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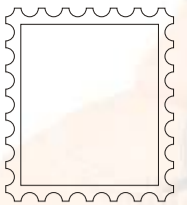


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The 1st C.N.G. Auction in progress at Ahmedabad on 20th Aug. 2010.
Seated on the dias from right to left are: Mr. Shatrughan Saravagi, Mr.
Vima Dalal and Mr. Farokh S. Todywalla.



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Maratha Coins of Shahajanabad (Delhi) Mint

By Parveen Jain



It is well known that Shah Alam II was in Bihar when he heard the news of the death of his father Alamgir II, on 29th Nov. 1759. On 24th December 1759 in Bihar, Shah Alam sat on the throne, proclaiming himself Emperor of India under the name 'Shah Alam II'. He requested the English to escort him to Delhi, who promised him to escort as early as possible. This promise, however, was repeated year by year by the British.

Historical Background

On 20th Dec 1770, Shah Alam sent Saif-ud-Din Muhammad Khan as his envoy to the Maratha chiefs to hire their armed aid in restoring him back to Delhi. The Marathas held the key to control of the Delhi government, as Najib-ud-Daulah was dead; Ahmad Shah Durrani was dying and hopelessly entangled in his own dominations; whereas the Rohilla Sardar, Zabita Khan was an inexperienced youth; while Dundi Khan was stricken down with paralysis.

The future was looking quite dark to Shah Alam and his inner council. This was for the fact that Shah Alam II was not sure as to whom the Marathas would declare new Emperor of India, either Mir Bakhshi or will they even crown Shah Alam II as the Emperor. Among these uncertainties, Mahadji Sindhia sent a secret letter to Shah Alam II, professing sincere devotion to his cause and offering to escort him to Delhi provided his expenses were paid. The reply was the dispatch of Saif-ud-Din Muhammad Khan from Allahabad to the Maratha camp. A bargain was ultimately struck.



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363 - Guptas, Skandagupta, Gold, Dinar,
King and Lakshmi type, Very Fine,
Extremely Rare. Realized- Rs. 1,80,000



743 - Jehangir, Silver, Zodiac Rupee, Taurus sign,
Bull to right on obv, Agra Mint,
Extremely Rare. Realized- Rs. 1,60,000

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Consequently, on 5th Feb. 1771, the Maratha forces reached Pratapgunj, opposite Delhi. On 9th February 1771, the Marathas, under Ram Chandra Ganesh and Visaji Krishna seized Delhi Fort from Qasim Ali Khan, a representative of Zabita Khan. On 10th morning, Balaji Rao Govind, an officer of Sindhia entered the Red Fort, posted his own troops in-charge of its ramparts and expelled Zabita Khan's garrison. Later a Maratha contingent of 5,000 horses occupied the city.

By the middle of Feb. 1771, Ram Chandra Ganesh had sent 7,000 cavalry, supported by guns into the Doab. The Marathas set their administration in and around Delhi and sought to control its dependencies, which included the five *parganas* in district Karnal along with Meerut, Saharanpur, Dasna and even villages around Sukkartal.

The constant disputes among the Maratha Generals however, prevented them from operating effectively. When the Peshwa was told of the complete rupture between Visaji Krishna and Tukoji Holkar, and evil effects of the ever increasing rift among his Generals in the north, the Peshwa confirmed Visaji in his office making him his Chief Representative at Delhi, and recalled Ram Chandra Ganesh.

The Mughal Prince and Queen Mother were really powerless. According to Jadunath Sarkar negotiations were opened through the crowned prince for bringing and restoring the Emperor against 25 lakhs as expenses and commission of Mirat and some other districts. But according to Iqbal Husain, in return of his reinstatement of the Emperor, the Marathas were to receive 40 lakhs. Of this 10 lakhs were to be paid in 20 days and the balance in two months.

On 6th Jan. 1772, the Emperor entered Delhi with Mahadji Sindhia. Shah Alam II, in sore need of money as well as out of personal bitterness with Zabita Khan and under the Maratha pressure, marched out of Delhi on 17th Jan. 1772, accompanied by Najaf Khan, Visaji and Mahadji Sindhia. Shah Alam, ultimately returned to Delhi on 9th July 1772 after defeating Zabita Khan.

In Conclusion

In short, the Marathas seized Delhi on 9th Feb. 1771, i.e. AH 1184, in the 12th year of Shah Alam II's reign. Later took Doab and the nearby districts under their control. They were all in all. The crowned prince was powerless. Shah Alam reached Delhi on 6th Jan. 1772 and

marched out of Delhi on 17th Jan. 1772. He reached back on 9th July 1772. Hence we can conclude that Delhi was under the Maratha domination from 9th Feb. 1771 to 9th July 1772, i.e. AH 1184/12 to 1186/13.

Hence we can say that the coins of these years, issued in the name of Shah Alam II from the Shahajahanabad mint were issued by the Marathas. One more thing that supports the attribution is the change in the sprig (the flowery spray) on obv of these coins.




The Rohilla Sprig is




And coins dated AH 1185/12, 1185/13, 1186/13 have different types of sprig on obverse of the Rupees of Shahjahanabad. Besides this the other mint marks and Persian initials on reverse indicate the issuers as the Marathas.

Here is the list of coins that should be attributed to Marathas:

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Coin No. 1



AH 1185/12



Coin No. 3



AH 1185/13



Persian letter
Mim below shah



Coin No. 2



AH 1185/12



Persian letter
Mim below shah

Coin No. 4



AH 1185/13



Persian letter
Mim below shah



Persian letter *Re* for probably Ram Chandra Ganeshan

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Coin No. 5

Coin No. 7



AH 1185/13

Persian letter
Mim below shah



AH 1185/13



Katar/fig?

Coin No. 6

Coin No. 8



AH 1185/13

Persian letter
Mim below shah



AH 1185/13



Persian letter
Mim below shah

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Coin No. 9



AH 1186/13



Persian letter

Mim below shah

**Bibliography**

Iqbal Husain, *the Ruhela Chieftaincies The Rise and Fall of Ruhela Power in India in the Eighteenth Century* (1994), pp. 136, 140, 141, 149.

Jadunath Sarkar, *the Fall of Mughal Empire*, Part III (1938), pp. 17-21.

India Shines at Bangkok in Stamp Exhibition 2010

25th Asian International Stamp Exhibition 'Bangkok-2010' was held at Bangkok, Thailand from 4-12th August 2010. Ajay Kumar Mittal was National Commissioner from India. In total 14 exhibits were accepted from India for participation in the exhibition. The exhibition was well organized at Queen Sirikit Convention Centre, Bangkok and was inaugurated by H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Srinthorn. Collectors from 23 Asian Countries participated in the competition. Mr. Vispi Dastur from Mumbai was a member of the Jury team from India. Prof V. K. Gupta worked as Apprentice Juror.

Awards for Indian participants

- Ajay Kumar Mittal** - Delhi
- INDIA: POSTAL SYSTEM IN INDORE State - **Gold**
- Mrs. Damyanti Pittie** - Mumbai
- BOMBAY CITY CANCELLATION TILL 1890 - **Gold**
- Dinesh Ch. Sharma** - Lucknow
- SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES - **Vermeil**
- Ravi Bhansali** Jodhpur
- MODIFICATIONS - **Large Silver**
- Shiv Shanker Somani** - Kishangarh
- INDIA: POSTAL HISTORY OF AJMER - **Large Silver**
- Dhananjay Desai** - Ahmedabad
- INDIA: MORVI STATE (1931-1948) - **Silver**
- Rajesh Paharia** Jaipur
- REFUGEE RELIEF TAX SYSTEM AND OVERPRINTS - **Silver**
- Naresh Goel** Jodhpur
- BIRDS - **Silver Bronze**
- Pratisad Neurgaonkar** - Puna
- POSTAL STATIONERY OF BRITISH INDIA 1856-1947 (*Literature*)
Silver Bronze
- Rajesh Bhura** Jabalpur
- GANDHI "THE MAN OF THE MILLENNIUM" - **Silver Bronze**
- Dinesh Ch. Sharma**- Lucknow
- SPORTS (*Literature*) - **Bronze**
- Mrinal Mathur** Jaipur
- FROM WHEEL TO CAR ON STAMPS (*Youth*) - **Bronze**
- Om Prakash Jagati** Bangalore
- GLIMPSES OF INDIAN TOURISM - **Bronze**
- Moloy Sarkar** Kolkata
- TAJ MAHAL (*One frame*) (**Certificate - ranked Bronzez**)

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Gujarati on world Banknotes

By Chirayu Bardoliwala

Gujarati language is the mother-tongue of more than 60 million people around the world. Gujarati is derived from Sanskrit language. It has its own script unlike many Indian languages which are written in Devnagari. It is spoken and written for a long time in western India. Gujarati people are found all over the world who proudly use Gujarati as a way of communication.

Rupee in Gujarati is written in different ways as *ruipAo*, *rUipAo*, *rupIyo*, *rUpIyo*, *rUPyo*, etc.

Same way plural Rupees is written as *ruipAa*, *rUipAa*, *rupIya*, *rUpIya*, *rUPya*, etc

A: Gujarati on British India banknotes

Gujarati language was used in British India's almost all banknotes.

6 types of language panels have been used in British uniface banknotes.

2 panels have included Gujarati inscriptions. In one panel Gujarati words are written in Devnagarai script.

They have used *rupIAa*, *rUpIAa*, *rUpyo*, *rUpIAo*. Most of the British banknotes have *rUpIAa*.

On one rupee not issued in 1917 signed by M.M.S.Gubbay, both *rUpyo* & *rUpIAo* are printed (not in same banknote) making it 2 varieties.

B: Gujarati on Republic India banknotes

On 1 Rupee notes *rUpIAo* was used upto 1957. 1963 onwards *rUpyo* was printed.

On all other banknotes of Rs. 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1000 *rUpya* is printed

C: Gujarati on world banknotes

Gujarati legend is found on following banknotes of the world:

- a) East Africa
- b) Zanzibar
- c) Portuguese India.



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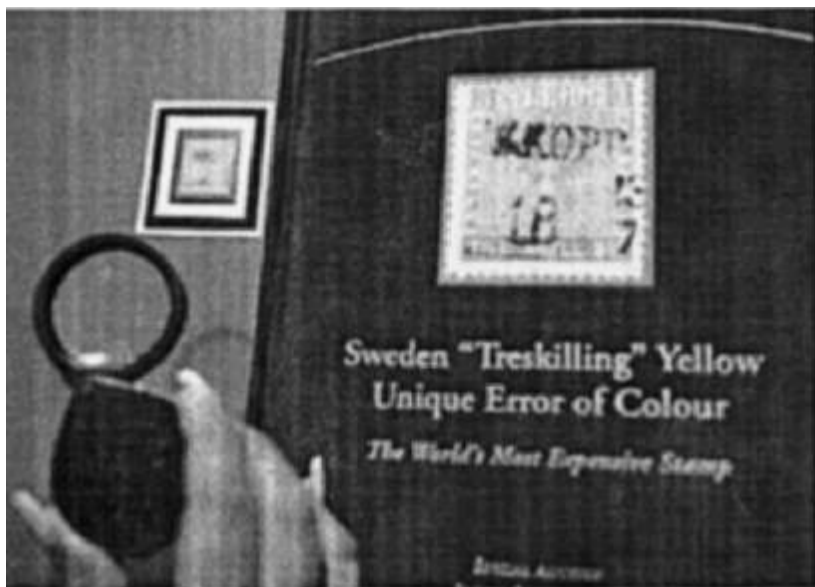
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Treskilling Yellow: One of the Rarest known Stamps

By Manek Dedhia



One of the rarest known stamps, the “Treskilling Yellow” or three-shilling stamp was issued by mistake during a prints run of eight-skilling stamps, which are yellow. The three-skilling was normally green.

A Swedish schoolboy stumbled upon it in 1885 while rummaging for stamps to sell on for pocket money. Since then it has passed through the hands of a series of stamp collectors, as well a German aristocrat and a Belgian tycoon.

The last time it was sold, in 1996, it fetched US 4.5 million Dollars at auction.

Stamp auctioneers David Feldman did not disclose the identity of the buyers, nor the price paid this time round.



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Calendar of Events 2010-11

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
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	Nanyadarshini 2010	Karnataka Numismatic Society, Shikshak Sadan, K.G. Road, Opp. Cauvery Bhavan, (Mahesh Jambulingam 094480 80502)
October	1-3	Jabalpur	Dharohar 2010	Jabalpur Coin & Philately Society on "Mahatma Gandhi" at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Samudayak Bhawan, Gujarati Mandal, Civic Center
October	19-21	Bhubaneswar	94th Annual Conference of NSI	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
October	22-24	New delhi	Annual Coin Exhibition	Delhi Coin Society, New Delhi (contact Goga jain)
November	11-12	Chandigarh	International Seminar	Coinage of the Imperial Guptas and their Contemporaries: New Perspectives, Dept. of Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology, Punjab University (ashi_593@yahoo.co.in)
December	3-5	Pune	CoinEx 2010 Pune	International Collectors' Society of Rare Items
December	10-12	New Delhi	Stamps of India 2010	National Exhibition, NSIC Exhibition Ground, New Delhi (sine@stampsofindia.com)
December	16-19	Mumbai	2nd Museum Coin Fair	2nd All-India Numismatic Conference and Museum Coin Fair, Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum (drajgor@hotmail.com)
December	24-26	Kolkata	14th Coin Exhibition & Conference	Numismatic Society of Calcutta, Haldiram's Banquet
February	12-18	New Delhi	INDIPEX- 2011	World Philatelic Exhibition, India Post-PCI-FIP-FIAP

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Discovery of a Maratha Gold Mohur of Bandar Malwan



Mr. Ganesh Nene, a senior collector of Maratha coins from Mumbai has discovered an unpublished Gold Mohur of the Marathas, minted at Tar Bandar Malwan Mint.

The coin is issued in the name of Mughal Emperor, Farrukhsiyar, in the Regnal year 2. Interestingly, the coin has a Trishul-like motif in the first line on obv.

Malwan is a sea-fortress located in the Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra. This fort was built by Shivaji in 1664-65. Construction began in Nov. 1664, financed mainly by the plunder brought home from Surat, the wealthy Mughal port that Shivaji sacked earlier that year.

It appears that Tara Bai, the widow of Rajaram, should have minted these gold Mohurs to finance the construction of a local temple at Malwan.

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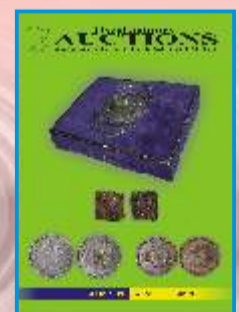
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