singh or was produced during the interval between governors.

29. Ar rupee. Date: S.1891. Weight: 11 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev.

1891
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ
ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ

Mark:

Remarks: The obverse bears the sword and belt symbol which is found on all Mehan Singh's rupees up to the year S.1898. The reverse legend has not yet been read with certainty. Sri akal Kashmir is clear enough on this and other coins; the top two lines below the date are a puzzle. One suggestion is that they represent the religious invocation "Haraji" previously encountered on some rupees of Hari Singh (see No.11), where it also refers to the name of the governor. There is also an unread word to the left of the lam of akal.

30. Ar rupee. Date: S.1892. Weight: 7.6 grams. Diameter: 21 mm.

Ob.

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ
ਨਮੋ ਬਿਦਿਗੁਰੂ
ਯਠਾਤੁ ਅਨੁ ਨਾਨਕ
ਗੁਰੂਗੋਬਿਨਦ ਮਿਲਨਾ



Rev.

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ
ਪੁਰੁਖਿ ਜੀ
ਨਾਨਕ ਪਉੜੀ

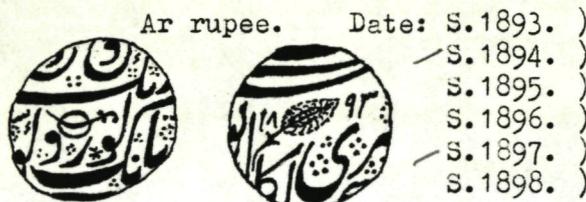
Mark:

Remarks: This is an unusual coin weighing a little over seven grams and bearing Gurmukhi legends on both sides. Mehan Singh's sword and belt symbol appears on the obverse while the reverse has the date S.1892 plus the figures 97. The significance of the latter figures is unknown but it could well follow on from the figures found on No.26 above. A possible explanation for these numerals is that they are years starting from some event of importance in Sikh history. Therefore, if S.1892 corresponds to year 97, then the era concerned or the event that occurred was in S.1795 or A.D.1738. The only notable event that occurred in that year, so far as the Sikhs are concerned, was the execution of one of their important theologians, Bhai Mani Singh, by Zakariya Khan, the Mughal governor of the Punjab. This sad occasion could hardly be thought important enough to mark the commencement of an era which was subsequently recorded on the coinage of Kashmir.

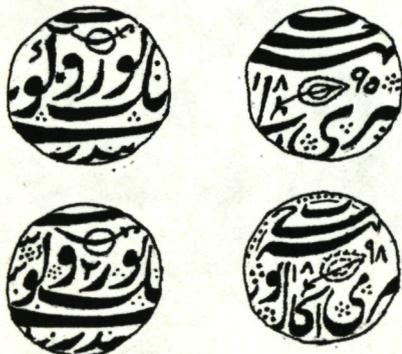
The expression Sri Akal Purukhji on the reverse is, according to Rodgers, the commencement of the Akal Astut, a hymn in praise of the Timeless One. The words mean "Hail, Timeless Divinity." The obverse inscription seems to represent the usual Sikh couplet.

Rodgers published a gold coin similar to this one, weighing 167 grains (10.821 grams), but with a reverse inscription which he read as "Wah Guru ji, Wah Guru ji, Wah Guru ji," the religious cry of the Sikhs. The status of these coins is not known. The light weight of the silver coin and its reference to the Akal Astut hymn suggest a religious or presentational purpose rather than a coin meant for ordinary circulation. The gold coin is of normal mohur weight. These coins are rare. Readers are also referred to the coin of Miscellaneous Type D on page 16 of our paper on the coins of Amritsar.

31.



Weight: c.10.85 grams. Diameter: 21-22 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

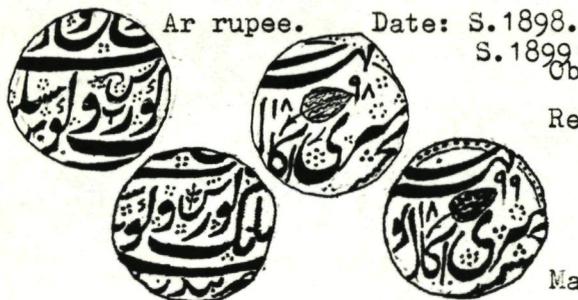
Rev.

شہری اکال نو
 کشمیر

Mark:

Remarks: These are regular issues of Mehan Singh and are known from each year between S. 1893 - 1898. There are slight variations in the design of the pipal leaf. On a coin of S.1898 the symbol ∇ appears below the sword motif. This may represent a lamp or an altar. The reverse inscription poses another problem. Above the two lines read as "Haraji" (?) (see No.29 above) is an additional letter which would appear to be a K, as on some coins it is clearly written ک . What this refers to and how it fits in with the rest of the inscription the authors are unable to explain.

32.



Ob. As No.1.

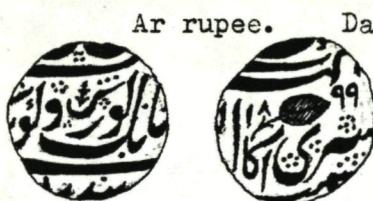
Rev.

شہری اکال نو
 کشمیر

Mark: ش (Persian - sh) & flower spray.

Remarks: In S.1898, Shaikh Gholam Muhyid Din became governor of Kashmir. His first coins are similar to No.29 except that Mehan Singh's sword and belt are replaced by the Persian letter ش (Sh) and the date is divided on each side of the pipal leaf. The reverse legend has the problematic two line "Haraji" inscription at the top. Various leaf sprays are found in the loop of the and the ∇ symbol appears on some coins below this letter.

33.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.31.

Mark: As No.32.

Remarks: Similar to the preceding type but with the letter ک (K) at the top of the reverse (see No.31 above). This coin appears to have been struck by the governor only in S.1899.

34.

Ar rupee.

Date: S.1900.)

S.1901.)

S.1902.)

Weight: c.10.7 grams. Diameter: c.20-21 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.32.



Marks: Obverse - S.1900

س س

S.1901

س س

S.1902

س س

Remarks: This is a further issue of Shaikh Gholam Muhyid Din and is known only for the years cited above. On the obverse various symbols are found to the left of the letter س; the reverse reverts to the two line inscription at the top and the date lies to the left of the pipal leaf.

35.

Ar rupee.

Date: S.1903.

Weight: 10.7 grams.

Diameter: 20.5 mm.



Ob. As No.1.

Rev. As No.32.

Mark: س س

Remarks: This type is similar to No.34. Dated S.1903, it has a different symbol to the left of the س. This is probably a coin struck under the governor Shaikh Imam ud Din, who took office in A.D.1846 (S.1903).

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APPENDIX A.

Transliteration and translation of the legends.

- 1 & 2. Obverse: Deg, tegh wa fath was nasrat bederang yafat az Nanak Guru Gobind Singh = Abundance, the sword, victory and help without delay Guru Gobind Singh obtained from Nanak.
Reverse: Zarb Sambat 1876 Khitta Kashmir = Struck in Samvat 1876 in the territory of Kashmir.
- 3 to 13. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: Zarb Sambat 1877 Khitta Kashmir julus maimanat manus = Struck in Samvat 1877 in the territory of Kashmir, the years of auspicious reign.
- 14 to 20. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: Zarb Khitta Kashmir, Akal sahai, Sambat 1881 = Struck in the territory of Kashmir with the help of God in Samvat 1881.
21. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: (Zarb) Sri Kashmir 1885 julus maimanat manus, takht Akal bakht = (Struck in) honourable Kashmir in 1885 the year of his auspicious reign. Prosperity to the throne of God.
- 22 to 28. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: Zarb Kashmir 1886 jalus maimanat manus, takht Akal bakht = Struck in Kashmir in 1886 the year of his auspicious reign. Prosperity to the throne of God.
29. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: (Zarb Kashmir) Sri Akal jui - Haraji.
This legend is incomplete on most coins and what can be seen cannot be translated meaningfully.
30. Obverse: As 1 (in Gurmukhi).
Reverse: Jarb i Kasamira i Sri Akal Purukhji 1892 = Struck in Kashmir - Hail Timeless Divinity.
31. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: (Zarb Kashmir) Sri Akal jui
An incomplete legend that cannot as yet be translated satisfactorily.
- 32 to 33. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: As 29.
33. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: As 31.
- 34 & 35. Obverse: As 1.
Reverse: As 29.