

**ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**

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Newsletter number 54

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**Members News**

Mr. S. C. Wong of Singapore has a bronze coin mould for casting Pan-liang coins of the early Han dynasty for disposal and also a small three-holed spade coin bearing the inscription (obv) Yu-yang (rev) 12 chu. Would anyone interested please contact him. Mr. Ikbal Nathani of , has written to say that he has many coins, mainly copper, for sale: these range in date from the Sultans of

Delhi to the 19th. century. Mr. Ch. A. Azami has donated a copy of his book, in Persian, on the Ispahbads of Tabaristan. Anyone wishing to borrow it please write to Mr. C. M. Webdale, who now has it, enclosing postage cost (about 30p). The Persian title of the book is -

کید فرشوات گرشاه و اسپهبدان  
(اسپهبدان برزی طبرستان)

**London meetings of the ONS: March and July.**

Mr. Wiggins writes: "Twenty members attended the meeting at St. James' Hall, Lancaster Gate, on the 11th. March. It was a pleasure to meet Dr. van der Wiel from the Netherlands and several members from outside London. The auction held at that meeting was successful and over £50 was raised for ONS funds. Grateful thanks are due to Spink & Son Ltd., to Mrs. G. E. Watson and to Mr. D. Priestley who kindly donated coins and books for auction.

A further meeting will be held on Saturday 1st. July at 2. 30 pm. This will be at Mr. J. Cribb's residence: . This address is close to the West Kensington Underground Station. Any members requiring further directions or information please contact Mr. Cribb at the Department of Coins and Medals, the British Museum. It is hoped that a few members from overseas will also be in London for the meeting."

**Some recent publications**

*Papers*

- M. L. Bates*, The coinage of the Mamluk Sultan Baybars I: additions and corrections, Museum Notes 22 of the American Numismatic Society, 1977, 161 - 181.
- K. Gabrisch*, An unknown date of the Tibetan 10 srang note, Spink's NC. April 1978, 189
- A. Gunstone*, Records of the Birmingham Mint Limited: part II, Spink's Numismatic Circular, March 1978, 127 - 129 (includes coins of Cambodia, Thailand and Tunis)
- K. M. MacKenzie*, Manghirs from Ruha with Bird and Fish designs, Spink's NC., March 1978, 130
- K. M. MacKenzie*, Selim III and Mustafa IV, silver and gold coins, Spink's NC., April 1978, 182 - 184
- P. Snartt*, The rarity of East India Company coins: Bombay II, copper coinage, Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletin, April 1978, 112 - 114

*Books*

- S. Album*, Marsden's Numismata Orientalia Illustrata: edited and added to by Stephen Album as a guide to Islamic & Oriental coins. Attic Books, New York. 274 pp. 21-50 dollars. Also obtainable from Mr. Album.
- Jan Lingen and Kenneth Wiggins*, Coins of the Sindhias, 12½ by 8½ ins., 108 pp., £12 - 50 Hawkins Publications. Obtainable from B. A. Seaby Ltd., 11 Margaret Street, London W 1.



## A Larin Hoard from the North Konkan

by K. W. Wiggins

The following correspondance, which is reproduced verbatim, was noticed recently in the India Office library. It is concerned with the discovery of a hoard of Bijapur larins: a hoard which does not appear to have been published previously. It was apparently unearthed early in 1848 at the village of Sanganeswar (17-06' N: 73-36' E.), some 24 miles north-east of Ratnagiri. Ratnagiri, itself, is situated on the coast some 150 miles to the south of Bombay. Both Ratnagiri and Sanganeswar were undoubtedly within the territory of the Sultans of Bijapur. The hoard numbered 397 pieces. Fifty were sent to the Court of Directors of the East India Company in London and an un-disclosed number were examined by Dr. John Wilson of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. The ultimate disposition of the coins is not known.

Several points of interest emerge from this manuscript. The Collector, in his letter, said that the larins were stamped with the name of Allie Adil Shah and that the word Lari was on them. This would tend to indicate that at least some of the larins were struck during the time of Ali Adil Shah II (1656-1672). His statement that larins were used during the reigns of the first Maratha Rajas of Satara probably deserves some credence but the reference to 200 "Dabhole laree" in relation to land measurement is puzzling. This statement probably means that the land was worth 200 larins. There was no Indian measurement known as the laree - the most common unit of land measure being the Gaz. "Dabhole" undoubtedly means Dabuli: the town of Dabul situated about 100 miles south of Bombay, being the site of a mint where Bijapur larins were struck. Kharapattan is a village some 45 miles south-east of Ratnagiri. The note of Dr. Wilson is rather less informative. If one of the larins bore the date AH 1031 this would correspond to the Christian date 1621-22 and fall within the reign of Ibrahim Adil Shah. There would not appear to be any known evidence for assuming that three larins were equal to one rupee, especially if one considers their weights. The document whose transcription follows appears by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

MSS. EUR. D. 636

Bombay: Public Department

Letter dated 16th. April (No. 36) 1849

Transmitting 50 old silver coins from a number discovered in the village of Sungumneshwar in the Rutnagherry Collectorate. Examiner's Office

Page 1	16 April 1849	From - Government, Bombay	To - Court of Directors
Page 2	24 June 1848	From - Mr. Collector Coles	To - Sec. to Government
Page 4	22 February 1849	Note on the Lairi Coins	

Public Department  
16 th. April (No 36) 1849

To the Honourable, the Court of  
Directors for the Affairs of the  
Honourable East India Company, London

Honourable Sirs,  
From the Collector of )  
Rutnagherry No. 609 D/ )  
24 th. June last )

From Dr. Wilson dated )  
22 nd. February last. )

We have much pleasure in transmitting to your Honourable Court fifty old silver coins from a number recently discovered in the Village of Sungumneshwar in the Rutnagherry Collectorate.

We beg to transmit for your information a copy of each of the two letters noted in the margin giving a description of these coins.

We have the honour to be  
With the greatest respect,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful obed't and  
humble Servants,

Bombay Castle.  
16 th. April, 1849

(Signed)

I. P. Willoughby  
D. A. Blane



Extract from the Proceedings of Government in the General Department..

No. 609 of 1848

V. 3951.

From the Collector of Rutnagherry, dated 24 th. June, 1848.

Sir,

As some silver coins that have lately been found appear curious, I have the honour to forward twenty pieces for the inspection of His Lordship in Council. They are stamped with the name of Allie Adil Shah King of Beejapour who reigned about the year 1557 and are called "Laree" as will be seen by the inscription on them. Three of them were equal to one Rupee. They were current during the reigns of the first Rajahs of Sattara but were not afterwards used. I have found them mentioned in a Takeed Putr written by the Punt Amalya in 1710-11 to the Havildar and Carkoons of Kharapattun stating that 200 "Dabhole Laree" of uncultivated land of the Survey of Annajee Dutto was given to Krishnumbhul bin Wishwanath Cheet Majunkur of Kharapattun. The coins (three hundred and ninety seven in number) were discovered by a Ryot in digging the foundation of an old house in the village of Sungumneshwar of this district.

I have the honour to be etc

(Signed) G. Coles

Collector

Rutnagiree

Collector's Office

24 th. June, 1848.

Note on the Lairi Coins forwarded by Government for examination by the Society.

I can add but little to the curious notices of these coins given by Mr. Coles of the C. by whom they were sent into Government more especially as none of the inscriptions upon any of the specimens we have received are complete.

They unquestionably belong to the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur whose power lasted from AD 1501 - 1689. The name of Ali Adil Shah as remarked by Mr. Coles is found on some of them but whether this was Adil Shah the First or second we have no means of judging. The former prince who began to reign in 1557 was assassinated AD 1579. The second succeeded to power in 1660 and died in 1672. On one of the coins I observed the date AH 1031 corresponding with the year of Christ 1641 when Muhammad Adil Shah was in authority.

The form of the coins is remarkable. They consist of a silver wire about a twelfth of an inch in diameter but nearly in the middle and not struck but pressed for about two thirds of their length between the lips of a small vice having Arabic letters cut on its inner surface and they are thus flattened and extended to about the eighth of an inch in breadth except near the extremities where the two portions of the were not brought into contract stand out from one another and make an angle. As they have no figures and the lettering does not cover all the surface of the coin and as they are of unequal size and weight, though averaging about three to an Adil Shahi rupee, with a specimen of which coin, now very rare, I have compared them, their marks must be considered as warranting the quality and not the quantity of the metal, and they must have been tried by weight more than number when circulated. In this respect they resemble the stamped bars of the precious metals used in remote times. The name Lair which they bear in Arabic and means custom or excise and custom house Perhaps the original type of them was got from Arabia.

Bombay

22 nd. Feb'y, 1849

(Signed) John Wilson

True copy

Signed H. Carter

Secretary B. B. R. A. Society.

True extract

J. B. Lumsden

Secretary to Government



