

*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*

£5-00; H.Fl. 25-00; FF. 65-00; 9-00 dollars

North America:

Dr. Craig Burns

**Newsletter number 88****February 1984****Members news**

Mr. Vic. Brown, our treasurer, has a copy of J. Allan, Catalogue of the coins of Ancient India in the British Museum (1936). Will anyone interested in acquiring it please contact him. Mr. ... is studying the gold coins of Egypt and would like details of any 50 and 100 piastre coins dated AH 1293 in members' collections. We regret to announce the recent deaths of Mr. ... in Amsterdam and of Prof. ... whose scholarly work on the Scythian period will be known to many of our members.

**ONS meetings**

The Northeastern USA Chapter is proving itself a hive of activity. Their next meeting (March 10th) will include a talk by Dr. Martha L. Carter on 'A reconstruction of Kushano-sasanian history through numismatics'. For information about forthcoming activities please contact the secretary, William B. Warden jr., at PO Box 356, New Hope, PA 18938. A meeting, on the eastern side of the Atlantic, was held at Cologne in November and attended by members from Germany, the Netherlands and England. Papers included 'Rare acquisitions from Nepal', 'Symbols on coins of Tibet and Nepal', 'Trilingual coins with inscriptions in Brahmi, Greek and Pehlvi' and 'Rare Moghul coins'. A further meeting has been arranged for the coming autumn – Hotel Mondial, Cologne, 10-30 am, Saturday 17th November 1984. Will anyone interested please contact Dr. van der Wiel for details in due course. The next London meeting of the ONS will be at 2-30 pm on Saturday March 31st. at 28 Little Russel Street, London W 1.

**Index of items of interest from the ONS newsletters, 1976 - 1983**

*(concluded)*

MACASSAR (Celebes): early coinage of the Sultans	47	Feb. 1977
MALDIVE ISLANDS: last native coinage of	52	Dec. 1977
MARATHAS OF TANJORE: : gold fanams struck by	58	Feb. 1979
MROHAUNG DYNASTY (Arakan): four new coins	77	Apr. 1982
MROHAUNG DYNASTY (Arakan): Chittagong coins	84	Jun. 1983
MROHAUNG DYNASTY (Arakan): trilingual coins	86	Oct. 1983
MUGHAL: gold and silver coins of Kashmir	67	Aug. 1980
MUGHAL: coins of Qandahar in the Deccan	76	Feb. 1982
MUHAMMAD III BIN TUGHLAQ: 14th century mule	71	Apr. 1981
MUKDEN (China): 20 and 10 cash coins of 1922	69	Dec. 1980
MUMINABAD-BINDRABAN: coins struck at	49	Jun. 1977
MUSEUMS: coin collections in	48	Apr. 1977
MYSORE: coins countermarked GB	48	Apr. 1977
MYSORE: a 25 cash coin of Krishna Raja Wodeyar	76	Feb. 1982

NARWAR (Gwalior state): an unpublished rupee of	62	Oct. 1979
NEPAL: Kathmandu mint tokens	62	Oct. 1979
OTTOMAN: overstrikes on European crowns	46	Dec. 1976
OTTOMAN: large copper coins	50	Aug. 1977
OTTOMAN: zinc coins	51	Oct. 1977
OTTOMAN: tokens	74	Oct. 1981
PACKSADDLE SYCEE: issued circa 1912 - 1933	62	Oct. 1979
PEGU: lead coins	82	Feb. 1983
PLANTATION TOKENS: Indonesian hoard of	61	Aug. 1979
PONDICHERRY: double rupees struck at	74	Oct. 1981
PUNCH MARKED: single punch marked copper coins of Ancient India	87	Dec. 1983
PYU: coins and modern fantasies	78	Jun. 1982
PYU: some new coins	78	Jun. 1982
QANDAHAR: Deccan mint of the Mughals	76	Feb. 1982
QUNDUZ: Timurid copper coins of	75	Dec. 1981
RAS BAB AL MANDAB: countermarked coins of Shaykh Sa'id	44	Aug. 1976
REWAH: Bushby Sahib	58	Feb. 1979
REWAH: Bushby Sahib	59	Apr. 1980
SAMBAK (NW. Borneo): coin of	62	Dec. 1979
SAMBAK (NW. Borneo): coin of	64	Feb. 1980
SATAVAHANA: Sri - Sata coins	51	Oct. 1977
SEISTAN: Abbasid - Sassanian coinage of	50	Aug. 1977
SHAYKH SA'ID: Ras bab al Mandab; coins of, circa 1890	44	Aug. 1976
SHOLAPUR: Mughal rupee of Aurangzeb	60	Jun. 1979
SIKKIM: forgeries of the paisa	49	Jun. 1977
SULTANS OF DELHI: 14th century mule of Mohammed III	71	Apr. 1981
SWAT: early medieval coins from	84	Jun. 1983
TANJORE: Marathas - gold fanams struck by	58	Feb. 1979
TAXILA: two interesting overstruck coins	52	Dec. 1977
TIBET: a Sino - Tibetan countermark	53	Feb. 1978
TONK STATE: new type of copper coin	44	Aug. 1976
TOWEELAHS: a short note on	56	Oct. 1978
TRIPURA: an unpublished Muslim rupee	57	Dec. 1978
WHAT IS IT ?	42	Apr. 1976
WHAT IS IT ?	43	Jun. 1976
WORLD OF ISLAM FESTIVAL 1976: colloquium on Islamic Numismatics	42	Apr. 1976

Notes on coins of particular interest and short articles for newsletters are always welcome.

#### Single Punch Marked Coppers of Ancient Northern India

Details of Mr. Robert Tye's coins photographed in the previous newsletter should be amended as follows:

- top left: 1 Mathura lion type: Lion walking left, standard in front (5.3 gm) (all have blank rev.)
- top right: 2 Kausambi elephant type: Elephant with tusks slightly raised (4.0 gm)
- low left: 3 Ujjain bull type: Bull left with symbol in front (4.1 gm) \*
- low right: 4 Uncertain provenance, Delhi area: Elephant left with tusks lowered (1.4 gm)

H. Takekawa, *Gold and Silver Japanese coins*, Paris 1981

review by Joe Cribb

£50 - 00, A4 size, Lii + 198 pages, illustrations - line drawings and photographs in text - in English, French and Japanese.

In a series so short of available western language reference books, the appearance of this new work on Japanese coins by H. Takekawa ought to have been welcomed with enthusiasm. Unfortunately a closer examination of it has deflated any excitement the new of publication created.

*Gold and Silver Japanese Coins* is a printed copy of a mid-nineteenth century manuscript titled *Kingin Zuroku* (Pictorial Record of Gold and Silver) by Hisanori Takekawa, an otherwise unknown Japanese. The publication of this manuscript has been edited by M. Bon who has arranged its translation into French and English and has added to it introductions, appendices and indexes. He has also fundamentally re-ordered the text of the original manuscript and added to it some photographic illustrations of Japanese silver in his own collection.

The misfortune is that Bon failed to realise that Takekawa's manuscript was a very poor copy of a work of the same title by Morishige Kondo published in Japan c. 1810 (Coole J. 212). Kondo's book, still the standard reference work on 16 - 18th century Japanese Provincial gold and silver coins, is beautifully illustrated with tinted wood block engravings of Japanese gold and silver coins and descriptions and discussions of them written in Kondo's own elegant calligraphy. Takekawa's copy is badly drawn and written and misses out large parts of the original. It is of little use, even as a 'poor man's' substitute for Kondo's work, and Bon's re-arrangement of the manuscript has robbed it of the few merits it had. On top of this misfortune the appendices and indexes added by Bon are of very limited use to either the collector or student of Japanese coins. Furthermore the photographs he included are all of recent forgeries (see J. Cribb, *Some Japanese Forgeries* in *Bulletin on Counterfeits*, vol. 8 no. 1/2, p. 26 - 38, London 1983 - offprints of this are available free to ONS members from the author, c/o British Museum: please include postage with request).

It is a tragedy that so much work by Bon and his collaborators has been spent on a manuscript of such little value or interest. Those interested in Japanese coins will still have to rely on N. G. Munro's 'Coins of Japan' or N. Jacobs and C. C. Vermeule's 'Japanese coinage'; both of which have fortunately been recently reprinted.

#### **The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies**

by K. W. Wiggins

A significant event in Indian Numismatics occurred on Sunday, 8th. January 1984 at Anjaneri in the Nasik district of Maharashtra when the recently completed Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic studies was inaugurated with due ceremony in the presence of an audience of over 300 persons. The Proceedings started at 11-30 am with opening addresses by Dr. P. L. Gupta, the Director of the Institute, Mr. Karl Khandalavala, an eminent Indian antiquary, Dr. D. W. MacDowall, a well known English numismatist and Mr. K. K. Maheshwari, the Bombay businessman by whose foresight and generosity the Institute was established. The speakers traced the history of numismatics in India from the 19th century and stressed that with the greater interest now being taken in numismatics as a source for historical data the Institute would prove invaluable.

A general tour of the Institute, which is in a rural setting, was made after the opening ceremony and the visitors were agreeably surprised to find an ultra modern building beautifully equipped with furniture and fittings of the highest quality. The Institute already holds a considerable library and an extensive system of filing cabinets housing the cards containing photographs and data on individual Indian and allied coins. Over 50,000 photographs have already been acquired. There are also offices, a lecture room, and a rest room. It is proposed to equip a laboratory, a photographic department and a small museum. A further building under construction in the grounds of the Institute will provide accomodation for staff and visiting students.

The following two days were taken up by a seminar presided over by Dr. Gupta. Many interesting papers were presented by numismatists from India, Europe and America. A number of ONS members were present. As well as ... From the United Kingdom were ... ONS members from India included ...

The establishment of the Institute is a most important achievement for Indian numismatics. Its future depends largely on the professionalism and enthusiasm of the Director and his staff and on the quality and scholarship of the material in the research journal and other publications which will be produced in the future. This Institute clearly deserves the recognition and support of all students of Indian coinage. The Institute will always welcome photographs and particulars of important coins for their archives and donations of books or articles on Indian and related coins. The administration office of the Institute is at 507 Raheja Centre, 214 Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021. Any members visiting India in the future should include the Institute in their itinerary. They can be assured of a warm welcome from Dr. Gupta and his staff and with the wealth of material at the Institute any visit should be interesting and productive.