



12th

Annual

Coin, Banknote &
Philately Exhibition

2014

Mumbai Coin Society

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With Best Compliments From
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Mumbai Coin Society

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Hello Friends,

On behalf of the Committee of the Mumbai Coin Society (MCS), I welcome you to the 12th Annual Coin, Banknote and Philately Fair at the prestigious World Trade Center, Mumbai. Since I last wrote to you, our membership subscription has grown and we have managed to secure fixed deposits to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs; all this has been possible only due to your continued support.

Last year's show was a roaring success and our efforts appreciated by you dear members, this has spurred us to work more diligently towards this year's event.

In the past year the Committee has concentrated in streamlining and finalizing financial accounts, compliance of government requirements, meeting our tax obligations and other such official formalities. I am happy to report that we are in the final stages of this process and am hopeful that we will be able to announce the AGM in this quarter.

Keeping with the times, we see the need to tap into electronic resources and we are working towards making the MCS accessible across Social Media and the Internet. I encourage all members to contribute towards this goal.

We are also working towards extending the scope of co-operation and interaction with the Government to create a healthy environment for the numismatic field.

Though it is not possible to thank each one individually, on behalf of the MCS, I thank you all for your support and expect the same for time to come.

Personally, I thank our honorary Secretary, Mr. Dinesh Hegde who was ably supported by the entire Committee to make this year's event a grand success. Some are first amongst equals and need a special mention; Mr. Suhas Kadam (Treasurer, MCS) along with Mr. Amit Surana and Mr. Ambrish Thakker are the force behind this year's stellar Souvenir, which I am sure you will find informative and well presented. I extend my gratitude to our respected Authors for their insightful and well-researched articles and our esteemed Advertisers for their contribution in making the Souvenir see the light of day. It is only because of our Authors and our Advertisers that this repository of knowledge could reach the public.

The MCS is a premier Society and functions through the year. This is only possible due to the continuous selfless efforts and dedication of all my colleagues in the Managing Committee to manage the Society's affairs throughout the year. For their efforts I am eternally grateful on all our behalf.

The MCS bestowed the honored "Mudra Ratna Puruskar" on four great luminaries Mr. Prafulkumar Thakkar IAS (retd), Dr. Chandrasekhar Gupta, Prof. S. K. Bhatt and Mr. Jagdish Agrawal of the numismatic world for a lifetime of achievement, dedication and contribution to the field of Indian Numismatics in the past year. However, it was an especially proud moment for me to honor my dear friend and one of the titans of Indian Numismatics, Dr. John Deyell when he was visiting India earlier this year to gather research material for his book, with the prestigious "Mudra Ratna Puruskar" in a small get together for the benefit of our members.

During the year, we lost a senior numismatist Mr. Subash Mirani who succumbed after a brief illness in the hospital. On behalf of the MCS I extend our condolences to the family and salute his contribution to our field. Mr. Mirani will always be known for his expertise on Mughal coins and will be missed sorely.

I end with the promise of continuing to work with my Committee for the betterment of the MCS and to achieve our lofty ideals.

I once again invite all our members to take an active role in the MCS and to contribute by sharing your valuable comments and feedback with us.

Best regards,

Farokh S. Todywalla
President



Hello Friends,

I am happy to get this opportunity to welcome you to our Society's 12th Annual Coins & Philatelic Fair at the prestigious Expo-Centre of the World Trade Centre, Mumbai. The dates had to be preponed from our earlier scheduled dates of 12th to 14th September 2014 due to an in-house programme of the World Trade Centre administration.

Our last year's Exhibition was a grand affair with due credit to the active participation of all members, dealers, collectors and scholars both from within and outside the country.

My sincere appreciation to my teammates especially Shri. Suhas. Kadam, Shri. Anand. Bhabal, Shri. Amit Surana and Shri. Ambrish P. Thaker for their excellent co-ordination and putting in extra efforts to present the Society's souvenir 2014 in time. My special thanks to our President Shri. Farokh S. Todywalla for his timely advice, suggestions and guidance to the Committee from time to time and last but not the least Shri. Kaizad F. Todwalla for his efforts in organizing and conducting this Exhibition on such a grand scale.

I express my thanks to the Author's whose excellent Articles have graced the pages of our Souvenir and a big "Thank you" to all our Advertiser's.

I am saddened to inform you of the tragic loss of another gem of the Coin fraternity, with the demise of Shri. Subhash Mirani, an expert on Mughal coins of India. On behalf of us all I offer my deepest sympathies to the family in their hour of bereavement.

The Committee has further secured its fixed deposits from Rs.15 lakhs last year to Rs. 20 lakhs till date.

During the year the Committee undertook the major task of updating financial accounts, taxation matters and its related works pending since inception and is now on the verge of final stages. The Committee has decided that upon completion and updating all records and on receipt of all reports thereof to immediately call for an A.G.M. at the earliest.

Continuing with the trend of awarding the "Mudra Ratna Puruskar" for lifetime achievers in the field of numismatics with special mementos, the Society honoured Shri. Prafulkumar Thakkar I.A.S (retd), Dr. Chandrasekhar Gupta, Prof. S. K. Bhatt and Shri. Jagdish Agrawal. The world acclaimed Dr. John Deyell visited India and Mumbai in early 2014 and the Society decided to honour his contribution to our field by awarding him the "Mudra Ratna Puruskar" during a get together sponsored by our President Shri. Farokh S. Todywalla at the Ripon Club in Mumbai. I am happy to mention that more than 25 members turned up for the evening and a memorable time was had by all.

I hope the ensuing Fair will help the Society and the numismatic world in general to attain its objective of spreading knowledge about our glorious heritage and culture to the whole world.

On behalf of the Committee, I invite each one of you to share your experiences, suggestions, accolades or complaints if any with us by way of email or writing to the Society's registered address.

Thank you for your continued support and bonhomie.

With Best Regards

D. N. Hegde

Hon. Secretary



Committee for the year 2014-2015

Managing Committee



Shri Farokh S. Todywalla
President



Shri Dinesh N. Hegde
Secretary



Shri Suhas N. Kadam
Treasurer



Shri Ganesh J. Nene
Member



Shri Kaizad F. Todywalla
Member



Shri Amit A. Surana
Member



Shri Anand G. Bhabal
Member



Shri Digamber G. Brid
Member



Shri Ambrish P. Thaker
Member



Shri Ashok S. Lad
Member



Shri Sanjay Gosalia
Member

Exhibition Committee

Shri Farokh S. Todywalla
Convener

Shri Dinesh N. Hegde
Secretary

Shri Suhas N. Kadam
Treasurer

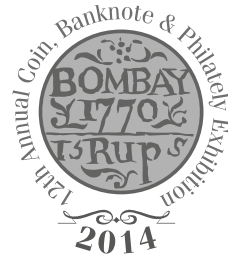
Shri Kaizad F. Todywalla
Joint Convener

Shri Amit A. Surana
Member

Shri Anand G. Bhabal
Member

Shri Digambar G. Brid
Member

Shri Ashok S. Lad
Member



Deva Raya II - The Gajabetakara of Vijayanagar Empire

~ Mohit Kapoor

Lasting for almost three centuries as the foremost power in southern India, the kingdom of Vijayanagar (founded in 1336CE) represents the last great native phase in the annals of the history of south Indian.

Deva Raya II (r. 1426–1446 CE), son of Veera Vijaya Bukka Raya's, was perhaps the greatest of the Vijayanagar Emperors of the Sangama dynasty. Deva Raya II was a scholar in Kannada and Sanskrit. He wrote Sobagina Sone and Amaruka in Kannada, and Mahanataka Sudhanidhi in Sanskrit. He also patronised some of the famous Kannada and Telugu poets of the time.

Deva Raya II's rule is the golden age in the history of Karnataka. Taking advantage of the weak and disorganized condition of the Kondavidu region, Deva Raya II once again regained the territories that had been lost to the Reddi Kingdom, thereby enlarging the Vijayanagar boundaries. With these acquisitions, the Krishna River became the northeastern boundary of Vijayanagar.

Deva Raya II waged two wars with the Bahmanis in 1435-1436CE and 1443-1444CE for control over the forts of Raichur and Mudgal in the Krishna-Tungabhadra Doab. This ended with no gains or losses for either side. However, after these campaigns Deva Raya II announced that Muslims could join his army, and assigned resident Muslim archers the task of coaching his Hindu troops. This was an upgrade for the Vijayanagar army in military know-how. Deva Raya campaigned successfully in the Malabar region of the Far South, where his victories over local chieftains helped in the process of consolidation. His reign stands out for not only being able to establish centralization in the early history of Vijayanagar, but also the greatest territorial expansion as well. He quelled rebelling feudal lords as well as the Zamorin of Calicut and Quilon in

the south. He invaded the island of Lanka and became overlord of the kings of Burma at Pegu and Tanasserim.

By the end of his reign, Deva Raya II had succeeded in conquering all of South India as well as sending the empire into a golden age of prosperity. It was during this time that the explorer Nicolo Conti and Persian chronicler Abdur Razzak travelled here. Razzak mentions that the "ear of intelligence had never been informed that there existed anything equal to Vijayanagar in the world" and the "pupil of eye has never seen a place like it" (on an interesting side note the two explorers also commented on Deva Raya II's large harem in which 4000 queens followed him everywhere he went). Nicolo Conti stated "the king of Vijayanagar is more powerful than all the other kings in India."

Deva Raya II earned the title of Gajavetekara or Gajabetakara as he was well versed in the art of elephant hunting. Another explanation for this title was that he was an expert at defeating enemies who were as strong as elephants.

Most of the Vijayanagar rulers, in the tradition of Southern Kings, were fond of titles and included them on their coins, ordinarily as "Sri Vira (the great warrior) Harihara" or "Sri Vijaya (the victorious) Bukkaraya" or "Sri Pratapa (the most powerful) Krishna Deva Raya". Deva Raya I liked novel titles such as "Nilkanta" (one with blue neck, Shiva) and "Uttama" (the best).

Deva Raya II had great affinity towards Elephants and this is seen by the fact that almost all of his coinage bears the image of an Elephant on the obverse. While the Silver coins issued by Deva Raya II carry his name on the reverse, it's the copper issues which carry his titles "Gajabetakara".

Deva Raya II – The Gajabetakara of Vijayanagar Empire

The Silver Tara's of Deva Raya II are issued with an Elephant on the obverse and the Kings name "Deva Raya" in Devanagari on Reverse. A dagger, which is part of the Royal Insignia of the Vijayanagar Empire, is also seen on the reverse to the left of the Kings name.



Deva Raya II, Silver Tara, 0.2 gms.
Obv: Elephant to left with raised Tail
Rev: Dev Raya in Devanagari, Dagger to left of Legend.

The majority of the Copper Issues of Deva Raya II have an Elephant on the obverse and the Kings Title "Gajabetakara" on the reverse in Devanagari or Telugu.



Deva Raya II, Copper Unit, 3.60 gms.
Obv: Elephant to Right, Sun, dagger and Moon above the Elephant
Rev: Gajabetakara Sri Deva Raya in Devanagari.



Deva Raya II, Copper Unit, 3.50 gms.
Obv: Elephant to Right, Sun and Moon above the Elephant
Rev: Gajabetakara in Kannada

There is also a really fascinating Copper coin issued during the reign of Deva Raya II. The coin depicts the image of a human in battle with an Elephant. It is assumed in all probability that the human depicted on the coin is the king Deva Raya II himself and that the king is engaged in a fight with an Elephant.

The coin does complete justification to the Kings title of "Gajabetakara" by portraying him indulged in the activity that he was renowned for, Elephant hunting. The reverse of the coin carries the title Raya Gaja Gandabherunda which literary translates as, the King who is a terror to his enemies like the Gandabherunda is a terror to the Elephants. Gandabherunda is a mythical double-headed eagle which could hold elephants in its beaks and claws.



Deva Raya II, Copper Unit, 3.80 gms.
Obv: Human with a Forked Spear Running in front of Elephant with a Dagger in his trunk, Nagari De above Elephant
Rev: Raya Gajagandabherunda in Devanagari, Moon, Conch and Sun below legend.

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श्री राजा शिव छत्रपतींची 'फनम' नाणी

- अमोल बनकर, पुणे

फनम हे मध्ययुगीन दक्षिण भारतात प्रचलित असणारे एक महत्वाचे चलन होते. पश्चिम गंग, चालुक्य, कलचुरी, आलुप, शिलाहार, होयसाळ, कदंब सारख्या राजवंशांनी 'फनम' प्रकारची नाणी पाडलेली दिसतात. विजयनगर आणि उत्तरकाळातील राजवटींच्या काळातील अनेक प्रकारची 'फनम' नाणी ज्ञात आहेत. बहुतांशी फनम ही आकाराने अत्यंत लहान सुवर्ण नाणी असून त्यांचे वजन ०.१ ते ०.४ ग्राम इतके असे. फनम या शब्दाची उत्पत्ती मुळ संस्कृत शब्द 'पण' पासून झाली असावी. फनम या नाणेप्रकाराला इतर भाषांमधील नावे अशी आहेत - फारसी आणि अरबी मध्ये 'फनम', मल्याळम आणि तामिळ मध्ये 'पन', दक्खनी उर्दु मध्ये 'फलम', सिलोनी मध्ये 'पोन्नम', पोर्तुगीज मध्ये 'फनाव/फनोज', फ्रेंच मध्ये 'फानो/पानो/पनां/पनान', डॅनिश मध्ये 'फानो', इटालियन मध्ये 'फानोने/फावो'. मराठी मोडी कागदपत्रांमध्ये फनमचा उल्लेख 'फनम, पन, फलम, किंवा फुल्लम' असा केलेला आढळतो. विजयनगरचे फनम हे एका होनाच्या (वराह) च्या १/१०व्या भागाइतके असत.



राजा शिव छत्रपतींचा सुवर्ण होन (छायाचित्र साभार - श्री बस्ती सोळंकी, पुणे)

कृष्णाजी अनंत सभासद यांची 'सभासद बखर' ही मराठेशाहीच्या व विशेषतः शिवकाळाच्या इतिहासाच्या अभ्यासाचे विश्वसनीय साधन समजली जाते. या बखरीत शिवरायांच्या खजिन्यातील अनेक सोने-चांदीच्या नाण्यांची यादी दिली असून, त्यात बारा प्रकारच्या फनमची पोट यादी सुद्धा आहे. हे बारा फनम याप्रकारे आहेत : अफराजी, त्रिसुली, त्रिवलुरी, चंदावरी, बिल्वधारी, उलफकारी, मुहम्मदशाही, येलुरी (वेलुरी), कांटेराई, देवजवली, रामनाथपुरी आणि कुनगोटी. सभासदाने खजिन्यातील नाण्यांचा उल्लेख त्यांच्या नावाने केले असून, सोबत त्यांचा उल्लेख खालीलप्रमाणे केला आहे.

पुरवणी होनाची नांवे (फलम यांचे पोटी) :

- १. अफराजी १ बिल्वधारी, १ वेंकटराई १ त्रिवलुरी १ उलफकारी
- १ देवहळ्ळी १ त्रिसुली १ मुहम्मदशाही १ रामनाथपुरी
- १ चंदावरी १ वेल्लुरी १ कुनगोटी

या यादीवरून काही प्राथमिक गोष्टी नजरेस येतात, ही यादी 'होनांची नांवे' या शीर्षकाच्या (heading) खाली दिलेली आहे व पुढे 'फलम यांचे पोटी' असे उपशीर्षक (sub-heading) आहे. हे उपशीर्षक '३,००,००० फलम' या नोंदीसोबत असल्याने खजिन्यातील 'फनम' या प्रकारच्या नाण्यांची संख्या ३,००,००० इतकी असावी. सभासदांनी उल्लेखिलेल्या फनमचे हे प्रकार दक्षिणेकडील राजवटींचे असावेत यांत शंका नाही. यातील काही फनम विजयनगर, तर काही दक्षिण भारतातील पाळेगारांनी पाडलेले असावेत. वरील नाणी ही कर, व्यापार, खंडणी व इतर साधनांच्या मार्फत खजिन्यात कशी आली हे सांगणे कठीण आहे. परंतु बहुतांश नाणी ही इतर राज्यात पाडलेली असून स्वराज्यात आली असावित. इ. स. १५६५ मध्ये विजयनगरच्या अंतानंतर येणाऱ्या सत्तांनी विजयनगरची नाणी चलनात कायम ठेवली. ग्रांट डफ यांने शिवाजी महाराजांच्या खजिन्याची माहिती देताना असे लिहिले आहे की, त्यात आजच्या हिशोबाने ६५ किलो सोन्याचे फनम होते (सभासदाने '३ लक्ष फनम' असा आकडा दिला आहे) याशिवाय या खजिन्यामध्ये ५ लाख होन, मुघल रुपये, स्पॅनिश डॉलर (Spanish Dollars), व्हेनेशियन सेक्विन (Venetian Sequins), सुरती व इतर प्रकारच्या मोहोरा होत्या.

द्रव्यं तु नखसंज्ञं स्यात् वराहो होन उच्यते ॥३८॥
तदर्थं तु प्रतापः स्याद् भाषयोरुभयोरपि ॥
वराहपादो धरणश्चवलस्त्वष्ट्रमांशकः ॥३९॥
दुवलः षोडशांशः स्यान्मोहरा तु बुधैः स्मृतम् ॥
सुवर्णनिष्कं रजतनिष्कं स्यादृषयाभिधम् ॥४०॥
वाच्या रजतवर्ती तु लाहरी फलमः पणः ॥
ताम्रद्रव्यं तु खुर्दा स्याद वस्तनं बन्धनं स्मृतम् ॥४१॥

वरील श्लोक शिवरायांच्या आज्ञेने संपादित झालेल्या राज्यव्यवहारकोशात अंतर्भूत आहे. या श्लोकात होन, त्यांचे भाग व इतर नाण्यांची माहिती दिली आहे. हा एक शासकिय कोश असल्याने यामध्ये प्रचलित संज्ञा व त्याचे संस्कृत रूप दिलेले आढळते. या कोशात 'फलमचे संस्कृत समानार्थी रूप 'पण' असे दिलेले आहे. इतर काही महत्वाच्या संज्ञा याप्रमाणे आहेत - 'नख्त' - द्रव्य, 'होन' - वराह, 'लाहिरी / लारी' - रजतवर्ती, खुर्दा - ताम्रद्रव्य इत्यादी. याशिवाय आपल्याला मराठी मोडी कागदपत्रे व परदेशी प्रवाशांच्या प्रवासवर्णनामध्ये फनम या नाण्याचे उल्लेख व त्याची तत्कालीन इतर चलनांमधील किंमतीविषयीची माहिती मिळते.

१. अब्द-उर-रझाक नावाच्या प्रवाशाने विजयनगर साम्राज्याची माहिती देतांना अशी नोंद लिहिली आहे की, "१५ व्या शतकातील विजयनगरचे फनम हे शुद्ध सोन्याचे नसत व एका फनमचे वजन व मुल्य हे एका होनाच्या (पगोडा/ वराह) एकदशांशव्या (१/१०) भागाइतके असे".
२. अबे कारे नावाच्या फ्रेंच प्रवाशाने एका फनमची किंमत एका होनच्या १/३६ इतकी असे नमूद केले आहे.
३. डॉ. फ्रायर नावाच्या इंग्रज प्रवाशाने फलमची किंमत सव्वा रुपये इतकी दिलेली आढळते.
४. शं. ना. जोशी यांनी दाभाडे दफतरातल्या माहितीवरून एक फनमची किंमत एका पातशाही होनाच्या १/१६ भागाइतकी होती. फनम आणि होन यांच्या किंमतीतील फरक ही नाण्यामधील सोन्याच्या किंमतीवर (intrinsic value) आधारित असे. काही कागदपत्रांमध्ये छत्रपती फलम आणि छत्रपती चक्रम यांचा उल्लेख आढळतो. यांतील पहिले हे सोन्याचे आहे खरें पण, दुसऱ्या नाण्याचा संदर्भात असे दिसून येते की ते चांदीचे असावे (?), सभासदांनी चक्रमचा उल्लेख 'चंद्रम्या' असा केला आहे. राज्यव्यवहारकोश मध्ये फलम हे चांदीचे नाणी म्हणून संबोधिलेले दिसते. इ.स. १६९५ च्या दाभाडे दफतरातल्या एका कागदपत्रांमध्ये फलमचा उल्लेख छत्रपती चक्रे किंवा छत्रपती चक्रम असा केलेला आहे.

राजा शिव छत्रपतींच्या कर्नाटक स्वारीचा अभ्यास केला असता असे लक्षात येते कि, राज्याभिषेकानंतर १७ जून १६७४ मध्ये शिवरायांनी बुन्हाणपूर पर्यंत छापे मारले. बिजापूर मधील यादवीचा फायदा घेऊन त्यांनी कोल्हापूर जवळचा मुलुख काबीज केला, एप्रिल १६७५ मध्ये फोंडा घेतला, ६ ऑक्टोबर १६७६ मध्ये दसऱ्याच्या मुहूर्तावर दक्षिण दिग्विजयास निघाले व जाने - फेब्रु १६७७ मध्ये ते भागानगर (हैदराबाद) येथे पोहोचले. येथे अबुल हसन कुतुबशाहने त्यांचे मोठे स्वागत केले. मार्च १६७७ अखेरीस त्यांनी हैदराबाद सोडले. राजा शिव छत्रपतींच्यासोबत २०,००० घोडदळ आणि ४०,००० पायदळ होते. १५ मे १६७७ रोजी त्यांनी जिंजी जिंकली. चौदा महिन्यांच्या वेढ्यानंतर २१ जुलैला १६७८ मध्ये वेल्लूर चा किल्लाही घेतला. फ्रेंच साधनांवरून असे समजते कि शिव छत्रपतींनी जिंजीला नवीन तटबंदी बांधली, खंदक वाढवण्यात आले व बुरुज बांधले. हे किल्ले मराठ्यांकडे इ.स. १६९८ - १७०८ पर्यंत होते. फ्रेंचांनी शिवरायांच्या फौजेचे बरेच वर्णन लिहून ठेवलेले आहे. फ्रांस्वा मार्टीनने लिहिले आहे की, शिवाजींच्या घोडदळाला २ होन दरमहा पगार मिळत असे. अनेक संदर्भांवरून असे दिसून येते की शिवरायांनी गड घेतल्यावर तेथे नवीन नेमणुका केल्या, किल्ल्यांवरील शिबंदीला रोख पगार दिला जाई. ३० जुलै १६७७ मधील एका पत्रामध्ये उटलूरच्या किल्याचे हिशेब मिळतात. यांत शिबंदी आणि सरदारांचे वार्षिक पगार दिले आहेत. किल्लेदारास १२५ होन, तटसरनोबत, बारगीर, हशम व मजुमदार यांस ३६ होन इतका पगार असे. दक्षिण दिग्विजयानंतर दक्षिणेत अनेक जागी मराठे दीर्घकाळ राहिले. उदा. जिंजी येथे २१ वर्षे, वेल्लूर येथे ३० वर्षे. इ.स. १६९८ पर्यंत जिंजी ही काही काळ स्वराज्याची राजधानी बनली. 'श्री राजा शिव छत्रपती' असा लेख असणारी सोने आणि तांब्याची नाणी जिंजी, तंजावूर सारख्या जागी मिळालेली आहेत. कदाचित मराठ्यांनी ही नाणी स्थानिक नाणेप्रकारावरून पाडली असावी. पूर्वी असे मत होते की, 'श्री राजा छत्रपती' आणि 'श्री राजा शिव छत्रपती' प्रकारचे नाणी तंजावरला पाडली गेली असावित. परंतु, शिवाजी महाराजांचे होन आणि शिवराई यासारखीच 'श्री राजा शिव छत्रपती' असे मजकूर असणारे काही दुर्मिळ फनम जिंजी येथुन उपलब्ध झालेले आहेत, अशा काही फनम नाण्यांची माहिती खालीलप्रमाणे:

श्री राजा शिव छत्रपतींची 'फनम' नाणी

प्रकार १ ला: प्रस्तुत फनम जिंजी येथे पाडली गेली असावी. यांप्रकारच्या नाण्यांवर पुढील बाजुस बिंदुयुक्त किनारीच्या आत नागरीमध्ये 'श्री / राजा / शिव' लेख, तर दुसऱ्या बाजूसही बिंदुयुक्त किनारीच्या आत 'छत्र / पती' असा लेख आहे. 'छत्र' या लेखावर दोन बिंदु आहेत. या नाण्याचा प्रकार (type), त्यावरील लेखनशैली (palaeography), ढब (style) व चिन्हे (symbols) हे शिव छत्रपतींनी पडलेल्या होन आणि शिवराई सारखी आहेत. कदाचित या प्रकारची नाणी शिव छत्रपतींनी किंवा त्यांचा नंतर आलेल्या मराठे शासकांनी पाडलेली असावित.



प्रकार १ (फोटो साभार : श्री आर. वैद्यनाथन)

प्रकार २-अ : जिंजी येथुन उपलब्ध झालेल्या दुसऱ्या प्रकारच्या फनम नाण्यांवर नाण्यांवर पुढील बाजुस नागरी लिपीतील 'श्री / राजा / शिव' असा लेख. तर दुसऱ्या बाजुस 'छत्र / पती' असा लेख आहे. येथे बिंदुयुक्त किनार नाही आहे. तसेच 'छत्र' या शब्दावर तीन बिंदु आहेत. याशिवाय 'शिव' मधील 'शि' आणि 'पती' मधील 'ती' ही अक्षरे उलट आहेत, कदाचित प्रकारची नाणी शिवछत्रपतींनंतर आलेल्या मराठे शासकांनी पाडलेली असावित.



प्रकार २-अ (फोटो साभार : श्री आर. वैद्यनाथन)

प्रकार २-ब: ह्या प्रकारचे फानाम 'प्रकार २अ' प्रमाणे असून यामधील 'छत्र' मधील 'त्र' आणि 'पति' मधील 'ति' या अक्षरांमध्ये मध्ये थोडी मोकळी जागा आहे. हि नाणीसुद्धा शिवछत्रपतींनंतर आलेल्या मराठे शासकांनी पाडलेली असावित.



प्रकार २-ब (फोटो साभार : श्री आर. वैद्यनाथन)

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A Unique Over-struck Paisa of Tipu Sultan

~ Purnanand Sanket & Mohit Kapoor

Tipu Sultan, Haider Ali's elder son, succeeded his father on 29th December 1782, at the age of 32. The treaty of Mangalore was concluded on 11th March, 1784 by which the East India Company gave up all claims over Malabar to Tipu and declared the rulers of Kerala to be his friends and allies. Tipu then decided to strengthen his hold over this territory. Tipu arrived in Malabar in 1788 and again in 1789 to suppress the revolts which had sprung up in that region. Tipu attacked Travancore on the grounds that it had erected defences on the territory of his feudatory-the Cochin Chief and also due to the fact that Travancore had afforded protection to rebellious fugitives from Malabar. Travancore was almost on the verge of utter defeat but Tipu had to withdraw due to the outbreak of the third Anglo-Mysore war which led to the signing of the treaty of 1792. As per the provisions, all the possessions of Tipu in Malabar passed under the rule of the company.

One of the major mints during Mysorean rule over Malabar was Kozhikode (Calicut). This mint struck gold and silver coins, generally fanams and rupees, as well as copper coins. Coins have been recorded bearing dates 1195 AH to 1201 AH (1215AM) which coincides with 1780-1787 AD. However in 1788 AD the mint in Calicut was closed and destroyed and the Mysorean administration centre in Malabar was moved to Farukhabad (Farrukhi). This newly founded mint took over the tasks of the earlier Calicut mint. Gold fanams and copper paisas were struck here. The last date recorded on coins from this mint is 1218 AM (1790 AD). The fort at Farrukhi was taken by Colonel Hartley, after the defeat of Tipu's army under Husain Ali and the mint ceased was shut down.



Mysore, Tipu Sultan, Farukhi Mint, Paisa, AM1217, Henderson 433

Faiz Hisar was the name given to Gooty which is an important town in the Anantapur district. This was a very important fort and came under Haider Ali when he defeated Morari Rao in 1775 after a siege of nine months. The fort was practically impregnable and the defeat of the Marathas was due to the spring of water on which the soldiers depended, going dry. This town remained with Mysore till 1799, when it was captured by General Bowser. Gooty was subsequently restored to the Nizam (It was with the Nizam before the Maratha invasion). Later in 1800 AD, it was ceded to the East India Company. Early coins of Mysore issued by Haider Ali bear only the mint name Gooty on the reverse but they are all undated. The coins of this mint have been issued from 1215 AM to 1226 AM by Tipu Sultan bearing the mint name Faiz Hisar.



Mysore, Tipu Sultan, Faiz Hisar Mint, Paisa, AM1222, Henderson 303

A Unique Over-struck Paisa of Tipu Sultan

We have come across a very unique Paisa from the reign of Tipu Sultan of Faiz Hisar Mint dated AM1222. The Paisa is struck on a Paisa from the reign of Tipu Sultan himself of Farukhi Mint dated AM1217. Now it is a well known and documented fact that when a ruler attacked and conquered another ruler then the victorious ruler would over-strike his coins over the defeated ruler's coins to show his victory. However, the coin hitherto has been over-struck on a coin of the same ruler. A possible reason for this could be the paucity of funds to strike fresh coins on new planchets as Tipu Sultan's empire was weaning due to the constant financial burden which the Anglo-Mysore War was creating. As, Farrukhi mint had already been shut down in 1790, these coins which were out of circulation were now being used to mint newer coins. However, on closer inspection it can be seen that there has been a third strike on this coin.

The coin bears two dates on the reverse; one being AM1217 which is of the Farukhi Mint Paisa and the other being AM1222 above the Persian alphabet "Be" which is seen on the obverse of a Faiz Hisar Mint Paisa. From this we infer that the obverse of the Farukhi Mint Paisa was first over-struck with the obverse of a Faiz Hisar Paisa and then subsequently struck with the reverse of a Faiz Hisar Paisa. But the other side of the coin does not support this. The other side has only the obverse of the Faiz Hisar Mint struck on the reverse of the Farukhi Mint Paisa.

This leads us to believe that the person striking the coin over-struck a Farukhi Mint Paisa with only the obverse die of a Faiz Hisar Mint Paisa. He then realized his mistake and then struck the coin again both the obverse and reverse dies of the Faiz Hisar Mint Paisa.



Faiz Hisar Mint, Paisa, AM1222...
Struck over a Paisa of Farukhi dated AM1217...

Obverse of the Faiz Hisar Paisa struck on the Reverse of a Paisa of Farukhi Mint



Over-struck Obverse of the
Faiz Hisar Mint



Original Reverse of the
Farukhi Mint

Reverse of the Faiza Hisar Paisa struck on the obverse of a Paisa of Farukhi Mint.



The Over-struck Reverse
of the Faiz Hisar Mint

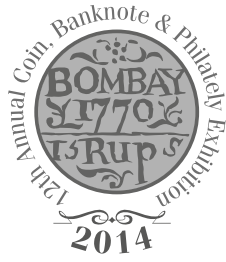


The Original Obverse of the
Farukhi Mint alongwith the date
AM1222 on top of Persian
'Te' (at 9 o'clock) which occurs on the
Obverse of Faiz Hisar Mint

There are also traces of an obverse of a Paisa of Faiz Hisar Mint as well. The date AM1222 on top of a Persian 'Te' which is seen on the obverse of a Paisa of Faiz Hisar Mint can be seen at 3 o'clock on this coin.

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Kushans: Their origin as per hindu epics.

~ R. T. Somaiya

Most of it is in the form of legend. Whether legends are historically true or not, is a subject of great debate. One thing is sure that it gives insight to various aspects of our origin and history till the time that recorded history began..

While traveling in South East Asia I had come across a book in which the legend had recorded that after passing away of Shri Ram, his kingdom was divided between his 2 Sons – LUV & KUSH. Luv was given all the territories - east of Ayodhya, and Kush was given west of Ayodhya. Two Sons of Bharat namely Pushya and Taksha joined with Kush. This is corroborated by history which says that Pushya founded a new city in the name of Pushyapur which over the centuries got the modern name Peshawar and Taksha founded a new city by the name Takshasila which at present is known as Taxila in the land from where their grandmother Kaikeyi hailed. She was the princess from highlands of Kekay now known as North West Frontier Province of Pakistan.

Area in which I read this book was Laos which is known even today in their local language as Luv pradesh and in modern French version Laos which is pronounced as 'Lao'. Over the centuries the descendents of Luv extended their empire up to the Chinese sea and beyond upto Bali and including Indonesia. Bali is named after the mighty king, Wali – brother of Sugriva of our and their Ramayan. They call their ramayan as Ramakien i.e. Ramakhyan – the life story of Rama, because they are connected with Ram of Raghuvansh. The eastern empire also included Champa (now known as Vietnam), Kamboj now known as Cambodia, Laos and Thailand then known as Siam Pradesh, Burma which was known as Dwaravati etc. Until 200 years ago, prior to Bangkok, Ayodhya was capital of Thailand.

That Ayodhya still exists. Present king's name is Bhumibal Atulyatej Rama the Nineth. Thanon Surawongse i.e. Suryawansh Marg in Central Bangkok today is not without their roots in Raghuvansh. And confirms their descent from Suryavansh.

Names of kings of Laos such as Sinhanouk and Ranariddha – do they sound Chinese or Bharatiya? The theory of Bharat Varsh from Coasts of Mediterranean to Bali are full with legends supporting their roots / and or connections with India.

Similarly, the empire of descendents of Kush included North, West and North Western India, Gandhar (Afghanistan), where they established a new capital in the name of Kapisthala in honor of Hanumanji. In modern time it has been shortened Kapisa which is to the north of Kabul. With advent of Islam and Gandhar falling into the hands of Muslims, a new city was established by them near Kapisa by the name of Kabul. They also occupied Central Asia and established a new city Shrimarkandpur honoring their suryavanshi descent. Markand means Sun. So the new city was Suryapur or Sun city. Over the times 'Pur' got dropped, the original name got shortened and the city today is known as Srimarkand – Samarqand. Not only that, the largest Sun temple was also built at Samarqand by them which was in ruins few centuries ago but now even the ruins have vanished.

I have all the reason to believe that descendents of Kush went right upto Mediterranean sea i.e. going upto Egypt. The capital city established by them there was known as Heliopolis (old name of Cairo) Helio is Sun and Polis is city so in good old days Cairo was also to say in our language Suryapur. In their language Sun was Raa and all the kings were considered as sun personified. We also called our kings Raa, it got

Kushans: Their origin as per hindu epics.

improved from Raa to Rao and Rai and Rana also. Rana Pratap was a great Suryavanshi king whose story is well recorded in history. Even Egyptian kings had names such as Ramses I, II etc.

Suryavanshis were Shiv bhaktas. Near Pyramids in Cairo you can see even today Sarcophaguses of bulls. Holy bulls were buried so well that their tombs exist even upto today. Coins of Shahi Kings of Afghanistan show Nandi (bull) on one side and horseman on the other. Kushan kingS also had Shiva with or without Nandi on one side and king on the other. What is Sphinx? Murty i.e. idol of Narsimha who killed Hiranyakashyapu an Assyrian king – grandfather of Baliraja who ruled over lands presentiy know as Arabia. These are pointers to our possible links.

As per the book I had read, Kushans were descendents of Kush. Their history, their specific descendents who ruled over an area extending from Samarqand in north to Chachpradesh i.e. delta of Sindhu river where it meets the Indian Ocean and from Herat in the west to Bhimnagar in Himachal Pradesh...

These are not anecdotes. These are facts and historical data giving period of their rule exists so also their coins exist. Rulers of Afghanistan were known as Shahis as they were descendents of Kidarkushans who in turn had descended from Kushans. Kushan kings used to write their names on their coins with title Shao – Nano – Shao i.e. King of Kings. Coins of Kushan King Wima Takto has the legend Wima Takto - which means

'Bhim the victor or victorious'. Takto is a Central Asian word meaning 'victor'. Shaka in Sanskrit means Vijay or Victory. In Mahabharat Bhishma blesses 'Shakavarti Bhava' Meaning May you be victorious. Wima Takto's reign period is reckoned as from circa AD 55 - AD 105. It is believed that it was he who started Shaka Samvat commemorating his victory of their ancestral kingdom and which exists and continues even today..

Similarly let us see names of some other Kushan kings. Wima Kadphises is Bhima Kapisasya i.e. Bhima from Kapisa. Wima Taksum is Bhima from Daksum which is in Kashmir Kushans were Great but later on the kings were less powerful and came to be known as Kidar Kushans i.e. lesser Kushans. Shahis of what is known today as Afghanistan, the Sanskrit name is Avaghanisthan meaning the land of Horse breeders or

The country of Horse Breeders, were also from the same line of Kushans and took the title Shahis from the legend Shao Nano Shao and the last in line came Lohara dynasty which ruled over Jammu and Kashmir. They too were also Suryavanshies and that line ended in AD 1338 when Sultans took over.

This is what my studies have revealed and I am putting before you, all the numismatic scholars. A view from our cultural point for further improvements, corrections and studies

flute sitting atop a tree and below a cow and calf, and a river flowing nearby.





Sopara – Ancient Roman Port

~ *Pascal Roque Lopes*

In the north-western Deccan on the ruins of the Mauryan empire raised the kingdom of the Satavahanas in the first century B.C., with its centre at Pratishthana (modern Paithan in Maharashtra).

The Satavahana country developed brisk trade not only along internal trade routes but also through overseas mercantile shipping. Maisolia (the modern Masulipatam) on the east, Barygaza (Broach), Sopara and Kalyan on the west were the most important ports through which overseas trade was operated. Paithan, the capital and possibly Nasik and Vijayanthi were important market towns.

Junnar is to east of Naneghat and through the ancient Trade route it was linked to the ancient port cities of Sopara Kalyan, Chaul through which it linked these port cities to Pratisthan the capital of the Sathavanas. Sopara and Kalyan where the Market-towns during the time is clear from Periplus of the Erythraean Sea which are notes from middle of the first century CE (Common Era) written by a Greek speaking Egyptian merchant.

Influence of Roman Coins on Sathavana coins

In the first century AD it is quite likely that some of the silver currency on the west coast was melted and re-minted by the Kshaharata Kshatrapas and the Sathavanas as mentioned by Ajay Mitra Shastri in his paper on some aspects of Roman coins (Reference Foreign Coins Found in the Indian Subcontinent, IIRNS Publication). He further mentions it is not unlikely that the idea of minting silver coins by the Sakas and Sathavanas was inspired by the Roman Denarius.



Roman Coin of Tiberus found in India (Imitation)

Periplus of the Erythraean Sea is a 1st Century AD document gives list of imports and exports on the west coast of India from Rome and the Mediterranean and the Western world and gives us notes and details of trades and items like pepper, wood, Silver and Gold coins / bullions that were traded with Barygaza (Modern Broach), Suppara (Modern day Sopara), Chaul & Kalyan.

It also talks of the kingdom of Nambanus, though to be the Western Satrap ruler Nahapana who ruled the West coast in that period. Coin of Nahapana with his name and details written Brahmi, Kharoshti and little crude Greek script, these coins are found in the west coast region and further certify his presence with Numismatic evidence.



Nahapana Coin

Sopara – Ancient Roman Port

From Bharuch, the Roman traders would spread out to smaller ports like Kalyan in the Konkan coast, Sopara in Thane and Chaul in Raigad district . "Kalyan & Sopara where major loading and offloading centre from where the traders would proceed by road to Junnar via Naneghat," Sopara and Kalyan helped in Maritime Trade with Mediterranean and the Western world.

Periplus mentions that silver was being imported into India. It also refers to gold and silver coins which were imported into Bharuch and could be exchanged with the native currency for profit. Find of Roman coins the western region is scarce but that could have been because of Roman silver coins were melted to mint Western Kshatrap Nahapana and Sathavana coins in the region.

The presence of Sathavana Ruler as contemporary to Nahapana is proved from the inscriptions of Nasik in Panduleni Caves made by the mother of Gautamiputra Satkarni where she talks of defeating the Nahapana King by her son Gautami Putra Satkarni. Numismatic evidence of Gautimiputra Satkarni counter stamping the coins of Nahapana face with Sathavana Ujjain symbol further helps prove the point of Satkarni victory over Nahapana.



Nahapana Coin counter struck by Sathavana

Pundit Bhaghavan Lal Indrani carried out excavation at the Port of Sopara around the Buddhist Stupa and he excavated a coin of Gautamiputra Yajna Satkarni, (Reference: Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1882) which further determines the rule of Sathavana king at Sopara and the west coast. The coins on obverse had Portrait of the Satkarni King with curly hairs, long ears and strong lips, Yajna Satkarni also has ear locks with his name written in Brahmi, and the reverse had symbols like Sun, Moon, Mountains, River and Ujjain Symbols of the Sathavana Kings which is a cross with 4 circles at each end.



Coin found at the Sopara Stupa, Yajna Satkarani



Stupa at Sopara

We have already discussed above the mention in the Travel Document of the Mid first Century AD The Periplus where he has mentioned Romans traded on the west coast and Sopara and used lot of Items along with Roman Coins to buy Indian product. The portrait on the Roman coins with sample shown above (Image 1) have influenced the portrait on Indian Sathavana coins and here is another type of Sathavana coins found on the West Coast has a portrait which has features of the Roam Portrait and hence the coin is referred at Sathavana Satkarni coin with Roman head.

A Silver Portrait coin of Satavahana ruler Gotamiputa Siri Yajna Satakani, (c. 200-225 AD), 1.41g. Obv: Profile bust of the ruler, with short concentric head of hair (commonly known as the 'Roman Head') with head-ornament or Choodamani; Brahmi legend Rano Gotamiputasa Siri Yana Satakanisa around. Rev: Satavahana dynastic emblem in the centre, Southern Brahmi legendputaku Hiru Yana Hatakaniku.

Sopara – Ancient Roman Port



Coin Yajna Satkarani (Roman Head)

Conclusion:

It is clear that due to Roma Trade lot of Roman silver and gold coins came as import into India they were generally of the Augustus and Tiberus ruler. There where lot of imitation of these coins made in India and outside and where in circulation in the Indian Market, Generally local ruler made a chisel mark to cancel the Authority of the Roman Ruler. It can be also seen the pictorial features of the Indian kings were also influence by the roman coins. Coins of 3 different head varieties Roman Coins, Sathavana Coin, Sathavana Coins influenced by the Roman coins hence call the Sathavana Coin with Roman head.

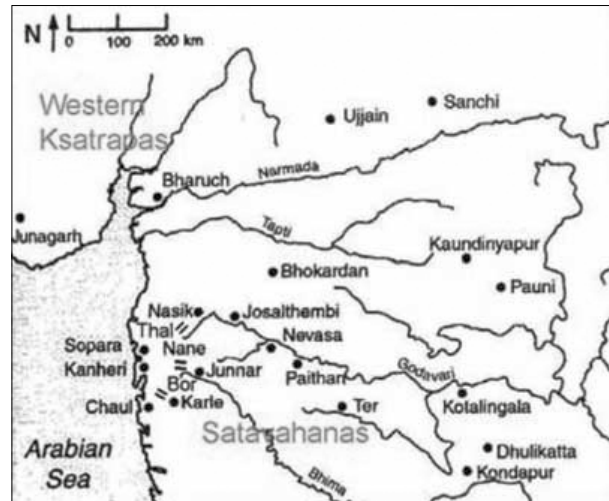


Roman Coin, Satkarni, Satkarni (Roman Head)

Thus the documentary and numismatic evidences gives us details of the Ancient port of Sopara on the west cost which was a Roman Port and influenced the coins of Nahapana & Sathavana kings in the region.



Periplus Trade Route Map



General view of Satavahana and Ksatrapa domains.

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The Role of Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint in the modernization of the Bombay Mint (c. 1790-1830)*

~ Mahesh A. Kalra

Introduction

The second half of the eighteenth century has been termed as the 'Age of Revolutions' in Europe because of the focus on improvement in all aspects of life including political and economic spheres by scientific-minded individuals. The Industrial Revolution was focused upon smaller industrial towns of South England like Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester. The rise of the British Industry over its French counterpart was also aided by English domination over their rivals in a series of intercontinental wars stretching from 1793 to 1815.

The Soho Mint

The establishment of these new industries led to the creation of a waged class of workers who were paid small wages in base metal coins of copper or bronze. Industrialization also led to the growth of new townships whose economy was systematically monetized for increasing the purchasing capacity of the labouring classes and the resulting transfer of surplus capital to the industrialist entrepreneurs. Thus, one of the most important ingredients of the Industrial Revolution was the creation of a new series of base metal currency for paying the mill workers. However, there existed at this period in England a huge scarcity of base metal coins caused by the indifference of the Royal Mint which did nothing to correct the situation leading to circulation of poorly-minted counterfeit coins resulting in chaotic losses for the workers.

The stimulus for correcting this dismal scenario came from the leader of a new breed of visionary

entrepreneurs who foresaw the need for a more efficient and cheaper form of mechanized minting. This person was Matthew Boulton (c.1728-c.1809), a metal industry pioneer from Birmingham who began to envision a steam engine press for creating cheap yet well-crafted minted coins at his workshop in Soho in Birmingham city in the late 1780s.

Boulton's original family business was centred upon manufacturing metal 'toys', a term given in those days to personal accessories like buckles, buttons, medals and snuffboxes. However, he expanded it by investing and creating a large factory at Soho called the Soho Manufactory in the 1760s to become 'the first and most complete manufacturer in England in metal'.



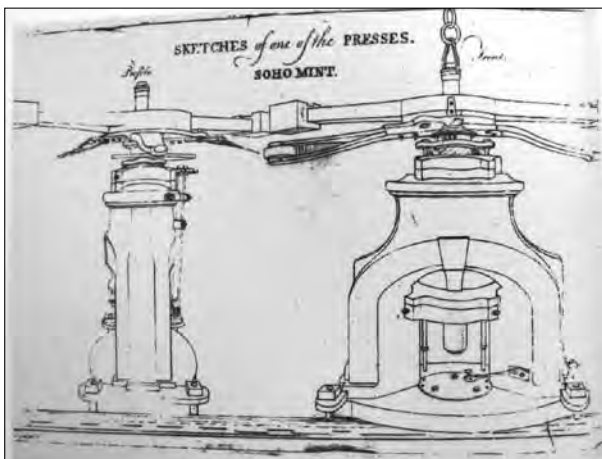
Matthew Boulton, aged 42 Oil Painting By J S C Schaak
Image Courtesy: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG), U.K.

*A detailed version of this Paper was presented by the author at the 74th Indian History Congress held at Ravenshaw University, Cuttack on 29th December 2014 and will shortly published in the Proceedings of the Indian History Congress (PIHC)

The Role of Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint in the modernization of the Bombay Mint (c. 1790-1830)

Boulton began to think about the idea of bettering the existing English coinage after his experience as a 'local collection agent' for the Royal Mint for re-coining of its worn-out gold sovereigns. Boulton saw an opportunity when the Royal Mint stopped issuing copper coins altogether in 1760s. He soon collaborated with James Watt, the Scottish pioneer of steam engines in 1775 to set up the Boulton & Watt Company which aimed at perfecting the earlier prototypes of steam engines at the Soho Manufactory. They soon innovated steam-controlled coin presses which were used at the Soho Mint to create world-class coins to be exported to various foreign destinations.

The Soho Mint thus began to manufacture coins for the colonies of the East India Company (EIC) spread across Asia and Africa, beginning in 1786 with its colony Bencoolen in South-East Asia. Boulton thus came to mint a copper series for circulation in the Bombay Presidency in 1791, again in 1794 and finally in 1804. The EIC thus began exporting the cheaply produced copper coins of the Soho Mint for its colonies regularly to beat the costs as well as save labour at its yet unreformed colonial mints including the 'old' Bombay Mint.



Sketch of the Presses of the Soho Mint
Image Courtesy: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG), U.K.

The Soho Mint under Boulton's leadership also began to export its steam-powered mints at the beginning of the nineteenth century to countries like Russia, Sweden and Mexico. Boulton also helped the Royal Mint in London refurbish its technology through his

contacts in the British Parliament. The Soho Mint thus struck over £600,000 worth of copper official English coinage till Boulton's death in 1809.

Modernization of the Bombay Mint

In India, the effects of the Industrial Revolution were not felt in the eighteenth century as the EIC was fighting numerous wars for consolidating its base in the three Presidencies; it jostled with the French for a final showdown in the Carnatic Wars, fought the rising power of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan in Mysore along with containing the Marathas in Western and Central India and managed its allies and enemies around Bengal. The second part of eighteenth century thus saw the EIC sticking to the older methods of minting coins struck mechanically by local minters.

In Bombay Presidency, the Surat Rupee issued in the name of Shah Alam II was the prevailing currency of the Presidency till the first half of the nineteenth century. At the end of the eighteenth century, when Surat came under the control of the EIC in May 1800, the Surat Mint also came under the control of the Bombay Presidency authorities which in turn came under the authority of the Governor-General-In-Council (GGIC) and the Mint Committee in Calcutta. In the preceding period, the minting of copper pice and silver rupees had almost ceased at the 'old' Bombay Mint from 1780 due to a shortage of bullion and the rising prices of copper on the Island. The EIC has thus turned to Boulton's Soho Mint to supply it with a commendable quality of copper pice in 1791 and 1794. However, the 'old' Bombay Mint soon returned to the old method of hand-struck copper pice between 1802 and 1829 despite the consumption of time and expense incurred.

Soho Mint's improved methods led to the Court of Directors again awarding Boulton & Watt with another contract in 1804 to coin 'a lakh rupees worth of copper specie in three denominations Double Pice, Pice and Half Pice.' These coins were finally sent to Bombay in 1804 and bore the arms of the Company with the inscription 'EAST INDIA COMPANY 1804' on the obverse and a pair of scales with the Persian word 'Adl' with the Hijri date '1219' corresponding to the English date.

The Role of Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint in the modernization of the Bombay Mint (c. 1790-1830)



Copper Double Pice Soho Mint 3rd Milled Series 1804
Image Courtesy: Syndics of the Fitzwilliam Museum



Copper Pice Crude Local hand-struck variety 1825
Image Courtesy: Syndics of the Fitzwilliam Museum

The EIC authorities in London began to consider utilizing the services of Boulton & Watt in installing a modern mint in around 1796 through the good offices of Boulton's two prominent supporters in the East India House, John Motteux and Robert Wissett. However, the matter came to a standstill with Boulton's death in 1809 and Watt's pre-occupation with other matters. In 1809-10 the Company authorities in London began to confer with Mathew Boulton's and James Watt's sons and respective successors, Mathew Robinson Boulton and James Watt Jr. for the possibilities of building two mints, one in Calcutta and the other in Bombay. However, the negotiations came to a halt for the next decade till the Company deputed Joseph Thompson at the end of 1820 to request for an estimate for two mints, one each in Calcutta and Bombay.

The case of Bombay was taken up after the forceful arguing of its case by Capt. William Hawkins, a visionary Bombay Corps Engineer who came to head the Bombay Mint in 1820. He thus wrote to the Court of Directors stating

'Urgent as the demands are for complete and powerful machinery in the Calcutta Mint, the Records before your Hon'ble Court will fully bear me out in declaring the demands of the Bombay Mint to be infinitely greater – In proof of this assertion I need only mention the fact of the Hammer, Chisell, & Punch, being to this day the only Coining tools in use. With such Barbarous implements, which are in every man's hand, it is impossible to produce a coin which may not be easily imitated – The Public are consequently exposed to every species of fraud, & to the vexation delay & expence, of submitting every Rupee, in the commonest money transaction, to the examination of a Shroff or money changer.'

This brought the Company authorities to ask for two estimates; one for a mint with double the output of the other with the larger one for Calcutta and the smaller one for Bombay. In his response to the two mints, Mathew Robinson Boulton offered to sell the old Soho Mint for £ 12,000 instead of supplying a new mint which would have cost the Company £ 18,515. The negotiations between the EIC and Boulton dragged for over two years till 1823. In this period, Capt. Hawkins visited the Soho Mint and was convinced of its appropriateness for the purpose of ridding the old Bombay Mint of its present ills. Hawkins also busied himself with the process of selection of trained mint personnel in the form of six English mechanists for various functions at the proposed new mint. The Soho Mint finally was packed and shipped to Bombay reaching it on board, the *Florentina* on 12 February 1825 arriving without arrangements for storage of the machinery to prevent it from rusting in Bombay's sultry atmosphere. The next four years saw Hawkins battle the elements of Nature along with the delays by the Bombay Mint Committee as well as the Commissary of the Bombay Army which was responsible for indenting various equipments. However, he received the quiet support from Boulton who smoothed his way by negotiating with the EIC London officers to accommodate Hawkins in the Bombay Mint Committee. Additionally, Boulton also dispatched a myriad set of implements from Soho to help smoothen the mint's functioning. Thus, battling various other obstacles like bad water from the moat near the Fort to recalcitrant mint personnel, Hawkins was finally able to transplant the Soho Mint in Bombay and make it work producing a trial copper pattern medallion with the image of a marching Lion with a

The Role of Matthew Boulton’s Soho Mint in the modernization of the Bombay Mint (c. 1790-1830)

Palm on the obverse and the reverse with ‘BOMBAY 1828’ inscribed on eight-pointed circular border. The British Museum has a fine sample of this type illustrated in the catalogue. This pattern is believed to have been produced at the beginning of 1829 to showcase the new mint’s achievement and also the completion of the ‘new’ Bombay Mint.



Copper Pattern token minted at the new Bombay Mint c. 1828-29
Image Courtesy: Trustees of the British Museum

The ‘new’ Bombay Mint was also moved into new premises outside the old fort into spacious chambers created especially for the purpose. The new mint building was built and housed at its current location in the centre of the South Bombay business district of modern day Mumbai. Unfortunately, none of the original workers including Capt. Hawkins survived to see the day; Hawkins reportedly died of the overwork after installing the new Mint’s skeletal working infrastructure in place while travelling to the Cape of Good Hope for recuperation on 19 February 1831 and buried on sea. The EIC had promoted him to the rank of a Major for his efforts but the increased responsibilities hastened his demise.

The first issue of the new Bombay Mint was a Copper Quarter Anna issued with the design copied from the Soho issue of 1804 with the change of dates to English 1830 and Hijri 1246 on the coin as the new mint commenced production on 22 November 1830 using the refitted Soho machinery.



Copper one-fourth Anna 1st Milled series 1830 (A.H. 1246)
First issue of the ‘New’ Bombay Mint
Image Courtesy: Syndics of the Fitzwilliam Museum

The new issues had dies engraved at the ‘new’ Bombay Mint and by 1832 Half Anna coins were also issued. The year also saw the introduction of machine struck silver rupees and gold mohurs and their denominations issued from the new Bombay Mint as seen in a proclamation in Bombay dated 17 October 1832. The gold coins issued hereafter were Gold Mohur of fifteen rupees, 2/3 Mohur of ten rupees and 1/3 Mohurs or Panchias. The ‘old’ Mint continued to operate for a while churning out hand-struck copper pice through contracting with local native minters as is evident from late issues dated 1829. The old mint’s issues initially continued to be tolerated and accepted till 1831 but they were recalled to the New Mint and exchanged at par with the new quarter pice till 31 January 1833 after which they were deemed to be considered as metal only. Pridmore names the last native mint contractor, Samuldass Hurrybhoy who was made the Head Cashier and Melter to the new mint in April 1831. The workers of the old mint were absorbed probably in similar supervisory and menial work at the new mint. However, the markets in Bombay continued to require the services of the humble Shroff or local money changer as is evident by a watercolour-on-card of a ‘Serroff’ in a collection labeled ‘Types of local people of Bombay’ by Sir Richard Temple (1829-1902) during his stint as Governor of Bombay from 1877 to 1880.



Dear Sir/Madam,

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Mahesh A. Kalra
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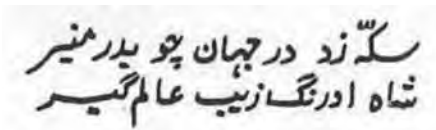


Discovery of mint name “ASSAM” on the rupee of Aurangazeb

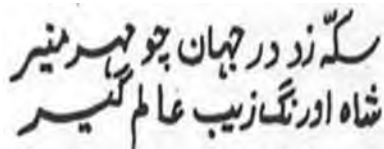
~ Ashok Purandhare

Over the past decade or so, a number of rupees in the name of Aurangzeb and of unusual style have appeared on the market with a mint name that was tentatively read as “Sham” [As far as I know, two similar coins appeared in two auctions in India - Rajgor’s Auction no. 1 in 2012 and the other one in Classical Numismatics Auction no. 15 in 2014. The coins were unusual in that usually type of coins from Assam mint (Cooch Behar) are octagonal and that the octagon shape has a deep spiritual significance in Assam and since these coins were struck as a tribute issue by the Oham Kingdom to placate to the Mughal Army and it’s generl Mir Jumla who was leading the army, octagonal shape would have been deliberately avoided. Usually following type of s

1. Kalima type in square border (e.g. rupee coins of Junagadh, Jahangirnager mints).
2. Sikka zad dar jahan chu-Badr-E-munir shah Aurangazeb Alamgir (commonly found on rupee coins of many mints).

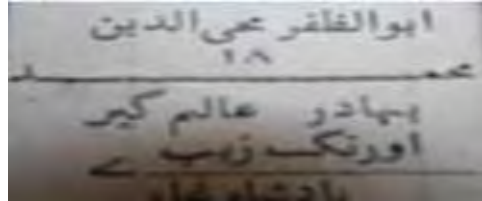


3. Sikka zad dar jahan chu-Mehr -E-Munir shah Aurangazeb Alamgir (e g rupee of Akbarnager mint)



4. Mumahhed Aurangazeb Bahadur Alamgr Badhshah Gazi (e g on the rupee coins of Golkunda mint).

5. Abu-al-zafar Myiuddin Muhammed Bahadur Shah Alamgir Aurangazeb Badshah Gazi (e g title coins issued by Ahmednager, Aurangabad, Burrhanpur, Patna, Tatta mints etc).



- 6 In addition, ½ Tanks issued by Cooch Behar mint bears following (in Bengali): Obv: Aorangajeve Vadasaha Alamgira and on Rev : Jajava Alamgirnagara Sana /x/.

- 7 The newly emerged unusual type of rupee bears the legend : ‘Aurangzeb Alamgir Badshah Ghazi’. On this coin, ruler’s name is at the bottom and mint name at the center before julus. The weight of this rupee is 11.20 gms.

Moreover, the supposed mint name “Sham” was unsatisfactory as no place was known with such a name to have been a mint [I think someone suggested it was somewhere in NW India or Afghanistan!]. Recently, however, another rupee of this type has come to light which shows a letter alif to the right of the supposed mintname bearing dates AH 1072 RY 5. This was discussed at length on the ‘Mughal Coins of India’ group on face book by various eminent scholars of Mughal numismatics. During this discussion it was suggested that mintname should in fact be read as Assam. This suggestion was supported by historical evidence such as ‘AH 1072 RY 5 covers the period 10.04.1662 to 06.08.1662 and AH 1073 RY 5 covers period 06.08.1662 to 30.03.63. In 1661 the expansionist Mughal Governer of Bengal Mir Jumla invaded and occupied ASSAM and Cooch Behar. Over the course of next year, the mughal armies faced their worst enemy - the tropical climate of Brahmaputra region. By 1663 debilitated Mughals withdrew from Assam. Mir Jumla was deposed. These exceptional rupees fit exactly within this period.

“I am very grateful to Jan Lingan and Shailen Bhandare for providing historical data with regard to this coin. I am also very grateful to all those who took part in the discussion of this subject on the face book group, in particular to Jan Lingan, Shailen Bhandare, Stan Goron, Paul stevens, Norman Nasir and others. My special thanks to Stan Goron for his valuable suggestions in modifying the write-up.”



Mule Coins of British India

~ Amit Surana

The word Mule originates from Zoology. A mule is the offspring of a male donkey (a jack) and a female horse (a mare). Horse & Donkey belong to two different species hence their pairing is not natural. Similarly in Numismatics, "Mules" are coins struck from cross pairing of two different parent (obverse & reverse) dies not meant to be paired normally. They can be a result of cross pairing of dies of two different mints, mint master's periods, types & denominations. Cross pairing of the parent dies may be intentional or unintentional depending on the circumstances. Mules are of two types, Transitional mules & Emergency mules.

Transitional Mules are those in which dies are paired intentionally under transitional process. One of the simplest examples is Quarter rupee mule of divided legend which has obverse of divided legend & reverse of Continuous Legend Indian Head with 34 berries & dot after date. Continuous legend coins were struck from 1840-1849 & divided legend coins were struck from 1849-1862. The transition from continuous legend to divided legend lead to the striking of this mule. Coins struck by pairing of dies of two different mint masters of the same period belonging to the same mint are also transitional mules. One such example is William IV Silver 1 Rupee of 1835, Calcutta Mint, F incuse on truncation, No Dot after F, Obverse A Reverse II, with Bud Leaves & 20 berries. Obverse die of Forbes (F) were paired with an old rev die of Robert Saunders (R.S.), Robert Saunders (Jan1826-Jan1836) & William Narain Forbes (Jan1836-May1855) both were mint masters of Calcutta mint.



Divided legend-1840 1/4 Rupee



Continuous legend - 1840 1/4 Rupee



Divided legend - Mule 1840 1/4 Rupee

Mule Coins of British India

Emergency Mules are those in which dies are paired unintentionally due to sudden shortage of dies leading to an emergency. One of the simplest examples is ½ Anna rupee mule of 1862 where obverse die of ½ anna is paired with reverse die of a rupee of 1862.

Sudden shortage due to breaking or severe wear & tear of obverse dies of 1862 rupee may have led to the unintentional pairing of dies of these two different denominations.



1862 - Copper ½ Anna



1862 - Silver 1 Rupee



1862 - Mule, silver 1 Rupee





Portugal honours first landlord of Bombay (Mumbai) with coin issue.

~ Ashok Shahani



Statue of GARCIA DA ORTA in Lisbon , Portugal

The Government of Portugal has honored the first landlord of Mumbai GARCIA DA ORTA by issuing a 200 escudos coin in his name. During the course of writing this article, I also became aware that the Government has already issued a Bank note of 20 escudos way back in the year 1971.

The bi-metallic Copper-Nickel coin with a centre in aluminum bronze ring having on the obverse side, a shield within a globe above the value with the legend "REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA". The reverse has armored half length bust of Garcia da Orta right holding a flower within a circle with the legend Garcia da Orta. The edge is segmented reeding.



Garcia da Orta (Garcia of the coconut groves) was a medical doctor by profession and training. He came to India in 1534 and leased the island of Bombay for 85 pounds from the Portuguese authorities as proprietor or Vazador in 1554. In and around during the viceroyalty of Dom Pedro Mascarenhas , Bombay was granted to Gracia da Orta for a yearly of 85 pounds. It remained his property till 1570. He had a spacious garden where he grew plants and shrubs.

In those times the Portuguese capital was in Vasai or Bassein. He lived there and from there travelled frequently to Goa, which was in Portuguese hands then. By the he had also acquired riches and was a famous merchant there.



Bank Note of 20 Escudos issued by the then Government of Portugal

Portugal honours first landlord of Bombay (Mumbai) with coin issue.

His life and times

Garcia da Orta was born around 1499 in Castelo de Vide in Portugal. His family origins lay in Spain from where they had fled to Portugal. He studied medicine from 1523 at Salamanca and Alcala de Heneres in Castile (Spain) and in 1530 was appointed as the Professor of Logic at Coimbra University and was also honorary physician to King Joao III of Portugal

His book on plants and drugs "Colloquies on the simples and drugs of India" was published in Goa in 1563 with colorful drawing of plants was of great help to later physicians.

Garcia da Orta stayed for seven years in Mumbai. He flourished as a merchant and the owner of the island of Bombay. Garcia da Orta later on settled in Goa.

Garcia da Orta stayed in a manor house located within the old precincts. This manor house with a spacious garden survived for a very long time but the record subsequently fades away. It was on one occasion also the residence of Sir George Oxenden, the first Governor of Bombay in the year 1668. Till its subsequent alteration, it was a typical ground and one storied house with a sloping roof and a veranda

on both the sides. It later on became encompassed with other structures which formed part of Bombay Castle. The present location of the house can be roughly placed in the INS Angre complex, which is the headquarters of the Western naval command of Indian navy. It also functioned as headquarters of the head of the East India Company and later on the Bombay provincial government.

His personal friend was Martin Affonsa D'souza , who was the governor of Portuguese India from 1542 to 1545. He was also friends with Baharam Nizam Shah of Ahemednagar and he acted as his personal Physician.

In 1554 he was granted a long lease of a part of Bombay. He had great knowledge of all the plants which came within reach from which drugs could derive. He dies on or around 1568 in Goa after practicing 37 years as a physician there.

The writer deeply acknowledges the help rendered by his Law Intern, Ms. Shalaka D. Waghmare, who went beyond her duties to do research on a theme which was alien to her.





K. K. Maheshwari - Impeccable contribution to Indian Numismatics

~ Lester Martis - Part of Masters course thesis Xaviers college



The IIRNS Campus

Born in a business class family living in Mumbai, Mr. K.K. Maheshwari became a collector of coins during his childhood, a hobby which ultimately resulted in changing the face of Indian numismatics and gave it an academic dimension.

K K Maheshwari finds himself fortunate to meet Mr. S.M Shukla a leading numismatist in India in 1957 who explained him the different methods of collecting and arranging coins on basis of eras and dynasties.

Mr. Maheshwari learnt different ways to study coins from Dr. Parmeshwari Lal Gupta doyen of Indian numismatics. Dr. Gupta encouraged him to read books related to coins thus helping him to study and understand coins independently. Mr Maheshwari continued this communication with P L Gupta even when Dr. Gupta moved to different cities. As the relation of 'teacher' and 'student' grew stronger between them, Mr. K.K. Maheshwari got transformed from a mere coin collector to a numismatist.

The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies dream child of Mr. K.K. Maheshwari was formally inaugurated in 1984 with leading International and National numismatists participating the inauguration. The Institute was India's first Institute where students could research coins practically and refer books in the Institutes library. It was a dream come true for numismatists in India who earlier had to travel abroad to study coins extensively.

Initially it started with workshops on numismatics for duration of 15 days during which students were given first-hand experience in handling coins and deciphering them. The Institute's photo archives consist of over 1.5 lakh coin card indexes. Besides this the Institute has a huge collection of 80,000 archival papers belonging to scholars of different fields. It also has one of the best libraries on Indian Numismatics. Today the Institute is diversifying its museum wing and is also entering into archaeology.

K. K. Maheshwari - Impeccable contribution to Indian Numismatics

Mr. K.K. Maheshwari has done a great job in the research of the early medieval period by bringing in first-hand observation of coin hoards in his doctorate thesis on Indo-Sasanian Coins which was accepted by the University of Mumbai earning him a PhD degree. And later this was published as a book 'Imitations in Continuity'.

Joe Cribb, the then Keeper of Coins, British Museum writes in the book review ' Maheshwari has created one of those rare reference works which will serve numismatic scholars, coin collectors, archaeologist and historians. It is a model of the numismatic classification process and its application as a tool for historical research'.

"Mr. K.K. Maheshwari is my mentor as he encourages me to write and shared some good writing and photographing tips. Key mentoring message I took from him is 'go behind the coin when you write about it'. Catalogues can be prepared by anyone but to go behind the coin you need to work hard, be smart and have the correct skills and lot of research. I have picked up exactly that message when I write now," says Pascal Lopes who is a coin collector and has competed his Masters in Numismatic & Archaeology. He is now

perusing research in Indo- Portuguese and Maratha Era and its coinage in India.

Another student from Deccan College, Suken Shah says "Maheshwari Sir is not only a great numismatist but also a great teacher. He encouraged me for my Phd and is helping me at various stages of my research. Even having busy schedule at office he takes out time to share his experiences with me, introducing me to the wonders of numismatics."

Anurima Pati of Deccan College while researching her thesis on Ganjifa cards of Orissa was unable to access enough material. Mr. K.K. Maheshwari offered her his personal collection for study. Apparently this collection provided her with more than enough material to complete her research.

"I derived my knowledge of numismatics mainly by handling coins by the thousands while visiting the sarafas" says Mr Maheshwari. He has been credited with over 25 published research papers. 'Maratha Mints and Coins' along with his PhD thesis have had a great impact on upcoming scholars.

Maheshwari sir, your contribution to the field of numismatics is impeccable





Indian Star Shining In Mauritius.

~ *Rahul G. Keshwani*

Mauritius, geographically it belongs to Africa, but the course of its history has closely connected it with Asia. Although colonized by the French and the English, the unit of currency in Mauritius is neither the French Franc nor the Pound Sterling, but it's the Rupee, after the currency system of India.

Mauritius and India both share the similar History, as both the countries French and English rules. While navigating to India, French and English crossed Mauritius which was on their way and necessarily bond Mauritius in strong trading ties with India, Secondly there was a massive inflow on Indian Rupees following Immigration to Mauritius.

In Year 1876, Sterling was introduced as the currency of Mauritius. Indian rupee was established by law as a local currency of Mauritius. Sterling Bank notes previously issued by the local Treasury were withdrawn from circulation and replaced by notes of 5, 10 and 50 Rupees. The Supremacy of trade relations prevailed in choice of the currency. In 1932 however a decision was taken to replace the Indian Rupee by the Mauritius Rupee.

On 29th March 1934, the currency commissioners were required to issue currency notes were issued under the aegis of the Treasury. From 1966 responsibility for issuing the notes was given to "Bank Of Mauritius" . The Bank Of Mauritius issue its first bank notes in 1967. The bank notes were issued in 4 denomination, ie. 5, 10, 25 and 50 Mauritius Rupees. Four Issues of this set bank notes were made. The only variations in those four issues related to the signatures of Governors and Managing Directors of The Bank Of Mauritius appointed during that period. The fifth issue was made in 1985 consisting a complete set of Rs. 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 Denominations. Later

on Rs. 2000 currency note was introduced in 1998. All the notes were printed in England by "Thomas De La Rue Limited"

A closely study of these bank notes review an interesting array of subsets which were printed by bank note printing companies. These notes were designed at different time periods as there were few identical and consistent designs features appearing on all the denomination. Varying banknote numbering systems, different types of security threads, variation in designs and size of "Mauritian Coat of Arms" different ultraviolet light latent printing, inconsistent variations in the size incrimination between the denominations and multiple different typesets are just a few of differences. Mainly English is used on all the currency notes, but apart from English two other languages are also visible they are Tamil and Hindi.

Its really a very great honor and achievement if anyone's photo is reflecting on some Currency Note, Coins or Postal Stamps. Especially when the Image of any Indian is seen on the Currency Note and First Day Cover of some other country. Every Indian will feel proud to know that the Mauritius currency note of Rupees 200 is bearing a image of "Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed" who is basically an Indian. Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed, was born on 1st August 1906 in Calcutta, India. He, his parents basically belong to Mandvi Taluka of Kutch – Gujarat. They are from rich mercantile "Kutchi Memon" community.

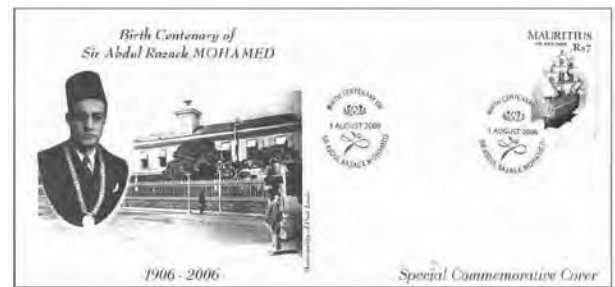
Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed went to Mauritius at the age of 22 to settle down as a businessman. Once in Mauritius it did not take him long to play a leading part in business and politics, epically during the pre-independence period of Mauritius.

Indian Star Shining In Mauritius.

Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed is called as one of the fathers of the modern state of Mauritius, and he was the leader of the political party called the CAM (Comite D'Action Musulman). He is the one who had the idea of the colours of the Mauritian flag. Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed served many different posts for Mauritius, including deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Land Development and Minister of Social Security from 1967-1976. He was also the Mayor of Port Louis (Capital of Mauritius) in 1949, 1953 and 1956.

His public activities were not only to politics but also to social services, generously and selflessly, he provided financial assistance to needy students, widows and even contributed in setting up and running of several charitable institutions. He had a very good human approach in his services to the poor and needy. Today one of the key streets of Port Louis (Capital of Mauritius) is named after him, There are Schools, Streets and Monuments in Mauritius remembering Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed.

The Mohamed family is the first family in Mauritius to have three generations in their National Assembly. Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed died in Rose Hill on 8th May 1978. The centenary of his birth was commemorated by the Mauritian Government. The special commemorative cover was issued by the Postal department of Mauritius to commemorate the birth centenary of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed. The illustration on the cover shows a portrait of Sir as a Mayor of Port Louis with a picture of the old Municipal Building in the background.





Coat of Arms of Zamindars or estate holders during British Raj.

~ Anuj Pakvasa

This article is in continuation of my previous article on the same subject, where I wrote about zamindars of Surangi, Hathwa etc. which appeared in Mumbai Coin Society's 11th Annual Journal in 2013.

Many of these zamindars were given sanad on grants by Akbar, Aurangzeb and East India Co. They were respected by people as they carried out works of public benefit like water supply, educational facilities etc. Now I would like to describe a few more.

Arrah



Situated in Bhojpur District in Bihar. It is an ancient city mentioned in mythological stories and Greek geographical works. It is also known for the Battle of Buxar in October 1764 when Mir Kasim, Nawab of Bengal defeated the army of East India Co.

Very simple monogram with initials of Zamindars in middle and on top Zamindar & Banker and in bottom ARRAH.

Bhagirathpur



Situated on the banks of the river Bhagirathi in Murshidabad District of West Bengal.

Roychoudhary were zamindars. A major water resource facility was created for drinking and agricultural purposes.

The monogram depicts the head of a cow and initials of the zamindar below it, 'debt and buckle' in a round and Bhagirathpur on top.

Burdwan



Situated in West Bengal. The erstwhile Maharajas of Burdwan belonged to the Kapoor Clan and hailed from Punjab; this estate flourished from about 1657 to 1956. The total area was about 13,000 sq km. An annual rent was paid to the government of 33 lac of rupees. The estate attained great prosperity due to excellent management by Maharaja Mehtab Chand (1832-1879); his loyalty to the British, especially during the 'HUL' Santhal Rebellion of 1855-1856 and the Indian Revolt of 1857, was rewarded with a grant of a coat of arms in 1868. He was the first Bengali to be appointed a member of the Governor General's legislative council. In 1882 Burdwan Raj College was started and entirely supported by the Raja; also many schools, water tanks, bridges were commissioned. Several terracotta temples were erected which today are heritage sites. In 1903 the title "RAJADHIRAJ" was bestowed on Vijaychand Mehtab at Delhi Durbar as a hereditary title by Lord Minto. It is mentioned to the credit of the Raj family that no communal disturbances took place during 1946-1947.

Coat of Arms of Zamindars or estate holders during British Raj.

The coat of arms depicts head of horse above shield . The shield contains moon, 2 down pointing swords and slogan in latin. All this surrounded by Maharajkumar Abhaychand Mehtab of Burdwan.

Darbhanga



Situated in Bihar on the river Bagmati, area about 8400 sq miles. Received grant from akbar in 16th century. Mahesh Thakur and his descendants consolidated their position in politics

Social and agricultural fields. They bought lands from local people, they came to be the richest landlords. Britishers did not recognize them as king but allowed to use prefix as Maharaja although British never granted them formal status as ruling princely state, they had all the trappings of a princely state. This was the largest Zamindar with highest monthly income. The family had several businesses apart from agriculture like news paper printing, sugar & paper factories as well as chain of automobile dealerships from 1950 to 1962 they also had a passenger airline named Darbhanga Aviation.

The last maharaja Kameshwarsingh Bahadur who ruled between 1929 to 1947 was member of Rajya Sabha. He was the first person to get a bust of Mahatma Gandhi

and displayed at government house now Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Dolphin riding waves in Ganges and 'Shri Krishna' in the lower ribbon.

Dolphin and Ganges river encompassed by six pointed star.

Vizianagaram

Situated in Andhra Pradesh, traces its lineage from Sisodia Rajputs of Mewar Dynasty. Akbar granted



Zamindari and gave him two edged sword called "Zulfikar". In 1845 Lord Northbrook conferred title of 'HIS HIGHNESS' and 13 gun salute on Maharaja Vijayraman Gajapathi Raju III. The Raja of Vizianagaram obtained title of 'GAJAPATI' by right of conquest after the battle of Nandpur in 16th century.

The coat of arms depicts 2 elephants holding 'Kalash', 4 flags left to right having signs of dagger, bird, tiger and fish, on top left 8 handed goddess riding tiger and on right goddess riding chariot. Near elephant slogan reads 'EVER LOYAL', bottom ribbon reads 'FORT VIJENAGARAM'.





The Habib Bank bullion tokens / coins.

~ Manoranjan Mahapatra

Introduction

Habib Bank was one of the most premier banks in the private sector in pre-independent India. Between the Bank of India and itself, they had a monopoly in bullion trading in Bombay.

Starting as a trading company in 1841 as "Khoja Mithibhai Nathoo" it was the most trusted name in gold and silver trading till 1947. Prodded by Jinnah to serve the banking needs of the Muslim community while he was campaigning for a separate country, the Habib family converted the trading company into a Bank in 1941. The bank's story is quite legendary. Its gold and silver bullion coins are so trusted that people believed that Habib bank not only had an uncompromising standard in terms of purity, but its coins were of a higher weight than the face value. Meaning, if a coin is stated as 5 tolas, it is actually slightly more than 5 tolas. As per available sources:

"The Habib Bank Limited played a pivotal role in bringing the banking habit to the middle class in general and Muslims in particular. Habib Bank Ltd. in keeping with progressive banking started to issue its own assayed gold medallions. Mohammed Ali Habib ensured these medallions were purer and 1,1000 heavier than assayed stamp showed.

There were delighted stories of customers who would weigh the medallions to find they got in weight the gold of 1001 medallions. Naturally Habib Gold commanded and was in demand beyond the shore of India as far as China. Even to this day people of mainland China to Honk Kong sometimes bring Habib Gold coins with them for exchange or sale. The bank, however, had to suspend its gold operation once it became illegal after the Second World war. Habib Bank AG Zurich has since resumed the tradition of issuance of its own gold medallions."

Habib Bank coins and ingots have been collected enthusiastically by investors and collectors alike since the time the bank started producing them. Though these tokens have appeared in auctions from time to time they have never been documented and listed at one place. This article is for the collector and will put these tokens in one place.

For the purpose of this article we will divide the coins into Pre-1947 and Post 1947 - Gold and Silver bullion coins. We will also delve into the rich history of the bank that will provide a context to the coins. The images are not necessarily to scale or of actual size and the words "Coins" and "Tokens" and "medallions" are used interchangeably.

The Listing

1. Pre – 1947 Coins/Tokens

GOLD COINS

Fine Gold one tola token with scalloped edge:



Habib Bank Ltd. 1 Tola gold token Obv: Value and purity in English. Rev. Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. 11,68 g.

Fine Gold one tola token with round edge:



Same as above except the round edge: Habib Bank Ltd. 1 Tola gold token Obv: Value and purity in English. Rev. Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. 11.7 g

The Habib Bank bullion tokens / coins.

Fine Gold one half tola token with scalloped edge:



Same as above except the change in denomination to half tola: Habib Bank Ltd. ½ Tola gold token. Obv: Value and purity in English. Rev: Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. . 5.87 g



This is a sub variety of the above variety in which the English "2" in "1/2 Tola" is flipped .

Fine Gold half tola token with round edge:



Same as above except the edge is round: : Habib Bank Ltd. ½ Tola gold token Obv: Value and purity in English . Rev: Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. . 5.85 g.

Fine Gold quarter tola token with round edge



Same as above except the change in denomination to ¼ tola: : Habib Bank Ltd. ¼ Tola gold token Obv: Value and purity in English . Rev: Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. . 2.94 g

Fine Gold quarter tola token with round edge

Image Not Available

Same as above except the edge is scalloped : Habib Bank Ltd. ¼ Tola gold token Obv: Value and purity in English . Rev: Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. . 2.9 g (source: numisbids.com).

Guinea Gold one tola token with Septagonal edge



Habib Bank Ltd. 1 Tola guinea gold token Obv: Purity in English . Rev: Lion with sword above and value and purity in Gujarati, English and Persian. 11,65 g.

SILVER COINS

Pure Silver five tolas token with round edge



Habib Bank Ltd. 5 Tolas pure silver token Obv: Purity and denomination in English . Rev: Lion with sword in rays to left and value and purity in Gujarati. 58.8 g.

Surprisingly the silver issue is restricted to only one denomination of 5 tolas

2. Post – 1947 Coins/Tokens

After the partition, Habib Bank went to Pakistan. Md Ali Jinnah requested the founding family to help him in nation building and they obliged. Though the Reserve Bank of India had the mandate to managed the finances of Pakistan till 1948, the arrangement proved unsatisfactory and the arrangement was

The Habib Bank bullion tokens / coins.

scrapped in three months in 1947. Following this Habib Bank helped establish the Pakistani Central Bank. By lending its experienced staff.

In the 1960s Habib bank expanded its operations to European and Gulf countries. All along it continued to issue tokens/ coins.

Gold tokens to commemorate the silver jubilee



Habib Bank Ltd. 10 gm gold token to commemorate its silver jubilee since the establishment of its operations in Switzerland in 1967
Obv: Mascot and dates in English . Rev. Value and purity in English. 11,68 g.

Silver token



Habib Bank Ltd. 40 gm silver token to commemorate its silver jubilee since the establishment of its operations in India in 1941
Obv: Mascot and dates in English . Rev. Legends. 40 g.

One Kilo silver ingot



Habib Bank Ltd. 1 kilo gm silver investment ingot Obv: Map and date in English . Rev. Mascot and Address of the Bank in Persian. 1 kilo.

History of Habib Bank

Bombay was the main trading centre of India since the early 18th century. Majority of the tradable goods such as Cotton, Spices and Silk etc. routed through its harbours since the time the English established a firm foothold here.

The Habib family, Gujarati Muslims from Jamnagar, established a company "Khoja Mithabhai Nathoo" in 1841, mostly trading in copper and brass utensils. In 1891, upon death of his father Esmail Ali, Habib Esmail (born in 1878) joined the firm and his maternal uncle Cassum Mohammed. In due course, transformed the company into a major trading house of Bombay. The business prospered and the family and the firm rapidly acquired a reputation for its fair dealing, honesty and trustworthiness.

The firm started providing banking services to upcountry traders returning home. They started depositing their surplus cash with the company for safe keeping. From here to merchant banking was a natural progression as the company began to provide trading finance to its customers. The young Habib was popular amongst the traders and by the age of 18, he became the President of 'Tamba Kanta Market' (metal market) of Bombay.

As per sources

"The conscientious Habib worked day and night arriving before the opening of the shop and going home walking late at night to save bus and tram fare, unmindful of what he was paid, always doing something for nothing and following his uncle's advice of faithfulness, honesty, integrity and hard work. By the time he was 18, he became a partner in the firm of Khoja Mithabhai Nathoo and the president of the Copper and Brass Merchant Association.

Early success by God's grace gave him tremendous encouragement. He soon established his relationship with big and lucrative customers in Bombay, Karachi, Madras, Calcutta and Rangoon, and established two more shops in the bazaar and built several factories for manufacturing utensils.

Having captured over 60 per cent of the local utensil

The Habib Bank bullion tokens / coins.

business, he concentrated on export and in addition to copper and brass utensils he got into iron scrap, manganese ore and cotton which he exported to East Africa, Italy, France, Great Britain and other European countries. He was so successful in iron scrap that he entered the ship breaking business and dismantled many ships, including S.S. Lindula, S.S. Paris and H.H. Highflier, a battle-ship."

He sent his representative to Europe in search of business opportunities in 1912. Soon after he established branch offices in Vienna and Geona.

When his four sons joined him in business, Habib Esmail established 'Habib & Sons' in 1921 and changed the name of the family to 'Habib'. Habib & Sons went on to become the flagship of the family and the parent of Habib Bank Limited. Among his sons, Mohammedali Habib was the most promising. He was to play a very important role in the Bank's affairs and its growth and expansion.

Habib Esmail dies at an age of 53 in 1931 and was succeeded by his third son Mohammedali Habib. After the declaration of Lahore in 1941 in which Jinnah demanded a separate country for the Muslims, Mohammedali Habib with the prodding of Jinnah established the Habib Bank Limited with a capital of Rs 25 lacs to serve the cause of the Muslim community. It made rapid expansions and opened 34 branches in 5 years.

Just before independence, the Habibs had transferred the bank's head office from Bombay to Karachi (Pakistan's first Capital) in 1947. Upon creation of Pakistan it became the Bank to the Government. The bank began setting up almost immediately a network of branches both in east and west Pakistan. It took up the first ever issue of government securities made by the Government of Pakistan. Habib Bank played a

pivotal role in the formation of State Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of Pakistan by transferring experienced staff to run these newly established banks.

In 1951, Mohammedali Habib established Habib Bank (overseas) Ltd with its branch at Colombo and soon there were over 40 branches and offices spread from Honk Kong to New York and from Mombassa to Manchester. Mohammedali Habib passed away on March 30, 1959 at the age of 55. He was deeply religious and a devout Muslim. He compiled a translation of the Holy Quran with footnotes and other religious literatures which he published under his pen-name M.H. Shakir.

Habib Bank was the most trusted name for Muslims of India during the pre-partition days. The legend goes that following the partition of India in 1947 when the Muslims flee their ancestral homes, many flung bags of money into the Habib Bank with only a handwritten family name on the outside of a bag, blindly trusting in the Habib name. Those who made it safely to Karachi in Pakistan found that instead of being ruined and having to start all over again, the Habib family had safeguarded their money, thereby lessening the suffering and tragedy of displacement.

In 1972 Prime Minister Bhutto nationalized Habib Bank. The Habibs complained that they got only the half the fair value for the Bank. With this, the Habib family's connection with the bank ended.

In 2003 the Government of Pakistan privatized the Bank and sold 51% stake to the Aga Khan Fund For Economic Development for a sum of US\$ 390 million.

References:

1. *Website of the Habib Bank.*
2. *History of Banking in India.*







‘Mudra Ratna Puraskar’ by Mumbai Coin Society, 2013-14

Dr S K Bhat, Mr Praful Patel, Mr Jagdish Agarwal, Dr Chandrashekhar Gupta and Dr. John Deyell were felicitated with ‘Mudra Ratna Puraskar’ for their outstanding contributions over a lifetime to the field of Indian numismatics.



Mr Vijay Kalantri felicitating Dr S K Bhat



Mr Vijay Kalantri felicitating Mr Praful Patel



Mr Vijay Kalantri felicitating Mr Jagdish Agarwal



Mr Vijay Kalantri felicitating Dr Chandrashekhar Gupta



From Left to right Mr Suhas Kadam, Mr Farokh Todywalla, Mr Vijay Kalantri and Mr Dinesh Hegde



From Left to right Mr Rajesh Somkumar, Dr. John Deyell and Mr Amit Surana

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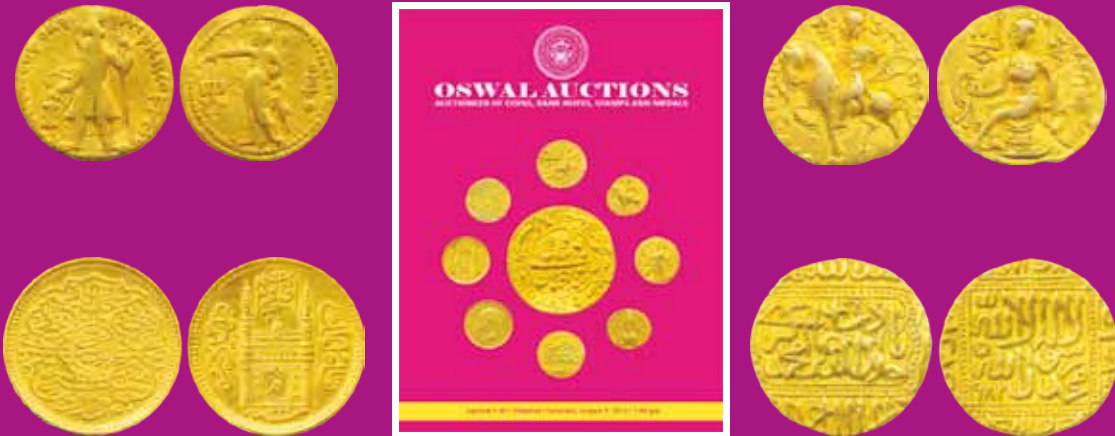


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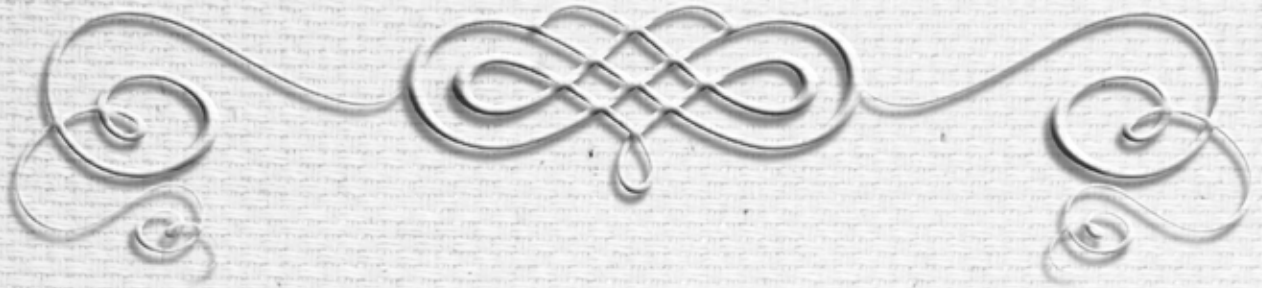


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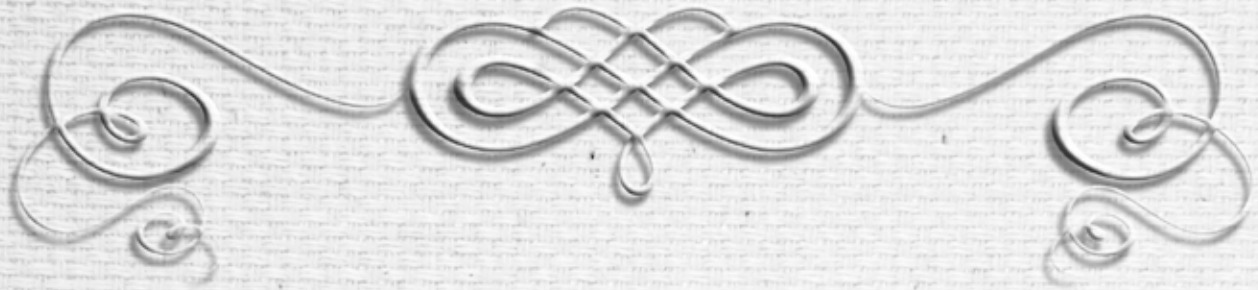
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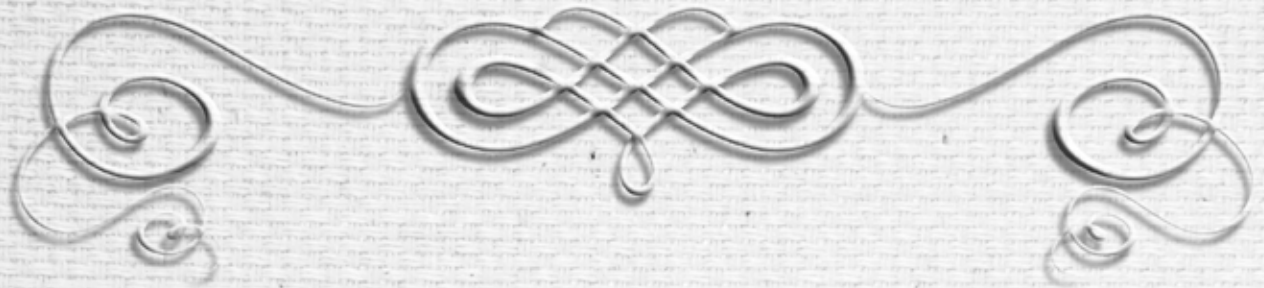
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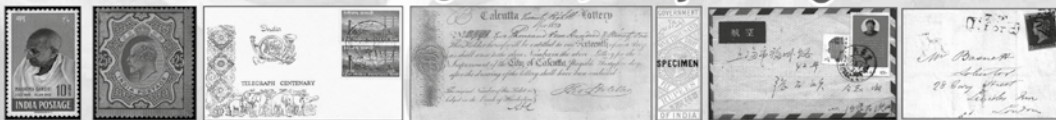
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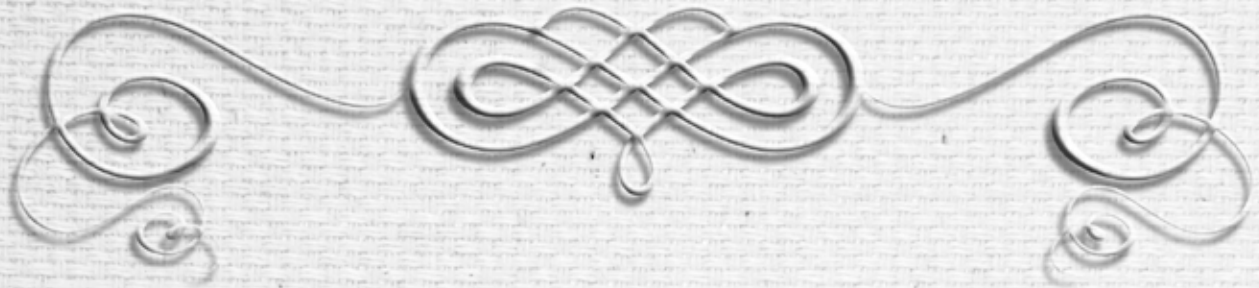
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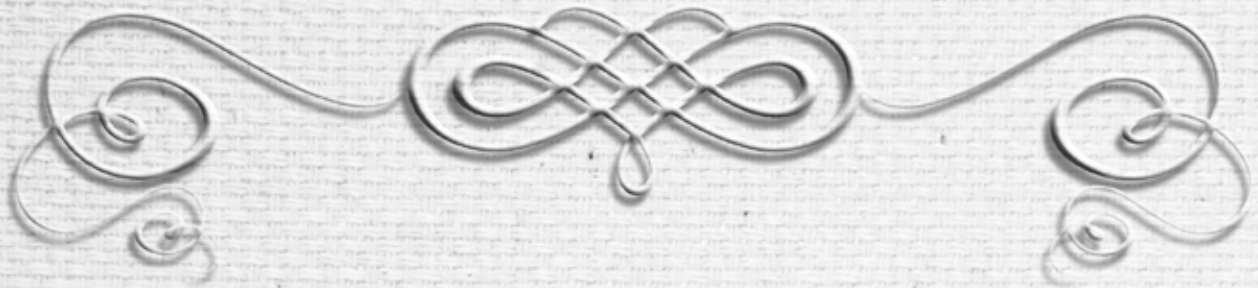
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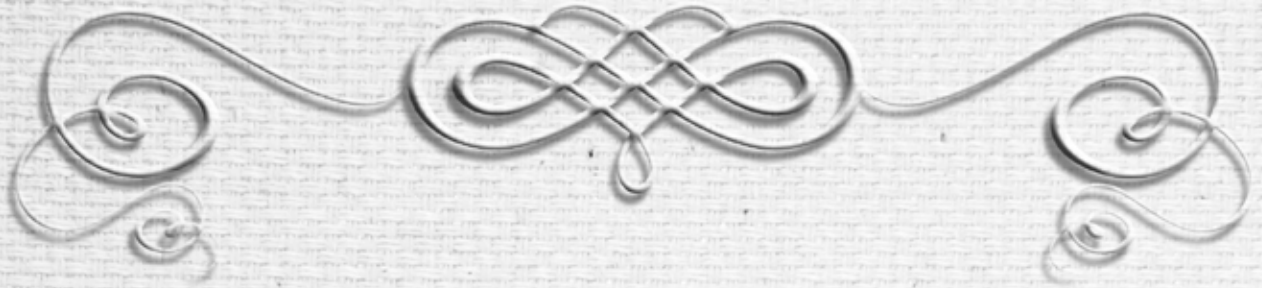
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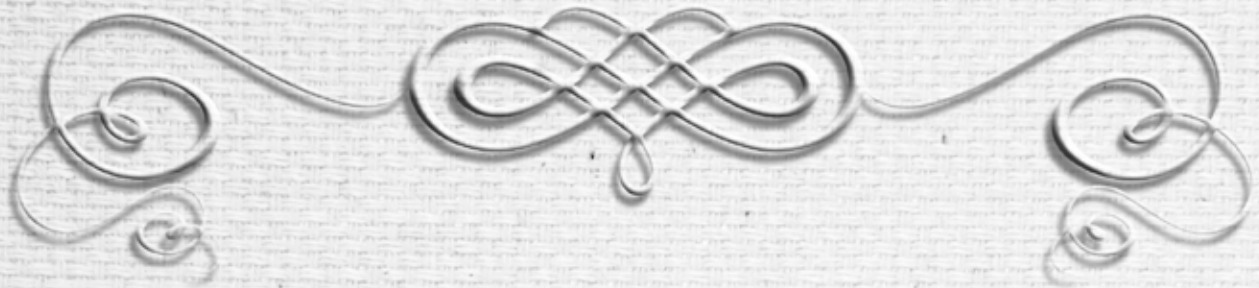
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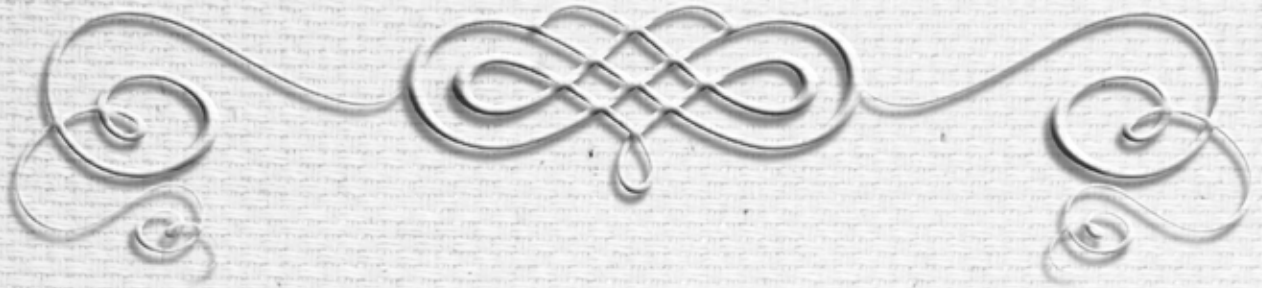
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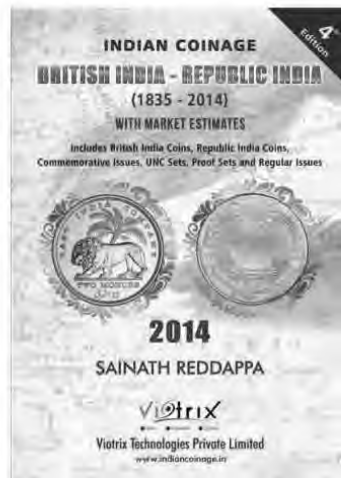
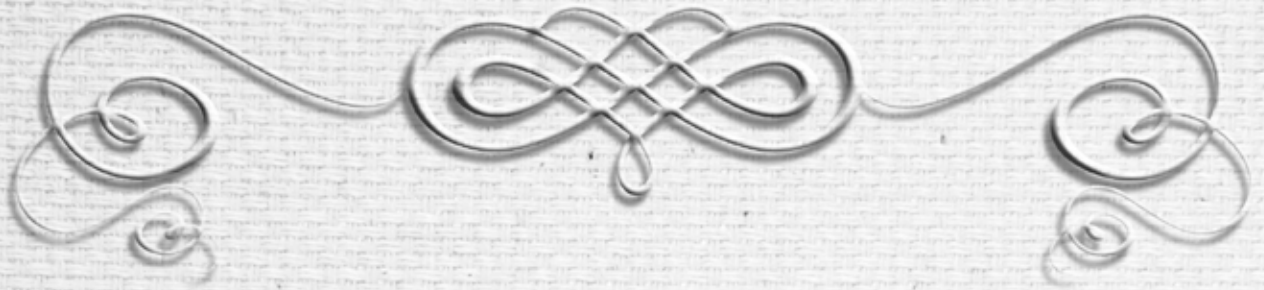
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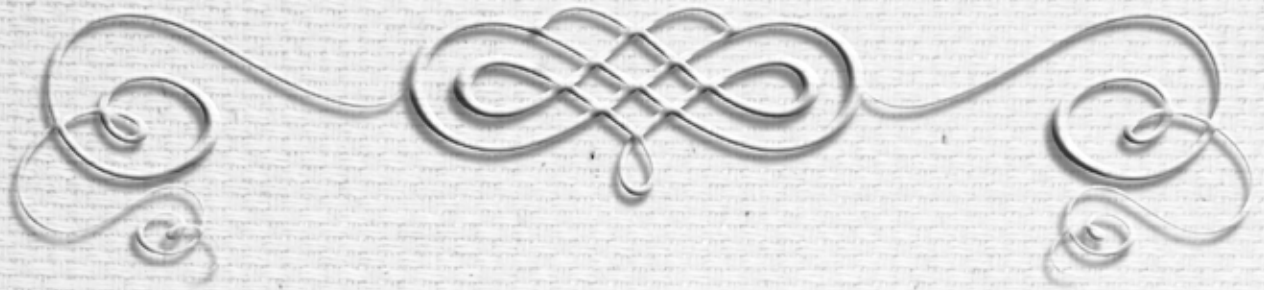


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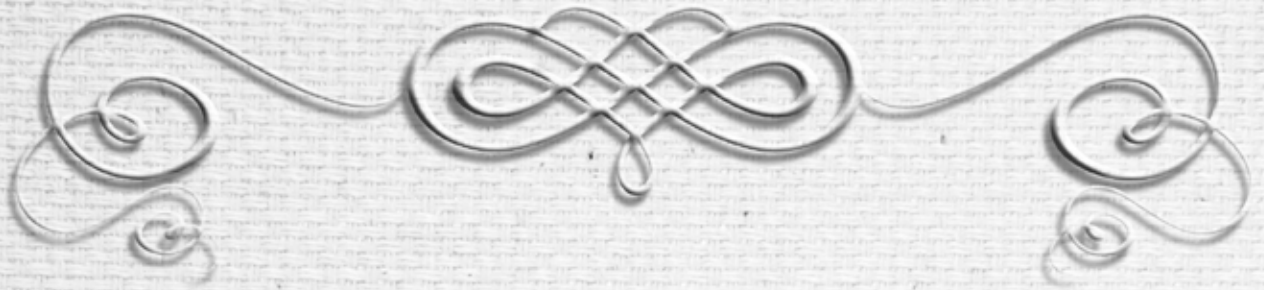
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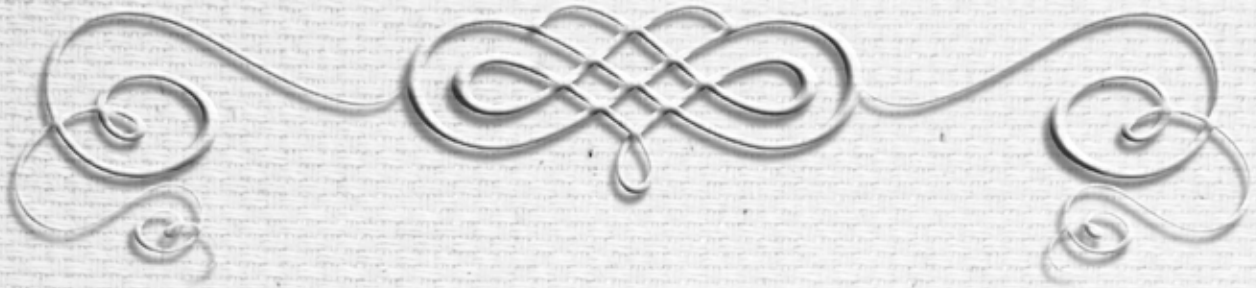


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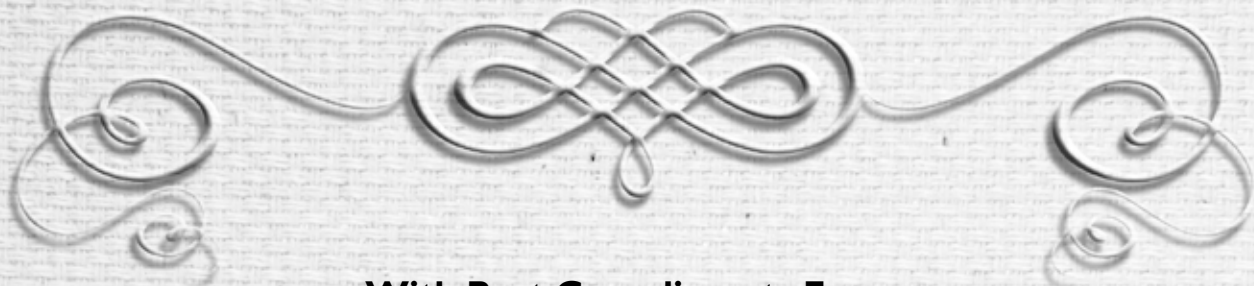
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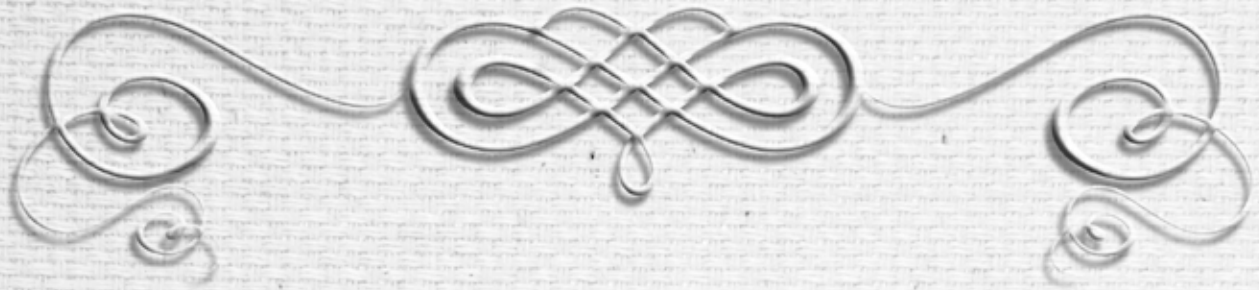
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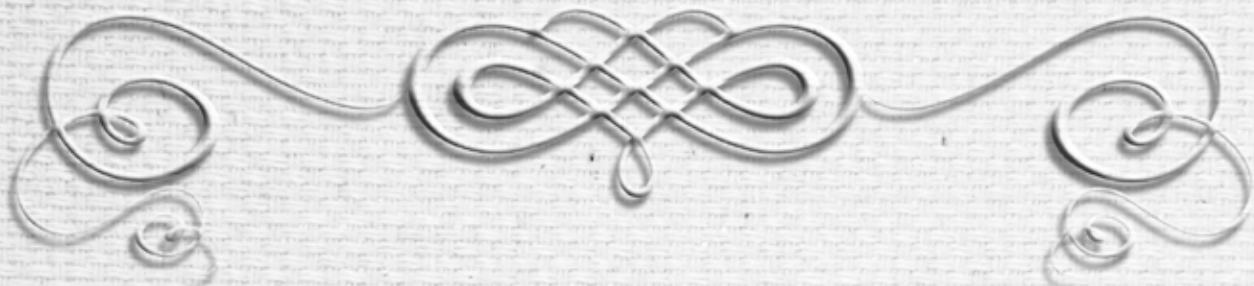


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