

गुल्लक Gullak

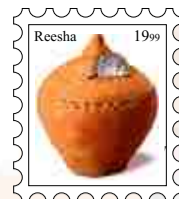
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History of Tamil Script on South Indian Coins

By R Vaidyanadhan



The use of Tamil language in its original form known as Tamil Brahmi script took place in the first century AD. According to Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, the Editor, Dinamalar, Chennai, the fact was brought to light during the 1990 Nagpur Numismatic Conference. The first such coin to show a complete word was that Chera King Makkottai silver coin (18 mm, 2.1 g. Ex: Karur). Another coin of the same period was that of Kuttuvan Kottai. The coin of King Irumporai had *sa Irum Pu*.

The script was also used on the coins of King Malayaman. They were written *Malayaman, Kari, Kara, Ka*.

Coin of Satavahana dynasty of the later part of the first century and the second century shows the use of Brahmi. The legend read *Si ri pu la ma, Siri pulamavisa*.

The third century coin of Ikshvakus (AD 227-306) show. The legends were *Siri Chata, Siri Vira, Rano Mathari, Siri Ehavala* and *Siri Rud Purisa*.

Later the Pallava coins (AD 400-675). These coins also show the use of the early Tamil script. They were Sri Tara, Sri Bhava and a few single or two letters like *Ki Da, Pa Da* and *Ra Na*.

However, Devanagari was more pronounced on Imperial Chola coins (AD 850-1279).

They were Uttama Chola, Yudda Malla, Gangakonda Chola and Sri Raja Raja.

Tamil confirming more or less to the current script was to be found on the coins of later Pandyas of South Arcot districts (AD 1325-1362). The popular one is Kone Ri Rayan.

The coins of Vira Pandya (AD 1177-1182) show Vi Ra. Another was that of Sunda ra and Sundara Pan Diyan (Sundara Pandiyan, AD 1216-1238) Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan, Jatavarman Vira Pandyan, Mravarman Kulasekhara Pandyan, and Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan II used Tamil scripts on their coinage up to AD 1310.

Rulers of Madurai and Ramand (AD 1450-1520) seem to be used Tamil script on their coinage. Samara Kola Kalan and Bhuva Neka Viran are the two predominant names that occur in their coinage. Coinage of Nayak period (18th Century) at Thanjavur show coins with legend the use of town name (*Than Jai*).

Madurai Nayaks (up to AD 1706) and feudatory of Palani also had their town names on coins – *Ma Du Rai* and *Pa La Ni*.

These apart Madurai rulers had names of the Gods on coins and they were Ganapathy, Govinda, etc,

Rajas of Ramnathapuram (AD 1606-1720) had his name and capital's name on his coinage. They were *Se Thu Pathi* and *Ramana* (AD 1729-1792)

During the transition period of Nawabs of Arcot (AD 1734-1801) local issues had representative Tamil characters to denote "Nawab". Coins with *Na, Va Bu, Marulan Khan, Nawab Chand Sayabu, Yusubu Khan, Mumadu Ali, Ma Pusu Khan, Nawabu, Nababu*, etc.

Even the Madras Presidency coinage revived the use of Tamil script in its coinage. It started with Pagoda series 1807. Thereafter the usage of Tamil could be found only on banknotes.

Types of Error Coins

By Amit Surana

Broad strike



Broad strike Coin struck without a collar, thus when the coin is struck the metal is allowed to expand and increase in diameter. May be centered or uncentered, but must not have any missing lettering or design detail.

Off center



Coin struck without a collar and off center, different from the uncentered broadstrike because part of the lettering or design detail is missing.

Mechanical Doubling



Often looks like a doubled die but is not. It is caused by loose dies that twist slightly after coming into contact with the planchet causing the die to slightly drag on the coin producing a flat, shelf-like doubled appearance. Also under this classification is excessive die wear and/or improper die annealing that will cause the elements of the design to appear doubled simply because the lettering and design elements are thick and mushy. Mechanical doubling usually commands very little premium. Be especially careful of this error on 1969-S cents which can sometimes be mistaken for the very rare and valuable 1969-S doubled die cent.

Cud



When a significant part of the edge of the die deteriorates and falls off. The coins struck with this die exhibit a raised blank area on that part of the design. Sometimes called "major die break"

Caps or die caps



When a coin is struck and sticks to the die for numerous strikes, the metal flows up around the die and the coin takes on the shape of a bottle cap. A very eye appealing and desirable error.

Capped die strike



When a die cap error is occurring, the dies continue to strike more coins even though a coin is capped around one of the dies. If the coin is capped around the obv. die, the coins struck with that die will appear blank or have varying degrees of mushyness on the obv. due to the obverse die being obstructed. If the cap stays on indefinitely, eventually it will wear through the planchet and the coins struck by that die will become less and less obstructed causing a "late-stage" capped die strike where the image is less distorted.

Indent



When a blank planchet partially overlaps another planchet in the striking chamber and gets struck, the overlapping area on the struck coin will exhibit a blank indented area from the other planchet being struck into it.

Brockage



Occurs the same as an indent, except that a struck coin is struck into a blank planchet leaving a mirror image impression, although often quite distorted due to metal flow.

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Struck through error



Occurs when a foreign object lies on top of the planchet and leaves an impression of itself when struck into the coin. A wide variety of objects have been reported including grease, string, cloth, hair, plastic, bandaid, staples, etc.

Weak strike or Die trial



Occurs when there is insufficient pressure from the dies to leave a full impression on the planchet. This can occur for a variety of reasons but usually occurs when the power to the presses is turned off and the dies continue to strike coins with less and less pressure until coming to a stop. On such coins all the detail, including the reeding on clad coins should exhibit extreme weakness. If the coin is simply struck through grease, some details may be strong and the edge reading will also be strong.

Curved Clipped Planchet



Planchets are punched from large thin metal sheets. After a section of the sheet is punched, if the sheet fails to be fed far enough ahead, the punch will overlap an already punched area causing that planchet to have a circular "clip" of missing metal. A good way to tell if the coin is an error or simply damage that occurred outside the mint is to look for signs of metal flow into the blank area, which indicates a genuine clip. This will appear as weakness and thinness around the missing metal. There will also often be a corresponding area of weakness on the rim of the opposite side of the coin, known as the "Blakesley effect." A genuine clip will never show a raised edge of metal bordering the missing metal (which usually indicates shearing) and the details bordering the area of missing metal should not be crisp.

Straight clipped planchet



If the metal strip shifts during the punching process and the punches overlap the straight side edge of the strip, a straight area of metal will be missing from the planchet.

Ragged clipped planchet



If the punches overlap the ragged ends of the strip, a resulting ragged area of missing metal occurs.

Wrong planchet/off metal



When a planchet is struck by a pair of dies that do not correspond to the denomination intended for the planchet, a wrong planchet error occurs. For example a Jefferson nickel struck on a cent planchet will have the same weight and copper composition as a cent. It will likely be smaller than a nickel, but probably slightly larger than a cent because the nickel collar cannot restrain the smaller cent planchet from expanding.

Double Denomination



Occurs when an already struck coin is struck by a pair of dies of a different denomination. These coins will show details of both denominations. For example a cent struck on a struck dime (often called an 11c piece) will have the planchet of a dime and details of both a dime and a cent. Usually the details of the denomination of the last dies to strike to coin are strongest and some double denomination coins barely show any detail from the denomination of the first strike.

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Clashed dies



Occurs when there is a malfunction in the planchet feeding mechanism and no planchet is fed into the striking chamber allowing the dies to strike each other. The obv. die will leave an impression in the rev. die and vice versa. Coins struck with these dies will exhibit details of both the obv and rev. on each side of the coin. The amount of detail can vary from barely discernable to very noticeable.

Lamination



Dirt and impurities in the metal of the planchet can manifest themselves as cracks and peels on the struck coin.

Split planchet



If the impurity is severe enough, it can cause the planchet to split into two halves obv. and rev. If the planchet splits before the strike, the resulting coin will be thin and have detail on both sides but often intermingled with rough striations from the impurities. If the planchet splits after the strike, one side will have full detail and the other side will be blank and striated. In either case the coin will be thin.

Missing Clad Layer



A clad coin with one of the clad layers missing either before the coin is struck or which is loose and falls away after the strike. The side of the coin with the clad layer missing will be copper colored showing the exposed copper core of the coin. The other side of the coin is normal.

Double Strike



If a coin fails to be properly ejected from the striking chamber after being struck and the dies come down again to strike the coin again, a double strike occurs. Double strikes can occur with the second strike off center or on-center. In the same way triple and multiply struck coins occur.

Detector used MINELAB



My understanding Coins are Stamped several times. If they move Slightly during Stamping this Happens

Here is an Obvious one look at the date

Wrong!



A doubled die coin is just that, a coin that was struck with dies that had the design elements on the actual die doubled. These usually command a premium, and in some cases, such as the ultra-rare 1969-S Doubled die obverse cent, a HUGE premium....one recently sold for over 126 THOUSAND dollars! Here is the doubling on a genuine 1969-S DDO.



And here is mechanical, or strike doubling, which occurs when a coin shifts while being struck. This usually doesn't command any premium. Notice the flat, shelf-like appearance. -Paul



Machine (strike, etc) doubling occurs because a die is not secured in the press and moves during the striking process. The die itself is not doubled, but as the strike occurs, the movement causes a "smearing" of parts of the image on the coin. Each of these coins

resulting may appear different because the movement itself could be more or less each time. Like this one of mine where the die looks like it moved twice during the process, and the same of yours. If you look at the nine in your coins date, you will see it is flattened also.



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In a true doubled die, the doubling is produced by 2 or more impressions being offset from the other as the die is produced from the hub. The coins struck from this die would have a doubling that would be the same for resulting coins. Notice on this 1955 double die how the images are the same depth and there is no flattening.

Other Forms of Doubling



A strong example of "Strike Doubling" (also known as "Machine Doubling Damage" and a number of other terms) on the date of a 1968-S business strike cent. Notice the doubling is formed by the die smashing down and flattening a portion of the main primary image into the field.



A typical example of "Single Strike - Flat Field Doubling" (a form of "Strike Doubling") on "LIB" of a 1970-S business strike cent. Notice that the main primary image is undisturbed by this type of Strike Doubling.



"Die Deterioration Doubling" from worn dies on the reverse of a 1983-D Jefferson 5c.



Heavy "Strike Doubling" on the ear of a 1992-D Kennedy half.



A strong example of "Single Strike - Flat Field Doubling" on the Mint mark of a 1942-D Walking Liberty Half dollar (often confused as being a D over S because of the "rounding effect" caused by FFD).



"Double Strike - Flat Field Doubling" on the Mint mark of a 1984-S proof cent (the doubling shows on both strikes resulting in a tripled Mint mark).



"Die Deterioration Doubling" on the obverse a 1993-P Washington 25c.



"Ejection Doubling" on the reverse of a 1959 Lincoln cent (shows metal pushed sideways into the lettering and then pulled upwards during ejection).



"Hob or Punch Shoulder Outlines" on the reverse of a 1902 Indian Head cent. Often referred to as "Longacre Doubling" though it can be found on coin designs produced by many other designers on coins world-wide.



"Plating Split Doubling" on the Mint mark of a 1993-D Lincoln cent. Very common on the copper plated zinc cents and often mistaken for RPMs



Canadian 1962 5c exhibiting heavy die deterioration doubling as frequently seen on chromium plated dies that have had the plating wear out in the area of greatest stress (in this case - the edges of design where metal flows around corners into the cavities).



Canadian 1965 10c exhibiting "strike doubling" (machine doubling damage).



Susan B. Anthony dollar showing die deterioration doubling on reverse lettering. Photo by J.T. Stanton.



1981-P Jefferson 5c with die deterioration showing on reverse.

Canadian 1967 5c exhibiting die deterioration doubling and some light strike doubling. Coin courtesy of Karen Rusto. Photo by KP.



Hob or Punch Shoulder Outlines (so-called "Longacre's Doubling") on the reverse of an 1880 1c.



Common on many denominations and coinages of the era, world-wide. Certainly not restricted to James B. Longacre's work. Photo by Alan Herbert.



Canadian 1953 1c displaying "strike doubling" (also known as "machine doubling"). Photo by KP



Die deterioration doubling on the Mint mark of a 1993-P 25c (see Series-1 for doubling of IGWT on this coin). Photo by KP.



1953 1c with die deterioration doubling evident on the date; esp. on the 3. Often incorrectly referred to as "polish doubling" or "abrasion doubling". Photo by Susan Sisti.

Collectable Forms of Doubling

While this list is not comprehensive, some of the most collectable forms of doubling are represented in the photos and descriptions below. You will notice they all involve the re-entry of a design into the die (through one manufacturing method or another) that results in one image overlapping onto the other. Each image is a entity of its own and not dependant on an earlier image from which to be formed or "smashed down" from, etc. In many cases you will note distinct areas of separation between the images even if only in the finer details such as the serifs of characters. Study the photos below and compare them to the "Other Forms of Doubling" to learn the difference.

Nice hub doubling showing on IGWT of a 1946 Roosevelt dime. Coin courtesy of W. W. Edwards who first reported discovering the variety back in the mid 1970s.

An outstanding example of hub doubling on TRUST found on a 1974-D half dollar. Notice the strong spread and areas of distinct separation.



One of my favorite Repunched Mint Mark varieties on a 1960-D Large Date cent. Listed as RPM#13.



A nice example of a quadruple punched Mint mark on a 1945-P Jefferson war-time nickel. Notice the trace of the lower loop down to the south of the main lower loop and other areas of doubling with separation of images. Coin courtesy of Jerome Goodman. Listed as RPM#45.



Here's a great example of a Repunched Date on an 1882 Indian Head cent showing as an 88/88 with the tops of the secondary 8s found within the upper loops of the main characters. Coin courtesy of Larry Briggs.



A rare example of "Touch-up Engraving Doubling" on the eagle's tail-feathers on a 1953 proof Washington quarter. Notice that the original feathers were polished down so far that they virtually disappeared. They were crudely re-entered into the die as a series of new tail-feather outlines with distinct overlapping of the old and the new tail-feather outlines most easily viewed at the lower edge. Coin courtesy of Cliff Bolling.

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“Khanda” A Symbol of the Sikhs on Mughal Coins

By Gurprit Singh Gujral (Gurprit Singh Dora)

The word “Khanda” usually refers to a double-edged sword. However, as a distinctive religious symbol of the Sikhs, the modern “Khanda” refers to the combination of a couple of swords, a quoit (A flat metal hoop with a sharp outer edge from 5 to 12 inches in diameter used as a weapon to be thrown at the enemy) and a double-edged sword. It is like a coat of Arms for the Sikhs. This symbol is placed on the flag (known as Nishān Sāheb) outside every Gurdwara (Sikh temple). This flag is perched on the top of a very long pole so that it is visible from a far off distance. The image of the “Khanda” symbol, as seen in the modern times, is shown in the image below. It consists of two swords, crossed at the hilts, placed on either side of a quoit, with a vertically upward pointing double-edged sword in the middle.



The “Khanda” symbol

Although there is no exact evidence about the evolution of the “Khanda” symbol, it was definitely inspired by the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Har Gobind who first initiated the concept of adorning on his person two swords symbolizing “Piri” (Saintliness) and “Miri” (Temporal Power). Thus the two swords in the “Khanda” symbolize Saintliness and Temporal Power.

This symbol came to my notice for the first time on the rupees of Jehangir from Lahore mint. This is probably the earliest known “Khanda”-like symbol on any Mughal coin. Curiously, this symbol is witnessed only on “Bada-bar” type rupees of Lahore mint, only of certain years (witnessed by me on rupees of the years AH 1032 to 1034). This symbol is not seen on similar rupees of “Hamisha” or any other type of the same years and from the same or any other mint. This symbol is placed at the two extreme ends of the mid-field on the reverse (mint side) of the coin. On some coins it very closely resembles the “Khanda” symbol. Despite this resemblance, this has been allowed to pass off as another ornamental symbol. However, in

view of Sikh influence that is evidenced during that particular period in the particular region, namely Lahore, gives reason to have another look at the symbol. This is necessitated by the fact that similar symbols again appeared on Mughal coins of Lahore in the later period, only when there was strong Sikh influence in the region.

Jehangir silver rupee AH 1034/19



“Khanda”-like symbol

Jehangir silver rupee AH 1032/17



“Khanda”-like symbol

We have from historical accounts of that time that the Mughal emperor Jehangir was in close association with Guru Har Gobind, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, during those very years. It is mentioned in the “Twarikh Guru Khalsa” by Giani Gian Singh that during those years, while returning from Kashmir, Jehangir halted at Lahore where he had close interaction with Guru Har Gobind, and was deeply influenced by the Guru. So much so that an extremely jealous minister Chandu (whose offer to marry his daughter to the Guru was refused by the Guru) conspired against the Guru, following which the Guru was arrested and kept in confinement at the Gwalior Fort. It is also said that on one occasion the Guru had saved the life of Jehangir from a tiger during a hunting trip.

When I first witnessed the symbol on the Jehangir rupees, I discussed the issue with an eminent historian Prof. Prithipal Singh Kapoor, ex-Pro Vice Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University. Although the symbol on Jehangir rupees closely resembles the

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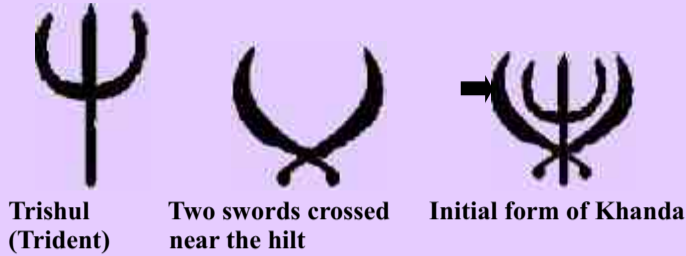
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“Khanda” symbol, there were subtle differences from the symbol as we see it today. In particular, the quoit is missing on the Jehangir rupees. It was Prof. Kapoor’s contention that the evolution of the “Khanda” symbol, as we see it today, could have been in stages. In the initial stages, when the quoit was not a weapon of the Sikhs, the said symbol could have been a combination of a “Trishul” (trident - a weapon of the Hindu gods) encompassed by the two swords of the Sikhs representing “Miri” and “Piri”. Since the very purpose of the formation of Sikh religion was to protect the Hindu religion, the encompassment of the trident by the swords symbolized the protection of the Hindu religion by the Sikhs. The diagram below very convincingly demonstrates the resemblance of the symbol with the one on the coins of Jehangir.



In the last few years some more coins have surfaced with the symbol resembling the “Khanda” on Mughal coins. Of these coins, a few have the “Khanda” symbol embossed on them as if punched on the coins. Despite the contention of a few numismatists that these could have been punched on the coins during their currency, I personally do not find merit in the contention. For one, the symbols that have been punched are of the “Khanda” in its present modern form. The “Khanda” as it is seen in its present form, is not known to have evolved till then. Secondly, anyone who had access to a few coins of any Mughal ruler could punch those symbols on them at any given time, even a decade or a couple of decades ago.

There is another set of silver rupees of the Mughals on which the symbol of the “Khanda” appears to have been struck at the time of minting. The symbol appears to have been engraved on the die. Following rupees of the Mughals with the “Khanda” symbol have been witnessed:

Aurangzeb, 1110/42, mint Lahore
“Khanda” symbols



Aurangzeb, 1110/42, mint Lahore
“Khanda” symbol



Aurangzeb, 1110/42, mint Lahore
“Khanda” symbols



All the above three coins are of Aurangzeb of the year Hijri 1110 from the Lahore mint. Hijri 1110 started on July 10, 1698 and lasted till June 28, 1699. Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, baptized the Khalsa on the Baisakhi day in 1699 AD which fell on 30th March that year, implying that it was still the Hijri year 1110 when the Khalsa was born. To commemorate this immensely important occasion, it is very much possible that the sympathizers of the Khalsa, which were large in number, managed to have the “Khanda” symbol inscribed on the die in collaboration with the mint masters. It must be borne in mind that the Sikhs were largest in numbers around Lahore since their religious centre, the Harmandir (Golden Temple) at Amritsar, was a stone's throw from Lahore.

Another coin of Aurangzeb from Lahore with the “Khanda” symbol bears the date 1117 Hijri. It is in this year that Aurangzeb died. Below is the image of the coin.

Aurangzeb, 1117/49, mint Lahore
Partial “Khanda” symbol



The above coin of Aurangzeb is of the Hijri year 1117 corresponding to 1705 AD. In March 1706, when it was still Hijri 1117 (Hijri 1118 commences on April 15, 1706), Aurangzeb died. The death of Aurangzeb signified the end of a tyrannical rule. The possibility of sympathizers and supporters of the Sikh cause, in and around Lahore, plotting to add the “Khanda” symbol, signifying the rise of the Khalsa and the imminent decline of the Mughal rule, on the die cannot be negated. This is again noteworthy that the symbol appeared only on the coins from Lahore mint and has not been witnessed on coins of any other mint. Moreover, it has not yet been witnessed on the coins of other years of this mint.

Subsequently, the “Khanda” symbol has been witnessed on some coins of Shah Alam I, again from the Lahore mint only, and from no other mint whatsoever. These too have been witnessed in only specific years, and no other years as yet. Below are illustrated two such coins:

Shah Alam I, 1122/4, mint Lahore
“Khanda” symbol



Shah Alam I, 1124/5, mint Lahore
“Khanda” symbol



The first one is of the Hijri year 1122/4 and the other of the year 1124/5. The Hijri year 1122 ends on February 18, 1711 and 1124 starts on February 9, 1712. The difference in the Hijri years is of two years (1122 and 1124) while year of rule has changed from 4th to 5th year only. This implies that the two coins were minted between 1711 AD and 1712 AD. We have from historical accounts that in 1711 AD (corresponding to Hijri 1122), Banda Bahadur reorganized forces and the Sikhs assembled near Lahore. In June, fierce fighting broke out between the Sikh forces led by Banda Bahadur and Amir Khan, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. There is every possibility that the Sikhs took control of the mint at Lahore for short intervals and had the “Khanda” engraved on the die. Significantly, coins of Aurangzeb and Shah Alam I with the “Khanda” symbol are quite rare. This indicates that such coins were minted for very short periods. I have had access to hundreds of silver rupees of Aurangzeb of Lahore mint, but rupees with the “Khanda” symbol are rare, even of those particular years. In support of my contention I am illustrating below rupees of Aurangzeb of Lahore mint of the same years:

Aurangzeb, 1110/42, mint Lahore
No trace of “Khanda” symbol



Aurangzeb, 1117/49, mint Lahore
No trace of “Khanda” symbol



Aurangzeb, 1117/49, mint Lahore
No trace of “Khanda” symbol



The same is the case with the silver rupees of Shah Alam I. I have had access to dozens of coins of Hijri 1122/4 of Shah Alam I from Lahore mint, but have never witnessed the “Khanda” symbol. Moreover, the coins of the Hijri 1124/5 of Shah Alam I from Lahore, mint are very rare. A normal coin of Shah Alam I of Hijri 1122/4 from Lahore mint without the “Khanda” symbol is illustrated below:

Shah Alam I
No trace of “Khanda” symbol



The observations made from the above coins conclusively establish that:

1. The symbol is a distinct symbol closely resembling the symbol of a “Khanda”, and not an ornamental design.
2. This symbol is known to have appeared only on the coins of Lahore mint where the Sikhs were strongest in number, and not from any other mint.
3. The symbol appeared only in the years when there was some significant event connected to the Sikhs, and never at any other time.

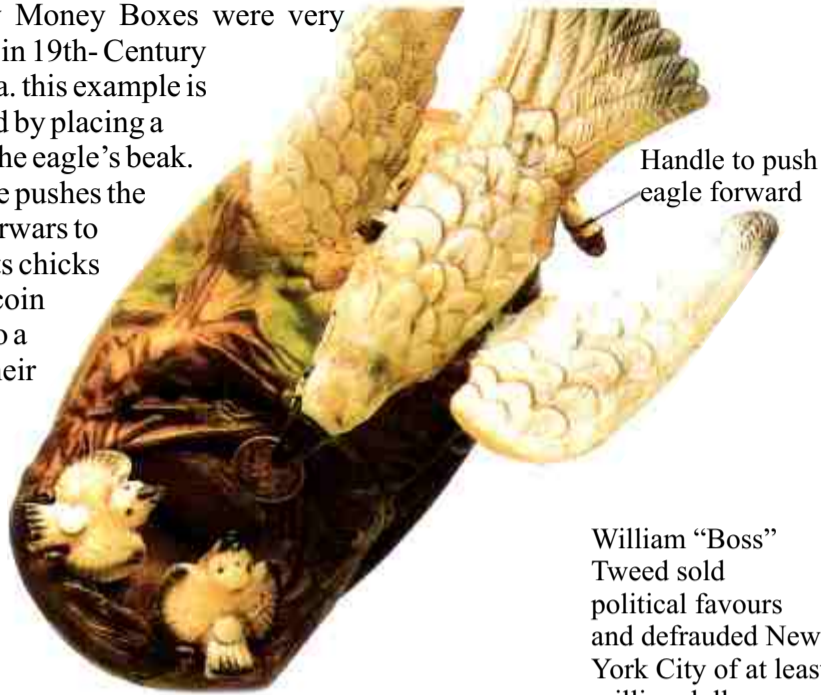
It is known that even the Marathas during their short control over Lahore had the flag symbol inscribed on the dies of the coins of the Mughal rulers, and did not mint the coins in their own name.

In view of the observations made above it can be safely and unhesitatingly inferred that the symbol of the “Khanda” on the coins of the Mughal rulers is not just another ornamental symbol, but a symbol signifying the influence of the Sikhs during the Mughal rule.

Interesting Types of Gullak - Piggy Banks

By Kanti Kumar Sevak

Novelty Money Boxes were very popular in 19th-Century America. this example is operated by placing a coin in the eagle's beak. A handle pushes the eagle forward to "feed" its chicks and the coin falls into a slot at their feet.



Handle to push eagle forward

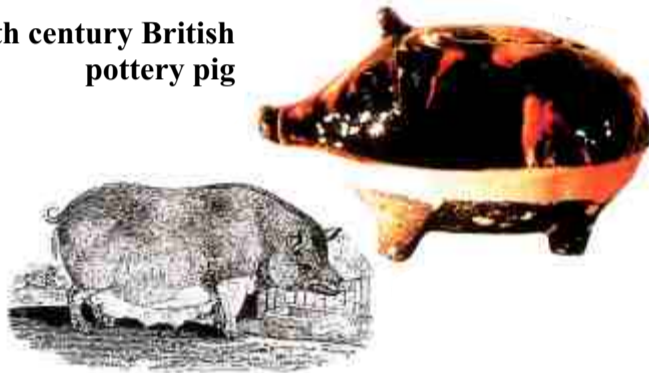
TAMMANY BANK

this American Novelty money box, made in 1873, has a political message. The seated figure is William "Boss" Tweed, a corrupt American politician who had his headquarters in Tammany Hall, New York. Every time you put a coin in his hand he drops it straight into his pocket!



William "Boss" Tweed sold political favours and defrauded New York City of at least 30 million dollars

Mid-19th century British pottery pig



MONEY-PIG

The most popular form for money boxes is a pottery pig, but the reason for this preference is not known. In Europe, the earliest examples are 17th-century german "piggy Banks", but earlier examples have been reported from 14th-century indonesia. The Pottery pigs usually have to be broken in order to get the money out.



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Gold Coins & Diamonds worth \$ 22 billion found in a temple vault in India

By Sanjay Kansal



A treasure trove of gold and silver jewelry, coins and precious stones said to be worth billions of dollars has been found in a Hindu temple in Kerala in southern India.

The valuables have an estimated preliminary worth of over 1,00,000 Crore rupees (\$22 billion) catapulting the temple into the league of India's richest temples. 536 kg of 18th century gold coins and about 20 kg of the British East India Company's gold coins were found on Friday. Among the coins were those of the Napoleon era.

The thousands of necklaces, coins and precious stones have been kept in at least five underground vaults at the Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple which is renowned for its intricate sculptures. "We are yet to open one more secret chamber which has not been opened for nearly 140 years," said Jayakumar.

The articles included thousands of gold necklaces, crowns, coins, jewels and precious stones. A necklace found was 18 feet long and weighed 10.5 kg. In all 1,000 "saratpoli mala" studded with gems

called *aval* were found and a collection of these gems themselves weighed over a tonne.

The treasures were found inside secret vaults of the temple which were not open since hundreds of years. The temple, dedicated to Hindu lord Vishnu, was built hundreds of years ago by the king of Travancore and donations by devotees have been kept in the temple's vaults since.

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Update on Investing in Silver and Silver Coins

By Sandeep Shah

Hi Friends,

Silver prices once again enjoyed a run-up as they did from January through April. During that period they doubled and briefly touched 73000Rs before settling back down to the low of near about 50000Rs. As I write, silver prices are back at 50000Rs a kilo and that may be giving you the urge to buy.

I would advise that you should. This is a investment opportunity and the recovery is going to happen, While I have a price target of 73000Rs by years end, I anticipate silver prices will peak to 1 Lakh Rs in 24 to 30 months time span.

During the last month Silver price was stable and was trading well above 64000Rs till 22nd of September, On 23rd, 24th & 26th panic selling set in and silver prices crashed to 45545Rs, crashing all hopes of a bull run during Diwali. The dollar appreciation against rupee was one of the reason attributed. Also speculative hedge funds off loading in huge quantities was not ruled out. Their was a systematic offloading around average silver prices of 65000Rs. In my last newsletter i had indicated this level as a major hurdle to overcome.

I am always asked that why I always persuade/recommend my clients to buy numismatic coins or physical silver. The crash of silver prices came during the Mumbai Coin Societies Exhibition at World Trade Center, and believe me their was no panic among the collectors/dealers present. We had 3 successful Auctions and by end of the fair we had satisfied dealers, investors and collectors. Physical silver too is purchased with the said money the investors have, while one always speculate in MCX or COMEX as one only pays the margins/difference, where by there is 100% chances to loose money. Numismatic coins have limited mintage, lesser availability of graded coins in circulation and the demand is increasing daily creating a demand and supply gap. Result prices r stable and a minimum 15% to 20% appreciation annually.

There is a gold to silver ratio, which shows how many ounces of silver it takes to buy one ounce of gold. Traditionally, this ratio acts as a price barometer for the two precious metals. And if you look at it right now, it's easy to see that higher silver prices isn't far off. Gold and silver prices traditionally move together because both are considered stores of value in inflationary times. Going forward, we cannot expect the gold/silver price ratio to reach 16 to 1, as it almost did in 1980. I believe the reason for this is the use of silver as an industrial metal has fallen off sharply when the price spiked. That freed up silver supplies while investment demand for gold soared. So, I believe the peak ratio of silver to gold is much more likely to reach something closer to 25 to 1.

The coming month is a month of Festivals. My recommendation is, to buy silver for long term. The levels r on the upside 55k to 57k, optimistic scenario 60k to 63k for this month. Downward scenario is 47k to 44k & worst case scenario 38k. This r testing times, In conclusion, the market will not ultimately turn bearish until global monetary policy tightens. With the November 2012 U.S. Presidential election looming large on the horizon, we probably have at least another year of rising prices.

To my friends and investors this is the message to encourage u towards investment in bullion/numismatic coins. Other than the misbehaved stock/'SHOCK' market. You can read this article as information, pleasure and guidance. I do not take any responsibility for your profits/losses.

Forthcoming Book - February 2012

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Calendar of Events 2011-12

| Month | Date | Place | Event | Venue |
|----------|-------|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| October | 14-16 | Chennai | National Numismatic Exhibition 2011 | Chennai Numismatic Society with Numismatic Promotion Service of India at Arignar Anna Arangam Hall, 14/29 Dr. Guruswamy Road, Next to Maharishi Vidya Mandir School, Chetpet (09840424344, 09710040000) |
| November | 3-6 | New Delhi | Stamps of India National Exhibition | sine@stampsofindia.com; 098111 60884 |
| November | 12-14 | Indore | Coin & Philatelic Fair 2011 | Indore Coin Society (Girish Sharma 099770 50987) |
| December | 3-6 | Mumbai | 3rd Museum Coin Fair 2011 | Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum, University Kalina Campus, Santacruz (E), Mumbai |
| December | 9-11 | Pune | Coinex-Pune 2011 | Sankalp Hall (Basti Solanki 98230 88865) |
| December | 22-25 | Kolkata | Mudra Utsav 2011 | Numismatic Society of Calcutta at Haldiram Banquet Hall, Ballygunge (secretarynsckolkata@yahoo.com) |
| January | 6-8 | Coimbatore | Coimbatore Coin & Currency Fair | Kamalam Doraiswamy Hall, 225, Sastri Road, Ramnagar, Near Central Bus Stand, Coimbatore (Prabhu - 094437 21245) |
| January | 21-23 | Jamshedpur | Jam Coin 2012 | Tulsi Bhavan, Near Gopal Maidan, Bistpur, Jamshedpur (Monoj Singh 093348 09149) |
| January | 26-29 | Nagpur | NagMoney 2012 | Numismatic Research Institute (Ramteke) |
| February | 3-5 | Calicut | Mudra 2012 | Corporation Jubilee Hall (Rajesh Nair 09847755123) |
| February | 17-19 | Bangalore | 2nd National Numismatic Exhibition | Bell Hotel, Near City Railway Station, Opp Majestic Bus Stand, Bangalore (Marudhar Arts - 080-6532 9800) |

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You can also pay Cash to one of our **Correspondents** whose names are listed under the heading "**The Gullak Team**".

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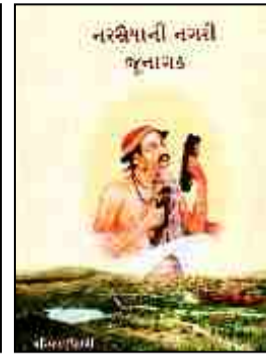
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New Book on History & Coins of Junagadh (Gujarat)



On 11th Sept. 2011 at the Bhutnath Mandir Hall, Junagadh a new Gujarati book was released entitled *Narsaiyan ni Nagari Junagadh* by Parimal Rupani. The book was released at the hands of Shri Dipankar Trivedi (*the I.P.S. S.P. of Junagadh*). Other dignitaries present were: Ms. Shobha Bhutada (*the I.P.S. A.S.P. of Junagadh*), Natwarlal Choksi, Dilip Vaidya, Dr. Dilip Rajgor, Dr. Kishorchandra Pathak, Kartik Upadhayay and religious heads of Hindu and Jain community. The A4 size book of 357+ pages of hard bound edition costs Rs. 1800 and can be had from Mr. Rupani (0285-2652 008). The book is a nice compilation of hundreds of rare pictures of the Junagadh State, coins and other important monuments of the Junagadh district.

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New Coin Counter at Kolkata Mint

By S. K. Bose

I have the pleasure to inform all of you that the India Government Mint, Alipore, at Kolkata, has decided to open a counter at the Mint premises, where the commemorative coin sets will be sold across the counter. It is likely that the proposal will be effective from November, 2011, if not earlier.

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