

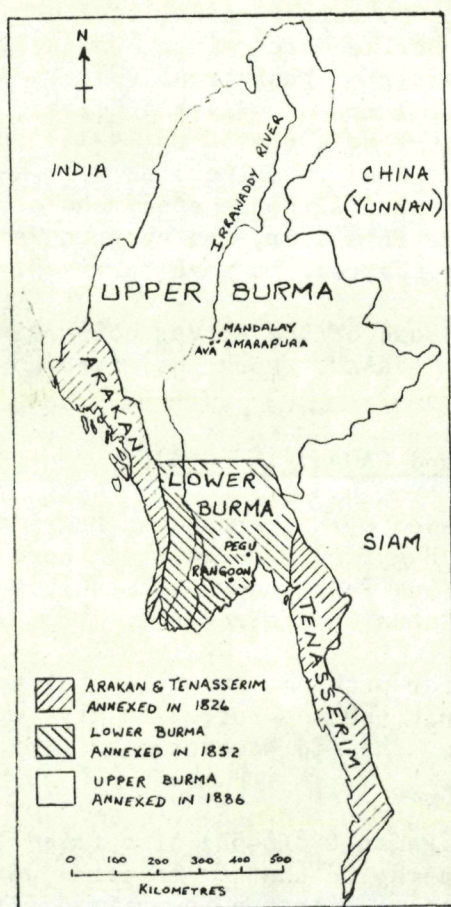
INFORMATION SHEET No. 17

SURVEY OF COINAGE IN BURMA SINCE THE 18TH CENTURYBy Lewis A Shaw

Coins for everyday transactions are a comparatively modern idea in Burma, having been introduced there less than 200 years ago. This note attempts to outline the development of the coinage and to list the coins produced for use in Burma from that time to the present date.

BODAWPAYA (1781-1819)

Bodawpaya, a son of the founder of the Alaungpaya Dynasty, took the throne in February 1781 following the murder of the previous King, his nephew Singu, and in order to eliminate all opposition he immediately murdered all his rivals, their wives, children and servants. At that time his Kingdom comprised much the same area as present day Burma with the exception of Arakan, which separated by a range of hills, had been an independent Kingdom for centuries. Until Bodawpaya's time, there were no coins for general use throughout Burma, although there had been local issues, notably in Arakan by the Chandra Dynasty, 4-6th Century, the Pyu-Mon series in South East Burma, 2-5th Century and a later series in Arakan in the 17-18th Century. (Refs 1, 2 and 3). This later Arakan series, well documented by Phayre, (Ref 3, pp 5-11) came to an end in 1784-5 when Bodawpaya took over the Kingdom of Arakan during a time of turmoil. The last coins of this series were issued in Arakan by the Burmese Governor installed by Bodawpaya, the inscription on them reading "1146 (= 1784 AD) Amarapura, Kingdom of the Lord of many White Elephants" (Ref 3 p 11). They were struck in gold and silver, both with similar inscriptions, the larger having a wide striated rim. These then were the first coins issued by Bodawpaya, though their use was probably restricted to Arakan.

BURMA

SHOWING STAGES OF ANNEXATION 1826-86

Trade between Burma and the East India Company had ceased following the massacre by the Burmese in 1759, of most of the British in the trading post at Negrais, an island at the South West point of the Irrawaddy delta, but a British Resident was established in Rangoon in 1796 as a result of a successful

mission from the Governor General of India to the Burmese Government in Ava in 1775, and the way was again open for Trade with the British.

All Trade and Bazaar purchases up to this time were carried out by barter or by weighing out lumps of metal, usually silver or lead, both of which were available in Burma, although since Europeans had been trading in Burmese ports for about two centuries, some of this metal will have been from European and EIC coins. Bodawpaya saw the need for coins of his own, and although he may have been experimenting in his capital Ava, the evidence for his coinage is unclear. It is certain however that he gave patterns to Captain Cox, the British Resident, to take to Calcutta to have trial coins struck (Ref 3 p 35, Ref 4 pp 13-16). He also asked Cox to procure minting equipment for him. The patterns given to Cox appear to have been silver pieces similar in design to the Pyu-Mon coins, and copper pieces with the simple design of two fishes one above the other. The reverses of the copper coins carried an inscription in Burmese giving the date of Bodawpaya's accession, 1143 BE (=1781 AD). Cox returned from Calcutta in 1797 with 20,000 silver and 100,000 copper coins, together with the minting machinery, which Bodawpaya used to strike more coins. Unwisely he issued them at a taken value, about one quarter of their real value. After a very short time the people reverted to their lumps of silver and lead, and Bodawpaya was forced to withdraw the coins. Temple (Ref 4 pp 14-15) suggests that coins with the two fishes design were minted in silver, as well as in three denominations, values unknown, in copper. Although specimens of the coppers exist today, there appear to be none in silver, and even in Temple's time (1820) he says that none of the silver pieces appear to have survived.

Vum Ko Hau, who has in his collection some of the silver coins similar to the Pyu-Mon patterns, refers to them as "Ava's", though he gives no explanation for the use of the name (Ref 11 pp 253-4).

BAGYIDAW (1891-37), THARAWADDY (1837-46), and PAGAN (1846-53).

Bodawpaya died in 1819, and was succeeded by his grandson, Bagydaw. No evidence is apparent of any coinage during Bagydaw's reign, but there is a record of a silver coin of his successor, King Tharawaddy (1837-46), depicting the moon and a hare on the obverse, and a lotus on the reverse. (Ref 5 p 37).

Bagydaw's reign was beset with frontier problems which led to the 1st Anglo-Burmese War, (1824-26), and as a result, he was forced to give up Arakan and Tenasserin, two large coastal provinces. He did however retain his three chief ports, Bassein, Rangoon and Martaban.

Temple (Ref 4 p 17) records that King Pagan (1846-53) also tried to force a token currency, but gives no details. It may be that these coins were those referred to by Barrelto (Ref 5) as silver coins with the Shwepyizoe Bird on the obverse, and the date in the Buddhist Era 2390 (=1846 AD) on the reverse.

MINDON (1853-78)

King Mindon deposed his mad brother Pagan in February 1853, at the end of the 2nd Anglo-Burmese War (1852-3) and was humiliated to have to surrender the Province of Pegu to the British, who then occupied the whole of Lower Burma, including Arakan and Tenasserim. He therefore ruled a much depleted Upper Burma which had no access to the sea except through British held territory.

British Burma, as Lower Burma was then known, was administered from India, and sustained a considerable army, apart from numerous British and Indian traders, all of whom were using the current Indian coins.

One of the earliest coins of Mindon may have been a large silver piece now in the British Museum, which is 39 mm diameter, and weighs 16.45 grams, ie 1 Kyat or Tical weight. This coin has the simple design of a standing bird facing Right on the obverse, and the date in the Burmese "Era of the Noble Religion 2369" (= 1853 AD) on the reverse. It is suggested that this bird is the Shwepyizoe bird (common Iora), for it clearly resembles that bird as illustrated in "The Birds of Burma" (Ref 6). The date however, is the accession year of King Mindon, and the coin may therefore be attributed to him. If Barrelto is correct in attributing the Shwepyizoe Bird to King Pagan, it would appear that both Pagan and Mindon used the same emblem, which is unusual. The author would appreciate any information which readers may have to clarify this.

Colonel Yule records that Mindon had no coinage in 1855 (Ref 7 p 258), but there is evidence from the Birmingham mint records that in order to establish a regular coinage for circulation in Upper Burma, Mindon arranged to build a new mint in the new city of Mandalay which he had founded in 1857. The minting machinery was supplied by Ralph Heaton and Sons of Birmingham in 1865 and was erected under the direction of one of their foremen. The mint was formally opened on an auspicious date chosen by the Royal Astrologers, the 9th day of the waning moon in the month of Tazuangbom (November) 1865 (Ref 8). The coins produced were the gold Kyat, quarter kyat and 1 pe with the 'chinthe' design, the well known 'peacock' series in silver, copper coins with a peacock, and lead coins with a hare. A gold 1 Kyat, and two smaller denominations, 1 mu and 1 pe with the peacock design are also known to exist, but it is suspected that they are restrikes from the dies used for silver coins.

Recent evidence (Ref 9) shows the existence of proof silver peacock coins in the reserve collection of the Birmingham mint, but it is not clear if they were minted in Birmingham, although Forrer (Ref 10) lists Burma as one of the countries for which coins were produced by the Birmingham mint at the time the machinery was supplied to Mandalay. Dies for the peacock coins are reported to have been seen in the Calcutta mint in 1945, but no evidence has been seen as to whether Burmese coins were minted there or whether the dies had been taken to Calcutta when the Mandalay mint closed.

At least two other silver Kyat coins were minted in the 1860 period, the first depicting a peacock with spread wings and the date 1214 BE (= 1853 AD), and the second depicting a peacock with folded tail, flanked by two floral garlands, and the date 1222 BE (= 1860 AD). There appears to be no information on the origin of these two silver pieces, though whether they were issued as coins is in doubt since they each weigh 1 tical, ie about 16 grams, compared to the normal peacock 1 kyat coin weighing 11.5 grams.

The copper coins of Mindon are a one quarter pe (equivalent to one Indian pice) with a peacock design and date 1227 BE (1865 AD), and a two pya (equivalent to the Indian $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna), dated 1231 BE (1869 AD) with a chinthe on the obverse. There are said to be iron copies of the 1865 $\frac{1}{4}$ pe coin, but they are very rare. Temple says they were forced on the people at one third of the $\frac{1}{4}$ pe, ie they would have been equivalent to one Indian pice (Ref 4 p 45). Mindon's lowest denomination coins were in lead and depicted a hare on the obverse, the value in Burmese on the reverse being quoted as one quarter or one eighth of the copper coin. It is usually assumed that this refers to the $\frac{1}{4}$ pe

of 1865. They are therefore equivalent to $\frac{1}{16}$ and $\frac{1}{32}$ of the pe. The diameter of both coins is about the same, ie 21-22 mm, but the weight varies considerably, the $\frac{1}{32}$ pe being found at about 8 grams and also about 13 grams, which is the same weight as the $\frac{1}{16}$ pe.

THIBAW (1878-85)

King Thibaw, one of Mindon's many sons, succeeded to the throne on his father's death in 1878, amidst considerable intrigue which included his marriage to Princess Supayalat. Soon after she became queen, she prevailed upon the King to imprison, and ultimately in February 1879 to massacre, about 80 members of the royal family, whom she and her ministers considered a threat to the throne.

The gold issue of King Thibaw filled a gap in Mindon's series, ie a half kyat (or 5 mu). This coin, bearing on the obverse the mythical creature known to the Burmese as the "tô" - half lion and half deer, is dated 1240 BE (1878 AD), the King's accession date. Thibaw also issued a copper $\frac{1}{4}$ pe dated 1240, again with the tô on the obverse. Brass copies of these exist, on which the designs are much cruder than the original, and which were possibly a token currency forced on the people by the King. Temple suggests they were made from the waste trimmed from the copper sheets used for the regular coins, alloyed with zinc to make a more easily workable brass (ref 4 p 90).

Relationships between the British and the Burmese had become further strained during Thibaw's reign and eventually led to the 3rd Anglo Burmese War in 1885. This was a very brief affair consisting essentially of an unopposed advance by British troops to Myingyan, 50 miles south west of Mandalay, when the king surrendered, and the whole of Burma, with the exception of the Shan States, then became under British rule. The Mindon and Thibaw coins remained in circulation for about four years, being withdrawn in 1889 and officially replaced by the Indian coins, which had already been in use in Lower Burma for over thirty years.

INDEPENDENT BURMA (1948-present)

Indian coins continued in use throughout Burma for the whole of the period of British rule, except for the Japanese occupation of January 1942 - August 1945, but in 1949, following the granting of independence in 1948, a new series of Burmese coins minted in nickel and copper-nickel by the Royal Mint in London, was put into circulation. The shapes of the Indian coins were retained and a new obverse with a 'chinthe', designed by Paget, was introduced, but the values were given their Burmese names, ie instead of the 'anna' and the 'pice', we have the 'pe' and the 'pya', the largest coin being the 8 pe, equivalent to a half rupee. The Indian rupee was not replaced until decimalisation in 1952, when the Kyat, divided into 100 pya was issued as part of a new cupro-nickel series minted by the Royal Mint.

The dates on the 1949 coins were in Burmese script using the Christian Era, but in 1952 the Burmese Era date was added on the obverse of the 25 pya, 50 pya, 1 kyat coins. This decimal series by the Royal Mint, was produced from 1952 to 1965, but in 1966 a new series with denominations from 1 to 50 pya in aluminium was introduced, with the chinthe replaced by the bust of Aung San, the Burmese leader assassinated in 1947. The author has been unable to obtain any

information concerning the minting of these 1966 coins except that they were not produced by the Royal Mint. After 11 years with no new coins, a cupro-nickel 1 kyat piece dated 1975, was issued in the FAO series. The author knows of no other coins in recent years.

COIN DENOMINATIONS

The system of weights in Burma in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries used the 'kyat' (pronounced "tjat") as a main unit, which was identical to the Siamese 'tical'. There were 100 kyats to 1 viss, which was 3.65 lbs, and thus the kyat was equal to 16.6 grams. It was divided into 20 pe (pronounced 'pai', as 'pair' without the 'r') 10 mu ('moo'), and 5 mat.

Mindon used these units for the coins he introduced in Upper Burma in the 1860's, and as they were a decimal system there were difficulties in making them interchangeable with the Indian coins circulating in Lower Burma where there were 16 annas to one rupee. Nowadays the values of the silver peacock coins are matched to the Indian rupee and anna series as in the following table, but they may not necessarily have passed at these values in the bazaars.

BURMESE VALUE	1 Kyat	5 Mu	1 Mat	1 Mu	1 Pe
VALUE INSCRIBED ON COIN	၁	၅	၁	၁	၁
INDIAN VALUE - RUPEES	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$ (= 1 Anna)

The gold coins of the same period were equivalent to the Indian Mohur and its fractions, and were inscribed as for the silver coins above, with the exception of the $\frac{1}{4}$ gold kyat, which reads 2 mu 1 pe, which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mu or $\frac{1}{4}$ Mohur.

The lower denominations in copper and lead, had their values written out in a rather lengthy word style. These are explained for each coin in the catalogue following these notes.

By 1949, when the coinage for Independent Burma was introduced, the Indian system was abandoned in favour of the Burmese units, and we find values in "pe" and "pya" again, instead of "anna" and "pice", there being 64 pya to one kyat, just as there were 64 pice to a rupee. In 1952, when the coins were decimalised, the pya was used as the basic unit at 100 pya to one kyat.

THE BURMESE ERA (BE)

The dating system used in Burma is that instituted by King Popa Sawrahan in AD 638, so that to convert from BE to AD we simply add 638 to the BE figure. This sometimes gives a date which appears to be one year out, because the Burmese New Year commences about the middle of April. Some references quote Burmese dates according to the Siamese CS (Chula Sakarat) system. That is in fact the same as the Burmese Era, but was not adopted in Siam until the Burmese occupation of Siam in the 16th century, when it displaced the Maha Sakarat which dated from 78 AD. The CS system remained in official use in Siam until 1887, but

continues in Burma to this day as the Burmese Era. The Buddhist Era, or "Era of the Noble Religion", dates from the foundation of Buddhism in 543 BC.

BURMESE SCRIPT

In a short paragraph it is only possible to give an elementary outline of Burmese script, but the following may help readers to recognise some words and read the values on the coins.

The basis for the script is the short vowel ဘ = a, and a series of consonants in which the 'a' is inherent:-

က ka	ခ hka	ဂ or ဃ ga	င nga
စ sa	ဆ hsa	ဇ or ဈ za	ည nya
တ ta	ထ hta	ဒ or င da	န na
ပ pa	ဖ hpa	ဗ or ဘ ba	မ ma
ယ or ရ ya	လ la	ဝ wa	သ tha ဟ ha

Vowels are indicated by adding symbols before, after, above or beneath the consonants or the inherent vowel. They may be pure or nazalised, or have a consonant ending. e.g:-

အ a	မ ma	စီး see		
တန် tan	မြန် myan	နိုင် naing	တိုင် taing	
င ngan	သုံ thon	တော် daw	လုံ lok	

Space does not permit any more, but the following examples from the coins show the construction of words :-

ကျပ် tjat (kyat)	ဆင် hsin (elephant)	ငါး nga (five)
သခင် thakin (lord)	မူး moo (mu)	ရတနာပုံ yadanabon (Mandalay)

The inscriptions quoted in my list are as inscribed on the coins even though some spelling is incorrect. In particular it should be noted that the value 'mu' is correctly spelt as မူး but it sometimes appears as မှ or မှ . One Mu is usually abbreviated to မှ .

The letter ပ 'pa' can sometimes be pronounced 'ba', so that for example the value 'pya' should sometimes be 'bya'. Similarly တ 'ta' can be pronounced 'da', and the appropriate form is used in the transliteration.

The numbers are:-

၁	၂	၃	၄	၅	၆	၇	၈	၉	၁၀
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Notes on the listing of coins in the catalogue

1. The whole period under review has been divided into shorter periods coinciding with the reigns of the monarchs, each having a reference letter. The coins have been listed as far as possible in date order, and numbered sequentially.
2. All weights are in grams, and have been quoted in one of three ways:-
 - a) when only one coin has been examined, the actual weight is given.
 - b) when the weights of several coins is known, and the variation is small, an average weight is given. E.g. c 10.5 gm.
 - c) where the difference in weight between two or more similar coins is relatively large, indicating two weight standards, then two weights are given.
3. Die varieties, if known, are listed using suffixes a, b, c etc with the same coin reference number.

Acknowledgements

For practical reasons this survey has been confined to an examination of coins in the British Museum, London, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and the collections of several ONS members. The author gratefully acknowledges the help of the staff of these museums and also the advice of ONS members and friends, especially Professor Hla Pe, Dr P Vernon, Dr M Mitchiner, Mr N Singer, and Mr M Robinson.

Certain aspects of the Burmese series still need further study, and the author will be pleased to hear from anyone who can provide details of coins not listed, and information on the location and details of mints past and present.

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A4 "Two fishes" design 1143 BE (1781 AD) Copper

From an examination of thirteen specimens of this coin there would appear to be five distinct types, as A4.1 to A4.5 below, classified by diameter and weight, together with known die varieties. The largest, i.e. A4.1 may have been the "pice" referred to by Temple (Ref 4. pp 14-15), but as he records that they were issued by Bodawpaya at a token value, and the "pice" is an Indian, not a Burmese unit, no attempt is made to attribute denominations to them.

A4.1 Large flan Obv: Two fishes on a plain ground.
Rev: Inscription in a circle with a border of dots.

၁၁၄၃ ခု
တပို့လွယ်
ပြည်ကျော်
၁၄ ရက်

1143 Era 1781 AD
Tabodwe la 14th day of the waning moon
byi gyaw in the month of Tabodwe.
14th

Die varieties:

- A4.1a Crude designs and script. No centre circle.
- A4.1b As A4.1a but "o" omitted from "၀" on second line of script.
- A4.1c Improved design and script, with centre circle.
- A4.1d As A4.1c with centre hole punched.

Dia: 31-32mm Wt: c. 9.76gm



A4.1a A4.1b A4.1c A4.1d

A4.2 Medium flan Obv & Rev: As on A4.1
Dia: 29-30mm Wt: c. 5.4gm

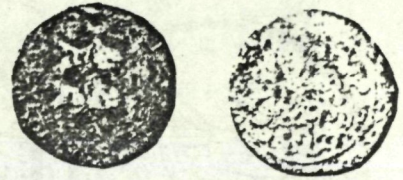
Die varieties:

- A4.2a Crude designs and script. No centre circle.
- A4.2b As A4.2a but "o" omitted from "၀"



A4.2a A4.2b

A4.3 Small flan
Obv & Rev: as on A4.1
Dia: 22mm Wt: 4.39gm



A4.4 Medium flan
Obv: as A4.1 Rev: as A4.1 but without dotted border.
Dia: 28mm Wt: 6.97gm

A4.5 Medium flan
Obv & Rev: as A4.4 but from improved dies and punched centre hole.
Dia: 27.5mm Wt: 7.53gm



A4.4

A4.5

A5 "Two fishes" design 1143 BE Silver
Reported by Temple, but none observed.

PERIOD B BAGYIDAW (1819-1837)

No coins known.

PERIOD C THARAWADDY (1837-1846)

C1 Reported by Barrelto as Obv: Moon and hare, Rev: Lotus. Silver.
but none observed.

PERIOD D PAGAN (1846-1853)

D1 Reported by Barrelto as Obv: Year of Religion 2390 Rev: Shwepyizoe bird. Silver.
None observed.

PERIOD E MINDON (1853-1878)

E1 Shwepyizoe bird design 2396 Noble Era Silver.
Obv: Shwepyizoe bird on a plain ground, with dotted rim.
Rev: tha tha na daw Era of the Noble Religion
2396 AD 1853
Dia: 39mm Wt: 16.45gm (=1kyat)

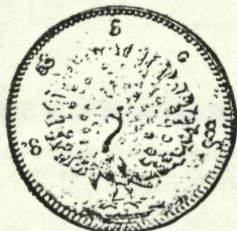
E2 1 Kyat Spread wing peacock 1214 BE Silver.
Obv: Peacock with spread wings in full display
and two groups of five rosettes.
Rev: thagiyit Era
1214 AD 1853
Dia: 29.5mm Wt: 16.23gm



E1

E2

E3 Common "Peacock" series 1214 BE Silver.
 E3.1 (Y7) 1 Kyat Dia: 31mm Wt: c. 11.5gm
 Obv: Inscription around peacock in full display
 တံဆိပ်တော် Tazeik tau Stamp Royal
 Rev: Inscription around wreath. Value and date in centre.
 ရတနာပုံ နေပြည်တော် Yadanabon nepyidaw Mandalay the Royal Residence
 ၁ သုံး ဒင်္ဂါး t'tjat thon dinga Use coin as 1 Kyat
 ၁၂၁၄ 1214 1853 AD



E3.1

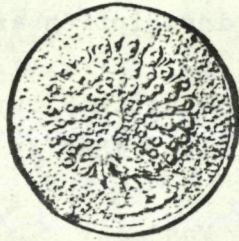
E3.2

E3.2 (Y6) 5 Mu Dia: 24mm Wt: 5.75gm
 Obv & Rev: As E3.1 except value:-
 ၅ သုံး Nga mu thon Use as 5 Mu
 E3.3 (Y5) 1 Mat Dia: 19.5mm Wt: c. 2.9gm
 Obv & Rev: As E3.1 except value:-
 ၁ သုံး t'mat thon Use as 1 Mat
 E3.4 (Y4) 1 Mu Dia: 15.5mm Wt: c. 1.4gm
 Obv & Rev: As E3.1 except value:-
 ၁ သုံး t'mu thon Use as 1 Mu
 E3.5 (Y3) 1 Pe Dia: 12mm Wt: c. 0.75gm

Three die varieties are known:
 E3.5a Obv & Rev: As E3.1 except value:-
 ၁ သုံး t'be thon Use as 1 Pe
 E3.5b Accent omitted from value, reading ၁ သုံး instead of ၁ သုံး
 E3.5c Figure j omitted from date, reading ၁၂၁၄ instead of ၁၂၁၄

E4 Bronze pattern of silver "peacock" 5 Mu 1214
 Obv & Rev: As E3.2 Dia: 24mm Wt: 4.77gm

E5 Peacock on stippled ground 1214 BE Silver.



These coins are possibly common "peacock" type E3 coins with the stippling applied after striking, thus obliterating the obverse inscription. Only 1 Mat and 1 Mu versions are known to the author, but Temple records a 5 Mu.

E5.1	1 Kyat	As E3.1 but stippled.	Dia: 31mm	Wt: 11.31gm
E5.2	5 Mu	As E3.2 but stippled. (See Temple, Ref 4, p 44.)		
E5.3	1 Mat	As E3.3 but stippled.	Dia: 19.5mm	Wt: 2.69gm
E5.4	1 Mu	As E3.4 but stippled.	Dia: 15.5mm	Wt: 1.32gm

E6 Gold restrikes of silver "peacock" types E3. 1214 BE

E6.1	1 Kyat	As E3.1	Reported by Friedberg, none observed.	
E6.2	1 Mu	As E3.4	Dia: 15.5mm	Wt: 1.64gm
E6.3a	1 Pe	As E3.5	Dia: 12.0mm	Wt: c. 0.65gm
E6.3b	1 Pe	As E3.5	Dia: 12.0mm	Wt: 0.90gm

E7 1 Kyat Folded wing peacock 1222 BE Silver.



Obv: Peacock facing L, tail folded, flanked by floral branches.

Rev: သက္ကရာဇ် thagiyit Era
 ၁၂၂၂ 1222 (AD 1860)
 Dia: 32mm Wt: c. 15.75gm

E8 Chinthe design 1228 BE Gold.



E8.1 1 Kyat Obv: Chinthe (mythical lion), inscription and date:
 ခြင်္သေ့ တံဆိပ်တော် chinthe tazeik taw Chinthe Stamp Royal
 ၁၂၂၈ 1228 AD 1866

Rev: Inscription around wreath, value in centre:

ရတနာပုံနေပြည်တော် Yadanabon Nepyidaw Mandalay the
 ဝိသုဒ္ဓိ ၁၀၀၀ t'tjat thon dinga Use coin as 1 Kyat
 Dia: 26.5mm Wt: 11.94gm

E8.2 2 Mu 1 Pe (2 1/2 Mu) Obv & Rev: As E8.1 except value :

၂၂ ဝဲသုဒ္ဓိ ၁၀၀၀ hnit mu t'be thon dinga Use coin as 2 1/2 Mu
 Dia: 18.5mm Wt: c. 2.75gm

E8.3 1 Pe Obv & Rev: As E8.1 except value:

ဝဲသုဒ္ဓိ ၁၀၀၀ t'be thon dinga Use coin as 1 Pe
 Dia: 11.0 Wt: 0.67gm

E9 (Y1) 1/4Pe Peacock displaying 1227 BE Copper.

Obv: Peacock facing L, in full display, and inscription around, with date below peacock's feet.

ရဲဒါင်း တံဆိပ်တော် Udaung dazeik taw Peacock Stamp Royal
၁၂၂၇ 1227 1865 AD

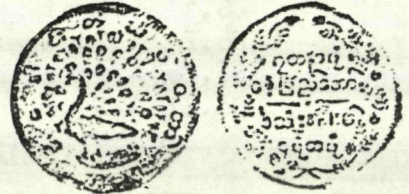
Rev: Inscription and value within garland:

ရတနာပုံ Yadanabon Mandalay
နေပြည်တော် Nepyidaw the Royal Residence
ဒဲသံ: ဒါး: ဧါ t'be thon dinga i Coin to be used as
၄ပုံတပုံ lay bon ta bon one fourth part of one Pe
Dia: 25mm Wt: c. 6.3gm

Die varieties:

- (a) Six rayed star above and below legend on reverse.
- (b) No stars on reverse.

E9(b)



E10 (Y1a) As type E8 in iron.

Reported by Temple but none observed.

E11 (Y2) 1/2Pe Chinthe 1231 BE Copper.

Obv: Chinthe facing L, inscription and date.

ခြင်သေ့ တံဆိပ်တော် Chinthe tazeik taw Chinthe Stamp Royal
၁၂၃၁ 1231 1869 AD

Rev: Inscription within wide floral border:

အဆောင်တော်မြဲ A hsaung daw mye Always keep with you
Dia: 31mm Wt: c. 11.4gm



E11

E12 Hare design 1231 BE Lead.

E12.1a (Y D1) 1/16 Pe

Obv: Hare facing L, inscription and date:

ယုန် တံဆိပ်တော် Yon tazeik taw Hare Stamp Royal
၁၂၃၁ 1231 1869 AD

Rev: Value in wreath:

ကြေး ခို ဒါး: Kye ni dinga Copper coin
ဧါ ၄ပုံတပုံ i lay bon ta bon of four parts one part
i.e. Use coin as 1/4 part of copper coin

E12.1b Variety with reverse blank

-see Temple p.45 and Pl. II No.36

E12.2a (Y C1) 1/32 Pe



Obv & Rev: As E12.1a except value :

၆၂ ဂ ပုံ တ ပုံ i shit pon ta pon

(Use coin) as 1/8th part (of copper coin)

Dia: 20-21mm Wt: c. 7.0gm

E12.2b Design and inscription as E12.2a but a thicker coin
Dia: 20-21mm Wt: c. 13.2gm

PERIOD F THIBAW (1878-1885)

F1 (Y C8) 5 Mu 1240 BE Gold.

Obv: T6 (Mythical lion with deer's head) facing L.,
inscription and date:

တိ: တံ ဆိပ် တော်
၁၂၄၀

T6 dazeik tau
1240

T6 Stamp Royal
1878 AD

Rev: Inscription around wreath, with value in centre:

ဂုတနာပုံ နေပြည်တော်
၂၂ သုံး ဒဂါး

Yadanabon nepyidaw Mandalay the Royal Residence

nga mu thon dinga Use coin as 5 Mu
Dia: 21.5mm Wt: 5.85gm



F1

F2a

F2 (Y 9) 1/4 Pe 1240 BE Copper.

Obv: T6, with inscription around:

တိ: တံ ဆိပ် တော်

T6 dazeik tau

T6 Stamp Royal

Rev: Inscription around wreath, with value in centre, and date:

ဂုတနာပုံ နေပြည်တော်
၁ သုံး ဒဂါး
၆ ပုံ တ ပုံ
၁၂၄၀

Yadanabon nepyidaw Mandalay the Royal Residence

t'mu thon dinga Use coin as one eighth
shit pon ta bon part of one Mu

1240

1878 AD

Two die varieties of the Reverse are known:

F2a With rosette upright at top of wreath



Dia: 25.5mm

F2b With rosette oblique at top of wreath



Wt: 5.7gm

F3 (Y 9a) Brass copy of 1/4 Pe F2

Designs and inscriptions are similar to F2 but cruder.

Dia: c. 26mm Thickness vary considerably and the weights of
specimens examined varied from 2.65gm to 6.23gm.

PERIOD G BRITISH RULE (1885-1948)

The coins of British India were in use through this period,
except during the Japanese occupation 1942-1945.

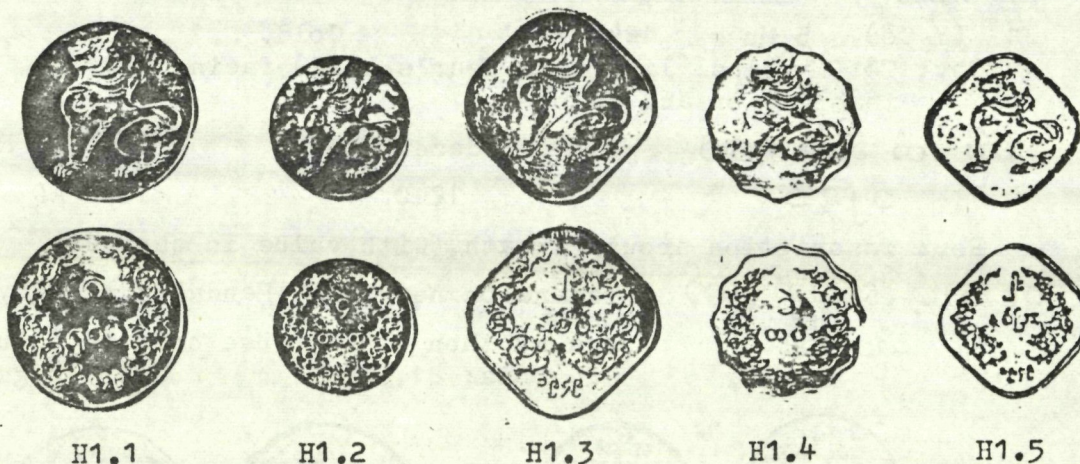
PERIOD H REPUBLIC OF BURMA (1948-present)

Coins of types H1 to H3 were struck by the Royal Mint in the UK, and as the details supplied by them included mintage figures, these are quoted here for completeness. Numbers quoted are in millions to the nearest 10,000, e.g. 1.64M represents 1,642,000.

H1 Chinthe design 1949 - 1951

The denominations and shapes of these the first coins of the Republic, correspond to the Indian coins which they replaced. They all have Obv: a chinthe on a plain ground.

Rev: value in figures and words, with the AD date below.



H1.1 (Y 17)	8 Pe	Round, milled edge.	Nickel.
Rev:	၈	8 Pe	8 Pe
	ရှစ်ပဲ	shit pe	Eight Pe
Dates :	၁၉၄၉ 1949,	၁၉၅၀ 1950	
Mintage:	3.27M	3.92M	
H1.2 (Y 16)	4 Pe	Round, milled edge.	Nickel.
Rev:	၄	4 Pe	4 Pe
	တမတ်	t'mat	One Mat
Dates:	၁၉၄၉ 1949,	၁၉၅၀ 1950	
Mintage:	6.55M	6.12M	
H1.3 (Y 15)	2 Pe	Square, plain edge.	Cupro nickel.
Rev:	၂	2 Pe	2 Pe
	နှစ်ပဲ	hnit pe	Two Pe
Dates:	၁၉၄၉ 1949	၁၉၅၀ 1950	၁၉၅၁ 1951
Mintage:	7.10M	8.52M	7.48M
			Wt: 5.83gm
H1.4 (Y 14)	1 Pe	Twelve scallops, plain edge.	Cupro nickel.
Rev:	၁	1 Pe	1 Pe
	တပဲ	t'be	One Pe
Dates:	၁၉၄၉ 1949	၁၉၅၀ 1950	၁၉၅၁ 1951
Mintage:	8.00M	9.50M	6.50M
			Wt: 3.89gm

H1.5 (Y 13) 2 Pya Square, plain edge. Cupro nickel.
 Rev: ဂါ: 2 Pya 2 Pya Across flats: 17.4mm
 နှစ်ပြား: hnit pya Two Pya Across corners: 19.8mm
 Date: ၁၉၄၉ 1949
 Mintage: 7.00M Wt: 2.92gm

H2 8 Pe 1952 Trial/Error Proof. Cupro nickel.
 (See Seaby's Bulletin Sept 1976, p 370)

Obv: Chinthe, inscription and date (BE) :

ပြည်ထောင်စု ဖြန့်စား နိုင်ငံတော်
 သက္ကရာဇ် ၁၃၁၄ ခုနှစ်

Pyi daung zu myama naing ngan daw

thagayit 1314 gu hnit

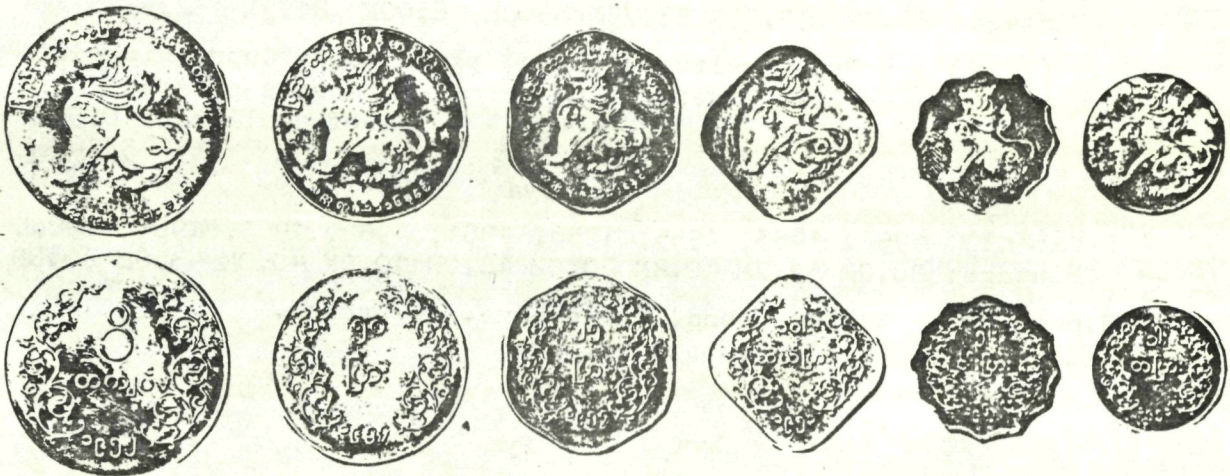
Royal Union of Burma States

Era 1314 Year (1952 AD)

Rev: as H1.1 but with date ၁၉၅၂ (1952AD)



H3 Decimal issue 1952 - 1966 Chinthe design.



H3.1 H3.2 H3.3 H3.4 H3.5 H3.6

H3.1 (Y 23) 1 Kyat Round, security edge. Cupro nickel.

Obv: Chinthe, inscription and date (BE), as H2.

Rev: Value and date (AD):

Dia: 30.5mm

၁
 တ ကျ င်
 ၁၉၅၂

1 tjat

1 Kyat

Wt: 11.66gm

t'tjat

One Kyat,

1952

1952

Dates: 1952, 1953, 1956, 1965.

Mintage: 2.50M 7.50M 3.50M 1.00M

H3.2 (Y 22) 50 Pya Round, security edge. Cupro nickel.

Obv & Rev: As H3.1 except value:

၅၀	50	50	Dia: 26.0mm
ပြ:	bya	Pya	Wt: 7.78gm

Dates: 1952, 1954, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966.
 Mintage: 4.14M 12.0M 8.0M 2.0M 0.60M 4.80M 2.80M 3.40M

H3.3 (Y 21) 25 Pya Six scallops, plain edge. Cupro nickel.

Obv: & Rev: As H3.1 except value:

၂၅	25	25	Across crests of scallops: 24.0mm
ပြ:	bya	Pya	Wt: 6.80gm

Dates: 1952, 1954, 1956, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965.
 Mintage: 13.54M 18.00M 14.00M 6.00M 4.00M 3.20M 16.00M 26.00M

H3.4 (Y 20) 10 Pya Square, plain edge. Cupro nickel.

Obv: Chinthe on a plain ground.

Rev: As H3.1 except value:

၁၀	10	10	Across flats: 19.8mm
ပြ:	bya	Pya	Across corners: 23.4mm
			Wt: 4.54gm

Dates: 1952, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1962, 1963, 1965.
 Mintage: 20.0M 37.25M 22.75M 35.0M 6.00M 21.5M 32.62M

H3.5 (Y 19) 5 Pya Twelve scallops, plain edge. Cupro nickel.

Obv & Rev: As H3.4 except value:

၅	5	5	Across crests of scallops: 10.5mm
ပြ:	bya	Pya	Wt: 3.24gm

Dates: 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966.
 Mintage: 20.0M 59.7M 40.2M 20.0M 12.0M 10.0M 40.0M 43.6M 20.0M

H3.6 (Y 18) 1 Pya Round, plain edge. Bronze.

Obv & Rev: As H3.4 except value:

၁	1	1	Dia: 18.0mm
ပြ:	bya	Pya	Wt: 2.27gm

Dates: 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956.
 Mintage: 0.5M 14.0M 30.0M 15.0M

Note: Limited issues (100 sets) of proof coins of types H1 and H3 were made in the years 1950, 1953, and 1961, bearing dates 1949, 1952, and 1956 respectively.

H4 General Aung San Issue 1966 Aluminium.
 All coins in this series have shapes as for the first decimal issue, Types H3.

All have the same Obverse:

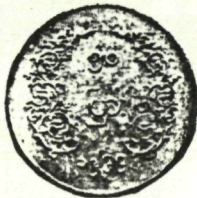
Head of General Aung San, inscription and date (BE):

ပြည်ထောင်စု ဖြန့် နှစ် နိုင်ငံ တော် ပြည်သူ့ဘဏ် သက္ကရာဇ် ၁၃၂၇ ခုနှစ်

Pyi daung zu myama naing ngan daw pyi thu ban thagayit 1314 gu hnit
 Royal Union of Burma States Peoples Bank Era 1314 Year

All have the same style of Reverse: Value and date (AD).

H4.1 (Y 28)	50 Pya, Round.	Value on Rev:	၅၀	50
	Dia: 25.0mm	Wt: 2.0gm	ပြား:	Pya
H4.2 (Y 27)	25 Pya, Six scallops.	Value on Rev:	၂၅	25
	Across crests of scallops: 23.0mm	Wt: 1.75gm	ပြား:	Pya
H4.3 (Y 26)	10 Pya, Square.	Value on Rev:	၁၀	10
	Across flats: 19.0mm	Wt: 1.0gm	ပြား:	Pya
	Across corners: 22.5mm			
H4.4 (Y 25)	5 Pya, Twelve scallops.	Value on Rev:	၅	5
	Across crests of scallops: 18.4mm	Wt: 0.84gm	ပြား:	Pya
H4.5 (Y 24)	1 Pya, Round.	Value on Rev:	၁	1
	Dia: 17.0mm	Wt: 0.57gm	ပြား:	Pya



H4.1

H4.2

H4.3

H4.4

H4.5

H5 FAO Issue 1 Kyat 1975 Cupro nickel.

Obv: Sheaf of rice, inscription and date:



ပြည်ထောင်စု ဖြန့် နှစ် နိုင်ငံ တော် ၁၉၇၅

Pyi daung zu myama naing ngan ban 1975
 Union of Burma States Bank 1975

Rev: Value:

၁

1 tjat

1 Kyat



တစ် ကျပ်

t'tjat

One Kyat

Dia: 26.0mm

Wt: 7.0gm