

ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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Members news

Mr. ... (175) has changed his interests to Moghul, Durrani and Barakzai coins, plus the Malla issues of Nepal. He is seeking mint/date/regnal year combinations of Durrani coins not represented in the Lahore Museum catalogue. Dr. ... (665) is looking for Indian temple tokens with butterfly motifs. Mr. ... (708) has some copies of Zambaur's 'Munzprägungen des Islams' (1968) which he would like to exchange for other books on Islamic coinage. Mr. ... (80) writes that he is "seeking someone knowledgeable in Chinese written language, culture, cosmology and religion to help in preparation of sales listing of a huge collection of Chinese amulets. My goal is identification of each piece as to transliteration, symbolism and intended use and to develop a meaningful structure for a catalog listing. Excellent opportunity for academic study before collection is dispersed".

We are very sorry to report the recent death of Mrs. ... (556) who will be sadly missed by her many friends. Mrs. Watson played an active part in the London numismatic scene, particularly since her husband's death some years ago. Among her wide circle of friends and acquaintances some ONS members will remember her making tea at ONS meetings and others will remember spending enjoyable evenings of numismatic gossip at her home in north London.

ONS news

ONS has now become a member of the International Numismatic Commission.

The ONS annual accounts for 1980-81 show that the society remains solvent. Copies of the accounts are available from the treasurer, Vic Brown, at ... (send SAE). The Information sheet (no. 22) on the Sikhs, part 1, has now been distributed to members. The next publication will be an Occasional paper by Joe Cribb on 'Catholic medals used in China'.

Kushan colloquium

The ONS is sponsoring a colloquium on Kushan (including Kushano-Sassanian) numismatics to be held in London at the British Museum on 5th - 6th. November 1981. For details please contact Mr. J. Cribb in the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum.

Some recent publications

Ali, M. Amjad, Coins of the Nawab of Kalyani, Numismatic Digest (Bombay) IV, 1980 i, 70 - 72

Andrews, C. C., Kirkouk - Korkouk - Kirkuk, Numismatics International Bull. Apr. 1981, 112 - 113

Arroyo, H., Un titre monétaire inédit du Sultan Saljukide Sanjar ibn Malik Shah, 511 - 552 AH, Revue Numismatique XXI, 1979, 218 - 224

Arroyo, H., The Mahdist coinage of Amul (750 - 760 AH), Seaby's C & M Bull. Aug. 1981, 226 - 227

Augé, C., Curiel, R. and Le Rider, G., Terrasses Sacrées de Bard-è Néchandeh et Masjid-i Solaiman: les trouvailles monétaires, Mémoires de la Délégation Archéologique en Iran XLIV (Mission de Susiane), Paris 1979, 165 - 184 (including 57 Sassanian lead coins)

A note on the pice of the East India Company struck at Ahmadabad

by Ken Wiggins

At the conclusion of the third Maratha War in 1818, the city of Ahmadabad was ceded to the British by the Gaikwar. Ahmadabad had been the site of a mint from the time of Akbar and one was maintained there by successive Mughal emperors and then continued by the Marathas and the Gaikwar. The coins of Ahmadabad have been discussed extensively by Taylor¹ and Master². Their articles cover practically all the issues of this mint until its closure in 1835.

From 1818 until 1835 the mint at Ahmadabad was operated by the East India Company and coins were struck continuously throughout the period. The principal coin issued was the rupee, but some copper coins, now quite scarce, were also struck. These copper pice have not been widely published and their scarcity is accounted for by a report of the Collector of Ahmadabad in 1832 which stated that the pice circulating in his district were **Ahmadabadi** and **Bhownuggari** but that there was only a very limited amount of the former in circulation. The report went on to explain that the **Ahmadabadi** derived from the mint at Ahmadabad and had only been struck on two occasions since the British had come into possession of the city; in 1820 and in 1821. The output was not large but the minting figures were not given. The report also explained that the **Bhownuggari** was the product of the mint at Bhownuggar (Bhaunagar) which was shut down in April 1832.

Masters³ lists two Ahmadabad pice - to one of which he gives the probable date AH 1233. This cannot be correct as this date corresponds with AD 1817-18, at which time the British had not yet occupied Ahmadabad. The writer has only encountered specimens dated AH 1234 and AH 1236, and these dates may represent the occasions when the two issues were made. It will be seen from the coin illustrated as Fig. 1 that the die exceeded the flan used by about one third and most known specimens only show a portion of the legend. The whole die design is shown as Fig. 2 and gives the complete legend, which is : -

Obv.	Falus of Shah Akbar 1234	شاه اکبر ۱۲۳۴ فلوس	Rev.	Ahmadabad year 12	احمد آباد سنه ۱۲
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These pice weigh from 118 to 120 grains and they exchanged at 70 to the rupee.

- 1 Taylor, G. P., The Coins of Ahmadabad, J. Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, vol. XX.
- 2 Master, A., The post-Mughal coins of Ahmadabad, or a study in Mint-marks, Numismatic supplement to the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, vol. XXII (1913)
- 3 *ibid.*

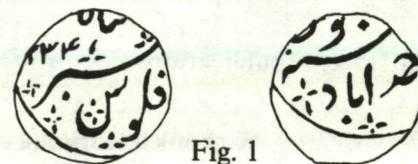


Fig. 1

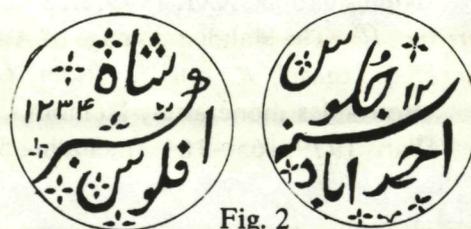


Fig. 2

Denominations on contemporary Arab coinage

by Gilles Hennequin

Attentive students of classical Arabic grammar may feel puzzled by the spelling of some denominations on contemporary Arab coinage. We all learnt that from 100 upwards any number's complement (in this case the monetary unit) takes singular indirect case (*-in*). Why, then, the suffix *-an* on the 750 *dirhaman* shown here?

Combining regular upwards unfolding of complex numerical expressions (units-tens-hundreds etc: cfr. dates in words on medieval Islamic coins) and right-to-left writing, Arabic numbers look externally identical to Western ones: right to left from the units (cfr. dates in numerals on later Islamic coins).

In the case of one- or two-digit figures, current usage usually remains consistent with classical rules. Thus 1 is normally followed by singular subject (*-un*), 2 by dual (*-ān* : eg. 2 *ḡiršān*, Lebanon: cfr. Krause & Mishler, Standard Catalog 1979, p. 1099), 3 to 10 (for all practical purposes 5 or 10) by plural (*ḡurūš*, *fulūs*, *darāhim*, *danānir* etc: '2½ piastres' either *ḡiršān wa-niṣf* or *2½ ḡurūš*, Lebanon, *ibid*). There are some apparent aberrations, such as 2, 4 and 10 *fiṣ* along with 5 and 10 *fulūs* (Iraq, *ibid.*, p. 985). All other two-digit figures (20, 25, 50) are followed by singular direct case (*-an* : long alif), still with some hard to explain exceptions (20 *fiṣ* : without long alif: again Iraq, *ibid.*).

On the other hand, current usage may depart from classical norms when dealing with figures of more than two digits (the units being usually zero) since in such a case contemporary Arabs pretend to read their numbers the way Westerners read theirs, ie. downwards from left to right instead of upwards from right to left in classical Arabic, with the grammatical result that it is the digit to the right, and no longer the one to the left as mandatory in classical Arabic, which determines the spelling of the whole numbers' complement. Thus, if the tens are not zero (only practical possibility: 5), the complement follows the '11-99' rule (see above 750 *dirhaman*). Only if the tens are zero does the classical rule still apply (eg. 500 *fiṣin* : Iraq, *ibid.* 987 etc).

The philological expertise of Dr. M. A. S. Abdel Haleem (SOAS., London) is gratefully acknowledged.

Solitary reverse symbols on early Indian coins

by Robert Tye

After the disintegration of the Mauryan Empire around 200 BC, local coins were produced, very largely in copper, throughout India. It is a reasonably accurate generalisation to say that the coins fall into three styles; those of the North-west derive from struck Indo-Greek types; those in the North-east from the archaic cast copper coinage; whilst the coins of Central and Southern India are inspired by the punchmarked silver in design. Allan has previously noted that the coins of Ujjain " are struck on the same principle as the punchmarked coins " (BMC. cxlii) and Biddulph (Coins of the Pandyas) looks to Ujjain copper for prototypes for the Southern (Pandya) coinage.

The Central and Southern coinages, in common with their prototypes, the punchmarked silver coins of classes V and VI, very frequently bear a solitary reverse mark. In the case of Ujjain and Pandya copper issues these marks (nos. 8 and 13 respectively) have long been recognised as having geographical significance. Might it not therefore be the case that the reverse marks on punchmarked silver coins also signified local governors or provinces? (I)

Allan, and more recently Mitchiner, have grouped together under the single head of Ujjain a number of coins with differing reverse marks (eg. nos. 8, 10 and 12). My limited observations suggest that these differing symbols may well have represented different cities in and around the ancient state of Avanti. (II)

It might also be of some significance that one of these symbols (no. 7) spans the punchmarked silver coinage and struck copper coin period, and the possible intervening period of punchmarked copper coinage.

I should be most interested to receive information, or comment, regarding these two related hypotheses (I and II).

Amongst the known marks are those illustrated here as nos. 1 to 14:

Punchmarked AR nos. 1 - 7

Punchmarked AE nos. 7 - 8

Avanti nos. 7 - 12

Pandya no. 13

Satavahana no. 14



1



2



3



4



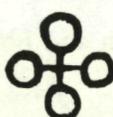
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6



7



8



9



10



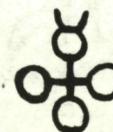
11



12



13



14

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