

*Secretary General*

Mr. M. R. Broome

*Regional Secretaries*

General Section:

Mr. G. P. Hennequin

*Newsletter Editor*

Dr. M. B. Mitchiner,

Europe:

UK. and Eire:

Mr. K. W. Wiggins

*Annual Subscription*

£4-00; H.F.I. 18-00; 9-00 dollars

North America:

Dr. Craig Burns

Newsletter number 76

February 1982

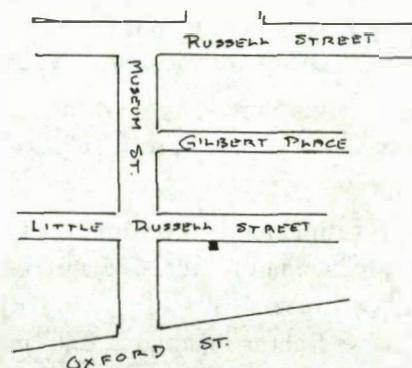
**Members news**

Our treasurer, Mr. Vic. Brown, advises that the ONS bank account has been moved from Barclays Bank in Swaffham to the branch of Barclays Bank in East Dereham. Will those members who pay their annual subscriptions direct to him please note the change. Mr. ..., Sri Lanka writes that he has a small collection of old Ceylon coins for disposal. The Information Sheet on 'The gold and silver coinage of the Sikhs, part II: The mints of Lahore and Multan' by S. Goron and K. Wiggins is now being distributed.

**ONS meetings**

An informal meeting will be held at 2.30 pm on Saturday 27th. March 1982 at 28 Little Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1 (by kind permission of the British Museum authorities). Little Russell Street is about 100 yards south of the main gate to the British Museum, as shown in the accompanying plan. The nearest tube stations are Tottenham Court Road and Holborn Kingsway).

BRITISH MUSEUM

**An unusual coin of the Adil Shahis of Bijapur**

by K. W. Wiggins

The coin is as follows : -

AE rectangular weight: 15.1 grams diameter: 17 - 18 mm

obv. 'The chosen slave of Ali - 1022'

rev. 'The friend of the weak - Ibrahim'

غلام علي  
مرتضىابراهيم  
ابراهيم

This coin was recently acquired from a friend. It is a square copper coin of Ibrahim II (AD 1579 - 1625), the sixth ruler of the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur. Significant features of this coin are its square shape and its heavy weight. The normal round coins of Bijapur weigh about 11½ grams. The legends on this coin seem identical with those found on the normal coppers of Ibrahim.

So far as I am aware, this type has not been previously published. It may have been a special issue for some auspicious occasion. The coin is clearly dated AH 1022, whereas the normal coins of this ruler are devoid of any date.

## Rupees of the mint of Qandahar in the Deccan during the reign of Shah Jahan I

by K. W. Wiggins

It would appear that Kukuranov<sup>1</sup> was the first to draw attention to the fact that some rupees of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan I with the mint name Qandahar could have been issues from a place of this name in the Deccan, and not, as had previously been supposed, from the well known town in present day Afghanistan. Unfortunately, none of the coins cited by Kukuranov appears to have been illustrated and since his article appeared there has not been, to my knowledge, any further enquiry into the subject.

The rupees attributed to the mint of Qandahar in Afghanistan and struck during the reign of Shah Jahan I (AD 1628 - 1658) are fairly well known and appear in all major catalogues dealing with Mughal coins. They were issued between AH 1048 (AD 1638/39) and AH 1057 (AD 1647/48). They bear regnal years of the emperor ranging from year 11 to year 21.

The dates of these coins fall conveniently within the known period of the occupation of Qandahar by the Mughals. Briefly, the historical facts concerning Qandahar in Afghanistan are as follows. Having formed an outpost of the Mughal Empire during the latter part of the reign of Akbar and during part of the reign of Jahangir, the town fell to the Safavids of Persia in AH 1031 (June AD 1622<sup>2</sup>). In AH 1047 (AD 1638) the army of Shah Jahan marched on Qandahar and the Persian governor, Ali Mardan Khan, probably sensing that resistance was useless, gave up the town. There may have been additional inducements for his capitulation since he was shortly afterwards appointed Amir al Umara and became the Mughal governor of Kabul and Kashmir. The Mughals held Qandahar for some 11 years. The city was then taken by Shah Abbas II in AH 1058 (February 11th, AD 1649) and it thereafter remained within the Persian domains until taken by the Ghilzais about AD 1709. Qandahar subsequently fell to Nadir Shah in AD 1738.

There exist, as Kukuranov pointed out, several additional rupees of Shah Jahan bearing the mint name Qandahar which cannot be from the mint of this name in Afghanistan. The purpose of this note is to list those specimens that are known to exist, and to illustrate some of them. While mentioning those cited by Kukuranov, it has been possible to add a few new specimens that have since come to light.

1. Catalogue of the Coins in the Provincial Museum, Lucknow  
Shah Jahan I, no. 2235  
AR rupee mint: Qandahar date: 1042 - 5 weight: 171 grains  
obv. In triple circle on flowered ground the Kalima: 1042 in lower left of area  
rev. In square with knots at corners: - بادشاه غازی شاه جهان  
margins: top شهراب الدین right محمدرضا صاحب  
lower قران زانی left ضرب عند الله
2. A supplement to volume II of the Catalogue of Coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta  
Shah Jahan I, nos. 597 and 598  
AR rupees mint: Qandahar date: 1042 - 5 weights: 176 & 171 grs.  
obv. Kalima in square, 1042 in lower left corner, usual marginal legends  
rev. In square area "Badshah Ghazi Shah Jahan"; usual marginal legends with mint on left side
3. Kukuranov collection  
Shah Jahan I  
AR rupee mint: Qandahar date: 1044 - 8 weight: not cited  
description not given: but said to be of the square area type
4. Lingen collection  
Shah Jahan I  
AR rupee mint: Qandahar date: 1044 - 5 weight: not recorded  
illustrated as Fig. I
5. Spink and Son Ltd.  
Shah Jahan I  
AR rupee mint: Qandahar date: Ilahi 5, Bahman weight: 172 grains  
illustrated as Fig. II

6. Private collection

Shah Jahan I

AR rupee

mint: Qandahar

date: 1044 – 6

weight: 175 grains

illustrated as Fig. III

7. British Museum collection

Shah Jahan I

AR rupee

mint: Qandahar

date: 1044 – 8

weight: not recorded

obv. Kalima in square, 1044 in lower left corner, usual marginal legends

rev. In square area "Badshah Ghazi Shah Jahan"; usual marginal legends, but with mint in lower area. (this coin is probably the same as the Kukuranov specimen)

From this list of known specimens it will be noted that numbers 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are of the same type, with only minor variations. This design is identical with that on coins dated between AH 1048 and 1057, which are normally attributed to Qandahar in Afghanistan. Number 1 has a different obverse, while number 5 is of an entirely different type dated by the Ilahi year.

As Kukuranov pointed out, these coins cannot be from Qandahar in Afghanistan; for during the period AH 1042 to 1044 (AD 1632 - 1635) this town was in the hands of the Persians.

Kukuranov gave good reasons for attributing these coins to another place called Qandahar in the Deccan and the evidence to support him is fairly strong. Qandahar in the Deccan is now an insignificant village located 75 miles east of Dharur and 25 miles south-west of Nander. In former times this Qandahar boasted a very strong fortress which was in possession of the Qutb Shahis.

In AH 1038 a general of Shah Jahan, one Nasiri Khan, had been placed in command of a force with instructions to conquer Telingana<sup>3</sup>. He first resolved to reduce the fort of Qandahar and subsequently laid siege to it. It fell to the Mughal on 15 Shawwal AH 1040 (11th. October, AD 1630)<sup>4</sup>. Nasiri Khan's expedition did not meet with much further success and Shah Jahan's campaign in the Deccan was not resumed until AD 1635-36, when the Mughals conquered Golkonda.

It will be seen that by AH 1042, the earliest date on the coins in question, the Mughals had been in occupation of the Deccan fortress of Qandahar for some two years and it is a reasonable assumption that a mint would have been established there in this time, if for no other reason than to pay the occupying Imperial soldiers.

The existence of rupees struck at Qandahar in the Deccan during the reigns of Muhammad Shah and Alamgir II<sup>5</sup> adds some weight to the hypothesis that this mint already existed at an earlier date. But those later issues may not have been purely Mughal. It is more likely that the late issues were struck during the period when the Nander district was under the control of the Nizam.

1. JNSI vol. XVII, part i

2. Other authorities give the date as August 1622

3. Telingana, or the Telugu country: a wild ill-defined region of hills and forest situated between Berar and the Golkonda state. Capital: Nander. Fortress: Qandahar. vide Smith, Oxford History of India, Oxford 1920.

4. J. Dowson, History of India, Trubner, London 1877; taken from the Badshah Nama of Abdul Hamid Lahori. J. Burgess, Chronology of Modern India, Edinburgh 1913, gives the date of the fall of Qandahar as Jamada 1/23, AH 1040. Saksena, History of Shah Jahan of Delhi, Allahabad 1932, gives the date as 7th. May, 1631.

5. Singhal, C. R., Mint towns of the Mughal Emperors of India, NSI., Bombay 1953



Fig. I



Fig. II



Fig. III



1044

## A twenty five cash piece of Krishna Raja Wodeyar of Mysore

by K. W. Wiggins

I have been unsuccessful in discovering the coin depicted here in any of the usual catalogues dealing with the coinage of Mysore and therefore presume that it has not been published before. The details are as follows –

AE 25 cash                      weight: 11.21 grams                      diameter: 28 mm  
 obv. Elephant standing to left; above “Sri Chamundi” in Telugu; floral design below  
 rev. Three line inscription in Telugu and value below, the coin has no date : –  
 Krishna / Mayili K / asu ippataidu / XXV CASH



There are four varieties of undated copper coins bearing an elephant on the obverse. They were all issued between 1811 and 1833, but the sequence of issue is uncertain. The type that has “Sri Krishna Raja” in Nagari (Cr. 170) would appear to be the first issue of Krishna Raja Wodeyar, probably being struck in 1811 when he assumed the government of the state. Of the other three types, two have only the word “Sri” above the elephant. The remaining type has “Sri Chamundi” in that position, and on the reverse bears a four line inscription very similar to that on the coin illustrated here (vide Cr. 177b). Five, ten and twenty cash pieces of this type are known. It would appear that the 25 cash piece is a further issue of this series, which for some reason, was unacceptable and therefore not struck in any quantity.

## Native coinage of Kashmir in the late 19th. century

by K. W. Wiggins

A literary source<sup>1</sup> enables a belated correction and some further information to be added to Information Sheet 11 (April 1975) on ‘The Silver Coinage of the Dogra Maharajahs of Jammu and Kashmir’.

According to the Settlement Officer for Kashmir there were, in the early 1890’s, three types of rupee current in the State besides the British Rupee.

- These were:
1. The Kham rupee (Y. 13) which was valued at 8 British annas. In the Information Sheet this type of coin was erroneously labelled the Chilki rupee.
  2. The Chilki rupee (Y. 21) which was valued at 10 British annas. The Chilki rupee was being struck in Kashmir circa 1892.
  3. The Nanak Shahi rupee. This presumably was the ordinary Sikh rupee minted at Amritsar and Lahore; although their continued use in Kashmir some forty years after the demise of the Sikh state is remarkable. They were worth from 12 to 16 British annas and the Settlement Officer noted that they were gradually passing out of circulation.

Some indication of the number of Chilki rupees struck in the years 1888 to 1893 is also given : –

AD	Year	Value in British rupees	Approximate number struck
AD 1888	S. 1945	288,521	461,633
AD 1889	S. 1946	288,240	461,184
AD 1890	S. 1947	150,442	240,707
AD 1891	S. 1948	309,471	495,153
AD 1892	S. 1949	381,171	609,873
AD 1893	S. 1950	454,423	727,076

The Kashmir mint closed in 1895

1. Lawrence, W. R., The Valley of Kashmir, Henry Frowde, London 1895.