

ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No. 155

Winter 1998

ONS News

From the Editor

Communication by e-mail is nowadays a speedy and inexpensive way of making and maintaining contact. It would be useful to compile a directory of e-mail addresses of all those ONS members who have access to this facility. This could then be published in a future newsletter and incorporated into a future edition of the membership directory. I would therefore like to invite all members with an e-mail address and who would like to have that address made available to other ONS members to send me details of that address by e-mail to sgoron@msn.com

ONS - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ONS will take place on **Saturday 6 June 1998, commencing 14.00** at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London, in a room adjacent to the coin fair that will be taking place, to transact the following business:

to receive a report from the Council on the Society's activities during the year;

to receive and consider the Society's accounts

to vote on the adoption by the Society of the constitution in the form set out in the Society's Newsletter number 155.

By order of the Council

Peter Smith, Secretary

It is important that as many members as possible attend this meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed at 15.00 by a number of interesting talks. These are due to be given by Dr. Venetia Porter (Islamic subject), Joe Cribb (South East Asia), Helen Wang (China) and Amiteshwar Jha (India). So there should be something of interest for everyone.

Constitution

Following comments from some members, the draft constitution published in Newsletter 154 has been amended in some places. The revised version is set out below. There have been changes to paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9. Included with this newsletter is a voting paper for you to indicate your approval or otherwise of the proposed constitution. Your Council has devoted a fair amount of time to devising this constitution and we hope that you will feel able to give it your approval. Please ensure that you return your voting paper to the interim Secretary of the Society, Peter Smith, 9 Grandison Road, London SW11 6LS, UK, as soon as possible after you have received it.

Oriental Numismatic Society

Rules adopted on 199

1. Constitution.

The name of the Society is the Oriental Numismatic Society (the 'Society'). The Society is a private society founded in 1970 by Michael Broome.

2. Aims

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to promote the collection and study of Oriental coins, medals, paper money and related material;
- (b) to encourage contacts and co-operation between those collecting and studying such coins and material;
- (c) to publish a regular newsletter and other publications;
- (d) to organise meetings of its members; and
- (e) to do such other things as shall be conducive to the attainment of the above aims.

3. Membership

Any person (whether an individual, institution or corporation) wishing to become a member of the Society must apply in writing, agree to be bound by these rules and pay the entry fee (if any). Election to the Society is at the discretion of the Council, who may delegate this discretion to the appropriate Regional Secretary. Any entry fee shall be decided from time to time by the Council. A member may resign membership by written notice to the appropriate Regional Secretary. The Council may withdraw membership from any person if, in the Council's opinion, it is in the Society's interest to do so.

Members are required to permit the publication of their names, numismatic interests and addresses for correspondence and to permit such information to be stored on computer or by other electronic means. The membership list is intended to provide the initial means of contact between members with common interest so that knowledge can be shared. Copyright in the membership list belongs to the Society. Except with the Council's prior approval, the membership list may not be used for any other purpose other than members writing to other members or contacting other members to arrange meetings, study groups, or promote any other activity which is within the aims of the Society.

4. Annual subscriptions

Members (other than honorary members) shall pay an annual subscription on joining and annually thereafter on 1 January. Subscriptions are fixed by the Council and paid to the appropriate Regional Secretary. The council has the right to determine different rates of subscription for different regions. Failure to pay the annual subscription will entitle the Council or relevant Regional Secretary to lapse membership of that member. A person whose membership has lapsed for not having paid the subscription may (at the Regional Secretary's discretion) be asked to pay the entry fee on re-joining. Payment of the subscription will entitle members to the Society's publications issued in that year, with the exception of any special publications for which a charge is made. The Council has the right to waive the subscription of any member in recognition of exceptional service to the Society.

5. Honorary members

The Council may elect any person as an honorary member of the Society in recognition of their contribution to Oriental numismatics or exceptional service to the Society. An honorary member shall be

entitled to all privileges of membership but shall not be obliged to pay the annual subscription.

6. Council

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of the following officers: a Secretary General, a Deputy Secretary-General, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Newsletter Editor, a Membership Secretary, a Publications Secretary, Regional Secretaries, and not more than three other members of the Society.

All officers and other members of the Council (other than Regional Secretaries) shall be elected at Annual General Meetings as described below. At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting held in 1999 and every third Annual General Meeting thereafter every member of the Council (other than Regional Secretaries) shall retire from the Council but shall be eligible for re-election. Any casual vacancy occurring by resignation, or otherwise may be filled by the Council.

A member of the Council may hold more than one office but shall have only one vote at Council meetings. Decisions of the Council shall be by a simple majority and in the event of equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. The Council may co-opt members of the Society as non-voting Council members to perform tasks which cannot be performed by existing members of the Council.

Council meetings shall be held two or more times a year and may be called by the Secretary General, his or her deputy or the Secretary. The quorum for Council meetings shall be four members. The Council may appoint sub-committees from among their number and delegate to them such of their powers and duties as the Council may determine.

The members of the Council shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the Society against all expenses and liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Society. Expenses may only be incurred with the Council's prior approval.

7. Regional Secretaries

The Council will define the regions covered by the Regional Secretaries and appoint and replace Regional Secretaries. Members in each region may decide on the system in that Region for recommending to the Council the person for appointment as Secretary for their Region.

The Regional Secretaries will collect entry fees and subscriptions from members in their regions and organise all other regional activities as appropriate. They will also distribute the Society's publications in their region as soon as possible after receipt of them and transmit to the Treasurer all fees, subscriptions, and payments for publications less the costs of distributing the publications and necessary expenses whenever requested. They will also provide the Treasurer with a statement of accounts and other financial information requested in time for preparation and audit of accounts before the Annual General Meeting.

8. Officers

The officers of the Society shall be the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary, Publication Secretary and Regional Secretaries. The same individual may hold more than one office. The Secretary General or, in his or her absence, the Deputy Secretary-General will chair council meetings and normally represent the Society in relation to other institutions and societies. The Secretary will take minutes of and organise venues, agendas and notices for Council and General Meetings.

The Treasurer will co-ordinate the finances of the Society in conjunction with the Regional Secretaries.

The Membership Secretary will keep records of the members of the Society and their addresses and interests.

The Newsletter Editor and Publication secretary will co-ordinate the publication programme.

9. General meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year at a time and place decided by the Council, to transact the following business:

- to receive the Council's report on the activities of the Society during the previous year;
- to receive and consider the accounts of the Society for the previous year; and
- to decide on any resolution submitted in accordance with these

rules.

In 1999 and every third year thereafter the Meeting will also elect the members of the Council who stand for election or re-election. A member may appoint any other member as his proxy to attend and vote on his behalf on a poll if a poll is directed to be taken by the Chairman of the meeting. The Council will arrange for proxy forms to be sent to all members for use at General Meetings. Proxy forms must be in such form as the Council may approve and returned to such address as the Council shall specify not less than 48 hours before the meeting at which it is to be used.

Nominations for election of Council members (other than Regional Secretaries) must be in writing, supported by two other members, and sent to the Secretary in time for inclusion in the agenda and notice of meeting. Persons nominated must agree in writing to act if elected. Any other item to be included in the agenda and notice of meeting must, unless approved by the Council, be seconded by six other members.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Council or at the written request of not less than twenty members.

Notice of General Meetings will be sent to all members at his or her last known address with details of the business to be transacted at least twenty-one days before the meeting. The accidental omission to send notice to any member shall not invalidate proceedings at a meeting. The quorum shall be fifteen members. If after one hour a quorum is not present the meeting may transact any business necessary for the continuance of the Society including the election of the Council. The Secretary General, or in his or her absence, a member of the Council shall take the chair. Each member present shall have one vote. Resolutions shall except where otherwise provided in these rules, be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote.

10. Alterations of rules and byelaws

These rules may be altered at a General Meeting provided the resolution is passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present in person or represented by proxy. The Council shall have power to make, repeal, and amend such byelaws, as they may from time to time think necessary or desirable in the interests of the Society. Byelaws, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by the Council or General Meeting.

11. Property

All cash payable to the Society shall be paid into an account or accounts in the name of the Society or in accordance with such arrangements as the Council may approve. Any other property of the Society shall be held by not more than four Council members or other custodians appointed by the Council. They shall deal with such property as directed by the Council for the furtherance of the Society's aims and for the expenses of its administration.

12. Dissolution.

A resolution to dissolve the Society shall only be passed at a General Meeting provided the resolution is passed by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting. The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Council shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Society. Any surplus assets shall be given to a charity or charities nominated by the Council.

13. General.

Any question of copyright in the Society's publications shall be a matter to be decided between the contributor and the Council or Newsletter Editor or Publications Secretary.

No member shall use the name of the Society for the purposes of trade or profit.

A copy of these rules which shall be governed by English law shall be given to every person on becoming a member.

Notices shall be deemed to have been served 48 hours after posting to the last address recorded by the Membership Secretary or relevant Regional Secretary.

London Meeting

The meeting mentioned in the previous newsletter duly took place on Saturday 7 March at the Coin and Medal Department of the British Museum with over 20 members present. A variety of short talks were given on such series as the Kakwahids, Kushans, Patna

Post tokens and several unusual coins. Another meeting is planned for October, date yet to be determined.

Seventh Century Syria Numismatic Round Table

The next meeting in this series, held in collaboration with the ONS, will take place at the Department of Coins and Medals, The British Museum, on Saturday 25 April, commencing 10.00. Papers are invited. These should be no longer than 30 minutes, while 5 minute presentations of new material are also welcome. The meetings originally focused on the so-called Arab-Byzantine coinage but have since then broadened to include the transition from classical to Islamic coinage, its prelude and aftermath. Of particular interest, therefore, are papers on the social, economic and cultural background which shed light on issuing authorities, iconography and the function of currency. For further information please contact Marcus and Susan Phillips, PO Box 348, Biggleswade, Beds., SG18 8EQ, UK.

Indian Coinage Study Day In Cambridge, UK

The Fitzwilliam Museum in collaboration with the ONS are planning to hold a one-day symposium on the Mughals and their contemporaries on **Saturday 13 June 1998**. Speakers are due to include Sanjay Garg, Ken Wiggins, your editor and others including, it is hoped, one or more historians. Offers of additional papers or short communications would be welcome. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the programme or who wishes to register, please contact Mark Blackburn, Department of Coins & Medals, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge CB2 1RB (Tel: 01223 332917; e-mail: mab1001@cam.ac.uk) There will not be a fee to participate in the symposium, but numbers may be limited.

Oriental Initiatives at the Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge has a general collection of some 21,000 Oriental coins, including c. 13,000 Indian, 1,000 pre-Islamic Iranian, 3,500 Near Eastern and Central Asian Islamic, and 3,500 Far Eastern coins. The collection has mainly been formed since the mid-nineteenth century, through purchase, gifts and bequests from Edward Thomas, the India Office (Masson collection), J. D. Tremlett, R. B. Whitehead, A. W. Botham, Philip Grierson, and others. It also includes a number of College collections on long-term loan. For some forty years before Indian Independence the Fitzwilliam, like the British Museum, was on the official distribution list for Indian treasure trove. Unfortunately there is no orientalist on the Coin Room staff, but arrangements have recently been made to draw upon the expertise of colleagues from elsewhere to organise, expand and publish parts of the collection.

For three successive years Dr Vlastimil Novák of the National Museum, Prague, has spent two months each summer working at the Fitzwilliam on the Islamic collection, supported by generous grants from Mr Samir Shamma and the Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies. He has been reorganising the collection and preparing a catalogue in Sylloge format which we hope will be published in 2000. The Islamic collection is comparatively small and patchy in its representation – with strengths in some series but wholly lacking in others. In recent years we have acquired several hundred coins through donation or purchase to help fill some of the obvious gaps. More contributions would be very welcome, and if any collectors have say duplicates they could donate, we would be very grateful.

For the Indian collection we have established a programme to bring an Indian scholar to Cambridge for three months each year for the next six years to study a particular series. This has been generously funded for the first three years by the Charles Wallace India Trust. The first visitors will be Sanjay Garg, of the National Archives in Delhi and his wife, Nurussaba, who will work on the coinages of the Mughals and their contemporaries. We hope that as a result the collection will not only be better organised, but that it can also be published in a series of sylloge style catalogues to make it more accessible to students and collectors. We also intend to use the project as the focus for organising some ONS Study Days, the first of which is planned for June 1998 (see details above).

Any enquiries about the collection should be addressed to Mark Blackburn, Keeper of Coins & Medals, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge CB2 1RB.

News from Tübingen

Just a reminder that the next ONS meeting in Tübingen will take place on 18 and 19 April 1998. All members interested in Islamic numismatics are invited to participate and contribute papers. For further information please contact ... Another event due to take place in Tübingen from 30 March to

1 April this year is a symposium entitled *Bergbau, Edelmetall Handel und Münzprägung (Mining, Trade in Precious Metals and Minting)*. The seminar will be in five sections: mining; analytical methods; silver stock and circulation; interpretation of metallurgical coin analysis; precious metal trade and mint supply. Should members receive this newsletter in time, additional information can be obtained from Lutz Ilisch (address above).

News from the Pakistan Chapter

The Pakistan Chapter of the ONS remained quite active in terms of meetings and other activities for the promotion of interest in numismatics during 1997. Besides a number of meetings that were held between the local members, we had the pleasure of receiving Bob Senior during December. His discourses with different members were a source of valuable information for them, particularly his knowledge about the Indo-Scythians.



Members of the Pakistan Chapter with Bob Senior

A hoard of Samanid gold coins was discovered in Heart during the year. The hoard consisted of over 100 coins, all gold dinars of different Samanid rulers up to Nuh II bin Mansur, 976 to 996 AD. Two of the succeeding kings of this dynasty ruled for only three years after which they were dispossessed by Mahmud of Ghazna in 999 AD. It can therefore be inferred that the hoard was probably buried around the time of Mahmud's invasion. Some of the coins were in excellent condition.

A hoard of silver coins of the Shahis of Kabul was discovered during August 1997 in the city of Multan from a graveyard while a fresh grave was being dug. The coins were hidden in a sealed copper urn. The contents numbered in excess of 1000 coins, most of which were lost to individuals, while 260 coins were recovered by police and handed over to Archaeological Department authorities. These will probably be kept at the Lahore Museum as there is no such facility in Multan. The coins all carried the *Samanta Deva* legend and it appears that these were buried prior to the Muslim conquest of Multan, which took place in 708 AD, because no Islamic coin was found with them.

Members News

Having received and perused ... Information Sheet on Chinese chops, UK member David Hartill comments that the listing makes no mention of chops on copper coins. He adds that he has some Xian Feng 50s and 20s coins of Fujian province (c. 1854) which have been quite extensively chopped with Chinese characters - one specimen having no fewer than 11 chops on the obverse. He asks whether any other member has other such copper coins with chops.

In Newsletter I 50 we celebrated ... birthday; we are delighted to learn that Ken has recently been the recipient of two awards. He has been named Life Member of the

Hellenic Numismatic Society, been presented with a medal and diploma to mark that award as well as having volume 15 of *Nomismatika Khronika* (1996) dedicated to him. In addition, he has also become the first recipient of the American Numismatic Society's Distinguished Volunteer Award.

... is interested in any information on the small copper coinage of late Cheras (15th century) and early Travancore (up to 1820). She is particularly interested in the chronology of the various issues, where they were minted and whether the various designs had any meaning (beyond being linked to Vishnu and other deities). Any member able to assist is asked to write to her enclosing sketches, photographs or photocopies.

Auction News

Dates for forthcoming Baldwins auctions are as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday 5 and 6 May 1998, London

Thursday 3 September 1998, Singapore (Taisei-Baldwin-Gillio)

Monday and Tuesday 12 and 13 October 1998, London

Thursday 4 March 1999, Singapore (Taisei-Baldwin-Gillio)

All the above auctions are likely to include material of oriental interest. Dates may change. For further information please contact Charles Riley, Tel: ++44 171 930 9808; fax: ++44 171 930 9450.

Spink Coin Auction dates for 1998 are as follows:

Monday 22 June, Singapore, with a strong section of Far Eastern banknotes.

Tuesday 14 July, London, with a selection of Islamic coins and a collection of coins from Tibet and Nepal.

Tuesday and Wednesday 6 and 7 October, London, including Islamic coins.

Tuesday and Wednesday 17 and 18 November, London, including Islamic coins.

Tuesday 24 November, Hong Kong, with Far East coins and banknotes.

Some dates may be subject to change. For further details and catalogues (£10 each) please contact Julie Franklin in the Coin Department: Tel: ++44 171 747 6864; fax: ++44 171 839 5214.

Other News

The Köhler-Osbahr Collection in the Kultur- und Stadt-historisches Museum, Duisburg

By Ralf Althoff

The Köhler-Osbahr Collection was formed by Dr. Herbert W. Köhler and his wife Ingeborg Köhler, née Osbahr. Dr. Köhler professionally held a high managerial post in Wirtschaftsvereinigung Eisen und Stahl in Dusseldorf and is a prominent social and political personality in the city of Duisburg. Dr. and Mrs. Köhler have been collecting antiquities and coins for the last 40 years.

The Köhler-Osbahr Collection forms the scientific part of the Stiftung Köhler-Osbahr für Musik und Wissenschaft (Köhler-Osbahr Foundation for Music and Science), founded in 1987.

In 1990 the collection was deposited in the Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum Duisburg. The collection will be looked after by a numismatist (at present, Ralf Althoff M.A.) and will be exhibited in a permanent Gallery.

The Köhler-Osbahr Collection consists of nearly 70.000 coins and approximately 500 antique objects. It is, therefore, one of the larger collections of coins in North Rhine-Westphalia. The 70.000 coins include:

- more than 500 pieces of primitive money

- 14.000 Chinese, Korean and Japanese coins
- 2200 Siamese Porcelain Tokens
- 6000 Indian coins
- 3500 Greek coins
- 4000 Southeast Asian coins
- 2200 Roman coins,
- 2000 Islamic coins
- 3500 Byzantine coins
- 2000 American coins

and 15.000 European coins and other miscellaneous pieces.

The permanent exhibition in the museum displays only a very small part of the collection. A catalogue was published in 1990, which presents a selection of the Köhler-Osbahr Collection including various objects of art, small sculptures, and jewellery of the whole world. Because of the large number of coins, it is not possible to display them all at once.

In an attempt to overcome this difficulty and to make the coins in the Köhler-Osbahr Collection more accessible to numismatists, it was decided to publish inventory catalogues of the collection. The details of these catalogues published so far are as follows.

Ralf Althoff (Bearb.), *Sammlung Köhler-Osbahr, Bd. II/1 Vormünzliche Zahlungsmittel und außergewöhnliche Geldformen aus China, Annam, Korea und Japan.*

Stadt Duisburg, Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum (Hrsg.), Duisburg 1993. ISBN 3-89279-990-3. Price: DM 25

This 214 page catalogue presents a lot of odd and curious money mainly from China. Cowrie shells, ant-coins, ghost-face money, bells, spade money, knife money, tally-sticks, bean-cake money and others are described exactly and shown with black and white photos at the scale of 1:1. Some pieces are also shown in colour on the covers and plates. A foreword as well as a short introduction provides some general information. An index of Chinese transcriptions to all the objects is located at the end of this catalogue.

Bernhard Weber-Brosamer (Bearb.), *Sammlung Köhler-Osbahr, Bd. II/2. Vormünzliche Zahlungsmittel und außergewöhnliche Geldformen aus Sudostasien, Afrika und anderen Teilen der Welt.*

Stadt Duisburg, Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum (Hrsg.), Duisburg 1993. ISBN 3-89279-995-4. Price: DM 25

This 150 page catalogue describes 314 pieces of primitive and curious money from Southeast Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. All objects are shown in the same way as in Vol. II/1. Main subjects are the silver currencies from the Indo-Chinese Peninsula between 13th to 19th century AD, especially the silver ingots of Siam, Laos and Burma and the famous "bullet coins" of Siam. In addition there are short texts to provide some cultural and political background to the particular objects.

Ralf Althoff (Bearb.), *Sammlung Köhler-Osbahr, Bd. II/3 Vormünzliche Zahlungsmittel und außergewöhnliche Geldformen. Siamesische Porzellantoken.*

Stadt Duisburg, Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum (Hrsg.), Duisburg 1995. ISBN 3-89279-513-4. Price: DM 118

This volume is the last catalogue in the series of *Primitive Currency and Extraordinary Kind of Money* and is written in German and English including the translation of all inscriptions of the tokens. The 331 page book, with 54 colour plates, includes a lot of information, descriptions of all the pieces, translations of all the inscriptions and 1359 pictures of the pieces in colour. All tokens are shown at a scale of 1:1. Including duplicate specimens, the collection contains more than 2200 tokens, mainly in porcelain, but also in metal, glass, clay and mother of pearl.

This catalogue is the most extensive work on the subject after H.A. Ramsden's publication *Siamese Porcelain and Other Tokens*, Yokohama 1911.

Ralf Althoff (Bearb.), *Sammlung Köhler-Osbahr, Bd. IV. Römische Münzen.*

Stadt Duisburg, Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum (Hrsg.), Duisburg 1997. ISBN 3-82279-529-0. Price: DM 38

This is the latest catalogue in the series to be published. Vol. III *Griechische Münzen und ihr Umfeld* will be published later.

The 246 page catalogue contains exact descriptions of 2147 roman coins, some *Paduaner* imitations and other material

concerning forgeries. More than 1250 pieces are shown on the coloured cover and in black and white plates. A foreword as well as a short introduction giving general information is included.

The next project we are working on involves more than 3500 coins of Byzantium and surrounding states. The first part of this next catalogue (Vol. V, I Anastasius I. 491-518 to Phocas 602-610) will be published in the beginning of 1998. The book will contain 240 pages with exact descriptions of 1198 Byzantine coins and some pieces issued by the Vandals and Ostrogoths. We intend to depict approximately 800 pieces in coloured and black and white pictures on 60 plates.

It is further intended to publish all the 70,000 coins of the Köhler-Osbahr Collection in this manner. After the Byzantine coins, we intend to deal with the Greek coins and then the Indian coins. As the collection is extensively representative in numismatic material from around the world, it is difficult for a single numismatist to work upon the collection as a whole. We are therefore keen to invite specialist numismatists to participate in the publication-programme. Recently, for example, we were pleased to have the assistance of Mr. Shailendra Bhandare, a numismatist from Bombay, to work on the Indian Coins.

Any member who would like to visit the collection or find out more about it, is welcome to contact Ralf Althoff at the museum.

News from Spink and Son Ltd, London

The Coin Department of this well-known firm, together with their Islamic and Indian Arts Department, will be displaying a small selection of Islamic coins from their large and varied stock, and a representative example of Mughal coins from an important collection that is for sale. The exhibition will be held from 27 April to 15 May 1998, on the ground floor of Spink (King Street, St James's).

The Khusru collection of Mughal coins consists of 540 gold and about 250 silver coins, from the reign of Babur to that of Shah Alam II, and may be viewed by appointment. Also on display will be items of ceramic and metal work and manuscripts depicting calligraphic styles. For further information, please contact Julie Franklin in the Coin Department on ++44 (0)171 747 6864.

Nasik Seminar

The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies, Nasik, is planning a seminar on the subject *Medieval Indian Coinages: a Historical and Economic Perspective* for 8-10 January 1999. The aim of the seminar is to shift the emphasis from the mere reporting of finds and the publication of new coin types to studies on coins which make use of contemporary literary and other historical sources. The seminar will focus particularly on the Indian Sultanates but will also embrace the issues of the non-Muslim states of the time, such as Vijayanagar, Kangra etc.

Themes to be considered for papers are:

- coin hoards and finds and their context
- the circulation pattern of coins, trade routes
- minting activity, administration, technology and mint distribution
- metallic content of coins; sources of metal
- metrology and exchange relationships
- the names and titles on coins
- coins and religion
- coin nomenclature
- camp mints and the movement of kings and princes
- the economy, coins and the currency system

Any member interesting in attending the seminar and / or contributing a paper should contact the Institute as soon as possible for additional information. The address is Indian Institute for Research in Numismatic Studies, PO Anjaneri, dist. Nasik 422 213, Maharashtra, India.

Leiden Exhibition

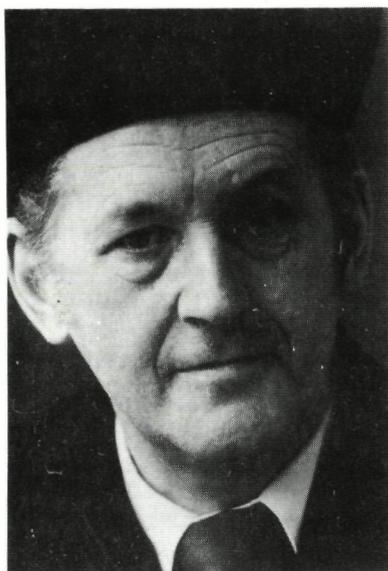
A new exhibition at the Royal Coin Cabinet, Leiden, Netherlands is entitled *Moneta Exotica* and will be on display until 30 August 1998. The display, prepared by Mr P.C.J.F. van Erve of the National Bank, gives an overview of a wide range of early and traditional currency forms used by people all over the world before the introduction of the present metal and paper currency media.

Asia and Africa are the dominant sources for the exhibition, which is accompanied by a small, but attractive, booklet in Dutch *Moneta Exotica, oorspronkelijk geld uit de hele wereld*; price Dfl. 25 from the Museum of Antiquities, Leiden.

Obituaries

It is with regret that we report the death of **Mr H J Kagerer**. Mr Kagerer worked at the German Embassy in Bern and was a collector of Indian coins. Our condolences go to his family.

We also regret to report the death on 8 December 1997, at the age of 78, of **Prof. Robert Göbl**. While not a member of the ONS, Prof. Göbl was a prolific author on a wide range of numismatic subjects that embraced Sasanian, Kushano-Sasanian, Kushan, Hephthalite, Celtic, Roman and Byzantine coinages. Born in Vienna in 1919, the son of an Austrian postal inspector, he studied classical archaeology after the Second World War and entered the academic community. From an early age he had shown an interest in ancient coinage and his dissertation, about the coinage of Roman emperors Valerian and Gallienus, was published in *Numismatische Zeitschrift*, 1951-53, and was later reprinted as a book. He subsequently applied a similar approach to his studies of Sasanian coinage.



Prof. Göbl: select bibliography (articles etc. on oriental themes)

- 1952**
 Sasanidische Münzstudien I. Generelle Vornotizen. MÖNG 7, 112ff.
 Sasanidische Münzstudien II. Römische und sasanidische Büstengruppen. MÖNG 7, 133ff.
 Sasanidische Münzstudien III. Die Kronenfolge des Sasaniden Artaxer I. MÖNG 7, 138ff.
 Die Investit des Djamasp. SM3, 57f.
 Stand und Aufgaben der sasanidischen Numismatik. La Nouvelle Clío 3, 380ff.
- 1953**
 Die Münzprägung des Sasanidenreiches. Vox Orientis 3 (März), 2f.
 Die sasanidische Zwischenkrone und ihr Problemkonnex. Vox Orientis 3 (September), 2f.
- 1954**
 Aufbau der Münzprägung (des Sasanidenstaates), in: F. Altheim - R. Steihl, Ein asiatischer Staat. Wiesbaden, 51ff.
 Der Herrscher-Erlöser in spätsasanidischem Gewand. Palaeologia 3, 95ff.
- 1955**
 Neue Zuteilungen zur Münzprägung der Chioniten (Material und Struktur). Palaeologia 4 (Kostrzewski Number, Osaka), 274ff.
- 1956**
 Neufunde sasanidischer Reichsmünzen. WZKM 53, 23ff.
- 1957**
 Die Münzprägung der Kušan von Vima Kadphises bis Bahrām IV., in: F. Altheim - R. Steihl, Finanzgeschichte der Spätantike. Frankfurt/Main, 173ff.
 Forschungsbericht zur antiken Numismatik Mittelasiens. NZ77, 18ff.
 Die Münzen der Kuschan (Vortragsauszug), MÖNG 10, 8f.
- 1958**
 Münzprägung und Außenpolitik des Sasanidenstaates unter Šāpūr II. Akten des 24. Internationalen Orientalistenkongresses München.

Wiesbaden, 515ff.

- 1959**
 Zu einigen Fälschungen vorislamischer orientalischer Münzen. MÖNG 11, 1ff.
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Die sasanidischen Tonbullen vom Takht-i Suleiman und die Probleme der sasanidischen Sphragistik. AAH 19, 95ff.

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Spiegel der T'ang-Zeit mit sasanidischem Randdekor. Ex orbe religionum. Studia Geo Widengren oblata 2, 80ff.

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Sāsāniden, Kušān und Iranische Hunnen. A Survey of Numismatic Research 1966-1971. II: Medieval and Oriental Numismatics, New York, 347ff.

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DONUM BURNS. Die Kušānmünzen im Münzkabinett Bern und die Chronologie. Wien.

(Gem. m. D. Faccenna und M. A. Khan): A Report on the Recent Discovery of a Deposit of Coins in the Sacred Area of Butkara I (Swat, Pakistan), 95-114. Roma.

New and Recent Publications

The *American Journal of Numismatics*, 9 (1997) contains the following two items of oriental interest:

Gerald M Brown: *The Elephant-rider Dinars of Kumaragupta I*, pp. 37-40

Touraj Daryaee: *The Use of Religio-political Propaganda on the Coinage of Xusro II*, pp. 41-53

J and AG Elayi: *Studies in Phoenician Weights* (Supplement nr 5 to *Transeuphratene*), Paris 1997. 400 pages, 45 plates; price

590FF. Published by Editions Gabalda, 18-rue Pierre et Marie Curie, F-75015 Paris, France. Tel: ++33 1 4326 5355; fax: ++33 1 4325 0471.

Presented in this book are 472 Phoenician weights dating from the 8th to the 3rd century BC, half of them hitherto unpublished. This study has enlarged the epigraphical corpus with new inscriptions and added new motifs to the iconographic material. It explains the techniques of fabrication, counterfeiting and weighing practices and reveals an important period in the history of balances before the invention of the steelyard. Using statistical models the book establishes Phoenician metrology on a more reliable basis, a fact that will be useful for numismatic studies.

K. Ganesh and Dr Girijapathy: *The Coins of the Vijayanagar Empire*, (Bangalore, 1997), card covers, 135 pp, illustrated throughout.

K. Ganesh and Dr. Girijapathy: *The Coins of the Hoysalas*, (Bangalore, 1998), card covers, 50 pp, illustrated throughout. For further information on both these books, members can contact Mr Ganesh at 325 BEL Layout, I Block, Vidyananyapura, Bangalore 560 003, India.

Ed. K.K. Maheshwari and Biswajeet Rath: *Numismatic Panorama - Essays in Honour of Late Sh. S.M. Shukla*, (New Delhi, 1996), case-bound, 364 pp, illustrated throughout; price: IRs 1200. ISBN-81-86222-11-X. This volume includes the following items:

Kalpana S. Desai: *On Indus Seal: the Unicorn*

Rehan Ahamad: *Two Silver Punchmarked Coin Hoards*

T.R.Hardaker: *Punchmarked Coin forgeries*

Aruna Sharma: *Relevance of Numismatic Approach to the Study of Mathura*

Amiteshwar Jha: *More than one King Named Satavahana: an Examination*

Ajay Mitra Shastri: *Mahakhatapa Vasithiputa Isamahisa*

P.D.Chumble: *A Coin of Siva Satakarni*

Michael Mitchiner: *The Circulation of Satavahana Coins in Tamilnadu*

P.L. Gupta: *Kushana Silver Coins*

B.N.Mukherjee: *Iconic Forms of Siva on Kushana Coins*

Manmohan Kumar: *Ancient Mint at Rohtak*

P.V. Radhakrishnan: *Roman and Byzantine copper Coins*

Dilip Rajgor: *Abheraka: the Earliest Western Kshatrapa*

R.C.Senior: *A New Western Kshatrapa Identified?*

V.V. Krishna Sastry: *Kshatrapa Coin Hoard from Ghantasala*

M. Veerender: *Ikshvaku Coins*

K.K.Maheshwari & Biswajeet Rath: *Fire-altar Type Coins of Skandagupta: Towards a Typological and Chronological Definition*

G. Kamalakar: *Shri Ram Kashyap Gotrins*

V. Pandit Rao & B. Naga Padma: *Chemical Analysis and Metallographic Study of South Indian Gold Coins*

M.C. Ganorkar: *Tin as an element of Coinage*

Dhiren Gala & Girish Vira: *Unpublished Copper Coins of Early Mediaeval Gujerat*

Al Sayyed & Nicholas Rhodes: *A New Coin of Ilutmish*

Danish Moin: *Animal Motif on the Coins of Islam Shah - a Note*

Joe Cribb: *Chinese Coin Finds from South India and Sri Lanka*

J.R. Hunnargikar: *Some Interesting Coins of Akbar*

Jan Lingen: *Some Observations on Jehangir's Ilahi Rupees from Agra*

Sanjay Garg: *Parodies on Mughal Coin Couplets*

Aravind S. Athavale: *Coins of the Nizam Shahi Sultanate of Ahmednagar*

Sajid Naim & Dilip P. Balsekar: *A New Holkar Coin*

K.W. Wiggins: *The Acquisition of Indian Mints by the English East India Company*

S.K. Bose: *Tea Garden Tokens of Assam*

P.J. Surana: *Reminiscence of Palanpur Coins*

Dilip Rajgor: *History of the Traikūṭakas (Based on Coins and Inscriptions)*, (New Delhi, 1998), case-bound, 80 pages, 8 plates, ISBN 81-86622-5. Price: IRs 280.

It is hoped to review this work in a future newsletter.

Volume 19, 1995 of the *Numismatic Digest*, published by the Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies, Nasik. Case-bound, 226 pp, illustrated, ISBN 81-86786-01-5. Price: IRs 350 or \$US 25. This volume included the following articles:

Devendra Handa: *The Riddle of King Mahadeva*

R.R. Bhagava: *Numismatic Evidence of Malhar*

Duan W. Roller: *A Note on Greek Coins from Tamilnadu*

R.C. Senior: *The Posthumous Hermaeus Coinage and the Transition from the Indo-Greeks to the Indo-Scythians*

Ajay Mitra Shastri: *Jogalthambi Hoard of Nahapana's Coins: Some Aspects*

Vasant Choudhary: *An Enigmatic Coin of Kachar*

Sanjay Garg: *Early Sultans of Delhi and the Caliphs*

Syed Ejaz Hussain: *Coins of Ala-ud-din-Bibban Shah*

S.G. Dhopate: *A New Hoard of Mediaeval Copper Coins*

K.W. Wiggins: *A Larin Hoard from North Konkan*

N.G. Rhodes: *A New Kashmir Coin in the Name of Akbar*

Danish Moin & Dilip Balsekar: *Rare Quarter Rupee of Jahangir*
R.D. Shah: *Five Rupee Coin of Aurangzeb*
Sajid Naim & Dilip Balsekar: *Parenda: a New Mint for Mughal Copper Coins*
A.H. Siddiqui: *A Notable Coin of Mughal Emperor Jahandar Shah*
S.U. Bhandare: *Coinage of Maratha Rulers of Sawantwadi*
Olof Sejerøe: *Lead Coins from Tranquebar*
O.P.L. Srivastava: *Sealings of Three Unknown Kings of Panchala*
There are also five book reviews.

Volume 157 (1997) of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, published by the Royal Numismatic Society, London (ISSN 0078-2696) includes the following items likely to be interest to ONS members:
Marcus Phillips & Tony Goodwin: *A Seventh-century Syrian Hoard of Byzantine and Imitative Copper Coins*
Vlastimil Novák: *Fatimid and Post-Fatimid Glass Jetons in the National Museum, Prague*
Helen Wang: *Local Bronze Tokens Issued in Jiangsu, China, in the 1930s*
Michael Broome: *Countermarked Islamic Gold Coins in Venetian Cyprus*
Robert W. Hoge: *A Parcel of mainly 'Abbasid Gold Coin*
There are also some book reviews

Pervin T. Nasir: *Rare Coins in the National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi* (Karachi, 1997), hardback, 242 pp with plates; price: PRs 300 or US \$50 plus PRs 50 for postage.

The National Museum of Pakistan has around 90,000 "ancient" coins in its collection. The author has chosen 360 rarities for publication in this book. There are nine chapters plus appendices. The chapters cover: ancient coinage, Arab coinage, mediaeval coins, Ghaznavids, Sultans of Delhi, alien contemporary rulers of the early sultans of Delhi, the Mughals, the Durranis and Barakzais, native states.

For further information, please contact the author who is Director, National Museum of Pakistan, Burns Garden, Karachi, Pakistan or the publishers The Times Press (Pvt.) Limited, C-18, Al-Hilal Society, University Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan.

Volume 15 of the Hellenic Numismatic Society's publication *Nomismatika Khronika* (1996), actually published in 1997, contains a number of articles on the emergency money situation in the Ottoman Empire between 1880 and 1910, and an article by P.G. Kokkas on the akches struck at the Ottoman mint of Serres. This features a whole series of types not previously published.

Wolfgang Bertsch: *A Study of Tibetan Paper money with a critical Bibliography*, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala (India) 1997; 93 pp, 21 plates of which 16 are in colour. Price: £10 plus £3 for postage or US\$ 15 plus \$ 5 from the author Bahnhofstr. 34, 64380 Rosdorf, Germany.

Oriental Coins and their Values: The World of Islam by Michael Mitchiner. A reprint of this well-known work is now available from Spink & Son Ltd, London (see address below) at a cost of £95.

Lists Received

1. Stephen Album (PO Box 7386, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95407, USA; Tel ++1 707-539-2120; fax ++1 707-539-3348; e-mail album@sonic.net) lists number 142 and 143 (January 1998),
2. Scott Cordry (PO Box 9828, San Diego, Calif. 92169, USA; Tel ++1 619-272-9440; fax ++1 619-272-9441) list 109 (March 1998) of modern Islamic coins and rare Islamic banknotes. This list includes a fine collection of Tunisian coins.
3. Robert Tye (Loch Eynort, Isle of South Uist, UK, HS8 5SJ; Tel ++44 1878-710300; fax ++44 1878-710216) list 33.
4. Spink Numismatic Circular for February and March 1998 have included selections of Islamic coins for sale (Spink & Son Ltd, 5,6,7 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QS; Tel ++44 171 930 7888; fax ++44 171 839 4853).

Corrigendum

Paul Murphy has informed us that the illustration of the Kosala coins published in Newsletter 154 was inadvertently scanned in mirror-image format. Readers should make allowance for that when examining the illustration.

THE CHINESE QI XIANG CASH COINS

David Jen

Among the treasures of the ANS collection of Chinese cash coins, the Qi Xiang species of the emperor Tong Zhi attract one's attention for the interesting story behind them.

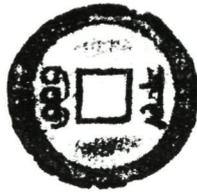
As he lay dying, the emperor Xian Feng of the Qing Dynasty entrusted his six-year old son, the future emperor Tong Zhi, to the care of his eight ministers, and decreed that the reign title was to be Qi Xiang - Good Luck. The emperor died two days later on August 22, 1861. Not long before, he had had a secret talk with his trusted minister Su Shun, stating that his favourite concubine Ci Xi was ambitious and he intended to do away with her before he died. Their talk, however, was passed on to Ci Xi by her favourite eunuch Li Lian Ying, who happened to pass by and overheard everything. Ci Xi managed to draw to her side Prince Gong, head of the other faction in the imperial court, and quietly went about with her plans.

The imperial cortege accompanying the deceased emperor's coffin departed from Jehol on 26 October, and Ci Xi reached Peking on 1 November. The next morning seven of the eight ministers were seized and their head Su Shun, still on the road with the imperial cortege, was also put under arrest the same evening. This incident is known as the Qi Xiang Coup, and Ci Xi, the mother of the boy emperor, started holding court from behind the screen.

Ci Xi, however, was not the only empress dowager sitting behind the screens at the time. Also there was the other dowager Ci An, the wife of the deceased emperor. Ci Xi was only a concubine, but as the boy emperor's mother, she became dowager by right. The dying emperor gave his two seals of state, one to his wife Ci An and one to Ci Xi, an arrangement that later was to send Ci An to her doom, since it placed her in Ci Xi's way to absolute power, even though she was a straight person and stayed away from politics.

Before the November coup, coins bearing the Qi Xiang reign title had already come out of the mints and were ready for the inauguration ceremonies of the new emperor the coming year, but the coup aborted the coins, which were remelted to cast coins with the new reign title Tong Zhi - the State to be administered jointly (by the two dowagers). For certain reasons a few Qi Xiang coins were preserved and some managed to find their way into the market, otherwise the public would not have known that such a specie had ever existed. Considering the three months time lapse between the adoption of the reign title in August and their withdrawal in November, it is a wonder the coins could have been minted at all. Surely the mint workers went about their work in great haste, to which the coarse quality of the coins bear testimony and their fate explains their scarcity.

The ANS is fortunate to have acquired several of the Qi Xiang coins through generous donations from the daughter of Mr. Reilly and others. The specifications are given below:



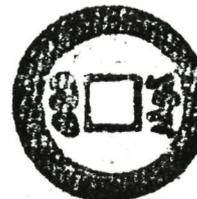
1. One Cash - Qi Xiang Tong Bao on the obverse, and Board of Revenue in Manchu script on the reverse (Not listed in the Fisher-Ding catalog); diameter 26mm, thickness 2mm, and weight 7.322g.



5. 10 cash - Qi Xiang Zhong Bao on the obverse and Tong Zhi Zhong Bao, the reign title succeeding it, on the reverse, with two reign titles on the same coin. It is not mentioned in either the Schjöhth or Fisher-Ding catalogues, so it has no catalogue number. The handwriting of the legend, workmanship, size, alloy and other features are all identical with the regular issues, marking its source the same as the latter - the imperial mint. How and why it came into existence is not known, probably fun money cast by the mint workers in a moment of playfulness, an irresistible practice traceable to as far back as the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). Anyhow, it is an attractive collectible and an impressive reminder of the winds of change on the political horizon.



2. One Cash - Qi Xiang Tong Bao on the obverse and Board of Works in Manchu script (FD-2565); diameter 26.5mm, thickness 1.5mm, and weight 5.925g.



3. 1 Cash - Legend same as above, only larger in size, diameter 27mm, thickness 2mm, and weight 8.01g (FD-2584).



6. 10 Cash - Qi Xiang Zhong Bao on both sides of the coin (FD-2559). This recast was made 5 years later. It is said that upon the request of the nobility, these coins were made as mementos, both sides bearing the same legend. The coin No.5 may also have been cast for the same reason.



4. 10 Cash - Qi Xiang Zhong Bao on the obverse and Board of Works Value 10 on reverse (FD-2587); diameter 34.8mm, thickness 2.3mm, and weight 16.108g.

The mint signature of the mint place of Yazd

By M. I. Mochiri, Paris

Background

The mint signature of the mint place of Yazd has been erroneously deciphered as *zl* in the past and attributed to the city of Zarang¹. In 1972, I corrected this misreading from *zl* to *yz* and attributed it to the city of Yazd². In 1977, I published a coin of Khusraw I with the mint signature *zl*.³ In a book, published in 1987, I devoted a whole chapter to this subject in order to demonstrate the existence of this mint signature with two letters as well as their equivalents with three letters *zln* or with four *zlng*, the latter forming the whole orthography of Zarang⁴.

On the other hand, in another chapter of this latter book, I noted, in relation to Yazd, the existence of a second mint signature with three letters *yzd*; in other words with the complete orthography of the name of this city⁵.

Analysis

As demonstrated below, the mint signature of the mint place of Yazd is seldom composed of two letters and the one conventionally read as *yz* is actually composed of three letters *yzd*.

The starting point of this analysis is a coin of Bahrām V (420-38). To date, this is the earliest known mint signature of the mint place of Yazd. This signature is engraved in a cursive script. Despite the bad state of preservation of the coin, it is clearly legible; one can easily discern the two letters *yz* (coin no.1). This inscription is totally different from the more frequently encountered signature which denotes the mint place of Yazd.

During the following reigns, even if the mint place of Yazd continued to strike coins, at best the output would have been very low in view of the fact that it is not until the accession of Khusraw I (531-79) that coins from this city have been identified up to now. For the reign of this king, the mint place of Yazd is well represented. Indeed I have personally noted coins of 33 different regnal years and the number of known examples provides a relatively large body of examples for study.

It is apparently at the beginning of the reign of Khusraw I that one observes the creation of the mint signature of Yazd in three letters⁶. Unfortunately, the three first years are missing in my collection, but for the years 4 and 5 we discover the mint signature *yzd* with two different scripts, either in lapidary (coin no.2) or in

cursive alphabet (coins nos.3 and 4). In the following years, the latter becomes definitely the mint signature of Yazd. The mint signature which had been formerly transcribed as *yz* is in reality composed of three letters *y*, *z*, and *d*, with the second and third letters in effect being combined. It is these final two letters which had been erroneously interpreted up to now as representing one letter *z*.

The scribes or engravers who created this combination of letters are also those who are at the origin of the intermediary written forms, which allow one to find the combination of the two letters *z* and *d*. Coins nos. 5 and 6 taken at random among different regnal years demonstrate that between the years 4 and 5 where the mint signature in three letters is obvious as to its identification and its definitive classic form, there is an intermediary written form. The three letters *y*, *z* and *d* in cursive script are clearly separated on coins nos. 3 and 4. For later issues, the two letters *z* and *d* close up in such a way that the left extremity of *z* joins the middle of the upper branch of *d* (coin no. 5). Thereafter, this point of intersection goes one step up (coin no. 6). The next step reaches the highest point of the vertical branch of the letter *d*, so that one can draw the two letters *z* and *d* in one stroke keeping the pen on the sheet (coin no. 7).



In the drawing above, it is very easy to separate the two letters *z* and *d*; then by sliding the letter *d* for half a centimetre to the left and by bringing down the letter *z* the result is the epigraphy of the mint signature of the coin no. 4.



Consequently, on the left component of the mint, the vertical branch joined to the horizontal lower one constitutes the letter *d*; and the letter *z* itself is only represented by its horizontal upper branch.

For coins of a century and half later, in 66 AH, one finds again the clear separation of the three letters *y*, *z* and *d* of the mint signature of Yazd on the reverse of a rare issue of ʿAbdullāh b. Zubayr (coin no. 8).

In conclusion, we should change our transcription of the usual mint signature of Yazd into **YZD** = *yzd* and use only **YZ** = *yz* for the mint signatures such as the one which figures on the coin no. 1 of Bahrām V.

CATALOGUE

<i>Obverse</i>	<i>Reverse</i>
Bahrām V	Classical reverse of the coins of Bahrām V.
1 - Usual type. Legend defaced and partly cut off	On the right, the mint signature: = <i>yz</i> = YZ
Khusraw I	
a) Type of the first four regnal years	
2 - Legend on the right: = <i>hwslwd</i>	Legends On the left: = 'LB' = 4
3 - Legend on the right: = <i>hwslwd</i>	On the right: = <i>yzd</i> = YZD
	Legend on the left: = 'LB' = 4
	Legend on the right: = <i>yzd</i> = YZD
b) Type II of the fifth regnal year ⁷	
4 - Legend on the right: = <i>hw</i>	Legend on the left: = <i>hmš</i> ' = 5
Legend on the left: = 'pzw	Legend on the right: = <i>yzd</i> = YZD
c) Type of the following regnal years	
5 - Legend on the right: = <i>hwslwy</i>	Legend on the left: = <i>čhlsy</i> = 34
Legend on the left: = 'pzw	Legend on the right: = <i>yzd</i> = YZD ⁸
6 - Legend on the right: = <i>hwslwy</i>	Legend on the left: = <i>pnčsy</i> = 35
Legend on the left: = 'pzwy	Legend on the right: = <i>yzd</i> = YZD
7 - Legend on the right: = <i>hwslwy</i>	Legend on the left: = <i>čhldh</i> = 14
Legend on the left: = 'pzwn	Legend on the right: = <i>yzd</i> = YZD

Abdullāh b. Zubayr

Arab-Sasanian type of Khusraw II coins

Legend on the right:

س م ل د = 'pdwl'
 ر ی ز ب ی ل ن = yzwbyl'n
 ن ی ه = GDH
 س م ک م = 'pzwk

Legend on the left:

س س س س س = ššst = 66

Legend on the left:

Legend on the right:

ر ی ز = yzd = YZD⁹

On the second quarter of the margin:

بسم الله = bismillāh

At 08.30 H.: م = m

NOTES

1. FDJ Paruck, *Sasanian Coins*, New Delhi, 1976; R Göbl, *Sasanidische Numismatik*, Braunschweig, 1968.
2. Mochiri, *ENIS I*, Tehran, 1972, p. 48-50.
3. Mochiri, *ENIS II*, Tehran, 1977, p. 137, fig.338.
4. Mochiri, *ASCWC*, Leuven, 1987, p. 86-9.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 68.
6. Translation from two to three letters of the mint signatures is observed in other mint places at the beginning of the reign of Khusraw I. This is the case, for example, for the mint place of Hamadan where the mint signature with two letters AH, still present on his coins of year 1, becomes definitely with three letters AHM on those of year 2.
7. For the detailed description of the four types of the fifth regnal year of Khusraw I, see *ENIS II*, p. 217-20.
8. This coin has already been published in *ENIS II*, Fig. 960.
9. For the detailed description of this coin, see *ASCWC*, coin no. 105, Pl. XV, 87.



The Fineness of Ottoman Akces

By W. Hüsich, M. Poniatowski, and H. Wilski

Preliminary Notes

Reliable data for the real silver content of Ottoman akces have - to the best of our knowledge - never been published. This fact had already been realised by Dipl.-Ing. Walter Hüsich (*27. 10. 1903, † 23. 2. 1976 in Dortmund-Kirchhorde, Germany)¹ a long time ago. Since Hüsich was an enthusiastic collector of Ottoman coins, he was interested in this question. As early as 1973 he asked Degussa (Deutsche Gold-und Silber-Scheideanstalt vormals Roessler) in Wolfgang near Hanau, Germany, for suitable analyses. For this purpose, he used 12 clearly legible akces. These coins

were analysed under the guidance of Dr. Manfred Poniatowski, Degussa. In order to complete the series in the same year, two more akce coins (NP 253 and NP 340) were analysed by Dr. H.J. Ostmann of the Analytical Laboratory of Farbwerke Hoechst AG in Frankfurt/M-Höchst, Germany. Finally, Mr. Hüsich's records (although incomplete) came into the hands of Dr. Hans Wilski. The revised results are presented below.

Introduction

According to a note of Lane-Poole, published in 1883 AD², the fineness of the first Ottoman akces minted during the reign of Sultan Orhan (724 - 763 AH) is 90 %. Lane-Poole referred to a

book by Col. Aḥmad Ğevād Bey, which is not accessible to us. A few years later, in 1890 AD, Ğalib³ published a detailed list of the weight and fineness of both silver and gold coins minted within the Ottoman Empire. This list has been used by all the later authors, e.g. Nuri Pere 1968⁴ or Schaendlinger 1973⁵. It seems that the question of whether the desired values of the fineness of the early akces given by Ğalib are in accordance with the actual fineness of these coins, has never been studied with the most reliable methods of modern analytical chemistry. Since knowledge of the true fineness of these coins is of considerable interest for many reasons, this research work has now been carried out.

Experiments

As a consequence of the manufacturing process, the fineness of a coin at its surface may differ from the fineness in its interior (for details see the last section). Therefore the use of a non-destructive test method which is applied only to a thin surface layer had to be rejected. Instead, a "wet chemical analysis" had to be used which results in the mean value of the fineness of a coin as a whole. Accordingly, in order to get precise results approximately half of each coin was dissolved in 50 % nitric acid. The silver content was then determined by potentiometric titration (Metrom--Titroprocessor) with a solution of sodium chloride. The very small gold (Au) content of each coin could be determined only semi-quantitatively by spectral analysis in an electric arc. In table 2, the specification "< 0.5 % Au" means that the gold content found was less than 0.5 %, but more than 0.1 %.

The research work at Hoechst AG was done in the same way as before, but additionally the copper content of the coins was also determined. Since the total amount of both metals found was not 100 %, but only 98.6 % (NP 253) resp. 98.1 % (NP 340) (see table 2), Dr. Ostmann looked for the missing material. An X-ray analysis showed qualitatively the presence of small amounts of lead (Pb), zinc (Zn), and iron (Fe). These metals are known impurities of the silver of the time in question. An analysis for gold was dropped in these cases.

Results

The first table shows the fineness of the akces minted by the Ottoman sultans from Orhan (724 - 763 AH) to Mehmed IV (1058 - 1099 AH) as tabulated by Ğalib³. According to this table, the fineness of the first akces is said to have been 90 %, and then decreased in the course of nearly 400 years to 50 %. With the beginning of the minting of the kurush by Süleyman II (1099 - 1102 AH) the akces lost their importance as currency. Of the many Ottoman documents that deal with problems of coinage⁷ only the documents from 1390 - 1512 AD translated by Beldiceanu (into French) were accessible to the present authors^{8,9}. It is noteworthy that in the documents of the time of Mehmed II (848 - 849; 855 - 886 AH) which deal with silver mining as well as the monetary system nothing is written about the fineness of the coins, though the weight of the akces and the fact that it changed four times has been discussed¹⁰. On the contrary, in an explanatory annotation Beldiceanu feels obliged to refer to Ğalib's data, namely 90 %.¹¹

For technical reasons only coins from Mehmed Celebi (806 - 816 AH) until Mehmed III (1003 - 1012 AH) could be analysed by us. On the one hand, it was expected that the real fineness would agree with Ğalib's data (within the error limits of Ottoman minting technology). On the other hand, the expenses for the research work had to be kept within reasonable limits. Therefore only one or two coins at best of each sultan were analysed. Table 2 shows the results. These are unexpected and surprising. Only the fineness of the two coins of Mehmed I from Ayaslık and Bursa respectively come within the error limits, with the value of 90 % given by Ğalib. The coins of his successor, Murad II, show a varied result: Bursa 79 %, Edirne 97%. The very high silver content of 97 % decreases within 100 years only insignificantly to 93 % at the time of Süleyman I. The coins of Süleyman I show only the year of accession to the throne (926 AH). But since his coins were minted throughout his whole reign, the period of time may have been much longer than 100 years. During the reign of Süleyman's successor, Selim II, the fineness suddenly decreased to 83 % for a coin from Edirne and to only 53 % for a coin of Novabırda. In these cases the decrease in fineness was perhaps done intentionally

by workers at the mint. Such an assumption can be put forward in the case of a sultan whose rule suffered allegedly from considerable maladministration. The coin of Murad III also shows a low fineness of only 78%. But this value can easily be explained by the well-known reduction in the fineness of the coins which led to the Jannisaries' uprising in 997 AH (April 1589 AD). During the reign of Mehmed III, the coins were minted again with the old fineness of 95%.

Our results do not agree with the silver content as given by Ğalib: 90 % fine for the period of time from Orhan to Mehmed II, and 85 % for the interval from Bayesid II to Mehmed III. The real fineness of the coins analysed by us is (in most cases) considerably higher than those values. Although the number of coins we analysed is only small, the result would seem to be typical rather than random - otherwise it would be difficult to understand the small but steady decrease in fineness during a period of more than 100 years that we found. It would be desirable for the results presented here to be corroborated and completed by more analyses. There is also a need to find contemporary documents dealing with the fineness of the akces minted.

A metallurgical study of the coins

It is well known that the planchets for the akce (as well as for other coins) were annealed before minting to soften the metal. During this heating process, the copper which is near to the surface is oxidised to black copper oxide. After the heating process the planchets are pickled in hot, dilute sulphuric acid to restore a silvery surface. During this process the copper oxide is dissolved and it remains as a thin layer of pure, though porous silver on the surface. This layer will be compressed again by minting. Incidentally, this treatment has the advantage of the inner, more sensitive material, which sometimes has a high copper content, being protected against corrosion by the thin layer of pure silver. In order to make these layers visible a metallurgical study was carried out. For this purpose the cut surfaces of the halved coins were burnished, then polished, and finally photographed with a metal microscope, the enlargement being 260-fold. Fig. 1 shows the results. The inner part of the oxide layer which could not be dissolved by the pickling process is visible only in the two upper illustrations (NP 27 Bursa and NP 253 Novabırda). The compressed silver layers on the other hand are clearly visible in all three coins. It is roughly 0.004 to 0.010 mm thick. The pickling process was done best with the coin of Murad III (at the bottom of fig. 1), the copper oxide was completely dissolved, and the oxidation process was most successfully done.

References:

1. A short obituary was published by K. M. MacKenzie in NI Bulletin 10, 141 (May 1976)
2. S. Lane-Poole, The coins of the Turks in the British Museum, Vol. VIII. London 1883, page XVII.
3. I. Ğalib Taqvīm-i meskūkāt-i 'oṭmāniyye, Constantinople 1307 AR (1890 AD); silver coins in table 2 on page 506.
4. N. Pere, Osmanlılarda Madeni Paralar. Istanbul 1968.
5. A. C. Schaendlinger, Osmanische Numismatik. Braunschweig 1973.
6. G.-R. Puin, in preparation.
7. C. Ender, Documents of numismatic importance in the Ottoman archives (Turkish numismatic Society, special Bulletin No 3), Istanbul 1996.
8. N. Beldiceanu, Les Actes des premiers sultans conservés dans les manuscrits turcs de la Bibliothèque Nationale à Paris. I. Actes de Mehmed II et de Bayesid II du ms. Fonds turc ancien 39. Paris 1960.
9. N. Beldiceanu, Les Actes des premiers sultans conservés dans les manuscrits turcs de la Bibliothèque Nationale à Paris. II Réglements miniers 1390 - 1512. Paris 1964.
10. loc. cit. 8, page 173.
11. loc. cit. 8, page 83.

Tab. 1. Fineness of Ottoman akces according to Ğalib³

The years indicate the first and last year of reign of the respective sultans.

Sultan	Fineness	%Ag
724 Orhan- Mehmed II 886 AH		90
886 Bayesid II- Mustafa I 1032 AH		85
Murad IV 1032-1049 AH		70
Ibrahim 1049-1058 AH		75
Mehmed IV 1058-1099 AH		50

Table 2. Weight and fineness of Ottoman akces.

All names are written in modern Turkish. The years given are the years of coinage or (in parentheses) the years of accession to the throne. Small blanks in the table are due to the incompleteness of the records from 1973. Missing weights have been substituted by weights taken from the book by Nuri Pere (in parentheses). NP = Nun Pere,⁴ tr = traces of...

NP No.	Sultan	Year AH	Mint	Diameter mm	Weight gram	Fineness % Ag	Other Metals
27	Mehmed Çelebi and Timur	806	Bursa	14	1.15	94.76	< 0.5% Au
45	Mehmed I	822	Ayaslik	11-13	1.20	89.22	< 0.5% Au
46	Mehmed I	822	Bursa	11-13	1.00	91.41	< 0.5% Au
53	Murad II	825	Burs	13	1.10	79.13	< 0.5% Au
59	Murad II	834	Edirne	13	1.13	97.07	< 0.5% Au
84	Mehmed II	848	Edirne	12	1.02	95.33	< 0.5% Au
86	Mehmed II	865	Serez	11	0.88	95.29	< 0.5% Au
105	Bayesid II	886	Kostantaniye	12	0.75	95.31	< 0.5% Au
128	Selim I	918	Edirne	10-11	0.70	94.09	< 0.5% Au
203	Süleyman I (926)	(926)	Novabirda	12	0.70	92.98	< 0.5% Au
253	Selim II (974)	(974)	Edirne		(0.5-0.6)	83.4	15.2% Cu; tr Pb, Zn, Fe
253	Selim II (974)	(974)	Novabirda	10-11	0.50	52.84	< 0.5% Au
	Murad III (982)	(982)			(0.4-0.7)	78.22	< 0.5% Au
340	Mehmed III (1003)	(1003)	Kostantaniye		(0.3)	95.0	3.1% Cu; tr Pb, Zn, Fe

Almatû - a Newly Discovered Chaghatayid Mint by Vladimir Nastich (Moscow)

The story behind the discovery of the Almatû mint commenced in 1979 when a lady visited the Archaeological Museum in Alma Ata and showed me two crudely struck silver coins with barely legible Arabic inscriptions, resembling the Chaghatayid post-reform dirhams of the late 13th century. The woman said that they had come from a small hoard ("perhaps ten or twelve pieces") excavated in the same year during earthworks in the Alma Ata frontier School courtyard and divided among the school officers. When I asked her to identify the other people who had them, so that I could attempt to reassemble the hoard, or at least sell me her own specimens, she flatly refused and did not even allow me to retain her coins for study.

The coins belonged to the same unknown type: each one of them had the same couple of tamghas, one of which - an oblong 2-like sign crossed by a straight line in the middle (see fig. 1), had been very common for the anonymous regular Chaghatayid coinage during the reform of Mas'ud Beg¹ (mostly within AH 670-706), while the other one, looking like a trident with uneven prongs, one ending in a loop, and annulet at the opposite "handle" end (see fig.2), was quite unfamiliar to me.

Since the coin legends were no longer legible, I could provide only general conclusions about the time of their production and dynastic affiliation, and their relationship regarding local money circulation, the latter being evident from where they were found. But there was a very important additional fact: the Frontier School was located upon the remnants of a spacious mediaeval settlement, the upper layers of which together with the surrounding vicinity, according to former archaeological inspections and material findings (including coins), could with confidence be dated back to the pre-Mongol and Chaghatayid periods². With that information, I dared to make a very careful suggestion that the coins in question could have been struck at some as yet unknown local mints of Semirech'ye³.

In 1989, my old friend and amateur numismatist from Alma Ata, Dr V. Dubinin, presented me with a silver coin he had purchased some time previously in the local coin market and which bore the same tamghas. He also told me that the owner (probably an aged serviceman) had two more similar pieces in worse condition and that the coins had been allegedly found somewhere in Alma Ata. The piece I obtained in that way was certainly not one of the coins I had seen before. Although I could not remember those pieces in every detail after ten years, I did remember clearly their whitish silver colour, while the newly acquired specimen was covered with an unpleasant dark greenish-grey patina. The date indication was preserved, which I at first interpreted as distorted by abridgement through lack of space as سنه حقه ...year five (?). The mint-name, however, was no longer visible.

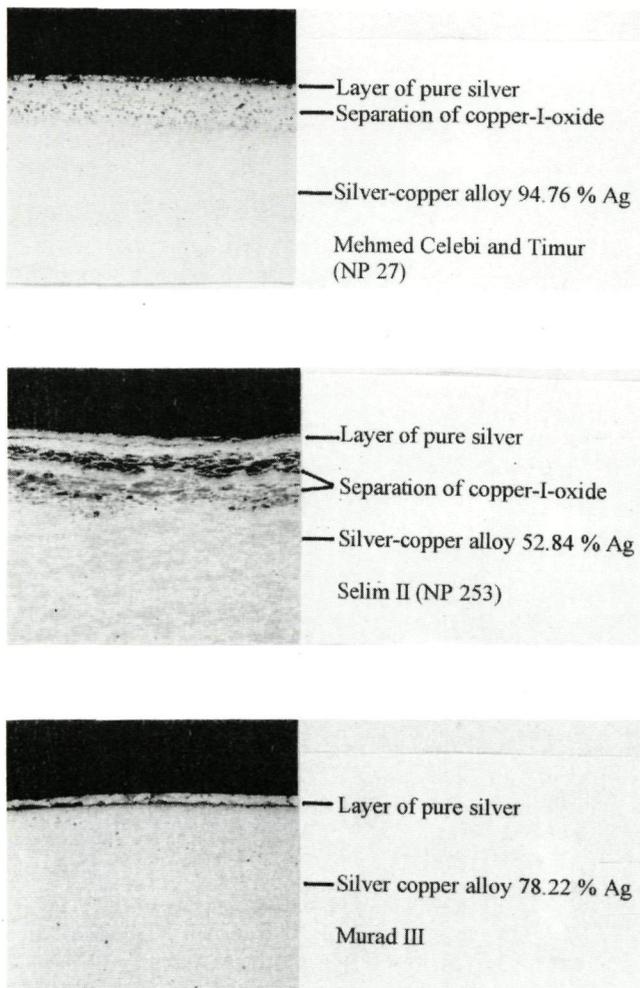


Fig. 1. Cross-sectional view of three akces. Enlargement 175-fold.



fig. 1



fig. 2

Thus we can state the existence of one more mint, in addition to the 16 known and at least two unpublished as yet, which were either reactivated or newly established to provide enough coinage for carrying out the monetary reform initiated by Mas'ud Beg in the Chaghatayid khanate about 670/1271-72. The rarity and limited dates of striking of these coins of Almatû indicate that this local issue was intended mainly, if not exclusively, for supplying the regional market that was remote and separated from most of the other economic centres of the state. This would explain why the coins in question have never been found, either as solitary examples or in hoards, outside the region of Almatu, situated on the north-eastern borders of the traditional cultural areas of Mawarannahr.

The identification of the Chaghatayid mint of Almatû, besides its numismatic importance, allows us to make more profound inference of certain historical value. Firstly, the name **المتمو** placed on the coin from the late 13th century can be actually taken for the earliest known record of this toponym applicable to today's Alma Ata. Hitherto is known to be mentioned in *Babur Namah* by Zahir-ud-din Babur (1483-1530), who cited Almatu, together with Almalyq and Yangi (Taraz) as well-known towns (**شهرلار**) situated northwards of Ferghana and by his time already destroyed by the Mongols and Uzbeks⁷. In another part of the same work, Babur mentioned 914/1508 as the exact date of a battle "in Almatu, that renowned locality in Moghulistan". The same event was also reported in *Tarikh-I Rashidi* by Babur's cousin, Mirza Muhammad Haidar (killed in 1551) whose information thereon is unlikely to have been independent of the former author.

After that we come across only a few scrappy references to this settlement or vicinity in several manuscripts of little informative value. That it continued to exist as an economic unit, or at least never ceased to be inhabited by a more or less constant population, is attested by the endurance of its name over seven centuries.

Notes

1. among the coins of at least 18 mints of that period, only dirhems struck at Termez seem never to have borne this sign: V.D. Zhukov, "Dukentkiy klad monet", in *Istoriia material'noj kul'tury Uzbekistana*, issue 1, Tashkent 1959, p. 1777 sq.; E.A. Davidovich, *Denezhnoe khozaijstvo Srednej Azii posle mongol'skogo zavoevaniia I reforma Mas'ud-beka (XIII V.)*, Moscow 1972, p. 15, 62-66.
2. *Arkheologicheskaiia karta Kazakhstana*, Alma-Ata 1960, p. 316-317, descriptions No. 4373, 4374, 4384 & al.; the mentioned site - No. 4381.
3. V. N. Nastich, "Monetnye dvory srednevekovogo Kazakhstan" in *Pamiatniki istorii I istorii kul'tury Kazakhstana*, issue 4, Alma-Ata 1989, p.67.
4. Beginning with 1854, when a Russian fortress Vernoe ("the Reliable") had been built there and a new colonial settlement had started to grow up, its name (Vernyi) kept on being connected with that stronghold, until as late as 1921. It was renamed Alma Ata. The native population of the town never accepted this name, for it represented a strange artificial Russification of the original name.
5. V. N. Nastich, "Almatu - neizvestny monetnyy dvor XIII v." in *Bartol'dovskie chieniia*, Moscow 1993, p. 68-69.
6. G. A. Fedorov-Davydov, "Mumizmatika Khorezma zolotoordynskogo perioda", in *Numizmatika I Epigrafika*, vol. V, Moscow 1960, p. 180 and tab. I, type 2; the publisher, however, did not venture to name the date which he probably considered as too early for the coinage, and left the description as "no year".
7. *Baber-namê ili Zapiski Sultana Babera*. Izdany v podlinnom tekste N.I., Kazan 1857, p.2.

Who were the "Chionites"?

By Roger Wai San Do

The term *Chionites* first appeared in Ammianus Marcellinus's *The Late Roman Empire*¹, since when the term has been randomly and erroneously used by historians and numismatists as a synonym for the early "Hephthalites".

In the course of research on Hephthalite coins, the author noted that it has been a major problem to establish an acceptable chronological classification of Hephthalite coins. This problem is not only associated with Shapur II's ventures (Eastern Campaigns, Siege of Amida) but also directly related to the classification of Kushano-Sasanian and Kidarite coins.

Chionite is a middle Persian word meaning "Xiyon = Hun" or "Khyon = Hun" according to R. Frye². In the western sense all nomadic people from the steppes have been referred to as *Hun*, regardless of their origin, races, tribes or clans. In the Chinese texts nomadic peoples from the north or north-west areas have been first

referred to by a general term *Hu*, while later, for the tribes from the Western Provinces (Xi Yu), they are still referred to as *Hu*, but those with a direct descendent line from the Xiong Nu (i.e. *Hun* in the Western sense), have been referred to as *Lu*. These tribes were recorded by contemporary or late historians in the Chinese texts; they were able to distinguish the tribes and clans, and from their surnames the genealogy can be traced and correlated.

To correct and clarify the term *Chionites*, the author proposes to elucidate the general history and movements of Xiong Nu based on the Chinese historical records.

The Xiong Nu

The earliest that Xiong Nu's activities were recorded in the Chinese texts was 312 BC. They were nomadic people grazing in the present Shanxi Province in China. When they moved south they came into conflict with people who lived along the Chinese northern and north-west borders. When Qin united China in 220 BC, the first emperor Shi Huangdi build the great wall to prevent such invasions by these nomads.

In AD 48, as a result of an internal power struggle, the Xiong Nu were divided into North and South divisions. The North Xiong Nu remained independent, while the South Xiong Nu became vassals of the Eastern Han Dynasty. From time to time, however, the South Xiong Nu continued to wage war against the Eastern Han Dynasty.

In AD 88, internal dissension within the North Xiong Nu erupted into civil war. The South Xiong Nu seized the opportunity and, with the aid of the Eastern Han army, defeated the North Xiong Nu in several large-scale battles. The defeat was total to the point that the North Xiong Nu could no longer graze in their own territory. They therefore started to move west, eventually totally vanishing from China.

Chinese history has no record of North Xiong Nu activity from AD 153 onward. In western history the period between AD 91 to AD 290 is blank as far as the Huns (North Xiong Nu) are concerned.

Based on the migration route of Da Yue Zhi, the North Xiong Nu first occupied the land of Wu Sun (c. AD 91-95) and Kang Ju (c. AD 158). In AD 370 the North Xiong Nu annexed the A-Lan (Alani) and settled for the time being in districts near the Aral and Caspian Seas. The North Xiong Nu never moved south into the territory of Sogdiana, where they would have encountered their traditional enemy - the Da Yue Zhi (Kushans). The Da Yue Zhi had already by that time established the powerful Kushan Empire.

The Rise Of The Kidarites

No evidence is available in any history records as to how the Kidarites rose to power. In the *Xi Yu* section of Wei Shu (Annals of the Wei Dynasty) certain traces of the Kidarites can be inferred. The *Xi Yu* section describing Su Te (Sogdiana) was written as follows:

"... initially, the Xiong Nu slayed the king (of Sogdiana) and occupied the whole country, it has been three generations already since the accession of the king Hu Ni ..."

This passage was reported to the court of Wei by the envoys Tung Wan and Gao Ming in AD 437 upon their return from Xi Yu. Western scholar, F. Hirth, was the first person to translate this passage. He referred to Su Te as *Sughdag* and the Xiong Nu king was Attila's son Hernac or Ellac.

Japanese scholar Hokutori referred to Su Te as *Sogdiana* but the Xiong Nu king was the Hephthalite Khan Khushnawaz. Enoki also referred to Su Te as *Sogdiana*, but the Xiong Nu king was *Chionite*.

Recent Chinese scholar, Yu Tai Shan, concluded that Su Te was *Sogdiana* and that the Xiong Nu king was a Hephthalite Khan. From this short passage, many conjectures have been made by various scholars, yet none of them have made an in-depth study of the term *Chionite* and its status. If we assume 100 years for the "Three Generations" from the passage quoted above, the event could have occurred some time around AD 337 to AD 347.

F. Hirth's interpretation cannot be validated because the death of Attila occurred in AD 453, i.e. it happened later than the event in question. Hokutori and Yu both placed the western migration of Hephthalites around AD 366-367. In fact the Hephthalites from the Altai Mountain region did not start to move west until AD 420. Enoki has not clarified the term *Chionite*, hence the mistake.

It is the author's view that neither the Xiong Nu nor the Hephthalites were involved in this incident at that time; the only possibility was the Kidarites, for they were the only powerful group of people at that time capable of attacking the Sogdiana Principality. The Kidarites, of course, were still under the banner of the Kushan Empire. The term *Xiong Nu* was inaccurately used in the passage by the Chinese envoys. After the Kidarites slayed the Sogdian king, they established a puppet government and Hu Ni was the fourth king of the line. There is, however, no information available as to which tribe Hu Ni came from. Considering the time frame, it is noted that thereafter the Kidarites became very powerful, strong enough to be placed alongside the Eusini (The Kushans) during Shapur II's Eastern Campaign. This is the most important evidence yet explaining how the Kidarites came to power and replaced the Kushan Empire at a later date. Numismatically no Kidarite coins have been found in the Soviet Central Asia District, the reason being that the Kidarites were still vassals of the Kushan Empire (until AD 385), but Kushan coins on the other hand have been found in quantities at many places in the Sogdian Region³.

Eastern Campaigns Of Shapur II

Ammianus Marcellinus mentioned only very briefly that Shapur II was spending the winter (AD 356) in the territory of the Eusini and Chionites. No information was provided as to who the Chionites were. If the Chionites were Hunic nomads we find no record in history texts as to their movements and limits of grazing territory. The Eusini on the other hand were different, as they had already founded the Kushan Empire, hence the Chionites must be one of the clans of the Kushan to remain in their domain.

The Kidarites are sometimes known as the *Little Kushan* to differentiate them from the Kushan proper - *The Great Kushan*. It must be noted there are two records of the *Little Kushan* or *Xiao Yue*

Zhi in the Chinese texts. They represent two distinct groups of tribes at different periods and had no relationship to each other.

As noted above, the North Xiong Nu never moved south into the Sogdian Region. This dismisses the possibility that the Chionites Shapur II encountered were North Xiong Nu. They were not the Hephthalites either, for the Hephthalites who lived in the Altai Mountains at that time were still a vassal tribe of the Jouan-Jouan, and did not start their migration west until AD 420, due to the pressure arising from the war between the Gao Ju, Jouan-Jouan and the Northern Wei. For these reasons it is only the Kidarites who can be identified to as the *Chionites* of Ammianus Marcellinus.

The Kidarites occupied an important position in the administration and military organisation on the Kushan side. They called themselves as the *Kushans* and probably held important positions in the Kushan government, for after Shapur II's Eastern Campaigns, some thirty years later, the Kushan Empire was totally replaced by the Kidarite Dynasty. The Eastern Campaigns of Shapur II were by no means successful; the first campaign in AD 356 ended with a treaty, and during the second campaign in AD 367 Shapur II was totally defeated by the Kidarites and lost complete control of the Kabul Valley.

Numismatically, *Piryasa* or *Piyasa* was cited on the gold stater of the late Kushan king Gadahara. This is a positive attestation of Kidarite suzerainty. *Piryasa* or *Peroz of Gandhara* by Carter⁴ undoubtedly was the founder of the Kidarite Dynasty.

Siege Of Amida

The siege of Amida, led by Shapur II, followed not long after the first Eastern Campaign (AD 356). Historical records and numismatic materials provide two rather confusing and contradictory pieces of evidence.

It is now generally accepted that Shapur II's first Eastern Campaign ended with an agreement with the Chionites and the Eusini that the former would agree to participate in the siege of Amida. Ammianus Marcellinus also mentioned that the king of the Chionites was Grumbates, not *Piryasa*, a fact which totally discredits the possibility that the Chionites, allies of the Eusini, had actually participated in the siege. The Chionites led by Grumbates were the North Xiong Nu. It must also be remembered that after the Shapur II campaign, *Piryasa* took most of his time to consolidate his power within the Kushan realm. It is most unlikely

that he would have sided with his enemy Shapur II, especially when there was a risk that he could be killed by Shapur II and not by the Romans.

Ammianus Marcellinus described Shapur II in the battlefield during the siege
...*He had exchanged his diadem for a helmet in the shape of a ram's head* ...

A.D. Bivar suggested that it was Varahran II Kushanshah instead of Shapur II. This suggestion was supported by most numismatists because they considered that no Sasanian king's diadem had the ram's head design. Such an assumption can be justified based on the standard diadems of the Sasanian kings as depicted on the coins and on the rock reliefs at Firuzabad, Naqsh-I-Rustan and elsewhere. Nevertheless, this can only be interpreted as a scene of "Investiture and Victory", i.e. it is more decorative art than standard rule.

Göbl has identified 8 types of crown for Ardashir I, 4 for Shapur I, 2 for Narseh, 2 for Ardashir II, 3 for Peroz, 2 for Kavard, 2 for Xusro II, 2 for Ardashir III and 2 for Yazgard III⁵. All these crown types have been verified on coins. It can be postulated that apart from a regular diadem for a Sasanian king, special diadems also existed for special occasions. After all, Ammianus Marcellinus said Shapur II changed his diadem into a ram's head helmet, not a ram's head diadem

Rock carvings from Tang-i-Ab, Firuzabad, clearly depict Shapur I not wearing his traditional diadem, but instead an eagle head helmet depicting a battle scene with the Parthians. Later on, to commemorate the invasion of Hatra (AD 241-242), a coin was minted also showing Shapur I wearing the eagle head diadem.

This is yet another piece of evidence to show that Sasanian kings changed their standard diadem into specific types of helmets on the battlefield.



Numismatic studies by leading authorities on the gold stater of Varahram II Kushanshah, showing the king wearing a ram's head diadem, have varied greatly in terms of assigning a reigning period. A comparison is made as follows

M Mitchiner ⁶	M Carter ⁷	R Göbl ⁸	J Cribb ⁹
Varahran II Kushanshah	Varahran II	Varahran 4	Varahran
AD 271-356	AD 340-350	c AD 379-383	(Peroz III)?
(No. 1309)	(Plate 49, No. 34)	(No 1714)	(No. 10)

It can be seen that even with close similarity of the coins no consensus of opinion has been reached and no unified date has been agreed upon.

None of these dates can fit into the time-frame of the siege of Amida. Mitchiner's, Carter's and Göbl's dating come before or after the siege. Although Cribb did not give a date, he identified this Varahran as Peroz III who was the founder of the Kidarite Dynasty. He had no possibility of joining Shapur II in the siege of Amida.

In this respect no Kushanshah with a ram's horn diadem actually participated in the siege; Shapur II exchanging his diadem into a ram's head helmet was only a symbol for the victory of the siege.

Conclusion

We can deduce the following conclusions from the above.

The North Xiong Nu, originally a nomadic tribe from China, never moved south into the territory of Sogdiana when they migrated west. They wandered in the area of the Aral Sea and the Caspian Sea far from the Kushans, until they invaded Europe under Attila.

They did, however, assist Shapur II at the siege of Amida.

Chionites were not Hephthalites; they were in fact the North Xiong Nu or the Kidarites. This is based on the fact that the

Kidarites occupied Sogdiana circa AD 337-347, while the Hephthalites did not appear in this district until AD 420 or later.

There were no independent tribes of nomadic origin by the name *Chionites*. It has been randomly used as a term for all the nomadic tribes with no details on their origin.

No Kushanshah participated in the siege of Amida. One cannot justify A.D. Bivar's suggestion according to present numismatic evidence

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3. Richard N. Frye, *The Golden Age of Persia*, Weidenfeld, London, 1975. Chapter 3, pp. 38-39.
4. Richard N. Frye, *Notes on the Early Coinage of Transoxiana*, Numismatic Notes and Monographs, No. 113, ANS, 1949. pp. 7-13.
5. Martha L. Carter, *A Numismatic Reconstruction of Kushano-Sasanian History*, ANSMN 30, 1985.
6. Robert Göbl, *Sasanian Numismatics*, Klinkhardt and Biermann, Braunschweig, 1971.
7. Michael Mitchiner, *The Ancient and Classical World*, Hawkins Publication, 1978. pp. 205.
8. Robert Göbl, *Münzprägung des Kušanreiches*, Wien, 1984. Plate 64, No. 714-717.
9. Joe Cribb, *Numismatic Evidence for Kushano-Sasanian Chronology*, Studia Iranica, Tome 19-1990-Fascicule 2. Plate II, No. 10.

I am grateful to Dr Lawrence Adams for his kind permission to reproduce the above coin from his collection.

Three Interesting Ancient Indian Coins From The Sammlung Köhler-Osbahr, Duisburg
By Shailendra Bhandare and Ralf Althoff

Amongst the 1000 or so ancient Indian coins in the Köhler-Osbahr Collection, three specimens could be described as noteworthy and command a preliminary publication to facilitate further attention from other specialists in the field.

Two of these coins are of an ancient Indian group of dynasty of kings known as the kings of Panchala, the classical geographic area near Ramnagar, dist. Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. The capital of Panchala was said to be the town of Ahichhatra, and most of the kings known from locally found coins have "mitra"-ending names. The coinage of Panchala has been extensively described by K. M. Shrimali in his monograph¹. The non-availability of this important monograph to both the authors did not allow them to confirm whether similar coins have been included in it. Nevertheless, the characteristics of Panchala coins from the Köhler-Osbahr Collection make them worth a second publication. The coins may be described as below:



I. Metal: Potin or Arseneous Copper (The metallic composition has been deduced purely from the physical appearance), 11.90g

Obv.: A deep incuse in centre, as is the case with most Panchala coins. Within the incuse, two symbols looking like circles attached with curvilinear loops on their right side. The circle on the top has longer lines, and a series of dots, arranged in two rows of three each, on its left side. At the point where the long lines on right meet the circle, two small prongs protruding from the circle are also seen. In isolation, the symbol may be represented as (fig. I).



fig. I



fig. II

The second symbol is very similar to the first, but it has shorter lines on the right. It also has two lines with hooked ends on its left. This symbol can be represented as (fig. II). Below these two symbols a legend is seen in Brahmi characters, which reads *Bha Nu Mi Ta Sa*, meaning "of Bhanumitra" (skt. Bhanumitrasya).

Rev.: A tree with perfectly horizontal branches with leaves represented as dots between them, with a railing around it. A strange symbol composed of a closed semicircle and three circumferentially arranged dots, to the left.



II. Metal: Potin or arsenaceous copper, 13.44g

Obv.: Similar to coin (I.) but the legend reads in Brahmi *A Gi Mi Ta Sa*, standing for "of Agnimitra" (skt. *Agnimitrasya*). The coin is countermarked on this side with a mark similar to the second mark, but smaller in size.

Rev.: A tree within a railing as on coin (I.), but with branches at an angle as against horizontal on coin (I.). The semicircular symbol with dots makes a partial appearance on the left side.

The importance of these coins lies in the fact that they show a remarkable deviation from the characteristic type-features of the usual Panchala issues. The regular issues invariably have a deity on reverse whose iconographic aspects corroborate the name of the issuing kings. Instead of this feature, these coins have a tree-in-railing on the reverse. However, the fact indicating that they are Panchala issues lies within the similarity of the symbols on these coins with the regular Panchala issues. The symbol placed just above the name is an integral part of regular Panchala coinage, except that on them it is seen in its vertical form. The symbol countermarked on coin (II.) is identical with this symbol. Also, the regular Panchala Coins show a tree with horizontal branches (fig. 3) just above the name on obverse. In addition to the similarity in symbols, the manufacturing technique yielding a deep incuse on obverse and palaeography of the inscription also indicate that the coins published here, although anomalous, are in fact Panchala issues.



fig 3

Coins of this type are not totally unknown. One specimen with the name *Suryamitra* has been listed by Mitchiner². This coin is also countermarked on the obverse, as is the case with the coin in the Köhler-Osbahr Collection. One more specimen of the same *Suryamitra* type and counter-marked on the obverse was noted in the collection of Jan Lingen, by one of the authors (Bhandare). It is likely that Mr. Lingen's specimen is identical with the one illustrated in Mitchiner, although Mitchiner quotes a different provenance for it.



III. 5-symbol Punch-marked coin *Karshapana*



The Stag

The third interesting coin from the Köhler-Osbahr Collection is an imperial 5-symbol Punch-marked coin, classically known as *Karshapana*. The importance of this coin lies in the fact that it brings forth a hitherto unknown zoomorphic symbol. Flora and Fauna are very well represented on PMC's and the masterwork by P. L. Gupta & Terry Hardaker illustrates snake³, owl⁴ camel⁵, donkey⁶, and frog⁷ apart from the commoner elephant, bull and rabbit marks.

The coin from the Köhler-Osbahr Collection shows a deer, or rather, a stag with elaborate horns placed over his head. The execution of the animal is very neat and considering the size of the punch, meticulously detailed. Along with the associated symbol, it can be classified into series IVd and may be placed near no. 452 of the Gupta & Hardaker catalogue. The coin is shown here in full and with enlargement of the stag symbol (fig. 4). The combination of five symbols is shown as fig. 5.



fig. 4



fig. 5

The authors wish to thank Mrs. Gertraud Neumann of the Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum, Duisburg for providing the photographs for this papers.

References:

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2. Mitchiner M., Oriental Coins and their values, Vol. 1: The Ancient and Classical world, London 1978, P. 574, no. 4548.
3. Gupta, P. L. & Hardaker, T. R., Ancient Indian Silver Punch-marked coins of the Magadha-Maurya Karshapana series, Nasik 1985, series Va, no. 484.
4. Ibid, series Via, no. 538.
5. Ibid, series Va, no. 496.
6. Ibid, series Va, nos. 489-491.
7. Ibid, series IVb, no. 378; series Ivd, nos. 398-403.

Notes on a few Ancient Coins

By Bob Senior

One of the pleasures of collecting Oriental coins is that new varieties are always turning up, many of which are worthy of a small note. Recently I have found sufficient Indo-Scythic coins to cause me to re-do my catalogue of the series which was ready for publication. This will entail months of work but at the same time I can completely revise the numbering which was becoming strained in view of the extra coins surfacing. These notes concern a few coins that have come my way in the last few weeks alongside the above-mentioned Indo-Scythic coins.



1) *Tetradrachm of Elymais*. This unusually fine and complete coin is a variety that I have never seen before. It is of seemingly pure silver and weighs 15.47 gm. The portrait resembles that of Kamnaskires III with Anzaze (see Alram 454¹) and his dress is similar to that worn by Kamnaskires III on those coins and those of Kamnaskires IV. On the reverse there is a bearded bust, monogram before, contained within a square legend 'ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΚΑΜΝΑΣΚΙΠΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΕΓ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΚΑΜΝΑΣΚΙΠΟΥ'. This reverse type is normally given to a Kamnaskires V though the legend also occurs on the coins of Kamnaskires IV (as identified by Michael Alram). On this coin the legend is as perfectly clear as on the latter's coins and not garbled as on the base silver coins of

Kamnaskires V. I admit that I haven't kept up-to-date with this series and maybe somewhere there are similar coins or newer theories published but from the evidence of this coin I would suggest a different interpretation of this coinage. On my coin there is a trace of a date below the legend and though mostly off the coin, the middle letter seems to be certainly Λ. In fact I feel confident that the date is ΘΛΣ = 239 or 74/3 BC in the Seleucid era. Having read this I tried to find more dates for the series and only then discovered that the joint Kamnaskires with Anzaze coins are known dated as late as 76/5 BC.

Since the reverse type is known on base silver and copper coins as late as 36/5 BC it seems unlikely that they were all struck by one king. The young portrait coins (Alram 458) and older portrait coins (Alram 461) with a different reverse (seated Zeus, as on the joint coins with Anzaze) may represent a different mint, or series rather than a different king. These latter coins bear dates in the 60's and 50's BC. Since the earliest known date for Kamnaskires (III) is c. 82 BC we may postulate a period of some 30 years during which both reverse types were in use. Thereafter the coinage became debased, legends corrupted and these coins were possibly struck for several decades by another Kamnaskires (?) or possibly during an interregnum. This new coin would suggest that too many Kamnaskires may have been created from the few known obverse portraits and reverse types.

2) Not illustrated. In Michael Mitchiner's 'Ancient and Classical World' (MAC) he illustrates a hemidrachm of Diodotos (1599) which Osmund Bopearachchi omitted from his Bibliothèque Nationale (BN) catalogue of the series. Perhaps this was due to the king's name being absent from the coin. Osmund may have thought it could be an issue in the name of Antiochos. I have in my possession a second specimen of this extremely rare issue with the same monogram as on the previous coin (which I believe was also in my collection originally), but with the king's name clearly shown ΔΙΟΔΟΤΟΥ. 1.85 gm.



3) A square copper of Apollodotos I with EI on the obverse (as BN 6D) but NO field letters or monogram on the reverse. 9.46 gin.



4) *Menander*. A square copper of BN série 28 but with no obverse monogram and *Sam* (Kharosthi) in the reverse right field. 2.26 gm. This is clearly not the same as BN 28H with *Sa*.



5) *Strato tetradrachm*. This 'type' is published as BN 23C but an interesting feature is that the king's helmet is armoured and not the smooth type shown on all other published issues of this type. The armoured helmet appears on issues 2 and 6 when he is still a boy but the older portraits have only the smooth helmet (23 and 28). Issue 16, the spearthruuster type, has an armoured helmet. As Strato matured he expanded his titles and this unique variant of type 23

not only introduced a new monogram but seems to suggest that there was a transition between his youthful types (with armoured helmet) and his later mature portraits (wearing a smooth helmet). This coin would be the latest of the former, it weighs 9.22 gm.



6) *Hermaios drachm*. This is a posthumous issue with straight diadem ties and monogram in the right field. The coin has a copper core and hence its weight at 1.36 gm. The monogram BI is new for Hermaios though it may be related to the BO appearing on some later coins of Zoilos II (?) and B on coins of Apollodotos II. More complicated monograms using BA or BAI appear on coins of Hermaios (BN 2A), and Apollodotos II and Azes. One Azes tetradrachm issue with Zeus Nikephoros reverse has BI in the upper right field.



7) *Ancient copper*. The obverse seems to have a flower design or possibly a portrait of Heracles?! The reverse has
The remarkable thing about this coin is that it is 8 mm thick but only 15.5 mm broad. It weighs 6.90 gm.



8) *Ancient copper* similar to MAC 44 18/9 but very thin and only half weight. 2.08 gm. Not illustrated.



9) *Coin of Kujula Kadphises*. These small coppers usually weigh around 2 gm and have the legends off. A Kharosthi letter usually appears in the left field. On this coin the flan is unusually large and the weight is 3.61 gm. It seems to be an earlier version (or double unit?). On the obverse, the Greek doesn't resolve itself into anything meaningful. Zeus is to the right (as on coins of Abdagases and Gondophares-Sases - with vertical sceptre) and there is a Kharosthi *Va* before him. On the reverse, the seated king has an inscription that seems to match that published in MAC (2880) but with the **clear addition of Yavugasa** (the equivalent of ZA00Y).



10) *Kushan copper*. This small copper has a nimbate standing king (seemingly helmeted) on the obverse putting incense on a fire altar. A Kharosthi letter may be before the king's face. The legend is unclear but may begin on the right with OOE(SHKI) = Huvishka? On the reverse is Siva with the bull Nandi - to the **right**. The legend in the right field resembles AHOHA but the reading is uncertain. The weight is 3.74 gm. This coin falls into the class of well known 'Kashmir' type coppers, which are often magnetic

(usually with a black patina). This coin is not magnetic. As far as I know, no coin is reported with this reverse of either Kanishka or Huvishka. MAC 3440 shows a similar coin, of Vasu Deva, which is copper, twice the weight but with Nandi to the left. This unusual coin is an important addition to the depictions of Siva and may indicate that one of Vasu Deva's predecessors initiated the type.



11) *A tetradrachm of the Kharahostes family*. Previously I have suggested that a coin type in the name of Azes (A) may have been issued by Kharahostes and have been the higher denomination to the coppers that bear his name. This was a tentative suggestion based on the appearance of the Kharosthi letter *Kha* in the right field and the fact that the type is known only from a hoard where this was the only 'Pallas' type of Azes and most of the other coins were posthumous or very late issues. Now this new coin has surfaced which bears the same symbols and monogram as on the coins of Hajatriasa, Kharahostes' son (and the coinage probably by him that was issued prior to them but in the name of Azes). It has the simplest form with no extra symbols or letters on the obverse apart from the three-armed symbol before the horse. The Greek is closest to the original. Most remarkably it has the *Kha* on the reverse in the right field, exactly as on coin A and unlike any previously known coin of this type. Again, there are no extra symbols or letters apart from the left monogram. It weighs 9.46 gm and suggests that there may be a stronger link between coin A and the coins of Kharahostes than I had previously supposed. This coin came from a large hoard (reportedly 600-1000 coins) from Swat, many of which were sold in Germany in 1996/7.

12) I have recently acquired a 1/4 denomination of the copper of Azilises with Hephaisstos obverse/lion reverse (not illustrated). This last year has seen several 1/4 denominations surface of coppers of Maues and Azilises that were previously unrecorded. It would seem that most, if not all, of their Hazara issues were struck in both denominations - unit and 1/4 (no halves). The few gaps still existing will surely be filled in the coming years.

13) Finally - details of a small hoard, also from Swat, of Indo-Greek drachms. Seen but not photographed.

Apollodotos I round drachm - BN 2

Lysias drachm BN 3A with young portrait.

Antialcidas BN 9A, 10A, 12B (one elephant right, one elephant left and king with straight diadem ties), 12C (monogram under throne), 13A (three but one without cross bar to A in the monogram).

Philoxenos BN 4G

Diomedes BN 4B

Hermaios and Calliope BN 2B

Posthumous Hermaios BN 11H (in mint state).

Most coins were EF-ish and one or two of the Antialcidas drachms were mint state.

NOTE

1. Alram M., *Iranisches Personennamenbuch* Vienna 1986.

Addendum To Information Sheet No. 28
The Coinage Of Some Rewa Kantha, Gujerat, India.
 By KW Wiggins and M Culver

The publication of Information Sheet No. 28 aroused some interest among those members who collect and study coins of the Indian States. Several members have notified some new types, variations and overstrikes and these are listed under the heading of the state in question. Type numbers are as given in the original paper.

Lunavada

	Obverse	Reverse	Wt.
1			9.2g This is a new type of coin. From the partial inscription on the obverse it is probably a paisa of Dalpatsinghji (1849-1851). The inscription is in Devanagari but incorrectly engraved. A possible full reading is डलपत. The त could be the final letter of Dalpat. The word following is inscribed as सत्रज for सिंहजी
2			The obverse shows a katar pointing left, with the partial name above it. The reverse has fragments of the bad shah ghazi legend. (M Culver)
8.2g			This is a similar coin. The name above the katar is not on the flan. An interesting feature of this coin is that it is overstruck on a paisa of Baroda, dated 12xx, regnal year 23 (Cr. 33.3). Baroda coins of this regnal year (Muhammad Akbar II) are dated AH 1243 = AD 1827-1828. (M Culver)

Coins of Dalal Singhji

	Obverse	Reverse	Wt.
3a			3.7g This must be a half paisa with a obverse similar to No.1 in the original paper (B Rhode)
3b			8.8g Similar to the above but with the ruler's name positioned under the emblem. (J Lingen)
4			8.1g This appears to be a paisa of Type 4 struck on Type 5. The reverse is a jumbled bad shah ghazi legend, but part of the name Dalal can be seen. (B Rhode)

Sunth

	Obverse	Reverse	Wt.
1			8.4g A paisa with the usual reverse of Sri Rampur and the obverse showing a number of spear-like weapons. Struck on a coin of unidentified origin. (J Lingen)
2			7.6g A paisa. The obverse with two fly-whisks. Usual reverse. (J Lingen)
3			6.9g A paisa with four katars arranged in a circle on the obverse. (J Lingen)
4			9.3g A paisa similar to Type 5 but with more hands shown on the obverse. (B Rhode)
5			7.8g Paisa. Obverse: a flag. A rather crudely engraved reverse. (B Rhode)

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|--|
| 6 |  |  | 7.6g Paise. Four hands arranged cross-wise on obverse. (J Lingen) |
| 7 |  |  | 8.3g Paise. A round coin, whereas most are square or irregularly shaped. The obverse shows three or four standards with flags. (N. Buis) |
| 8 |  |  | 7.25g Obverse: a number of katars arranged in opposition. Reverse: fragments of the usual inscription. |
| 9 |  |  | 7.6g Obverse: similar but has been overstruck with Type D. Usual reverse. |
| 10 |  | श्री २५२ | 8.6g Paise. Type 3 overstruck on Type 8. (J Lingen) |
| 11 |  | श्री २५२ | 7.8g Type 1 overstruck on a paise of Baroda dated AH 128x (Y. 7a). Therefore struck after 1865. (J Lingen) |

Uncertain Issues

- | | Obverse | Reverse | Wt. |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 |  |  | 4.3g This appears to be somewhat similar to the half paise depicted as Nos. 1-6 in the original paper. (M Culver) |
| 2 |  |  | 7.5g This coin is quite unknown but may be a paise of Sunth which was inadvertently struck with two obverse dies. (J Lingen) |
| 3 |  |  | 4.8g A totally unknown coin which cannot be connected with any of the types previously described. (B Rhode) |

The Hyderabad "92" mystery
By Tony Holmes

I had been intrigued by the number "92" which appears on many Hyderabad cons. Rev. R Plant, in his book *Arabic coins and how to read them* states that he does not know what it means - and as his knowledge is so wide, this was a real challenge! Collectors of Indian coins of vast knowledge could not enlighten me.

Nor could I make any progress until last year when I stumbled on the answer in another context. I was about to publish this great discovery when it was mentioned more or less casually by Jan Lingen in his article in the last issue of the Newsletter. Perhaps I can still explain it for those who, like me, did not know the derivation of these figures, which certainly seem too high for a regnal year.

The Hebrew alphabet has numerical values attached to the various letters, taken in their correct alphabetical sequence. The corresponding Arabic letters have the same numerical values, and this is known as the *abjad* system (from the first four letters, like our ABC). After the first four letters, however, it is the Hebrew and not the Arabic order that is followed (see opposite column).

So *Muhammad*, which in Arabic is MHMD = 40+8+40+4 = 92, and writers copying out texts sometimes abbreviate the name by writing in its place the Arabic figures 92 (92). So clearly this is what is meant by this number on Hyderabad coins; it corresponds to the pious invocation found on so many Muslim coins.

ك ي ط ح ز و ه د ج ب ا

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 20

A B J D H W Z H T Ya K

ر ق ص ف ع س ن م ل

30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 200

L M N S ' F S Q R

There are in fact a couple of numismatic parallels known to me - the coinage issued in Hadhramaut (now in Yemen) for the city-state of Ghurfah, with the AH date 1344 (AD 1925/6) has the figures 129 in the legend, meaning *Saleh*, a reference to the local sultan. Likewise Haidar Ali in Mysore uses the number 222 to mean *Haidar*.

Plant was very close to the explanation, for he set out the *abjad* system and showed how it was used by Nadir Shah as a chronogram - words, which, when the letters of which they are composed are translated into numbers, add up to the date of his accession (AH 1148).

A Hoard of Kushan Coins from Nepal

by Nicholas Rhodes

Although a number of Kushan coins have been found in Nepal¹, these have always been single finds, and it has generally been assumed that they circulated in the region in the pre-Lichhavi period, namely before 464 AD². A recent hoard found in Nepal suggests, however, that Kushan copper coins were used in Nepal until at least the seventh century.

In about 1993, a Kathmandu money-changer, Mr Prushotam Shrestha, showed me a group of about five hundred and fifty copper coins, said to have been recently unearthed in the Nepalese hills, to the west of Kathmandu, at a place about two days walk from Pokhara. The coins were almost all completely flat discs of copper, but a few were identifiable, and I was able to select eleven pieces, which can be described as follows:

- 1-3 Kanishka
Obv: King with cloak; Rev: Standing deity, arm raised to left.
Wts. 15.60, 14.15, 13.97
- 4 Huvishka
Obv: King seated on couch; Rev: As last.
Wt. 12.34
- 5-6 Huvishka
Obv: King on elephant; Rev: As last.
Wts. 13.82, 13.13
- 7-8 Mananka RG. V. 1
Wts. 13.31, 13.28
- 9-11 Illegible
Wts. 13.68, 12.60, 12.47

The Kushan coins were all extremely worn, none had any trace of any legible legend, and all the identifiable pieces appeared to be of unremarkable varieties. One of the Mananka coins was in relatively fine state, the only such piece in the hoard when I examined it, although other better Mananka coins had apparently been removed from the lot earlier. The second Mananka coin was heavily worn, but still had traces of the legend visible. Both the Mananka coins, and most of the Kushan coins had a distinctive grey green patina, with small green adhesions to the surface, and no sign of corrosion, although a few showed the red copper of the metal content. None of the coins selected responded to a magnet, and I believe it unlikely that any of the coins in the hoard were of the RG. V-6 varieties, which have significant iron in the alloy, or of the RG. V-7-16 varieties, which have lead in the alloy.

The remarkable aspect of the hoard is that the Kushan coins probably date from the mid-2nd century AD³, whereas the Mananka coins date from the last quarter of the 6th century⁴. I feel, however, based not only on the information from Mr Shrestha, but also from the patina on the coins, that there can be no doubt that all the coins came from the same hoard. This demonstrates that Kushan coins circulated in Nepal during the Lichhavi period, and that they provided an easily available prototype for the weight and fabric of the first Nepalese copper coinage. The Kushan coins must, therefore, have been over four hundred years old at the time of deposit, and the state of wear is consistent with long circulation. However, it is not possible to tell whether the Kushan coins had been brought to the hills only during the sixth century, or whether they had been circulating there for several centuries. What the hoard demonstrates is that, when Kushan coins are discovered in Nepal, it should not be assumed that they reached there before the Lichhavi period, and similar caution should be taken in other regions when using worn Kushan coins to date archaeological strata.

Notes

1. Rhodes, Gabrisch & Valdetaro, *The coinage of Nepal*, Royal Numismatic Society, 1989, p. 15.
2. G Verardi, *Excavations at Harigaon, Kathmandu*, ISMEO, Rome, 1992, p. 184.
3. Based on the chronology proposed by Joe Cribb at a lecture to the Royal Numismatic society in May 1997.
4. Rhodes, Gabrisch & Valdetaro, *op.cit.* pp. 28-9.

A Late Lichhavi Hoard from Nepal

by N. G. Rhodes

In late Spring of 1997, a villager from Panch Khal, about 50km east of Kathmandu, noticed on the spoil heap from the construction of a new road on a hill near his village, an old earthenware pot. On closer examination, he noticed that it was full of copper coins, so

he took it home. Later, he took his find to Kathmandu, showed the coins to local money-changers, who told him they were valuable, and showed the pot to the Museum, who told him it was worthless. The pot was smashed and thrown into the river, and the coins were gradually sold in the market.

While in Kathmandu this autumn, I was informed that there had originally been about one thousand two hundred copper coins in the pot, and perhaps two hundred have been sold to date by the villager, including what are probably the most interesting pieces. One informant had visited the villager in Panch Khal in September, and had seen the remainder of the hoard, but was unable to purchase them. While in Kathmandu, I was able to photograph about fifty of the more interesting coins, and it is now worth publishing an initial report on the hoard, which contains a number of previously rare or unrecorded types.

I illustrate below a selection of coins from the hoard, together with weights of the examples that I happened to acquire from the hoard. They can be described as follows:

RGV - Type G.2b

1. Obv: Bull standing right, crescent & dot above. RG. V 104. Rev: Legend *Pasupati* around sun symbol, three buds in angles. N*
2. As last, but no dot in crescent. RG. V 97. R(2.49, 1.95, 1.23*, 1.19)
3. As last, but only one bud in angles on rev. RG. V 97 var. R(1.46*)
4. As last, but crescent and dot in angles on rev. RG. V - N*

RGV - Type G.2c

5. As no.2, but crude rev. as RG. V 164. R(1.02*)
6. As last, but very crude rev., with no legend, as RG. V 165. R(0.99*)

RGV - Type G.3e

7. Obv: As no.1, but rev. legend in four petals. RG. V 119 var. N*, R(1.31)
8. As last, but obv. as no.2. RG. V 119. R(2.25, 1.88, 1.12, 1.08, 0.92, 0.88, 0.87*)

RGV - unpublished

9. As last, but bull facing left. RG. V - R(1.34*, 1.17)
10. As last, but bull has front leg raised. RG. V - N*

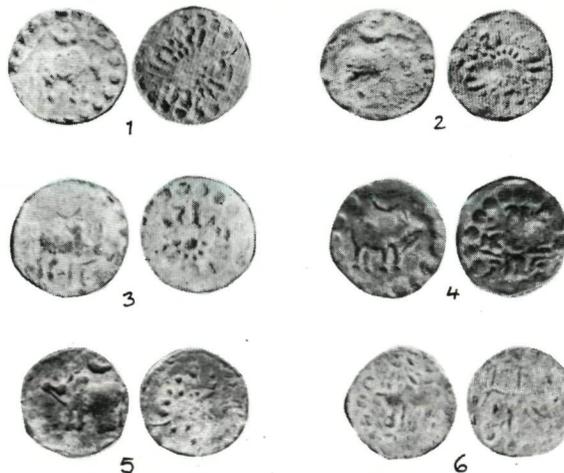
RGV - unpublished

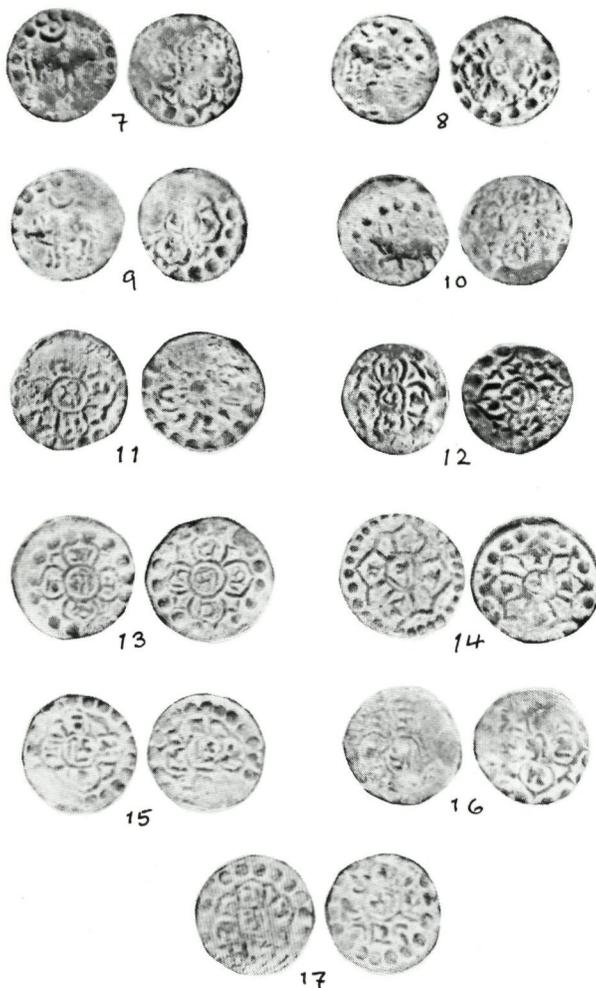
11. Obv. as rev. of 7; rev. as no.3. RG. V - N*, R(1.53)

RGV - Type G.7

12. Obv & Rev, both have legend in four petals, and fifth letter in central circle. RG. V 159.
13. As last, style differs. RG. V 159 var. N*
14. As last, style differs. RG. V 159 var. R(1.86)
15. As last, central letter *Sri* reversed on both sides. RG. V 159 var. R(1.75)
16. As last, but central letter not inverted, and on rev. is not in circle. RG. V 159 var. R(1.14)
17. As last, but rev. as no.4, but with *Sri* in circle, rather than sun symbol in centre. RG. V 159 var. N*

Others of Type G.7 - R(2.06, 2.00, 1.96, 1.78, 1.60, 1.53, 1.44, 1.43, 1.09)





Śri श्री ञा णे श्री
 Si སྐ སྐ
 Va བ བ བ
 De ཨ ཨ ཨ ཨ

The weights of the specimens in my own collection range between about 0.8g to just over 2.0g, consistent with other late coins of Type G.

In conclusion, this can only be an interim report on this important new hoard, but I should like to thank Alexander Lissanevitch and Prushotam Shrestha for information regarding its discovery and contents, and for allowing me to examine the specimens in their collections.

The Tibetan Grain Tokens By Wolfgang Bertsch



Fig.1

Grain token struck over Tibetan 5 sho copper coin

In 1983 the late Karl Gabrisch published two Lhasa grain tokens struck on Tibetan 5 Sho copper coins, after the original design had been more or less thoroughly erased. With the help of H Chang and L Brillant, Mr Gabrisch read the legend almost correctly as *La Hsiu Han / Mi Liang / Ssu Liang* which would be the following in Pinyin transcription which is presently used in China: *La Xiu Chang / Mi Liang / Si Liang*.¹ As translation, Gabrisch gave *Lhasa factory / millet ration/ four Liang*. Subsequently, Mr Bruce W. Smith suggested a completely different translation for the first part of the legend: *La Hsiu Han = La Hsiu (place name) cliff*, mentioning that there exists a monastery called *La Hsiu* in southern Qinghai province.² After inquiries which I made in Lhasa in autumn 1997 regarding the origin of these tokens, I can confirm Mr Gabrisch's reading and translation. The first part of the legend consisting of three Chinese characters is actually an abbreviated form of the following, with the characters not found on the token places within parentheses:

拉萨汽车修理厂
 La (Sa Qi Che) Xiu (Li) Chang

This translates as *Lhasa motor vehicle repair factory (workshop)*. The Tibetan name of this workshop supposedly was:

ལ་ས་མོ་རཱ་བཅོ་ག
 Lha-sa Mo-ta bZo-gra

This workshop was founded some time after 1959 and was active till about the end of the Cultural Revolution and located west of the Norbu Lingka (summer residence of the Dalai Lamas).

The legend within the central circle reads *Mi Liang*, which can be translated as *quality rice*, while the two characters below refer to the amount of rice (grain) for which this token is good: *Si Liang* (four Liang).

At that time (1960s) there was a great food shortage in Tibet (as in most provinces of China) due to enforced collective farming and the introduction of wheat unsuited for Tibet's high altitude. In these difficult times, most workers were paid with ration coupons

The above selection is certainly not representative of the complete hoard, but may be regarded as representative of the coins that have been sold in the market, albeit without some of the minor varieties, particularly of RGV 159, that were only present in very few numbers. Since the vendor was charging a fixed rate per coin, irrespective of type, it has only been the more unusual varieties that have so far been sold.

The hoard is remarkable, in that perhaps about two hundred pieces are of types that were previously either unknown or very rare, and the other thousand pieces are apparently rather light, and hence probably late, varieties of the rather common type, RGV 97. Following the classification used in RGV, the hoard can be dated on numismatic grounds to the end of the reign of Narendradeva, or early in the reign of Sivadeva II, around 680 AD, and since these types have appeared so rarely before, this seems to be the very latest hoard of Licchavi coins to have been discovered. Most of the coins seem to be heavier than the very light examples listed as RGV 163-65, so it is likely that even later Licchavi coins do exist, but the pieces I have seen from the hoard are clearly relatively late in the series.

Since there were no examples of RGV 160-62 in this hoard, and no specimens of RGV 159 in the only hoard we know of to have contained examples of RGV 160-62, the dating of the second Vrsha type must be queried, and may well belong rather earlier in the seventh century, suggested as an alternative dating in RGV, but without further hoard evidence, nothing can be proved either way.

One of the problems that I had not previously been able to solve was the reading of the obverse of RGV 159. The reverse reads very clearly *Sri* (in the centre) and *Pasupati* in the petals around. The obverse also has *Sri* in the centre, but in the petals are what appear to be the letters *Sivadeva*, and if this reading is accepted, the coins can be categorically dated to the reign of Sivadeva II who ruled from c680-690. The calligraphy is rather unusual for Licchavi coins, and is certainly different from that on the stone inscriptions of this period, so I set out below the letters as they appear on those coins with clear legends. Certain letters are occasionally reversed, as can be seen.

or received these at least as part of their payment. I illustrate an example of these coupons (Fig.2) which were issued in Tibet before and during the Cultural Revolution - probably at about the same time when the copper grain tokens were introduced for the workers of the Lhasa Repair Workshop.

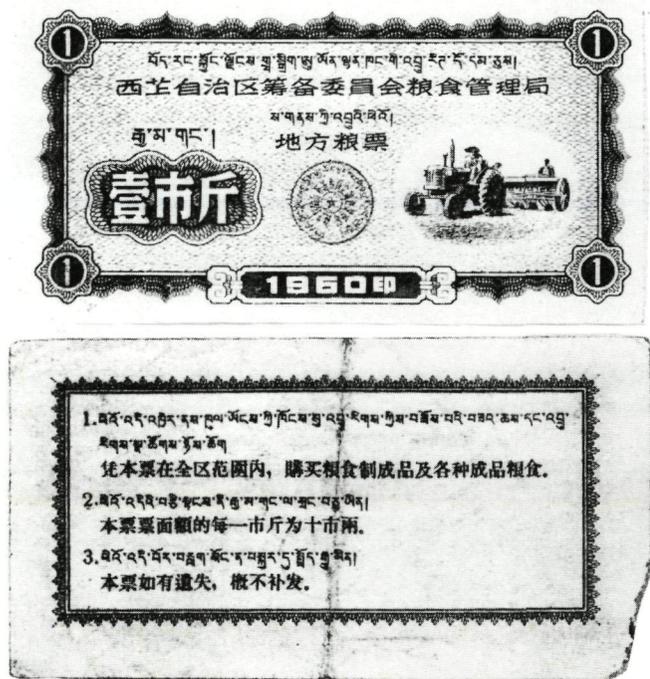


Fig. 2 Tibetan ration coupon

The coupon is good for one rGya-ma or one Chinese Shijin (city jin) of grain, about 1/2 kilogram. It was issued by the *liangshi guanli ju* (Grain Management Bureau) in 1960. The legend in Chinese and Tibetan on the reverse mentions that it is forbidden to forge or alter or sell these coupons and that they cannot be replaced if lost.

According to an informant from Lhasa, each worker of the repair-shop received about 10 of these tokens per month in addition to his salary, which was about one Yuan a day. One token could buy 4 Liang (= ca. 150 grams) of rice or barley, the former being preferred by Chinese workers and the latter by Tibetans. Alternatively, one could consume three bowls of rice for one token in the factory's canteen.

All the tokens which were known so far, are struck over Tibetan 5 Sho copper coins, but recently I acquired a specimen struck over a Tibetan 3 Sho copper coin. The original coin was dated 16-20 (AD 1946), both obverse and reverse designs were imperfectly erased and enough of the obverse design of the 3 Sho coin has remained on the side which was not restruck. This has allowed an easy identification of the original coin.

[Ed.: the illustration of this coin has unfortunately not reproduced very clearly]

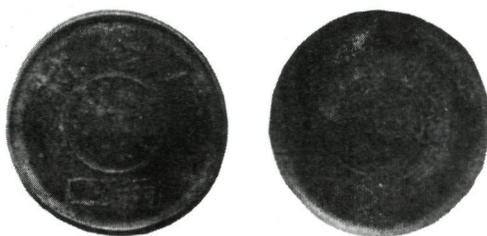


Fig. 3

Grain token struck over Tibetan 3 sho copper coin

It is likely that most of these tokens were melted down after the Lhasa Repair Workshop had closed towards the end of the Cultural Revolution, which would explain why these tokens are quite scarce nowadays.

NOTES

1. Gabrisch, Karl: *Grain tokens from Tibet*. In ONS Newsletter 82 (1983).
2. Smith, Bruce W.: *A token from Tibet??*. In East Asia Journal, issue no. 5, first quarter 1983, p. 71

Pattern coins for the Sultan of Sulú

By Michael Anderson



Spink Numismatic Circular for September 1997 listed and illustrated as no. 4623 a pattern cent in the name of a Sultan Muhammad Jamala'l-a'azam. This coin, together with its half and quarter, was discussed at length in an article by the late Major Fred Pridmore in Spink Numismatic Circular for September 1979, pp 378-380, under the title *Are they pattern coins for British North Borneo?* More recent references have been in *A numismatic history of the Birmingham Mint* by James O Sweeney (Birmingham 1981), pp 96-6, and *The encyclopaedia of the coins of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei 1400-1967* by Saran Singh (second edition, Kuala Lumpur 1996), pp 375 and 383.

Saran Singh says that no sultan bearing the name Muhammad Jamala'l-a'azam was known to have existed in Sulú or Brunei around the period when the pattern coins were struck. The ruler of Sulú at that time was Sultan Jamulul-a'lam. He says that it is probable that the name on the pattern coins could be a fantasy which was inserted to acknowledge a former hereditary ruler of northern Borneo by the new regime of Arthur Dent.

This seems to me too complicated. If the name is a fantasy, how does its use acknowledge a former hereditary ruler of northern Borneo, and why should Overbeck and Dent wish to acknowledge such a ruler rather than the existing ruler of Sulú, from whom they had just obtained the concession for North Borneo in return for an annual payment of 5000 dollars? The inclusion of the name Muhammad is not, as thought by Pridmore, an obstacle, since, as I pointed out in a letter published in Spink Numismatic Circular for November 1979, p 507, Muhammad is an integral part of his name (the actual grant to Overbeck and Dent commences *We, Sri Paduka Maulana Al Sultan Mohamet Jamal Al Alam Bin Sri Paduka Al Marhoum Al Sultan Mohamet Fathlon, Sultan of Sulu and the dependencies thereof* and ends written in Lipuk, in Sulu, at the Palace of His Highness Mohamet Jamal Al Alam, on the 19th Moharam, AH 1295, answering to the 22nd January, AD 1878). That the Arabic za can equate to a Roman letter "I" in the names of Sultans of Sulú can be seen from the coin of the Sultan Alimuddin (Azim-ud-Din) illustrated in Dr Angelita Ganzon de Legarda's *Piloncitos to Pesos* (Manila 1976), p 47. There should therefore be no difficulty in identifying the name of the Sultan Muhammad Jamala'l-a'zam on the pattern coins with the sultan who ruled Sulú from 1862 to 1881.

An Index to Mitchiner - World of Islam (1977)

H. Edmund Hohertz

Ever since Michael Mitchiner's much used and referenced book *The World of Islam* appeared in 1977 users have been frustrated by its lack of an index. At long last this has been rectified and I am pleased to be able to make available to ONS members the following two-part listing:

Part I: Keyword Index

Part II: Dynasty Index (Modified from Bosworth)

Please inform me of any corrections, additions, etc. in order to make this index of value to future users.

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Middleburg Hts, OH 44130, USA
h9027683@llohio.wviz.org

Key to Abbreviations:

Works Cited:

Mitchiner, Michael. *Oriental coins and their values.* Vol. I: The World of Islam. London: Hawkins Publications, 1977

The dynasty list and coin photographs are sometimes separated by many pages. If two page numbers are listed, the first is to the dynasty information and the second is to the catalogue listing.

Bosworth, Clifford Edmund. *The New Islamic Dynasties.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.

Entry Notes

NI = Non-Islamic coin listing

NC = No coins listed in the catalogue

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