



ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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ONS News

The Berlin Congress

The ONS workshop at the Berlin Congress took place as planned, though sadly without the participation of our late Secretary-General. There were three ONS workshops at the Congress. Luke Treadwell of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, has kindly provided the following report on the Islamic workshop

Islamic Workshop Report for ONS

Dr Lutz Ilisch reported that the Tübingen University Islamic collection continued to increase in size. 2500 Moroccan coins of the 18-19th centuries (the H. Thau collection) had recently been acquired. The metallurgical project directed by Dr Ilisch was in its final phase. Barbara Jockers was presently cataloguing late mediaeval countermarks on silver coins of Central Asia, Iran, Eastern Anatolia and Iraq. The catalogue, which would include some 1000-1500 countermarks was expected to be published in 1998. The Tübingen Sylloge of Islamic coins was progressing well: manuscripts awaiting publication included the volume on the coinage of al-Shash, Farghana and Eastern Turkestan and the volume on the coinage of Hamah (Ayyubid and Mamluk). Ilisch would write the volume on the coinage of Damascus within 2-3 years. The University of Göttingen had been extending its Islamic collection, with the notable recent donation of the collection of Prof. Peter Bachmann. Florian Schwarz was presently cataloguing the holdings in Göttingen. The total number of Islamic coins in the University Coin Cabinet was now around 6000 pieces. Dr Stefan Heidemann reported that in the 19th century the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena had one of the major Islamic collections outside the Middle East which formed the basis of the numismatic studies of J.G. Stickel and F. Soret. The rich archives contained information about numerous coin hoards from Russia and the Caucasus. The collection had been curated up to 1919 but thereafter had been neglected. In 1994 the Chair of Semitic Studies had been re-established and Dr Stefan Heidemann, scientific assistant at the Chair, had been appointed to coordinate the plan to revive the collection as a tool for historical research. In February 1996 Jena had hosted a conference on the state of Islamic numismatics in Germany. The conference papers would be published soon. In April 1997 the collection had moved to new and far more suitable premises. At the end of this year the sylloge publication of the collection would be started. Dr Heidemann was involved in a number of projects including "Monetary economy as a social system in 12/13th century Syria", "Urban development in the Balikh Valley during the 11th century" and a history of Islamic numismatics in modern times. Professor M. Feodorov, specialist on the coinage of Islamic Central Asia, was presently resident in Germany and could be contacted via the Oriental Institute, Jena.

Middle East

Mr Samir Shamma (describing himself modestly as an amateur of Islamic numismatics) gave a brief summary of developments in the Middle East. Yarmouk University continued to offer instruction in

archaeology and Islamic numismatics at MA level: Dr Khalaf Tarawni was responsible for teaching this component of the course. Mr Tarawneh and Abd al-Razzaq Daftar had recently published a new booklet entitled *al-Maskukat*. The ninth volume of the *Yarmouk Journal of Islamic Numismatics* would be published before the end of the year. Dr Naif al-Qussus had written a book on the Decapolis, which had been published by the Arab Bank. Qussus was presently undertaking a two-year course at St Joseph University in Beirut after which he would take up the lectureship in Islamic Numismatics in Yarmouk. Mr Shamma had funded the construction of a building to house the Yarmouk University numismatic collection. He would publish a book on Abbasid copper coins in 1998. He had also recently given a complete set of Umayyad dinars, dated 77-132, to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, as the core of their growing numismatic collection. Mr Muhammad Sa'id al-Hajj had recently written a book on Saudi Arabian currency. Mr Shamma noted two recent works published in the Gulf States: these were the 2nd volume of the catalogue of the National Museum of Qatar by Abdallah Jabir and a work on the coinage of Bahrain by Robert Darley-Doran.

Professor Cecile Morrisson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Shamma in recognition of his contributions to the subject of Islamic Numismatics. Dr Venetia Porter suggested that in view of the low number of Middle Eastern participants in the Berlin Congress, a meeting of Islamic numismatists should be held in the Middle East, which would enable scholars active in the field to meet their colleagues from Europe and North America.

Oriental Numismatic Society

Mr Jan Lingen, European representative of the Society, made a strong case for finding ways of increasing the membership of the Society and paid tribute to the late Michael Broome, whose idea it was to incorporate this ONS workshop within the framework of the International Numismatic Congress.

Sweden

The state of the subject in Sweden was very disappointing. Gert Rispling, specialist in the Islamic coins of the Viking age and imitations thereof, had retired from the Numismatic Institute in Stockholm. Bengt Hoven, formerly Curator of Islamic Coins in the Royal Coin Cabinet, Stockholm, had left numismatic scholarship as well.

UK

Marcus Phillips reported on the annual British Museum workshops on Mongol coinage and Byzantine/Arab-Byzantine coinage. Judith Kolbas, the organiser of the Mongol coinage meetings had arranged for the proceedings of the most recent meeting to be published by the Royal Asiatic Society. The Byzantine and Arab-Byzantine workshops had generated a number of publications including Goodwin's collection of Arab-Byzantine coins of Ba'albek and Oddy's collection of the same series from Damascus. He said that Henri Pottiers intended to publish an article on the heavy Syrian coppers struck during the period of Persian

occupation of the Near East.

Dr Venetia Porter announced that she was running a series of epigraphy workshops at the British Museum including numismatic and other materials to which all were welcome to contribute. She noted the opening of the new HKS Money Gallery in the Museum and the publication of the accompanying book and CD entitled *Money in History*. She also said that a Variorum volume of selected articles by Professor E.A. Davidovich was in preparation and a similar volume of articles by Dr. B. Kochnev was being considered for publication. Her own research was focused on the publication of the 16th century Moroccan gold coins found in a marine wreck off the coast of Devon and a catalogue of Arabic seals in the Museum.

Dr Luke Treadwell said that the Ashmolean Museum was beginning its project to publish the Heberden and Shamma collections in sylloge format this autumn. Steve Album would be coming to Oxford in October to take up a two-year appointment as the Sackler Fellow at Worcester College. During his time in Oxford, Album would work on the Yemeni, Arabian and Iranian coinage volumes of the catalogue and would write a book on the coinage of post-Mongol Iran. Dr Rika Gyselen would be in Oxford for two months from October as the Shamma Fellow in Islamic Numismatics and Epigraphy. During her stay she would give lectures on Arab-Sasanian coinage to the RNS and the Oriental Institute. Dr Treadwell reported that the first volume of his die-corpus of Buyid coinage was expected to be completed by the middle of 1998.

USA

Professor Thomas Noonan was working on a catalogue of all the Islamic silver hoards from Central Asia to the British Isles containing 5 or more dirhams. In February 1998 he would be completing the final stages of the project in Stockholm and hoped to publish his results before the end of the year. A Variorum volume of six of his articles on the subject would also appear in 1998.

Dr Michael Bates reported that the ANS continued to hold informal "forums" on Arab-Byzantine numismatics, and this year would add a forum on East Asian numismatics (21 February 1998), and on the coinage of the Eastern Mediterranean in the 12th-13th centuries (16 May 1998). He also said that the North American branch of the Oriental Numismatic Society met biannually in May and December. He announced that the ANS catalogue had recently been put onto the World-Wide Web and could be consulted by all users - the address is <http://www.amnumsoc2.org>. The summer Graduate Seminar of the ANS had recently been opened to students and young scholars from institutions outside North America: two non-stipendiary positions per year were open by application. Shaykh Hamad of Qatar had recently endowed the Hamad Fellowship for a student of Islamic history or archaeology to be trained in museum numismatics. Dr Bates noted the recent donation of the "Jem Sultan" collection of 5,601 ottoman coins, as well as a new collection of some 8,000 Indian coins, both from Mrs. Olivia G. Lincoln.

Mr William Spengler, chairman of the American Numismatic Society Standing Committee on Islamic and South Asian coins, reported that the Society's last two annual prizes for the best work in the field had been awarded to the two volumes of the Tübingen Sylloge of Islamic coinage which had been published. He also noted that the Krause-Mishler Standard Catalog of World Coins was to include coinage of the 16th century in future editions. Mr Spengler and his co-author, Wayne Sayles, were working on the 3rd volume of their series on the coinage of the Turcoman dynasties. He urged members to take note of the new edition of C.F. Bosworth's *Islamic Dynasties* which included information on all rulers who struck coinage.

Czech Republic

Dr Vlastimil Novak reported that the Naprstek Museum had recently acquired a fine collection of 1200 Islamic coins, most of which belonged to the Golden Horde, Khwarazmshahs and Khans of the Crimea series, including many unpublished coppers. The collection was presently being integrated into the Museum's systematic collection and it was hoped that an exhibition of these and other coins in the museum would be set up in the near future. Plans were in hand to publish the entire collection (8000 coins) of

the museum in the future. Dr Novak had spent the previous two summers working on the catalogue of the Islamic collection (3500 coins) in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge: publication of the catalogue was planned for 1998.

Spain

Tawfiq Ibrahim noted that the Museo Casa de la Moneda had recently acquired the Margustin collection from Barcelona. Publication would include metallurgical analysis of the coins. He summarised the Alhambra exhibition of Islamic coins and said that it had attracted a large number of visitors.

France

Dr Giles Hennequin stated that the 4th volume of the Bibliothèque Nationale catalogue of Islamic coinage was due for publication in the near future. He had also catalogued the recently rediscovered Islamic coin collection of the Musée des Beaux Arts, Chartres, which comprised 700 coins, including Samanid dirhams, Golden Horde silver and French colonial period Indian coins. He pointed out that there was some hope that a second specialist (an Islamicist?) might be appointed to the Oriental section of the Coin Cabinet of the Bibliothèque Nationale. He noted that Dr Kalus was working on a corpus of coin finds from the Middle East but had no recent news of the project.

Poland

Dorota Malarczyk reported on the continuing programme of publication of Islamic hoards from Poland undertaken by scholars including Dr Bartzak and herself. She said that negotiations were underway between her colleagues and the German Numismatic Commission concerning a project to catalogue the Polish finds on the model of the Swedish Viking Age catalogue.

Uzbekistan

Dr Lutz Ilisch noted that several scholars were actively engaged on Islamic (and related) numismatic projects in Uzbekistan. In Bukhara, Dr Golib Kurbanov was working on pre-Islamic material and would shortly visit Tübingen in connection with his research. Tashkent had become a major centre for the training of Islamic historians, one of whom, L. Shpenyova, had recently completed a dissertation on Timurid coinage. In Samarqand, Dr Boris Kochnev maintained a prolific output of articles on the coinage of Central Asia from the 9th-13th centuries A.D. and this year had visited Tübingen to write the catalogue of Samanid coins from Bukhara and Samarqand of the University collection as well as the Ashmolean and British Museums.

Egypt

Dr Stuart Sears, who had recently completed his doctoral thesis on late Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian coinage, had been appointed to a two-year post in the American University of Cairo, which he would take up in the autumn.

Papers presented

The following papers on Near Eastern and Middle Eastern numismatics were due to be presented at the Congress. Abstracts of these and all other papers given at the congress are published in a volume entitled, in English, *Abstracts of Papers*, published by the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

- Seham al-Mahdi: *A hoard of Hafsid gold coins found in Egypt*
- Jere L. Bacharach: *Islamic coins as a source for art history: the case of the coinage of pre-Ottoman rulers of Egypt*
- Joaquin Barrio Martin and Alberto Canto García: *Metodología y proceso de conservación/restauración del conjunto de monedas califales de Haza del Carmen (the methods and processes used to conserve the coins found in the Haza del Carmen hoard)*
- Michael L. Bates: *The use of names and titles on coins of the Abbasid Caliphate*
- Harry James Bone: *dating the post-reform copper coinage of Umayyad Damascus*
- Alberto Canto García: *El hallazgo califal de Haza del Carmen (the Haza del Carmen hoard of caliphate coins)*
- Stefan Heidemann: *Entwicklung des Geldwesens in Syrien während des 12./13. Jahrhunderts (the development of the currency system in Syria in the 12/13 centuries)*
- Johann-Christoph Hinrichs: *Titel und Titelkombinationen auf*

Münzen Gazan Mahmuds (1295-1304 AD) (the titles and combination of titles on the coins of Gazan Mahmud)

- Lutz Ilisch: *Imitative zentralasiatische Silberdinare aus der Mitte des 14. Jahrhunderts (imitative silver dinars from central Asia from the middle of the 14th century)*
- Mohammad Laallaoui: *L'apport de la numismatique dans la compréhension de l'avènement des Almoravides (the contribution made by numismatics in our understanding of the Almoravid succession)*
- Dorota Malarczyk: *Some preliminary remarks on the epigraphy of Samanid coinage*
- Eugen Nicolae: *Aspres ottomans de Mudava en Moldavie*
- Thomas Noonan: *Dirham imports and the growth of towns in early medieval European Russia*
- Vlastimil Novák: *A unique Samanid fractional dirham*
- Gyula Petrányi: *Ottoman coins minted in Cyprus*
- MS Phillips and A Goodwin: *The Hama hoard: chronology and circulation of copper coinage in Syria after the Arab conquest*
- Venetia Porter: *Gold coins of the Sharifs of Morocco from a wreck off the English coast*
- Stuart Sears: *A new look at the metrology of early Muslim coinage*
- Samir Shamma: *Harun al-Rashid's wife strikes coins*
- Anahit Tadevossian: *The earliest coin bearing Armenian letters*
- François Thierry: *La monnaie de Boquq, qaghan des Ouïghours*
- Hans Wilski: *Gegenstempel auf Münzen des Osmanischen Reiches (countermarks on coins of the Ottoman Empire)*
- Ahmed Zekaria: *Harari coins: a step ahead*

The late Michael Broome was due to give a paper entitled *Evidence for the circulation of Islamic gold coins in Venetian Cyprus*.

Jan Lingen has provided the following report on the **South Asian workshop**.

Workshop: South Asian Numismatics.

Chair: William F. Spengler, PratiPal Bhatia

The Workshop session was opened by Spengler who explained the origin and the order of the workshop. Similar workshops had been held in London (1986) in Brussels (1991) during the earlier sessions of the International Numismatic Congress. Due to the efforts of the late Secretary General, Michael R. Broome, the ONS had been allotted three different workshop-sessions within the framework of the Congress. The Chairman and others present reflected on the achievements of the late Secretary-General and observed a period of silence in his memory.

After this introduction, Dr. S.K. Bhatt informed the audience of the progress in numismatics at the Academy of Indian Numismatics & Sigillography, Indore, India. Three publications were in preparation and would be published shortly, viz.: Catalogue of the Sultans of Malwa (3 vols. respectively on coins, history and cultural heritage); Journal of the Academy vol. 13 and a publication on so-called proto-numismatics (small bronze ingots, beads, etc. from excavations in Mandu and other places). Furthermore he mentioned that the University of Indore had initiated courses in numismatics which would start either in October 1997 or January 1998.

Shailendra Bhandare of Bombay informed us that, as a contribution to the 50th anniversary, on 8 August 1997, of India's independence, a publication on Indian paper-money issued since 1950 had been released which he had edited. Another recent publication was on Vijayanagar coins by K. Ganesh and Dr Girijapathy (Rs.150).

A publication on Pre-Imperial punch-marked coins by Dilip Rajgor was still with the printer. There were also plans to issue a second and improved edition of the Catalogue of Sultanate Coins, though these were at a very early stage.

Raj Krishnamurthy of Tamil Nadu Numismatic Society presented the progress made in Southern India. New discoveries were published in Studies of South Indian Coins. A book on the late Roman copper coins from South India, Karur and Madurai

had been published by him in 1994.

Michael Robinson was proposing a separate publication on the coins of Arakan. The present amount of information would allow such a separate publication. Furthermore he informed us that Michael Mitchiner's work on the coins of Bangla Desh was in press and that the Banknote Society had published the papermoney issued by the Government of India for Burma.

Mr. Devdatta G. Angal, Secretary of The Numismatic Society of Maharashtra introduced the newly established Society.

Among the United States representatives were Kenneth Bressett, ex president of the ANA and Robert Hoge, curator of the ANA Museum. Robert Hoge explained the activities of ICOMON (International Council of Museums on Numismatics). During the Congress a separate meeting of ICOMON was to be held. Furthermore Hoge mentioned that he was working on a group of Mughal coins, mostly in the name of Aurangzeb, and that he intended to undertake a die-study of them.

Michael Bates of the American Numismatic Society apologised for the fact that at present there was no curator for the South Asia Collection. The South Asian collection amounted to about 60,000 pieces, details of which were now all computerised and could be consulted via the ANS Web Site; <http://www.amnumsoc2.org>

The total number of coins in the ANS Database amounted to over 500,000 pieces. The excellent library of the ANS was unfortunately not yet part of the computerised database and therefore could not be consulted via the Internet.

Bates furthermore informed us that each summer, seminars were held which were open to students at North American Universities. The deadline for application was 1 March.

Peter Lampinen inquired about the status of the Kabul Museum. David MacDowell explained the sad story of the museum. All the coins that had been in the Kabul Museum had been stolen, leaving only the cardboard coin-holders behind.

The Society of South Asian Studies was compiling a catalogue of everything that had been in the Kabul Museum. This also applied to the Begram ivories and other art objects.

Some of the coins were reported to have been offered for sale in Pakistan and in the West. As they are well documented, however, and on the UNESCO list of stolen property, they cannot be handled by any professional dealer and were consequently worthless in international trade.

Hans Herrli requested data and information on any Sikh coins which were not mentioned in his book on the same subject which had been published in 1993.

Jan Lingen informed the audience of the activities of the ONS in Europe and contributions he had recently written for the ONS Newsletter, Numismatic Digest and the Dutch magazine De Beeldenaar. New life had been blown into a long-standing project on the Coins of the Princely States of Rajputana, a job which was being done in co-operation with Ken Wiggins and Hans Herrli.

Robert Stocking mentioned that he was particularly interested in the coins of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and invited other collectors to provide him with information on this series, particularly on varieties of the early stivers which were not listed by Pridmore.

Stuart Sears, who at the time was working at the University of Cairo, explained some of the activities that he had undertaken.

Peter Flensburg mentioned his interest in the coins of Danish Tranquebar. Recently a long awaited publication in English by Uno Barner Jensen had appeared. He also mentioned that he was working on the porcelain tokens of Thailand.

David MacDowell mentioned that he was engaged in the preparation of a Gazetteer of Roman coin finds in India.

Michael Alram of Vienna reported on the successful exhibition held last year in the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna: *Weihrauch und Seide; Alte Kulturen an der Seidenstraße* (Incense and Silk; Ancient Cultures along the Silkroad) as well as on a symposium on the date of Kanishka. The contributions to this symposium were ready for press and would probably be published at the beginning of 1998.

Osmund Bopparachchi reported on the book of Pre-Kushan coins in Pakistan that he had written in co-operation with Aman ur Rahman and published in 1995. At the moment, he was working on the collection of Indo-Bactrian and Indo-Greek coins in the Smithsonian Institution. In co-operation with Wilfried Pieper (567)

a publication was in preparation on Ancient Indian Coins which most probably would be out by the end of the year or early 1998.

William Spengler mentioned that there were some exciting new developments with Krause publications. As the KM-catalogue, often nick-named the 'telephone directory', was becoming too voluminous, it had been decided to issue a volume for each century. For this reason, separate volumes for the 17th (1601-1700), 18th (1701-1800) and the 19th century (1801-1900) had been published. It had now been decided that a catalogue would also be prepared for the 16th century (1501-1600). This would consequently include many of the later parts of the Lodi dynasty, Sultans of Bengal (House of Husain Shah), the Suri dynasty and many Indian Sultanates, like the Nizam Shahis, Arakan Rajas as well as the Berar-, Bidar- and Bijapur Sultanate. Some rulers of the Gujarat, Gulbarga and Kashmir Sultanate as well as the Moghul rulers Babar and Humayun would fall within the same span of time. For this major task of producing the 16th century catalogue, contributors were invited.

Pratipal Bhatia pointed out the present situation in India and particularly in New Delhi. Recent publications were often compilations of various papers, rather quick work. Some publications had appeared on the Satavahanas. The Journal of the Indian Numismatic Society was much behind schedule. Recently Vol. LVI (1994) had been published. Numismatic awareness in India was growing and at several places on the sub-continent new local societies had been established. In this way the Delhi Coin Society had also been founded. An exhibition held by this Society had attracted many visitors. The Society was intending to issue a small journal.

At the Universities, Ancient Indian History was generally getting more attention than the Muslim dominated Mediaeval period. Only the Muslim University of Aligarh seemed to be a centre of Mediaeval Indian studies.

Another complaint made by Bhatia was the almost complete lack of co-operation from museums in India when it came to studying their collections. For research work it was often easier to obtain information from abroad rather than from museums in India. As those museums in India were members of ICOM it was suggested that the subject should be brought forward at the roundtable discussion next day at the present Congress.

In this respect Spengler mentioned his experience when he was looking for the Nelson Wright collection in 1984. He was told that the coins of the Nelson Wright collection had to be in the Red Fort Museum in Delhi. There, however, the curator said that he knew of no coins in the museum. After insisting that the collection had to be in the museum and that they should look for it, the curator went on investigating and ultimately in a cupboard covered under a thick layer of dust a box was found which concealed the long forgotten collection of Nelson Wright. Most probably nobody had touched it since 1947. Hopefully the spark of the present numismatic awareness among the people and the increasing number of collectors in India would bring forward more of those hidden and often unrecorded collections and treasure troves out of dusty almirahs.

Bhatia's book on Indo-Sassanian coins was in progress but the date of publication had not yet been established.

The South Asian Workshop concluded following thanks from Bill Spengler to all those who had contributed.

The following papers were or were due to be given on South Asian numismatics at the congress:

- Nisar Ahmad: *The chronology of the silver punchmarked coins*
- Pankaj Ameta: *The role of money under the Paramaras of Malwa in India*
- Shailandra Bhandare: *Regiospecificity and coin-types of the Satavahana Empire*
- Pratipal Bhatia: *Hephthalite-Sasanian and Indo-Sasanian coin-hoards found in Ajmer district of Rajasthan*
- SK Bhatt: *Numismatic trends of the 15th and 16th century India: centre-periphery; shift approach in context to the coinage of Sultans of Malwa*
- Sanjay Garg: *History of Persian verse inscriptions on Indian coinage*
- Michael Robinson: *The coinage of Chittagong under*

Arakanese rule (1575-1666)

- Raijasbir Singh: *The weight of the Sikh coins: an analytic study*
- William F Spengler: *Some discoveries relating to the early coins of Kashmir*

Helen Wang has provided the following on the Far Eastern Numismatics Workshop

Chaired by François Thierry, Nina Ivotchkina, Dai Zhiqiang, interpreted by Helen Wang

The workshop began with a tribute to the late Michael Broome, who had made the arrangements for the Far Eastern Workshop to take place. Michael had somehow also managed to get a large bright room with good acoustics (a contrast to the smaller rooms allocated to other Far Eastern sessions).

Eleven Far Eastern papers were presented at the Congress, and there were no further questions about those papers at the workshop. For the record the papers were:

Dai Zhiqiang: *Chinese numismatic undertakings: the present and the future*

François Thierry: *La monnaie de Boquq, qaghan des Ouighours (795-808)*

Zhou Weirong: *A study of the origins of bronze coinage in China*

Yang Feng: *The finds and researches of the currency of the Chu states*

Luo Yaping: *A study of the palace money of the Southern Song dynasty*

Cheng Jizhong: *A study of circulating coins and commemorative coins in China*

Yuan Changji: *The first 'labour securities' in China*

Jin Deping: *A statement of Chinese numismatic research in 1940s based on the "Journal of Coins"*

Wang Yongsheng: *A study of the imitation of the Yuan dynasty's currency policy by the Persian Il-khan*

Nina Ivotchkina: *Imitations of Chinese coins*

Helen Wang: *Money on the Eastern Silk Road*

Most of the workshop was devoted to hearing about the situation of Far Eastern numismatics in the various countries represented (China, Japan, France, Russia, USA, UK). It was noted that all the Far Eastern papers had related to Chinese territories, and it was hoped that more representatives from other East Asian countries might attend the next INC and share their detailed research.

ONS - The Way Forward

Draft Constitution

The following draft constitution has been devised for the Society by the interim Council. The aim will be to adopt the constitution as hereunder presented or suitably amended at the Annual General Meeting that will take place in London on 6 June 1998. Members are invited to send any comments on the draft in writing to the interim Secretary of the Society, ... by the end of February 1998.

Oriental Numismatic Society

Rules adopted on 199

1. Constitution.

The name of the Society is the Oriental Numismatic Society (the 'Society'). The Society is a private society founded in 1970 by Michael Broome.

2. Aims

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to promote the collection and study of Oriental coins, medals, paper money and related material;
- (b) to encourage contacts and co-operation between those collecting and studying such coins and material;
- (c) to publish a regular newsletter and other publications;
- (d) to organise meetings of its members; and
- (e) to do such other things as shall be conducive to the attainment of the above aims.

3. Membership

Any person wishing to become a member of the Society must apply in writing, agree to be bound by these rules and pay the entry fee (if any). Election to the Society is at the discretion of the Council, who may delegate this discretion to the appropriate Regional Secretary. Any entry fee shall be decided from time to time by the Council.

Copyright in the membership list belongs to the Society and may not be used by members for any purpose other than writing to other members, without the Council's prior approval.

A member may resign membership by written notice to the appropriate Regional Secretary. The Council may withdraw membership from any person if, in the Council's opinion, it is in the Society's interest to do so.

4. Annual subscriptions

Members (other than honorary members) shall pay an annual subscription on joining. Subsequent subscriptions will be due by 31 March in respect of the following year. Subscriptions are fixed by the Council and paid to the appropriate Regional Secretary. The Council has the right to determine different rates of subscription for different regions. Failure to pay the annual subscription will entitle the Council or relevant Regional Secretary to lapse membership of that member. A person whose membership has lapsed for not having paid the subscription may (at the Regional Secretary's discretion) be asked to pay the entry fee on re-joining. Payment of the subscription will entitle members to the Society's publications issued in that year, with the exception of any special publications for which a charge is made. The Council has the right to waive the subscription of any member in recognition of exceptional service to the Society.

5. Honorary members

The Council may elect any person as an honorary member of the Society for such period, as they think fit in recognition of their contribution to Oriental numismatics. An honorary member shall be entitled to all privileges of membership.

6. Council

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of the following officers: a Secretary General, a Deputy Secretary-General, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Newsletter Editor, a Membership Secretary, a Publications Secretary, Regional Secretaries, and not more than three other members of the Society. All officers and other members of the Council (other than Regional Secretaries) shall be elected at Annual General Meetings as described below. At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting held in 1999 and every third Annual General Meeting thereafter every member of the Council (other than Regional Secretaries) shall retire from the Council but shall be eligible for re-election. Any casual vacancy occurring by resignation, or otherwise may be filled by the Council.

A member of the Council may hold more than one office but shall have only one vote at Council meetings. Decisions of the Council shall be by a simple majority and in the event of equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. The Council may co-opt members of the Society as non-voting Council members to perform tasks which cannot be performed by existing members of the Council.

Council meetings shall be held two or more times a year and may be called by the Secretary General, his or her deputy or the Secretary. The quorum for Council meetings shall be four members. The Council may appoint sub-committees from among their number and delegate to them such of their powers and duties as the Council may determine.

The members of the Council shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the Society against all expenses and liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Society. Expenses may only be incurred with the Council's prior approval.

7. Regional Secretaries

The Council will define the regions covered by the Regional Secretaries and appoint and replace Regional Secretaries. Members in each region may decide on the system in that Region for recommending to the Council the person for appointment as

Secretary for their Region.

The Regional Secretaries will collect entry fees and subscriptions from members in their regions and organise all other regional activities as appropriate. They will also distribute the Society's publications in their region and transmit to the Treasurer all fees, subscriptions, and payments for publications less the costs of distributing the publications and necessary expenses whenever requested. They will also provide the Treasurer with a statement of accounts and other financial information requested in time for auditing before the Annual General Meeting.

8. Officers

The officers of the Society shall be the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary, Publication Secretary and Regional Secretaries. The same individual may hold more than one office.

The Secretary General or, in his or her absence, the Deputy Secretary-General will chair council meetings and normally represent the Society in relation to other institutions and societies. The Secretary will take minutes of and organise venues, agendas and notices for Council and General Meetings.

The Treasurer will co-ordinate the finances of the Society in conjunction with the Regional Secretaries.

The Membership Secretary will keep records of the members of the Society and their addresses and interests.

The Newsletter Editor and Publication secretary will co-ordinate the publication programme.

9. General meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year at a time and place decided by the Council, to transact the following business:

- i. receive the Council's report on the activities of the Society during the previous year;
- ii. receive and consider the accounts of the Society for the previous year;
- iii. decide on any resolution submitted in accordance with these rules.

In 1999 and every third year thereafter the Meeting will also elect the members of the Council who stand for election or re-election. The Council will arrange for proxy forms to be sent to members for such elections.

Nominations for election of Council members (other than Regional Secretaries) must be in writing sent to the Secretary and supported by two other members in time for inclusion in the agenda and notice of meeting. Persons nominated must agree in writing to act if appointed. Any other item to be included in the agenda and notice of meeting must, unless approved by the Council, be seconded by six other members.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Council or at the written request of not less than twenty members.

Notice of General Meetings will be sent to all members at his or her last known address with details of the business to be transacted at least twenty-one days before the meeting. The accidental omission to send notice to any member shall not invalidate proceedings at a meeting. The quorum shall be fifteen members. If after one hour a quorum is not present the meeting may transact any business necessary for the continuance of the Society including the election of the Council. The Secretary General, or in his or her absence, a member of the Council shall take the chair. Each member present shall have one vote. Resolutions shall except where otherwise provided in these rules, be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote.

10. Alterations of rules and byelaws

These rules may be altered at a General Meeting provided the resolution is passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present in person or represented by proxy. The Council shall have power to make, repeal, and amend such byelaws, as they may from time to time think necessary or desirable in the interests of the Society. Byelaws, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by the Council or General Meeting.

11. Property

All cash payable to the Society shall be paid into an account or accounts in the name of the Society or in accordance with such arrangements as the Council may approve. Any other property of

the Society shall be held by not more than four Council members or other custodians appointed by the Council. They shall deal with such property as directed by the Council for the furtherance of the Society's aims and for the expenses of its administration.

12. Dissolution.

A resolution to dissolve the Society shall only be passed at a General Meeting provided the resolution is passed by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting. The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Council shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Society. Any surplus assets shall be given to a charity or charities nominated by the Council.

13. General.

Any question of copyright in the Society's publications shall be a matter to be decided between the contributor and the Council or Newsletter Editor or Publications secretary.

No member shall use the name of the Society for the purposes of trade or profit.

A copy of these rules which shall be governed by English law shall be given to every person on becoming a member.

Notices shall be deemed to have been served 48 hours after posting to the last address recorded by the membership Secretary or relevant Regional Secretary.

Interim Council

As elections for the Governing Council cannot be held until after the constitution has been approved next June, an interim Council has been set up consisting of the following officers and ordinary members:

Secretary General: Nicholas Rhodes

Deputy Secretary General: Stan Goron

Secretary: Peter Smith

Treasurer: David Priestley

Publications Secretary: Joe Cribb

Newsletter Editor: Stan Goron

Membership Secretary: Paul Withers (with the assistance of Bente Withers)

Other members: Tony Holmes, Venetia Porter and Howard Simmons.

Regional Secretaries as at present

Leiden Meeting

The annual ONS-meeting in the Netherlands took place in Leiden on 18 October 1997. The meeting was well attended with about 25 members present. After a welcome with coffee in the library of the Royal Coin Cabinet the members went to the auditorium of the Museum of Antiquities next door where the lectures were held. Dr. Ellen M. Raven presented a lecture on the *Relations between early Indian coin motifs and contemporary terra-cotta objects, particularly those of Shri Lakshmi*. Her presentation concentrated on the female figure on the reverse of the Asvamedha-type coins of the Imperial Guptas which she suggested should be identified as a representation of Shri Lakshmi rather than the Emperor's consort, generally assumed by most numismatists. She sought to prove her view by comparing the standing female figure with chowrie on her shoulder, with contemporary statues and terra-cotta figures as well as representations of Lakshmi on Ancient Indian coins.

As more study on this subject was still desirable she would welcome any good illustrations of Shri Lakshmi on Ancient Indian Coins.

Another interesting subject was presented by Paul Murphy who reported on the *ONS-IIRNS CD-Rom project for Indian Punch-marked coins* (See also NL no. 147).

The project aims were:

- To provide an integrated approach to deliver a standard classification system for Indian punch-marked coinage via members of the Indian Institute for Research in Numismatic Studies, Nashik, India (IRNS) and ONS;
 - To place a controlled ongoing system centre for classification of new varieties;
 - To publish material on CD-ROM and off-print media.
- A Web-site on this subject was also proposed.

The project was still in its initial stage and had received the support of the ONS and IIRNS. Any member who could provide help and support or wanted information should contact Paul Murphy <paul.murphy@ubn.nl>

After a joint lunch the meeting continued with a lecture by Dr. Tjon Ding Yih: *Some new Chaghatayid coins from Almaligh*. An abstract of this lecture is published below.

The customary auction of oriental coins was again successful with some Dfl. 950,- accruing to ONS funds, thanks to the generosity of Spinks & Son of London and a few other members for donating material for the auction.

The pleasant meeting was concluded with a dinner in an oriental atmosphere at an Indonesian restaurant. Our thanks were particularly due to the Royal Coin Cabinet and the Museum for Antiquities who allowed the meeting to take place on their premises free of charge.

The meeting for 1998 is tentatively planned for Saturday 17 October. Please make a note of the date in your diary.

JL

Newly discovered Chaghatayid coins from Almaligh



Dr. T.D. Yih


An overview was given on newly discovered Chaghatayid coins from Almaligh. Four silver types were distinguished. The first type has on the obverse centre the legend *Alin Ghaya* or *Al Ghayat*. A reference has been made to Fatimid gold dinars of al-Hafiz with a similar legend.

On the outer circular legends the mint name and date occur in a very stylised form.

The reverse has the legends *al-'adil al-'azam* and a circular legend containing the mint name and data in words. This type was apparently in production for only a short period; dates encountered so far are AH 637, 638. (Xinjiang Numismatics illustrated under no.145 a piece with postulated date 640).

The second type has on its obverse instead of the aforementioned central legend the name of Almaligh and it has the same reverse legend.

A number of subtypes can be distinguished based on the presence of dots below the name of Almaligh or the presence of a tamgha-like symbol above it ( or ).

Furthermore there are subtypes with, on the reverse, the date in words and the presence of the Chaghatayid tamgha (). This type was much longer in production than the first type. Dates comprise the period from AH647 until 689.


The third type has on its reverse again the legend *al-'adil al-'azam*. On the obverse is visible in the central field the Chaghatayid tamgha surrounded by a legend containing the words *sikkat Almaligh*. Both sides show part of a circular margin legend.

The last type presented was a piece from Yesun Timur with, on the obverse, the name of Almaligh and the date $\forall \text{r}^\circ$ (AH740). The reverse has the Chaghatayid tamgha and the rulers name and honorary title *Azam zuyida adluha*. Similar pieces are present in the the Tübingen collection of Islamic coins in Germany. So far, only one date is known. There were 2 types of "copper" coins presented. The first type has on the obverse the legend *zarb /sikkat Almaligh/shohur sanat* followed by the first digit. The next line contains the decimal and hundred units.

On the reverse is the Kalima followed by *Nasir li-din Allah*. Dates might be AH677 or 697. In the collection of the Finnish Turkestan expedition there is a piece which clearly shows the decimal *khamzin* (50).

The second type has a large obverse legend *zuriba Almaligh* and on the reverse a large central legend *Nasir li-din Allah*. It is not clear whether this is a reference to a Caliph or an honorary title of the local ruler.

XRF-analysis has revealed that the copper pieces contain a high amount of silver. Hence it is not known yet whether these pieces are real copper pieces or debased silver pieces.

Finally there were presented some coins from Kashgar and Pulad with the tamgha () and a coin from Imil with the double trident tamgha as also occurs on coins of Môngke.

Cologne Meeting

After a convivial get-together on the evening of Friday 7 November, the meeting began in earnest on the following Saturday morning with some 18 ONS members present. Dr Pieper gave a talk on the various cultures in the Indus Valley up to the time of the break-up of the Ashokan Empire. This started with the pre-Indo-European culture, continued with the penetration of the Indo-Europeans into the area and its consequences, the development of Brahmanism, the spread of Buddhism etc. The talk was illustrated by various slides.

The next talk was given by Jan Lingen on the mints of Saugor, Bhartpur and Bindraban and covered such aspects as the short minting period, the retention of Persian inscriptions on the coins of the local rulers, the British influence and the partial take-over of the mints by the East India Company.

After lunch, Norbert Bartonitschek enlarged upon his previous year's comments about the princely state of Dungarpur, this time warning about a gold mohur, dated Sv 1926, which had been turning up on the market in some numbers, and which had been described in specialist magazines as an "English fabrication". Because of his personal relationship with the former ruling house of the state, he reported that after the death of the last ruler, efforts were being made to produce an exhibition about the state's past. Unfortunately, it emerged that there was not a single example of the state's coins in the palace. He had been asked to acquire one or more examples at a reasonable price.

The meeting continued with discussions on various themes and ended with a decision to meet again on 6 and 7 November 1998. For further information please contact ...

London Meeting

A meeting will take place on Saturday 7 March at the Coin and Medal Department of the British Museum from 11.00 to 15.00. Members attending are invited to bring with them items of interest for a "bring and tell" session of 15 minute talks. The department's television microscope system will be available for presenting the coins. For further information please contact Ken Wiggins or Joe Cribb.

Members News

1. ...is about to commence his CD-Rom project for Indian punchmarked silver coins. He will be starting with the Kosala series and would like members to forward to him photographs, drawings or scans (any mode) of any unpublished Kosala coins in their collections.

2. Any member interested in acquiring coins of the Danish East India Company should contact ...who has a list of such coins for sale.

3. Congratulations to Professor Bhatia for being elected an Honorary Member of the International Numismatic Commission at the Berlin Congress on 11 September 1997.

4. ...has some Indian coins for disposal, mainly small lots of late Mughal and Princely States. Any member interested is invited to write to her for a list.

Other News

1. There have been some changes to the standing committees of the American Numismatic Society that deal with oriental coinages. William B Warden, Jr. has taken over as chairman of the Standing Committee on Islamic Coins (the other members of which are: Jere Bacharach, Gregory Cole, Kenneth M MacKenzie, William F Spengler and Michael Bates), while Bill Spengler has taken over as chairman of the newly formed Standing Committee on Central Asian and South Asian Coins (the other members of which are: Lawrence A Adams, Martha Carter, Marie H Martin, Jyoti Rai, William B Warden Jr and Michael Bates).

2. In the New and Recent Publications section of Newsletter 153 we mentioned the Russian publication *Vostochnoe Istoricheskoe Istochnikovedenie I Special'nye Isoricheskije Discipliny*. It is currently possible to order this book from either Prof. Davidovich or Dr Nastich as previously mentioned whilst paying for it by transferring the appropriate amount to one of the following accounts:

Dr N Serikoff, Deutsche Bank, Kto.-Nr. 4968277, BLZ 20070000, Hamburg

Dr N Serikoff, National Westminster Bank, Account No. 695834202, Branch 56-00-31, Tottenham Court Road, London

or by sending a cheque to Dr Nikolai Serikoff, the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

3. On 2 December 1997, Stacks of New York are due to hold the largest auction of Islamic coinage ever to be held in the United States. The nucleus (107 out of the 270 lots) is a very fine collection of the Islamic dynasties in the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen. Some of the material is unpublished while many other pieces are rare to extremely rare. Also included is an Umayyad gold dinar struck in al-Andalus in AH 102, a dinar of the Seljuk of Rum ruler Kayka'us I of Sivas AH 614 and two other Seljuk of Rum gold dinars. The auction is due to conclude with a small section of Indo-Islamic gold coins.

Highlights of the Arabian Peninsula part of the auction include an unpublished dinar of Aththar, AH 373, in the name of the Amir of 'Asir, Abu'l Ja'far al-Samu'l b. Muhammad; an unpublished dinar of Aththar, AH 319, in the name of the Caliph al-Muqtadir; and a dinar of Bishah, AH 340. The Rassid section includes two extremely rare silver Sudaysi of al-Nasir struck in Mecca and two more struck in Nu'aman, a fortress in the vicinity of Sa'dah and unpublished as an Islamic mint. Of the Isma'ili partisan lots, the most important are what is believed to be the only three known donative gold half dinars of Imam al-Mansur Saba' b. Ahmad dated *year 90 malik al-Sa'id*. Dating according to an Isma'ili era was previously unknown and the date appears to refer to the Sulayhid ruler al-Mukarram Ahmad, whose title was al-Malik al-Sa'id.

Other important coins include two silver dirhams of the Ayyubid of Yemen, al-Mu'izz Isma'il with the title *al-Hadi*; an unpublished fractional dirham of al-Mas'ud Yusuf possibly struck in Mecca; a group of Rasulid dirhams from the extremely rare mint of al-Jahili; a Rasulid dirham of Mabyan; and a billon para of Abu 'Arish, AH 1227 (Abu 'Arish is now in the Saudi province of 'Asir).

For further information please contact Stacks, 123 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019, USA; (tel: ++1 212-582-2580; fax ++1 212-245-5018).

4. Kungl. Myntkabinettet, Stockholm.

In May 1996, the Royal Coin Cabinet moved to new premises in the Old Town of Stockholm opposite the Royal Palace. It marked the initial step in creating the first European museum of economy. On 11 June 1997 the new exhibitions were opened to the public. The 1300 m² of displays cover not only the monetary history of Sweden, but also that of the entire world (including medals, the history of banking, savings) as well as covering the financial market with institutions like stock markets. There is also a special exhibition for children. The last of the permanent displays, on the subject of coin hoards, was due to be opened in November. Temporary exhibitions will be a standard feature as well.

For further information please contact Kenneth Jonsson, The Stockholm Numismatic Institute, Bollhusgränd 1B, S-111 31 Stockholm, Sweden; (tel: ++46 8 674 7755; e-mail: Kenneth.Jonsson@ark.su.se

5. The Bibliothèque nationale de France has a Web site at <http://www.bnf.fr> where visitors can obtain information on the various collections.

6. Devon Wreck

In the sea off the coast of Salcombe in Devon a ship that sailed between England and Morocco was wrecked during the first half of the 17th century. Although nothing has yet been found of the ship itself, divers of the South West Maritime Archaeological Group have recently recovered over 400 gold coins, gold ingots and jewellery as well as fragments of Delft pottery, pewter, a pharmaceutical jar (with its contents) and lead weights from the site where it foundered. The coins and the jewellery have all been identified as Moroccan. The ingots, one shaped like a finger, the others in small pieces have no marks on them but can be assumed to be Moroccan as well. The coins struck by the Moroccan dynasty

of the Sa'did Sharifs who ruled in this region from the mid 16th to the mid 17th century. The date of the wreck can be narrowed on the basis of the present evidence to a 15 year period around the 1630s or 1640s: the latest Islamic coins so far identified belong to a ruler called al-Walid who ruled between 1631-6; pottery and pewter are also thought to have date ranges up to about 1640. The only non-Islamic coins are two copper specimens and of these, the only one identifiable with certainty, was struck in Friesland in 1627. This find is important for a number of reasons: from the numismatic point of view, the sheer numbers of coins, (the largest assemblage of Islamic gold coins found in an English context to my knowledge), invite extensive analysis into the series of Sa'did coins for the first time. There are a number of fascinating aspects to these coins. Many of them have been very badly struck clearly using worn out dies. There are also quite a number which use two obverse dies. Further study will shed light on minting techniques in use in Morocco at this time. The jewellery is also interesting and consists of earrings and pendants for which dateable contexts have so far been unknown. Their presence with the coins provides dating parameters for this material for the first time.



Almoravid coin and jewellery from the Salcombe Cannon site in Devon. © British Museum]

The find was reported to the Receiver of Wreck, Mrs Veronica Robbins, who has consigned the gold items to the British Museum for the present time for us to hold on behalf of the Coastguard Agency. The law is that the original owner of the sunken vessel now has a year and a day in which to come forward. If none is forthcoming then the material is considered to be unclaimed wreck and becomes the property of the Crown. The Receiver of Wreck then arranges disposal and the finders are fully compensated. The British Museum considers this material to be of national importance and will be keen to try and ensure that it stays together (including the non-gold items as well) and will be making every effort to try and purchase it when the time comes. (Valuation of the material is being done now) Meanwhile, the group of divers are continuing to excavate the site.

This extraordinary find provides a tangible glimpse into a fascinating period of history. In 1585, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the Barbary Company was established to facilitate trade between England and Morocco. English merchants were excited by the commercial possibilities of obtaining sugar, saltpetre for making gunpowder and gold which was in short supply in Europe at this time. Stories of Ahmad al-Mansur's 1591 conquest of gold rich Timbuctu and Gao in west Africa filtered out to the west and increased the desire for trade. A letter from one Laurence Madoc to Anthony Dassel called in Richard Hakluyt's *Principal Navigations 'a merchant of London'*, describes the feat of the conquest '...there went for those parts seventeen hundred men: who passing over the sands, for want of water perished one third part of them: and at their coming the Negroes made some resistance but to small purpose...' Madoc marvels at the quantity of gold that was now available to the Moroccan ruler. 'The rent of Tombuto [Timbuctu] is 60 quintals of golde by the yeere' (approximately 600 kilos). as a result of the quantities of gold now coming into his kingdom Ahmad al-Mansur (1578-1603) was known as al-Dhababi 'the golden one'. He is said to have paid his

functionaries in pure gold, his palace is claimed to have had golden walls. Legend also has it that during his reign '1,400 hammers continuously struck coins at the palace gate'. He also had excellent relations with Queen Elizabeth. About one quarter of the coins from the wreck, over 100, were struck by this ruler, and another 100 were struck by one of his sons Mawlay Zaydan (1608-27). The rest are mostly coins of other members of the family down to the 1630s.

How were they acquired? In the suq of any city in the Islamic world, the money changers and the dealers in jewellery would have been located together and often conducted both businesses. The fact that much of the jewellery is in pieces suggests that our merchant or sea captain obtained this as bullion to be melted down. The identity of the ship still remains a mystery. Was it an English ship or does the single copper coin of Friesland suggest a Dutch source? Or more tantalising still, could it have been a pirate ship? Only future discoveries by the intrepid divers will tell.

The material will be on display in the Money Gallery shortly before Christmas for several months.

A talk by Venetia Porter and Mike Palmer, one of the finders, on this subject is organised by the British Numismatic Society for 27 January 1998. A one-day conference is being planned at Exeter University during the second half of 1998 centred on the wreck.

Further details will be found in the next ONS Newsletter.

Venetia Porter
Department of Coins and medals

Writing Arabic

9 December 1997 to 1 March 1998

Room 69A British Museum

This exhibition seeks to tell the story of the Arabic script as it develops through the ages and across the Islamic world through a wide range of different types of objects principally from the collections of the Coins and Medals and Oriental Antiquities departments of the British Museum. Some of the objects displayed here include coins, seals, and talismans, Ming porcelain, metalwork with Kufic and pseudo-Kufic inscriptions, tiles, and a wooden board for children learning the Qur'an. All of these show a wide variety of styles and uses of calligraphy. Also included in the exhibition are two magnificent loan collections. The first is a group of 28 rock crystal seals put together by Derek J. Content, the largest such collection anywhere. These tiny and exquisite objects are inscribed in Arabic sometimes with peoples' names or, with strange magical inscriptions whose purpose is still unknown. The second, is a collection of work by a contemporary Sudanese calligrapher of considerable renown, Osman Waqiallah. Beautiful and colourful, they combine traditional forms in a very modern way.

The exhibition divides into several sections: the first panel is devoted to the origins of the Arabic script with illustrations of Nabatean Aramaic and early Arabic inscriptions. There are examples of early Arabic script on seals, glass stamps and ostraca. Another panel looks at how the Kufic script can be seen changing on coins. The main script until about the 12th century when it begins to be superseded by the cursive scripts, Kufic returns in the shape of a square on 14th century Ilkhanid coins of Abu Sa'id combined with cursive script and Uighur inscriptions. As dateable objects, coins are an invaluable resource for the study of Arabic epigraphy although one should be wary of using them to date other types of inscriptions, as the script developed differently on different materials. Examples of cursive script are in another section: the *naskhi* script, the main copyist's hand, *thuluth*, *nasta'liq* and the Ottoman *tughra* can be seen on coins and some colourful bank notes from Morocco, Bukhara and elsewhere. There are three small sections entitled 'The power of the Word' devoted to the types of inscriptions found on talismans and popular religious prints and stickers. They often contain favourite phrases from the Quran, regarded as efficacious against disease, to ward off evil or simply for good luck or, with other inscriptions such as the names of the 'Seven Sleepers of Ephesus'. There are talismans with magic squares which are echoed in two magic bowls from the Near East and China. A further section looks at the art of the seal and die engravers and included here is a Kakwayhid coin struck in Isfahan in the 11th century with the name of the die-engraver,

Muhammad, written so small that it is practically invisible to the naked eye. A final section shows examples of different languages using the Arabic script and some of the imitations of Arabic by the Crusaders for example or in 12th century Hungary.

This small exhibition attempts to offer a glimpse into a culture where the script is far more than simply a method of communication. Arabic was the language in which the Quran was revealed and subsequently written down and has, as a result, a huge symbolic importance.

VP

Regular meetings for those interested in Arabic epigraphy are organised by Venetia Porter in the department of Coins and Medals. Please contact her if you are interested in participating.

OBITUARY

Dr Jarmila Štěpková (7.1.1926-12.10.1997)

Curator of Oriental Coins at the National Museum in Prague

Honorary Member of the Royal Numismatic Society



"Ad-dunya sa'atan, af'alha ta'atan.

"Life is an instant, make something of it." Arabic proverb

With the death of Dr. Štěpková, at the age of 71 the whole numismatic community has lost one of the finest scholars in Islamic studies. She was known as a specialist in the field of Islamic silver finds on the territory of Middle and North Eastern Europe as well as an authority on the uses of the dirham fractions there. The Umayyad coinage was her favourite field of interest. She was also interested in the minting systems of pre-Islamic Arabia and all forms of the pre-reform Islamic coinages. She was the only scholar who discovered the real meaning of the word "qinshar" in the travel report on Prague by the Arab-Jewish trader from Spain, Ibrahim b. Yaqub at-Turtushi, which allowed us to compare price levels in North Eastern Europe of the 10th century with those in the countries of the Caliphate. This showed the importance of the difference in the price of silver in both areas and helped to describe the trade relations evidenced by European coin hoards.

In 1945 she began her Arabic and Islamic studies at the Charles University in Prague and in 1952 she finished her PhD dissertation "Sukayna bint Husayn". Between 1953 and 1962 she worked in the Numismatic Department at the National Museum in Prague and in 1956 she finished her post-doctoral thesis "The Beginning of the Islamic Coinage and its Evolution during the Umayyad Period". In 1962 a new Department of Oriental Coins at the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures (a branch of the National Museum) was established and Dr. Štěpková became its first Curator. The collection was systematically developed by Dr. Štěpková until 1969 when she retired. Since the beginning of the 1960s it has been focused on Islamic coins, coins

of the Colonies and Overseas countries; the collection consists of 13,000 items covering the period from the Classical coinage up to the present day.

No-one can forget her pioneering exhibitions attracting thousands of visitors - "The Coinage of the Near East" (Prague 1959) and "2,500 Years of Iranian Coinage" (Prague 1971). Her lectures on Islamic topics within Czechoslovakia as well as abroad were renowned. She was a friendly and cooperative curator of the Prague collection serving many private bodies as well as well-known scholars (P. Balog, M. Broome, D.C. Miles). In the 1960s and 1970s she lectured at the Charles University in Prague and trained several younger Islamicists (L. Kalus, H. Simon, L. Kropáček).

She was an active member of different Czech oriental and numismatic societies and became an honorary member of the Royal Numismatic Society.

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Vlastimil P. Novák, Prague

Book Review

Coins of Mediaeval India: a newly discovered hoard from West Bengal, by Pradip Kumar Mitra and Sutapa Sinha, New Delhi, 1997. Available from The Indian Books Centre, 40/5 Shakti Nagar, Delhi 110007. Case bound, 159 pp, including 11 plates; ISBN 81 85016 53 4; price IRs900.

This book is a slightly corrected version of the article published under the joint names of Mr Pradip Kumar Mitra and Ms Sutapa Sinha in *Pratna Samiksha*, vols. 2 & 3, 1993-94, the Journal of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta, 1995.

The hoard published here, discovered near the village of Chandir Jhar in the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, comprised 273 coins of the Sultans of Bengal, 267 of the Suri Sultans of Delhi, including specimens from the rare mints of Ranthambor, Biana, Raisan and Hissar, 222 of Naranarayana of Cooch Behar, a single rupee of the Bahmani Sultans of Gulbarga, and two rupees each of Akbar and of Vijayamanikya of Tripura. The latest dated coin in the hoard is no.542, a rupee of Akbar dated 989AH (1581) with no mint visible, although the reference to Brown's Catalogue of Coins

in the Provincial Museum, Lukhnow, indicates that the authors believe the coin to be of the type struck at Ahmedabad. If we can be certain that this coin was part of the hoard, then it is important in providing a *terminus post quem* for the deposit. It is unusual for the most recent coin in such a hoard to have been struck so far away from the deposit site, and one would have expected that the Akbar coins would have taken some months or even years to travel right across India from the mint of issue, so the most likely deposit date is about 1584AD. However, it is surely possible that, since the coins lay for about six years in Alipur Duar police station, that other stray coins could have been added to the lot before they were recorded. Although the Akbar coin is illustrated, it is not clear from the illustration whether it is in the fresh condition that one would expect if the hoard had been deposited during the 1580's. Accordingly, there must be a possibility that the Akbar is a stray addition, and that deposit date was no later than during the reign of Da'ud Shah Kararani (1572-76), although this is uncertain.

As ably analysed by the authors, the hoard is very important in helping to understand the coins of Cooch Behar. All the coins are of the type with separated letters, which I have described as being struck from silver obtained during the military campaigns of Naranarayana towards Assam, which took place in 1562-64. This dating fits well with the evidence provided by this hoard, whether the deposit date is in the 1570's or after 1582. What is more important is the absence of any of the other varieties of Naranarayana's coins, those with joined letters, and without "bhupalasya" in the legend. Since so many coins of Cooch Behar were present in the hoard, it seems inconceivable that, if such coins had been issued before the deposit date of the hoard, they would not be present in the hoard. Accordingly, the evidence of this hoard appears to indicate that these other varieties of Naranarayana's coins were all struck between about 1584, and his death in 1587, which seems a rather short period for a relatively plentiful coinage. The authors have also pointed out that Chandir Jhar is in the western part of the Cooch Behar kingdom, hence pointing to a mint location nearer to Cooch Behar rather than in the east of the kingdom, perhaps near Guwahati, as suggested by me. Although I accept the authors' criticism, the evidence of only one hoard is insufficient to provide firm evidence.

In the description of the Cooch Behar coins, three types are identified, struck with fourteen obverse dies. Unfortunately, the line drawings provided are insufficient to identify these dies conclusively, and no mention is made of the fact that there seem to be very many more reverse dies used in this series. Recently I was able to examine a group of about two hundred similar coins that must have come from a different hoard. These coins were struck from 28 different obverse dies and 97 different reverse dies. It does seem surprising that so few dies were represented in the Chandir Jhar hoard, unless it was deposited only halfway through the period of issue of the type, which would be very unlikely if the deposit date was as late as the 1580s. What seems more likely, since the range of dies covered in each hoard seems very similar, is that the authors have not performed a full die study of the Naranarayana coins, which, if true, represents a missed opportunity.

Another very interesting feature of the hoard is that there are no fewer than a hundred of the mintless coins of Islam Shah with the enigmatic numerals "1477" in the reverse margin. Although the authors state that "no satisfactory explanation has yet been afforded" of this apparent date, I feel that they could, with advantage, have pointed out that these are the same numerals that appear as a Saka date on the coins of Naranarayana of Cooch Behar. Hence, the two most common types of coin in the hoard both bear the numerals "1477", which surely must be significant. I myself pointed out this feature in an article in the ONS Newsletter in 1996 ("The "1477" Type of Islam Shah Suri", *ONS Newsletter* No.148 (Spring 1996), pp.21-22), and failed to find a satisfactory explanation, but an opportunity was missed by the authors of this book to discuss this problem.

As regards the coins of the Sultans of Bengal in the hoard, the discussion of the types represented is competent. A few rarities are present, and only one rarity was not identified, no.272. This is a coin, the obverse of which is read by the authors as *Nāsir al-dunyā Wa'l-dīn Abū Nasr Maḥa... Shāh*. They rightly say that the calligraphy and the texture of the coin strongly suggest that it belongs to the Sultans of Bengal and are tempted to attribute

it to Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah (1474-81). It is certainly a coin of the Sultans of Bengal. The word *Maha* could well be a misreading of *Mahmud* - it is not absolutely clear in the illustration. The *kunya*, *Abi Nasr* is unusual. Moreover. Part of the reverse margin looks as though it should also be legible, though the authors state that it is illegible. It is interesting to note that no fewer than 182 of the coins, over half of the Bengal coins in the hoard, belong to the period of Husayn Shah and his three successors (1493-1538), coins that were mostly probably more than 50 years old at the time of deposit. Furthermore, no fewer than eight of the coins dated from the reign of Ilyas Shah (1342-57), and were over two hundred years old. This demonstrates, not only the large size of the coinages of these periods, but also that at no time were coins of earlier rulers demonetised and withdrawn from circulation.

The authors state that the number of coins of the Husaini dynasty is larger than found in any other hoard from Bengal or Eastern India. This is uncertain; one of your reviewers has seen hundreds of Husaini coins in recent years and it is quite possible that much larger hoards of these coins have found their way on to the numismatic market. In fact, various statements in the introduction to the catalogue suggest that the authors are not too well acquainted with the market or indeed private collections in India. The hoard contains one coin of the Afghan ruler Shams-ud-din Muhammad Shah Ghazi (1552-4); the authors state that so far *only four pieces are known to exist*, presumably on the basis of published catalogues. While coins of this ruler are very scarce, there are more than that number in private Calcutta collections alone. They also devote some discussion to the mint-name on the coins that has often been read as *Arakan*. This reading cannot be right for historical and linguistic reasons (see M. Robinson and S. Goron *The so-called Arakan mint rupees of the Bengal Sultans* in DW MacDowall, S Sharma and S. Garg (eds.), *Indian Numismatics, History, Art and Culture. Essays in honour of Dr PJ Gupta* (Delhi 1992). John Deyell in *Trade coinage of Chittagong*, (note 6) (see below - New and Recent Publication) proposes to read the word as *Arkan*, meaning "pillars", ie the portals of the royal presence, rather like the "porte" of the Ottoman court in later times.

There is also a curious section where the authors mention coins of Bahadur Shah (1554-60) bearing the mint-name *Mulk Satgaon*, one of which is in the hoard. They state that such coins are known, though not reported from *public* collections; they then make the remark, after mentioning the fact that Satgaon as a mint had been discontinued for some time, that the discovery of the coin in the hoard testifies to the mint being active during the reign of Bahadur Shah. Having already admitted that such coins exist elsewhere and hence the mint activity, why do the authors need to use the hoard coin to testify to the fact?

In conclusion, this hoard is of great historical interest, and the local police and the West Bengal Government should be congratulated on having secured as many as 767 of them, and on then publishing the hoard in detail. Far too many such hoards that are found in India today are either melted, or sold to dealers, or else they are deposited in Museums and never published, so that the historical and numismatic information they could yield is lost to science. The authors are also to be commended in publishing the hoard in book form, so that the information can be accessible to a wide audience of scholars. Hopefully it will encourage other scholars to try to solve the open problems of the date and mint of issue of the various issues of Naranarayan of Cooch Behar, and the meaning of the enigmatic year "1477" on the mintless rupees of Islam Shah Suri.

Nicholas G Rhodes,
with additional comments (on the Sultans of Bengal) by the Editor.

New and Recent Publications

1. *Moneda andalusí en la Alhambra*, Granada, Spain 1997 by Tawfiq Ibrahim and Alberto Canto (and other collaborators); card covers, 275 pages, illustrated throughout, ISBN 84-922394-3-3. This work is essentially a descriptive catalogue of an exhibition on Hispano-Islamic coinage that took place in the Palacio de Carlos V of the Alhambra, Granada, from March to August 1997 and which attracted over 300,000 visitors.

The book is in four main sections: i. the evolution of the

coinage; ii. the usage of the coinage; iii. the catalogue; iv. bibliography.

The first section contains brief chapters on the evolution of the coinage, from the Islamic conquest of Spain to the end of the Nasrid dynasty in 1492. The coinage and its legends are explained and there are very helpful maps where the various mints are indicated. Also on these maps there are tables showing the mint-names as they appear on the coins, their spelling in "normal" Arabic characters, a (Spanish) transliteration of those names and the current Spanish (Castilian) form of those names.

The second section comprises chapters on the function of the coinage, its production, coin-weights, forgeries, coin-hoards, the way the coins were used, and earlier writers on Hispano-Islamic coinage. This section contains various relevant quotations from Arabic sources and is embellished with a number of fanciful illustrations of mint and money activities.

The exhibition contained a representative selection of the main coin series and types, in gold, silver and a small amount of copper. There were also some forgeries, coin-weights and hoard material. Most of the exhibits are illustrated in mainly clear photographs (some coins were evidently difficult to photograph), with the coins having their text in Arabic and other relevant information alongside the photographs. The other material is similarly treated. In the longer term, the most important part of the catalogue may well turn out to be the 42 page bibliography relating to this coinage. It is apparently the most extensive bibliography that has been produced for this series.

There is also a list of the Hispano-Islamic coins in the Museo de la Alhambra.

The book is printed on good quality art paper, but the binding has not lasted well on the review copy. It provides a very good introduction to the series and a fine record of the exhibition. It may, however, now be difficult to obtain copies.

SLG

2. *Coins of mediaeval India: a newly discovered hoard from West Bengal*, New Delhi, 1997, by Pratip Kumar Mitra and Sutapa Sinha; case-bound, xii plus 159 pages including 10 plates, ISBN 81 85016-53-4. (See review above)

3. *Ponderales andalusis* by Tawfiq Ibrahim, published in *Numisma* 233, July-December 1993. This is a thirty page article on Hispano-Islamic coin weights, with illustrations and bibliography. *Numisma* is published by the Sociedad Ibero-Americana de Estudios Numismáticos and the Museo Casa de la Moneda, Madrid. Also by Tawfiq is an article entitled *Miscelánea de numismática andalusí* published in *Numisma* 237, January-June 1996. This groups together 32 Spanish Islamic coins presumed to be previously unpublished.

4. *The early Seleucid mint of Susa*, by Brian Kritt; 220 pages (xviii + 202), illustrations and 34 plates, cloth-bound with dust jacket; published by Classical Numismatic Group, Inc as No.2 in their Classical Numismatic Series. Price: \$39.95 from CNG, PO Box 479, Lancaster, PA 17608-0479, USA; tel ++1 717-390-9194, fax ++1 717-390-9978 or from CNG, 14 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3DB, UK; tel ++44 171 495 1888, fax ++44 171 499 5916. According to the publisher's information, this book has reorganised the issues of Seleucus at the mint of Susa and provided them with a new chronology based on sophisticated methods of analysis. This has led to numerous discoveries in the dating and purposes of the coinages of other contemporary Seleucid mints, and solved important historical problems. Among the corollaries, a new chronology has been developed for the transition of minting operations from Babylon to Seleucia on the Tigris, and a third century coinage of Babylon has been identified. The activities of Seleucus' son, Antiochus, as co-regent have been placed in the perspective of coinage changes in the east in this period. A native revolt against the Seleucids in Persis in the early third century has been identified and dated.

Bill Warden, our North American Regional Secretary says that the book contains some important chronology changes in this series, some of them due to important new hoard studies, and the discovery of a new king for the Persis series by the name of Wadashri. In his view, this is an important new book, not only for collectors of Seleucid coins but also for collectors of the coins of Persis.

5. *From Gondophares to Kanishka*, by Bob Senior. This is 36 page A4 publication with illustrations about the chronology of north west India in the period 100 BC to 100 AD. A follow-up to ONS Occasional Paper 25, it gives a fuller account of why Gondophares should be placed in the first century BC, based on inscriptional and hoard evidence, suggests that St. Thomas, if he indeed went to India, would have met Gondophares-Sases (a later king) and that this revised chronology would comfortably allow Kanishka to have been the founder of the Saka era of AD 78. More controversially, it suggests that the earliest coins of India with dates, those of the Western Satraps, may **not** be dated in the Saka era.

Two hundred copies only have been printed, a good number of which have been donated to academic institutions. Any member who would like a copy should send £4 (UK) or £5 (elsewhere) to Bob Senior, Butleigh Court Tower, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8SA, UK; tel and fax ++44 (0)1458 850824. Bob also mentions that the Hellenic Numismatic Society (45 Didotou Street, 10680 Athens, Greece) will shortly be issuing *Nomismatika Khronika 15* which will contain a paper by him on *The last Greek king of India*. It deals with the coinage of Strato II and Strato III. Coming out next year will be another booklet published by the same society entitled *The decline of the Indo-Greeks* by Bob Senior and D MacDonald. This will show that, as a result of hoard evidence and overstrikes, the order of the Indo-Greek kings needs to be revised. It will contain a series of plates, tables and charts and include an unpublished and very important overstrike discovered by Dr. MacDonald, viz Heliocles II on Hermaios.

6. *Alchon und Nezak zur Geschichte der Iranischen Hunnen in Mittelasi* by Dr Michael Alam; published in *Atti dei Convegni Lincei* 127 (pp 517-554, with 9 plates), Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome 1996. According to Bill Warden, this is a superb new study on early Hunnic coinage. Members interested in obtaining the book with this article can write for information to Dr Michael Alam, Münzkabinett, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Burggring 5, A-1010 Vienna, Austria (fax: ++43 1-525-24501).

7. The Curzon Press is a UK company that specialises in publishing the best in classic and contemporary research on Asian topics. Their catalogue can be seen on the Internet at <http://nias.ku.dk/curzonpress.html> but for those without access to the Internet a few of the publications are described below. The information provided is taken directly from the catalogue.

i. *Christians in Asia before 1500* by Ian Gillman and Hans-Joachim Klimkeit. ISBN 0 7007 1022 1; 450 pages, 38 illustrations, hard-back, expected March 1998, £50.

The history of Christianity in Asia is little dealt with either by Church historians or by historians of religion. It is generally unknown, even amongst theologians, that there was a long history of Christianity in Persia, India, Central Asia and China before the appearance on the scene of the first missionaries from the West. A systematic history of the Christian Church in Asia before 1500 is needed.

Drawing on material hitherto unknown in the English-speaking world, this is a timely and important book because there is a heightened interest today in the early forms of Asian Christianity. The book covers the period up to 1500 AD. The geographical areas dealt with are Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, India, Central and South East Asia, China and Japan.

ii. *The legacy of the Mongol Empire* by D.O. Morgan. ISBN 0 7007 0665 8; 320 pages, hard-back, expected January 1998, £45. The world empire of the Mongols is a subject which has attracted an increasing amount of attention in recent years. This new study, edited by one of the world's foremost historians of the Mongol period, examines the effects of the Mongol conquests on the mediaeval Muslim world and features contributions by many of the leading scholars in the field. Over twenty highly distinctive essays discuss the influential heritage of the Mongol period, covering such topics as the early history of the Mongol Empire, the Mongols in the Middle East, and the Mongols in China and the Far East.

iii. *A literary history of Persia*, by E.G. Browne. Four volumes, ISBN 0 7007 0406 X, October 1997, £295 for the set. The four volumes are:

Vol 1 *From the earliest times until Firdawsi*, 1902, 536 pages
 Vol 2 *From Firdawsi to Sa'di*, 1906, 584 pages
 Vol 3 *The Tartar dominion (1265-1502)*, 1920, 602 pages
 Vol 4 *Modern times (1500-1924)*, 1924, 546 pages

iv. *The heart of Asia: a history of Russian Turkestan and the Central Asian Khanates from the earliest times*, by Frances Henry Skrine and Edward Denison Ross. ISBN 0 7007 1017 5; 550 pages, hard-back, expected January 1998, £60.

Originally published in 1899, *The heart of Asia* is a definitive history of Central Asia from pre-history to the contemporary machinations of the Russian Empire. The book is valuable not only because of the quality of the historical work on the early period but also because of the unique picture that it gives of contemporary views on the potential for Anglo-Russian conflict at a time when the Russian Empire was Britain's closest rival for Asian hegemony. Scholars of modern Russia and Central Asia will find much that echoes and indeed drives more recent events.

v. *Qaidu and the rise of the independent Mongol state in Central Asia*, by Michal Biran. ISBN 0 7007 0631 3; 288 pages, hard-back, October 1997, £40.

Qaidu (1236-1301 AD), one of the great rebels in the history of the Mongol Empire, was the grandson of Ögedei, the son Genghis Khan had chosen to be his heir. After Genghis's death in 1226, Ögedei was enthroned as the Great Khan or the Qa'an, the supreme ruler of the entire Mongol Empire. The Ögedeids retained their position as Qa'ans in the reign of Ögedei's son, Qaidu's uncle, Güyük Qa'an (1246-1248). On the latter's death, however, a power struggle ensued, which ended in 1251 with the passing of the position of the Qa'an from the house of Ögedei to the house of Tolui, fourth son of Genghis Khan, and with the rise of Möngke Qa'an, son of Tolui. Möngke's accession was accompanied by the execution and exile of a large part of the house of Ögedei. Qaidu, who survived Möngke's purges, was the one who strove to revive the Ögedeid cause. By virtue of his political and military skills, and despite his lesser starting point, in the 1270s Qaidu succeeded in establishing a kingdom of the house of Ögedei in Central Asia, and in constituting a weighty adversary to Qubilai Qa'an, Möngke's brother and successor, and to his heirs.

vi. *The Bukharans: a dynastic, diplomatic and commercial history 1550-1702*, by Audrey Burton. ISBN 0 7007 0417 5; 700 pages, hard-back, August 1997, £65.

vii. *State and tribe in nineteenth-century Afghanistan: the reign of Amir Dost Muhammad Khan (1826-1863)*, by Christine Noelle. ISBN 0 7007 1629 1; 380 pages, hard-back, August 1997, £40. With the exception of two short periods of direct British intervention during the Anglo-Afghan Wars of 1839-42 and 1878-80, the history of nineteenth-century Afghanistan has received little attention from western scholars so far. This study seeks to shift the focus of debate from the geostrategic concern with Afghanistan as the bone of contention between imperial Russian and British interests to a thorough investigation of the socio-political circumstances prevailing within the country. On the basis of unpublished British documents and works by Afghan historians, it lays the groundwork for a better understanding of the political mechanisms at work during the early Muhammadzai era by analysing them both from the viewpoint of the centre and the periphery.

viii. *Tibet and the British Raj*, by Alex McKay. ISBN 0 7007 0627 5; 288 pages, hard-back, August 1997, £35.

Despite the popular image of Tibet as a remote and inaccessible land to which few Europeans ventured, more than one hundred British-Indian officials lived and worked there during the years 1904-1947.

Following Colonel Younghusband's 1903-1904 mission to Lhasa, these officers and their supporting staff were posted in central and southern Tibet, and, after 1936-1937, at the British Mission Lhasa. Among those who rose to the senior positions there were such famous frontiersmen as Colonel F.M. Bailey, Sir Charles Bell, and Hugh Richardson.

This ground-breaking work draws on previously unpublished sources, both oral and written, to examine the character, role, and influence of these officers. It concentrates on those who formed a

small, distinct group of Tibetan specialists. *The Tibet Cadre*. These men were diplomatic representatives of the Raj, but they were also scholars, spies, and empire-builders, who not only influenced events in Tibet but also shaped our modern understanding of that land. This will be the definitive source for students of Anglo-Tibetan relations.

ix. *An atlas of Indonesian history*, by Robert Cribb. ISBN 0 7007 0985 1; 240 pages, 200 colour maps, hard-back, October 1997, £75.

This pioneering volume traces the history of the region which became Indonesia in over two hundred specially drawn full-colour maps with a detailed accompanying text. In so doing, the Atlas brings fresh life to the fascinating and tangled history of this immense archipelago.

Beginning with the geological and ecological forces which have shaped the physical form of the archipelago, the Atlas hoes on to chart early human migration and the changing distribution of ethnic groups. It traces the kaleidoscopic pattern of states in early Indonesia and their gradual incorporation into the Netherlands Indies and eventually into the Republic of Indonesia.

x. *The Hong merchants of Canton: Chinese merchants in Sino-Western trade 1684-1798*, by Weng Eang Cheong. ISBN 0 7007 0361 6; 380 pages, tables, maps, hard-back, August 1997, £45. This study eschews the uncritical acceptance of secondary sources that has characterized studies in this field, going back to and reinterpreting previously neglected primary sources, thereby enabling it to chart linkages between the European and Asian trades that have been regarded as parallel but unrelated (or at best competing) activities. In so doing, the work sheds new light on this crucial period.

xi. *History of Korea*, by Homer B. Hulbert, with a modern introduction by Clarence Weems. ISBN 0 7007 0700 X; 900 pages in two volumes, cloth-bound, October 1997, £120. Originally published in Seoul in 1905, this work is still the only authentic history of Korea from prehistory to the twentieth century in any Western language.

The Curzon Press can be contacted at 15 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1BP, UK; (+44 181 948 4660; fax +44 181 332 6735; e-mail publish@curzonpress.demon.co.uk or via the Internet site mentioned above.

8. *Documents of numismatic importance in the Ottoman Archives* (Turkish Numismatic Society, Special Bulletin No 3) by C Ender, Istanbul 1996, \$200. No ISBN number.

9. *Türkiye selcuklu sultanları ve sikkeleri* (Turkish Seljuk sultans on coins), Kayseri, 1996, ISBN 975-8013-11-4.

10. *The trade coinage of Chittagong region in the mid-sixteenth century* by John Deyell, in *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh*, volume 40, number 2, December 1995, pp207-235. This article publishes and discusses series of silver tankas issued in the names of late Bengal sultans, Suris, Akbar, the enigmatic Vamar Shah and Sikandar bin Zafar, alias Min Palaung, Raja of Arakan. Some of these tankas bear fictitious dates. All these coins were struck on the tanka standard rather than the rupee standard that had already been introduced in Bengal and Hindustan by Sher Shah and Humayun.

11. *The Gold and Silver Wraps of the Edo Period - A Unique Form of Gold and Silver Coins*- by Kenjiro Yamaguchi and Mari Ohnuki. This is one of a series of discussion papers of the Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan. It can be found on the Institutes home page on the Internet, the address of which is <http://www.imes.boj.or.jp>

Abstract

In the Edo Period, a unique form of money known as "Tsutsumi-kin" (the gold wraps) and "Tsutsumi-gin" (the silver wraps), which were paper-packed gold and silver coins, were commonly used as settlement media for large transactions. They were packed in traditional Japanese paper and sealed with the preparer's stamp. On the obverse, the name of the preparer, the amount included, and the date of wrapping were written with a brush to certify their value.

Wraps circulated as money at face value and no one tried to break seals nor to check the amount included, relying on the high

credibility of sealers such as the Gold Mint, the Silver Mint and prestigious money changers.

Gold and silver wraps were first prepared by the Gold Mint and the Silver Mint by the order of the Tokugawa Shogunate government but prestigious *ryogaesho* (money changers) also started to prepare the wraps backed by their high credibility since the late 17th century with the growing demand for a large-denomination currency to settle many large transactions.

Work in progress

1. John Deyell continues to work hard on his study of the coins of Bengal, which is likely to end up being a three volume work, the first of which is well advanced.

2. Khalaf Faresal Al-Tarawneh at the Yarmuk University Institute of Archaeology is studying the collections of the Amman and Karak Museums.

3. Stefan Heidemann is writing a history of Islamic numismatics in Germany.

4. *Sylloge Nummorum Sassanidarum* is the name of a project to publish the Sasanian coins in the collections of Berlin, Brussels, Paris and Vienna under the aegis of CNRS (France) and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The first volume: Ardashir I - Ohrmazd II is expected during 1998.

5. Georges Depeyrot and Dr A Musheghian are preparing a work on the ancient coinage of Armenia and would like to receive photographs of coins of Tigranes (I, II, III, IV, V), Artavasdes (I, II, III, IV) and Artaxias that members may have in their collections. Any such information should be sent to Georges Depeyrot, Centre de Recherches Historiques, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, 54 Boulevard Raspail, 75270 Paris Cedex 06, France.)

Lists Received

1. Stephen Album (PO Box 7386, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95407, USA; (tel: +1 707-539-2120; fax +1 707-539-3348; e-mail album@sonic.net) lists number 139 (September 1997), 140 October 1997) and 141 (November 1997).

2. Scott Cordry (PO Box 9828, San Diego, Calif. 92169, USA; (tel: +1 619-272-9440; fax +1 619-272-9441) lists 107 (September 1997) and 108 (Autumn 1997) of modern Islamic coins and rare Islamic banknotes.

3. William B. Warden Jr (PO Box 356, New Hope, PA 18938, USA; (tel and fax +1 215-297-5052) three lists featuring coins of India and Islamic coins.

4. Robert Tye (Loch Eynort, Isle of South Uist, UK, HS8 5SJ; (tel: +44 1878-710300; fax +44 1878-710216) list 32 of mainly Indian coins and books on Chinese coins.

5. Persic Gallery (PO Box 10317, Torrance, CA 90505, USA; (tel: +1 310 326 8866; fax +1 310 326 5618) list 42 (winter 1997) of Islamic, Central Asian and Indian coinage.

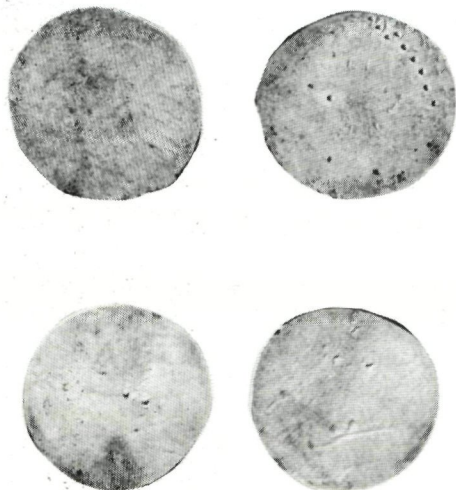
Blank "coins" from Anatolia Johann-Christoph Hinrichs

According to the information of a Turkish collector, in 1979 a hoard of about 1600 coins was unearthed in the southwest of Turkey with hitherto very rare mints like Akridür (today Eğridir), Falakābād (another name for Eğridir), Burdur, Burgulū (today Uluborlu). All these mints belong to the Hamid Oğulları, one of the so-called Beyliks. Turkoman tribes which were fighting against the Byzantines. But about one half of the coins in the hoard were just unminted blanks. Nobody was interested in these blanks, so in the end they were melted down.

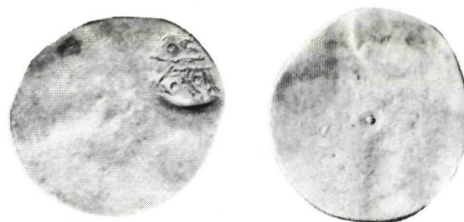
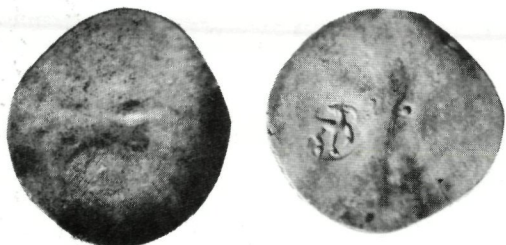
In 1996, another hoard came on the market, again obviously unearthed in the southwest of Turkey, and again with quite rare mints like Antalya, Alāye (today Alanya), Armanāk (today Ermenek), Manavgat, Larend (today Karaman) and other still unidentified mints, most but not all of them obviously minted in the area of another Beylik, the Karamanids. Many of the coins were countermarked, the most common countermarks being

"Sulaimân Şahr", "Mehmed", Mubārīzī (countermarks which belong to the Karamanids), "Akshahr 8", "Beyshehir" (countermarks either of the Hamid Oğulları or to the Karamanids), a bird, a lion or a goat. The hoast coins were a few coins of the Seljuks of Rum, coins of the Ilkhans Gāzān Mahmūd (1295-1304 AD), Uljaitu (1304-1316 AD) and Abū Saʿīd (1316-1336 AD), coins of the Mamluk Nāsir ud-din Muhammad (3rd reign 1310-1341 AD but all Mamluk coins in the hoard were minted in Anatolia) and anonymous coins for the Karamanids and others.

Again, there was an unknown number of blank "coins" in the hoard but this time it was possible to purchase two of them: they are really unminted, but bear on one side a dot in the middle or close to the middle of the blank. One blank has an irregular row of dots close to the margin. The weights are 1.83g and 1.67g, the diameters are 22-24 mm and 23 mm.



If there were in fact not just one or two, but a large number of blanks in the two hoards, these blanks must have been in circulation not by accident but on purpose. The circulation of the blanks is proven by three other "coins". These are blanks, too, but countermarked, two of them with a (male) goat (but of different type) looking backwards. The weights are 1.83g and 1.93g, the diameters 26-28 mm and 24-25 mm. The third one has two marks, a goat and "Badr b. Karamān" (the Karamanid). This one was published in 1982 by Cüneyt Ölçer in his book *The coins of the Karamanids*, but he identified the goat as a "horse or something like that" (Krmn 30). This coin may or may not come from the first hoard.



The word for a male goat in Turkish is *teke*, so this countermark may belong to the Teke Oğulları, another Turkoman tribe who settled around Antalya. From 1301 AD this area had been in the hands of the Hamid Oğulları, so the Teke Oğulları did not mint coins on their own authority. The hitherto latest host coin with a countermarked goat (which gives a terminus ante quem non for the countermark) is an undated coin of Abū Saʿīd (1316-1336 AD), type A. This type was minted between 716 and 717 AH = 1316-1317 AD.

The second countermark, "Badr b. Karamān", confirms that date. It belongs to the Karamanid Badr ud-din Ibrāhīm (1st reign 1318-1332 AD). The latest dated host coin with this countermark is a posthumous coin, type C of Uljaitu (1304-1316 AD), which bears the date 718 AH = 1318 AD. That means that the terminus post quem non for at least some of the blank "coins" in circulation is 1318 AD, because normally only coins taken from circulation were countermarked.

As far as I know, we do not have any literary source for the existence of these blank "coins", so the reason for their circulation must remain speculative. There was a clear evolution in the minting of Beylik coins: they minted first in the name of the Seljuk of Rum, then in the name of the (hated) Ilkhanids, then in the name of the Ilkhanids, but with a hidden indication of the actual minter of the coins. The next step was to produce anonymous coins without the name of any ruler, and it was only quite late that the beyliks started to put the names of their own rulers on the coins. In the year 718 AH some of the beyliks rebelled against the Mongols, but they were defeated by Timurtash, the Ilkhanid governor of Anatolia. The blank "coins" may have been "issued" in this year as a kind of protest against the hated Mongols.

The two blanks and the two countermarked blanks with the goat are now in the collection of the author.

Uljaytimur - an Unknown Khan of the Golden Horde

Vladimir Nastich (Moscow)

As far back as 1983, Arkady P. Grigoriev, a turkologist from Leningrad wrote confidently that already by the first half of the 19th century "the works of Russian numismatists Ch.M. Fraehn V.V. Grigoriev and P.S. Saveliev had revealed the complete name list of the Golden Horde khans and the chronology of their rule. No later researchers have added a single new name to the list"¹.

In about 1980 a coin hoard was found in a village near Uralsk, Western Kazakhstan; the major part of the treasure, once presumably numbering around several hundreds pieces, was said to have been dispersed among private individuals and then vanished. The remainder was brought to Alma Ata where I was able to examine its content. Besides a ceramic jug and two pairs of crumpled, gold adornments for the head, the hoard comprised 80 Jujid (Golden Horde) silver dirhams minted at Saray [al-Mahrusah], Saray al-Jadid[ah] (New Saray, a long-term capital of the Horde), Mokhsa, Khorezm, Gulistan and Azaq between 710/1310-11 and 769/1367-68. All mints and dates as well as almost all coin types represented in the group have been published and known to specialists except one piece struck at

السرای الجدید

al-Saray al-Jadid in 769AH (the die recut from 768) in the name of
السلطان العادل/اولجایتیمورخان/خلد ملکہ

The just sultan Uljaytimur khan, may his kingdom be [made] eternal!



Illustrations prepared by E.Y. Goncharov

The khan's name on the dirham has been engraved quite clearly and can be read without any doubt, the initial *alif* being half off the flan but still legible enough. Missing dots at some letters, however, could lead to a slightly different reading اولجاتيمور

(Uljatimur); nevertheless I prefer the first reading of the name, used in the title of the article, because this bi-component name itself was not unknown to mediaeval oriental authors in this very form, belonging to at least two persons in the enormous kin of Chingiz Khan's descendants in the 13th century² and one more early in the 15th century³. Other names including the first component اولجاي

(Uljai) like Uljaytu, Uljay Ebügen Uljay Khatun etc were also in use among the Mongols and Turks throughout the 13-15th centuries and even later on.

That the Uljaytimur of our dirham was really a khan (i.e. legal and rightful ruler) is evident from the same coin legend, otherwise he not only would not have dared put this title on the coins but would not have issued any coins with his name at all. On the other hand, it is commonly known that every person bearing the khan's title and enjoying the right of coining in those times certainly ought to belong to the main family branch ascending directly to Chingiz Khan himself. But the thing is that no ruling khan with this or similar name has been ever noticed in available written sources of whatever kind and origin - neither for 769 AH nor for any other date around this time.

It may appear strange, but the first dirham of Uljaytimur, very similar to the piece under review, was actually published in 1850 by V.V. Grigoriev who had identified it as the coinage of Timur Khwajah (762 AH)⁴. It seems very probable that the only reasons for having not discovered the missing ruler there and then were the effaced date figures and the partially lost initial letters of the name on that unique coin. All the remaining data might have seemed to the researcher to be a familiar type "with erroneously interchanged parts of the khan's name - a kind of [خو]اجاتيمور *Khwājā Timūr* (with final *alif* instead of *ha* in what would be correctly *خواجه khwājah*).

Yet more peculiar is the fact that Uljaytimur's copper pul was also first published in the 19th century. The piece, found in 1867 and described by N.P. Zagoskin as having been minted at Qyrym (Crimea) in 768 with the name of an undetermined ruler which the publisher was unable to read, as may be seen from its graphic reconstruction in the edition⁵, belongs to the same khan but its Qyrym origin can be accepted only as plausible, since the condition of the specimen allows no definite attribution. As for the khan's name, it is represented on the coin in precisely the same way and with almost the same amount of damage as on the above-mentioned dirham; the second letter [ڤ], however, as well as the date figures can be seen quite clearly.

Naturally, on finding these two published coins I supposed that there ought to exist other pieces of that khan in our museums and private collections. The supposition proved to be true surprisingly

soon. On one occasion in 1987 I went to Leningrad to deliver a paper on the newly discovered Golden Horde khan to the scientific conference held by the Numismatic Department of the State Hermitage⁶. Oriental section custodian, Marianna B. Severova, immediately found and showed me 4 similar examples in the museum's rich collections. Just as I expected, they had all had been ascribed to Timur Khwajah.

Nowadays, mostly due to the enthusiastic searches by the young Moscow numismatist Evgeny Y. Goncharov, we know of the existence of at least 28 silver and copper pieces coined at al-Saray al-Jadid in the name of Uljaytimur. Silver dirhams exhibit two types of obverse design, while the reverse of both is rather uniform. Obverse type 1 (ill. 1) is represented by 9 specimens, of which all show the date 769, while type 2 with a differently arranged legend and border design, but unfortunately with an effaced date (ill. 2), seems to be unique thus far. The copper pul, despite their relatively large numbers, all belong to a single type, all dated 768 (ill. 3). As it happens, the specimen published by N.P. Zagoskin, as far as can be seen from its schematic but detailed appearance in the work, shows no difference in kind from the other pieces known to us; moreover, none of them was struck at Qyrym. I therefore assume that the first publisher's attribution to the Crimean mint was also caused by a misreading of weakly preserved inscriptions, and that his coin, too, was most likely struck at New Saray.

According to A.P. Grigoriev, who has carried out a thorough chronological analysis of all available Jujid coinage issued between 758 and 782 AH (the period called in Russian annals *the Great Disturbance*), from the death of Jani Beg I to the invasion of Toqtamish, the list of khans fighting for the throne of the Horde and (what is most important for our subject) issuing coins in their own name, comprises as many as 21 different names belonging to at least 18 persons⁷. In some years the number of claimants reached 4-5, either acting simultaneously or in a rapid succession. Almost all of them struck silver coins at New Saray. But there are several years for which we have no information about minting at the capital: such a year is 769 (1367-68 AD) and the following one, while the previous years 766-768 AH saw the New Saray coinage of Aziz Shaykh, in both silver and copper. Hence it becomes obvious that most of this gap is actually filled with the New Saray coins of Uljaytimur.

From the extant numismatic material we cannot find out the exact dates of Uljaytimur's rule; nor can we elucidate why he, unlike his numerous rivals, was never mentioned in the chronicles and (what is stranger) genealogical lists of the period. Both problems, however, seem to be partially solved by discerning the available dates: both of them put together correspond to 1367 AH and taking into account the evident rarity of the emission, it is quite unlikely that Uljaytimur's rule lasted more than several months of that year, so that his brief government could easily slip the attention of his literate contemporaries.

Although the coinage of this newly identified khan's is rare, it is very likely that further research in numerous Russian museums and private collections, especially in Qazan, Volgograd, Saratov and other towns along the Volga, will result in new findings of Uljaytimur's coins. Most of them have not yet been subject to systematic numismatic study and publication.

Notes

1. A.P. Grigoriev, "Zolotoordynskie khany 60-70-kh godov XIV v.: khronologiya prevlenij", in *Istoriografija i istokhnikovedenie istorii stran Azii i Afriki*, VII, Leningrad 1983, p. 11.
2. According to *Jāmi' al-Tawārikh* by Rashid al-din, Uljay-Timur or Oljay-Timur (as can be transcribed from Russian in the edition, both definitely with [ڤ]) were names of the second son of Chapar b. Quidu and the fourth son of Yubuqur b. Arygh Buqa b. Tuluy; see for instance: Rashid al-Din, *Sbornik letopisej*, vol. II, Moscow-Leningrad 1960, pp 14, 105, 201.
3. The latter one was khan of Qaraqorum in 1408-1412: Stanley Lane-Poole, *Musulmankiya dinastii* [translated from the English with notes and supplements by V. Barthold], St. Petersburg 1899, p. 180.
4. *Zapiski Arkheologicheskko-Numizmaticheskogo Obschestva*, vol II, St. Petersburg 1850, p. 28, No. 108 and tab. II, ill. 18.
5. *Trudy IV Arkheologicheskogo s'ezda*, Moscow 1884, vol. I, sect. 2, p. 197.
6. V.N. Nastich, "Uldzhaitimur - neisvestnyi zolotoordynskii khan" in *Novoe v sovetskoj numizmatike / numizmaticheskoe muzevedenie* [abstracts of papers delivered to the scientific conference dedicated to the bicentennial of the Numismatic Department of the Hermitage, Oct. 14-16, 1987], Leningrad 1987, p. 80-82.

Some silver coins of Harar



العبد
الضعيف

ضرب
مدنة
هرر

Obverse: al-'abd al-ḡa'if (the weak slave), 1303 and 1305
Reverse: ḡarb fi medina Harar (struck in the city of Harar)
Weights: AH 1303 - 3.25, 3.40, 3.67g; AH 1305 - 3.25g
Diameter: 15-16mm

Harar is a walled town in what is now Ethiopia. In former times it was an independent amirate and an important commercial centre. While a good deal of trade was carried on by barter, the amirs did strike coins about which little is known and even less published¹. Coins do seem to have been struck on an almost continuous basis between 1782 and 1887, when the town was taken by the forces of the Ethiopian Emperor, Menelik. Richard Burton, the explorer, managed to visit Harar in 1855 and in the style of the coinage he observed: *the only specie current in Harar is a diminutive brass piece called mahallak - hand-worked and almost as artless a medium as a modern Italian coin. It bears on the one side the words: Zaribet al-Harar, the coinage of harar. On the reverse is the date AH 1248 [probably a misreading for 1258]. The Amir pitilessly punishes all those who pass in the city any other coin.* Burton further comments that 22 mahallaks were equal to one ashrafi and that three ashrafi were equivalent to one Maria Theresa dollar, though the ashrafi was said to be merely a fictitious medium used in accounts.

An Egyptian officer by the name of Mohammed Muktar, who was residing in Harar in 1875, said of the local mint: *The Emir obtained good dollars and melted them down with a large proportion of tin; the alloy was then cast into a metal leaf so thin that it could be cut with pincers into small round discs scarcely more than a millimeter thick. The operation was completed by a blow of a hammer on a lead anvil, the impression being imparted by a steel stamp bearing the Emir's name.*

The Egyptians in fact occupied Harar from 1875 for a period of ten years. During this period they imported quantities of Egyptian silver and bronze coinage. The local coinage was banned, though initially it had to be re-instated when the occupying forces found that they had not received adequate supplies from Egypt.

In 1885, the Khedive's government in Egypt collapsed and the country was taken over by the British. Harar became a virtual protectorate of Britain for the time being. An attempt was made to introduce rupees from India but they were apparently not well received. In due course, the British decided to hand Harar back to the local amir, Abdullah. He struck his own coinage of brass mahallaks, but his rule was not popular. In January 1887 the town was occupied by Ethiopian forces and its independence ended.

As mentioned above, the usual Harar coinage consisted of small, brass mahallaks. In addition, some billon coins are known and the Krause Mishler catalogue mentions a silver coin dated AH 1288 of 10 mm, but gives no other details. The present coins with their dates of AH 1303 and 1305 fall within the period October 1885 and September 1888. This was the time that Harar was under British protection, the local amir and the Ethiopian occupation. The

coins, however, bear the same legends as the brass mahallaks of Amir Abdullah. This suggests that they were either struck, initially at least, by the Amir or on his behalf. They may be trial striking to determine whether a better quality, local coinage could be effected and accepted. The coin dated 1305 would have been struck when the town was under Ethiopian authority. Menelik appointed his cousin, Ras Makonnen as Governor of Harar, while the task of actually running the town was given to the previous amir's nephew, Ali. Perhaps this latter, had this later coin struck in an attempt to preserve the continuity of the local coinage while at the same time attempting to foster trade.

There is no indication of what the denomination of these coins might be. At 3.25-3.67g they equate roughly to the 2½ piastre coins of Egypt in weight.

Can any member throw any more light on these coins? And does anyone know of a bibliography on the coinage of Harar?

My thanks are due to John Phillimore for making these coins available for publication and to Luke Treadwell for assistance with the coin legend.

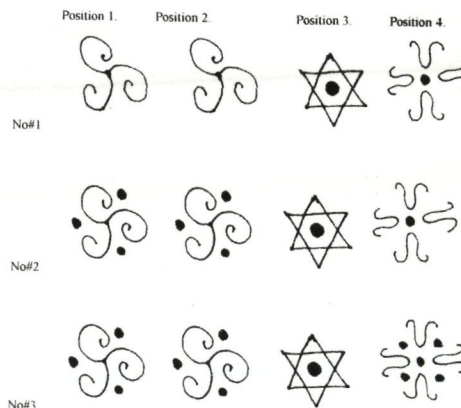
Notes

¹ WH Valentine in his *Modern copper coins of the Muhammadan states*, London 1911, reprinted 1969, describes three coins of Harar; several coins are listed in the Krause Mischler Standard Catalogues of World Coins; Dennis Gill, in his *Coinage of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Italian Somalia*, 1991, New York, only mentions the Harar coinage by way of introduction to the main Ethiopian coinage.

Some new punchmarked coins from Kosala

Paul Murphy

The following silver coins all weigh 4.5 grams. By the symbols and weight the classification would place the coins into series II (early heavy type) of Terry Hardaker's "Punch-marked Coinage of Kosala-Towards a Classification". What is unusual about the coins, is the dumpy nature of their shape, which generally appears in series III. This is against the slim round coins, normal for series II. Could there have been another state taken over by the state of Kosala? Members comments are welcome.



issued in large numbers or that they have not yet been found.

The larger units are found in many hoards from many sites. This year alone I have recorded 4 new hoards of more than 3000 coins of the large type. Three of these hoards were noted while I was in India during the year and one in the UK.

Notes

- 1 Oriental Coin Hoards Vol. vii, no.258
- 2 Oriental Coin Hoards Vol. vii, no.257
- 3 Numismatic Studies Vol.5. Article by Virjand Devikarna & Manomhan Kumar.
- 4 Studies in Indian Coins & Seals by Prof.Dev.Handa, 1985 p.100 no.68 and p. 106 no. 161
- 5 Studies in Indian Coins & Seals by Prof.Dev.Handa, 1985 pp116, 117, 118

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank Professor Handa and Dr.Lalman of Chandigarh, Shri KK.Maheshwari of Mumbai, Hedley Sutton of the British Library (India Office section) and Joe Cribb and the staff at the British Museum Coin and Medal Department for their assistance.

A hitherto unknown gold coin of Ala-ud-din Sikandar Shah of Madura

Sanjay Godbole

(with comments and additions by the Editor)

Madura, renamed Ma'bar, the southernmost province of the Delhi sultanate, was founded during the reign of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq (1320-25 AD). Muhammad bin Tughluq, his successor, appointed Jalal-ud-din Ahsan Shah as his governor in this area. In the year 1333 AD, however, Jalal-ud-din declared his independence and founded the Sultanate of Madura, which lasted a mere forty odd years until 1377 AD. During this period, eight rulers ruled over this state. Ibn Batuta, while visiting India, and as a guest in the court of Muhammad bin Tughluq, refers to Ahsan Shah's issue of gold coins but no such coins have come to light so far.¹ Ala-ud-din Sikandar Shah, the last ruler of the sultanate, acceded in 1372 AD, and ruled until he was defeated by the army of the Vijayanagar General Mangappa in 1377 AD and the sultanate was incorporated into the powerful Vijayanagar state.

Recently a unique gold coin of Sikandar Shah has come to light. It is dated year 777 (1375-76 AD) and struck in Daulatabad.



Weight: 11.0g

Diameter: 26 mm

مهدى الزمان
 يمين الخلافة
 ناصر امير المؤمنين

السلطان العظيم
 علا الدين اوردن
 سکندر غازیر
 شاه السلطان

Reverse: As-Sultan al-'azam, 'Ala-ud-Dunia wa ud-Din Sikandar Shah ghazi as-Sultan

This coin is in the cabinet of Mr. Bastimal Solanki of Pune and was acquired from a goldsmith. Its precise provenience is difficult to ascertain. The coin, at 11g, was struck on the Delhi gold tanka standard. One interesting aspect of the coin is the expression *Mehadi-uz-Zaman (the rightly guided of the age)*, which is otherwise rare or even unknown on Indian coins.

The Sultans of Madura struck coins in gold, silver, billon and copper with mint-names, when present, of Ma'bar or Daulatabad. The mint-name Daulatabad is somewhat enigmatic. Deogir was renamed Daulatabad by the Sultans of Delhi some time after they had captured it. Muhammad bin Tughluq made it his capital for a while to facilitate the administration and control of the Deccan and southern provinces. Deogir was never part of the Madura sultanate. The Daulatabad on the Madura coins must therefore refer to some other place, maybe Madura itself, or perhaps the coins were struck in Deogir as part of some embassy from the Sultan of Madura. This seems unlikely as rulers were very jealous of their own right of *sikkah*. Unfortunately, there is very little source material for the Madura sultanate, which on the whole is clouded in obscurity.

All gold coins of the sultanate are extremely rare. A number of small silver coins have come to light in recent years, otherwise the coinage consisted of billon jitals and copper coins similar to those of the earlier Sultans of Delhi. Sikandar Shah is otherwise represented by one type of small copper coin.

¹ Editor's note: a one-third gold tanka of year 735 and weighing 3.66g is featured and illustrated in Stephen Album's list no. 139 (coin 46). This coin bears the simple legend *Khalifat-uz-Zaman Ahsan Shah* and the date in figures. While its weight equates to one-third of a tanka, it also equates to the weight of the contemporary southern Indian gold pagoda.



خليفة
 الزمان
 شاه
 احسن
 ۷۳۵

Obverse: Mahadi-uz-Zaman, Yamin-ul-Khilafat, Nasir Amir-ul-Muminin
 Margin: Zarb hazah as-sikkah ba hazrat Daulatabad sanah sab' wa sab'in wa sab'mia

In his article entitled *The coinage of the Sultans of Madura*, published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1909, Professor E. Hultzsch mentions a gold dinar of Ahsan Shah with unusual legends that is quoted by Ibn Batuta (Ahsan's son-in-law). No such coin has come to light.

ضرب هذه السكه حضرت دولت اباد سنه سبع
 و سبعين و سبعمائة

Some fractional silver tankas of the Sultans of Bengal

Stan Goron

Apart from the Badr Shahi series of the Huseini sultan, Ghiyath-ud-din Mahmud Shah, the fractional pieces of the Sultans of Bengal remain scarce to very rare. The following coins are in the collection of JP Goenka of Calcutta and are published here with his permission.

1. Shihab-ud-din Bayazid Shah (AH 814-817; AD 1411-1414) half tanka



شهاب
الدنيا والدين
ابو المظفر بايزيد
شاه السلطان

ناصر امير
المؤمنين
خلد ملكه

Obverse: Shihab-ud-dunya wa'd-din Abu'l Muzaffar Bayazid Shah as-Sultan

Reverse: Nasir Amir ul-Muminin Khallada Mulkaahu.

Margin: mint/date formula, mostly off the coin.

Legends on both sides within a circle.

Weight: 5.3g; diameter: 22 mm.

All coins of Bayazid are relatively scarce, fractions extremely so. The obverse legend is Karim type 1 but the reverse legend is shorter than those found on the full tankas.

2. Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Shah (AH 818-836; AD 1415-1432) one-eighth tanka



شاه
جلال الدين محمد

محمد
ص...

Obverse: Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Shah, in Tughra characters

Reverse: Muhammad within central circle.

Margin: mint/date formula, partly off the coin and unclear.

Weight: 1.3g; diameter: 15 mm.

The legends on this coin are much shorter than those found on the tankas and do not contain any religious formula. Characters in tughra style are found on a number of tankas of this ruler, both on one side of the coin and on both sides.

3. Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Shah quarter tanka



جلال
الدين
و الدين

جلال
الدين

Obverse: Jalal-ud-dunya wa'd-din

Reverse: Jalal-ud-dunya, within circle

Weight: 2.6g; diameter: 17 mm

This coin has a very abbreviated legend and is odd in having the ruler's *laqab* on one side and part of his *laqab* on the other. His actual name, Muhammad, is not mentioned.

4. Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Shah quarter tanka



جلال الدين والدين
ابو المظفر محمد
شاه السلطان

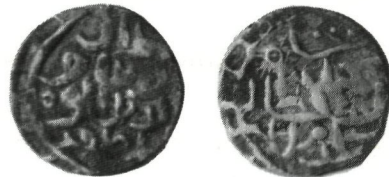
Obverse: Kalima, in a circle

Reverse: Jalal-ud-dunya wa'd-din Abu'l Muzaffar Muhammad Shah as-Sultan, in Tughra characters within a circle

Weight: 2.6g; diameter: 19 mm

The legends on this coin correspond to Karim type G, though no margin is visible on the coin. Not all the legend on the reverse can be read clearly, but the above reading is probably correct.

5. Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Shah half tanka



جلال
الدين و
الدين ابو
المظفر

شاه
محمد
السلطان
خلد ملكه

Obverse: Jalal-ud-dunya wa'd-din Abu'l Muzaffar

Reverse: Muhammad Shah as-Sultan Khallada Mulkaahu

Weight: 5.1g; diameter: 21 mm

The legends on both sides of this coin are contained within a rayed circle and comprise the sultan's name and titles only. A similar coin is in the British Museum collection.

6. Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah (AH 837-864; AD 1433-1459) half tanka



الدرلطان
ناصر الدنيا
والدين ابوالمظفر
محمد شاه
الدرلطان

الموید بتایید
الرحمن الله
خليفة
المحب والبرهان

Obverse: Nasir-ud-dunya wa'd-din Abu'l Muzaffar Mahmud Shah as-Sultan

Reverse: Al-Muwayyidu ba-tayyid ur-Rahman Khalifat Allah bil-hujjat wa'l-burhan

Weight: 5.1g; diameter: 19 mm

The legends on both sides are within a circle, mostly off the coin, and correspond to Karim type P.

7. Rukn-ud-din Barbak Shah (AH 864-879; AD 1459-1474) quarter tanka



باركشتا
كسلطان

ابن محمود
كسلطان

Obverse: Barbak Shah (a)s-Sultan

Reverse: ibn Mahmud (a)s-Sultan

Weight: 2.4g; diameter: 16 mm

The legends on both sides are within a circle and are much abbreviated compared to the full tanka legends. Barbak's father, Mahmud, is not described as *Shah*, and the expression *as-Sultan* is without its initial alif on both sides of the coin.

8. Jalal-ud-din Fath Shah (AH 886-892; AD 1481-1486) one-sixteenth tanka



فكشتا
السلطان

محمود
شاه السلطان
خرانه

Obverse: Fath Shah as-Sultan

Reverse: Mahmud Shah as-Sultan Khazana

Weight: 0.7g; 11 mm

Despite the small denomination of this coin, there is a mint-name present - Khazana (the Treasury). The reverse legend as read may be incomplete; the word *bin* or *ibnu* (son of) is not present on the coin.

9. Jalal-ud-din Fath Shah quarter tanka

الدرلطان
ابن السلطان
جلال الدنيا
والدين ابو
المظفر



فكشتا
الدرلطان ابن
محمود شاه السلطان
سكه سكه
خرانه ۱۱

Obverse: As-Sultan ibnu'l Sultan Jalal-ud-dunya wa'd-din Abu'l Muzaffar

Reverse: Fath Shah as-Sultan ibnu Mahmud Shah as-Sultan sikkah tanka ?? Khazana ..

Weight: 2.5g; 16 mm

The legends on this coin correspond to Karim type A and are within a circle. The penultimate line on the reverse has not been altogether satisfactorily read; on a full tanka in the Dacca Museum, Karim reads the two words as *sikkah tanka*, which is plausible and with the following word would mean *tanka struck at the Treasury*. There are also two digits of a date on the present coin which could be either 88 or 89.

10. Ala-ud-din Husein Shah (AH 899-925; AD 1493-1519) one thirty-second of a tanka



شاه
حسين

Obverse: Husein Shah

Reverse: unread

Weight: 0.3g; diameter: 9 mm

This diminutive coin is the smallest fraction of the Sultans of Bengal to be published to date. The ruler's name on the obverse is clear enough, but the few letters on the reverse are not sufficient to make out the legend. They may form part of the ruler's *laqab*.

A half rupee of Jehangir in his pre-accession name of Selim Shah

In Newsletter 149 we published an illustration of a half rupee of Kabul mint, sent in by Mirza Shafqat, and asked whether anyone had seen a similar coin or could determine the legends. Abdullah Waryah, of Tando Adam, Sindh, Pakistan, has written to say that such a coin was in fact listed and illustrated in volume III of the Catalogue of Coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta: coins of the Mughal Emperors of India, by H. Nelson Wright. This is coin number 686, illustrated on plate VII. Nelson Wright reads the legends as:

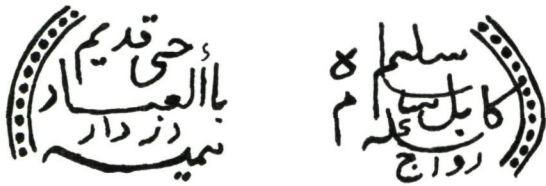
هميشه باد زدار العباد جي قدیم
رواج سکه کابل بنام شاه سلیم

Hameshah Bad Za Dar-ul-Ibad Haye Qadeem
Rawaj Sika-e-Kabul Benam Shah Saleem

May the currency of the coin of Kabul in the name of Shah Saleem continue for ever;

from the abode of the servant of the living (God) the ancient of days.

The arrangement of the legend is as follows:



An unusual copper coin of Awadh



Weight: 3.6g; size: 17 x 16/17

The following coin is published by courtesy of AH Baldwin and Son. It is a copper coin of Amjad Ali Shah (AH 1258-1262; AD 1842-1847) struck on a thin, almost square planchet. The obverse has part of the usual couplet for this ruler (which can be translated as *Struck royal coin in the world through the help of God, Amjad Ali, monarch of the age, the refuge of the world, the shade of God*), and the reverse, the crowned fish symbol and a small part of the mint/regnal year formula. There is not enough of the latter to be read, but the obverse does show the first three digits of the date 125. The unusual thing about the coin is its flan. The copper coins of Awadh are usually round, thickish pieces. The present coin is very different. Its thin, squarish shape reminds me of some coins struck in Lunavada and Sunth (see Ken Wiggins's Information Sheet no. 28 on the coinage of some Rewa Kantha States). This raises the question as to whether the present coin was actually struck in Lakhnau, the main Awadh mint, or somewhere else. Crude unofficial, copies of Awadh paisas were made in various places but the style of this coin is good, in fact sufficiently good to have been struck from a rupee die. It may therefore be some form of mint trial piece. Its weight would make it one third of the then paisa, not a fraction otherwise used for the series.

Galata Print are about to issue a list of about 2000 new and secondhand numismatic books and auction catalogues, including items of interest to collectors of oriental coins. Anyone wanting a copy write to:

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A Bombay double pice struck over an Iranian falus



Weight: 18g; diameter: 25-26 mm

It was common enough for coins to be overstruck on earlier coins in former times and the East Indian Company mints were no strangers to the practice. The present coin is a double pice of the type issued by the Bombay mint between 1728 and 1749, and dated 1733 (Pridmore 101). It is clearly overstruck on a falus of the Iranian mint of Qazvin. On the obverse, the underlying design of a deer or antelope is visible, while on the reverse can be seen part of the legend *falus Qazvin*.

Information Sheet No. 29

With this newsletter you should also receive Information Sheet No. 29: *Chinese chops - a bibliographical survey of western publications* by Wolfgang Bertsch.

Late News

ONS member T.K. Mallon (1547) has an Internet site accessible from <http://www.grifterrec.com> which is devoted to the coins and history of Asia including maps, brief histories and 400 coins. all scanned at 300%.

Mongol Imperial Money - Study Day

The ONS in co-operation with the British Museum will sponsor the third Study Day on Mongol Imperial Money on 14 February 1998. The location is the Coin Room of the British Museum and it will start at 10:30 am. This year the emphasis is on the Central Asian lands and topics will include the banking houses of India and the horse trade from the steppe, the numismatic battle between Jalal al-Din Menguburni and Chingiz Khan in Afghanistan and Khurasan and the monetary reform of the Chaghadaid ruler Kopek Khan. We urge anyone to attend who finds these coinages a mystery and a challenge. Please contact Venetia Porter in the Coin Room (0171-323-8272) or Judith Kolbas (0171-483-1983) if you want more information

We would like to wish all our readers a very happy 1998.

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