

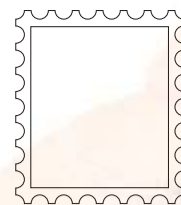
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ONS Day & Joe Cribb's Felicitation at Oxford

By Mahesh Kalra



Joe Cribb receiving the Preview copy of his Felicitation volume, *Felicitas* from Dr. Shailendra Bhandare, while Dr Andrew Burnett looks on in admiration

On 5th October 2010, an ONS Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm powered by the dynamic participation of a large European and Indian contingent of members of Oriental Numismatic Society at a seminar held at the Headley Lecture Theatre at Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. **Dr Andrew Burnett**, Deputy Director of the British Museum was present as the Guest of Honour and delivered the keynote speech.

The biggest highlight of the seminar was the much awaited felicitation of Mr. Joe Cribb on the eve of his retirement from the British Museum. Joe Cribb has been a hugely popular oriental numismatist, singularly responsible for the encouragement of studies in Oriental numismatics for the last four decades. Mr. Cribb was unaware of the pleasant surprise that awaited him, *i.e.* the release of *Felicitas*, a felicitation volume dedicated to him and his work with contributions from various scholars in numismatics.



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Realized- Rs. 2,20,000



Indore
315 - Tukoji Rao II,
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Realized- Rs. 1,10,000

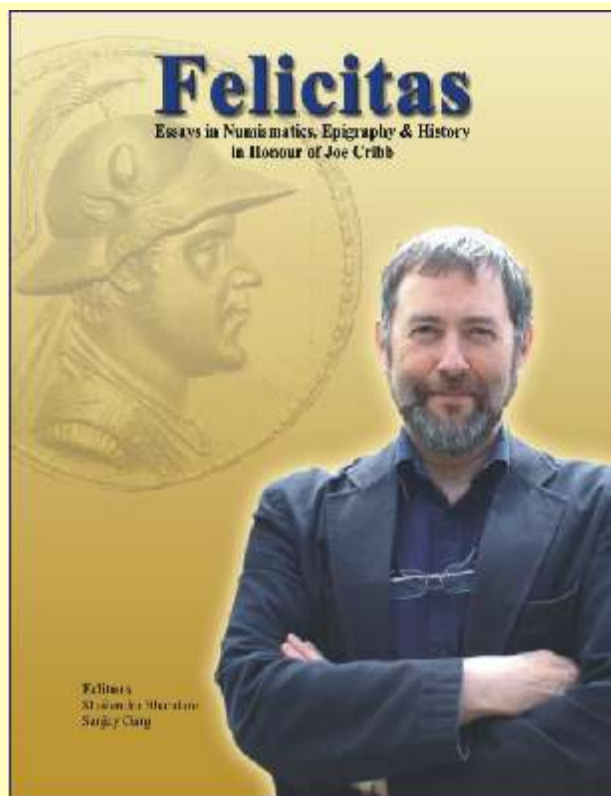


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The day's proceedings began with a small gathering of British and Indian numismatists, collectors, dealers and academics mingling in the auditorium. Notable among the British numismatists were Joe Cribb, Stan Goron, *Editor, JONS*; Barbara Mears, Paul Stevens, Robert Bracey, *Assistant Editor, JONS*, and Shailendra Bhandare, *Assistant Keeper, Ashmolean Museum* and the host for the gathering. The Indian numismatic fraternity was represented by Farokh Todywalla, Goga Jain, Shatrughan Saravagi, Hemanth Chopra, Ujjwal Saha, Zubair Khan, Abdul Razak Shaikh, Manish Jain, Sanjay Gosalia, Anuj Saxena, the present writer, amongst others.

Shailendra graciously escorted the entire contingent to a visual panoramic journey through the newly refurbished **Numismatic Gallery** of the **Ashmolean Museum**. He took a great pride in explaining the latest concepts in museum exhibition applied at the Ashmolean Museum after its renovation using a fund of £ 61 million in the last three years.

After the visit, the seminar began with presentations of papers by enthusiastic participants beginning with Joe Cribb himself who presented a paper on a new classification of Huvishka's copper coinage with possibility of two mints issuing them from two locations; one in Bactria and the other possibly in Gandhara region. Joe's presentation was well received by the participants as it was backed by research conducted by him in the last six months on the topic.

The next paper presentation was by the young dynamic numismatist from Kolkata, Ujjwal Saha who presented new finds in Gupta and Samatata coinage with an amazing clarity of thought. He presented some thoughts on Samatata gold coins in which he was aided by Nicholas Rhodes. Ujjwal also presented a group of lead coins amongst which a coin with conch shell which he attributed to Skandagupta. Another lead coin was attributed to Chahamanas of Ladola in Rajasthan by Shailendra. Thus, both the gentlemen generated sufficient interest in this group of coins for future studies.

The next paper was by Barbara Mears, South Indian coins consultant at Spink & Sons, London who dwelt on the vagaries presented by the names of Pagodas in British records without any fixed

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16th - 19th December, 2010 - Mumbai

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We will get back to you shortly along with full particulars of accommodation, stalls, exhibition, etc. In the meantime you may feel free to contact us for further information. We also request you to mark these dates in your schedule and get your reservations done accordingly.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Dilip Rajgor)

Director

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How a Dollar coin tried to enter Indian coinage?

By R Vaidyanadhan



The fascinating history of Indian coinage since the early 18th century had several puzzling denominations. Whether it was coins or currency notes, the oddities happened at regular intervals. The intriguing denominations in the annals of coinage were 2-½ Cash or *Dhuddu*, 1/48 to Rupee, 1/96 to Rupee of the Madras Presidency. Mostly, the denominations in the three Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras were 2 Rupees, 1, ½, ¼ and 1/8th Rupee in silver.

The copper denominations were known as ½ Anna, ¼ Anna, Pice and Cash. Though exact explanation was not found, Governor William Bentinck proposed the introduction of 20 Cash, 10 Cash and 5 Cash, and the first was issued in 1803. The redesigned set issued again in 1807 included a new higher denomination, viz. 40 Cash. In the history of decimal system, this can be attributed as the beginning, though it did not have any relation to the calculation of 1 Rupee.

Fancy Banknotes

The history of banknotes also had many fancy denominations. Bengal issues had 4 and 16 Sicca Rupees, 1 Gold Mohur; Madras Presidency had denominations issued in 15, 25, 250 and

3,000 Rupees, and Star Pagoda and 5 Pagoda. These were other than the normal multiples such as Rs. 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000. In 1899, Rs. 10,000 was introduced, while Rs. 5,000 denomination was issued in 1954.

The funniest denomination of all the banknotes is the **2 Rupees and 8 Annas currency note** issued for the first time on January 2, 1918. This was equivalent to 1 Dollar. It continued to be in circulation till January 1, 1926. As far as the mention of value *Dollar* was concerned, in fact, as early as in 1863, a suggestion to establish a Dollar coin within the Indian monetary system having the value of Double Rupee, was made by the Bombay Government. This was soon after (1862) the takeover of the East India Company, replacing the company's monetary system and also the private banks' currency.

The Dollar patterns were prepared by A.P. Spencer, the Chief Engraver, His Majesty's Mint, Calcutta, who engraved the coins of King George VI in 1938 and 1947. These patterns carry the portrait of the King on the obverse side and value in English and Persian, *1 Dollar / 2 Rupees 8 Annas / India* and year 1941. The first type depicts 1 in the centre, while the second shows it on the right side, sporting an entirely different look. The reason for such a preparation was totally different. Till 1941, the Indian economy was not seriously affected by World War II. However, more demand to produce coins of other nations and the pressure on the minting capacity and machine power increased.

First Gold Standard

The East India Company first tried to put India on the gold standard by fixing a legal ratio between gold and silver in Bengal, in 1766. However, this attempt ceased in 1803 as per Regulation 45 of 1803. Each of the three Presidencies, Bengal, Bombay and Madras, called the value of Rupee differently.



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First 1000 Rupee Coin of India

By Ravi Shankar Sharma



The Peruvudaiyar Kovil or the famous **Brihadeeswarar Temple**, also known as Rajarajeswaram, at Thanjavur in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is the world's first complete granite temple and a brilliant example of the major heights achieved by Chola kingdom in temple architecture. It is a tribute and a reflection of the power of its patron Raja Raja Chola I. It is one of India's most prized architectural sites and is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Monuments.

The temple stands amidst fortified walls that were probably added in the 16th century. The *Vimana* or the temple tower is high and is among the tallest of its kind in the world. The *Kalash* or *Chikharam* apex or the bulbous structure on the top of the temple is not carved out of a single stone as widely believed. There is a big statue of Nandi, the sacred bull, carved out of a single rock at the entrance measuring about 16 feet long and 13 feet high. The temple was built by the Sthapathi architect Kunjra Mallan Raja Raja Perunthachan, during the 10th century AD under the patronage of the Chola king Rajaraja in compliance of a command given to him in his dream.

The temple is also an architectural exemplar showcasing the pure form of the **Dravida** type of temple architecture and representative of the Chola Empire ideology and the Tamil civilisation in Southern India. Built in AD 1010 by Raja Raja Chola in Thanjavur, Brahadishwara Temple is also popularly known as the **Big Temple** has completed 1000 years in the present year.

To commemorate the 1000 years of Brihadeeswarar Temple, a set of Rs. 1000 & Rs. 5 commemorative coins was released on 26th September 2010 by the Reserve Bank of India. This is first time the Government of India is issuing a commemorative coin with the highest denomination of Rs. 1000. The present coins are struck from the India Government Mint, Mumbai.

Previously on 1st April, 1954 the Reserve Bank of India had released a currency note of Rs 1000 to commemorate the historic Brahadeshwara Temple. The note which featured the picture of the temple with a panoramic view was later demonetized by the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.



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The Short Term Basic Course intends to educate students the rich numismatic heritage of India by way of understanding numerous coins and banknotes issued by hundreds of rulers in India. The Course also prepares the students in the commercial aspect of the numismatic industry by way of learning various business models of trading.

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Calendar of Events 2010-11

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
November	13-15	Coimbatore	Coimbatore Coin Stampex 2010	Tirupur Numismatic & Philatelic Association
December	3-5	Pune	CoinEx - Pune 2010	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
January	22-23	Rajapalayam	21st Annual Conference	South Indian Numismatic Society, at Rajapalayam Raju's College, 86 km SW of Madurai, Tamil Nadu
January	24-26	Nagpur	NagMoney 2010	Numismatic Research Institute, Mor Bhavan, Jhansie Rani Square, Sitabuldi, Nagpur (093255 68570)
February	11-13	Ahmedabad	Coinex 2011	Gujarat Coin Society, Ahmedabad
February	12-18	New Delhi	INDIPEX- 2011	World Philatelic Exhibition, India Post-PCI-FIP-FIAP

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Photo Feature



Shri Ratilal Parmar of Morbi is a collector of coins and collectibles. Recently, he exhibited his collection on the records of legendary Cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** in the office of **Shri Narendra Modi**, the Hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat. Seen in the picture are Ratilal explaining his collection to the CM, while **Mrs. Anandiben Patel**, the *Minister* of Building & Roads; and **Mr. Mohanbhai Patel**, *MLA* of Morbi look in admiration.



Gullak Correspondent, Mr. T. M. Ravichandran with the Hon. Home Minister, Shri P. V. Chidambaram, and the Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranav Mukherjee during their recent visit to Coimbatore



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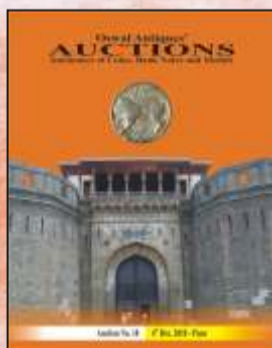
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Girish J. Veera	Mumbai	Santosh Kumar Lahoti	Kolkata
Girish Sharma	Indore	Shastri JC Philip	Kochi
Kaizad Todywalla	Mumbai	Shatrughan Jain	Ahmedabad
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