



# ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

## No. 151

Winter 1997

### ONS News

#### From the Editor

Your Editor can now be contacted by e-mail. The address is sgoron@msn.com.

#### ONS at the Berlin Congress of the International Numismatic Commission

The commission has appointed the ONS as an official Sub-Committee of the Organising Committee with responsibility for managing the Oriental Workshop Sessions. These are now included in the latest congress programme. The three Sessions will be entitled:

- Islamic Numismatics
- South Asian Numismatics
- Far Eastern Numismatics

Chairmen have been appointed and accepted by the Commission as follows:

- Michael L Bates
- William F Spengler
- François Thierry

The purpose of the workshops is to provide an opportunity for delegates to report verbally on work in progress. The procedures will be informal and follow generally those adopted for the last INC Congress in Brussels. Detailed arrangements will be made by the individual chairmen but, in order to cover the important work in each area, it will be necessary to limit the number of speakers and the length of individual presentations. Please inform your Regional Secretary if you are intending to participate in the workshops and/or are working on any significant new studies.

The present *provisional* timetable allows for each two-hour Session to be held on a different day after the main oriental papers, as follows:

Monday 8 September	Islamic Numismatics
Tuesday 9 September	South Asian Numismatics
Wednesday 10 September	Far Eastern Numismatics

#### ONS Meeting London

The next ONS meeting in London will be held on Saturday 7 June, commencing 2 pm at the Cumberland Coin Fair, Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch. Would any member who would like to give a talk or some other type of presentation please contact Ken Wiggins. ONS members interested in attending only the ONS meeting should send a stamp and their address details to F & S Simmons, 53 Lambs Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NB.

#### ONS Meeting Cologne

A meeting of the Indian Coin Circle took place on 7 and 8 November.

Mr Bartonitschek gave a talk on the princely state of Dungarpur, the land, its coins and its history. Dr Rothkopf spoke about the town of Edessa (modern Urfa) and its coinage. Pfarrer Linse gave a presentation on Indian temple tokens, drawing particular attention to two Hindu tokens depicting Hanuman and scales.

The next meeting of the group will take place on Saturday 8 November at the Hotel Mondial, Cologne with a social get-together the previous evening. For further information please contact Nikolaus Ganske, Kreuzerstraße 2, D-50672 Cologne, Germany. Fax: ++49 (0)221 951495-7.

#### Members News

(Würselenerstraße 50, D-52222 Stolberg, Germany) is revising his book on the coinage of Kutch. He would like any members with 1/2 trambiyos of this state in their collections to provide him with details and photographs, as, in the catalogues, these coins are mentioned but never with any details or illustrations.

Saoud Mohamed Ali al-Thani (PO Box 7863, Doha, Qatar. Fax: ++974 441660) is planning to publish a book on the gold and silver coinage of the Umayyads and would welcome details and photographs of rare items in this series. He is also interested in purchasing coins, especially coppers, of the series and invites members with such coins for sale to contact him with details.

...exhibit of Meiji period bank-notes (winner of the Howland Wood award - best in show- at the 1995 American Numismatic Association anniversary convention) is now accessible online at the ANA's home page: <http://www.money.org>. This online version of the exhibit includes the complete text plus colour scans of the face and back of every note, as well as scans of most of the coins and of a money-changer's weight that were included in the exhibit as collateral material. Readers with questions relating to the exhibit or to other aspects of Japanese numismatics can contact ...

... continues to issue warnings about suspect Chinese coins from Hong-Kong with very convincing patination and/or encrustation. These recently included a large group of almost 300 Huo Pu from a dealer of Causeway Bay. Robert expressed his doubts to the dealer about the authenticity of the pieces and offered to send samples to the British Museum for a second opinion. The offer was declined and readers must form their own conclusion.

... has recently visited the Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies, Nasik and has sent this short report on his experience.

*After a flight of nearly 10 hours I landed in Bombay (Mumbai) at 5 o'clock in the morning. Knowing what Bombay was like I was very quickly out of the airport and into a taxi to Nasik. The road to Nasik leaves a lot to be desired, being very busy and rather rough; it took 6 hours to reach my destination. Nasik is also a busy place with lots of traffic, so I asked the driver to take me straight to the Institute at Anjaneri. He did not know the way, but after asking various people, we found the road to Trimbak on which the Institute is located and arrived there after about half an hour.*

*What a lovely, peaceful place, I thought to myself, after the hustle and bustle of Bombay and Nasik. There was a welcoming committee waiting for me; about half a dozen people came out to*

see me and welcomed me with open arms. Being very tired, I was not very responsive to this, but after two hours' rest in the excellent guest house, I was fit to continue.

I was delighted to be introduced to all the staff at the Institute and particularly pleased to meet Dr P L Gupta. This was the beginning of ten days of the best researching I have done in my life. The library was excellent and the librarian was the most helpful person I have met in many years of research. My research went very well and finished on time. I would like to congratulate K K. Maheshwari and all the staff at the Institute on the excellent manner in which it is run.

Les has been awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship award for 1997 to enable him to continue his research into numismatic production methods of 3rd and 4th century India. His is one of 103 awards made this year by the Trust, set up in 1965 by the nation as a living memorial to Sir Winston. Any UK member wishing to have further information about the Trust can contact Ros Conner, Tel: 0171 584 9315, Fax: 0171 581 0410.

### Hans Wilski Celebrates his 70th Birthday

Hans Wilski - collector of Ottoman coins and writer on Ottoman numismatics - will be 70 on April 24, 1997.



Born into a family of academics - his father had the chair for mine-surveying at Aachen University - he developed an interest in chemistry and numismatics at an early age. His father's participation as a surveyor in the archaeological excavations of Thera (Santorini) of 1896 and his conducting of a survey of the peninsula of Miletus (Asia Minor) of 1899 got him involved with the area which fascinated him from then on.

Drawn into the army at the age of 16, he initially served in an anti-aircraft battery and later as a grenadier until the end of the war.

Studies at the universities of Aachen, Bonn and Tübingen followed. Having obtained his degree in physical chemistry he joined Hoechst, the giant chemical company near Frankfurt. There he spent more than three decades on research, mostly in the field of high polymer physics (plastics). In 1989 he retired as head of the physics department at Kalle-Albert, a subsidiary of Hoechst at Wiesbaden.

A keen collector of coins of his native town Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) from his earliest youth, he later developed a special interest in Ottoman coins. He did not just look at these coins with the eyes of a connoisseur, but submitted them to rigid systematic study. This approach helped to clarify many assumptions which prevailed in the scant literature, e.g. on the dating of Ottoman countermarks on Venetian ducats. Many references in Cüneyt Ölçer's books point to Hans Wilski's systematically arranged collection.

When he found some counterstamped 40 para coins in a small shop next to the Nur-i Osmaniye Mosque in Istanbul in 1970, he tried to identify the strange countermarks - and discovered an almost forgotten area of Greek-Ottoman numismatics. As a result of his research he has published 12 specialised papers on these coins over the years. His final contribution is his opus major, the *Countermarks on Ottoman Coins*.

He is a member of various numismatic societies, e.g. ONS, GIG, HNS and TND. His membership in the Greek and the Turkish societies seems to be unique.

We congratulate him on his 70th birthday and wish him many happy returns of the day. We hope he will have time to solve more riddles of the complex history and structure of Ottoman coinage.

Volker Popp

### Numismatic Publications of Hans Wilski

- H.W.: 'Münzen mit Bildern der Technik', *Chem. Ing. Techn.* 39, A 749 (1967).  
H.W.: 'Gegenstempel auf Münzen des Osmanischen Reiches', *GN* 11, 195 (1976).  
H.W.: 'Eine unbekante Münze mit einem unbekanntem Gegenstempel', *GN* 12, 255 (1977).  
W. Hüsch and H.W.: 'Ottoman Copper Coins of the Caucasus', *NCirc* 85, 492 (1977).  
H.W.: 'Ottoman Zinc Coins?', *ONS Newsletter* 51, 4 (1977).  
H.W.: 'An unknown coin with an unknown countermark' (in English and Turkish), *Bülten TND* 3, 12 (1978).  
H.W.: 'A medal of Turkish-German friendship' (in English and Turkish), *Bülten TND* 5, 16 (1980).  
H.W.: 'Die sogenannte Kanalinsel-Token - Fälschungen aus den 60er Jahren', *GN* 15, 210 (1980).  
H.W.: 'Ottoman Tokens?', *ONS NL* 74, 3 (1981).  
H.W. and K. Kerestecioglu: 'Türkisches Gefängnisgeld', *GN* 17, 73 (1982).  
H.W. and K. Kerestecioglu: 'Neues vom türkisches Gefängnisgeld', *GN* 17, 141 (1982).  
H.W. and K. Kerestecioglu: 'Turkish Prison Money', *NI* 16, 310 (1982).  
H.W.: 'Der osmanische Gegenstempel "sahh" auf venezianischen Dukaten', *GN* 19, 71 (1984).  
H.W.: 'Venedik Düka altınlarina Osmanlılar tarafından vurulan "Sah" damgasi', *Bülten TND* 13, 4 (1984).  
H.W.: 'Ein seltener venezianischer Dukat mit Gegenstempel', *GN* 20, 44 (1985).  
H.W.: 'Asim Said Efendi Madalyonlarina ilaveler', *Bülten TND* 14, 27 (1985).  
H.W.: 'Die Münzen des Osmanischen Reiches' in *Türkische Kunst und Kultur aus osmanischer Zeit*. Museum für Kunsthandwerk der Stadt Frankfurt. A. Bongers, (editor). Recklinghausen 1985, p.121.  
H.W.: 'İki nakiski mangir', *Bülten TND* 20, 23 (1986).  
H.W.: 'Die Gegenstempel von Nigrita und Sirpa in Macedonien', *GN* 22, 132 (1987).  
K. M. MacKenzie and H.W.: 'Die Deutung des griechisches Gegenstempels ΠΑΓ', *Münstersche NZ* 17, 2 (1987).  
H.W.: 'Treffen der "Oriental Numismatic Society" in Tübingen am 23./24. Mai 1987' (Tagungsbericht), *GN* 22, 284 (1987).  
H.W.: 'Treffen der "Oriental Numismatic Society" in Tübingen am 30.4./1.5. 1988' (Tagungsbericht), *GN* 23, 243 (1988).  
W. Findeisen and H. W.: 'Gegenstempel der Insel Thasos', *GN* 23, 19 (1988).  
H.W.: 'Ein unedierter Mangir', *Münstersche NZ* 18, 8 (1988).  
V. Popp, G.-R. Puin and H.W.: 'Ottoman Coins of the Yemen' in *A Festschrift Presented to Ibrahim Artuk on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Turkish Numismatic Society*. C. Ölçer, TND (editor). Istanbul 1988, p. 251.  
H.W.: 'Treffen der "Oriental Numismatic Society" in Tübingen am 29./30.4. 1989' (Tagungsbericht), *GN* 24, 305 (1989).  
H.W.: 'Treffen der "Oriental Numismatic Society" in Tübingen am 28./29.4. 1990' (Tagungsbericht), *GN* 25, 300 (1990).  
H.W.: 'Cüneyt Ölçer (1925-1990)' (Nachruf), *GN* 25, 241 (1990).  
H.W.: 'Cüneyt Ölçer (1925-1990)' (Obituary), *ONS NL* 125, 1 (1990).  
G.-R. Puin and H.W.: 'Ein ganz besonderer Löwenthaler', *GN* 28, 212 (1993).  
H.W.: 'The Agiasos Hoard', *Nom Khron* 12, 45 (1993).  
H.W.: 'A Rare Countermark of Bitlis', *NCirc* 101, 355 (1993).  
K. M. MacKenzie, G.-R. Puin, W. Schuster and H.W.: 'Countermarks of the Sudan on Ottoman Coins', *NCirc* 102, 260 (1994).  
H.W.: *Countermarks on Ottoman Coins*, Münzhandel und Verlag B. Strothotte, Gütersloh, 1995.  
H.W.: 'Rare Coins from Kanuni Sultan Süleyman', *Moneta* 6, 1 (1996).  
H.W.: 'Kenneth M. MacKenzie - 80 years and still going strong', *ONS NL* 150, 1 (1996).
- Book Reviews**  
H.W.: *Countermarks of the Ottoman Empire 1880-1922*. Hawkins Publ. 1974, distributed by B. A. Seaby, London. By K. M. MacKenzie and S. Lachman. *ONS NL* 38, 3 (1975).  
H.W.: *Catalogue des monnaies musulmanes de la Bibliothèque Nationale: Asie pré-Mongole, les Salguqs et leurs successeurs*. Paris 1975. By Gilles Hennequin. *GN* 21, 239 (1986).  
H.W.: *Coins of the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic*. Thousand Oaks, Calif. 1977. By Jem Sultan. *GN* 22, 107 (1987).

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## Other News

### Bank of Japan

The Bank of Japan has opened an English version of its "virtual museum" on the Internet. This shows representative items from the museum's collection of Japanese coins and notes. The address is <http://www.imes.boj.go.jp/cum>

### The International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS)

This institute, base at Leiden in the Netherlands, was founded in 1992 to stimulate and, where necessary, to help improve Asian Studies both in that country and abroad. As a means to this end, the founding members, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the University of Amsterdam, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Leiden University, have agreed on a wide range of activities which it will be the task of the IIAS to carry out. One of these is to set up a database containing up-to-date information on researchers and current research in the field of Asian Studies.

With this in mind, three main policy instruments have been decided upon:

1. A differentiated international postdoctoral fellowship scheme for Dutch and foreign participants. The main focus lies on advanced, innovative research carried out by young scholars on an individual basis or within one of the IIAS research programmes. In addition, prominent (foreign) senior specialists are invited to stay at the IIAS.

2. Organisation of international seminars, workshops and masterclasses. IIAS postdoctoral fellows are under the obligation to set up at least one international academic convention on the topic of their research. The IIAS itself also organises conventions in co-operation with other institutes such as the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam or the Nordic Institute for Asian Studies, Copenhagen.

3. A broad academic facilitation, service and co-ordination programme. Through newsletters, electronic mail, directories and databases a wealth of information is dispersed to Asianists in Asia, Europe, Australia and America.

The IIAS Newsletter was started in 1993. Usually consisting of 64 well-filled pages it covers a wide range of topics relating to Asia studies. The latest issues contains a supplement with details of newsletters relating to Asian studies, including a page on the ONS newsletter. These newsletters will be on display at a booth rented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago on 13-16 March this year.

The Internet site at <http://iias.leidenuniv.nl> has a wealth of fascinating information available together with links to many sites concerned with Asia. The site is divided into the following sections:

- The IIAS
- The IIAS Newsletter
- Newsletters on Asia in Europe
- Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library
- ESF Asia Committee
- International Conference and Art Agenda
- Asian Studies Institutes and Associations

Research Projects in the field of Asian Studies  
Booksellers in the field of Asia  
Vacancies in the field of Asian Studies

For further information please contact The International Institute for Asian Studies, PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands. Tel: ++31 (0)71 527 2227; Fax: ++31 (0)71 527 4162. E-mail: IIAS@rullet.leidenuniv.nl. Internet site as above.

Another Internet site relating to Asian studies is run by the Helsinki School of Economics and can be found at <http://www.hkkk.fi/libwww/asian/>

### The Simmons Gallery

Frances and Howard Simmons (organisers of the London Coin Fairs) are taking the plunge and opening a new shop in Central London. Located at 53 Lambs Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NB, close to Holborn and Russell Square underground stations, the shop is due to open around the second week of March 1997 from 10.30 to 17.30 Monday to Friday. There they will sell "coins, medals, tokens, weights and all things numismatic". Tel: ++44 (0)171 831 2080. Fax: ++44 (0)171 831 2090.

### Talks and lectures

20 May 1997 at the Royal Numismatic Society, London. *Kanishka again - numismatic insights into dating ancient Indian kings* by Joe Cribb, 5.30 pm at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, WC1.

### New and Recent Publications

1. Recent newsletters of the Indian Books Centre (40/5 Shakti Nagar, Delhi 110007, India. Fax: ++91 11 7227336. E-mail: IBCINDIA@GIASDL01.VSNL.NET.IN) have contained listings of both current and out of print history books on India. One such book is a reprint of the atlas to the Imperial Gazetteer of India, 1931 edition. This contains 29 general maps on such topics as geological features, temperature, rainfall, prevailing races, languages, religions, agricultural products, railways etc; 21 provincial maps and 16 town plans. This is available for US\$50. Ask for newsletters volume 15 no. 10 and 12 (October and December 1996).

2. *Numismatic Panorama, Essays in honour of the late Sh. S.M. Shukla*, edited by KK Maheshwari and Biswajeet Rath, Harman Publishing House, New Delhi, 1996 contains the following research papers:

Kalpana Desai: *On Indus seal: the unicorn*

Rehan Ahamad: *Two silver punchmarked coin hoards*

TR Hardaker: *Punchmarked coin forgeries*

Aruna Sharma: *Relevance of numismatic approach to the study of Mathura*

Amiteshwar Jha: *More than one king named Satavahana: an examination*

Ajay Mitra Shastri: *Mahakhatapa Vasithiputa Isamahisa*

PD Chumble: *A coin of Siva Satakarni*

Michael Mitchiner: *The circulation of Satavahana coins in Tamilnadu*

PL Gupta: *Kushana silver coins*

BN Mukherjee: *Iconic forms of Siva on Kushana coins*

Manmohan Kumar: *Ancient mint at Rohtak*

PV Radhakrishnan: *Roman and Byzantine copper coins*

Dilip Rajgor: *Abheraka: the earliest Western Kshatrapa*

RC Senior: *A new Western Kshatrapa identified?*

VV Krishna Sastry: *Kshatrapa coin hoard from Ghantasala*

M Veerender: *Ikshvaku coins*

KK Maheshwari and Biswajeet Rath: *Fire altar type coins of Skandagupta: towards a typological and chronological definition*

G Kamalakar: *Shri Rama Kashyap Gotrins*

V Pandit Rao and B Naga Padma: *Chemical analysis and metallographic study of South Indian gold coins*

MC Ganorkar: *Tin as an element of coinage*

Dhiren Gala and Girish Vira: *Unpublished copper coins of early mediaeval Gujarat*

Al Sayyed and Nicholas Rhodes: *A new coin of Ilutmish (this relates to a gold tanka, AH 631 of Delhi type)*

Danish Moin: *Animal motif on the coins of Islam Shah: a note*

Joe Cribb: *Chinese coin finds from South India and Sri Lanka*

JR Hunnargikar: *Some interesting coins of Akbar*

Jan Lingen: *Some observations on Jehangir's Ilahi rupees from Agra*

Sanjay Garg: *Parodies on Mughal coin couplets*

Aravind S Athavale: *Coins of Nizam Shahi sultanate of Ahmednagar*

Sajid Naim and Dilip P Balsekar: *A new Holkar coin*

KW Wiggins: *The acquisition of Indian mints by the English East India Company*

SK Bose: *Tea garden tokens of Assam*

PJ Surana: *Reminiscence of Palanpur coins*

3. Bulletin 8 of the Asia Institute (3287 Broadway Boulevard, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48301, USA. Fax: ++1 810 647 9223), entitled *The archaeology and art of Central Asia: studies from the former Soviet Union*, contains the following articles of numismatic interest:

Evgeny Zaimal: *The circulation of coins in Central Asia during the early medieval period (fifth-eighth centuries AD)* (circa 300 coins from the site, many illustrated)

EV Rtveladze: *Kampir-Tepe: structures, written documents, and coins*

A Bader, V Gaibov and G Koshelenko: *Materials for an archaeological map of the Merv Oasis: the Durnali Region* (an Abu-Muslim fals from Durnali).

The bulletin, 350pp, 244 illustrations, is available from the above address for US\$65 plus \$8 for shipping. Other bulletins are still available for US\$50 (bulletins 1-5) or US\$65 (bulletins 6-12) plus \$8 shipping for first volume and \$2 for each additional volume. Cheque to be drawn on US Bank or international money order. No credit cards.

4. *Vostochnoe Istoricheskoe Istochnikovedenie I Special'nye Istoricheskie Discipliny* (Studying the Sources and Special Branches of Oriental History) is the title of a review published in Moscow. The contents are in Russian with an extensive English summary of each article. Volume 4, 1995, 280 pp, contains the following articles on numismatics and epigraphy:

Elena A Davidovich: *Newly found dirhams of Akhsikat - for the Qarakhanid history of the 1st quarter of the 11th century AD*

Elena A Davidovich: *On the standards of fineness and weight standars of the Timur and Timurid silver coins (late 14th - 15th centuries AD)*

GI Djaparidze: *The 12th century Georgian coins with Arabic legends. (Copper coins with the name of King Dawith: the issue of attribution)*

BD Kochnev: *A corpus of inscriptions on the Qarakhanid coins: anthroponyms and titles. (part 1)*

VN Nastich: *A Waqf document on a rock in the Tangah Gorge*

VN Nastich, BD Kochnev: *Epigraphic and numismatic evidence for the attribution of the Southern Uzgend Mausoleum.*

The price of a single copy is \$9.85 (including mailing costs). To order, please do the following. Transfer the appropriate sum through the Bank of America, New York ac. no. 6550-6-75682 ALFA-BANK Moscow in favour of ac. 150070001001, no. D-2828 Denisova Tat'ana Anatol'evna. Then send the order together with the confirmation of the bank transfer and your address to Prof. Elena A Davidovich, Institute for Oriental Studies, RAS, 12 Rozhdestvenka St. 103753 Moscow, Russia.

5. Anyone interested in Ottoman silver marks should consider purchasing a new book by Garo Kürkman entitled *Ottoman silver marks*. It provides a wealth of information on this virtually undocumented subject, which will be of equal interest to the scholar, the collector and the general reader. In the course of his research, the author examined hundreds of examples of surviving silverware manufactured in the Ottoman Empire and drew up a comprehensive chronology of the Ottoman ciphers (tughra), other aspects and makers marks. The tughras on coins, silverware and weights are compared. Other subjects discussed are the positioning of silver marks, foreign marks on Ottoman silver, assaying procedures in past centuries, silver and gold standards, silversmiths, centres of manufacture and counterfeit tugra marks. 296 pp, over 300 colour illustrations, 467 line drawings, 235 x 310 mm, cloth bound with dust jacket. Price US\$200 plus \$20 p&p from Eren Tünel, Istiklal Cad. Sofyah Sokak 34, Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey. Fax: ++90 212 243 3016. E-mail: eren@turk.net.

## Lists Received

1. Stephen Album (PO Box 7386, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95407, USA. Tel: ++1 707 539 2120; Fax: ++1 707 539 3348) lists 131 (November 1996), 132 (January 1997) and 133 (February 1997).
2. Spink Numismatic Circular, February 1997, Volume CV, Number 1, includes a list of Islamic coins for sale.
3. Robert Tye (Loch Eynort, Isle of South Uist, HS8 5SJ, UK) list 31

## Auction News

1. Baldwin's Auctions (11 Adelphi Terrace, London WC2N 6BJ. Tel: ++44 (0)171 930 9808; Fax: ++49 (0)171 930 9450), in collaboration with Taisei and Gillio are holding Auction No. 24 in Singapore on Thursday 27 February 1997 (this featured a fine collection of British East India Company material) and Auction No. 25 in Hong Kong on Thursday 4 September 1997.
2. Spink & Son Ltd (5,6,7 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QS. Tel: ++44 (0)171 930 7888; Fax: ++44 (0)171 839 4853; Answerphone: ++44 (0)171 747 6895 (24 hours), will be holding an auction in Singapore on 21 June 1997 and in Hong Kong on 24 November 1997.

## Notes on Previous Articles

### Annam - A First Approach (Newsletter 145)

There were a couple of errors in Bob Domrow's article which need amending. In the last paragraph on page 12, "pp 45-47" should read "pp 46-47"; and in the second line on page 13 the words "large silver coins" should start a new sentence.

### A Half Rupee of Jehangir (Newsletter 149)

We published this coin of Kabul in Jehangir's pre-accession name of Selim Shah and asked whether any member could determine the legend. Dr Hameed Siddiqui of Hyderabad has suggested the following reading:

obv: Dar keesaye darul ayari-e-Qadeem

rev: Riwayi sikk-e-Kabul be name Shah Selim

"In the purse of the old house of artistry the coin of Kabul in the name of Shah Selim became current".

### A Note on some Humayun Rupees struck in Bengal (Newsletter 150)

Steve Album has sent some corrections regarding Ken Wiggins's article.

The lower part of the obverse field on all four coins bears the inscription *yarzaq Allah man tasha' bi-ghayr hisab*, "God provides for (those) whom He pleases, without account". This phrase occurs three times in the Koran (2:212, 3:37, and 24:38). On type A the *z* of *yarzaq* has been omitted by the die engraver. The word '*adl*' at the bottom of type A is not part of the Koranic quotation, but stands alone, grammatically unconnected to the rest of the inscription.

The benediction on type A reads as follows: *khalad Allah ta'ala bi-mannihi wa subhan*, "May God most noble in His generosity (*mann*) and Glorious perpetuate (...)". The object of *khalad* is omitted from the inscription, which is thus a grammatically incomplete phrase, as *khalad* is a transitive verb that must bear an accusative object. Note the three small dots beneath the *sin* of *subhan*, occasionally placed below that letter to show that it is *sin* and not *shin*. Also note that the word is *subhan* rather than the more common *subhanahu*, for the final *nun* is written exactly as the final *nun* of the ruler's name, Humayun.

The benediction is even more abbreviated on type B, really just *khalad Allah ta'ala wa subhan*.

The reverse marginal legend of type C has been misread, and it reads *al-sultan al-a'azam wa al-khaqan al-mukarram khalad Allah dhatahu wa mulkahu wa sultanahu 'adl bangala*, "The supreme sultan and the generous khaqan, may God perpetuate his being and his kingdom and his sultanate, a just (weight) coin of Bangala. The word given by Wiggins as *mulkaram* is actually *al-mukarram*, which occurs commonly on early Mughal and Shaybanid coins as a modifier to *al-khaqan*. [This may have been a typo by your editor!]

These small inaccuracies do not compromise the general arguments of Wiggins's excellent article but should be noted for the sake of accuracy.

## A Remarkable Standing Caliph Fals

Tony Goodwin



The standing caliph fals illustrated is the first published specimen with a legend which includes the name of any individual other than the Umayyad caliph 'Abd al Malik (65-86 AH). The coin is similar to Walker 123<sup>1</sup>, with a standing figure of the caliph with his hand resting on the hilt of his sword on the obverse, and a 'modified cross on steps' on the reverse. The coin is struck on a rather small flan and there is also some corrosion damage, so the legends are only partially visible. However, they appear to be the standard legends for the type:

Obv: لَعَلَّ اللهُ عَلَى الْمَلِكِ أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

*servant of God 'Abd al Malik, commander of the faithful*

Rev: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُوْلُهُ

*there is no God but Allah, he is alone, Mohammed is the messenger of God.*

The mint name is only partially visible, but is without doubt سرمر

*Sarmin*. The coin weighs 8.08 grams, diameter 18mm. and has a die axis of 0°.

The remarkable feature of the coin is the additional legend

عَلَى الرَّحْمَنِ

'*Abd al Rahman* on either side of the figure of the caliph. The reading is unequivocal and the standard of calligraphy is good; in fact the obverse die as a whole appears to have been produced to a higher standard than usual. The reverse is very similar indeed in style to at least one other Sarmin reverse die, and, whilst not an exact die match, was probably by the same hand.

For the moment the identity of this 'Abd al Rahman remains a mystery. It was a very common name, but I cannot find a record in easily accessible published sources of any sufficiently distinguished holder of the name who was active in Syria in the period just before 'Abd al Malik's reform of the coinage in 77 AH. A tentative hypothesis is that the coin is one of the very first standing caliph issues and that, misunderstanding the instructions from Damascus, the local mint officials included the name of the governor in line with the practice in the Eastern part of the empire on the Arab-Sassanian coinage. Once the error was discovered the offending die would have been modified or withdrawn.

I would be very pleased to hear from any historians of the period who might be able to shed any light on the enigma presented by this coin.

NOTE

1. J. Walker, *A Catalogue of the Arab-Byzantine and Post Reform Umayyad Coins*, British Museum, London, 1958.

## Kushano-Sasanian small Bactrian copper coins: some refinements<sup>1</sup>

Susan Tyler-Smith

In 1995 a group of about 700 small Bactrian Kushano-Sasanian coppers appeared on the London market.<sup>2</sup> The majority were coins of Hormizd (I) (c.270-95), Hormizd (II) (c.295-300 and Peroz (II) (c.300-25) (Cribb nos 22-26, Göbl 1032-1091). There were a few earlier issues: Ardashir (I) and (II) (c.230-43) (Cribb nos 15-17, Göbl 1028-1029, 1114); and some later ones: Varhran (c.325-50), Peroz (III) (after 350) and Kidara (after 350) (Cribb nos 27-29, Göbl 1092-1094, 1095-1097). In addition there was a scattering of Sasanian copper coins (of approximately the same size) of Varhran II (276-93) and Narses (293-303), a few of the 'Mervshah horseman' coins (Loginov and Nikitin p.229, Type 1), and one Sogdian coin (Drouin, nos 5-6). The group was said to have been found at Ghazni in Afghanistan. A similar quantity of Kushano-

Sasanian Bactrian coins of Peroz (I) (c.245-70) (Cribb nos 19-20, Göbl 1101-1110) was on the market at the same time. The two parcels may originally have been part of the same find, subsequently separated by size and design for the purpose of selling them.

The Sasanian, Merv, Sogdian, and later Kushano-Sasanian coins may have been extraneous but the bulk of the group(s) certainly appeared to have formed part of one or two finds. The Hormizd (I) pieces with 'bust on fire altar' reverse and the Hormizd (II) and Peroz (II) coins were mostly in exceptionally good condition, while the earlier Ardashir (I) and (II) coins were much more worn. The Peroz (I) pieces ranged in size from 19mm - 14mm diameter though there was no noticeable pattern of wear.

Unfortunately it was not possible to compile a full list of the coin find(s) but nevertheless it seemed worthwhile making the above brief record. The coins discussed below come from the group of 700 coins and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to study and photograph them.<sup>3</sup>

### Two copper coins of Hormizd (I) with the title 'king of kings'

The Sasanian rulers of the Kushan realm normally used the title 'Kushan king', rendered as *Koshano Shao* in Bactrian Greek on their gold and *kws'n MLK'* in Pahlevi on their small copper coins. On some gold scyphate coins of Hormizd (I) (Bivar 1956 no.6, Cribb no.4, Göbl 747), however, the king calls himself *Koshano Shahano Shao*, i.e. 'Kushan king of kings'. These coins bear the mint name *Baxlo* and were probably struck at Balkh.

The same king struck two other types, of Sasanian fabric, one in gold with the mint name Merv (Cribb no.61, Göbl 1026-1027) and one in silver with the mint names Merv (Cribb no.59, Göbl -) and Herat (Bivar 1956 no.17, Cribb -, Göbl 1031). On these coins Hormizd (I) uses the same titles as on the gold scyphate pieces but expressed in Pahlevi instead of Bactrian Greek: *kws'n MLK'N MLK'* i.e. 'Kushan king of kings'. Hormizd (I) is the only Kushano-Sasanian king to use this title. He also styles himself 'the Mazda worshipper, the divine' a formula taken directly from the coins of the Sasanian kings of kings.

The provocative use of this superior title, 'king of kings', certainly implies a challenge to Sasanian authority. Unfortunately our knowledge of developments in the eastern part of the Sasanian empire is sketchy but we know of one event which could well explain the striking of these remarkable coins. According to Roman sources a certain Ormies (i.e. Hormizd) revolted against his brother, the Sasanian king of kings, probably about 283 (Bivar 1979 pp.324-6). Evidence of his rebellion can be seen in two aspects of his coinage. As well as usurping the title and style of the Sasanian king of kings, he also struck coins of typically Sasanian fabric, metal, style and design in gold (in addition to his scyphate coins) and in silver, signalling his occupation, and possibly capture, of Merv and Herat. Apart from the very rare coins of Peroz (I) (Cribb no.58, Göbl 1030), the Kushano-Sasanian kings had previously struck no silver coins, nor had they struck gold coins in Sasanian style.

Judging by the coinage, Hormizd (I)'s rebellion was short-lived. Coins with the title 'king of kings' struck in gold and silver are rare and until now copper with that title was unknown.

Bactrian small bronze issues of Hormizd (I) are known with three different reverse types: 'Shiva and bull', 'king standing before enthroned deity' and 'bust on fire altar' (Cribb nos 22-4, Göbl 1032-1036, 1042-1048, 1051-1060, 1062, 1065, 1068, 1071-1075). The obverse legend on some 'Shiva and bull' coins has been read by Bivar as *'whlmzdy RB' kws'n MLK'*; i.e. 'Hormizd great Kushan king' (Bivar 1956 no.25b, Cribb no.22, Göbl 1032). The usual obverse legend is shorter, reading (upwards, in front of his bust) *'whrmzdy* and (downwards, behind his bust, below the ribbons) *MLK'*, i.e. 'Hormizd king'. There is either a symbol or nothing between the globe above his head and the ribbons behind his head.

### Normal type with the title 'king'

1. Obv.: Crowned bust of king facing right; globe above his head, ball of hair behind, from which a pair of ribbons floats upwards. Name of king before bust *𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮* *'whrmz* Hormizd, title behind below ribbons *𐭮𐭮𐭮* *MLK'* king.

Rev.: Beribboned fire altar, bust of deity in flames emerging from top of altar, holding, on left a wreath with long ribbons, and, on right a spear. Legend starts at 5 o'clock reading upwards: *𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮* *bwr'd'ndy yzty* the exalted god. 15mm., 2.18g., die axis 270°.



1.

### The new coins with the title 'king of kings'

2. Obv.: The design is exactly the same as that on the normal type and the name of the king is before his bust, reading upwards, *𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮* *'whlmzdy*. Behind the bust, between the globe and the ribbons, an extra word has been inserted: *𐭮𐭮𐭮* *MK'* ... (for *𐭮𐭮𐭮* *MLK'*) but the *L* and part of the final letter are omitted because of lack of space. Below the ribbons is the word *𐭮𐭮𐭮* *MLK'N*. The legend thus reads 'Hormizd king of kings'.

Rev.: As no 1. 15mm., 2.13g., die axis 90°.



2.

3. Obv.: The bust of the king is the same as that on the normal coinage but the long ribbons behind his head which flow upwards from the ball of hair have been removed. The king's name appears in the usual position. Behind his head a long, two line, inscription has been engraved. On the outside, reading downwards is *𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮𐭮* *kws'n MLK'* and on a second line inside is the word *𐭮𐭮𐭮* *MLK'N*. The complete legend thus reads 'Hormizd Kushan king of kings'.

Rev.: As no 1. 15mm., 2.13g., die axis 0°



3.

The discovery of these two new coins might have been expected as they fill a gap and show that the title 'king of kings' was used on coins of all three metals. Both the new coins seem to have been struck either from finished dies which have been altered or partially engraved dies which have been completed with the newly claimed title. One can therefore assume that copper coins were already being struck by Hormizd (I) before his revolt, as indeed one would expect if the above chronology is correct and he came to the throne c.270 and his rebellion took place c.283.

The engraver(s) of the two dies differ in the way they accommodated the extra word(s) in the legend but neither result is quite correct. If the words comprising the title 'king of kings' are read in the order given above: *MK' MLK'N* and *MLK' MLK'N* they are the wrong way round - the correct order is *MLK'N MLK'* as found on the gold and silver. Unless one attributes this mistake to ignorance on the part of the engraver, which seems unlikely, the reason would appear to be lack of space and/or the positioning of legend already engraved on an existing die. In the case of coin no. 2 *MLK'* was presumably already on the die and an extra *MK'* was squeezed in between the globe and ribbons and *N* added to *MLK'*.



when sultan Mehmed II gathered his army near the gulf of Izmit for his Anatolian campaign. By November practically all of Karaman, and the minor emirates in the south were incorporated into the Ottoman empire.

As the photo of the coin isn't too clear a sketch is added to show the design of the manghir as I think the engraver of the die had planned it. It will be noted that the reverse has a divider between the pious invocation in favour of the sultan (*Khallada mulkuhu* May he perpetuate his Kingdom) and in my opinion this may be a *tamgha*. Such a divider is not to be found in the designs illustrated in the eight plates at the end of Nuri Pere's catalogue, nor is it seen in Ölçer's work. Also on the obverse there is an unusual three-leaf divider for the segments which include the sultan's name, his father's name and the title of *Khan*. Hence these are distinguishing elements for the identification of this rare manghir. Incidentally the manner in which I have outlined the title of khan may be incorrect, since the "nun" may have been at the left of the 'kha'. The dotted portions do not appear on this specimen, or if they do they are lightly struck, or illegible.

I wish to thank my friends Messrs. Yenisey and Ehlert for their permission to describe this coin.

SULTAN MEHMED II. (Fatih) 1444 - 1481 AD  
Manghir. 20mm. 2.74gr.



Obverse:

MEHMED b./MURAD/ (KHAN) within three segments divided by trefoil ornament within a linear circle

Reverse:

[KHALLA]DA MULKU[HU] [DURIBE] EGRIDIR within a linear circle surrounded by dots.

References:

Lane-Poole, Stanley. *The Coins of the Turks in the British Museum.* (1883)  
Edhem, Khalil. *Meskukat-i 'Osmaniye* (1307H)1889  
Pere, Nuri. *Osmanli Madeni Paralar* 1968  
Artuk, Ibrahim & Cevriye. *Istanbul Arkeoloji Müzeleri Teşhirdeki Islami Sikkeler Katalogu.* v. 2. 1974

## Line drawing the easy way

Bob Senior

I have been flattered by the compliments received from several quarters about the quality of the line drawings that I have used in several of my notes in these Newsletters. In view of the interest I thought members might be curious to know how I produce them. Firstly I should explain that they are all drawn on a computer from a scanned image of the coin that I wish to illustrate. Some of you might already be thinking that this will not be of use to you and pass over this article but I advise you to read on. No-one is more computer illiterate than I am and yet it is all so easy.

The computer that I use is an IBM clone and that means that it is the same as virtually all PC's available today except the Apple Macintosh system. Mine is an old 486 DX whereas most computers now are Pentiums. The latter are simply faster and better, but the drawing system I use works on both these types and even the older 286 and 386 computers. The operating system is windows '95 but it works just as well on Windows 3.1.<sup>1</sup> My printer is a three year old Ricoh LP1200 Laser printer with 400 dpi

(dots per inch). Printers, like computers are getting cheaper every day and for less than I paid some years ago for mine, you can now get 600 dpi. This method of drawing works on 300 dpi too but for the scans 400 is better.

That is the technical side! You have your equipment up and running and now you need to acquire a method of scanning your coins. The best and cheapest way is with a Logitech black and white hand-held scanner. Mine is called Scanman 256 and it comes with all the software for around £50. Colour ones cost around £150 but I do not have use myself for colour images. The original software is simple and has three ways of controlling the tone of the shading e.g. brightness, contrast and tone and that is all I use. The recent versions have something called Phototouch which has more like 50 - for the enthusiast it has other wonderful things for hardening edges of images, touching out holes in your coins etc. etc. but I prefer the short, quick, simple older version. The following are the steps to produce the image;

1) Place your coin in a coin tray. Adjust the height (according to the thickness of the coin) with felt roundels to bring the surface of the coin almost up to the level of the tray surface. The tray I use has 4cm diameter holes. I use a hole near the top of the tray so that when I am drawing the scanner down over the coin it doesn't come off the tray at the bottom. I have a round piece of white card under the coin to provide a white background.

2) On the right hand side of the scanner is a control to select the dpi and I always leave it on 400. On the left are two controls: one to select the number of grey tones (256, 64, 18 or just black and white) and I select 256. The other is a knob that can be adjusted according to the lightness/darkness of the object being scanned. This is something you discover by trial and error - copper coins are better with more light, gold with less. On the computer you select 'acquire' with your mouse and the light comes on the scanner. It is a simple matter to then scan the coin. I prefer to scan the obverse and then 'stitch' the reverse from another scan. All these methods of using the equipment are simple when you play with it and are self-evident. I clean up the image by using the 'eraser' and rubbing out the background and any shadows.

3) The scanned image now looks like (A) below. At this stage I save the image as a TIFF file (some prefer BIT files - you don't have to understand what they mean - they are alternatives to select from) and I keep all such images stored on disks - I have thousands of them. To save, you select 'output format' and save it as a grey scale image with 'dither'. Whenever I want an illustration I can simply 'import' them to the computer and include them in an article. They are better than photographs and I am sure that in the future with 1200 dpi scanners coming along, they can not only be stored on CD ROM disks but will reproduce better at the printer's than normal photographic images.

4) To make a line drawing I use the magnifying glass symbol to enlarge the image so that it fills the screen or is even larger. I then increase the brightness and lower the contrast so that the image has no jet black.

5) With the mouse I select the 'paintbrush' symbol - the mouse then controls a small dot on the screen. You can select the shape and size and the best is the smallest. I then draw round the coin using the mouse and pad (B x 1.5). For finer detail you can enlarge the image again and the dot becomes smaller (notice the Nike in Zeus outstretched hand).

6) To remove all the background I increase the brightness and tone until almost all the grey has gone and increase the contrast so that only the line I have drawn stands out. I then select 'threshold' under the heading image and now it is an entirely black and white image. I then save as a 'line drawing' (having selected 'output format') and that is all there is to it. (C) I can then store all these images on disk too.

It might sound a little complicated but when you have the scanner and computer it all becomes rather obvious. The images on page 8 of ONS Newsletter 149 were all done this way from the actual coins. If I were younger and more enterprising I would probably make and sell CD ROM disks with thousands of such images that numismatists could buy and use to illustrate their articles with. I am thinking of producing my forthcoming Indo-Scythic catalogue on disk this way. That way you could bring up a page on screen, select a coin and magnify it, reproduce it, whatever. Such a catalogue could be regularly updated with new

coins/ varieties. The technology is already here.



Note  
 1. My son could explain these technical terms but it really isn't necessary - the numbers denote how large/fast/old the system is. If you have one already you will understand, and if you don't the shop/ magazine will explain all. My son tells me that the more RAM (Random access memory) you have, the better! I have 16 MB RAM.

### Indo-Scythic mules

Bob Senior

Authors in the past have convinced themselves that not only were there two kings called Azes but that Azilises ruled between the two. Evidence for this included the existence of three or four (six at the most) 'joint' silver coins that had either Azes obverses and Azilises reverses, or the other way round. There are also a few Hazara type coppers that have Azilises on the obverse and Azes reverse.

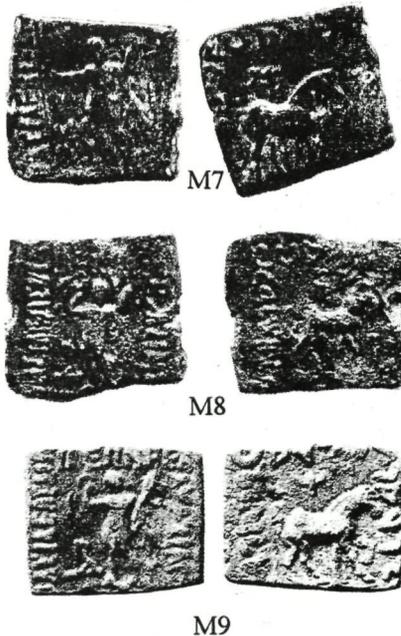
Azes I's coins were identified as having 'King Mounted with Spear' (KMS) obverse and those of Azes II with 'King mounted with Whip' (KMW) obverse. All the known coins mentioned above have only KMS obverses, or reverses associated with them. In ONS occasional paper No.25 I gave most of my reasons for there being only one Azes and I shall not repeat them here. I merely wish to show how these coins can be accounted for as mules. Mules usually occur when a mint changes hands or when a sequence of coins in a mint changes. They are usually extremely rare and known from one or two dies only as opposed to a joint coinage where one would expect a more prolific coinage.



Coin M1 (PMC 319) and M2 (BMC p.173) are known from just these two (and possibly a third) coins. Both the types and monograms used are common to both Azes and Azilises and one can easily imagine an old die being accidentally re-used. The same applies to M3 (BM coin). There might be a second example in Count Qaroni's collection (Chaman hoard, JNSI 1955 p.26) and it would be interesting to see if it was from the same dies as the British Museum coin. Just these two coins are known and not only do they not constitute a 'joint' coinage but the relative importance of Azes (I) to Azilises (i.e. obverse: reverse) is reversed to the previous examples! A coin in my collection uses an altered die with the same control letter as M3 where the engraver began to write Azilises name and then changed it to Azes, showing the mint had changed hands with Azilises being before Azes (I). Under Azilises, one of the 'City Goddess' mints used a sequence of coins where the single control letters moved from the reverse of the coin (first issue) to the obverse (second issue). M4 and M5 are coins of Azilises that are mules within this mint sequence. On M4 we can see that the reverse has the control letter *lo*. The next sequence has obverse control letters and the obverse of this coin has *dhra*. Another example is the drachm M5 which has the reverse letter *sam* of the first issue and the obverse letter *sa* of the second issue.



Most mules are due to carelessness by the mint, especially at some time of changeover and these examples bear that out. Other so-called Azes-Azilises 'joint' coins have been misidentified/ blundered coins, usually drachms and in a few cases ancient (or modern) fakes. One example is M6, seen in Islamabad, which has an Azilises reverse of City type yet an obverse of Azes Pallas or Zeus type 88/89 from an entirely different geographical mint. That it is a fake, though possibly ancient, can be seen from its blundered obverse legend and it also has a peculiar flan - I suspected it might be cast.



The Azilises/ Azes coppers are more problematic since more than one die is known and so far no coins exist with an Azes obverse. All the silver above use dies linked to Azes KMS types with *rajarajasa* legends yet on these coppers, which are linked to Hazara-style Azilises coins—the legend is *rajadirajasa* as on all Azilises KMW coins and some of Azes KMW coins. However, the explanation is fairly simple. Coins of type M7 above where Hercules right arm is outstretched are all in the name of Azilises. M8 with right arm raised has Azilises name on both obverse and reverse and is die linked with the 'joint' coins (M9) which have Azes name on the reverse.



The only Azes KMS type with *rajadirajasa* legend has Zeus Nikephoros on the reverse. On the drachm (M10) we have the same kharosthi monogram that appears on M7 of Azilises. On the tetradrachm M11 there is a field control letter, *im*, that also seems to occur on M12, one of these 'joint' issue coins. In fact the other letter *bu* present on the tetradrachm might also be present on the copper M9. All the coins are rare and perhaps the mint was not very productive. On being acquired by Azes perhaps a small initial copper coinage was required and only a few reverse dies were cut and used with existing obverse dies? It is unusual but since we do have a mule in the group (M8 obverse/M9 reverse) and the Azes coins are exceedingly rare I suspect that this is the answer rather than a supposed joint coinage of which, especially at this mint and in any other metal, there is no other evidence.

### An Indo-Greek overstrike Bob Senior

It is fairly common with Indo-Greek bronzes to find that one type has been overstruck on another though usually only traces of the undertype are visible. An expert metallurgist friend of mine, Bob Eden, is testing a new method of developing the undertype through differential deposition and this may have great possibilities in the future for the identification of any, maybe every, undertype! At the moment, however, we can still only persevere with turning our coins this way and that in the hope of identifying a portion of legend or design that has survived the re-striking process.

This particular rectangular bronze, in the name of Strato I, is of the type with Apollo facing and tripod reverse (O. Boppearachchi's catalogue BN type 31) and it weighs 10.13 gm. It is unusual in its own right for several reasons;

1) The legend is usually split thus: ΒΑΣΙΛΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑ – ΝΟΥΣ ΣΟΤΗΡΟΣ ΣΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ whereas on this coin it is ΒΑΣΙΛΩΣ ΕΠΙ – ΦΑ – ΝΟΥΣ ΣΟΤ – ΗΡΟΣ ΣΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ. The engraver has run out of space and extended the top legend beyond the line of the right legend and he has omitted the *rho* and *tau* of the king's name.

2) The monogram  $\text{K}$  occurs in the left field and not the right as on other published specimens, and there is no extra kharosthi field letter.



The undertype is fairly clear in that one can see an elephant walking right on the reverse. None of Strato's predecessors issued a reverse of this type, on a rectangular flan, but of his contemporaries and successors, both Lysias and Antialcidas did. On the obverse there is a trace of -NIK- and this could be either ANIKHTOY of Lysias (BN series 8 plates 38/9) or ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ of Antialcidas (BN series 18 plate 41) but,

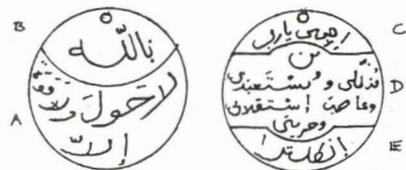
a) there may be a trace of an A before the N and there is *no* sign of any legend below the N as would be the case for Antialcidas's coin, and

b) the Elephant seems to have a lowered trunk and not the raised trunk as on the elephant shown on the coin of Antialcidas.

I am certain therefore that the undertype is of Lysias, a rival and contemporary of Strato. This would then confirm their contemporaneity as proposed by Dr. Boppearachchi. In the future we may possibly see more of the legend of the undertype if the process being developed by Dr. Eden can be applied to base as well as silver coins.

### A medallic query from Bob Forrest

The illustration shows an aluminium medal of unknown provenance. The following translation is thanks to the efforts of Dr. G. R. Puin and Dr. H. Wilski:



Obverse:

- A. There is no power or strength
- B. except in God.

Reverse:

- C. Guard me my Lord against
- D. my humiliator and enslaver, against the one who steals my independence and my freedom
- E. England (Inkilterra).

The medal is pierced for suspension.

But where is the medal from? Two suggestions, made on the basis of the somewhat puzzling style of its script, have been 'possibly Malayan' and 'perhaps Egyptian'. However, neither of these suggestions seems to mesh at all well with the twin facts that the medal relates to *English* oppression which, by the aluminium fabric, must post-date 1900. The Malaysian insurrection of 1948 was mostly from the Chinese element of the population, rather than the Muslim, whilst the Suez crisis of 1956 was too short-lived and not really English oppression as such. The best fit, politically speaking, with the reverse of the medal, seems to be offered by Iraq. My first thought was that it related to the insurrection of 1920, which did entail a nationalist uprising against what was effectively British rule. Kenneth M. MacKenzie believes the style of script is consistent with an Iraqi origin, but leans towards the later military coup of July 1958, in which King Faisal II, his uncle and the prime minister of the country were assassinated, and General Kassim declared a Republic. He points out that at the time of the coup, the HQ of the Baghdad Pact and the British Embassy were sacked and looted, and that the radio station urged the people of Baghdad to go to the Rihan Palace 'and other places of slavery and humiliation', the latter phrase being very reminiscent of the medal.

Aside from the translation, though, all is guesswork, and the present write-up is offered in the hope that some ONS member will recognise the medal and enlighten us.





## Names of the Western Satraps as found on coins

Brahmi reads from left to right. Using the diagrams one finds the Satrap's name to the left of the dot that marks the legend inception. The names are given below and where two or more satraps share the same name, the correct one can be found by identifying his father.

Type	Page (in main catalogue.)	Satrap's name
356. <b>Bhartrdaman</b> son of (354) Rudrasena II.	Page 204.	- 𑀘𑀓𑀲𑀺:
332. <b>Damaghsada</b> son of (325) Rudradaman.	Page 197.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
331. <b>Damajadasri I</b> son of (325) Rudradaman.	Page 197.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
348. <b>Damajadasri II</b> son of (339) Rudrasena I.	Page 202.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺:
353. <b>Damajadasri III</b> son of (346) Damasena.	Page 203.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺:
346. <b>Damasena</b> son of (333) Rudrasimha.	Page 201.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
364. <b>Indraka</b> son of Satyasimha.	Page 207.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
323/4. <b>Jayadaman</b> son of Chastana.	Page 195.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
336. <b>Jivadaman</b> son of (331) Damajada(sri).	Page 199.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
345. <b>Prithvisena</b> son of (339) Rudrasena I.	Page 201.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
325. <b>Rudradaman I</b> son of (323) Jayadaman.	Page 196.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
<b>Rudradaman II</b> no coins known, see type 360.		
339. <b>Rudrasena I</b> son of (333) Rudrasimha.	Page 199.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
354. <b>Rudrasena II</b> son of (349) Viradaman.	Page 203.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
360. <b>Rudrasena III</b> son of Rudradaman II.	Page 205.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
362. <b>Swami Rudrasena IV</b> son of (361) Simhasena.	P.206.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
333. <b>Rudrasimha I</b> son of (325) Rudradaman I.	Page 197.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
358. <b>Rudrasimha II</b> son of Swami-Jivadaman.	Page 205.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺.
363. <b>Swami Rudrasimha III</b> son of Satyasimha.	Page 206.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
347. <b>Samghadaman</b> son of (333) Rudrasimha.	Page 202.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
338. <b>Satyadaman</b> son of (331) Damajadasri.	Page 199.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
361. <b>Simhasena</b> sister's son of (360) Rudrasena III	Page 206.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
351. <b>Vijayasena</b> son of (346) Damasena.	Page 205.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
349. <b>Viradaman</b> son of (346) Damasena.	Page 202.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺:
357. <b>Visvasena</b> son of (356) Bhartrdaman.	Page 204.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
355. <b>Visvasimha</b> son of (354) Rudrasena II.	Page 204.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
350. <b>Yasodaman I</b> son of (346) Damasena.	Page 202.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺
359. <b>Yasodaman II</b> son of (358) Rudrasimha II.	Page 205.	- 𑀲𑀸𑀲𑀺𑀲𑀺:

## A new reading of a gold stater of Vasu Deva II Les Riches

The staters in question are Mitchiner type A.C.W. nos. 3504-3506, Göbl type 630.



The obverse depicts the king standing at an altar with trident, Kushano/Greek legends around. The reverse has Nandi and Siva, trident etc. The weight varies between 7.50 and 8.30 grams. The gold quality varies, but has an average specific gravity of 14.4. These coins are fairly common on the market.

Various scholars have suggested that the Brahmi characters in the field to the left and right of the king, and between his legs, may be mint control marks. This is possible, but my research has shown that it may also be possible that these Brahmi aksaras are in fact honorific titles of the ruler in a sort of local short-hand.

From some very rare copper coins of the same period (4 known, 3 published) it is possible to put together the full honorific titles of some of these rulers. This research however is still in progress, and will be the subject of another paper in the future.

The new reading came to my notice when I was researching the above mentioned copper coins and after looking at a number of specimens of this type of stater. It seems that the die sinkers were not particularly literate, as many variations have been noted. Various readings of these characters can be made, one for example being  $\text{𑀅𑀲}$  JIRA in compound Brahmi aksaras of around AD 300-350 in the lower left field, and  $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  RADA in the right hand upper field.

From looking at a number of specimens a complete legend may be found. From a recently published example, I read the following:  $\text{𑀅𑀲}$  RAJNA/RAJNO in the lower left field and  $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  RUDA in the upper right field, to give a full reading of RAJNA/RAJNO RUDA. If you look closer, however, you can read  $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  RUDRA. Moreover, from the specimen published by Mitchiner (no. 3506, page 458) it is possible to read  $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  RUDRA in full. This Mitchiner specimen has no aksaras in the left lower field, but the aksara  $\text{𑀅𑀲}$  RAJNA/RAJNO can be seen on no. 3505 in the lower field. If these findings are tenable, it will be possible to read RAJNA/RAJNO. RUDRA.



Since writing most of this article, it has come to my notice that there are also quarter staters of this type, weighing from 1.96 to 2.20 grams. The ones I have seen read RAJNA/RAJNO RADA, but with the aksaras RAJNA/RAJNO back to front, reading thus:

$\text{𑀅𑀲}$   $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  (Ref. Göbl 632).

Having now examined many coins of this type, it seems to me that we can read  $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  in the far right field, which I take to mean SRI TA. In Mitchiner again we can find this honorific title on the coins of Shaka, (Mitchiner page 462, no. 375). Mitchiner reads it as

SITA. But if you study the aksaras close enough you can clearly read  $\text{𑀲𑀸}$  SRI-TA. So we have a reading of Rajna/Rajno Rudra Sri Ta. Could this be the Rudra Deva of the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta?

## Three Indian items by George Falcke:

### The Last Shahrukhi of Humayun's first reign

Humayun's first reign ended when he was defeated by Sher Shah at Kanauj on May 17, AH 947. Published museum catalogues give the last known date on Humayun's silver coins as 946. Illustrated here is a Shahrukhi of Humayun dated AH 947 from the Agra mint. The type is easily recognisable by the outer dotted border around the central legend on the reverse. On the obverse the

Kalima is in a ten-foil area, whereas on earlier Agra issues it is in a circle. AH 947 began on May 8, and the battle was fought nine days later!

After his defeat, Humayun fled to Agra where he stayed only long enough to gather his family and treasure before continuing his flight to Lahor. The distance from Kanauj to Agra is about 120 miles and Humayun should have reached it sometime the next day. Therefore, the minting period of this issue is from May 8 to about May 19.



A second specimen in my collection has smaller date figures and the '4' is of a different type, shaped like  $\text{𑀲}$ . Unfortunately, this specimen is more than 50% flat and does not show the mint name, like three or four other pieces noted in dealers' lists. Weight 4.73 grams, size 24 - 25mm.

### An unusual Tatta Rupee

From the reign of Aurangzeb and the introduction of the standard reverse, the recorded coins of the Tatta mint all have the mint name at the bottom. Illustrated here is a rupee struck in the name of Farrukhsiyar, on which the mint name is at the top!



Unfortunately both AH date and regnal year are off the flan. However, at the bottom of the reverse at left near the rim, where the regnal year should be, there is what may be the top of a figure '8'. If so, the AH date would be '1131' and the coin may have been struck during the last few weeks of the emperor's reign. This specimen is probably from a hoard of Tatta rupees which came on the market about six years ago.

Weight 11.51 grams, size 19 mm.

### The Murshidabad Mint Half Rupee of the 1793 Monetary Reform

F. Pridmore<sup>1</sup> ascribed certain mint identification marks to the mints of Dacca, Murshidabad and Patna which had been closed for some years, but were re-opened to assist with the new reformed coinage. For the Murshidabad mint he traced only one silver denomination, the rupee.

I have in my collection two half rupees with clear dot marks in the position attributed tentatively to the Murshidabad mint. Certain minor die flaws which are evident under magnification seem to indicate that both specimens were struck from the same pair of dies. It is possible that the mint carried out only a single small order for this denomination on private account. The coins were acquired in 1975 and 1983.

NOTE

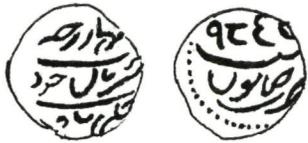
1. F. Pridmore, *The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Part 4, India*, vol. I, pp. 241-2.

### A new Nepalese coin from Kumaon

#### Nicholas Rhodes

It is not often that I can report a new type of Nepalese coin, so I am most grateful to Steve Album for bringing to my attention two specimens of a new type of silver *timasha*, which he discovered

among his stock, and which I illustrate with a line drawing below. Both specimens are now in my own collection.



Obv. فراجہ گربان حودہ بکرم شاہ  
Maharajah Girvan Yuddha Vikram Shah

Rev. صرب حاوون سمبت ۱۸۱۱  
Zarb Khumaun(?) or Champawati(?), Samvat 1868  
Diam. 18mm Wt. 2.19, 2.06

The calligraphy of the coins is crude, but the King's name and the date, corresponding to 1811 AD, are very clear. The reading of the mint, however, is not clearly legible, but the fabric is identical to the well known *timashas* in the name of Girvan Yuddha that were struck at Srinagar, the capital of Garhwal<sup>1</sup>, so I have no hesitation in attributing the coin to the general area of Kumaon, during the Nepalese occupation of the area, which lasted from 1790 until 1815. Towns of any size in Kumaon at that time were few and far between, and the best contemporary account is given by Francis Hamilton M.D., in *An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal*, Edinburgh 1819. In that book, he states that in Garhwal there was only one town of any size, Srinagar, with 2000 houses, although there were many celebrated places of worship<sup>2</sup>, such as Badrinath and Kedarnath. In Almora, the town of that name had 1000 houses, while the old capital, Champawati, had about 200 or 300 houses, and the only two other towns, Ganggoli and Pali, had only about 100 houses each<sup>3</sup>. The most likely mint place therefore seems to be either Almora or Champawati, and the latter seems to be a possible reading of the legend, thus چھاوتی. Alternatively, the mint name may merely refer to the province, Kumaon, although the spelling with *kh*, rather than *k* seems irregular<sup>4</sup>, خااون.

In our book *The Coinage of Nepal*, I referred the an apparent reference to the striking of silver *timashas* in an order dated May 1811. After the publication of our book, Mahesh Chandra Regmi published more detailed information regarding this order, setting out the background in detail, and his account is worth quoting in full<sup>5</sup>:-

From Almora, Kumaon, Chautariya Bam Shah and Subba Hastadal Shahi submitted a recommendation to Kathmandu that the iron coins of Almora be abolished and a mint started there for minting pure (Chokho) *paisa* and *timasi* coins. They added that the people of Kumaon would welcome such an arrangement, which would also facilitate the payment of salaries and allowances to military personnel and others.

A royal order was issued on Tuesday, Baisakh Sudi 14, 1868 granting the permission. The order added, "Procure samples of coins minted at the Bareilly and Farukhabad Mints (in India) and select a suitable alloy. Submit samples of such *paisa* and *timasi* coins to us. Incur reasonable expenses for that purpose, and submit accounts of the income. Anyone who makes any discrepancy in the prescribed alloy and weight will be severely punished".

It seems clear that the coins now discovered, are the pieces authorised in this Royal order dated May 1811, and which had previously not been identified. Almora seems the most likely location for the mint, as that was where the Nepalese governor was located, but Champawati is not impossible, as that town is closer to the plains, and hence to the source of silver, than Almora. The 'iron' pieces referred to are presumably the copper coins described in our book, the earliest of which have the mint name *Almora* clearly inscribed. The copper was presumably obtained from the mines that were worked at this period in the hills above Almora, and one at a place called Ranggi is mentioned on Hamilton's map of the area. According to the Royal order, it seems that these *timashas* were probably struck from melted British Indian rupees, and this is very likely, although I have not checked the alloy. Judging from its rarity, the issue was probably not very successful, but since the two specimens I have seen were struck with different pairs of dies, it seems likely that a significant number were struck for circulation, rather than being confined to a few sample pieces.

In conclusion, this new discovery provides welcome confirmation that the Nepalese documentary evidence of coinage

can be trusted, and I would again like to thank Steve Album for drawing them to my attention.

NOTES

1. c.f. Rhodes, Gabrisch & Valdetaro, *The Coinage of Nepal*, Royal Numismatic Society, Special Publication No.21, London, 1989, pp. 194-199.
2. op. cit. p.301.
3. op. cit. p.297.
4. In Nagari, the name is usually spelled कुमौ
5. *Regmi Research Series*, Year 21, No.3 (1989), p.45.

Counterstamps on Indian copper coins

Ken Wiggins

If the numerous and varied stamps inflicted on old Indian rupees by the *shroffs* are disregarded, it will be found that but few silver rupees bear authentic counterstamps. Those that spring to mind are some Durrani rupees of various Indian mints and some rupees of the Rohillas; these are invariably stamped with the word *raij*. The Dutch East India Company also stamped rupees of Aurangzeb Alangir with their monogram VOC to authorise the use of the coins in Ceylon. Likewise the Bengal rupees and quarter rupees of the East India Company were countermarked with a crown for use in Ceylon. Doubtless a few other examples could be cited.

This paper attempts to deal with Indian copper coins which have been counterstamped or countermarked for some reason. No great attention has been paid to this subject in the past.

There are a number of reasons why coins, or for that matter plain round or square shaped pieces of metal, should have been subjected to counterstamping:

- as a measure to produce a coin for monetary transactions where the means did not exist for the striking of conventional coins. In most cases such counterstamping would have been of a temporary nature;
- as a means of validating former coins for use under a new regime;
- for indicating that a coin was no longer legal tender in the place where it was issued;
- as an indication that it was valid as currency in a district where it did not normally circulate;
- as a cheap and economical way of producing a copper coinage from old and obsolete coins, possibly accumulated for the purpose;
- for indicating on the coin a change of denomination or date.

I should perhaps make it clear at this point that I am not dealing with copper coins that have been overstruck; that is to say a new type of coin struck on a former issue to make an entirely different piece. There are several examples of this practice known from the copper coinage of some of the lesser Indian states of the 19th century.

A variety of counterstamps are depicted here together with possible explanations for their purpose. Some are stamped on former coins, although few of the latter can be recognised with any certainty. Many are stamped on pieces of copper of varying size, shape and weight. The stamps on a few are self-explanatory but the majority consist of a symbol, which may have had some significance at some time. Others consist of a brief inscription which in some cases cannot be easily read.

The countermarks depicted here have been collected over the years but I suggest that there must certainly be many others which have not come to my notice.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4



These counterstamps are found on old copper coins of undetermined origin. It has been written that the Barid Shahis of the Bidar Sultanate put such counterstamps on old coins of the Bahmanid dynasty,<sup>1</sup> probably as a convenient method of making a copper coinage for use within their own territory. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 have presumably the word *sultan* but the remainder is difficult to read. It probably represents a name. No. 3 has a small square counterstamp, which may include the word *amir*, on the other side. No. 4 is a neat rectangular stamp which is reasonably clear and

may refer to Ali Barid Shah.

Nos. 5, 6, 7



5



6

راج

7

These are examples of the word *raj* (= current) which is found on a variety of coins throughout the Middle East and the subcontinent. No. 5 is on a piece of copper (30 x 13mm) which may at one time have been a coin. It is possibly of Iranian or Afghan origin. No. 6 is a small, neat countermark which is on a Durrani copper coin dated AH 1225. I have been unable to trace the exact coin in various publications. No. 7 is found on Sikh copper coins of the Amritsar mint and it most probably means that coins so marked were current in some adjacent territory, possibly Afghanistan or Kashmir.

No. 8, 9



8



9

These are two squarish pieces of copper which have the appearance of having once been ancient Indian coins, but no definite detail can be seen. Both have the Roman letter H stamped on them and no. 9 has two figures below the letter which I take to be either 11 in Devanagari or 99 in Roman figures. Whether these were meant to be coins or some sort of token is a matter of conjecture.

Nos. 10, 11



10



11

These counterstamps are found only on the copper *pai sikka* of the East India Company struck at Farrukhabad 1820-24 (Pr. 336). It is difficult to give a meaning to these stamps unless it was an indication to the local populace that these pieces were genuine coins of the East India Company. Several varieties of the countermark are known.<sup>2</sup>

Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16



12



13



14



15



16

All these stamps are on old Indian copper coins and were found among a large lot of copper coins in Udaipur City. The stamps represent a battle-axe, a sword, a flower, a noose or a figure four and the word *shah*. Two of the coins on which the stamps occur are a copper of Aurangzeb Alamgir, regnal year 51, and one of Shah Jahan II. The remainder are old, very worn Mughal coppers.

Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26



17



18

فتح

19



20



21

۱۲۵۵  
بھول

22

بھول

23



24

۱۲۵۵  
بھول

25



26

All these counterstamps are on smooth round copper pieces of about uniform weight. They are early 19th century coins of Bhopal state. Nos. 17 and 18 have the letter  $\text{C}$  (H) and *sanah* five (year 5). No. 19 has the word *fath* (victory). Nos. 20 and 21 are uninscribed and bear a fly-whisk and a weapon. No. 22 has the name *Bhopal sikka* 1255 and No. 23 has just the name *Bhopal*. No. 24 is uninscribed but No. 25 gives the name of the state and year, which is on the other side. No. 26 is similar to 24. It is not clear what the years represent. As they range from 5 to 28 presumably they are the regnal years of Muhammed Akbar II (1806-1837). They are not applicable to any of the rulers of Bhopal.

These counterstamps on blank flans, possibly made from old coins, represent an easy and economical way of producing a copper coinage.

No. 27



These two stamps occur on each side of round copper flans. The small countermark reads *Barkat Nagor*. Nagore is a town in Jodhpur state where silver coins were also struck. The round stamp gives the date AH 1205 = AD 1790-91. I have seen others with the stamp of the town only but with no date and another dated AH 1208.

No. 28



These stamps on plain pieces of round copper are also said to be from Jodhpur and were known as *Amirshahi*. The original stamp bore the word *فalus* (*falus*, copper coin) but with succeeding issues became so corrupted as to be unintelligible.

No. 29



This is a square countermark on a round copper flan. The word contained in the square is *jaiz* (جایز) which means current. This word is frequently found on coins of Bahawalpur but could probably occur on coins of other places.

No. 30



This six-pointed star enclosing the word *adil* (= just) is found as a countermark on coppers of Kalat (see Valentine p. 233/6-11). The reason for this counterstamp is not really known but I would suggest that it was to render these coins acceptable in nearby Afghanistan.

No. 31



This stamp is found on old obscure coppers with or without a *raj* stamp. It says *Shuja al Mulk*, the Durrani Shah who reigned three times between 1793 and 1842. The date of the stamp is blundered but was probably put on to validate coins during his reigns.

No. 32

شاه

The word *Shah* is found stamped on copper coins of Cambay. On the earlier pieces the word is *شاه* and it seems to have been impressed on miscellaneous pieces of copper or old coins. The later coppers have the correct word *شاه* with an inscription in Gujarati on the other side.

No. 33



This countermark has a three line inscription which is stamped on a rough piece of copper. The middle line is probably *ضرب* (*zarb*) and the top or bottom or both the name of the town where it was issued.

No. 34



Bhilsa

A dagger and an inscription are contained in this countermark. I do not think it is from Bhopal. The bottom word is probably the name of the town and above the dagger are the figures 28 (?) in Hindi.

see ONS NL 160 p.26

No. 35



I do not know what this countermark can possibly mean. It is not on an old coin and it is very likely in the form of a monogram.

No. 36



This stamp and similar ones have been published in *Maratha Mints and Coinages*.<sup>3</sup> This mark reads *Shri Sava*, probably a reference to Shivaji or some other Maratha chief. Other pieces bear various letters and this counterstamp is included as an example.

No. 37



A sword followed by *बाज* and possibly *Sri* is counterstamped on an irregular oblong piece of copper. It may be a reference to Baji Rao II (1796-1818) but otherwise any identification is purely speculative.

No. 38



A rough stamp on a rectangular piece of copper. The name is, I think, Muhammed but I have never seen it spelt this way. It may be of Iranian origin.

No. 39



This symbol is stamped on a thick, square lump of copper. It depicts a 'man-in-the-moon' emblem and such pieces were used at Alote and Gadgudha in Dewas state, central India.<sup>4</sup>

No. 40



This surface is stamped on a similar lump of copper. Similar marks are found on the silver and copper coins of the Holkars of Indore.

No. 41



I take this to be a Devanagari *P* which is stamped on both sides of an old copper coin of the Jaora state. The letter probably stands for the Puar family of Dhar and Dewas and it is thought that this piece is from the latter state.<sup>5</sup>

No. 42



I have this countermark on some copper coins of Bela state. It may have been put on to invalidate the coinage when it became no longer legal tender.

No. 43



This star-like mark is found on 19th century coppers of Bahawalpur state and may have had the same purpose as given in no. 42.

No. 44



This mark is on a copper *dokdo* of Gohadaji I (1715-1719) of Kutch state. The reason for it being stamped on the coin is not known.

No. 45

GB

The letters GB are found on some copper twenty cash coins of the Mysore state, struck in the early 19th century. It is possible that they were so stamped by some British plantation owner and used as checks or tokens.<sup>6</sup>

No. 46



This curious countermark is found on Sikh copper coins of the Amritsar mint. It may be an extremely blundered version of the word *raij* or it possibly means something else.

No. 47



I am not sure if this counterstamp is Indian. It may be Afghan or Iranian. It is impressed on a round piece of copper which was apparently once a coin. The inscription is rather baffling; it looks like a combination of *falus* and *fath* with the general design strangely like the face of a cat or a similar animal.

No. 48



This mark is on a rough square of copper. It looks rather like a Bengali word but I have been unable to trace anything quite like it.

Nos. 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56



49

50

51

52

53



54

55

56

All these countermarks are found on the earlier copper coins of Ratlam state. Nos. 49-52 have Devanagari numerals which may refer to some dating system. Nos. 53-55 have obvious *Hijra* dates and indicate a re-dating process of these coins. Some coins are found counterstamped with the word *غازی* (*Ghazi*, No. 56). Other stamps on Ratlam coins of the same period include the words *raij* and *falus* (see S. K. Bhatt & P. K. Sethi, *Ratlam State Coinage*, Indore 1902).

It is noticeable that the majority of the countermarks illustrated here are, as far as is known, of the 18th or 19th century. A few earlier stamps on Indian copper coins are known. Biddulph gave details and illustrations of a *dam* of the Suri Sultan Islam Shah (1545-1554) and a *dam* of the Mughal emperor Akbar (1565-1606) of the Urdu Zafar Qarin mint countermarked with *عادل کابل* (*Adil Kabul = current in Kabul*).<sup>7</sup> Such specimens are probably rare and as I do not have any, have not illustrated them. The stamps were undoubtedly put on in Kabul in Mughal times as an expediency during a shortage of copper coins.

NOTES

1. D. Rajgor, *Standard Catalogue of the Sultanate Coins of India*, Bombay, 1991, p. 42.
2. *ONS Newsletter* no. 111, March 1988.
3. K. K. Maheshwari & K. Wiggins, *Maratha Mints and Coinage*, Bombay, 1989.
4. N. S. Negu, 'Coinage of the Dewas State', *Journal of the Numismatic Society of Madhya Pradesh*, vol. I, no. 1, 1972.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *ONS Newsletter* no. 48, April 1977.
7. C. H. Biddulph, 'Countermarked Mughal and Suri Coins', *JNSI* vol. XXV, part 1, 1963.

## Four copper coins from Baroda and Bahawalpur

Pran N. Khanna

The following four copper coins are normal circulating coins that nonetheless have features that make them different from other, similar published coins.

### Baroda



1. Copper. Weight 11.00 gm, size 19 x 20mm, square but irregular. New type, unlisted coin of Anand Rao with  $\text{۞}$  (with three vertical stems) for Ahmedahad, in the name of Muhammad Akbar II. There is no date, but it has the legend Badshah Ghazi. There is an Arabic (Persian) inscription  $\text{ع ۞}$  of unknown significance.



2. Copper. Weight 6.2gm, size 21.0mm. This is a coin of Khande Rao, Amreli mint with scimitar, (Kha), Shri, leaf and a date of AH 1273. This was the first year of Khande Rao's reign.

### Bahawalpur



1. Copper falus. New type. Weight 5.6gm, size 15x16mm. The reverse of this coin has the usual branch, but the obverse has a similar legend to that on the silver coins of Bahawalpur and the generic mughal coins i.e. Manus, Maimanat, Sanah, Jalus, Zarb type with a date of AH 1274. The mint name is unclear. There is a chevron border.



2. Copper paisa with an obverse like Y. 2 and reverse like Y. 7.3. Either it is a mule or a transitional type.

## An enigmatic bean



Wolfgang Schuster (Heiligenstädterstraße 1913/1/2, A-1190 Wien, Austria) has sent details of an unidentified bean-type coin. He states that it is neither Thai bullet money nor Japanese bean money. It is silver, weighs 4.7 gm, is 10mm in diameter on the design side and 7mm thick. The coin bears no legend, only a geometric design within an octagon.

## Porcelain tokens of Hakodate, Japan

Helen Wang and Takashi Ohkubo

Two years ago, a group of 10 Japanese porcelain tokens were brought to the British Museum for identification. I am grateful to Howard Simmons for allowing me to keep them for such a long time, and for his permission to publish them.

The tokens are made from a white porcelain, which has been glazed on the top and sides. They are oval in shape, measuring 31-34mm long, 18-20mm wide. The upper side is concave (roughly the size of a finger print), and has a hand-written inscription in black, blue or green ink. The underside is not glazed and is flat. It has a stamped impression and an added inscription, hand-written in black ink.

The hand-written inscription on the upper side indicates that the tokens were from Hakodate, a seaport in Oshima, Hokkaido. The character enclosed within the circle reads 'I' and probably refers to the name of a (unidentified) company. The goods are specified in the inscription as 'Western and Japanese style clothing', and the denomination is either for 50 sen (on 9 tokens) or for 1 yen (on 1 token).

The stamp on the underside is that of the Nihon Sesshu Kabushiki Kaisha, a liquor company located in Nadda Nishinomiya, western Japan. The company started its business in Hakodate in 1905 (Meiji 38).



Although curators of the Currency Museum of the Bank of Japan and the Hakodate City Museum have not seen similar tokens before, they confirm that these porcelain tokens may have been used as coupon tokens for selling liquor, imported goods and stamps during the Meiji-Taisho period.