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Members news

Mr. Michael Broome would be interested in hearing details of Qajar gold tomans struck at Meshad mint dated from AH 1260 to 1280. The next Occasional Paper will be by David Sellwood on 'Early Sassanian coinage and its background'. Dr. Henri Arroyo notes a further specimen of the ?Sambak coinage (cfr. N/L 62 - 64). From his photograph it appears identical with Mr. Wiggins' coin illustrated in N/L 64 with the exception that the bottom line of the 'western' inscription reads "CHO" on the Wiggins coin and "-HO" on the Arroyo coin (a horizontal bar in place of a letter C).

Remember the Rotterdam ONS meeting on Saturday May 10th. (Ethnological Museum). Another London meeting will be arranged for the Autumn, details to be announced later.

Some recent publications

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- van Laere, R.*, Circular coinage of the Maldive Islands, *Numismatic Digest*, Bombay, 1979, iii, part i, 48 - 57
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- Lahiri, A. N.*, The importance of the unique gold coin of Naranarayana, *JNSI.*, 1978, 140 - 143
- Lingen, J.*, Rupees with the mint name Arkat, *Seaby's Coin & Medal Bulletin*, Jan. 1980, 13 - 15
- Lingen, J.*, Awadh medal of Queen Nawab Tajmahal, *Numismatic Digest*, Bombay, 1979, iii part i, 61
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Books

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Mitchiner, Michael, Oriental Coins and their Values: III: Non-Islamic States and Western Colonies, AD 600 - 1979: pp. 640, over 4,750 coins catalogued in their historical context, valued and all illustrated. This is now available from B. A. Seaby Ltd., 11 Margaret Street, London, case bound, price £38. It completes the three - volume survey of Oriental Numismatics.

Publications available from the Director, State Museum, Lucknow 226001, UP., India: - This list has been supplied by John Deyell who notes that postage costs from Rs. 40.00 to 60.00, depending on the size of order, for sea mail (Rs. 125 - 150 extra by air) and takes about 6 months to Europe or North America.

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no. 3, Dec. 1969: Rs. 3 . 00

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Srivastava, A. K., A hoard of Kusana Gold coins from Jaunpur, pp. 27 - 30, pl. 6

Srivastava, C. S., Treasure Trove hoard (Moghul copper), pp. 68 - 74

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Srivastava, A. K., Kushana Gold coins from Unnao District, pp. 31 - 33, pl. 2

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Mukherjee, B. N., A note on the attribution of some Kushana coins, pp. 1 - 4, pl. 1

Srivastava, A. L., Srivatsa symbol on early Indian coins, pp. 5 - 13, pl. 1

Srivastava, C. S., Treasure Trove hoards of coins (Indo-sassanian Bl., Nagas of Narwar, AE, Delhi Sultans Bl. & AR, late Moghul AR, Native States AR, British India AR), pp. 60 - 70

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Shastri, A. M., Adyavadi ajnat Kausambi-naresh vijaya-nandi ke sikke (Till now unknown coins of the Kausambi king Vijayanandi), pp. 25 - 31, pl. 1

Mukherjee, D., Salabhanjika motif on coins, pp. 32 - 34, pl. 1

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Srivastava, A. L., Some interesting Rama-tankas in the collection of the State Museum, Lucknow, pp. 82 - 85, pl. 1

Yadav, R. D., Treasure Trove hoards of coins (AR punch-marked, Mughal AR, British India AV), pp. 109 - 113

(to be continued)

A mysterious mint of the Nawabs of Arcot

by K. W. Wiggins

A recently examined lot of Indian copper coins contained 28 pieces of distinctive fabric and style which were recognised as paisa of the Nawabs of Arcot. The majority were crudely struck and well worn, thereby meriting no great attention. However, a closer examination of this group revealed the interesting fact that they bore a mint name which is not one of the known minting places in the Carnatic.

The following composite drawing was made by using most of the specimens in the group : —

Average weight: 181 grains (11.72 gm)
Average diameter: 18 mm.

Obv. Sikka zad bar haft kashur (seeah)
faizal ilah hami (din) (Muhammad)
Shah Alam (Badshah) bihegira
Rev. Zarb Muazimabad du sanah
Walajah

شاه عالم
۱۲۰۲
فضل ایلہامی
سکہ زرہ ہفت کاشور

(محمد) شا عالم (بادشاہ)
(۵)
(سابقہ) فضل الرحامی (دین)
سکہ زرہ ہفت کاشور

والا
۲۵
زرع
معاذ آباد

والا
(۵)
نو سہ
زرع معاذ آباد

The obverse legend appears to be an abbreviated form of the usual Shah Alam distich; there is certainly no trace of some of the words. The reverse lacks the usual *Jalus maimanat manus* formula.

These coins were published previously by the late C. H. Biddulph (JNSI. XXIV, 1962, Pl. V, nos. 11 - 12). Biddulph listed them under the Arcot mint, but commented in the text that 'whilst no definite evidence exists as to the mint from which coins A and B were issued it is permissible to hazard a guess that it was Arcot'. I have been unable to trace any town by the name of Muazimabad within the region formerly under the control of the Nawabs of Arcot, but the name itself may merely be an honorific, as Muazimabad means 'the eminent city'. It would, however, appear not to be Arcot, as copper coins of a somewhat different type and of better workmanship were issued with the mint name Arcot contemporaneously with the Muazimabad pieces.

The following dates and regnal years have been observed on the coins of this group: —

RY 3, AH 1178/RY 5, AH 118x/RY 8, AH 1183/RY 10, RY 12, RY 15, AH 119x/RY 17, RY 18, AH 1192/RY 19, AH 1202/RY 25 (sic), AH 1203, AH 1209/RY 29, RY 38.

An East India Company weight for Farrukhabad rupees of AD 1806 - 1818

by Michael Mitchiner

The weight published here is a uniface copper piece that has been machine struck with a marginal collar. The inscription within a hexagonal frame on the obverse is as follows: —

Minimum legal weight of oblique milled old Fur. Rupee 171.198 grs.

beneath the inscription is stamped an authorisation monogram that appears to read — JC.

The oblique milled Farrukhabad rupee was authorised on 27th. March 1806 at a weight of 173 grains (Pridmore' p. 222). Its production in the Bengal Presidency continued until a new form of Farrukhabad rupee was introduced in 1819 at a weight of 180.234 grains.

Although there exists a substantial body of evidence concerning the authorised weights of various coin denominations struck by the East India Company, much less appears to be known about the accepted tolerance in weight. The coin weight published here is of particular interest because it defines the acceptable weight tolerance: a mere One per cent. It so happens that the Farrukhabad silver coinage provides one of the few instances in which there is also documentary evidence concerning weight tolerance. Pridmore notes that the official "allowance for wear" on the oblique milled Farrukhabad rupees was "6 annas weight" and for the succeeding class of rupees was "1%". The sources correlate and the inscription on the coin weight would seem to show that the documented tolerance was actually put into practice.

