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Newsletters numbers 85 - 86**August - October 1983****Members news**

Would UK members please note that the address of their Regional Secretary is now (Mr. K. Wiggins). Membership subscriptions, except for North America, are now changed (as of 1st. Sept) to reflect current exchange rates. The new rates are cited above. Mr. ... (674) has a number of copies of 'Siamese coins and tokens' by Le May, Ramsden, Guehler and Kneedler (1977 reprint) available. Please contact him for details. Mr. ... (4) has a number of duplicate and unwanted coins for disposal. A list will be sent on request. Members may like to know that the final part of the Pridmore collection of Indian coins (The uniform coinage of India, 1835 - 1947) will be auctioned by Glendining & Co. on Monday, 17th. October 1983 (Catalogues available from the auctioneers or A. H. Baldwin and Sons). The next ONS publication will be an Occasional Paper on Chinese Coin Inscriptions. The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies, which was due to open this autumn, is now scheduled to open on 8th. January 1984. There will then be a seminar on the 9th, 10th and perhaps the 11th January. Please contact Mr. ... for further details.

ONS meetings

The next ONS meeting in London will be at 2 - 30 pm on Saturday 5th. November at 28 Little Russell St., London W 1. Members may like to know that on the same day there is also a coin fair at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch.

The Northeastern USA Chapter on the ONS will hold its second meeting on Saturday December 10th. at 6 - 00 pm during the Twelfth Annual New York International Numismatic Convention at the Sheraton Center, Seventh Avenue, between 52nd and 53rd Streets, New York City. The speaker will be Dr. Marie H. Martin (Associate editor of the ANS) who will talk on the 'Coinage and monetary system of the Mughal ruler Akbar'. Please contact the secretary, Willam B. Warden jr., PO Box ..., for details.

Two new Gupta gold staters**Chandragupta II Archer type**

The reverse shows Kamal instead of a Lotus; and the Goddess has her leg downward, which is not seen on other Gupta coins of the Archer type

Kumaragupta I Archer type

The Goddess is seated facing on a lotus (as usual); but her leg is downward (l - leg) which, as just noted, is not recorded on other Archer type coins.

by K. C. Jaria

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The Coinage of the Mrohaung Dynasty of Arakan, 1430 - 1635 AD

Part 3: The Trilingual Coins

by M. Robinson and N. G. Rhodes

The two previous articles have been concerned with the Arakanese coins bearing purely Arabic legends and the smaller series from Chittagong bearing Arakanese / Arabic and Arakanese / Bengali inscriptions. In this final paper we shall discuss the group of coins bearing legends in three scripts — Arakanese on one side; Arabic and Bengali on the other side. Some of these coins were described in Robinson and Shaw (1), but the work by San Tha Aung (2) has some more examples and, in certain cases, supplies more accurate readings of the Arakanese. Much progress has also been made with reading the Bengali and Arabic legends. It is therefore appropriate to consider the whole group afresh.

Acknowledgements

We should like to thank Mr. Graham Shaw (Assistant Keeper of North Indian Languages, Dept. of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, British Library) for his assistance with the Bengali legends and to Mr. Nicholas Lowick of the British Museum for his help with the Arabic legends. We are also grateful to the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, the American Numismatic Society and Dr. Domrow for permission to use their photographs.

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- 4 J. Schulman, Amsterdam, Auction Sale Catalogue, 30 March 1914, lot 1368 (illustrated)

The trilingual coins are all made of silver, they weigh around 10 grammes, and they were issued from at least 1593 to 1622. They bear on one side the king's name and titles and the date in Arakanese. It is translated into Arabic and Bengali on the other side, omitting only the date. In the listing below modern Burmese is used and it should be noted that the Burmese numerals are sometimes different in form from the Arakanese. In the Arabic inscriptions it is often clear that the definite article "al - " was intended, but the engraver either did not have the knowledge, or else the space, to include it. Illustrations from reference (2) are enlarged, but by an unknown amount, so we have reproduced them at about 72% of (2), which is probably close to the original size of the coins. In the transcriptions we have placed in brackets those letters which should be there grammatically, but have either been omitted in error, or else are not legible because of being off the flan or because of wear. In a few instances a blank space has been left because we are uncertain of what the reading should be.

Min Raza Gyi (Salim Shah): 955 - 974 BE; 1593 - 1612 AD

On his accession Min Raza Gyi struck a coin dated 955, with his Muslim name Salim Shah transliterated in all the languages and his Pali title - Naradibbati, meaning Ruler of Men - in Arakanese.



10.13 gm (ANS 1928.999.26) also: Ref (2) 8.7 - 9.3 gm 10.30 gm (RS 7.11: BM) 10.10 gm (RS 7.12: BM)

Obv..	၄၇၀ နဝံ နံ (၇)	Naradi bbati Saw leim Shah 955	Ruler of Men, Salim Shah, 955
Rev.	ملك عادل سليم شاه سلطان ရာဇာဓိပတိ မာရ	(al-) malik (a)l - 'adil Salim Shah Sultan Sri Sri Salim Saha	The just king, Salim Shah Sultan The most exalted, Salim Shah

In Ref. (2) San Tha Aung illustrated three coins (weights unknown) on pls. 20, 27 and 28. The first he dated as 660 BE and ascribed it to the Launggyet dynasty, and the other two to Setkyawadi (1564 - 71 AD) and Min Palaung (1571 - 93 AD). However, all three coins seem to be the same as no. 7.13 in Ref. (1). All four are shown below : -



pl. 20 pl. 27 pl. 28 RS 7.13 (10.00 gm: BM)

The date on coin 7.13 appears to be 960 (compare with the Arakanese '9' on other coins), rather than 660, which would in any case seem to be far too early for a coin of this style. Although this date would appear to place the coin in the reign of Min Raza Gyi, none of the inscriptions refers to any of this ruler's known names, except Naradibbati. The style of the obverse is similar to coin 1, but the reverse is quite different.

We know that in 960 BE Min Raza Gyi began his campaign with the Prince of Toungou against Nandabayin, King of Pegu. The campaign was successful and the king of Pegu was sent as a prisoner to Toungou, where he was secretly put to death in 1599. The king of Arakan returned with considerable plunder, including a white elephant. Although none of the coin inscriptions is clear at the point where the king's name should be, the most likely reading seems to be Nanda, and the most likely explanation is that Min Raza Gyi adopted the name of the defeated ruler in celebration of his conquest. The alternative, that Nandabayin struck the one and only silver coin type of Pegu in the year of his downfall, seems rather unlikely. Also, according to ref. (2), some authorities say that Min Raza Gyi issued coins on four occasions. So maybe this is one.

Obv.	၉၆၀ နာရာဒိဗ္ဗ တိဝရိသော် မဟာနန္ဒ	960 Naradibba ti uri daw Maha Nanda (?) Baya (?)	960 ruler of men royal uncle (on the mother's side) ? [letters following Maha are uncertain]
Rev.	၁၁၀ سلطان (ما)هانندا شاه त्याहना श्रीमहाश	Sultan (Ma)hananda Shah (Sultan?) Maha Na ? (nd)a ? Saha	Sultan Mahananda Shah (Sultan Mahana) nanda Shah

Our reading of this coin is very tentative, pending further specimens showing the missing letters.

The White Elephant acquired from Pegu was much prized. So, soon after his return, Min Raza Gyi issued a coin to announce his trophy: —



Ashmolean: 10.34 gm

Domrow: 9.6 gm

Also BM (RS 7.10: 9.67 gm), BM (10.04 gm), Domrow (9.95 gm), Dacca (10.16) gm, ref. 2 (9.6 - 10 gm)

Obv.	၉၆၃ ဆိပ်ဖြူ သူ နာရာဒိဗ္ဗ တိဝရိသော်	963 Hsin byu shi n Naradibba ti Sawlei m Shah	963 Owner of the White Elephant Ruler of men Salim Shah
Rev.	မိသ္မာ صاحب لفيل بيض ملك لعا دل سليم شاه سلطان ধবলজচ্চ শিব স্রী স্রী সলিম সাহা	Sahib (a)l - fil (al-a)byad (al-) malik al-adil Salim Shah Sultan Dhavala Gajesvara Sri Sri Salim Saha	Lord of the White Elephant, the just king Salim Shah Sultan Lord of the White Elephant (Lit.: White Elephant Lord) the most exalted Salim Shah

Note: on some coins (eg. Ashmolean) the 'm' in Salim is in the last line of the Bengali inscription. The coin from the Dacca Museum was published and read by A. Karim (3), and it was this article that provided the key to the readings of the other Arabic and Bengali legends.

Min Khamaung (Hussain Shah): 974 - 984 BE; 1612 - 1622 AD

Min Raza Gyi was succeeded by Min Khamaung who took the Muslim name Hussain Shah and the Hindu name Waradhamma Raja. His first coin is shown below : -

4



RS 7.15 (10.04 gm: BM)

Also: ref. (2): 9.9 - 10 gm

Obv.

၉၇၄
 သင်္ဃာသင်္ဃာ
 ဝါဝဗ္ဗာ
 ဇာဇာဇာဇာ

Rev.

၉၇၄

صاحب لفيل
 بيفر ملك لعادر
 حسين شاه سلطان
 धवलगजेश्वर
 श्री श्री धामराजा
 हुचानासाहा

974

Hsin byu shin
 Waradhamma Ra
 za Ushau
 ng Shah

Sahib (a)l - fil
 (al-a)byad (al-)malik (a)l-'adil
 Husayn Shah Sultan
 Dhavala Gajesvara
 Sri Sri Dhama Raja
 (Hu)chana Saha

974 BE

Owner of the White Elephant
 Waradhamma Ra
 ja Hussai
 n Shah
 Lord of the White Elephant
 the just king
 Hussain Shah Sultan
 Lord of the White Elephant
 the most exalted Dhama Raja
 Hussain Shah



RS 7.14 (9.52 gm: BM)



RS 7.15 var. (9.98 gm: BM)

Afterwards, Min Khamaung must have acquired a red elephant, as shown by the following coin which was first published in a J. Schulman auction catalogue (4) and is now in the American Numismatic Society collection: -

5



10.06 gm (ANS 1920.999.12)

Obv.

၉၇၄
 သင်္ဃာသင်္ဃာ
 သင်္ဃာသင်္ဃာ
 ဝါဝဗ္ဗာ
 ဇာဇာဇာဇာ

Rev.

၉၇၄

صاحب لفيل
 لا احمر ملك لعادر
 حسين شاه سلطان
 धवललोहितगजेश्वर
 श्री श्री धामराजा
 हुचानासाहा

974

Hsin byu thakhin
 Hsin ni thakhin Wara
 dhamma Raza U
 shaung Shah
 Sahib (a)l-fil (al-a)byad
 wa 'l-ahmar (al-)malik (a)l-'a
 dil (al-)sultan Husayn
 Dhavala lohit (?) Gajesva
 ra Sri Sri Dhama Raja

974

Lord of the White Elephant,
 Lord of the Red Elephant, Wara
 dhamma Raja Hu
 ssain Shah
 Lord of the White and Red
 Elephants, the just king
 Sultan Hussain
 Lord of the White and Red Elephants,
 the most exalted Dhama Raja,

Notice that in the Arakanese text the word 'Owner' has been replaced by 'Lord'. In the Arabic note the reversal of Sultan and Husayn from coin 4, and the absence of 'Shah' from this and subsequent coins. The second word of the Bengali legend is not clear, but is presumably 'Lohit', or some other form of this Sanskrit word meaning 'red'. The last line of the Bengali legend is totally flat and illegible.

