

The silver coins of Bhutan ascribed to the period 1900 to 1928 (N. Rhodes, Period IV group B) depict eight recognisably Buddhist or Hindu symbols arranged in a framework of squares; with no inscription, date, portrait, or other distinguishing mark. Each side of these coins is divided into four compartments and each compartment contains one of the symbols.

For purposes of recognition the symbols might be called : —

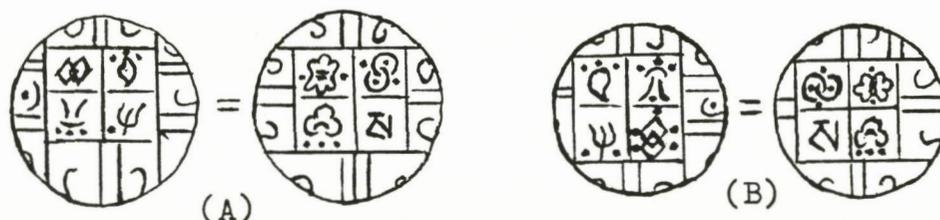
1. Conch, 2. Banner, 3. Trident, 4. Squares, 5. Thunderbolt, 6. Cloud, 7. Circles,
8. Tibetan letter "Sa".

The conch, banner, trident and squares are always on the side of the coin that, for the purposes of this note, is called the obverse; while the thunderbolt, cloud, circles and Sa are always on the reverse. There appear to be certain conventions governing the order in which the symbols are arranged.

Obverse:

The conch is always in one of the two upper compartments, but can be right or left. The trident is always in one of the two lower compartments, but can be right or left. The conch and the trident (Hindu symbols) always go together, the conch being above the trident. If the conch is top right, the trident will be lower right. If the trident is lower left, the conch must be upper left. Thus the banner and squares (Buddhist symbols) must always go together, but can be up or down, right or left.

The figures show (A) obverse with symbols in the order squares — conch — banner (upside down) — trident; and reverse thunderbolt — circles — cloud — Sa. In figure (B) the obverse is conch — banner — trident — squares; and the reverse circles — thunderbolt — Sa — cloud.



Reverse:

All the symbols on the reverse have mainly Buddhist associations. The thunderbolt is always in an upper compartment, but can be right or left. The Tibetan letter Sa is always in a lower compartment, but can be right or left, and does not necessarily have to pair with the thunderbolt. The cloud and the circles thus do not necessarily have to go together, and each can be either up or down and right or left.

Possible range of variations:

Coins may have the same obverse and yet have a different reverse, and vice versa. Each of the four obverse possibilities can combine with any of the eight reverses, making 32 possible basic types. But, in practice, the system is further complicated by the fact that several of the symbols, namely the banner, squares, thunderbolt, cloud and circles (but not the conch, trident or Sa) can be set vertically, horizontally, or even diagonally or upside down; thus adding considerably to the theoretical possibilities for variation. Further scope for variety is afforded by different numbers of dots in the fields of certain of the symbols.

But what has happened in practice?

In a small group of thirteen of these coins that have been examined there are ten different arrangements of the basic order of the symbols, disregarding the further complication of some of the symbols being on their sides or upside down. This provokes curiosity as to how many variations of the basic order were actually struck in the Bhutanese mints. Of the ten different arrangements in this group, most have the obverse (reading from left to right) in the order conch — banner — trident — squares (as in fig. B above) and banner — conch — squares — trident. There is a smaller number having the obverse in the order squares — conch — banner — trident (as in fig. A above), but none of these have reverses showing the theoretically possible order circles — thunderbolt — Sa — cloud or cloud — thunderbolt — circles — Sa. Similarly there are no obverses in the order conch — squares — trident — banner, of which there could be eight. Do they exist? A study of a larger number of these coins might provide other information. Does anyone have a few?

Some Recent Publications

- M. R. Broome, *Handbook of Islamic Numismatics*, available from B. A. Seaby Ltd., London: £27-50
 P-R Bauquis, *Une Etrange Histoire de Talismans*, Archipel 28, 1984, 65 - 76 (also from author: ONS 878)
 C. Olcer, *Rare Ottoman coins in European Museums* (in Turkish: G. Kurkman, PK 121 Tesvikiye, Istanbul)
 I. Jabrin al Jabir, *Islamic Numismatics*, Office of Tourism & Antiquities, Qatar

Three Rare Moghal Coins

by Stan Goron

The following three coins are published by kind permission of R. C. Senior Ltd.

1. Aurangzeb — a quarter rupee of 'Alamgirpur

'Alamgirpur is identified as the town of Bhilsa, a fortified town situated some 26 miles north-east of Bhopal. Bhilsa was incorporated into the Moghal domains during the reign of Akbar, but no coins are known from this mint prior to the reign of Shah Jehan I. The earliest published coin is one of year 8 of Shah Jehan, during whose reign the mint continued to be called Bhilsa. The renaming of the town as 'Alamgirpur must have taken place early in the reign of Aurangzeb ('Alamgir I), for rupees are known with that mint name from AH 1071, year 3 of his reign; and they continue through successive emperors into the reign of Mohammed Shah. Curiously enough there are a few rare rupees of the reign of Aurangzeb bearing the mint name Bhilsa. Why this should be is not known.

The coin published here is a quarter rupee. It may be a nisar, or 'scatter' coin; such coins normally bear the word 'nisar' in their inscription. This coin may do so, but the inscription is not complete on the coin. Moreover, Aurangzeb's nisars usually refer to him as 'Alamgir rather than as Aurangzeb 'Alamgir - as on the present coin. I have not come across mention of any other fractional rupees of this mint (except for those struck much later by the Sindhias).

Obverse

'Alamgir

Aurangzeb

عالم گير
اورنگز
۱۱۰۲

Reverse

duriba

'Alamgirpur

گير پورہ الم
ع
ضرب



The obverse legend is not complete. The words 'Alamgir and Aurangzeb are evident. The horizontal lines may be part of 'Shah' and 'Nisar' respectively. On the other hand, one of them may represent the '-eb' of 'Aurangzeb'. The date is either AH 1102 or 1106. The coin weighs 2.87 grams.

2. Jahandar — a rupee of Firuzgarh

Firuzgarh is identified with the fortress of Yadgir, situated some fifty miles south of Gulbarga in the former state of Hyderabad. This fort, previously called Ibrahimgarh and Ahangarh, was captured by the Moghals in AH 1098 during the reign of Aurangzeb. For further details readers are referred to Professor Hodivala's article in Numismatic Supplement XXVIII of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Hitherto only one or two mohurs and rupees of Shah Alam I and Farrukhsiyar have been published for this mint. The present coin therefore represents a new mint for Jahandar. It bears the usual Abu'l Fath couplet and the date AH 1125, rather than the more common AH 1124. It must therefore have been struck towards the very end of his short reign.

Obverse

The victorious Jahandar Shah, Defender of the faith, struck coin in the horizons like the sun and moon.

Reverse

Struck at Firuzgarh in the first year of accession associated with prosperity

جہاندار شاہ
ابو الفتح غازی و ماہ
در افق زد چون

مانوس
میملت
شیرجوس
ضرب
فروز لڑا

The coin weighs 11.49 grams.



3. Farrukhsiyar — a rupee of Farrukhnagar

In part two of his book "The copper coins of India" W H Valentine illustrated and described two coins of Farrukhnagar mint (nos. 640 and 641). One coin is struck in the name of Farrukhsiyar and the other in the name of Shah Alam II and dated AH 1214. Valentine attributed both these coins to the town of Farrukhnagar situated south-west of Delhi, in the Gurgaon district. This town was founded in 1713, during the reign of Farrukhsiyar, by a Baluch chief Dalel Khan (also known as Faujdar Khan). This Baluchi family continued to hold the town until 1857, except for twelve years after 1757 when the place was in the possession of the Jats of Bhartpur. Valentine's two coins are very different. The Shah Alam II coin is clearly dated and may well have been struck in the Farrukhnagar described above. The Farrukhsiyar coin, however, looks very much like an imitation of a rupee, or a coin struck from a rupee die. Unfortunately, the weight of the coin is not

given. It is said by Valentine to be dated year 6, but no figure is apparent in the illustration. On the coin the mint name Farrukhnagar is placed in the middle line of the reverse inscription. To the left of this name is an additional part inscription, which Valentine completely ignored.

Up till now, no other such coin has been published, nor to my knowledge has any rupee of this mint. The coin published below is therefore important in providing a new silver mint-name for the Moghal series and a possible re-attribution of the actual place of minting. From the present illustration it is clear that to the left of the mint name **فرخ نگر** are the letters **اوس**. This is presumably an alternative (or earlier) name of the mint town. The Moghals often renamed towns that they captured and used these new names on their coins. Sometimes both old and new name appear together, for instance Fathabad Dharur, 'Azamnagar Gokak. The question therefore is what is this town, the name of which begins **اوس**. I suggest the town is in fact AUSA. AUSA is situated in the Osmanabad district of Maharashtra, about fifty miles north-east of Shorapur. There is a large fort, some 13 acres (about 5 hectares) in area, to the south of the town. This fort featured prominently in the conflicts between the post-Bahmanid Deccan Sultanates and was captured by the Moghals in 1636; during the reign of Shah Jehan I. No coins are as yet known from AUSA for the reigns of Shah Jehan or Aurangzeb; they are however known from the reigns of Shah Alam I, Jahandar and Mohammed Shah. There is therefore a gap during the reign of Farrukhsiyar. If my attribution is correct, and only additional specimens or some relevant mention in contemporary annals will be able to confirm that, then this gap will be at least partly filled.

The present coin bears the usual Farrukhsiyar couplet. No date is visible on either side.

Obverse

Farrukhsiyar, emperor on land and sea struck coin in silver and gold by grace of the Truth

Reverse

Struck at Farrukhnagar Au(sa ?) in the year of accession associated with prosperity

شاه جگر و بر فرخ سیرا
حق بر سیم و زرم باد
سد از فضل

مانوس
میمنت
فرخ نگر اوس
ض جلوس

The coin weighs 11.23 grams.



The very rare Arab-sasanian coinage of Yazid b. Al-Muhallab

by William B. Warden jr.

A few years ago the writer was able to acquire a drahm of the Umayyad governor Yazid b. al-Muhallab, bringing the total known coinage of this ruler to eight silver drahms. Seven were struck in AH 78, while he was governor of Kirman and one while he was governor of Khorasan in AH 84. All of Yazid's coinage is very rare. The drahm in the writer's collection is as follows: -

Yazid b. al-Muhallab, AR drahm, 31 mm., 2.86 gm.

Obv. Usual type bust of Khusru II, facing right
To left of bust, the usual AFZUT inscription:
To the right in Pahlevi: YZIT - I

سداد
مردان

MUHALPAN
In the second quarter margin:
(= 'The strength of Yazid' in Kufic)
In the third quarter (= SR? in Pahlevi)

هوه درکالت
سار

Rev. Usual fire altar and attendants:
At left (= AH 78: AD 697/98): HSTHFTAT
At right, mint signature in Pahlevi: KRMAN-HPYJ
(= Khabis, in Kirman province)

سداد
دکھت



Yazid b. al-Muhallab was first mentioned in the 'Kamil' of al-Mubarrad where we learn that the famous general and governor Al-Muhallab ibn Abi-Sufra wrote, in AH 78, to his superior in Iraq, Al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf. This was to inform him of Al-Muhallab's success in putting to an end the Kharijite rebellion of Quatari ibn al-Fuja's. Al-Hajjaj replied by instructing Al-Muhallab to return to Basra for a meeting and to leave one of his sons in command of Kirman province. Al-Muhallab thereby appointed his son Yazid, and left for Basra¹. During Yazid's brief period of governorship while his father was away, he struck silver drahms in his own name. Out of the seven known, four have the mint signature KRMAN-HPYJ² (= Khabis, Kirman); one

KRMAN-AN³ (uncertain mint in Kirman); one KRMAN-NAR⁴ (= Narmasin, Kirman); one KRM-KRMAN⁵ (= Sirjan, Kirman). All are dated AH 78. Yazid also succeeded his father as governor of Khorasan in AH 82 through 85. During this period he struck silver drahms with trilingual legends (Pahlevi, Arabic and Hephthalite) of the year 84 with the mint signature HURA (Juztan ?) of which there is only one known specimen⁶.

Yazid, in his later life, continued to be active in politics and military campaigns; but he was often in disagreement and in trouble with his superior and brother-in-law, Al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf. Yazid was in and out of prison several times. However, in AH 95, he was appointed for a second time as governor of Khorasan. He soon fell out of favour again and was replaced as governor. In AH 99, he was again placed in prison, but soon escaped. He then led a rebellion against Al-Hajjaj and the Caliph, but was defeated and died at the hands of Moslamah ibn 'Abd al-Malik in AH 102 (August AD 720).

Footnotes

- 1 O. Rescher, 'Die Kharidschitenkapital aus dem Kamil', Stuttgart, 1922, pp. 232 - 33. 'The Kamil of el-Mubarrad', edition of W. Wright, Leipzig, 1864 - 92, p. 696.
- 2 One in the ANS collection published by Dr. George C. Miles, "Some new Light on the history of Kirman in the first century of the Hijrah", in 'The World of Islam, Studies in Honor of Philip K. Hitti', London and New York 1959, pp. 85 - 98 and pl I coin 5; but misread as KRMAN-AFIJ. One published in Al-Maskukat VII, 1977, pages 103 - 06 by Sayyidah Widad al-Quazzaz. One in W. B. Warden jr.' collection acquired from Sotheby's of London, October 14, 1981 'Islamic Coins, Mainly in Gold' auction lot 8, but misattributed by them as a drachm of Al Mughira ibn al Muhallab year AH 71 and mint signature KRMAN-SRZ. All three of the preceding coins are identical. One in Mohsen Foroughi collection published by M. I. Mochiri 'Etudes De Numismatique Iranienne sous les Sasanides et Arabes-Sasanides' tome II, Tehran 1977 pp. 433 - 34 (Fig. 1555), but with  at 8:30 o'clock in the third quarter margin and  at 6:30 o'clock to the left of crescent and star. Mint signature has been misread KRMANSRZ; otherwise, identical with the other three coins.
- 3 In Cabinet de Medailles, Bibliotheque Nationale Collection and published by Heinz Gaube in 'Arabo-sasanidische Numismatic' Braunschweig 1973, tafel 9, coin no. 105.
- 4 Unpublished in the Cabinet de Medailles, collection and a plaster cast sent to me for study in 1982 through the courtesy of Dr. Raoul Curiel.
- 5 In National Museum of Damascus collection and published by Muhammad Abu-l-Faraj al-'Ush, 'The Silver Hoard of Damascus', Damascus, Syria 1972, pages 200 - 01, coin no. 108A, but misread as mint signature BRM-KRMN.
- 6 In the Cabinet de Medailles collection, published by John Walker, 'Some new Arab-Sasanian coins', Numismatic Chronicle 1952, pages 106 - 110, pl. IX (see pages 108 - 09, coin no. 3)

Bibliography of sources not listed in the footnotes

- al-'Ush, Mohammad Abu-l-Faraj, 'Silver Hoard of Umm Hajarrah', Damascus 1972
- Gyselen, Rika and Kalus, Ludvick, 'Deux Tresors Monetaires des premiers temps de l'Islam', Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris 1983
- L'Islam, 'Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris 1983
- Guillou, Andre, 'Les Monnayages Pehlevi-Arabes', Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris 1953
- Miles, George, 'Rare Islamic Coins', ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs no. 118, New York 1950
- 'Excavations from the Persepolis region, ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs no 143, NY, 1959
- Gaetani, L. 'Chronographia Islamic', Paris 1912

An unpublished sixteenth rupee of Masulipatam mint

by F. Timmermann

In 1684 the English received permission from the Qutb Shah of Golconda to strike rupees at the sea port of Masulipatam. After the annexation of Golconda by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir these mint rights were renewed in 1688. Since then, the English minted rupees in the names of the following Mughal emperors: Aurangzeb Alamgir, Farrukhsiyar, Shah Jahan II and Muhammad Shah (up to the French occupation in 1749). But no rupee fractions of this first British period (1684 - 1749) are recorded.

The sixteenth rupee described here is struck in the name of the Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah (1719 - 1748: AH 1131 - 1161) and is dated AH 1135, regnal year 5. It was struck from specially prepared dies with smaller lettering than on the full rupee dies. Nevertheless, the coin does not show the full inscription. I believe that it is only a different arrangement of the normal Muhammad Shah legend. Though this coin

shows only the last part "patan" of the full mint name "Machhlipatan", the correct attribution to Masulipatam mint is clear from the photo of a full rupee which has the same "field decoration" in the Persian letter "nun" (N) of "patan". This is a distinguishing feature of all Masulipatam rupees of the first British period.

Obverse:

parts of –
Muhammad Shah 1135
Badshah ghazi
Sikka mubarak

Reverse:

parts of –
Zarb
Machhlipatan
sanat 5



Weight 0.70 grams; Size 8.5 mm.; Photo x4 natural size

The coinage of Las Bela

by Ken Wiggins

The rather insignificant copper coins of Las Bela have never received very much attention in numismatic works. They were first published by Valentine¹ in 1914 and little, if anything, has been said about them since. The purpose of this note is to draw attention to what information exists on the Las Bela coins and to, perhaps, correct some errors made by Valentine and repeated in later catalogues.

Las Bela was formerly a native state which was under the suzerainty of the Khan of Kalat, who at one time was a tributary of the Durranis, the Sadozais and the Barakzais. In 1839 a loose acknowledgement of the British supremacy was made but not rationalised until 1876. Both Las Bela and Kalat are now in Pakistan. Las Bela, whose capital is Bela, lies about 150 miles northwest of Karachi. In area it was about 7,132 square miles and the population in the 1930's was about 63,000. The state can be said to have been founded about 1742-43 when Jam Ali, Sardar of the Jamot tribe, established himself as chief of Las Bela. The family claimed descent from Abdul Manof of the Kureshi tribe of Arabs. Jam Ali Khan I ruled until 1765 and was succeeded by Jam Ghulam Shah (1766 - 76) and then Jam Mir Khan I (1776 - 1818). Pottinger passed through Las Bela in 1810 and found the country in a prosperous state with an enlightened and progressive ruler. Jam Mir Khan I was succeeded by Jam Ali Khan II (1818 - 30). The next chief was a young man, Jam Mir Khan II, who married the Khan of Kalat's sister, one Bibi Alladdini. This union may have motivated Jam Mir Khan into thinking that he was entitled to the Khanate of Kalat, which had been held since 1857 by Khudadad Khan. The ambitious Jam of Las Bela therefore determined to seize Kalat and between 1865 and 1869 made four attempts to invade Kalat territory. None were successful and after being pardoned three times he was ultimately heavily defeated and forced to flee with his family to Karachi. From there he persisted in intriguing against the Khan of Kalat. The British authorities then intervened and removed him at first to Hyderabad Sind and then in 1871 to Poona.

About the time that Jam Mir Khan was removed from Sind, his son, later Jam Ali Khan III, managed to make his way back to Las Bela where he came to terms with the Khan of Kalat and undertook to conduct the affairs of the state. In 1877 Jam Mir Khan was released from his confinement in Poona and was allowed to return to Las Bela subject to certain conditions. He was inclined at first to let his son continue as chief and administer the state but both were soon at loggerheads and there were constant disputes between them. Jam Ali Khan was finally sent away to Quetta and his father, Jam Mir Khan II, assumed the chieftainship and ruled until his death in 1888. He was succeeded by another son, Hajji Jam Ali Khan, who ruled until 1896.

The British Indian currency was not introduced into Baluchistan on any appreciable scale until about 1884. Prior to this various Persian and Afghan silver coins circulated in trade. The Persian coins were the *kashani* and *karimkhani*, worth about 12 annas each against the Imperial currency. The copper currency was that in use in Sind and consisted of *dukar* and *adhelo* and of cowrie shells. A copper coin known as the *Mansuri* also circulated. The rate of exchange that operated was: –

10 cowries	=	1 adhri	(1/16 pice)
2 adhri	=	1 damri	(1/8 pice)
2 damri	=	1 kasiro	(1/4 pice)
2 kasiro	=	1 adhelo	(1/2 pice)
2 adhelo	=	1 dukar	(Pice)

The value of the *dukar* varied from 80 to 160 cowries depending on the quality of the shells. The various rupees exchanged for copper at varying rates. According to the Baluchistan District Gazetteer of 1907 the only local coins which circulated in Las Bela consisted of the *dukar* and *adhelo*, which were struck at Bela about 1855 - 56 during the reign of Jam Mir Khan II. It is these local coins that will be examined in detail here.

For easy reference I have reproduced Valentine's drawings, numbered V1, V2, V3 and V4. The coins from my own collection are numbered 1, 2, 3 etc. The only *dukar* or pice that I have come across is no. 1. It is appreciably larger than the *adhelo* and weighs 7.8 grams. It is dated AH 1276 (AD 1859-60). The die cutting is fairly good. The obverse legend is **ضرب جام** = Zarb Jam = Struck by the Jam. The reverse is **بیلر فلوس** = Bela falus = copper coin of Bela. There is no indication of the denomination given on this coin and the legends are the same on the smaller coins of this type.

The *adhelo* or half pice weigh between 5 and 6 grams and are generally irregular in shape, some being almost square. The dates on these coins are problematical, as the figures are distributed haphazardly across the face of the coin in no particular order and intermingled with a number of V shaped ornaments. V1 is an example. Valentine suggests that it is dated AH 1267, but it could well be AH 1276. The date on V2 is a puzzle but it may have been intended for AH 1271. V3 is similar to No. 2 and the only two digits which can be seen on either coin are < 0 which suggests AH 1275. The most common date found is AH 1276, as on No. 3. The latest coin of this type that I have found is No. 4 which is possibly meant to be dated AH 1278. No. 5 bears an incomplete date unless it was intended for AH 1270. The likely period for the production of these coins is 1854 to 1861, but other dates may exist. Specimens of this type of coin are also found without any date at all.

The only other type of coin known from Las Bela is a copper *adhelo* struck in the name of Mahmud Khan (V4). These were presumably struck after the expulsion of Jam Mir Khan II in 1869. The coin illustrated by Valentine (V4) and No. 6 are reasonably well struck but bear no date. The obverse reads – **ضرب محمود خان** = zarb Mahmud Khan = struck by Mahmud Khan, and the reverse – **بیلر فلوس** = Bela falus = copper coin of Bela. This was possibly the initial issue of the Khan of Kalat struck to indicate that he was the 'de facto' overlord of Las Bela. This series soon degenerated, as exemplified by No. 7 and gets appreciably worse as shown by No. 8, which is however dated – possibly AH 1286 (AD 1869).

That these coins and the later coins of Kalat were struck bearing the name of Mahmud Khan and not that of the ruler Khudadad Khan is puzzling, but it is explained by Major Minchin² that they were struck in the name of Khudadad's son, who was virtually responsible for administering the state and who later became Mir Mahmud Khan II, Khan of Kalat.

1. Valentine, W. H., The Copper Coins of India, Part II: The Panjab and contiguous native states, London 1914.
2. Minchin, M., Baluchistan District Gazetteer, 1907.

