

OCCASIONAL PAPER NO.9

A TRIAL LISTING OF THE MODERN GOLD COINS OF OTTOMAN EGYPTBY SAMUEL LACHMANINTRODUCTION

This is an attempt to list the main varieties known to exist of the gold coins struck in Ottoman Egypt after the coinage reform of Muhammad Ali in A.H. 1251/1834 A.D. The reform began with an ordinance of the same year (1), and the pertinent particulars were that the gold was to be 875/1000 fine, the following denominations being provided for:-

500 piastres	37 mm	42.85 g	(5 livres égyptiennes)
100 piastres	21.4 mm	8.544 g	(1 livre égyptienne)
50 piastres	18.0 mm	4.274 g	(½ livre égyptienne)
25 piastres	15 mm	2.136 g	(¼ livre égyptienne)
20 piastres	19 mm	1.7088 g	(Masriah)
10 piastres	15 mm	0.8544 g	(Nousf Masriah)
5 piastres	12.9 mm	0.4272 g	(Rebiah Masriah)

Diameters seem to vary slightly and the 100 piastre coin of the 12th regnal year of Abdul Hamid II has a diameter of 23.9 mm. Production commenced in 1836 but in no reign were all denominations minted, the 20 piastre piece being replaced at some point by one of 25 piastres.

All coins bear on the obverse the tughra of the Ottoman sultan. In the reign of Mahmud II the word **عَدْلِي** (adli = just) appears at the right of the tughra being replaced in subsequent issues by a flower or on some of the later coins of Abdul Hamid II by the word **الغزى** (Al-Ghazi). Below the tughra is a number indicating the denomination in piastres and the Arabic letter **ش** (sh for *ghurush*). The field of both sides is otherwise plain, with the exception of the 100 piastre coin of the 12th year of Abdul Hamid II, which has floral borders on both sides. The tughra of the sultans is identical with that on the coins struck at Istanbul as described by Cüneyt Ölçer (2), with the exception of the tughra of Murad V which reads 'Khan Murad b. Abdul Mejid el-muzaffer dai'ma' (instead of Mehmed Murad) (3). The reverse inscription reads:-

ضرب في
مصر
١٢٥٥

duriba	struck
fi	in
misr	Egypt
1255	1255

All coins have a reeded edge.

The coins were all struck at Cairo up to the 8th regnal year of Abdul Hamid II (1883) when the mint was closed. Egyptian coinage was changed again in 1303/1885, after which only one gold coin was produced for circulation. The 100 piastre pieces of 1888 were struck at the official Berlin mint, the mintage being quoted as 52 024 pieces (4). 10 and 5 piastre coins of later dates were struck as presentation pieces or as coin jewellery for private orders outside Egypt (5). No details have come to light but they were probably produced in private mints.

At no time during the period were adequate quantities of gold coins minted. At the time of Muhammad Ali's reform, numerous foreign gold coins were in circulation. The ordinance of 1251/1834 fixed the following rates of exchange (P.T. = piastre tarif) (9).

British Sovereign		97½ P.T.
French Louis d'or	77 6/40	P.T.
Sequin (Turkish fundukli altin)	45 26/40	P.T.
Bounduki (Venetian ducat)	46 17/40	P.T.
Dabloun (Spanish)	313 29/40	P.T.

After the coinage reform of 1303/1885, the British sovereign, the French Napoleon d'or and the Turkish gold pound were declared legal tender in Egypt at rates of 97.50, 77.15 and 87.75 Egyptian piastres respectively. In addition, the Egyptian government began to withdraw Egyptian gold coins from circulation (10).

Some pattern coins, engraved by Albert Barre (11), were struck at the Paris mint dated regnal year 4. The coins do not show the flower near the tughra and the edge is plain. No such coins were minted for circulation. The particulars are as follows (12) :-

400 piastres	38 mm	34 g
200 piastres	30 mm	17 g
100 piastres	21 mm	8.50 g
50 piastres	19 mm	4.25 g
25 piastres	17 mm	2.10 g

The 400 piastre is illustrated in the catalogue of the Egypt Palace collection, lot No. 1257.

MINTAGES

The following table lists the numbers of the gold coins struck between 1836 and 1883 as recorded by Ahmad Fuad Pasha (6). The calendar period corresponding to each year is unknown. Before the French invasion of 1798, the financial year began at the end of August, but this may well have been changed. The coins struck in a certain year cannot be assumed to bear the corresponding regnal year. This could be true in some cases, but coins may have been struck in advance or at a later date. The mintage figures give therefore only a general idea of the quantities which were minted; for example, the listing of 56 5 livre pieces for 1875 seems to be erroneous. These coins were probably minted in 1876.

In order to facilitate comparisons, the mintage figures are supplemented by lists showing the dates on which each regnal year began. They have been calculated from the Muslim dates mentioned by Cüneyt Ölçer (7), with the help of tables by G.S.P. Freeman - Grenville (8). Various other sources give different dates and in view of the fact that the Muslim day begins in the evening, differences of a day are possible.

Gold Coins Struck at Cairo between 1836 & 1833

(as recorded by Ahmad Fuad Pasha in 1914)

Year	5 livres	1 livre	$\frac{1}{2}$ livre	$\frac{1}{4}$ livre	Masriah	Nousf Masriah	Rebiah Masriah
1836		80			199 523	75 734	32 374
1837		4 281			159 652	59 728	106 280
1838		2 191			157 597	46 407	145 350
1839		5 025	550		136 014	38 719	217 156
1840		75 446	13 250				43 128
1841		38 587	3 064				51 244
1842		76 880	7 378				21 566
1843		247 746	28 241				43 000
1844		184 456	21 878				24 601
1845		32 547	3 551				28 600
1846		21 162	2 745				100 134
1847		15 222	2 334				36 487
1848		15 785	404				12 860
1849		25 091	2 419				96 080
1850		19 900	1 000				16 000
1851		12 900	800				5 805
1852		11 459	1 000				
1853		160 499	8 850				29 639
1854		122 820	13 620				69 367
1855		16 309	1 001				67 500
1856							60 519
1857							192 363
1858							29 530
1859							24 025
1860							4 258
1861							69 267
1862							
1863		4 050					62 310
1864							227 541
1865		12 503					207 698
1866		54 742					87 897
1867		50 148					50 683
1868		70 798		28 492			37 418
1869	118	15 843		25 360			138 467
1870		14 479		3 050		27 750	81 500
1871	200	50 976	1 100	22 078		21 669	38 168
1872		2 412	1 830	12 595		12 641	138 123
1873		13 556	800	12 652		27 563	246 530
1874		26 123	3 000	13 851		3 500	126 125
1875	56	55 081	4 045	17 600			37 330
1876		63 290	5 615			5	
1877		4 498	90				4 500
1878				281			23 694
1879							8 643
1880		237				9 955	130 195
1881						9 875	161 400
1882	5	4	2	3			26 500
1883		2 700				4 002	95 000

The Regnal Years of the Ottoman Sultans

Regnal Year	Began On	Regnal Year	Began On	Regnal Year	Began On
<u>Mahmud II</u>		<u>Abdul Aziz</u>		<u>Abdul Hamid II</u>	
Accession: 4 Jumada al-ukhra 1223 28 July 1808		Accession: 17 Dhu al-Hijja 1277 25 June 1861		Accession: 10 Sha'ban 1293 31 August 1876	
29	28 Sep. 1835	1	25 Jun. 1861	1	31 Aug. 1876
30	16 Sep. 1836	2	15 Jun. 1862	2	20 Aug. 1877
31	5 Sep. 1837	3	5 Jun. 1863	3	9 Aug. 1878
32	25 Aug. 1838	4	24 May 1864	4	30 Jul. 1879
Died on 19 Rabi al-akhir 1255 3 July 1839		5	13 May 1865	5	18 Jul. 1880
<u>Abdul Mejid</u>		6	3 May 1866	6	8 Jul. 1881
Accession: 19 Rabi al-akhir 1255 3 July 1839		7	22 Apr. 1867	7	27 Jun. 1882
1	3 Jul. 1839	8	10 Apr. 1868	8	16 Jun. 1883
2	20 Jun. 1840	9	31 Mar. 1869	9	5 Jun. 1884
3	10 Jun. 1841	10	20 Mar. 1870	10	25 May 1885
4	30 May 1842	11	10 Mar. 1871	11	14 May 1886
5	19 May 1843	12	27 Feb. 1872	12	4 May 1887
6	8 May 1844	13	15 Feb. 1873	13	22 Apr. 1888
7	27 Apr. 1845	14	5 Feb. 1874	14	11 Apr. 1889
8	16 Apr. 1846	15	25 Jan. 1875	15	1 Apr. 1890
9	6 Apr. 1847	16	14 Jan. 1876	16	21 Mar. 1891
10	25 Mar. 1848	Deposed on 7 Jumada al-aula 1293 30 May 1876		17	10 Mar. 1892
11	14 Mar. 1849	<u>Murad V</u>		18	27 Feb. 1893
12	4 Mar. 1850	Accession: 7 Jumada al-aula 1293 30 May 1876		19	16 Feb. 1894
13	21 Feb. 1851	Deposed on		20	6 Feb. 1895
14	11 Feb. 1852	10 Sha'ban 1293		21	26 Jan. 1896
15	30 Jan. 1853	31 August 1876		22	14 Jan. 1897
16	19 Jan. 1854	Regnal year 1 only		23	4 Jan. 1898
17	9 Jan. 1855			24	24 Dec. 1898
18	29 Dec. 1855			25	14 Dec. 1899
19	17 Dec. 1856			26	3 Dec. 1900
20	7 Dec. 1857			27	22 Nov. 1901
21	26 Nov. 1858			28	12 Nov. 1902
22	15 Nov. 1859			29	1 Nov. 1903
23	4 Nov. 1860			30	20 Oct. 1904
Died on 17 Dhu al-Hijja 1277 25 June 1861				31	10 Oct. 1905
				32	29 Sep. 1906
				33	18 Sep. 1907
				34	7 Sep. 1908
				Abdicated 6 Rabi' al-akhir 1327 27 April 1909	

REFERENCES

- (1) Ahmad Fuad Pasha. *La Monnaie Egyptienne*, Paris 1914. pp.48 - 51
The Author of this book was later King Fuad I of Egypt.
- (2) Cüneyt Ölçer. *Son alti Osmanlı Padışahı zamanında İstanbul'da basılan gümüş paralar*. İstanbul 1966. pp. 9, 22, 31.
- . *Sultan Mahmud II zamanında darp edilen Osmanlı madeni paraları*. İstanbul 1970. p.11.
- (3) Samuel Lachman. *Die Tugra des Osmanischen Sultans Murad V.*
Schweizer Münzblätter, vol. 24, No. 96 (Nov. 1974), pp.116/18.
- (4) Hugo Hamerich. *Die Deutschen Reichsmünzen*. Berlin 1905. p.86.
- (5) Marcel Jungfleisch. *Une erreur de gravure sur certains quart de talari d'Ismail Pasha*. *Bulletin de l'Institut d'Egypte*, vol.23, p.223, notes that the importation of coins struck privately abroad was permitted.
- (6) Ahmad Fuad Pasha, loc. cit., pp.62 - 65.
- (7) Cüneyt Ölçer, loc. cit.
- (8) G.S.P. Freeman-Grenville. *The Muslim and Christian Calenders*. London 1963.
- (9) Ahmad Fuad Pasha, loc. cit., p.55.
- (10) *ibid.*, pp.89 - 90.
- (11) *Berliner Blätter Für Münz-, Siegel-, und Wappenkunde*, vol.6, (1871-1873), p.60.
- (12) Adolph Weyl. *Verzeichnis von Münzen und Denkmünzen Australien, Asien, Afrika... der Jules Fonrobertschen Sammlung*. Berlin 1878. Nos. 5221, 5222, 5223, 5224, 5225.

LISTS OF KNOWN DENOMINATIONS AND DATES

The following lists show all coins which have so far been reported in various collections and sales. The abbreviations used to denote the sources are:-

- ADV Advertisements, i.e. coins offered in auctions and advertisements (detailed below).
- ART Ibrahim and Cevriye Artuk. *Istanbul Arkeoloji Müzeleri Teshirdeki İslami Sikkeler Kataloğu*. İstanbul 1974.
- BM Unpublished coins in the British Museum
- BMC Stanley Lane-Poole. *Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum vol. VIII; London 1883, vol. X 1895.*
- CAIRO Stanley Lane-Poole. *Catalogue of the collection of Arabic Coins preserved in the Khedivial Library at Cairo*. London 1897.
- COP J. Østrup. *Catalogue des monnaies arabes et turques du cabinet Royal des Médailles due Musée National de Copenhague*. 1938.
- d.Q-B Collection Mr. du Quesne-Bird (to whom I am grateful for the information).
- FON Sale catalogue of the Fonrobert collection. 1878.
- FR R. Friedberg. *Gold Coins of the World*. 2nd. Ed. New York 1965.
- GAL Ismail Galip. *Takvim-i Meskukat-i Osmaniye*. İstanbul 1307 (1890).
- LAC The Writer's collection.
- OLC Cüneyt Ölçer. *Sultan Mahmud II zamanında darp edilen Osmanlı madeni paraları*. İstanbul 1970.

DEMONINATIONS AND DATES (Continued)

- OLC IV Cüneyt Ölçer. Rare Ottoman Coins at Soviet Russian Museums (Moscow and Leningrad). Istanbul 1972.
- PAL The Palace Collection of Egypt. Catalogue of Sale prepared by Sotheby & Co. London 1954.
- PERE Osmanlilarda Madeni Paralar. Istanbul 1968.
- SCH. Anton Schaendlinger. Zur Münzprägung des Osmanischen Reiches. Dissertation, Wien 1962.
- ADV 1 D.A.P. Coins Kansas City MO. World Coin News Aug. 1974, p.65.
- ADV 2 Dr. Busso Peus Nachf. Auction 276, 24-26 März 1971. Lot 2124.
- ADV 3 World Wide Coin Investments Ltd., Atlanta, GA. January 1974 list, p.12.
- ADV 4 Württembergische Bank - Goldmünzen Osmanisches Reich. May 1975.
- ADV 5 Spink & Son Ltd. Numismatic Circular vol. 83. No. 6 June 1975.

Mahmud II - 1223 - 1255/1808 - 1839

Regnal Year	100 piastres	20 piastres	10 piastres	5 piastres
29			BMC 985	
30	CAIRO 2010		OLC 30728	BMC 985c
31	OLC 30721	BMC 983		
32		PERE 781		OLC 30734

Abdul Mejid - 1255 - 1277 /1839 - 1861

Regnal Year	100 piastres	50 piastres	20 piastres	5 piastres
1	CAIRO 2099		PERE 883	
2	ADV 4			CAIRO 2117
3	CAIRO 2102			CAIRO 2118
4	CAIRO 2103			CAIRO 2120
5	PERE 881-LAC	COP 2840		
6	CAIRO 2105			BMC 1109
7	CAIRO 2106	ADV 5		CAIRO 2123
8	CAIRO 2107			CAIRO 2124
9	CAIRO 2108			
10	CAIRO 2109			BMC 1110
11		ART 2030		
12	CAIRO 2110			CAIRO 2126
13	CAIRO 2111			CAIRO 2129
14	CAIRO 2112			CAIRO 2130
15	FR 5	PERE 882		GAL 1180
16	CAIRO 2114			CAIRO 2131
17	CAIRO 2115			
18				CAIRO 2132
19				BMC 1112
20				PERE 884
21				
22				BMC 1113
23				OLC IV No. 52

Coin CAIRO 2116 listed as 25 piastres, regnal year 12 seems to be an error. No 25 piastre coin appears in Ahmad Fuad's list for this reign.

Abdul Aziz - 1277 - 1293/1861 - 1876

Regnal Year	500 piastres	100 piastres	50 piastres	25 piastres	10 piastres	5 piastres
1		CAIRO 2140				
2						
3						FON 5216
4		PAL 1252				SCH 939b
5		CAIRO 2142				
6		CAIRO 2143				OLC. IV 53
7		CAIRO 2144				COP 2885
8	PAL 1250	CAIRO 2145		PERE 923		LAC
9	PAL 1250	CAIRO 2146				LAC
10		CAIRO 2147		COP 2886	SCH 951a	
11	PAL 1251	CAIRO 2148	ART 2067	ADV.1	ADV. 2	
12		PERE 921		BM	COP 2887	PERE 924
13	SCH 958a	CAIRO 2151				COP 2888
14		CAIRO 2152			FON 5279	Seen LAC
15	PAL 1251	CAIRO 2153	PERE 922	d.Q-B		SCH 962b
16		CAIRO 2154	LAC			
17						

Murad V 1293/1876

Regnal Year	100 piastres
1	ART 2093

Abdul Hamid II 1293 - 1327/1876 - 1909

Flower to right of tughra

Regnal Year	500 piastres	100 piastres	50 piastres	25 piastres	10 piastres	5 piastres
1	PERE 973	PAL 1255	PERE 975			
2						
3						
4						
5						SCH 975a
6	PAL 1255					
7						SCH 978b *
8		PAL 1255				
		Floral border, flower at right of tughra				
12		LAC - PERE 974				

Al-Ghazi to right of tughra

Regnal Year	10 piastres	5 piastres	Regnal Year	10 piastres	5 piastres
6		ART 2112	21		
7			22		
8			23	ADV 4	
9			24		Seen LAC
10			25		
11			26		ADV 4
12			27		
13			28		
14			29		
15			30		
16			31		
17	PERE 976		32		
18	ADV 3*	PERE 977	33		
19			34		
20					

* not described in detail.