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Annual Subscription

£4-00; H.Fl.18-00; 9-00 dollars

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Newsletter number 71

April 1981

The February 1981 newsletter should have been number 70, but was numbered 69 (as Dec. 1980) in error.

Avis aux membres Français

Les compétences secrétaires de M. Hennequin sont strictement limitées à la Section Générale (Afrique, Asie, Océanie). Le Secrétaire Regional pour les membres Français est Dr. van der Wiel qui demeure à Gouda.

ONS meetings

Cologne. Fourteen members and one guest (Mr. J. Lingen: Netherlands) attended the meeting on 7th. November 1980 at the Hotel Mondial, Koln. Mr. Dr. von Kleist opened the meeting and introduced Dr. K. Gabrisch who gave a lecture on the Tibetan 100 Srang note. Among others, he showed his collection of all 53 serial letters of this bank note, with numerous varieties. After this Dr. v. Kleist gave a talk on the 1 Dam and 2 Dam pieces of the Malla period of Nepal. After lunch Dr. W. Hake spoke on earlier Iranian coins and Mr. Jucknath introduced those present to the coinage of the Indo-Scythians. The next meeting will be held in Koln during November 1981 (reported by Dr. Karl Gabrisch: please contact him for details)

London. About twenty members met at St. James' Hall on 7th. March 1981 for an informal gathering. It was a pleasure to welcome several new members and also Mr. Jan Lingen. An auction of coins realised £21 for the ONS funds. Thanks are due to Mr. K. Wiggins and to Messrs. A. H. Baldwin and sons for donating coins and to Mrs. S. Goron for kindly providing refreshments. The next meeting will be held at St. James' Hall on Saturday 24th. October from 2 till 6 pm. (please contact Mr. K. Wiggins for further details)

There will be an informal meeting of ONS members (families welcome) at Dr. Mitchiner's house in Sanderstead (address above) on Saturday 20th. June 1981 from 2pm. Please contact if you wish to attend.

Some recent publications

- Briggs, D. C., A Moghul Garden of Verse, Numismatics International Bull., Dec. 1980, 369 - 373
- Broome, M. R., Early Post Reform Dirhams of 'Abd Al-Malik, Seaby's Coin and Medal Bull., Dec. 1980, 374 - 377
- Campbell, I. C. G., Introduction to a list of Islamic Currency Denominations, NI. Bull., Nov. 1980, 333 - 340
- Daftar, N. A. R., The medallion of Ja'far al-Barmaki, Numismatic Chronicle 1980, 191 - 192
- Dauwe, R. B. F., Coins circulating in Egypt during the last quarter of the third century AD., NI. Bull., Jan. 1981, 7 - 12
- Harsel, L. W., Lao Government issues new coinage, NI. Bull., Nov. 1980, 352
- Hennequin, G., Du sigle 'DL sur les monnaies Salgüquides, Livre du Centenaire de l'IFAO (1880 - 1980), 387 - 390
- MacKenzie, K. M., Ottoman Silver Coins from Cyprus, NI. Bull., Feb. 1981, 39 - 42
- MacKenzie, K. M., Greek Church Paras: Paper Tokens from the Bursa - Balikesir districts, Spink's Numismatic Circular, Feb. 1981, 41 - 42
- Mitchiner, M. B., A third coin of Pabes, clan-chief of the Yueh Chi, Spink's NC., Feb. 1981, 35 - 36
- Mitchiner, M. B., A Japanese Trade Token issued by the Harbour Services Department in 1872, Seaby's Coin and Medal Bull., March 1981, 65 - 66
- Morkholm, O., The Parthian coinage of Seleucia on the Tigris, c. 90 - 55 BC., NC., 1980, 33 - 47
- Pridmore, F. and Vice, D., Singapore Merchants Tokens 1831 - 1845 struck at the Soho Mint, Birmingham, Spink's NC., Jan. 1981, 3 - 6
- Rhodes, N. G. and Mitchiner, M. B., A series of Forged Coins from North-east India, Spink's NC., March 1981, 77 - 81 and April 1981, 115 - 117
- Sabine, C. J., The billon and copper coinage of the Crusader country of Tripoli, c. 1102 - 1268, Numismatic Chronicle 1980, 71 - 112
- Snaart, P., The Rarity of East India Company Coins (contd.), Seaby's C & M Bull., Dec. 1980, 377 - 378 and Jan. 1981, 4 - 6
- Snaart, P., An unpublished East India Company Token or Pass, Spink's NC., April 1981, 114
- Schroeck, F. E., Tabulated results of the estimation of the number of dies of a coin and the analysis of a hoard of copper falus of Taimur Shah, Spink's NC., Feb. 1981, 37 - 40
- Semans, S., Money Trees, NI. Bull., Feb. 1981, 45 - 47
- Walker, J. H., A bit of bakshish with the brass, Spink's NC., April 1981, 120 - 124 (Muscat and Oman)

Publications available from the Publications Office, Director of Archeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad 500 001, A.P., India

(JAHS - Journal of the Andhra Historical Research Society

APJA - The Andhra Pradesh Journal of Archeology)

1. H. K. Narain, Hoard of Punch-marked silver coins from Ismailpur, Tehsil Thanaghazi, District Alwar, Rajasthan, JAHRS XXXIV, parts 1-4, 1974-75, pp. 39-59, pls. 25-28 (73 Mauryan Imperial AR)
2. B. D. Chattopadhyaya, Coinage in Early Medieval Andhra: a note on the chronology and distribution, JAHRS, Commemoration volume of Sri Mallampalli Somesekhara Sarma, XXXV, 1975-76, pp. 245-50
3. Sarvasri K. Raghavarchy and P. R. K. Prasad, Some Eastern Chalukyan Coins from coastal Andhra, JAHRS, *ibid.*, pp. 251-253, 1 pl. (24 lion/lamp type AE, obv. inscr. Vishamasiddhi)
4. Joseph J. Brenning, The Golconda coinage of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb: a Mughal Tributary coinage, JAHRS. XXXVII, 1978, pp. 53 - 64
5. S. Ramakantham, Some Gold coins of Vijayanagara Dynasty, APJA, vol. I no. 1, 1979, pp. 127 - 129 (84 AV coins)
6. Mir Fazaluddin Alikhan, Silver coins of Mughal ruler Alamgir II, 1167-1173 AH, 1754-1759 AD, APJA. *ibid.*, pp. 131-132 (Treasure Trove: 12 AR coins of the East India Co., Arkat)
7. P. V. Parabrahma Sastry, Coins of Simuka Satavahana discovered, APJA, *ibid.*, pp. 133 - 139, pl. 1 (Satavahana AE coins: Gobhadra 10, Sama Gopa 28, Satavahana 11, Simuka Satavahana 6, Satakarni 10)

The gold piece illustrated below was published in the *Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin*, and subsequently displayed at the New York International Numismatic Convention in December 1980. It was described as a quadruple gold tanka issued by the Delhi Sultan Muhammad III bin Tughluq in AH 732, in memory of his father Tughluq Shah.

With due respect to the present owners, who have been most helpful in confirming the legends and weight of this specimen, it cannot be said that the coin is properly attributed. The purported date 732 is nowhere evident on the flan; both direct observation and inspection of the photograph confirm that the whole lower obverse is occupied by the word *Al-sultan*. The coin is undated. Further, the weight of 512 grains, or 33.18 grams, is more exactly 3 tankas; the single tanka being approximately 170 grains, or 11 grams². Hence the coin is a triple, not a quadruple, tanka.

The obverse die bears the standard design of all gold issues of the Khalji ruler 'Ala ud-din Muhammad II, Sultan of Delhi from AH 695 to 715 (AD 1296 - 1316)³. It is patently not a die of Tughluq Shah, whose *laqab* as recorded by the coins was *Ghiyas ud-din*⁴. Nor is it the die of his son Muhammad III Tughluq, whose *labab* according to the histories was *Fakhr ud-din*⁵.

The reverse die is a new variety of the normal reverse of the gold and silver issues of the first Tughluqid ruler, Ghiyas ud-din Tughluq Shah, Sultan of Delhi from AH 720 to 725 (AD 1320 - 1325). The central legend is the standard design; but the usual marginal legend containing date and mint of issue, has been substituted by a quotation from the Qu'ran bracketed by decorative rosettes.

Multiple gold tankas were not unknown in this period. Thakkura Pheru, the mintmaster of both 'Ala ud-din Muhammad II and Qutb ud-din Mubarak, his successor, recorded gold coins of 1, 5, 10 and higher tanka denominations⁶. We have no similar record for the following decade, but it seems to me manifestly unlikely that a 3 tanka piece would have been a regular monetary issue, being neither a binary, nor decimal multiple. Neither can the coin be called commemorative, as the first Tughluqid ruler had scant occasion to memorialise a member of the supplanted Khalji dynasty. Rather, we should recognise the piece as a mule caused by the mixing, inadvertently or otherwise, of the two dies by mint personnel.

Thomas recorded another hybrid gold piece having mixed dies of Tughluq Shah and 'Ala ud-din Muhammad II, reputedly in the British Museum⁷. It will be noted that on this new specimen the older, Khalji, die is damaged; with large marginal areas of the design missing. As such, the older obverse die was selected for its size rather than its aesthetic properties, simply to facilitate the striking of a test impression of the new reverse Tughluq die. If so, the new design was rejected in favour of the secular marginal legend type. This gold piece is a relic of this mint activity; a mule, test striking or fantasy of the period AH 720 - 725.

AV, 31 mm. (?), 512 grains Troy = 33.18 g.



Reverse.

تغلق شاه *tughluq shāh*
 السلطان ناصر *al-sultān nāṣir*
 امير المؤمنين *amīr al-mūminīn*



Obverse.

السلطان الاعظم *al-sultān al-ā'zam*
 علا الدنيا والدين *'alā ud-dunīyā wa ud-dīn*
 ابو المظفر محمد شاه *abū'l-muzaffar muḥammad shāh*
 السلطان *al-sultān*

Margins: quotation from Qur'an ii,256 ¹

1 Read by Nicholas Lowick of the British Museum
 2 H. Nelson Wright, *The Coinage and Metrology of the Sultans of Delhi*, p. 394
 3 *ibid.*, p. 88
 4 *ibid.*, pp. 111 ff
 5 Zia ud-din Barni, *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi*, in Elliot and Dowson, Vol. III, pp. 224-5: "Muhammad Fakhr ud-din Juna, afterwards Sultan Muhammad Tughluq".
 6 Thakkura Pheru, *Dravya Pariksha* (tr. by V. S. Agrawala), *Indian Numismatic Chronicle*, vol. VII, p. 112
 7 Edward Thomas, *The Chronicles of the Pathan Kings of Delhi*, p. 189

History

The middle of the 14th. century saw the more remote territories of the Delhi Sultanate seething with discontent and rebellion. Mohammed Tughluq had been ruling for some twenty years, a reign characterised by an ever-increasing number of capricious and extortionate demands on his subjects at all levels.

In Daulatabad, capital of the Deccan, the mild and pious governor of that province, Qutluq Khan, had been replaced by the inexperienced Maulana Nizam-ud-din, with reduced powers. Furthermore, the Deccan had been divided into four main revenue divisions. At the head of one was placed 'Aziz Khammar, a low-born, thoroughly unscrupulous official, notorious for his cruelty. At this time, Mohammed was wont to accuse all his officials in the Deccan, especially the 'centurions'¹, as traitors and rebels. He found a willing ally in 'Aziz, who, upon his arrival at his seat of government, Dhar, had 89 centurions publicly executed. This act sent a shudder down the spines of the nobles and officials at Daulatabad and elsewhere. Mohammed, however, was delighted and presented 'Aziz with a robe of honour. In so doing he had effectively declared war against a whole class of officials. The centurions in parts of Gujerat were the first to rebel. Mohammed marched thither and slew many of their number. Those that escaped fled towards Daulatabad. Whereupon the king turned his attention to that city. Two notorious oppressors were appointed to enquire into the conduct and opinions of the inhabitants. In addition, two officers were despatched from Broach with orders to Maulana to send the centurions of his province to Broach under escort. The centurions, aware of their likely fate, commenced their journey. But soon, deciding to take matters into their own hands, they killed the two Broach officers and returned to Daulatabad. There they imprisoned the governor, seized the fort and its treasure, and proclaimed one of their number, Isma'il Mukh, king of the Deccan under the title Nasir-ud-din Isma'il Shah. Mohammed immediately marched on Daulatabad and defeated the rebels in battle. Isma'il took refuge in the fort while others, including Hasan Gangu, also known as Zafar Khan, retired to Gulbarga. Mohammed permitted his troops to sack the city of Daulatabad while he, himself, opened the seige of the fort. 'Imad-ul-mulk Sartiz was sent to Gulbarga to crush the rebellion there. Three months later another rebellion broke out in Gujerat and Mohammed was obliged to leave Daulatabad. In his absence Zafar Khan had marched to Bidar and, with reinforcements, had slain 'Imad-ul-mulk and dispersed his army. He then marched to Daulatabad, whereupon Mohammed's troops raised the seige and fled to Dhar. Isma'il Shah went out to meet Zafar Khan and after some days announced that he intended to abdicate in favour of one whom his officers might choose. The choice fell on Zafar Khan and on August 3rd. 1347 he was acclaimed under the title Abu-l Muzaffar 'Ala-ud-din Bahman² Shah, founder of the Bahmanid dynasty.

Nasir-ud-din Isma'il had reigned for approximately a year during AD 1346 - 1347 (AH 747 - 748).

Coinage

Coins of Nasir-ud-din Isma'il are rare. A few have so far been published. E. E. Speight, in an article in Islamic Culture (April 1935), published two coins of this ruler with the following legend : —

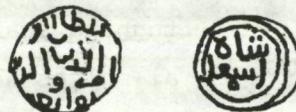
ابو الفتح | اسمعيل شاه | باصر الدنيا | و الدين

In 1966 M. Amjad Ali³ published a similar copper coin weighing 50 grains (3.25 grams) bearing what appeared to be the same legend. The legend was incomplete, but the coin was illustrated, though not too clearly. A further coin in the author's collection is described below : —

Obverse
السلطان ال...
ناصر الدنيا و الدين
ابو الفتح

Reverse
شاه
اسمعيل
in double circle

Illustration



The coin is billon and weighs 3.65 grams. The legend is engraved fairly crudely. The top line of the obverse is incomplete. There is clearly an epithet following the word "Al Sultan", but it cannot be ascertained from the present coin. On the reverse there are traces of a possible marginal legend outside the double circle. The author would be pleased to hear of any other coins of this ruler in members' collections.

1 These were officials with both military functions and responsibility for the collection of taxes in about 100 villages each. They were entitled to a commission of 5% on their collections.
2 Zafar Khan claimed descent from the half-mythical hero Bahman, son of Isfandiyar.
3 J. Numismatic Society of India vol. XXVIII