

ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

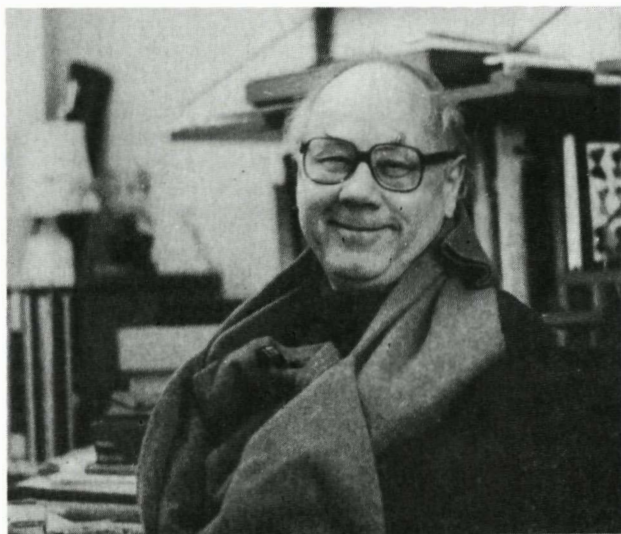
No. 153

Summer 1997

ONS News

Obituary

MICHAEL ROWLAND BROOME 1927-1997



It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death on 29 June this year of our Secretary General, Michael Broome. Michael was the founder of the ONS back in 1970 and, together with a small number of other enthusiasts, started the Society on the path that it has assiduously followed during the past 27 years. Throughout that period he remained Secretary General and represented the Society at various international gatherings. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, London. He was a keen student of Islamic coinage, especially the various series that were struck in what is now Turkey and at the time of his death was in the process of finalising the text of a book on the coinage of the Seljuqs. It is hoped that this book will in fact be published in due course. Prior to that he had written a number of articles on the series that he had studied, including Maria Theresa Talers, and in 1985 he published his very useful introductory book *A handbook of Islamic coins*. He had various other collecting interests, including the medals of Frank Bowcher, and was a long-time and founder member of the local Reading coin club.

On behalf of the Society we extend our deep condolences to his widow, Muriel and her family. The following obituaries have been provided by Muriel, and Terry Hardaker.

Michael was born at Guy's Hospital, London, on 20 January 1927, within the sound of Bow Bells, and therefore he was a Cockney, which rather pleased him. His father came from Somerset, and was a qualified pharmacist and optician. His mother hailed from Essex,

and Michael claimed he inherited his brains from her. She was a beautiful girl, who had to give up a scholarship to Cambridge because her father died, and she had to earn her living. After his father moved about with jobs in Hornchurch, Fulham and Blackheath (all in or near London), the family settled in Bexleyheath (south-east of London). Michael was at school in Taunton (Somerset) during part of the war, and then at Dartford Grammar School (Kent).

After school, he decided on somewhat vague grounds (partly because he was good at maths, and partly because he liked maps) to become a Civil Engineer. After the war, this was a priority occupation. He had a year at Woolwich Polytechnic and then went to Imperial College (London) where he graduated.

Michael was apprenticed to a consulting engineer in Victoria (London) and then went on to real engineering with a firm called Cotterill's. After that practical experience he joined G. Percy Trentham, working on major civil engineering works such as factories (Fords at Dagenham), roads and airfields. He worked his way up in the firm, becoming Chief Engineer in 1966 and left in some frustration in 1970.

The next stage of his professional life was in the Civil Service, within the Department of Transport, involved with traffic and the road programme. He then was asked to look at the environmental effects of roads, and developed a new approach with the concept of Environmental Impact Assessment and then finally into Environmental Audit.

On retirement in 1990, he set up as a consultant and lecturer in Environmental Audit, though as the result of the recession, this did not really take off. His activities then became mostly numismatic, but he was also researching the history of Woodley, and his family history, and Ordnance Survey maps. He was an inveterate collector, to the occasional despair of his wife.

He and I met in 1953, when I was a medical student at the Royal Free Hospital. I insisted on qualifying and doing two house jobs in order to register. We married in September 1956 and enjoyed 40 years of married life. There are two children: Jenny, who became an architect, and when the recession put paid to that, changed direction and is now a professional harpist. Nicholas, less academic, joined the Civil Service, and, when his branch was privatised, went back to studying accountancy, doing a number of different jobs on the way.

In the mid-1970s, Michael started having some heart trouble, which culminated in 1982 with a quadruple coronary by-pass operation. He recovered well and this continued for nearly 15 years before the condition caught up with him. He died fairly soon after a holiday in Russia, and after a short illness.

M.B.

I was saddened to learn of the news that Michael Broome had died. I first came into contact with him as a result of a letter he wrote and had published in Seaby's Coin & Medal Bulletin of February 1970. In this letter he wrote:

It seems possible that there is an increase of interest in the coinages of the Near and Far East. The article by Rev. RJ Plant (October) and Dr. ML Smith's letter (November) are encouraging signs as is the impending reprint of WH Valentine's "Catalogue of Modern Copper Coins of the Muhammedan States".

As a beginner struggling in this field, I have been very conscious of my isolation from other students and from comprehensible books and it is possible that others share the same problems. I wonder, therefore, if it would be worthwhile setting up a list of students of the various Oriental series who would be willing and interested to correspond with each other and with beginners wishing to learn.

A small group of people with a like interest could provide a focus for such work as, for example, a listing of museums whose collections contain Oriental coins or a note of the various sources where standard reference books can be obtained on loan.

While in no way qualified for the role, should no other volunteer appear, I would be prepared to act as temporary secretary to such a group if it would fulfil a need. I should be interested in the opinions of those of your readers who have studied, or have wished to study this field.

Seldom can one man have brought so much pleasure to so many people over so many years by writing just one letter. I still retain the subsequent correspondence, from which it appears that 12 people responded and nine agreed to join a loosely knit group, and to state their interests. By early March we were debating what name to give the society, and amongst the suggestions were "Oriental Coin Enthusiasts", "Study Group for Oriental Numismatics" and "Oriental Numismatic Society".

By April, we had 21 members and were forming editorial panels, and in May we "legally" came into existence and opened a bank account!

I do not think that Michael had any idea how the Society would proliferate throughout the world, but I am sure he must have taken great comfort from its success. As his initial letter shows, he was a man of great modesty, yet as membership grew, he coped with expansion and the paperwork that followed without complaint despite his full-time job in London. While Michael was there, one felt we would never stray far from the path of common sense and even-handedness.

I did not meet Michael more than four or five times, apart from casual hellos at meetings. On one occasion he had a hoard of punchmarked coins and invited me to his home in Woodley. It was a hot July day and we sat on the lawn looking at coins and exchanging stories and experiences, and I remember thinking "this is what numismatics is about!".

Michael's enthusiasm and unbounded energy coupled with his firm but unobtrusive leadership made the ONS what it is. He will be sadly missed by hundreds of people and it is a tragedy that he cannot enjoy more years of benefit from the movement he set in motion. I hope the numismatic fraternity will find some suitable way to honour his memory.

T.H.

ONS - The way forward

Following the death of our Secretary General, a number of Society officers and members met at the British Museum on 15 July to discuss the way forward for the Society. The minutes of that meeting follow.

Present: Ken Wiggins (UK Regional Secretary), Bob Senior (General Regional Secretary), Stan Goron (Newsletter Editor), David Priestly (Treasurer), Howard Simmons, Tony Holmes, Nicholas Rhodes, Joe Cribb and Robert Tye. Stan Goron chaired the meeting and Joe Cribb acted as minute-taker.

The meeting opened with a minute's silence in memory of Michael Broome. It then went on to honour the late Secretary General and express its condolences to his family. Since he started the Society, it had continued to flourish for 26 years, had published more than 150 newsletters and more than 60 other publications, and had at least 500 members world-wide organised in six sections.

The meeting generally felt that without the authority of Michael Broome, founder of the Society, acting as Secretary General, it now needed a form of governing council and simple constitution to ensure the future of the Society. Those present

(except Robert Tye) agreed to act as a provisional management committee for the Society until a new Secretary General was elected and a governing council established.

Proposed Governing Council

It was agreed that the provisional management committee would propose to the Society that the Governing Council should consist of the officers of the Society. The officers on the Council would be the present Regional Secretaries (UK, General, America, South Asia, Europe), the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary and the Editor, together with the new Secretary General, and three new officers: a deputy Secretary General, a Meeting Secretary and a Publication Secretary.

The Council would meet at least twice a year to decide on matters of policy and finance and to arrange the election of officers.

General Meeting, June 1988

The provisional management committee would organise a General Meeting of the ONS at the June London Coin Fair (Cumberland Hotel). The committee would in the meantime nominate the first set of officers for election and there would be a postal ballot of members to be finalised at the General Meeting. Members of the Society would be welcome to recommend candidates for election to be included on the ballot form by the committee. The management would also devise a new constitution for the Society and recommend it to the members for ratification at the same General Meeting.

After that, the management committee would cease to exist and the Governing Council would be the only management body of the ONS, managing the publication programme, the Society's finances and the election of officers. The Council would also work to promote the Society and Oriental Numismatics, raise sponsorship for its publications and events, and liaise with other bodies, such as the International Numismatic Commission. All other business of the Society would, as now, be in the management of the regional secretaries and whatever committees they organised to support them.

New General Secretary

The meeting discussed potential candidates for Secretary General and several were being approached. If a suitable person emerged he/she would be invited to chair the provisional management committee until the General Meeting next year.

Michael Broome Memorial Fund

Joe Cribb informed the meeting that Michael Broome's family had approached him for advice on the setting up of a memorial fund to celebrate Michael's achievements. The family had decided to proceed and asked Joe Cribb to contact the Royal Numismatic Society (Michael had been a sometime Council Member of the Society) with a view to its setting up and managing the fund on behalf of the family. A proposal to establish a memorial fund "to promote numismatic research" would be put to the Royal Numismatic Society Council at its next meeting, on 21 October 1997. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund should send cheques to the Royal Numismatic Society, c/o Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG. The envelopes should be marked "Michael Broome Fund (attention Joe Cribb)". More news of the fund would be available once the RNS had established it.

Anyone wishing to help the provisional management committee or to make suggestions about the future management of the ONS should contact the Newsletter Editor.

Provisional Action Plan

Summer 1997 Newsletter: publish minutes of meeting and invite comments

Autumn 1997 Newsletter: publish draft constitution and invite comments; invite nominations for certain positions on the Council (to be determined)

Winter 1998 Newsletter: publish revised draft constitution (if indeed revised), invite postal ratification from members not able to attend General Meeting; issue voting papers for election of

Council.

June 1998 (Date to be Confirmed) General Meeting at the Cumberland Coin Fair, London. Announcement of election results. Adoption of Constitution.

Leiden Meeting

The annual ONS meeting in the Netherlands will be held on Saturday 18 October 1997 and will take place at the premises of the Museum of Antiquities, Royal Coin Cabinet, Rapenburg 28, Leiden. The meeting will start at 10.00 with a welcome with coffee in the library of the Royal Coin Cabinet. Subjects to be discussed and presented will be, amongst other things: *Development of a numismatic CD-Rom project* by Paul Murphy; *Some new Chagatayid coins from Almaligh* by Tjong Ding Yih and *Relations between early Indian coin motifs and contemporary art objects* by Ellen Raven. The meeting will end in tradition fashion with an auction of some oriental coins. The day will be concluded, for those interested, with a dinner in an Indonesian restaurant.

ONS members in continental Europe will receive a separate invitation directly from the Regional Secretary. Other members interested may contact Jan Lingen (☎ ++31 20 314 1234; fax: ++31 20 314 1297) for further details and the auction list.

Cologne Meeting

On 8 November 1997, an ONS meeting will be held in the Heidelberg Room of the Pullmann Hotel Mondial in Cologne, Germany. This meeting will start at 09.30. For details please contact ...).

New York Meeting

On 6 December 1997, during the New York International Numismatic Convention at 5 pm, the ONS will sponsor a talk by Dr Lawrence Adams and William B. Warden, Jr entitled *Gold and electrum coinage from the Sind: 3rd through 6th century AD* at the Marriott World Trade Center. The speakers will discuss Sasanian, Indo-Sasanian and nunnic coins struck in Sind, and a book that they are working on.

If any members have any unpublished Sind gold or electrum coins would they please contact either of the speakers (Bill Warden's address is at the top of the first page of the Newsletter). Please see Bob Senior's articles in Newsletters 129 and 149 for similar coinage.

Members News

...) is currently researching the life and minting activity of John Prinsep, a Calcutta merchant, who in 1780-1784 minted copper coinage for the British East India Company. Larry's ultimate goal is to write a paper on his life and coinage.

In the course of this study, he has come across what he believes is an error in the late Major Pridmore's *Volume I, East India Company*. On page 205, Pridmore stated that 'This copper coinage was struck by Prinsep at a mint ... at Faltu or Fulda, a village some 23 miles ssw of Calcutta.' At the India Office Library, London, there is an unpublished manuscript by Prinsep's grandson, who states 'Pulta was the place where his [Prinsep's] Chintz Factory and Copper Mint had been established, some fifteen miles north of Calcutta.' This location is further supported by an entry in the *List of the officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834* which states that John Prinsep 'Opened a copper mint at Palta near Barrackpore ...' Having been stationed during World War II approximately three to five miles south of Barrackpore, he knows that it is located north of Calcutta. He would appreciate hearing from any member who can shed further light on this subject as well as match the names *Faltu, Fulda, Pulta* or *Palta* with any village located on the Hoogly River.

... is moving to South Africa for health reasons and giving up both collecting and his membership of ONS. His collection of Ismaili material will be auctioned by Sotheby's, London, UK, on 6-7 November 1997 (Tel: ++44 171 3144444).

From the Editor

Articles on all series are now required for future issues of the Newsletter.

Other News

ICOMON

The fourth annual meeting of ICOMON took place at the Humboldt University in Berlin on Wednesday 10 September in the afternoon, following the round table discussion on Museums and Research, organised on the occasion of the XIII International Numismatic Conference.

The Father of all Bronze Coins

The following item was noted in an unspecified Indian newspaper in July this year:

Kunming: Archaeologists have found China's largest bronze coin in Huize County, Yunnan province. The 450-year old coin has a perimeter of 181.78 cm, a diameter of 57.8 cm and an aperture with a diameter of 10.24 cm. Experts say the coin is known as the "Jiajing Tongbao", issued during the reign of Emperor Jiajing. The coin, which weighs 41.5 kg, is the largest among ancient bronze coins discovered so far. Archaeologists said the commemorative bronze coin is of value to the study of ancient coin casting.

Can any member corroborate this piece of information and provide any additional details?

Death of John Jermain Slocum

We regret to report the death on 13 August 1997 of this well-known American numismatist at the age of 83. John J. Slocum was elected a member of the The American Numismatic Society in 1962, a Fellow in 1964, and in 1974 was elected to his first term as a member of the Society's governing Council. A specialist in Middle Eastern coinages, particularly of the time of the Crusades, he served as the Chairman of the Society's Standing Committee on Islamic and South Asian Coins during the years 1974-1990.

As a coin collector, Slocum developed a broad archaeological connoisseurship and also brought his scholarly interests to bear on the objects he acquired. His collecting interests were stimulated by his extensive travels in the Middle East during a period when large numbers of coins were coming into the local markets. His collection of Crusader gold and copper coins was by all accounts extraordinary. But he also had a special interest in the coinage and history of the kingdoms that fell between Rome and Persia, such as Characene, Elymais, and especially Hatra, about which he wrote an important article which appeared in the 1977 issue of the American Numismatic Society's journal. His interest in the Crusaders also extended to related Byzantine, Muslim, Armenian, and western European issues. In his later years, he formed a collection of Danishmendid bronzes, rare issues of a little understood twelfth century dynasty in Anatolia that issued a transitional coinage bridging Byzantine and Muslim traditions, often with Greek inscriptions. His own collection of Islamic coins was augmented by the purchase of the famous Munzel collection, highlights of which were published in the *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte* for 1972 and 1974.

ANS Coins Database on Internet

As of 15 August the American Numismatic Society Web Site (<http://www.annumsoc2.org>) has made available a searchable database of their own Numismatic Cabinet holdings. Information on specific coins in the different departments is searchable for ANS members and other numismatists, no matter where they live. Divided into 12 departments, the total database of coin information represents over 533,000 records. The link to the search databases is on the main home page of the ANS site. There are search screens for each of the twelve ANS departments, as well as an e-mail facility for communicating with the respective Department Curator. There is also some background about each of the departments, their strengths and a brief history of their formation. Before searching, it is helpful to read both the General Search Hints, which tells you about how to best utilise the search engine and also the Search Hints specific to the particular department. This gives you some specific keyword search examples to get acquainted with the information and its layout. It should be pointed out that the data on the web site is not the complete ANS database, but only that which was available for up-loading as of around the end of July this year. It is likely to be updated every few months.

[Editor's note: The search works well enough, though from the UK it was a bit slow. ANS Curator, Michael Bates, tells me that it works very quickly within the USA. It is important to know the layout of the information provided and the keywords and abbreviations that are used. Some of these are available from the Hints pages mentioned above. It should be noted that the data provided does not include legends in Arabic or other oriental scripts nor photographs of the coins. Photographs and slides of any coins can, however, be obtained from the ANS at the following rates: black and white photograph (without enlargement) - \$12 per

coin; slides - \$10 each, i.e. \$20 per coin.]

Special offer from the IIRNS

The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies is offering its publications at special prices to all members of the ONS as follows:

Research Journal - Numismatic Digest

Vols. I to III	£4.00 per volume
Vol. IV part II	£3.00
Vol. V part I	£3.00
Vols. VI to XI	£4.00 per volume
Vol. XII-XIII (combined)	£4.00
Vols. XIV to XV	£5.00 per volume
Vols. XVI to XVII	£7.00 per volume
Vol. XVIII	£9.00

Monographs

Maratha mints and coinage by KK Maheshwari and KW Wiggins, £9.00

A catalogue of the Katoch rulers by AK Jha and S. Garg, £5.00

Studies in the coinage of the Western Ksatrapas by Amiteshwar Jha & Dilip Rajgor, £11.00

Proceedings of International Colloquia

Papers presented at the 2nd International Colloquium on Numismatics and Archaeology, 1987, £11.00

Papers presented at the 3rd International Colloquium on Coinage, Trade and Economy, 1991, £14.00

All orders under the terms of this special offer should be sent to UK Regional Secretary, Ken Wiggins (see address at beginning of the newsletter) together with payment in sterling (cash) or by Eurocheque. Upon receipt of the consolidated order, the IIRNS will send the books directly to the members concerned. Please note that the prices include postage by registered *surface* mail.

The new HSBC Gallery of Money at the British Museum reviewed by Tony Holmes

This new gallery, funded by the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, is devoted to money, not just coins. However over the past 2500 years coins have been for much of the time almost the only form of money so there is a splendid selection on display, grouped with other objects under such themes as 'The Coming of Coinage', 'Early Monetary Systems', 'Money used and abused' etc.

In the last named section there is a welcome attempt to show what coins would buy, based on the accounts discovered at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall. Two sestertii would buy a pound of lard, three pounds of bacon (not quite our modern price relationship!) or sixteen pounds of barley. Two asses are shown beside a few of the 100 hob-nails they would have purchased, and a quadrans beside a pottery jar with a capacity of 1.4 pints - the quadrans would have filled it twice with beer. To keep this in perspective, the legionary received a denarius a day, equal to 4 sestertii or 64 quadrantes.

Chinese visitors will be pleased to see that the first Chinese coins are put at c. 600 BC, slightly before the electrum pieces from Lydia (c. 575 BC) and the two streams are shown as they develop separately till the first coinage influenced by both Indian and Chinese tradition appears in Khotan (Xinjiang) about 50 AD. Inevitably the question of the origin and dating of the earliest Indian coinage has to be omitted.

Of course paper money and so-called primitive money are included, as are jetons, scales and weights; a cash register and an engraving machine, an anti-poll tax cheque book, a piggy bank and savings money boxes, Chinese Hell money etc.

There is a considerable proportion of Chinese and Islamic coinage among the exhibits. Including the splendid gold 5 mohur of Akbar. One could compare larins of the Sefavid, Ottoman and Bijapur types. Other pieces which stuck in my personal memory are the Yap stone money; an Indian wampum belt, with a pattern of white and purple beads; gold and silver of the Axumite king Endybis (given the dates 227-235; Hahn gives him c.300, Munro-Hay c.270 (with considerable hesitation).) I was intrigued, too, by

the pattern base penny of Elizabeth I, with the legend 'Pledge of a penny' (I think); the magnificent Roman medallions; the vast 8 daler plåtmynt of Karl X Gustav of Sweden - dated 1658, it is a huge sheet of copper weighing 15 kg! No wonder the weight of such money encouraged early adoption of paper money!

Andrew Burnett and his team at the British Museum deserve the highest credit for the way they have designed and presented this gallery. It is one I shall return to for more than the two visits I've managed to make so far!

New and Recent Publications

1. *Coins of Mediaeval India: a newly discovered hoard from West Bengal* by Pratiap Kumar Mitra, 1997 available from The Indian Books Centre, 40/5, Shakti Nagar, Delhi - 110007, India. Fax: ++91 11 7227336. E-mail: ibcindia@giadl01.vsnl.net.in

2. *Danish East India - Trade coins and the coins of Tranquebar 1620-1845* by Uno Barner Jensen, published by the author 1997, 48pp, card cover. This is the English version of the book first published in Danish under the title *Dansk Ostindien, Handelsmønter og mønterne fra Trankebar*. Price: Dkr 115, US\$ 18 plus postage (Scandinavia: Dkr 11; Europe: Dkr 22; Overseas: Dkr 36 or US\$ 6; registered: an additional Dkr 27 or US\$ 4). ISBN 87-983682-3-0. The book may be obtained from the author at Kirkegade 82, DK-9460 Brovst, Denmark. E-mail: ujensen@post3.tele.dk Payment is required in advance in Danish kroner by cheque drawn on a Danish bank or in cash, or in US\$ in cash. If paying by cheque in US\$, and additional US\$ 8 should be added to cover bank charges.

Jan Lingen has provided the following review of this book.

An up-to-date handbook in English on the Danish oriental colonial history and numismatics has long been lacking. In 1895, Vilhelm Bergsoe published a book with the title Trankebar-Mønter (1644-1845) samt mønter og medailler. This book, in Danish, served for a long time as a handbook for the coins of this series. In 1974, John C.F. Gray published Tranquebar, a guide to the coins of Danish India circa 1620 to 1845. Since this publication the interest outside Denmark seems to have grown in this series. A surprising number of articles have appeared in Danish and the demand for an updated book on the subject was badly felt. In the autumn of 1996 a booklet under the title Dansk Ostindien, handelsmønter og mønterne fra Trankebar was published by Uno Barner Jensen. This was the first publication of any size, since Bergsoe's book to put the coins of this series into an up-to-date historical context, with listing and illustrations of the coins, but still in Danish. Now with the English version, a long awaited handbook for this series, including the trade coins struck for the Asian trade, is finally available.

For the benefit of collectors and dealers, catalogue numbers have been added to the English version. These are based on the Standard Catalogue of World Coins by L. Krause and Clifford Mishler (KM) and Uno Berner Jensen, Danish India Tranquebar coins 1620-1845, Market Values 1996 (UBJ). The wealth of information, the high quality illustrations and neat printing, combined with a modest price, make this publication a must for all those interested in the history and coins of European overseas trading companies in general and of the activities of the Danes in particular.

3. *Vostochnoe Istoricheskoe Istochnikovedenie i Special'nye Istoricheskie Discipliny* (Studying the Sources and Special Branches for Oriental History). Volume 5 (320 pp., illustrated). Moscow 1997. Extensive English summary of each article. Volume 5 contains the following articles on numismatics:

- Elena A. Davidovich: *Coins of Muhammad b. Takish (1200-1220) from a hoard found on the site of Stary Termez*
- Elena A. Davidovich: *Narshakhi and Qubawi on Ghitrifi's reform, metallic content and circulation of the Ghitrifi coins (estimation of source authenticity)*
- G.I. Djaparidze: *On the coins of Ali b. Dja'far, Amir of Tbilisi*
- E.Y. Goncharev: *Copper coins of Haji Tarkhan of the 14th century*
- B.D. Kochnev: *A corpus of inscriptions on Qarakhanid coins: anthroponyms and titles. Part 2*

- S.D. Loginov, A.B. Nikitin: *Sasanian bronze coins of Merv*
- P.N. Petrov, K.D. Smychkov: *A hoard of gilt silver dinars of the Great Seljuqs (part 2)*

The price of a single copy is US\$11.85 (including mailing costs). Any member interested in obtaining a copy should contact Prof. Elena A. Davidovich (Editor) or Dr. V.N. Nastich (Head of Department) by mail or fax at

Institute for Oriental Studies, R.A.S.
Department of Written Sources, 12 Rozhdestvenka St.
103753 Moscow, Russia

Fax: ++7 095 975 2396 (the zero should be included when forming the number)

4. Volume LVI (1994), parts I and II, of the Journal of the Numismatic Society of India has been published and includes the following articles:

- R. C. Gaur: *Coins from Atranjikhera*
- Vidvan I. Ramaswami: *Personal seals of Cheras from Karuvur in Kongu*
- Prashant Srivastava & Deepak Tiwari: *Siva on Ujjayini coins*
- Amarendra Nath: *A survey of numismatic and sphragistic data from Adam*
- A.H. Siddiqui: *Some Mahasenapati coins of the Deccan*
- Aashi Aggrawal: *Impact of the Western Kshatrapa coinage on ancient Indian numismatics*
- B.N. Mukherjee: *A coin of the Masrajha family*
- Gerald M. Browne: *Observations on Gupta coin legends*
- L.S. Nigam & Rahul Kumar Singh: *A new seal of Keśavadeva from Malhāra*
- Gerald M. Browne: *Metrical legends on silver coins from Madhyadeśa*
- Uday Shankar Mitra: *Some gold coins in the Museum & Art Gallery, University of Burdwan, West Bengal*
- Nisar Ahmad: *The coins of Chandragupta III and IV: a fresh appraisal*
- B.N. Mukherjee: *A new variety of Balabhata's coinage*
- Vijay Lakshmi Labh: *Some observations on silver coinage during early mediaeval northern India*
- Vasant Chowdhury: *Some comments on the Haflong Hoard*
- Bhasakar Chatterjee: *Significance of Bharatha Simha's coins in Ahom history*
- Raijasbir Singh: *Kauri - a denomination of coins in the time of Ranjit Singh*
- I.K. Sarma: *Legal aspects on the upkeep of coin heritage in India*

For further information please contact The Numismatic Society of India, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi - 221 005, India.

Work in progress

Work on the second edition of Stephen Album's *A checklist of popular Islamic coins* is well advanced. This edition will consist of two parts: a text volume and a photo volume. The text volume will comprise 128 or 136 pages (about twice as many as the first edition), with up to 1000 additional types and with numerous types broken down into two or more subtypes. Additional information has been added concerning mints, grades, quality of strike as well as tips for distinguishing otherwise hard-to-identify types. As far as possible existing A-numbers have not been altered. The photo volume is planned to have close on 1000 photographs. Publication should be some time in the next few months. The price of each volume has not been finalised, but neither volume is likely to be expensive and will be well worth the money spent.

Lists Received

1. Stephen Album (PO Box 7386, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95407, USA; ☎ ++1 707-539-2120; fax ++1 707-539-3348; e-mail album@sonic.net) lists number 136 (June 1997), 137 (July 1997) and 138 (August 1997).
2. Persic Gallery (PO Box 10317, Torrance, Calif. 90505, USA; ☎ ++1 310-326-8866; fax ++1 310-326-5618) list 41 of Islamic, Indian and Central Asian coinages.
3. Marcus and Susan Phillips (PO Box 348, Biggleswade, Beds.

UK, SG18 8EQ. ☎ ++44 1767 312112) Book list 4. Includes some books on oriental subjects.

4. Uno Barner Jensen (Kirkegade 82, DK-9460 Brovst, Denmark; ☎ ++45 9823 3570; e-mail ujensen@post3.tele.dk) a list of Danish East India for sale.

Ottoman Copper Coins Minted in San'a', the Yemen

by Dick Nauta

PART II: The thick, later coins.

Introduction

This is the second and concluding part of an article dealing with the Ottoman copper coins minted at San'a' during the first Ottoman occupation of the Yemen in the 16th and 17th centuries AD (10th-11th century AH). It deals with the so-called *thick* coins struck at this mint. Earlier articles in this series appeared in ONS Newsletters from 1993 onwards and dealt with the Ottoman copper coins of Zabid, al-Mokha, Kawkaban, Sa'dah and Malhaz.

The first part of the article on the San'a' coins had as its subject the early, thin type of Ottoman copper coins which are believed to have been minted during the later part of Sultan Sulayman's reign (954 to early 970's H.). This possibly includes the period of unrest which led to the temporary reconquest of much of the Yemen, including its capital San'a', by the Yemeni Zaydi Imam al-Mutahhar in 975 AH (1565 AD). In 977 San'a' was reconquered by the Ottomans, and the thick copper coins that are relatively well-known from San'a' are believed to have been minted from then onwards.

For further introductory notes the reader is referred to part I of this article which appeared in ONS Newsletter 146 (Autumn 1995) as well as the earlier articles on Kawkaban and Sa'dah and on Malhaz.

As in previous articles in this series, it should be stressed that the typology for these coins is not definitive. It has only been designed for the purposes of this first article dealing with these coins. Some of the subdivisions into types may be found arbitrary or subjective; for many coin types the sample size is too small to say much about them anyway. Many coins show only fragments of features on the basis of which they are attributed to one or the other type. Much more will have to be discovered from coins in other collections and not included in this study (the better specimens mostly found their way into the international coin trade and are to be found in private collections). And indeed, much may yet come to light in the Yemen itself.

Weights are always approximate as corrosion and damage from use or cleaning will show. Conclusions based on weight therefore are to be treated with healthy skepticism. Much of the information remains inconclusive. What remains however as an undisputed feature, is the enormous range in weight and size of coins clearly within the same type.

Text figures in this article in many cases are composite drawings, bringing out characteristics on which typology has been based. Hence drawings may have been somewhat idealised and perhaps in that sense can be misleading. The actual coins are never as neat as the drawings might suggest! The number of variants and additional, cryptic signs moreover seems endless. A few of the 110 coins used in this study are from the same dies. I have so far seen only two sets of thick Ottoman copper coins from exactly the same dies: a coin of one set is in Schuster's collection (Vienna); its twin is together with the other set in my own collection.

Historical Setting

The first collapse of Ottoman authority in Yemen culminated in the recapture of San'a' by Imam al-Mutahhar in 975H, shortly after the death of Sultan Sulayman in 974. The events leading up to this epic drama have been briefly described in part I of this article.¹

The period of minting discussed in this article starts with the re-conquest of the Yemen (and San'a') by Sinan Pasha in 977/1569 and continues to the departure of the Ottomans from the Yemen in 1038/1629, a period of some 60 lunar years, covering eight reigns during which seven Ottoman sultans came and went.

The history of this period has been described in varying detail

in a number of known contemporary manuscripts.² The later years of this period were characterised by the intensive struggle of the Yemenis to free themselves from the Ottoman presence under the inspired leadership of the Zaydi Imam al-Qasim "al-Kabir".³

No rendering of these manuscripts into a readily accessible and cohesive historical account of the period however exists. The best overall description of this period, and even that is fragmentary, is the annotated synopsis by Serjeant.⁴

After Sultan Suleyman's death the following sultans reigned during the Ottoman occupation of the Yemen:

Sultan Selim II	(974-982/1566-1574)
Sultan Murad III	(982-1003/1574-1595)
Sultan Mehmed III	(1003-1012/1595-1603)
Sultan Ahmed I	(1012-1026/1603-1617)
Sultan Mustafa I	(1026-1027/1617-1618)
Sultan Osman II	(1027-1031/1618-1622)
Sultan Mustafa I	(1031-1032/1622-1623)
Sultan Murad IV	(1032-1049/1623-1640).

With the exception of Sultan Selim II, for whose reign up to now neither silver nor gold coins from the Yemen have been found, all the other sultans in this period are known to have struck small silver coins, called '*al-lymānī*', mostly from San'a' and in some cases from other mints (Kawkaban and Ta'izz). In addition, a rare gold coin of San'a' testifies to the rule of Sultan Mohammed III.⁵ Sultan Selim II's reign, however, has produced a few dated copper coins but none of these bear his name.

The coin material

A total of 110 coins form the basis of this study. They have been collected over a period of several years and were often the by-products of various lots of coins that I acquired in the Yemen during the mid eighties. Two of the coins described here, one of which is possibly a unique specimen, are from the collection of Hans Wilski. In addition, details of another fourteen relevant coins from other collections,⁶ have been used to verify retroactively a number of characteristics described. Invariably these coins could be easily ascribed to one or the other type.

The thick copper coins of San'a' on the whole are not very rare and from time to time can be found on offer in the international coin market. During a later visit to San'a' (1991) I noticed that prices of such coins, if at all found, had gone up considerably, but as always, there is no knowledgeable pricing structure either as regards quality or rarity; much depends on the moment and the person one may meet in the shop.

At first view these coins are difficult to read, as almost invariably one finds that the planchet doesn't meet the size of the dies halfway, and even when the coin is reasonably well centred, the strike is likely to be shallow or the coin is badly corroded or both. The coins then are no longer very attractive and few people would buy such coins, unless, as in my case, one wants to study them, and any details one can glean from even an ugly specimen contribute useful information. Thus for all the coins that have qualified for this study, there are as many as half their number either awaiting further identification or totally unattributable for purposes of this series of articles.

To find a well-struck, nicely preserved specimen of these Yemeni copper coins is indeed a piece of good luck, and such coins should rightly fetch good prices.

Dating the Coins

The year of accession and the name of the Ottoman sultans traditionally appear on silver and gold coins struck during their reigns, regardless of the actual year of minting. For copper coins however this rule did not necessarily apply. Copper coins of the period mostly go undated; if dated, they do not necessarily bear the year of accession. As for the sultan's name, this would only rarely be found on copper coins of the period before Sultan Suleyman II (accession year 1099), and then mostly in *toughra* shape only.

In the Yemen, it would seem that copper coins played a more important role than elsewhere in the empire; many of the earlier coins of Sultan Sulayman's reign carry both his name and year of accession.⁷

The thick copper coins under discussion here however never bear the sultan's name and in only a limited number of cases do

they show a year, sometimes a year of accession, but just as often another year, or only the two last digits of a year, making it possible to attribute coins to a particular sultan.

A curiosity here is that these digits sometimes appear in the curls of the convoluted, toughra-like word *al-mahrūs* which covers the obverse of the coins. More usually, the year is placed below the mint name San'a' on the reverse of the coins. In many of the coins studied, the planchet was too small to take the full imprint of the dies and more often than not, the year is off the flan, or at best the tips of the digits appear, usually insufficient to read the year unambiguously. See also last paragraph *Comparisons*.

The Planchets

The planchets on which the coins were struck were probably 'slices' or rather 'chunks' cut off from round bars of copper. These would then be crudely flattened, the last stage of flattening taking place between the dies during actual minting. Radial cracks and horizontal creases along the edge bear testimony to this production process. Many planchets show that the original off-cuts were not perpendicular but oblique in relation to the lengthwise axis of the copper bar. This also accounts for the often somewhat oval shape of the planchets, rather like slices cut from a sausage. Considerable differences in thickness from one side of the planchet to the other may occur.

It is surprising to note that throughout the range of diameters from almost 20mm down to 11mm its ratio over thickness remains mostly within the values 8 to 5. Thus even the smallest of these thick coins are readily recognised as such.

From the thin pre-974 coins to the thick coins of 977 onwards there appears to be no transitional type. The typical thick coins appeared with the reoccupation of the Yemen, probably based on the contemporary coinage of the Misr (Egypt) mint.⁸ The Red Sea port of Suez from where all preparations for the Ottoman campaigns in the Yemen were staged was within the monetary influence of Misr. The thick coinage was not only introduced to San'a' but is also known from Kawkaban, Sa'dah, Malhaz, al-Mokha and Zabid.⁹

It is not clear whether the coins discussed here cover the total period evenly. The paucity of clear, readable years suggests that there may have been periods when few or no coins were struck. On the basis of the few readable digits, it would seem that most of the coins of Obverse A represented by types 1 to 10 belong to the late 900s, which would then suggest that during the first 30 years or so of the eleventh century AH, no or only few copper coins would have been struck. This assumption is not entirely unjustified when viewing the equal scarcity of silver coins from this period. Minting would then have been resumed with the reign of Sultan Murad IV, judging by the dates 1032, 1033 and 1036, as well as the relative uniformity of the coins of Type B-10. In general it can be observed that copper coins from any mints in the Ottoman empire for the reigns of all the sultans under discussion here are scarce to rare. The Yemen apparently forms no exception.

Metrology

One may speculate about the reason for the sudden appearance of thick copper coins with the reconquest of San'a'. It might be explained by a general or local shortage of silver in the Ottoman realm, corroborated by the absence of silver coins from Yemeni mints of Sultan Selim II's reign, and general scarcity thereafter. Heavier copper coins could to some extent assume the monetary role of the small silver *akçe* or '*uḥmānī*', (thought to be equal to the *maydīn*) This subject has been somewhat speculatively elaborated in my article on the heavy copper coins of Malhaz.¹⁰

Coins of every diameter between 11 and 18mm and weight between 1 and 7 grams occur in a kind of continuum, thus making it difficult to understand how such coins were used: on a piece basis or on a weight basis? So far nothing appears to be known about their value in relation to other coinage, their denominations and the names under which they circulated or the purposes for which they were commonly used. Generic terms as *fiḥs/fulūs* and *manqir/manāqir* for copper coins are known from contemporary sources, but it is not clear how these apply to the coins under discussion here.¹¹

Information about the weights of these coins has been collated in Table 1 below. It shows in the vertical columns to the left the

twelve types described below, the number of coins within the type and the average weight for each type. Horizontally the weight is indicated with graduations of half a gram. A bar shows for each type the range of weights found, as well as the number of coins within that range. It can be readily seen that most of the types share the range of between about 1.5 and 4 grams. The shaded columns comprise 59 coins, 54% of the study lot. There are however appreciable numbers of coins beyond that common range, both to the lower as well as to the higher weights. Seven types extend well into the higher weight range, and five into the lower weight values. Two of these include both lower as well as higher coin weights.

Table 1: The thick copper coins of San'a'
Distribution of coin weights at half gram intervals per type

Type #	Sample Size n	Av. Wt. g	Weight range in half grams															
			0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7		
A-1	11	5.2				1	1	1	1						2	4	2	
A-2	6	2.3		1	2	1	1	1	1									
A-3	5	1.9		3	1	1	1	1										
A-4	10	4.2			1	2	2	1	1	1					4			
A-5	7	2.7		2	1	1	1	1	1					1				
A-6	13	4.6		1	1	1	1	1	3							6		
A-7	4	3.1				2	1	1										
A-8	5	4.5			1	1	1	1	1					1			2	
A-9	11	3.9			1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1				
A-10	20	2.0	1	3	3	6	2	2	2	2	2	1						
B-10	17	1.7		5	2	4	2	2	2									
C-11	1	12.3															12.3g	
Totals	110			1	8	11	18	8	13	11	9	3	2	4	7	12	2	1

59 = 54%

In interpreting this chart, it must be remembered that the listing of types represented by numbers 1 to 11 is not a chronological one. Coins with readable year are too few, or indeed totally lacking, to link types into a chronological sequence which might enable deductions about changes in weights, or preponderance of weight classes over time to be made. Only the lower range of weights within type B-10 in relation to the preceding A-1 to A-10 types has some significance because many coins of type B-10 can be dated quite accurately to 1032, 1033 and 1036AH and we therefore know that coins of this type are the last copper coins struck by the Ottomans in the Yemen.

Towards the end of the period, the thick coins tend to become thinner and lighter again. Some of the coins dating from Sultan Murad IV's reign no longer really fit within the definition of thick coins as used above. For convenience sake, they have been grouped with these coins as they share certain other characteristics.

The position of coin type C-11 as last in the list, similarly has no chronological significance as this single coin is undated.

Typology

The overall typology of the Ottoman copper coins of San'a' has been described in Part I of this article. Three main types were distinguished; the first two of these are so-called thin coins.

The coins discussed in Part II are called 'thick' coins, because the ratio of diameter over thickness is less than ten, more usually between five to eight, whereas in the so-called 'thin' coins this ratio is more in the order of 14 to 18.

One of the surprising features is that this value of between five and eight or so is maintained proportionately throughout the range of diameters from around 20mm for the biggest to 11mm for the smaller coins, so that even the smallest of them is readily recognisable as a 'thick' coin, justifying the otherwise rather subjective use of this term.

The thick coins are further distinguished by their obverse, which almost invariably carries a some rendering of the words al-mahrūs, المهروس the common epithet for the town of San'a', meaning 'the well-protected'.

The reverse of these coins, again almost invariably, contains the text

ḍuriba/Ṣan'a' (*sanah*)/(numerals) ضرب صنعاً سنة ٩٨٧
struck/San'a' (year)/ 987 e.g.

These few words are frequently found arranged below a heart-shaped knot with flowing ribbons to both sides, which always

points upwards and is sometimes embellished with an O-shaped loop on top and more or less stylised branchlets to either side of the heart-shaped knot.

None of these coins show the word *fi* (in/at) which is so characteristic of many of the earlier, thin coins of San'a' and many other Ottoman coins throughout time.

In this article I have distinguished three main types of *obverses*, viz.:

A - the words *al-mahrus* in convoluted, toughra-like arrangement. This appears with many lesser modifications, difficult to express, which make this obverse as yet unsuitable for more detailed classification. This arrangement is reminiscent of the somewhat primitive toughras found on some of the silver dirham size coins from mainly the eastern mints of the Ottoman empire. This main type of obverse occurs on the early thick coins i.e. from 977H onwards, represented by reverse types 1 to 10. See Fig.1 below for explanation of toughra-like obverse.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



obverse A.

obverse B.

B - the words *al-mahrus* arranged in calligraphic fashion, the letters or syllables reading from down up. See Fig.2 above for explanation of obverse B. Of this type of obverse three variants have been observed. Its reverse is basically of one type (No. 10.4) only. This type comprises the coins of the later part of the period under discussion, which are generally less thick than the coins of type A.

C - obverse with a geometric ornament; reverse that combines *al-mahrus* with the mint name *San'a'* via the word *duriba*. No year.

The reverses show eleven distinct types which I have tentatively arranged in a series numbered from 1 to 11. Number 4 has three sub-types, number 10 has four sub-types.

Reverses No's 1 through 10.3 all share the convoluted toughra-like obverse A.

Reverse No.10.4 is combined in fixed arrangement with obverse B which shows the calligraphic rendering of *al-mahrus* of which three distinct variants have been found.

Reverse No.11, as shown in C, above, is unique in its arrangement with *al-mahrus/duriba/San'a'* (i.e. usual obverse and reverse texts here joined on one face of the coin) with what would appear to be a little branchlet added under *San'a'*.

Description of the Types

The descriptions below follow the typology as set out above. A, B and C represent main types of obverses with variants shown in the drawings. The numbers 1-11 represent the reverses with their variants as described and as shown in the illustrations. The characterising dots of the Arabic letters are mostly absent on these coins. Only in a few cases do they form distinctive features.

Lettering on the whole strikes one as rather crude with proportionally thick lines as is usual for this kind of coinage. The peculiar spelling of the mint name as *San'an* as found in many of the earlier, thin coins, no longer occurs. Planchets almost invariably are roughly shaped and undersized. Strikes are mostly shallow.

Edges usually consist of a bold, plain circle surrounding both obverse and reverse, with an outer circle of quite large dots. Because planchets are mostly too small to take the full die imprint, edge circles frequently show only fragmentarily or do not appear at all.

Types A-1 to A-4 have only script of which the varying

arrangements of letters, syllables or words provide the characteristics; no ornamental heart-shaped knot or curly ornaments.

Types A-5 to A-10 all have heart-shaped ornaments. Characteristics of the types are the varying designs of the knots and curls together with the different ways in which the words have been arranged in relation to the ornament and to each other.

Type B-10 shows three variants of the obverse and Type C-11 is so far unique in both obverse and reverse.

Details about numbers (sample size, *n*), range of weights (*g*) and dimensions (*mm*) of the coins of each (sub)type can be found in Table 2 below.

Table 2: The thick copper coins of San'a'
Types, sample size, weights, diameters and thickness

Type	Sample Size(n)	Range of Weights g	Av. Wt. g	Range of Diameters mm	Av. Diam. mm	Range of Thickness mm	Av. Thicken. mm
A 1	11	6.73 - 1.76	5.2	18.9 - 13.1	17.1x16.1	4.8 - 1.6	3.1
A 2	6	3.63 - 1.13	2.3	16.5 - 11.6	14.9x14.3	2.1 - 1.4	1.8
A 3	5	3.16 - 1.15	1.9	16.3 - 12.7	14.6x13.6	2.2 - 1.3	1.7
A 4.1	8	5.95 - 1.96	4.3	19.5 - 13.9	17.5x16.2	3.2 - 1.6	2.4
A 4.2	1		4.1		16.2x14.3		2.3
A 4.3	1		3.8		18.0x17.3		2.2
A 5	7	5.25 - 1.39	2.7	17.0 - 11.1	15.2x14.0	3.0 - 1.6	2.0
A 6	13	6.25 - 1.73	4.6	17.0 - 12.0	15.4x14.6	4.4 - 2.1	3.2
A 7	4	3.76 - 2.66	3.1	17.1 - 14.7	16.6x15.3	2.8 - 2.0	2.3
A 8	5	6.36 - 1.64	4.5	17.0 - 12.4	15.9x14.1	4.2 - 2.8	3.4
A 9	11	5.71 - 1.77	3.9	16.5 - 12.5	15.5x14.6	3.8 - 1.7	2.8
A 10.1	11	4.72 - 1.25	2.5	16.0 - 12.1	14.6x13.0	3.4 - 1.4	2.3
A 10.2	6	1.69 - 0.46	0.9	13.0 - 9.5	11.9x10.8	2.0 - 0.8	1.3
A 10.3	3	3.19 - 1.16	2.0	16.3 - 11.0	14.2x13.0	2.0 - 1.7	1.9
B 10.4	17	3.36 - 0.55	1.7	17.6 - 10.4	14.5x13.5	2.7 - 0.9	1.5
C 11	1		12.3		21.3x22.2		4.2

*) The two values are for av. largest resp. av. smallest diameters and are a clear indicator for the (un)roundness of the coins.

Type A-1 (Fig. 3)

Fig. 3



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. Syllable *duri-* above letter *bā*, with left hook of *bā* extending to halfway under letter *ra*. Mint name *San'a'* below *ba* with final letter *alif* extending under curl of letter *rā*. Below mint name the word *sanah*, below which the years 985, 993 and 995 have been distinguished. Possibly also the year (10)11.

Obverse. Toughra-like *al-mahrus*, plain, with tip of curled up letter *ra* and beginning of letter *sin* both turning in and parallel to the loop of the letter *wau* inside the bow of the *sin*. The lower tip of the "pennant" extension of the letter *lam* almost joins the upturned tips of *ra* and *sin*. Letter *alif* of *al* without pennant. In some coins the upper, outer bow of the letter *sin* shows a small branching upturned curl before leveling to the horizontal and intersecting with the vertical lines of the *lh* pennant of the letter *lam*, with *lam* itself and the letter *alif*, which here is a single vertical stroke.

Type A-2: (Fig. 4)

Fig. 4



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. Letter *ba* below syllable *duri-* extends to full length of this latter; letter *alif* of mint name *San'a'* below *ba* extends to the left of *ba*. One coin shows two 'leaves' in V-shape within the letter *ba*. Below mint name mostly the word *sanah* (3 coins with, 1 without, 2 undetermined). So far years 983, 985 and 995 have been read.

Obverse. As for Type A-1. Sometimes an o shaped sign (for Arabic 5?) inside the curl of the letter *wau*. A similar o shaped sign in some coins above the upper and outer bow of the letter *sin*. Below the upturning hook of letter *ra* and the outgoing letter *sin* a small heart-shaped knot with upturned point, apparently unattached. Letter *alif* here has a pennant to the left, like the letter *lam*.

Type A-3: (Fig. 5)
Fig. 5



a. Reverse

Reverse. As type A-2, but long letter *ba* fully cradles the syllable *duri-*. Under mint name *San'a'* the word *sanah* does not appear. Numerals directly under mint name. Year (9)88 has been recorded, possibly also 99x.

Obverse. Largely as for Type A-1, no specifics.

Type A-4.1: (Fig. 6)
Fig. 6



a. Reverse

Reverse. Letter *ba* now above syllable *duri-*, with tip of upturning curl of *ra* touching *ba* near the middle. Mint name *San'a'* in the middle, and below it *sanah*, with below that numerals of year 982 and/or 983. Possibly also year 974?

Obverse. Largely as in Type A-1; one coin shows what looks like Arabic 2 to the right of the letter *wau*. Another has an o sign within the curl of the letter *wau*.

Type A-4.2: (Fig. 7)
Fig. 7



a. Reverse

Reverse. Letter *ba* centrally above more drawn out syllable *duri-*. Mint name *San'a'* in the middle, below it no *sanah*, possibly too weakly struck or not included in dies.

Only one specimen seen.¹²

Obverse. As for A-1 above, no specifics observed.

Type A-4.3: (Fig.8)
Fig. 8



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. As type A-4.2. Coin with degenerate and blurred

script, but line under *San'a'* indicating *sanah*. No numerals.

Obverse. degenerate *toughra*-like *al-mahrus* within clear line circle with finely dotted outer circle. Only one specimen, thick in the centre, thinning-out towards the edges, a somewhat curious coin with a "toughra" reminiscent of the later toughras such as e.g. of Mahmud II.

Type A-5: (Fig. 9)
Fig. 9



a. Reverse

Reverse. Centre and upper half taken up by proportionally large heart-shaped knot with upcurving curly ribbon ends. In many coins a branchlet, more or less stylised, apparently extending from the right to left can be made out above the point of the heart. Below that in one line *duriba San'a'* In one coin the letter *ba* is a short line below the syllable *duri-*. In other coins the heartshaped knot with its ribbons may take the place of the letter *ba*. The loop of the letter *sad* of *San'a'* begins below the r/h lobe of the heart. Below this the word *sanah* with below it in only one coin visible the numeral 8, which may be (9)8x or (99)8, or indeed (100)8 etc.

Obverse. Mostly as for Type A-1, no specifics.

Type A-6: (Fig. 10)
Fig. 10.



a. Reverse



b. Obverse



c. Obverse

Reverse. As type A-5 above, with clear branchlet(s)? above the heart. The mint name *San'a'* extends here over the full width of the coin under the heart-shaped knot and the word *duriba* is now propped in a small recess between the r/h curl of the knotted ribbon and the upper bow of the letter *šad* of *Šan'ā'*. The letter *ba* appears absent, but is most likely formed by the heart-shaped knot and its curled ribbons. The loop of the letter '*ain* of *San'a'*' is placed directly below the base of the knot with the upright stroke of the letter *alif* directly to the left of the heartshaped knot. Below mint name the word *sanah*. No years have been recorded for this type. In the sample coins all numerals are off the flan, if indeed there ever were any figures there.

Obverse. Mostly as for Type A-1. In some coins upstroke initial tip of letter *sin* curls around upturned hook of letter *ra*. Within bow of letter *ra* a small v-shaped sign (for Arabic 7 or just decoration?). Final tip of letter *wau* branched into two or three separate curls, one turning inward, one or two upward. Upturned loop of letter *sin* at the upper most part twice branched with slightly upturned curls. Letter *alif* a single stroke without pennant which does not intersect but is above final downward curl of letter *sin*.

In another coin the pennant of the letter *lam* continues to the lower left to turn a full loop around the central letter *wau* and to end by intersecting with itself, with the letter *lam* and the letter *alif*, which here also has a pennant. The letter *sin* starts with an upstroke at the lower end directly to the left of the upturned hook of the letter *ra* and turns a second loop round the loop of the pennant described above. At the top end it stops with a dip and intersects with neither the letter *lam* nor its pennant. Within the hook of the letter *ra* there is a sign Λ, an Arabic 8?

Note: A curious aspect of the above type of coin is that many specimens show the peculiar oblique cut-off shape ("sausage slice") described above under the paragraph *Planchets*.

Type A-7: (Fig. 11)
Fig. 11.



a. Reverse

Reverse. As type A-6 above, but the letter *nūn* of *San'a'* is directly below the centre of the base of the knot. For this reason, the tip of the *alif* is closer to the edge of the coin than in Type A-6, where it is close to the left lobe of the heart. In retrospect these coins could probably have been better described as variants of A-6.

Obverse. Mostly as for Type A-1, and as described for Type A-6, both variants occur.

Type A-8: (Fig. 12)
Fig. 12.



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. Mostly as for types A-5 and A-7 above. The up-turned point of the heart-shaped knot has been twisted once to form an extra small round loop on top of the knot. From the top of this additional o two curls emanate, curling downwards to either side. The tips of the ribbon to either side of the knot are sharply up-turned. The syllable *duri-* is to the right and at the same level as *San'a'*, its continuation *ba* again seems formed by the knot and curled ribbons. The letter *sad* of the mint name *San'a'* starts under the base of the knot and the letter *alif* is close to the l/h edge of the coin. Below the mint name the word *sanah*. No years have been read for this type.

Obverse. As for Type A-1; some coins show intricate weaving of tip of hook of letter *ra* with the beginning of the letter *sin* (see Fig. 12). Several additional, unexplained signs have been observed, such as a loose, heartshaped knot within the hook of the letter *ra*, an s or letter *hamzah*-like sign with a short stroke below it within the loop of the letter *wau*, and a *tā-marbūtah* like sign to the left of the tip of the letter *lam*.

Note: It is quite possible that these cryptic and often quite unclearly struck signs are indeed clumsy efforts to include numerals for the year of minting within the fabric of the letters of *al-mahrus*, but they cannot be conclusively read as their shape and/or position are frequently ambiguous and it is unknown to which decade the single (and perhaps also double) digits would refer.

Type A-9: (Fig. 13)
Fig. 13.



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. Mostly as type A-8 above, but branchlets above and beside the extra o on the point of the heart. Arrangement of *duri(ba) San'a'* as for type A-6. In some coins a sign to the left of the letter *alif* of mint name *San'a'* can be made out; it is a kind of whorl of two semi-circles. No *sanah*. One coin with date (9)85.

Obverse. Mostly as for type A-1; some coins with features similar to Type A-8. Another variant with two small heart-shaped knots on either side of the letter *ra*, and with the tip of the curl of the letter *wau* like a stylised fish-tail. Letter *alif* also with a pennant. Arabic figure 6 within curl of letter *wau*?

Type A-10.1 (Fig. 14)
Fig. 14.



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. Heart-shaped knot usually smaller with strongly inclined ribbon tips, between which the syllable *duri-* as it were almost balancing on the upturned point of the heart. Sometimes an o shaped sign above the upturned curve where the letters *dat* and *ra* are joined. Below the base of the heart the mint name *San'a'*; in some cases between the r/h ribbon tip and the bow of *sad* a small horizontal stroke which probably represents the *ba* of *duriba*. Below mint name the word *sanah*. For this type no years have been read.

Obverse. Mostly as for type A-1 and foregoing types; in particular types A-6, 8, and 9.

Type A-10.2 (Fig. 15)
Fig. 15.



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. As for type A-10.1, but the mint name *San'a'* has been drawn out long with an almost straight line under the base of the heart-shaped knot. The letter *sad* is to the right, and the letters *'ain* and *alif* are to the left of the knot, whereas the *nun* has largely been lost in the stretching process. Below mint name the word *sanah*. One coin shows below *sanah* part of a figure 2 or 3.

Obverse. Mostly as for A-1 and foregoing types. See also illustration above, with small heartshaped ornament in the down curve of letter *ra* and continued pennant of letter *lam* appears to take position of letter *sin*, encircling central letter *wau*.

Note: This type appears to be made up of small coins only (less than 2 g / 13 mm).

Type A-10.3 (Fig. 16)
Fig. 16.



a. Reverse



b. Obverse

Reverse. As for type A-10.1, but with small horizontal strokes on either side of the knot below the ribbon tips. In all the coins the word *sanah* is off the flan.

Obverse. In so far visible, mostly as for Type A-1 above; one coin shows three or four dots close to the upturned hook of the letter *ra*.

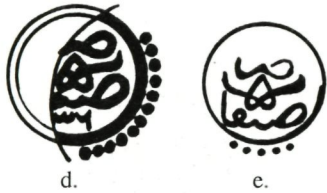
Type B-10.4 (Figs. 17 and 18)
Fig. 17



Various Reverses a.

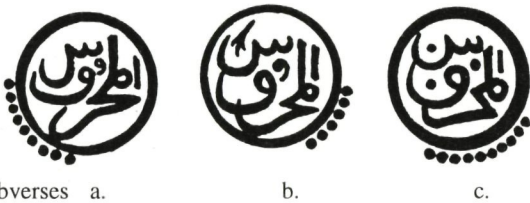
b.

c.



Reverse. In the centre a smaller heart-shaped knot with horizontal to slightly inclined curved ribbons; this is assumed to be the letter *ba* of the word *duriba*. The syllable *duri-* straddles the up-turned point of the knot as in type A-10.1. The dot belonging to letter *dat* of *duriba* is mostly present. Under the knot the mint name *San'a'* taking up the full width of the coin. Between the base of the knot and the mint name there is often a dot which presumably doubles for the letters *ba* and *nun*. In all coins the word *sanah* is absent, and the year appears quite frequently in bold numerals directly below the mint name. So far the years 1032, ..33 and ..36 have been read. There are also coins with definitely no year included in the die, as is shown in the coin in Fig.17 e which shows the plain edge circle directly below the mint name.

Fig. 18



Various Obverses a.

b.

c.

Obverse. The three principal variants are shown in the illustrations above. Variants B1 and B2 (Fig. 18 a and b) have what would appear to be the additional sign *dammah* (a small letter *wau*, vowel sign for 'u'-sound) as a calligraphic feature in addition to the full sized and clearly present letter *wau*. Variant B2 (Fig. 18 b) in addition has an arrowhead in the loop of the letter *sin*. The third variant B3 (Fig 18 c) has three clear dots to fill empty spaces between or in the letters/syllables. These dots are purely for decoration as they serve no linguistic purpose here.

Type C-11: (Fig. 19)
Fig. 19.



a. Reverse

b. Obverse

Reverse. Plain but pleasing and balanced calligraphy. The coin face is horizontally divided into almost equal parts by a long drawn out letter *ba*. The upper half is taken up by the words *al-mahrus*, in calligraphic arrangement rather similar to that in obverse B. The lower part is taken up with *duri(ba)* and the mint name *San'a'* of which the last letter *alif* is barely on the planchet. Below *San'a'* there is what would look like a small bough. No *sanah*, no numerals.

Obverse. An eight-pointed star (octagram) made up of two superimposed squares with concave sides; in the centre an eight-petalled rosette. The outer recesses of the octagram are taken up by eight crescents facing outwards within a bold circle line which is surrounded by a dotted edge.

Note: this coin is undated. No provision for the inclusion of a year exists on the well-struck and complete faces of the coin. It is assumed to be Ottoman on the basis of its physical appearance and the style of its design.

For convenience's sake, because of the calligraphic arrangement of the words *al-mahrus*, this coin has tentatively been classified with the later coins. Its considerable thickness (4.2 mm) and weight (12.34 g) however would seem to point to an earlier, rather than a later date. In this respect it would very well fit in with the heavy Malhaz coins which are of similar weight, and dated 974.¹³ See also under paragraph *Comparisons* below.

Comparisons

Several of the coin types here described in some detail for the mint of San'a' have their parallels for the mints of Kawkaban and Sa'dah, for which see my earlier article concerning these two Ottoman mint towns in the Yemen (General Note below). It is likely that coin types shared by the three towns would have been current at about the same time. However, most information on the coins from these two mints is as incomplete and inconclusive as the material from San'a' described above. Coin material from both Kawkaban and Sa'dah moreover is scarce. However, the following comparisons can be made:

- Obverses

Type A, the convoluted, *toughra*-shaped *al-mahrus* in all its variants appears to be common to the thick coins of both Kawkaban and Sa'dah. One of the Kawkaban coins appears to be dated (9)82 below the "toughra".

- Reverses

Type 3 as described for San'a' corresponds with what I earlier termed reverse a. for both Kawkaban and Sa'dah. The Kawkaban coin is dated 977.

Type 5 for San'a' corresponds with Sa'dah reverse c.

Type 6 for San'a' corresponds with Sa'dah reverse d.

Type 10.1 for San'a' corresponds with Kawkaban reverses b. and c. and Sa'dah reverse b.

Type 11 for San'a' does not correspond with any other known coins in detail, but it shares with the coins of Malhaz an obverse decorated with a geometrical design, a reverse with script only, and its dimensions and weight are close to those of the Malhaz coins.

With an overall revision of the typology of Ottoman coinage from the Yemen in due course, these corresponding types of obverses and reverses from different mints will need to be brought under common denominators. Before this can be done, much more painstaking study will be required. The present article is only a first attempt to bring a semblance of order in the jumble of the thick Ottoman coins of San'a'.

For the purpose of an eventual total review of Yemeni Ottoman coinage (including silver and gold) I am interested to get to know as much as possible about Ottoman Yemeni coins in private or public collections. Reactions from interested persons/collectors, where relevant with details of Ottoman Yemeni coins (not only copper) in their collection, will be highly appreciated and be treated with full confidentiality if so desired. These can be addressed to me at following address, from where mail will be forwarded to me:

Dick Nauta, c/o Euroconsult, Postbus 441, 6800 AK Arnhem, the Netherlands.

Notes

General Note: Previous articles in this series by the present author are the following:

Ottoman Copper Coins from Zabid in the Yemen. ONS Newsletter No. 137, 1993.

Ottoman Copper Coins from al-Mokha in the Yemen. ONS NL No. 138, 1993.

Ottoman Copper Coins from Kawkaban and Sa'dah in the Yemen. ONS NL No.139, 1994.

Malhaz, an Ottoman Camp Mint in the Yemen. ONS NL No. 140, 1994.

Ottoman Copper Coins Minted in San'a', the Yemen. Part I, The Thin, Earlier Coins. ONS NL No.146, 1995

A Note on Transcription:

Only at the first mention of Arabic words and names in transcription will these be provided with the required diacritical marks. For typological reasons, these are omitted in the rest of the article.

Text Notes:

1. Based largely on Blackburn, J.R., 'The Collapse of Ottoman Authority in Yemen 968/1560-976/1568' in: *Die Welt des Islams*, XIX, 1-4 (1979), pp.119-176 and Serjeant and Lewcock, Note 4 below.

2. See Blackburn, J.R., 'Collapse' (Note 1 above), his footnotes 2, and 3.

3. For an account of this period see Tritton, A.S., *The Rise of the Imams of Sanaa*, Reprint Hyperion Press, Westport, Connecticut 1981. An annotated translation of a most confusing contemporary manuscript. A more comprehensive rendering of this period can be found in Serjeant and Lewcock (Note 4 below), pp. 72-74.

4. See Serjeant, R.B. and R. Lewcock, *San'a', an Arabian Islamic City*. World of Islam Festival Trust. Chapter 8, 'The Post Medieval and

Modern History of San'a' and the Yemen, ca. 953-1382/ 1515-1962', pp. 69-76.

5. See Popp V., G-R. Puin and H. Wilski, 'Ottoman Coins of the Yemen' in: *A Festschrift Presented to Ibrahim Artuk on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Turkish Numismatic Society*. Istanbul 1988. Table 2, p. 257.

6. Collections de Groot (Calgary), Schuster (Vienna), Wilski (Sulzbach) and Puin (Saarbrücken). Their ready cooperation in sharing details of their San'a' coins with the author is highly appreciated.

7. See previous articles on Ottoman copper coins from Zabid and San'a', general note above.

8. For illustrations of some thick Ottoman copper coins from Misr mint see: Valentine W.H., *Modern Copper Coins of the Muhammedan States*. (1910). Amongst the thick copper coins (and silver 'akces' too) found in the suq of San'a', a considerable number are from Misr mint. Some quite good pieces!

9. For articles on these Yemeni mints, see General Note above. I have been informed that the specimen of Zabid, at the time presumed unique, has recently been joined by a second coin of this type (personal communication H. Wilski).

10. See article on Malhaz, general note above, paragraph on Metrology, p.7.

11. For a treatise on the highly confusing and complex subject of contemporary coinages and their values as used in trade in the Yemeni ports, see Serjeant, R.B., *The Portuguese off the South Arabian Coast. Hadrami Chronicles*. Oxford, 1963, Appendix III, pp.138-154.

12. Coin in Collection Wilski.

13. For similarity of this coin to Malhaz coins, refer to note 10 above. This coin is also from the Collection Wilski.

Coins of Arghunshah from Khost in Badakhshan

by Stephen Album

Recent discoveries over the past fifteen years have so have greatly enriched our knowledge of the coinage of Badakhshan. In particular we now know that during the Mongol period there was an extensive coinage in the province from the late 1280s until about 1370, citing as ruler either the Chaghatayid khan or a local ruler, the Shah of Badakhshan, of whom seven individuals have now been attested.¹ One of these was named Arghunshah. From his coins, described below, we know that he was ruling during the month of Safar 707 (2-30 August 1307). Other than his coins, there seems to be no other reference to this individual, at least not in any of the contemporary chronicles that I have examined. This is not surprising, as the chronicles mention only two of the Shahs, Shah Baha al-Din² and Bahramshah then, only insofar as they were touched by the early conquests of Tamerlane in the 1360s. None of the early Shahs are mentioned.

The two Coins published here are relatively similar. Both bear the name of the ruler and the date in words on the obverse, the mint name, the Chaghatayid tamga, and the names of the Rashidun on the reverse. The second type appends the names of al-Hasan and al-Husayn to the names of the Rashidun.



1. Wilayat Khust, Safar 707.

Obverse: السلطان / الاعظم / ارغون شاه in three lines within square; around, in four segments,

... / صفر سنة / سبعة / سبعمة

Reverse: In Central circle, the Chaghatayid tamga, surrounded by the words خوست سكة ولايت

, all within a central circle, around which appear the names of the Rashidun with their epithets: (ابو) بكر صديق عمر فاروق عثمان ...



2 Wilayat Khust, Safar 707. Obverse as #1. with the same portion of the obverse marginal segments illegible. The reverse centre is

also similar to #1, but the margin bears the names of the Rashidun as follows

ابو بكر عمر عثمان علي الحسن الحسين

The second coin is most unusual for mentioning both the Rashidun (the first four caliphs after the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 AD, Abu Bakar, 'Umar, 'Uthman and 'Ali, followed by the sons of Ali, al-Hasan and al-Husayn. Normally, when the Rashidun are cited on a coin, it is an indication that the ruler follows the Sunni form of Islam; or that the population of the region including the mint is predominantly Sunni. The Sunnis do not recognize the succession of al-Hasan and al-Husayn, but regard as legitimate the accession of the Umayyad caliphs upon the martyrdom of 'Ali in 41/660. On the other hand, the Shiites reject the three predecessors 'Ali (Abu Bakr, 'Umar and 'Uthman), claiming that 'Ali should have directly succeeded the Prophet.

The Sunni/Shiite hybrid is rather unusual, though not unprecedented. The combination of the Rashidun and the Shiite Imams, commencing with al-Hasan and al-Husayn, appears from time to time on Ilkhan and Timurid coins. The purpose of this hybrid is unclear; perhaps it was intended to placate both the Shiite and Sunni populations within the Badakhshan principality.

The mint name is also quite unusual. The prefix سكة , sikka, means 'die', and is used to indicate that the following word is the mint name, much as the more usual darb or duriba or tubi' found on other types of Islamic coins. The following word, ولايت , wilayat, means 'province', and the next word, خوست , is the region of Khust in Tukharistan (modern Takhar) on the fringe of Badakhshan, normally written as Khost in western languages. Yaqut describes the place as follows: 'One of the districts of Andaraba in Tukharistan, a dependency of Balkh. It is a chief town, reached by four fine well-forested mountain paths.'³ The place has not previously been attested as a mint location.

The precise location of the mint of Khost is uncertain. The Khost River is still shown on modern maps, rising to the southeast of the modern town of Farkhar and emptying into the Ishkamish (modern spelling Eshkamesh) River just north of the town of Ishkamish. It is not inconceivable that the mint was Ishkamish itself, and named after the surrounding district. Barthold regards Tukharistan and Badakhshan as separate provinces, and indeed, most of the medieval Arab geographers did count them as separate, but during the Mongol period they seem, generally to have both been under the control of the Shah of Badakhshan.⁴

A question that arises is whether Arghunshah was a local ruler in Khost or Tukharistan or the Shah of all Badakhshan. Unfortunately, the silence of the sources and the paucity of his coins preclude the resolution of this question at the present time.

Notes

1. These are 'Alisha I (Limbada collection), Dawlatshah, Alishah II, Shah Baha' al-Din, Bahramshah and

Muhammad Shah (American Numismatic Society) (others at Tübingen).

2. B F Manz *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*, Cambridge 1989, p. 47.

3. F. Wüstenfeld, ed. *Jacut's geographisches Wörterbuch*, Leipzig 1867, vol. 2, p. 497.

4. See the discussion by V Barthold, *Hudud al-'Alam*, 2nd edition, English translation by V. Minor, London 1970, pp. 340-41 (map on page 339)).

A countermarked copper coin of Hissar by Ken Wiggins

Hissar is, or was, the name of a district spanning the borders of present day Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The principal town was Hissar Shadman, situated about 100 miles north-east of Balkh (Afghanistan).

In AH.907 (AD.1501-1502) Hissar together with the town of Termez, to the south, and Qunduz, to the south west, of the principal town were under the somewhat loose and oppressive rule of one Khusru Shah, who had taken Hissar from Masaud Mirza in 1498. Khusru Shah was nominally a vassal of Sultan Husayn, the Timurid ruler (1469-1506), but from all accounts he was virtually independent and constantly endeavouring to extend his territory. By AH.907 the Uzbeks under Muhammad Shaybani Khan had conquered Samarqand, Bukhara, Tashkent and Ferghana and were pushing south.

Sultan Husayn governed Khorasan from Herat. Khusru Shah held Hissar, Khutlan, Qunduz and part of Badakhshan, whilst his brother held Termez. Zulfun Beg in Qandahar acknowledged

Sultan Husayn but was practically an independent ruler.¹

On the advance of the Shaybanids toward Hissar, Khusru Shah discovered that he had no effective force with which to counter them. Zahir al Din Babur, Mughal, who had been campaigning in Central Asia for some years in order to retake and retain a principality in Ferghana, entered the territory of Hissar with his small army.

Most of the Mughal tribesmen, who formed the bulk of Khusru's army, promptly deserted to Babur. Khusru Shah, who could foresee the rapid occupation of his country by the Shaybanids, approached Babur and offered his submission. Babur had no great opinion of this petty tyrant and wanted no alliance with him but he agreed that Khusru could depart for Khorasan with much of his treasury. Khusru Shah eventually reached Herat and Sultan Husayn. He resolved to return to his country however and gathered together a ramshackle army of about 1,000 men. He advanced almost to Qunduz but was met by the Shaybanids who routed his force and captured Khusru, who was taken to Qunduz and executed.

Ae two dinars.



Gazelle to left

حصه
دو دینار
ضرب

Hissar
do dinar
zarb

Countermark:



Diameter: 25-26 mm.

Weight: 9.56 grams.

A similar coin to the one above was published by Valentine² who read the mint name as Kandahar. Similar coins, with a deer on the obverse, were struck with the mint name Qunduz, some specimens of which bear countermarks e.g. *Adil ek dinar*.³

Although copper coins from Hissar are not particularly uncommon, those with countermarks apparently are. Although the above countermark is fairly clear it cannot be read with any confidence. The word at the top may be Khan خان and that at the bottom عادل may have been intended for *adil*.

It would be interesting to establish who countermarked these coins and for what purpose. It is possible that they were countermarked by the Shaybanids when they occupied the area. Doubtless other examples exist and have been published in Russia but I have been unable to consult any of their journals that may mention them.

Footnotes:

1. See Stephen Album's *Checklist of Popular Islamic Coins* under the Timurids for the many usurpers, rivals and others who set themselves up as rulers of various areas in the Timurid realm and issued coins. See also ONS. Information Sheet No.27 - 'A Numismatic King List of the Timurids.'

2. W H Valentine *Modern Copper Coins of the Muhammadan States*. Page 171/2.

3. *Ibid.* Page 171.

Mitchiner M. *The World of Islam* 1978 page 280.

ONS. Newsletter 75. December, 1981. 'Some Copper Coins of Qunduz'.

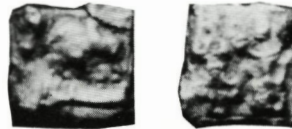
An unidentified Israeli token




Can anyone supply information about this copper(?) token?

A Sunga silver coin

by Pran N. Khanna



This is a Sunga coin similar to Mitchiner type 4353-54 without swastika. It differs from other coins of this type in lacking the nandipada symbol . In its place there is a symbol like a staff not seen on other coins of this series. The coin measures 14 x 14 x 2.5 mm and weighs 4.6g. Mitchiner does not mention silver coins in this series.

The silver karshapana of the Sungas weigh 3.6g and the half karshapana in copper 4.5g. This coin therefore weighs the same as the copper coins of the same type in Mitchiner which suggests that the silver coins of the series were minted with the same weight as the half karshapana. The silver content seems to be 75-80%.

The introduction of machine-struck coinage in the state of Hyderabad

by Jan Lingen

By the end of the 19th century machine-struck currency was introduced in the former princely state of Hyderabad in India. On the 14th August 1869 the imperial mint at Madras was closed and its machinery was sold to the State of Hyderabad¹. Earlier that year (25th February) the Nizam Afzal ad-Daula (1857-1869) died. Due to the age of the new Nizam (born 17th August 1866) the Prime Minister, Sir Salar Jung I, was appointed as Regent, but died in 1883. Soon after, on the 5th of February 1884, the Nizam, Mir Mahboob Ali Khan Asaf Jah Bahadur (1285-1329H./1869-1911) was invested with full State control by the British Viceroy Lord Ripon.

During the regency period not much use of the machinery of the Madras Mint seems to have been made, as the earliest experiments so far known, for an improved currency are dated 1301H (1883/84). This date coincides with the attaining of full ruling power by the young Nizam. Therefore the machine-struck coins dated 1301H. most probably were produced on the occasion of the Nizam's investiture, for the purpose of nazarana or presentation coin and not intended for circulation. The particular use and the novelty of a machine-struck design, might have made them attractive for the use in jewellery as the illustrated example also shows.

1)



Denomination : presentation or nazarana rupee

Date: 1301H. (2 Nov.1883 - 20 Oct.1884)

Metal: AR

Size: 27.5 mm.

Weight: 9.62g.

same AE off strike

Another pattern AE Todywalle 44-550

* Rupee 1299 (1877) Todywalle Auction 70-672

Edge: straight milling

Ref.: Sale No.53 (9-10 April 1997), lot 5106, Noble Numismatics Pty. Ltd., Australia.

It seems very likely that this issue was struck locally on the old machinery acquired from the Madras Mint. This presumption is strengthened by the fact that the diameter coincides with that of the Arcot-rupee struck at Madras till 1835. The inscription is exactly in line with the contemporary hand-struck coinage of Hyderabad State.

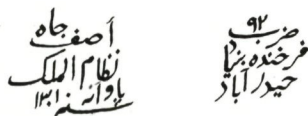
Obv. *Nizam al-Mulk M Asaf Jah Bahadur, Sanah 1301H.*

Rev. *Julus Maimanat manus, zarb Farkhandah Bunyad Hyderabad*

Only the word Sikkah below the date is changed into *Sanah* and the number 92, which signifies the name of the Prophet², as well as the regnal year are omitted. The mintname *Hyderabad* is maintained in the bottom line as well as *Farkhandah Bunyad* in the central line. This is by far the earliest machine-struck rupee observed. The odd weight for a rupee coin and the omission of the regnal year shows that it must have been used as a presentation piece on the occasion of the investiture celebrations of the Nizam. It would have appeared inconsistent for the Nizam to be invested officially with full state control by the the British overlords while on the othe hand showing that he had already been reigning for 16 years. The Nizam was only nominally ruler of the state, while the state affairs were run by the Regent under supervision of the British Resident at Hyderabad.

Besides this rupee, a similar issue for a 1/4 anna was struck. This was published by Dinkar Rao³. The fact that the regnal year is also omitted on the 1/4 anna suggests that it too might have been struck for the same pupose as the aforementioned rupee.

2)



Denomination : presentation or nazarana of a 1/4 anna

Date: 1301H. (2 Nov.1883 - 20 Oct.1884)

Metal: Æ

Size: 1" (25.4 mm.)

Weight: 167 grs. (10.82 g.)

Edge: ?

Ref.: *JNSI.XXII* (1960), p.250-252, Pl.XIII.13.

It is of course possible that the authorities intended to introduce a machine-struck coinage in the state, particularly as on the 1/4 anna the value is mentioned, which was something new in Hyderabad State. Apart from the specimen for a rupee and a 1/4 anna, however, no other denominations have so far been observed.

The crude copper dub (Y.12) was the general copper currency in the state. There must have been a strong desire by the authorities for a more civilized copper currency. This might have been the reason for the introduction of a well designed copper coin which shows the complete legend⁴. Of this issue, which was still hand-struck, two denominations are known, viz.: 1 anna and 1/2 anna.

3)



Denomination: pattern for 1 anna

Date: 1303H./Ry.20 (date and regnal year do not accord, see table)

Metal: Æ

Size: 1.1" (27.9 mm.)

Weight: 2 tola (= 360 grs.= 23.33 g.)

Edge: struck without collar

Ref.: *Num. Circ. LXV* (1957), p.199-200.

*rectangular Do Anna 12xx Today's date 44 14
61549

4)



Denomination: pattern for 1/2 anna

Date: 1303H./Ry.20 (date and regnal year do not accord; see table)

Metal: Æ

Size: 0.8" (20.3 mm.)

Weight: 1 tola(= 180 grs.= 11,66 g.)

Edge: struck without collar

Ref.: *Num. Circ. LXV* (1957), p.199-200.

According to Hurmuz Kaus the coins were in circulation for a short time and withdrawn in 1305H., but as the regnal year is 20. there was hardly any time for circulation (See table of Hegira date/regnal year). I therefore presume that they formed a pattern for an improved copper currency.

The above local experiments for an improved and machine-struck currency probably did not meet with the approval of the Nizam. Who might have taken the initiative is not known, but it is definite that by the end of 19th century the Birmingham Mint also provided, at various intervals, equipment for the Mint at Hyderabad⁵. The first order that can be positively attributed to Hyderabad was entered on 14th April 1891, and covered a steam machine and associated equipment for "rolling mills as already ordered". This entry goes on to report that "the mint building is now nearly ready to receive the machinery".

Additional orders were executed in 1893 and 1894 which covered four lever presses and other equipment needed for a complete mint. Probably to prove the superior quality of the minting equipment, examples for a machine-struck coinage were made at the Birmingham Mint.

The earliest examples known are dated 1305H.

5)

Denomination: pattern for a rupee

Date: 1305H./Ry.21 (22 July 1888-6 Sept.1888)

Metal : AR

Size:1.2" (30.5 mm.)

Weight: 173 grs. (11.21 g.)

Edge: straight milling

Ref.: *JNSI V* (1943), p.83.

6)



Denomination: off-strike pattern for a rupee

Date: 1305H./Ry.21 (22 July 1888-6 Sept. 1888)

Metal: Æ

Size: 30.5 mm.

Weight: 9.52g.

Edge: straight milling

Ref.: Sale No.53 (9-10 April 1997), lot 5105, Noble Numismatics Pty. Ltd., Australia. *JNSI IX* (1947), p.128-130, Pl.VIII-1.

Both pieces stand out uniquely in the series of Hyderabad State coinage as they are the only ones which bear the full name of the the ruler, viz.: Nizam al-Mulk Mir Mahboob Ali Khan Asaf Jah Bahadur. The pattern is of a superior quality and as the size is exactly the same as the pattern rupee dated 1307H, it can be safely assumed that it must have been struck at the Birmingham Mint too. As the copper pattern is struck with the same dies as the silver rupee, it must be regarded as an off-strike in copper of the rupee pattern.

This type presumably did not meet with the approval of the local authorities either⁶ and in 1307H. another pattern or trial strike

was produced by the Birmingham Mint of which an example is in The Mint collection.

7)



Denomination: 1 rupee
Date: 1307H./Ry.22 (1889/90)
Metal: AR
Size: 30.5 mm.
Weight: 11.16 g.
Edge: straight milling
Ref.: Sweeny IN2; KM.32.2

The superior execution of the pattern rupee of 1307H. must have pleased the Nizam, which resulted in the supply of the minting equipment to Hyderabad in 1893 and 1894. The gold ashrafi dated 1311H. must be an example of the first machine struck coin of Hyderabad made with the newly-arrived and installed minting equipment.

8)



Denomination : 1 ashrafi
Date: 1311H./Ry.27 (1893/94)
Metal: AU
Size: 24mm
Weight: 11.18- 11.21 g.
Edge: straight milling
Ref.: KM.33

On all the patterns for a new copper-coinage the intended denomination is engraved, therefore the copper piece (KM.28), described as a 1/2 anna and illustrated below is presumably a trial piece in copper, struck with the dies of the ashrafi and struck without collar.

9)



Denomination : trial strike in copper of an ashrafi
Date: 1311H./Ry.27 (1893/94)
Metal: A
Size: 24 mm
Weight: ?
Edge: struck without collar
Ref.: KM .28

The Birmingham Mint collection contains a specimen of the rupee 1312H. (Ref.: KM.32) which indicates that both the equipment and the dies for this issue were provided by the Birmingham Mint. Locally these coins were known as the *Charkhi*-rupee in contrast to the handmade coinage, called *Chalni*, which continued to be struck simultaneously up to 1321H.(1904). The word *chark*, meaning 'wheel', implied that they were machine-made⁷.



Charkhi rupee



Chalni rupee

Various uniface trial strikes in tin are known, viz.:

10) Obverse 1/2 rupee 131* (Ref.: KM.TS1)



11) Reverse 1/2 rupee Yr.2* (Ref.: KM.TS2)



12) Obverse 1 rupee 131* (Ref.: KM.TS3)



13) Obverse 1 rupee 1311H. (Ref.: KM.TS4)



14) Reverse 1 rupee Yr.27 (Ref.: KM.TS5)



15)

With the dies for the rupee 1311H./Yr.27 a trial or presentation piece is known to have been struck in gold and which is listed in the Krause Mishler catalogue as Pn1.

15a) Pattern Rupee in AR 11.2g (cf S.C.A. 30; 23/3 2000)

Of the *charkhi*-type coinage various patterns in copper are known too, viz.: 1/2 anna, 1/4 anna, 2 pai, 1 pai⁸ and a 1/2 rupee.

16)

Denomination: 1/4 anna
Date: 1312H./Ry.27 (5 July 1894 - 7 May 1895)
Metal: Æ
Size: 23 mm.
Weight: ?
Edge: ?
Ref. KM.27

17)

Denomination : 1/2 rupee off-strike in copper
Date: 1312H./Ry.28 (8 May 1895 - 23 June 1895)
Metal: Æ
Size: 24mm 23.6 mm
Weight: ? 5.00g
Edge: ? Straight milling
Ref.: KM.PnA3/Y31

18)



Denomination: 1/4 anna
Date: 1312H./Ry.28 (8 May 1895 - 23 June 1895)
Metal: Æ
Size: 23 mm
Weight: 5.60 g.
Edge: plain
Ref.: KM.27; BM.

19)



Denomination: 1/2 anna
Date: 1312H./Ry.29 (date and regnal year do not accord; see table)
Metal: Æ
Size: 1.2" (30 mm.)
Weight: 169 grs.(10.95 g.); BM specimen 9.75 g. 11.15g (Menara)
Edge: plain
Ref.: JNSI V (1943)~ p.83 Pl.V-16; BM.

20)



Denomination: 2 pai
Date: 1312H./Ry.29 (date and regnal year do not accord; see table)
Metal: Æ
Size: 0.78" (19.0 mm.)
Weight: 57 grs. (3.68g.); KW specimen 3.75g.; BM specimen

3.58g.

Edge: plain
Ref.: JNSI V (1943), p.84 Pl.V-17; coll. Ken Wiggins; BM.

21)



Denomination: 1 pai
Date : 1312H./Ry.29 (date and regnal year do not accord, see table)
Metal: Æ
Size: 14.5 mm.
Weight 1.88 g.
Edge: plain
Ref.: KM.Pn2; BM.

22)

Denomination : 1/2 anna
Date: 1316H./Ry.32 (26 March 1899 - 11 May 1899)
Metal: Æ
Size: 1.1" (27.95 mm.)
Weight: 171 grs. (11.08 g.)
Edge: ?
Ref.: JNSI V (1943), p.84 Pl.V-15.

23)

Denomination: 2 pai
Date: 1316H./Ry.32 (26 March 1899 - 11 May 1899)
Metal: Æ
Size: 0.7" (17.8 mm.)
Weight: 54.5 grs. (3.53 g.)
Edge: ?
Ref.: JNSI V (1943), p.84 Pl.V-18.

24)

Denomination: 1 pai
Date: 1316H./Ry.32 (26 March 1899 - 11 May 1899)
Metal: Æ
Size: 0.6" (15.2 mm.)
Weight: 28.5 grs. (1.85 g.)
Edge: ?
Ref.: JNSI V (1943), p.84 Pl.V-19.

The minting of the machine-struck rupees at Hyderabad was stopped in 1314H. and from that year up to the end of 1318H. coining was entirely by hand. As the handmade coins were rather easy to imitate, the temptation for illicit coinage was very great especially as the price of silver gave a profit margin of over 25%. The profit from making illicit silver coins was so large, that it probably checked the temptation to make counterfeit coins in baser metals⁹.

In 1899 (1317H.) one pair of matrices and punches made to fit the presses supplied in Sept. 1893. were sent by the Birmingham Mint to Hyderabad. In Sept. 1900 the Birmingham Mint also provided matrices, dies and collars for 1 rupee (30 1/2 mm), 1/2 rupee (24 mm), 1/4 rupee (19 1/2 mm) and 1/8 rupee (15 mm)¹⁰. This agrees with the known specimens of the smaller denominations of the *charkhi*-type coinage which are only known with the date 1318H.

Because of the trouble and loss on account of the handmade currency, the Hyderabad Government decided to make a machine-made currency of a more intricate design which could not be easily copied by counterfeiters. For this reason in 1319H.(1901/02) over 700,000 rupees of the Char Minar-type were struck and sent to the Central Treasury.

They were however rejected before they went into circulation because of poor design and other imperfections and consequently

withdrawn from the Treasury to the Mint, melted and in 1321H. recoined with a new "Char Minar"-design, which type became current up to the demonetisation of the Hyderabad currency in 1953¹¹.

Despite the fact that the whole issue of 1319H. is reported to have been rejected and melted, a few specimens have fortunately survived. They might have been used as specimens for approval by the authorities or as patterns and trial strikes.

Why the design was not approved one can only guess. The legend shows no errors, nor can be judged from the surviving specimens what the imperfections were which caused their rejection. Only the minars of the Char Minar look rather plump and on subsequent issues they look much more slender and also the calligraphy becomes more intricate with additional floral ornaments.

25)



Denomination: 1 rupee
Date: 1319H./Ry.35 (22 February 1902 - 09 April 1902)
Metal: AR
Size: 30mm
Weight: 11.27 g
Edge: straight milling
Ref.: Baldwins Auctions; BM.

26)



Denomination: off-strike in copper
Date: 1319H./Ry.35 (22 February 1902 - 09 April 1902)
Metal: Æ
Size: 30 mm
Weight: ?
Edge: straight milling
Ref.: BM

27)



Denomination: off-strike in tin
Date: 1319H./Ry.35 (22 February 1902 - 09 April 1902)
Metal: tin
Size: 30 mm
Weight: 9.59g.
Edge: straight milling
Ref.: BM

The Char Minar on the the 1321H. and subsequent issues looks much more slender than on the issue of 1319H. As the issue of 1319H. was most probably rejected on account of the somewhat

clumsy design of the Char Minar an improved design was required. A uniface trial strike of this new design in copper does exist.

28)



Denomination: rupee sized trial strike of improved *Char Minar*-design.
Date: ND (probably 1902-1903)
Metal: Æ
Size: 30mm.
Weight: 9.82 g.
Edge: straight milling
Ref.: Baldwins Auctions

Some years ago the British Museum recovered a couple of dies from the estate of Pinches, the famous firm of medalmakers, London. Among these dies were dies for the portrait rupees of Kutch as well as a set of dies for a 1/2 anna denomination for Hyderabad state, dated 1320H./Ry.35.

Pinches did much work on commission of Spink & Son Ltd., London and it is possible that the dies and the subsequent patterns were ordered by this firm. As the records of Spink & Son Ltd were destroyed in a fire caused by the German V2-attack on London during World War 11, this can unfortunately not now be verified. An example of the 1/2 anna pattern, together with an accompanying denomination of 2 pai was offered for sale in 1994 by Münz Zentrum, Cologne.

29)



Denomination: 2 pai
Date: 1320H./Ry.35 (10 April 1902 - 10 Febr 1903)
Metal: Æ
Size: 20.5 mm.
Weight: 4.39 g.
Edge: plain
Ref.: sale 77 (13-15 April 1994), lot 2195 Münz Zentrum, Cologne

30)



Denomination: 1/2 anna
Date: 1320H./Ry.35 (10 April 1902 - 10 Febr. 1903)
Metal: Æ
Size: 30.5 mm.
Weight: 12.25 g.
Edge: plain
Ref.: sale 77 (13-15 April 1994), lot 2194 Münz Zentrum, Cologne

The introduction of the tughra on the obverse is inspired by the Osmanian (Ottoman) coins of Turkey and consequently became

known as the Osmania Sicca¹². This was the first time that a tughra of this type was introduced on Indian coins and is in line with the desire for a more intricate design which could not easily be copied.

It is reasonable to expect that a similar pattern was produced for the Æ 1 pai and perhaps for the AR 1 rupee (Char Minar-type) and its smaller denominations too.

Developments for the introduction of machine-struck coinage still continued. In February 1905 Duncan, Stratton & Co., (sole agent for Greenwood & Batley, Leeds), 9 Marine Street, Bombay on behalf of the His Highness The Nizam of Hyderabad ordered six improved coining presses. They were to be fitted with feed tube and fingers for rupees; and extra feed tubes and fingers for coining 1/2, 1/4 and 1/8 of a rupee. The presses were sent in February 1906. These coining presses were, when I visited the Mint at Hyderabad some 15 years ago, still in use and perhaps still are.

Before the presses were accepted by the purchasers their performance was proved by running them for a period. As the purchasers naturally must have been reluctant to loan them their own coining dies, they were forced to produce dies to their own design for the proving pieces.

These machine manufacturers proving samples have puzzled collectors over the years until the publication of Dr G H L Bullmore in The Numismatic Circular¹³. In this article the specimens struck as machine proving samples with the coin presses destined for Hyderabad state were described and illustrated, viz.: rupee size (30.5 mm.), 1/2 rupee (24 mm.), 1/4 rupee (20 mm.) and 1/8 rupee (15.5 mm.). The design of all the 'Hyderabad'-proving pieces is the same and an example of a proving piece for the 1/4 rupee is illustrated below.



31-34)

Denomination: machine proving piece for 1, 1/2, 1/4 and 1/8 rupee

Date: Not dated (1905-06)

Metal: Æ

Size: 30.5, 24, 20 and 15.5 mm.

Weight: 11.26, 5.63, 3.12 and 1.47 g.

Edge: plain

Ref.: *Num. Circ.* LXXXVII (1979), p.438-440.

Acknowledgements:

The illustrations for the coins no. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 were kindly provided by Krause Publication, Iola, U.S.A., no. 25 and 28 by Stan Goron and 18, 19, 20, 21, 26 and 27 by the British Museum for which thanks are due.

The illustrations for coins no. 1, 6, 7, 29, 30 and 33 are from the author.

Notes

1. Pridmore F., *The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations, part 4 INDIA, Uniform coinage*, London 1980, p. 53.
2. Chenoy, P B, Rare coins of Hyderabad state, p.952, *The Numismatist*, July 1970.
3. Dinkar Rao, Two notes on Asaf Jahi coinage; 1. A rare quarter anna, *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*, vol. XXII (1960).
4. Hurmuz Kaus, One anna and half anna pieces of Asaf Jah VI, Nizam of Hyderabad, *Numismatic Circular* L.XV(1957), p.199-200.
5. James O. Sweeny, A Numismatic History of the Birmingham Mint, Birmingham (1981), p. 166.
6. Hermuz Kaus in the *Numismatic Circular* LXIV (1956), Dies of Asaf Jah coins, p.211-214, suggests in footnote 5 that the Nizams were not allowed to put their names on the coins by the British Imperial Government.
7. Chenoy, p.952
8. P S Tharapore, Some Bahmani, Mughal and Asafjahi coins, *JNSI V* (1943) p.79-85, Pl.V, 15-19.
9. Chenoy, p.949-950.
10. Sweeny, p.166
11. Chenoy, p.950
12. Hurmuz Kaus, The Osmania Sicca of Hyderabad, *Numismatic Circular* vol.LXV (1957) p.549 & vol. LXVI (1958) p.8-9.
13. Dr G H L Bullmore, Proving pieces of Greenwood & Batley, *Numismatic Circular*. Vol. LXXXVII no.10 (Oct.1979), p.438-40.

Summary of types and table of concordance with KM.

(Ref.: Standard Catalog of World Coins. Deluxe ANA Library Edition)

Nr	Metal	denomination	date	Ry	KM
1	AR	1 rupee	1301	—	—
2	AE	1/4 anna	1301	—	—
3	AE	1 anna	1303	20	—
4	AE	1/2 anna	1303	20	—
5	AR	1 rupee	1305	21	—
6	AE	1 rupee, off-strike in copper	1305	21	32.1
7	AR	1 rupee	1307	22	32.2
8	AU	1 ashrafi	1311	27	33
9	AE	1 ashrafi, trial strike in copper	1311	27	28
10	Tin	1/2 rupee, trial strike, uniface	131*	—	TS1
11	Tin	1/2 rupee, trial strike, uniface	—	2*	TS2
12	Tin	1 rupee, trial strike, uniface	131*	—	TS3
13	Tin	1 rupee, trial strike, uniface	1311	—	TS4
14	Tin	1 rupee, trial strike, uniface	—	27	TS5
15	AU	1 rupee, off-strike in gold	1311	27	Pn1 / Y33a
16	AE	1/4 anna	1312	27	27
17	AE	1/2 rupee, off-strike in copper	1312	28	PnA3 / Y31
18	AE	1/4 anna	1312	28	27
19	AE	1/2 anna	1312	29	Pn4
20	AE	2 pai	1312	29	Pn3
21	AE	1 pai	1312	29	Pn2
22	AE	1/2 anna	1316	32	—
23	AE	2 pai	1316	32	—
24	AE	1 pai	1316	32	—
25	Ar	1 rupee	1319	35	—
26	AE	1 rupee, off-strike in copper	1319	35	—
27	Tin	1 rupee, off-strike in tin	1319	35	—
28	AE	1 rupee, trial strike, of improved design	n.d.	—	—
29	AE	1/2 anna	1320	35	—
30	AE	2 pai	1320	35	—
31	AE	machine trial piece for 1 rupee	n.d.	—	—
32	AE	machine trial piece for 1/2 rupee	n.d.	—	—
33	AE	machine trial piece for 1/4 rupee	n.d.	—	—
34	AE	machine trial piece for 1/8 rupee	n.d.	—	—

List of Hegira-dates and regnal-years of the Nizam Mir Mahboob Ali Khan Asaf Jah Bahadur.

Date of commencement of reign 13 Zilkada 1285H. = 25 February 1869. The formal accession ceremony took place 5 days after the death of his father. Because of the Nizam's young age (born 17-08-1866), the Prime Minister, Sir Salar Jung I, was appointed Regent. He died in 1883. The Nizam was invested with full state control on 05-02-1884.

Hegira date	commences AD	Ry	Date Ry commenced
1285	24-04-1868	1	25-02-1869
1286	13-04-1869	2	15-02-1870
1287	03-04-1870	3	04-02-1871
1288	23-03-1871	4	24-01-1872
1289	11-03-1872	5	13-01-1873
1290	01-03-1873	6	02-01-1874
1291	18-02-1874	7	22-12-1874
1292	07-02-1875	8	12-12-1875
1293	28-01-1876	9	01-12-1876
1294	16-01-1877	10	19-11-1877
1295	05-01-1878	11	09-11-1878
1296	26-12-1878	12	29-10-1879
1297	15-12-1879	13	18-10-1880
1298	04-12-1880	14	07-10-1881
1299	23-11-1881	15	26-09-1882
1300	12-11-1882	16	16-09-1883
1301	02-11-1883	17	04-09-1884
1302	21-10-1884	18	24-08-1885
1303	10-10-1885	19	14-08-1886
1304	30-09-1886	20	03-08-1887
1305	19-09-1887	21	22-07-1888
1306	07-09-1888	22	12-07-1889
1307	28-08-1889	23	01-07-1890
1308	17-08-1890	24	21-06-1891
1309	07-08-1891	25	09-06-1892
1310	26-07-1892	26	29-05-1893
1311	15-07-1893	27	19-05-1894
1312	05-07-1894	28	08-05-1895

AH	AD	RY	
1313	24-06-1895	29	26-04-1896
1314	12-06-1896	30	16-04-1897
1315	02-06-1897	31	05-04-1898
1316	22-05-1898	32	26-03-1899
1317	12-05-1899	33	15-03-1900
1318	01-05-1900	34	04-03-1901
1319	20-04-1901	35	22-02-1902
1320	10-04-1902	36	11-02-1903
1321	30-03-1903	37	31-01-1904
1322	18-03-1904	38	20-01-1905
1323	08-03-1905	39	09-01-1906
1324	25-02-1906	40	29-12-1906
1325	14-02-1907	41	19-12-1907
1326	04-02-1908	42	08-12-1908
1327	23-01-1909	43	27-11-1910
1328	13-01-1910	44	17-11-1910
1329	02-01-1911	died 4 Ramzan 1329 =	29-08-1911

Qi Xiang coin trees

by David Jen

The international numismatic community has long known that the American Numismatic Society of New York has in its collection of Chinese cash coins two Qi Xiang coin trees; but that is not the whole story.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Michael Bates, ANS Curator of Islamic and East Asian Coins, I had the opportunity to view the whole ANS collection of Chinese coin trees, and to my surprise discovered there were sixty of them; and what is more, among them were two previously unmentioned Qi Xiang coin trees, bringing the total to four!

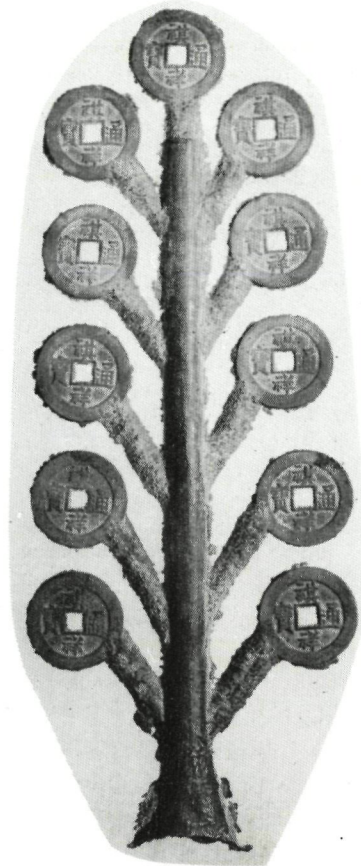
Qi Xiang was the first of the boy emperor Mu Zong's reign titles. After his father's death in August 1861, he was to ascend the throne the following year with the reign title of *Qi Xiang* (Good luck), and the *Qi Xiang* coins were to be released simultaneously. The day never came, however, for his mother, the empress dowager Ci Xi, staged a palace coup three months later, did away with the eight ministers that were to have assisted him in state affairs, and changed the reign title from *Qi Xiang* to *Tong Zhi*.

By then the coins were already out of the mint, but were melted to make coins with the new reign title. Not having seen circulation and since few escaped the furnace, it is understandable why these coins are listed as rarities, and so should the coin trees, which because of their size had an even smaller chance of survival. On each tree are eleven coins, one at the top and five on each side of the casting sprue, the coins attached to stems sprouting from the sprue, like the branches of a tree. The casting process is clearly shown here — the metal flows through the sprue and stems into the cash moulds and when cold the formed coins are detached from the stems, filed and made ready to go into circulation.

Two of the trees are 1 cash coins and the other two 10 cash. The 1 cash trees are smaller (Fig.1), being 22.5cm long, 7.7cm wide and 246 g in weight; the 10 cash trees are 26.5cm long, 9.4cm wide and 387.6g in weight. The 1 cash coins have the legend *Qi Xiang Tong Bao*, with the mint name Board of Public Works in Manchu script on the reverse. They are 25-27mm in diameter and 1.9-2.1mm thick, and listed in the Fisher-Ding catalog as No.2585. The catalog number of the 10 cash coins (Fig.2) is 2587, the diameter 34.5-35.5mm and the thickness 2.4-2.8mm; with the legend *Qi Xiang Zhong Bao* on the obverse and Value 10, Board of Public Works in Manchu script on the reverse.

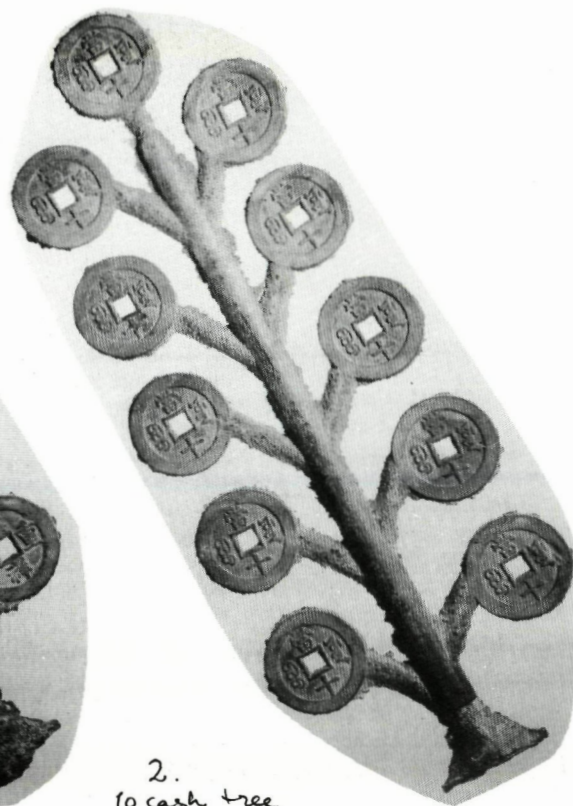
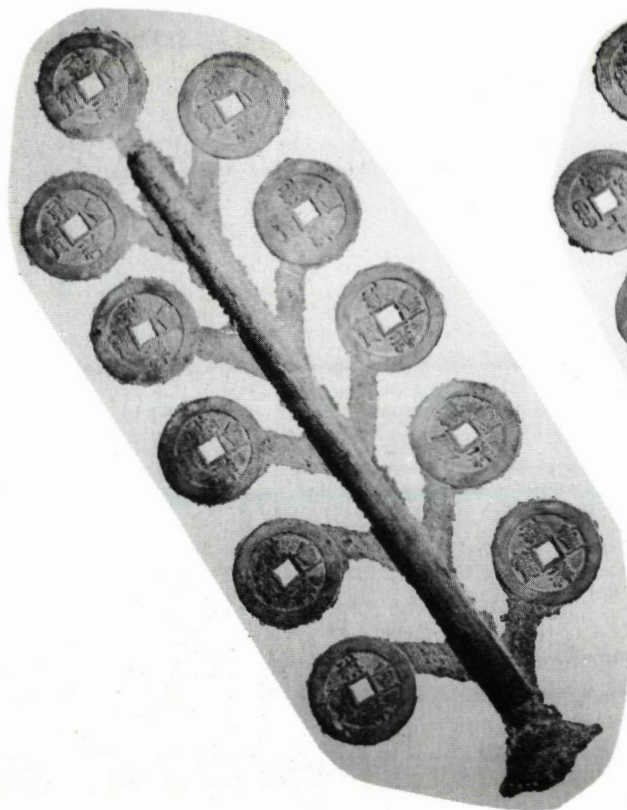
The coin trees are from the 1937 Reilly donation, largely made up from the Ramsden collection. They would make impressive showpieces for their size and uniqueness. It is a wonder they could have survived an era when the whole of China was in turmoil, civil war among the warlords being the order of the day. We are indebted to the collectors through whose efforts a safe haven has been found for these treasures where they could be preserved for the benefit of generations to come.

I owe many thanks to Dr. Michael Bates for encouraging me to write this article and to Mr. Frank Deak, ANS photographer, for processing these wonderful coin tree photographs.



1.

1 cash tree



2.
10 cash tree

Index for 1996

by Ken Wiggins

The index covering the years 1976 to 1992 was published in April 1993 as Occasional Paper No. 29.

The index for 1993 was published in Newsletter 141.

The index for 1994 was published in Newsletter 145.

The index for 1995 was published in Newsletter 149.

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