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From the Editors

We apologise for the late publication of this Newsletter; both of us have recently moved house and, as you can imagine, the upheaval has been considerable. Please note that the new editorial address is ... We also apologise for the poor reproduction of Mr Kulkarni's photographs in the last newsletter.

Photographs of copper coins must be very clear if they are to reproduce well. If in doubt, send an ink drawing or an inked-in rubbing. To make up for all this, we have decided to celebrate the 100th Newsletter with a double-length edition. We hope you find plenty to interest you in it.

From the UK & Eire Regional Secretary

Payment of subscriptions

Some UK members are always very late in renewing their annual subscription to the ONS, in spite of several reminders being sent to them. Prompt renewal to the Regional Secretary would be appreciated as ONS funds are never very high and the constant sending out of reminders is time consuming. If a member does not wish to renew it is common courtesy to write and inform the Regional Secretary that this is the case.

Obituary

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr ..., Netherlands, after an illness of a few months, on 29th December 1985. Mr Roskam had for many years been keenly interested in Indian coins and stamps and more recently took up collecting hundis. He was a most hospitable man who was ever ready to show his collections to visitors both from the Netherlands and overseas.

Members News

... has a number of Mughal coins for sale. Ray Hebert, in collaboration with J T Hebert, has produced a computer program for converting Gregorian dates into Islamic/lunar dates and vice versa. Details are available from Mr Hebert or your editors (at cost). ... is seeking a copy of C H Biddulph's Coins of the Pandyas, 1966. If any member has a spare copy, please contact Mr Wells direct.

February 4th 1986 saw the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan Numismatic Society. The proceedings included a lecture by ONS member Bill Spengler on Ghurid coins. The society aims to publish a magazine and to establish a coin museum in Islamabad. We wish the society well. Details can be obtained from; The Secretary, Pakistan Numismatic Society, PO Box 1882, Islamabad, Pakistan.

New and Recent Publications

1. Laminas ineditas de D. Antonio Delgado, by J J Rodrigues Lorente & Tafiq ibn Hafiz Ibrahim, ISBN 84-398-4211-2

Mr Delgado, who died in 1875, was a well-known Spanish historian and student of Hispano-arabic numismatics. He left behind a series of beautiful pictures, from an unknown engraver, of Hispano-arabic coins, without either text or description. The 300 engravings give a survey of the coinage from the beginning of the dependent emirate till the Almoravid taifas. The plates are now printed for the first time with every engraving accompanied by a description, given by the two authors mentioned above.

2. Siraf XV: The Coins and Monumental Inscriptions by Nicholas Lowick, published by the British Institute of Persian Studies, 1985. A review will appear in a future Newsletter.
3. Dr S K Bhatt has produced a book entitled Coinage of the Native States of Central India. This book brings together previously published studies on the coins of Ratlam, Dhar, Jhabua and Indore. Not cheap, but very useful for the student of native state coinage. Available from the Academy of Indian Numismatics & Sigillography, 115 Kailash Park, Manorama Ganj, Indore, 452001, India. A few copies are also available from your editors at £30 plus postage.
4. R C Senior Ltd have recently reprinted C J Brown's Catalogue of Coins in the Provincial Museum, Lucknow - Coins of the Mughal Emperors. This important catalogue, first published in 1920, has long been out of print. The new version combines both original volumes into a single volume. The standard of reproduction is very good and the illustrations clear. Available for £35 (including postage) from R C Senior Ltd, Butleigh Court Tower, Butleigh, Glastonbury, BA6 8SA, England.
5. Volume V of the Catalogue of Islamic Coins in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris is due to appear very soon. This will cover the Seljuqs, Artuquids and Beyliks and is expected to cost FF 1500 (about £140!).
6. The British Museum has recently published A Catalogue of Early Islamic Glass Stamps in the British Museum by A H Morton. The entries for the 556 pieces in the British Museum's collection cover their physical features, inscriptions and questions of attribution and use. In the introduction, the author discusses the 8th and 9th century Egyptian system, its metrology, the function of commodity measures, die links etc. The catalogue costs £45 and is available through booksellers or from the Marketing Manager, British Museum Publications Ltd, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QQ (add £2 for postage & packing).
7. A microfiche edition of the Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum published between 1875 and 1890, is now available with an introduction by Helen Mitchell Brown of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The 10 volumes of the original are reproduced on 44 microfiches. The price is £200 and it is available from Clare Grist, Oxford Microform, Microform International, Headington Hall Hall, Oxford, OX3 0BW, UK.
8. L'Administration des monnaies et medailles, Paris, has published tome 7 of its series, Les collections monetaires. This publication in two volumes, covers Far Eastern currency in the collection of the Musee Monetaire de la Monnaie de Paris. The first volume, dealing with China, comprises some 50 pages of monetary history, 70 pages of catalogue and 64 illustrations and costs 250 francs (233.64 Fr. francs for purchasers outside France). The second volume covers Annam and Japan, and comprises 40 pages of historical data, 70 pages of catalogue and 106 illustrations. This volume costs 300 Fr. (280.27 Fr. for purchasers outside France). The books are available from L'Administration des Monnaies et Medailles, 11 Quai de Conti, F-75270 Paris, CEDEX 06, France.
9. The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies has published volume IX of the Numismatic Digest. The volume includes articles on silver punch-marked coins, Demetrius in Bactria and India, Magha coins, Kushan coins, Mughal coins and coins of the Bengal Sultans. Price Rs.60 or US \$15 from the Institute (PB Anjaneri, Dist. Nasik, Maharashtra, 422 213, India).
10. Robert S Wicks has published an article entitled "The Ancient Coinage of Mainland Southeast Asia", in the Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, vol. XVI no.2 (Sept. 1985), pp. 195-225.
11. The Spink Numismatic Circulars for December and February have included several articles of interest to ONS members. The December issue contained an article by Samuel Lachman entitled "The Use of Mameluk Coins in the Zaydi Yemen in the late 9th/15th century", and the first part of an article by Saran Singh on "Unlisted Private Estate Tokens of British North Borneo 1882-1924". The February circular contained the second part of Saran Singh's article as well as an article on "The Gold Coins of the Burmese Kings" by Michael Robinson and Lewis Shaw. The May circular contains an item by Michael Robinson entitled "The Metal Composition of the Coins of Patalung and Singgora" and a review of a book published in Hong Kong with the title "A History of Chinese Currency (16th century BC - 20th century AD).

Reviewed by Susan Tyler-Smith

The success of this book comes as no surprise. It is cheap, portable and easy to use. Sasanian coins are attractive and astonishingly cheap, ensuring that many collectors who do not specialise in Oriental coins have a few in their cabinets. Thus an accessible handbook in which they can "look them up" and which will also tell them something about the history of the period is sure to be popular.

This is the fourth synthesis of past research to be published in English purely on Sasanian coins. Valentine's 1921 handbook, to which the authors pay tribute, was the first, soon followed by Paruck's (1924) much more substantial work. This listed, in an annotated bibliography, almost every work on Sasanian coinage, history, geography, language, art etc and included a short survey of the numismatic literature. It also summarised previous work and included his own ideas on the coinage. After an interval of nearly 50 years Göbl's Sasanian Numismatics appeared (English edition 1971), compressing and analysing the information to such an extent that even in translation his text is not always easy to follow, though his tabulations are invaluable. Since Göbl's work there has been considerable literature, often scattered and inaccessible in obscure journals.

Any new book claiming to be an introduction therefore has a considerable task to perform and this review is concerned with three questions:

1. To what extent can the beginner or non-specialist rely on it?
2. How useful is it as a guide to recent work?
3. Where the authors put forward their own ideas how good are they?

The arrangement of the book is similar to that of David Sellwood's The Coinage of Parthia. A brief historical summary is given for each king, followed by drawings of the types issued (not always very good, see Khusrau II) with the inscriptions written out in full in Pahlavi. One should here take note of the author's remark (p.71) that mis-spellings, abbreviations and omissions are all too common - one rarely sees on the coins of the earlier period the long inscriptions as they appear in the book. There follows a list of denominations issued and varieties occurring, with, where relevant, the mint abbreviations in use. As well as this catalogue there are 62 pages of introductory matter covering such subjects as denominations, minting technology, script, religious symbolism, dating and mints. There is a good section on forgeries, with blow-up illustrations to illustrate the points made. A short section on other Sasanian art forms is also included. There are 16 plates, seven and a half being of (genuine) coins.

In their principal aim to produce an easy-to-use guide to the identification of Sasanian coins, the authors have succeeded admirably. The text is easy to understand and interesting, the drawings usually explicit and the notes on denominations useful. There are a few odd mistakes eg. Ardashir I's dates are given as c.224-242 on p.73 and as 224-240 on p.21, and surely plate 17 is a drachm of Varhran III, not Hormizd I? Inevitably one wishes that more types of coins were illustrated and more varieties mentioned. The wide variety of style found in the drachms of Shapur II is illustrated by 4 coins only and no details are given of the eastern issues. No mention is made in the text of the large variety of pellets and crescents which often appear by the fire altar flames on drachms of Yazdgerd I, nor of the Pahlavi M which is placed on the left side on the reverse of Peroz drachms, though both these varieties are illustrated in the plates. It would have been useful to have some explanation of these common variations.

The list of kings who issued coins is on the whole conventional though there are some omissions and inclusions worth noting. Varhran III is included, though there is no mention of the article (l) on which the authors base their justification for re-attributing coins to this king. Azarmidokht, a short-lived queen who ruled in the turbulent period following Khusrau II, coins of whom have been recently identified by Dr Mochiri (2), is listed, though two kings also identified by Mochiri (3) are not.

Some comments made in passing and some of the facts given are misleading. In discussing varieties of Khusrau II drachms (p.156) they state that  "or other words" appear in the outer obverse field. They do not say what these other words are, and the drachm they illustrate (plate 66) is one with an Arabic letter, not a Pahlavi one. In discussing the drachms of Buran they mention there are two styles; a western one and a less sophisticated eastern one. In fact the latter comes only from the mint of Sakastan; the eastern mint of Herat, on the other hand, produced the stunning piece illustrated by Mochiri (3) p.74, fig.121. For each king the authors list the mints in operation at the time (though not always in the exact form used on the coins) and where applicable the years known (first and last known which does not necessarily mean all those in between are also known). Though this in theory should be useful to the collector it may in practice be of little help given the present fragmentary state of knowledge. The information quoted should however have been based on data taken from published coins or seen by the authors in public or private collections. To say that Khusrau I, for example, struck drachms at  BLH Balkh for years 6-27 is very misleading. This information was presumably taken from Paruck who lists years 6 and 27. This in itself was probably a mistake on Paruck's part, possibly a misreading of BYS. Mochiri (3) who has studied  and  in great detail and published as many different coins as he was able to locate, illustrated none for Khusrau I.

The bibliography is inadequate. A mass of material has appeared since Göbl's book, a good deal of it in non-numismatic periodicals. The opportunity should have been taken to list the more important and reliable of recent works and indicate those with useful bibliographies. The "Select Bibliography" is not only far too short but the "selection" of items is capricious. Why included Bivar's 1964 write-up of the Hilla Hoard and ignore Gyselen's recent accounts of far larger hoards? Why include inaccessible background works

in Russian (Lukonin) and obsolete surveys by de Morgan (Numismatique Orientale) and ignore the contributions of Frye, Gignoux, Curiel and Simon? With regard to Sasanian copper, the vast majority of published specimens come from excavation reports, none of which are mentioned. The absence of textual references compounds these shortcomings.

I feel it is necessary to comment on some of the statements made about mint abbreviations in the book. Although research into Sasanian coins has been in progress since de Sacy in 1793 first identified them and translated Pahlevi for western scholars, they are by common consent a difficult series with many as yet unsolved problems. No one book could be produced about which all or even most scholars would agree, particularly in the field of mint abbreviations. This subject has almost monopolised recent research and although obviously an important aspect it is only one of the many areas where there is still much to be done. It is perhaps rather unfortunate that anyone can "have a go" at mint identification. The reason that there is so much argument about attributions is that the subject is extremely complex and a scholar interested in unravelling even one abbreviation must not only be able to cope with the confusions of the Pahlevi alphabet but must also take into account the evidence to be gleaned from seals and bullae and other original Pahlevi texts as well as historical and geographical data, which may involve consultation of original Arabic, Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, Chinese and other texts. Fundamental errors are easy to make unless this is done.

The authors say that the enormous (3 figure) lists of mints proposed by past scholars are not correct. Slight variations in epigraphy cannot constitute a different mint (though they propose one such themselves). In rectifying this though, they go to the other extreme and amalgamate mint abbreviations when there is no valid reason for doing so. Our knowledge of Sasanian mint organisation is not sufficient for us to be able to say with confidence that two different abbreviations were used simultaneously. This was certainly done in Byzantium eg. NIKO, NIK and NIKM on year 12 folles of Justinian I, but we have nothing to indicate the same was practised in Iran.

One of the strangest groups of attributions is the splitting of the abbreviation 𐭪𐭫 GO (sometimes inconsistently transliterated as GU) and 𐭪 ZU. The division is made according to whether or not the two letters are joined (conversation with R Williams). GO is attributed to Gurgan, whilst ZU is amalgamated with 𐭪𐭫 ZOZNO and attributed to Zusan. Firstly the splitting of 𐭪 into two separate mints is asking too much of the epigraphy. Sasanian mint abbreviations were not always carefully drawn. Secondly, to attribute the two letters when unjoined to Gurgan is ignoring the evidence of the bullae. A very clear bulla of Gurgan illustrates the central abbreviation of the name: 𐭪𐭫 with the first two letters joined (Gignoux (4) b. 6.1a and Mochiri (3) p.385). It has been shown that official bullae link very closely with mint abbreviations, and there seems to be no reason in this instance to go against their evidence. Gyselen (5) using these bullae argues one stage further and says that the abbreviation for Gurgan is therefore 𐭪𐭫 GUR not 𐭪 GU. Thirdly ZOZNO is a short lived abbreviation operating chiefly during the reign of Hormizd IV and producing a few, mostly very crude coins. GU on the other hand is very common and operated for a long time, including during Hormizd IV's reign. The authors' listing of ZOZNO for both Kavad I and Khusrau I is very misleading in spite of their introductory caveat that mint names may have forms longer or shorter than those noted.

Elsewhere, the authors say that the abbreviation 𐭪𐭫𐭫 should be read AUT or ANT and "There do not seem to be any precedents for taking it to read ART..." (the normally accepted reading). This form of the letter R is in fact the correct form, and the abbreviation thus written appears on a bulla, Frye (6) I.219. The abbreviation (transliterated by the authors as NIHCH and attributed by them to Nishapur) is very common from its first appearance under Khusrau I and strikes for most of the late, short lived rulers after Khusrau II. It has been much discussed by scholars in recent years with no completely satisfactory solution being offered. I do not feel that the suggestion of Nishapur is a helpful one. The name of the town in Sasanian times was Nev-Shapur and was written Nywshpwhly. It is not therefore possible to attribute NIHCH to Nishapur. CWL

Finally I would like to take issue with the authors attributions of the very common mint abbreviations 𐭪𐭫𐭫 , usually transliterated as BBA, as well as the rare name 𐭪𐭫𐭫 to Balkh. Although this attribution is not an original one by the present authors, its inclusion in their book shows a certain disregard for the historical facts as we currently know them. For the sake of keeping this review within tolerable limits I will not rehearse this subject here but will return to it at some length in a future Newsletter.

So, to sum up, the present volume has much to commend it, and many collectors will find it of great benefit. It does contain a number of provocative statements. This, in principle, is good but such statements need to be soundly based. I am not convinced that the authors have succeeded in doing this in a number of cases.

References

1. S. Eilenberg, "A Sasanian silver medallion of Varhran III" Ars Orientalis II, 1957, p 487 ff.
2. M I Mochiri, Etudes de numismatique iranienne sous les Sassanides et Arabe-Sassanides vol. 1, 1972.
3. M I Mochiri, Etudes de numismatique iranienne sous les Sassanides et Arabe-Sassanides vol. 2, 1983.
4. Ph. Gignoux, Catalogue des sceaux, camees et bulles sasanides, II, Les sceaux et bulles inscrits, 1978.
5. R. Gyselen, "De quelques ateliers monetaires sasanides: un pretendu atelier de Gurgan", Studia Iranica, Vol. 12, 1983, fasc.2, p.235-8.

Gurgan", Studia Iranica, Vol. 12, 1983, fasc.2, p.235-8.

6. R N Frye, Sasanian remains from Qasr-i Abu Nasr: Seals, Sealings and coins, 1973.
7. F D J Paruck, "Mint marks on Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian coins", JNSI, 1944, p.79-151.
8. J Marquart, Eransahr nach der Geographie des Ps. Moses Xorenac'i, 1901.

SOME MUGHAL NOVELTIES

by Stan Goron

1. A rupee of Shah Jehan I in his pre-accession name of Khurram

Rupees bearing Shah Jehan's pre-accession name of Khurram are very rare. Hitherto, only a couple have been published, both struck at Lahore. A new type has now come to light from the mint of Kabul. The following description is based on a rubbing sent to us, and because the legend is neither fully clear nor complete on the coin, it must at this stage be taken as tentative.



Obv.
Kalima
etc.



شاه غازی
نصرتین جہانگیر
ن خرم بادشاہ
ضرب کابل

Reverse
Persian inscription
Nasir-ud-din Jehā(?)
Bad Shah Ghazi;
Khurram Bad Shah Jehan
Zarb Kabul

The Lahore coins bear the laqab Nasir-ud-din; this is not clear on the present coin but may well be present in the position indicated. The word *حما* in the second line is puzzling; it may be *جہان* (Jehān) with the 'nun' missing (the Lahore coins read 'Nasir-ud-din- Jehan...'). The reading of 'Jehān' above the mint name is also very speculative. The coin seems to be undated but would have been struck in AH 1037. The weight is not available.

2. A rupee of Rafi'-ud-Daulah (Shah Jehan II)

Rafi'-ud-Daulah reigned briefly for some four and a half months during the year AH 1131. On his accession he took the title of Shah Jehan II. His coins are generally scarce and hitherto all have borne his post-accession title of Shah Jehan. Recently, however, a rupee has been discovered bearing his title Rafi'-ud-Daulah. It was struck at Dar-ul-Khair Ajmir and is described below:-



Obv.

محمد رفیع ولد
الدین
بند شہزاد
مبارک



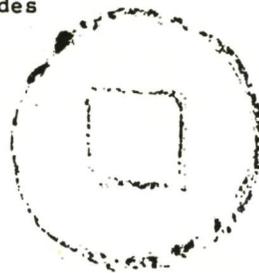
Rev.

دار الخیر اجیر
ضرب
مانوس
مہنت
جلوس احد

Mohammed Rafi'-ud-Daulah
Bad Shah Ghazi
Sikka (Mubarak)

Zarb Dar-ul-Khair Ajmir
Manus
Maimanat
Ahad Jalus

The coin bears the regnal year Ahad (one) as would be expected, but no hejira date. The weight of the coin is not available.



It is rare to find a Chinese coin type that has totally escaped the attention of the numerous collectors and scholars who have studied and written about the Chinese cash coins. When such a piece does turn up, it is usually false.

In that light, this iron coin of the Ch'ien Yu (1169-93) era of the Western Hsia Dynasty, should be viewed very sceptically. All coins of this Tangut Dynasty, which ruled in North Western China, are rare, and most of them are of brass. However, iron coins are known of this very Emperor, and large size iron coins are known of his contemporaries, the Southern Sung, from mints slightly further south, in Szechuan. However, no other large coins, whether iron or copper, are known of this dynasty.

As regards the fabric, the coin was lacquered some years ago, presumably for protection against the inevitable rust, but the rust is showing through again, and I have had to enhance the rubbing slightly. However, the coin is in reasonably sound condition for an iron piece, and looks and feels perfectly genuine.

In conclusion, this piece falls into the category of Chinese coins that I would very much like to be genuine, can see no firm reason for condemning as forgeries, but just seem too good to be true!

Has anyone else seen such a piece?

TWO UNPUBLISHED KAKWAYHID DIRHEMS

by Raymond J Hebert

The subject of this paper developed out of a group of mainly Iranian coins brought into the U.S. National Numismatic Collection for attribution. This was in November 1985. Most of the pieces were run-of-the-mill Parthian or Sasanian, but two of them were interesting enough to make a permanent record here. The pieces were alleged to have been in the family's possession for at least three generations and to have been obtained from a shepherd who found them on land owned by the family.

The pieces were Kakwayhid and seem to be unpublished. The Kakwayhids were a minor Daylamite dynasty established in west-central Iran in the eleventh century, centered about Isfahan, by 'Ala' ud-Daula Muhammad bin Dushmanzar. It lasted until the definitive conquest of Isfahan by the Seljuqs in 443/1051, but was under their suzerainty after about 434/1042-3.

In view of the rarity of pieces of this dynasty (apart from pieces from a hoard of several kilograms of gold dinars of Isfahan 435), I would like to take this opportunity to publish here the following:

1. silver, 29.8 mm., 5.173 grams, with loop
 Muhammad bin Dushmanzar (AH 398-433), quoting his overlord, the Buwayhid at Rayy, Majd-ud-Daulah Rustam (AH 387-420), and the Caliph al-Qadir billah (AH 418-422)



Obv.



Reverse



لا اله الا الله
 محمد رسول الله
 القادر بالله
 مجد الدولة
 محمد بن دشمنزار

صلاح
 الله احد الله
 الصمد لم يلد و
 لم يولد ولم يكن
 له كفوا احد

Inner margin:

Outer margin

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
ضرب هذا الدرهم ... سنة ... واربعمائة

[محمد] رسول الله ارسله
بالبهدى ودين الحق ليظهره على الدين كله ولو كره
المشركون

Outer margin: طابن (L) واعن

(T) Outer margin:.....(L)? ظفر (T)

(R) بنصر (B) باليمن

(?) عمد (R) (B)

The reverse field bears the Quranic legend IX, 33, the so-called Umayyad symbol, which is well-known from other Kakwayhid coins. The translation is "(Say He) God is alone, God is eternal, He begets not and is not begotten, nor is there like unto Him anyone." The inner reverse margin reads "Muhammad is the prophet of God sent with guidance and the religion of truth, to make it prevail over every other religion, averse though idolaters may be."

There are four isolated words in the obverse outer margin. These are (right) Nasr - assistance, victory, delivering from evil; (bottom) Ta'min - saying "amen"; (left) Wa ayman- illustrious, fortunate; (top) Zafir - victorious, conqueror. Note also the word Salah in the upper reverse field. This word has a variety of meanings, eg. probity, virtue, honesty, proper, and is surely an attempt by the issuing authorities to advertise the good quality of the piece.

This coin would have been struck sometime between AH 400-420.

2. Silver, 26.9 mm, 3.698 grams with loop.

Muhammad bin Dushmanzar, quoting the Buwayhid at Rayy Majd-ud-Daulah, and the Buwayhid Sima-ud-Daulah Abu-l Hasan, at Hamadan from 412-414 (when he was deposed by ibn Kakwayh) as well as the Caliph al-Qadir billah:-



Obv.

خراج
لا اله الا الله
محمد رسول الله
القادر بالله [مجد]
الدولة امير الامرا
سما الدولة
ح



Rev.

...ظفر
الله احد الله
الصمد لم يلد و
لم يولد ولم يكن
له كفوا احد
محمد بن دشمنزار

Margins: Clipped and illegible

Only two of the four isolated words in the reverse outer margin of this piece are at all legible, and even then there is room to doubt their identity. It is possible that by analogy with the silver dinar of Majd-ud-Daulah Abu Talib Rustam, struck at Rayy in AH 1387 and illustrated on the back jacket of Michael Broome's A Handbook of Islamic Numismatics, these four words could be Daulat (wealth, power, reign, state) - Wahadah (one) - 'Amr (faith) - Thabit (firm, constant, true). The word Kharaj (tax, tribute) in the upper obverse field should also be noted.

This coin would have been struck some time between AH 412 and AH 414.

The literature on the coinage of this small dynasty remains sparse. Miles' works remain the most complete and best numismatic sources. I list below the 4 most important references:

- Miles, G.C., "A Hoard of Kakwayhid Dirhames", ANS Museum Notes 12, pp.165-193, pl.49-52.
- "Another Kakwayhid Note", ANS Museum Notes 18, pp.139-148, pl.27.
- "Notes on Kakwayhid coins", ANS Museum Notes 9, pp.231-236, pl.15.
- "The Coinage of the Kakwayhid Dynasty", Iraq 5 (1938), pp89-104, pl.x.

Editors' note: Mr Hebert has provided a fuller bibliography which is available from the editors on request.