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April 1979

**Who was Bushby Sahib ?**  
(continued)

*by K. W. Wiggins*

Bushby, in capacity as Agent to the Governor General, would, no doubt, have had dealings with Raghuraj Singh, the then Maharajah of Rewa. The nature of these dealings is not known but he was probably keeping an authoritative eye on his form of government. It is also a matter of conjecture as to why the Maharajah decided to have the Agent's name on his coin, or who instigated the idea. Unless Bushby was an extreme egoist the suggestion is hardly likely to have come from him, and if it had done the action would have been likely to incur the displeasure of the Bengal Government. In any event it would have caused some comment in official circles. Although not active in discouraging the Native States from producing their own coins, the Presidency Governments did nothing to assist with their coining. They were fairly prompt to suppress any use of the native coins in their own territories. The idea, and full marks must be given for originality, probably came from the Maharajah or a member of his court, with the presumed intention of making a favourable impression on the highest ranking representative of the Company in that area. Whatever impact the issue of coins bearing Bushby's name may have had, it is significant that they were issued with one date only and that they were the last issue struck by Rewa for general use.

There are two types of these coins and two denominations. The first type has on the obverse a tiger walking left and around it an Urdu inscription which includes the name of Raghuraj Singh and the date S. 1906 (AD 1849). The second type has the tiger reclining to the right with the same Urdu legend. The inscription is very badly engraved and cannot be properly read. Both types have the same reverse written in rather quaint English. The larger coins, which were presumably double paisa, weigh about 15.8 grammes and the smaller about 8.2 grams.

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### Some recent publications

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- K. K. Maheshwari*, Two types of local punchmarked coins, *Numismatic Digest*, Iii, Dec. 1977, 1
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**Occasional papers**

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