

Mahakshatrapa Ishvaradatta: An Oddity amongst Western Kshatrapas

By Abhay Vedpathak



Western Kshartrapas were the rulers in Gujarat, Saurashtra and Malwa regions. Their coinage has a special place in Indian numismatic history. Western Kshatrapas were the first (Rudrasimha onwards) who introduced the dating on their coins. The years (in Saka era) are mentioned in Brahmi numerals on the obverse behind the head. Moreover, on the reverse side Western Kshatrapa rulers provide the legend giving genealogical details by mentioning king's name along with his father's name and also their respective title as Kshatrapa or Mahakshatrapa.

However, one of the kings associated with Western Kshatrapa coinage, Mahakshatrapa Ishvaradatta, stands out from the rest of the rulers. It must be said that his coins were found with that of the other Western Kshatrapa kings at various hoards such as Uparkot, Sarvania, Sonepur, Ranjangaon, etc. and portrayal of the bust on the obverse and symbols on reverse, as also metallic content of his coins, are all very much like the rest of the Western Kshatrapa coinage.

However, his coins differ from other Western Kshatrapa coinage in significant manner in certain respects. Firstly, his coins do not mention date on the obverse. Secondly, the Brahmi legend on reverse mentions Regnal year (either *prathame* or *dvitiye*, first or second, respectively) and omits reference to his father, which was contrary to the standard practice with the Western Kshatrapas. Also, his name is somewhat dissimilar to the established name

pattern of the Western Kshatrapa rulers. Bhagwanlal Indraji identify him as an Abhira king mentioned in Nasik inscription though there is no historical proof, either literary or numismatic, to verify this association. Mitchiner also identifies Ishvaradatta as an Abhira king. However, he goes ahead one step and states that by the time he came to rule, the Kardamaka family had become subservient to this Abhira family, citing Nagarjunkonda inscription. However, this fact appears to be untenable (except for a few years when Ishvaradatta issued his own coinage), as it is highly unlikely that the overlords would allow feudatories to mint coinage rather than themselves.

In the absence of a Saka year, and on the basis of similarity of portrayal of the king's bust and especially stylization of eye features, as noted by Rapson, the reign of Ishvaradatta is placed around the time of Viradaman, Yashodaman or Vijayasena. However, recently Gokhale has published a dated coin of Isvardatta. Though reading of date on this coin was subject to controversial interpretation, Jha & Rajgor has now put the date as 164 on the basis of paleographic evidence. This also confirms that Ishvaradatta was a contemporary of Vijayasena.

In all probability, Ishvaradatta either usurped sovereign power from Vijayasena demoting him to subordinate Kshatrapa stature or alternatively, captured a part of Western Kshatrapa territory and proclaimed himself as Mahakshatrapa.

In light of the above, it can be concluded that though Ishvaradatta minted the coins similar to the Western Kshatrapa coinage, the same cannot be considered as part of Western Kshatrapa coinage.

References

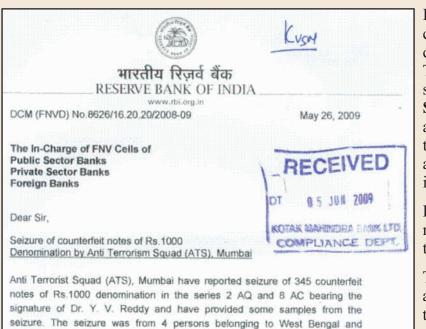
Amiteshwar Jha & Dilip Rajgor (1994). *Studies in the Coinage of the Western Kshatrapas.*

Michael Mitchiner (1978). *The Ancient & Classical World 600 BC-* AD 650.



Are All Notes of 1000 Rupees in the Series 2AQ & 8AC Fake?

By Dilip Rajgor



This is the first time that counterfeiting of the higher denomination notes pertaining to the 2005-2006 series (notes with new / strengthened security features like Optically Variable Ink, Colour Shift Security Thread, etc.) has been brought to our notice. The counterfeiting has been by printing of the notes and first visual impact is very much akin to the genuine note. The notes were got checked on CVPS / Note Sorting Machines and were treated as suspect / reject by both the machines.

We request that you may alert the staff handling cash of all your branches and ensure the use of Note Sorting Machines compulsorily.

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Yours faithfully,
Ambya.
(Ajay Michyari)

Jharkhand.

It has been observed by most of us that whenever we make a cash payment in notes of **1000 Rupees**, people invariably check their Serial numbers and than accept those notes. Throughout the country, whether in banks, petrol pumps or stores, people have kept a printout of these notes and written **Serial Numbers, 2AQ and 8AC**, stating that all these notes are counterfeit. Interestingly, no one knows the source of these two serial numbers. Moreover, many people have added many more Serial Numbers to this list of two. But what is the truth?

People cite the reference of the **Reserve Bank of India** and mention that the RBI has instructed accordingly not to accept these notes. But what the RBI has said in this connection?

The RBI in its letter dated May 26, 2009 to all Public, Private and Foreign Banks (a copy attached), clearly indicates that the ATS had seized (only) **345** counterfeit notes of these two series of the **2005-2006**, signed by **Dr. Y. V. Reddy**.

In this connection the RBI has only requested the banks "that you may alert the staff handling cash of all your branches and ensure the use of Note Sorting Machines compulsorily".

Does this mean that all notes in these two series are fake?

Importance of this RBI letter will be understood by those who have genuine notes of the series and no one accepts them!

So pass on this and keep a copy of this *Gullak* issue with you...

(Photo courtesy of the RBI letter - Shri Pawan Kumar)



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Commemorative Coins of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

By Ravi Shankar Sharma



Rare Coin Fetches Astronomical Price

A 1913 US Liberty Head nickel, once owned by King Farouk

of Egypt changed hands for a price of \$3.7 million at a Public

Auction in Orlando, Florida, USA, conducted by the famous US Auction House, **Heritage Auctions**, based in Dallas, Texas.

The buyer who bid for the coin wished to remain anonymous.

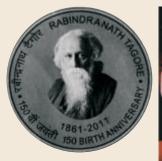
This rare coin was minted in the Philadelphia Mint with the

Miss Liberty design. It is one of the only five known coins of

The above sum includes a 15% Buyer's Premium.

that specific date and design and hence a very rare coin.

By Adv. Ashok P. Shahani





New Commemorative coin of **150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore** was released on 9th May 2010 at New Delhi. It is minted by India Government Mint, Kolkata.

Details of coins:

Rupees 150: Quaternary alloy, 35 g, 44 mm, Circular, Milled; **Rupees 5:** Nickel-Brass, 6 g, 23 mm, Circular, Milled

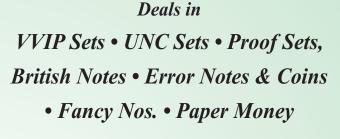
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Exhibition of Coins and Stamps at Calicut







The **Calicut Numismatic Society** organized its first **Calicut Coin Fest**, the Exhibition of Coins and Stamps from 19-21 Feb 2010 at Calicut.

In the inaugural function, **Sooraj K**. welcomed the guests and collectors, followed by the Presidential address of **Shri Surendra Rao**. **Shri T.C. Jose**, the Asst Commissioner of Central Excise and Customs, released a souvenir called *NUMISMA 2010* and presented to the Society Patron, **Shri B**. **Girirajan**. **Prof. Johny G Vadakeyil** was felicitated on the occasion. And in the end, vote of thanks was offered by **Shri U**. **B**. **Nayak**.

Following collectors exhibited their collections at the exhibition: Rajagopala Hebbar, Surendra Rao, E. K. Nawab, Ismail Basheer, Rajan, Prakash, M, T. Vinayakumar, Abdul Rasheed, Jamludeen, Abdul Latheef, Gilbert Samuel and Balu Vasudev. There was a special section for students of various schools wherein prizes were given to them. Another attraction of the exhibition was a Numismatic **Quiz Competition** for the students.

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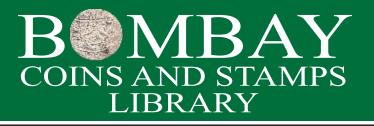
Gullak

By Sooraj K.

Commemorative Coins of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad

By Ravi Shankar Sharma





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G-224, Sundardham, Rambaug Lane, Off. S V Road, Borivali (West), **Mumbai** 400092 sudipkheria@yahoo.com **Mobile:** 0 93238 90979 On 28th Feb 2010, Hon. Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari on Sunday released at Patna commemorative coins of Rs. 5 and Rs. 100 denomination as a mark of respect to India's First President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He released the coins at a function organized by the State Government to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary (3rd Dec.) and 47th death anniversary (28th Feb) of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Dr. Prasad was born in 1884 at Zeradei in Bihar's Siwan district. After serving for 12 years as India's first president, from 1950 to 1962 he retired and was subsequently awarded the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour. He spent the last days of his life at the Sadaqat Ashram in Patna and died in 1963.

Details: Minted by the India Government Mint, Kolkata **Rupees 100:** 35 g, 44 mm, Circular, Milled; **Rupees 5:** 6 g, 23 mm, Circular, Milled

Abdul Razak Shaikh



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Down the Memory Lane ...

Melting of Silver Coins

In 1966-67, silver prices were higher in Middle-East countries while gold was cheaper. So silver was smuggled to Dubai and gold was coming in exchange. Soon the coins began to disappear from the coin market. I remember one incident: I went to bullion market in Kolkata, saw 35-40 kg coins of Tripura; purchased some coins; went to my office; and sold them to my collectors. Next day I went again market to buy Tripura coins, and was shocked to know that it was melted last night. Another similar incident happened in 1975, when during Emergency and the faulty clauses of the Antiquity Act, many collectors had to melt their coin collections.

One more incident happened in 1980-81. During that time the silver prices were Rs. 2000 per kilo. Suddenly, within 10 days it rose to Rs. 6000/kilo. Rumor was that it will cross 10,000 due to sudden speculation in London market. However, many people thought the price will fall soon and melted down coins to make a quick profit. I know at least 3 dealers who had melted all their common coins and sold the silver at a higher price: One dealer in Kolkata had melted down as many as 20 kg of coins, while another dealer had melted down 80-90 kg of coins, while the third dealer from Indore had melted approximately 120 kg of Indian coins. Surprisingly, even 10 Rupee coins of Mahatma Gandhi were not spared. Fortunately, within next 10 days, the silver prices came to 2500/kilo and many dozens of Indian coins were saved from smelter's furnace.

Museums selling coins

Only two museums in India were selling coins to collectors. The first was Madras Museum and the second was Lucknow Museum. Many a times there prices of coins were so cheap that they were sold below metal prices. Fortunately, after 1973, they stopped selling their extra coins to collectors.

Mumbai Mint

In 1969-70, I received a circular from the Mumbai Mint. They had many dies of British India coins in their custody. It stated that if any collector wanted any coins from these dies, they will restrike them at a charge. For copper and nickel coins the charge was Rs. 45 per coin, and in case of silver and gold coins, the buyer will have to supply the metal and pay a charge of Rs. 45 per coin.

Memoirs of Jagdish Agarwal - Part 3

There were no dies 1939 Rupee coins beside it was not possible for me to send silver or gold to Mumbai, so I gave an order for 1920 Nickel ¹/₂ Rupee coins, and some uncommon dates of Victoria ¹/₂ Anna coins to be restruck. I sold these and charged Rs. 10 per coin as profit. Two dealers, one from Kolkata and another from Mumbai had different idea. They ordered William and Victoria gold coins in silver and copper, and some Victoria silver coins were struck in copper. They sold these coins as OMS/Pattern and Proof. Soon dealers from London came to know about this. They protested to mint. Finally this restriking was stopped in 1973-74.

Buy Books before coins

In 1970-71, Mr. Gouri Shankar Joshi was a new comer in coin market. He had made a good fortune in steel business and wanted to invest his money in coins. He did not know the ABC of coin market and trusted a couple of dealers. On their advice, he started buying coins in large quantity. He also purchased the whole stock of many dealers on blind faith without seeing the coins. Soon he realized that people had cheated him and his millions in coins were not better than a lakh. Naturally, he was shocked. In 1974-75, he shifted to Rajkot from Kolkata and died after a few months. His only son was so much fed up with the coins that he sold all his coins in metal market after his death.

In 1976 another gentleman, Mr. Kalyanmal from Mumbai came into coin market. He also made good money in iron and steel market like Mr. Joshi, and was a copy of Mr. Joshi in every way. He also lost his money due to the lack of right advisor and the cunningness of coin dealers.

18-20 years ago, I was sitting in the office of Mr. Rajendra Maheshwari (a senior coin collector in Mumbai). There I met Kalyanmalji. He showed me some coins and requested me to purchase at least something, as he needed money badly.

My collectors have blind faith on me, but always I tell them to study coins and their market before buying. After seeing the fate of Mr. Joshi and Kalyanmal, I wrote a slogan:

"Buy Books Before Coins"

- Jagdish Agarwal (jagarwalin@yahoo.co.in)

To be continued ...



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Collectors' Paradise

The next time you come across a note of Rs. 100 or Rs. 50, don't just spend it. Take a close look first. If you spot any defect, you could make a quick buck, provided the note is genuine.

When errors creep into paper currency at the mint house, which is not very frequent, its value increases, says Rajesh Gaur, 36, a journalist by profession and avid collector of notes and coins.

Rajesh has many notes that have misprints or lack serial numbers. Then there are others that are double printed with a ghostly image of Gandhi.

The collection of Rajesh Gaur, a resident of Mumbai, boasts of notes from all over the world. *My main focus is on the British India notes, the India Portuguese notes (brought out when Goa was being ruled by the Portuguese), and the Hyderabad notes,* he says.

Besides banknotes, he likes to collect coins, Hindi film booklets (synopsis), and Hindi film posters.

Notes Worthy: Rajesh Gaur

By Suneel V. Gaur

Rajesh' collection includes an Indonesian notes featuring Lord Ganesh. This is an oddity as Indonesia is an Islamic country. *I also have the smallest gold coin in the world, which is a Fanam from Karnataka*, he says. *My collection has the second biggest note in the world---- a 100 rouble note from Russia brought out in 1898*, smilingly adds Rajesh.

Rajesh started collecting notes and coins 10 years ago. *I was paying the bill at a local restaurant when I came across a Rs. 20 note with the serial number 111222*, he says. Fascinated by the sequence, he hung on to it. He then started

collecting notes with fancy numbers like **111111**, **222222**, etc. The number **786** is considered auspicious by Muslims and Rajesh has quite a few notes which feature the number **786786**.

This is a hobby for all ages. He says. It is not only interesting but rewarding too. The value of the rare notes is always appreciating, he concludes.







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Errors in the Commemorative Coin sets of Bhagat Singh - The Story Continues

By Sanjay Kansal

भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष के समये प्रमुख व्यक्तियों में भगत सिंह एक थे। वे अपने समय के आप्यों करविवस्ती ये जिल्हीने भारत में क्रांतिकारी आत्दीलन को नई दिसा प्रदान को, पंजान में इंडन्ति के संदेश को पैलाने के लिए नजजीतन भारत सभा का एडन किया एवं प्राटन में अपना शासन स्थापित करने हेतु पन्दर्तप्रार आजाद के साथ मिलाकर 'हिन्दुस्तान समाजवादी प्रजातिन भारत सभा का एडन किया ध

भगत सिंह का जन्म पंजान के लापलपुर (अब पाकिस्तान में) जिले के खागा गांव भवाई लिख) परिवार में हुआ था। वे सरदर फिल्म सिंह एवं विद्यापती के तीसरे पुत्र थे। भगत सिंह का परिवार सक्रिय रूप से स्वतंत्रता संद्याम से जुड़ा था। उनके पिता फिल्म सिंह व वाचा जवीह सिंह भारत से खिटल तासन करे समाधा करने के वद्वेन्थ से पॉठिव अमेरिका में गांठिव गदर पार्टी के सदस्य थे। युवा भगत सिंह के दिस्ला घर चारीवारिक माहील का बहुत बड़ा असर था एवं बचयन से ही उनके लिएओं में देशप्रेम प्रजातित तोती थी।

सन् 1916 में लागीर के स्थानीय डी.ए. वी. विद्यालय में अध्ययन के दौरान पुजा भगत सिंह, लागत लावधत राय एवं रास जिछी बीस जैसे मुप्रमिद्ध रावलेताओं के सम्पर्क में आए। उन दिनों पंजाब में रावलेतिक रूप से बहुत सरपमों थी। सन् 1919 में जब व्यलिपीवाल बाग ससंसार हुआ, उस समय भगत सिंह 12 वर्ष के थे। यह नरसंसार उन्हें जुरी लाहा आहात कर दिया। नसंसार के दूसरे दिन, भगत सिंह वालिपीवाल बाग गए एवं उस स्मान से उन्होंने मिट्टी संसाह किया और उसे स्मृति के रूप में पूरी जिन्दगी रखा। इस नरसंसार ने ब्रिटिस को भारत से लिबालों में उनके संकल्प को मजबूती प्रदान किया।

त नजीत, 1929 के विधानसभ्य के सब के दौरान केन्द्रीय विधानसभा सभागार में भगत सिंह एवं कट्रकेन्घर दल ने बम जैजा। उस बम से कोई ध्ययल नंही हुआ। बम फेंकने के बाद, भगत सिंह और बटुकेन्चर दल दौनों ने जान बुझकर उस वगह से भागे बिन, जगनी पिएकरो कावाची। मुकदमा चानने के दौरान, भगत सिंह ने अपना बचावपथ प्रस्तुत करने के लिए किसों वकील की सेवा लेने से इन्कार का दिया। बेल में, राजनैतिक सह-कैदियों के साथ जेल अधिकारियों द्वारा किए जा रहे अमानवीय बतांत के विरोध में उन्होंने भूख-हड़तान की।

अञ्चयर 7, 1930 को विशेष न्यायालय द्वारा भगत सिंह, सुखदेव एवं राजगुरू को सृत्यु को सवा सुनायों गई। वनक के दबाव एवं भाग राजनेताओं के असंख्य अगोन्हों के बावजूद, 23 थाचे, 1931 के प्रात: काल में भगत सिंह एवं उनके साथिद्<mark>र 015</mark> होती <mark>9/4</mark> nd <mark>2/01 (</mark> In the last issue of **Gullak**, Ravi Shankar Sharma had pointed out major mistakes on the coins and boxes of Bhagat Singh coins. This matter was raised by the Times of India and other media. Subsequently, the Kolkata mint stopped the dispatch of these coins and arranged second set of presentation packs after rectifying the mistake. However, the Kolkata Mint has continued their chain of mistakes on the second sets of Proof and UNC Coin Sets of Bhagat Singh. The second sets of presentation pack also has five mistakes. The major mistake among the five is the spelling of word **Sikh**, which is written as **Shikh** in Devnagari This could hurt the religious sentiments of Sikhs and could snowball into a controversy.

I understand that Kolkata Mint is now arranging third set of presentation packs. I hope it will be totally free of mistakes.

Restriking/Rebooking of Coin Sets by Kolkata Mint

Sr.	Sr. Price Per Set				
No.	Name & Denomination	Proof Set	UNC Set		
1	SBI Bi-Centennial Year (Restrike) Rs. 100 & 5	Rs. 2,740	Rs. 2,310		
2	Shaheed Bhagat Singh (Rebooking) Rs. 100 & 5	Rs. 2,740	Rs. 2,310		
3	Louis Braille (Rebooking) Rs. 100 & 2	Rs. 2,520	Rs. 2,110		
4	150 Years of Indian Telecommunication (Restrike) Rs. 100 & 2	Rs. 2,520	Rs. 2,110		
5	150 Years of Indian Railway (Restrike) Rs. 100 & 2	Rs. 2,520	Rs. 2,110		
6	150 Years of Indian Post (Restrike) Rs. 100 & Re. 1	Rs. 2,300	Rs. 2,000		



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Calendar of Events 2010					
Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue	
May	1	Mumbai	Museum Coin Show	Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum, University Kalina Campus, Santacruz (E), Mumbai 400098	
May	1-3	Coimbatore	Coimbatore Coin Exhibition 2010	Shri Coimbatore Gujarati Samaj, 500 Mettupalayam Road, Coimbatore 641002	
May	8-10	Pune	Annual Coin Exhibition	Numismatic Society of Maharashtra, Sanskrutic Bhavan, Chaturshrungi Temple, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 16	
May	14-15	London	Joint Seminar of ONS & NSI	Oriental Numismatic Society & Numismatic Society of India, British Museum, London	
June	5	Mumbai	Museum Coin Show	Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum	
July	3	Mumbai	Museum Coin Show	Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum	
July	9-11	Nagercoil	Kumaripex 2010	Kanyakumari District Philatelic & Numismatic Association, Valanar Thirumana Mandapam, Assisi Campus, Nagercoil (cell: 9843154344)	
August	20-22	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad Coins & Currency Fair	Twins Stamps & Coins at Hotel Comfort Inn President	
September	23-26	Mumbai	8th Exhibition of Coins, Notes & Stamps	Mumbai Coin Society at World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai (coingallery@ hotmail.com)	
October	1-3	Bangalore	All India Numismatic Exhibition	Karnataka Numismatic Society, Shikshak Sadan, K.G. Road, Opp. Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore (<i>Mahesh Jambulingam</i> 09448080502)	
December	16-19	Mumbai	2nd Museum Coin Fair	2nd All-India Numismatic Conference and Museum Coin Fair, Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum (drajgor@hotmail.com)	

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The first image is a **Western Railway Ticket** from Mumbai CST to Dahisar. It was issued on the 5th May 2010 at 3:05 pm for

Rs. 10/-. Numerically, it reads 05/05/2010 and 15:05 and everything ends up in 10: **5+5=10**, 15-**5=10**, and **Rs. 10** as the cost.

The second image is a **Cheque of Corporation Bank** in Mumbai with the **Super-Fancy cheque Number**, **786786**.

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