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Discovery of Du-Dandi Maratha Rupee of Rahimatpur Mint

By Ganesh Nene



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The Town

Rahimatpur, located at 17°36' N 74° 12' E, is in the Koregaon Taluka and is about 27 km south-east of Satara town in Maharashtra. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Rahimatpur was a large trading centre. Bombay and English piece-goods, twist and silk, salt, coconuts, dates, and spices were imported; raw sugar, turmeric, earth-nuts, and coriander seed were exported from the town. A weekly market was held on Thursdays and Fridays.

The chief objects of interest in the town are a mosque and a mausoleum. The mausoleum seems to have been built in honour of Randullah Khan, a distinguished officer who flourished in the reign of the 7th Bijapur Sultan, Muhammad Shah (AD 1626-1656). About a hundred yards of the mosque is an elephant water-lift, a tower about 50 feet high, with an inclined plane on the west, which supplied power for the mosque fountain. The local municipality was established in 1853.

Population of the town in 1901 was merely 6,735 souls. During the ten years ending 1901, the income averaged Rs. 3,700 and during 1903-1904, the income was Rs. 3,100.

History of the Mint

During the Adil Shahi period of the Bijapur Sultanate, it was a large trading place. In early 18th century, the Marathas (Peshwas) took control of Rahimatpur and handed it over to the Patwardhans; when the Marathas opened a mint at Satara, at the same time Rahimatpur mint was also opened as a supporting mint. Mainly, copper coins were aimed to be minted from the Rahimatpur mint. It is said that Shivarai type Paisa, Du-Dandi Paisa and in later years, Gopal Rao copper Paisa were struck from the mint. No silver Rupees were known. But in a Marathi book called *Peshwaichaa Saavalit* by Chapekar (1947), based on actual papers of accounts available during the Peshwa period, the reference of "Rahimatpur Rupee" repeatedly comes across, however, no coins were surfaced until these two very interesting featured coin were discovered.

In a letter to the Government dated, 4th January 1833, the Principal Collector of Pune stated that the old copper currency of his district was partly supplied from this mint, which was operated on behalf of Gopal Rao Patwardhan. The Collector of Dharwad was asked to state whether there was any obstacle to its being closed. He subsequently reported that Gopal Rao had no right to coin money and in reply was directed on the 6th January 1834 to stop the mint forthwith.

Silver Coins of the Mint

The two silver coins can be described as follows:

Fig. 1:

Obv: Shah Ali Gauhar, Badshah Ghazi Sikka Mubarak;

Rev: Regular *Julus* formula and the mint name *Qasba Rahimatpur*, RY 7.

Fig. 2:

Obv: Similar to Fig. 1 but with the addition of Fasli Date 1192 placed at a very peculiar place;

Rev: Regular *Julus* formula and the truncated mint name *Qasba Rahimatpur*, RY 6.

Discussion

Both the coins have a unique feature that makes these coins quite interesting. On the obverse the alphabet, "ye" in the word "Ali" is extended to such an extent that it appears like a horizontal double line between Ali and Ghazi. This arrangement looks very much similar to that seen on the Du-Dandi Paisa of the Marathas. Hence we can safely term these Rupees as Du-Dandi Rupees. The author opines that this is a rarest Rupee of the type in Maratha coinage. The mint name became further interesting with the word *Qasba* (i.e., a small town) as read by Dr. Shailendra Bhandare, which is situated in *seen* of the word *Julus* on rev.

Fortunately, now we have two such Rupee coins for study. The Fasli Year 1192 (AD 1782) and RY 6 and 7 were the years of Peshwa Sawai Madhav Rao's reign. He handed over control of Rahimatpur to Chintaman Rao Patwardhan *aias* Appa Saheb. Hence it can be observed that it is the first year of Patwardhan's rule in Rahimatpur. This discovery becomes an earliest recorded Maratha issue of the Rahimatpur mint. However, as a dispute settlement between the Patwardhan brothers, Chintaman Rao was given the feudal of Miraj (the mint that produced the famous Ganapati/Pant Pradhan coins of the Marathas).

After the above attribution, these are the only dated coins of the Marathas till date, which indicated the actual RY 6 and 7 in exact correlation with the Fasli year (FE 1192) on coins and are the actual years of the regime of Peshwa Sawai Madhav Rao. The coins are in the name of Mughal Emperor Shah Ali Gauhar (Shah Alam II), but the date is not of the Mughal reign, which normally appears on all the Maratha coins.

The discovery of Rahimatpur Rupees also confirms the existence of actual Rupees as mentioned in the Maratha chronicles compiled by Chapekar.

Acknowledgments

At the end I must thank Mr. Sanjay Gosalia for the coin images and Dr. Shailendra Bhandare for reading the important word *Qasba* on the coin.

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Rs. 1000 Note costs the Government Rs 3.17 to Print

By Hemali Chhopia (Times of India)

It costs money to make money. Last year, the Reserve Bank of India spent Rs 2,376 crore on printing 16.5 billion currency notes of varied denominations and the tab is only set to rise. Of all the notes minted, Rs 1,000 costs the least, at Rs 3.17 per note. But the five-rupee note, the smallest in terms of size and denomination, costs the most, 48 paise, compared to the value of the note. The number of notes printed has risen consistently. "Inflation remained high, often in double digits, in respect of commodities such as foodgrain, pulses, fruits and vegetables, and milk during 2009-10 and 2010-11 - where transactions are expected to be cash-intensive," the RBI said in its annual report for 2010-11. The cost of the currency paper accounts for the fattest slice of the currency printing expense, said RBI officials. Yet, unlike countries like the US that control cost by keeping all dollars a uniform size and the moss-green color, India's currency architects design notes of varied dimensions and hues.

"The size of our currency notes has shrunk over time, probably because of the rising cost of paper. Yet, we maintain different dimensions and colours for different denominations," said Dilip Rajgor, scholar and the author of several books on numismatics. The RBI introduced the colour scheme for the bills to make it easier for the illiterate to distinguish among notes.

Table

Currency	Bills cost	Production cost as % of actual value
Rs. 5	48 Paise	9.6%
Rs. 10	75 Paise	7.5%
Rs. 20	95 Paise	4.7%
Rs. 50	Rs. 1.23	2.5%
Rs. 100	Rs. 1.44	1.4%
Rs. 500	Rs. 2.64	0.5%
Rs. 1000	Rs. 3.17	0.3%

Life of Indian notes small

The Indian currency notes have come a long way from the 1800s when the Presidency banks maintained their own colour schemes and minted them for the state they had jurisdictional control over. The government stripped their right to issue notes after passing the Paper Currency Act, 1861. From 1862 to 1935, India had single-coloured and uniface notes, or bills printed on one side. Now, a lot more thought goes into the designing. "Even the visually challenged were brought on board. The varied size of the notes and the different shapes on the intaglio help them differentiate between the bills," said an RBI officer. There have been some bloopers too, the recent being the resemblance between the Rs. 100 and the Rs. 500 notes that forced the RBI to redesign the latter. But that slip also confirmed the apex bank's worst fears: Indians did not read the denomination on the currency, a habit that the RBI had inadvertently inculcated among the citizenry. Yet, officers at the RBI will insist that their record of redesigning notes, an exercise they take up every five years, is still free of a large aesthetic scandal. "The entire machinery and logistics for currency in India is the largest after China," added the RBI officer. It is probably so because the life of notes is a tad shorter than that in many other parts of the world. US' Federal Reserve reports the average life of \$20 notes as two years, \$50 notes five years and \$100 notes 10 years, on an average. In India, notes of smaller denomination like Rs. 5, which circulate more than those of higher denomination, have a life of less than a year. A Rs.10 note lasts for about two years before it is 'soiled', while a Rs. 100 bill stays around for about 3-4 years. The high-value Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes keep going for about 5-7 years.

Table

Minting Money	
Year	Cost of printing notes (in crore)*
2003-04	1,709.5
2004-05	1,443.6
2005-06	1,034.9
2006-07	2,020.2
2007-08	2,026.2
2008-09	2,063
2009-10	2,754
2010-11	2,376

* Source: RBI

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Early Coins of Shahjahanabad Mint (Delhi) in the name of Shah Alam II

By Parveen Jain

The Coins of Shah Alam II Shahjahanabad is a very complicated series. Because Delhi faced so many developments, changes and difficulties during this period and these development and changes generally reflect on coins. The main thing is to co-relate these developments, changes and facts with coins.

In this paper, I have tried to present a simple picture of historical facts about Delhi at the time of Shah Alam II up to AH 1187, RY 15 and attribution of coins in the light of those facts. Some scholars may disagree with my opinion and attribution. I will welcome their opinion and attribution so that a refined picture of coins of Shah Alam II can be created. It is common question that comes in to mind that when Shah Alam II was not in Delhi at the time of his coronation and he has no hold on Delhi administration then how, why and who issued coins in his name. This question will be cleared after studying the facts.

Prince Ali Gauhar was crowned Emperor under the title of 'Shah Alam II' on 24th December, 1759

Alamgir II was the puppet of the Wazir Imad-ul-mulk. Knowing that the Wazir is intending to arrest him in the Delhi mansion (19th May 1758), Prince Ali Gauhar (later renamed as Emperor Shah Alam II) escaped from Delhi and reached Miranpur, in middle Doab, about 12th August 1758. There he got invitation from Muhammad Quli Khan (popularly called Mirza Kuchak), the first cousin of Shuja-ud-Daulah and the imperial governor of Allahabad, to come to him, with promise of support in the attempt to conquer Bihar. Leaving Miranpur at the end of November, he reached Jhusi, opposite Allahabad on 23rd January 1759. After a halt of eighteen days he resumed his march on 10th February, accompanied by Muhammad Quli's contingent. The emperor Alamgir II was murdered on 8th of Rabi II, AH1173 (=29th November, 1759). News of his father's death reached Prince Ali Gauhar at his camp in Bihar almost a month later. He was crowned at the village of Kanauti on the 4th of Jumad I, AH1173 (=24th December, 1759), in the name of Shah Alam (=Lord of the Universe), though his regnal year was ordered to be counted from the day (1st Jamadi-ul-awwal= 21st December) on which he heard of his father's death.

Wazir Imad-ul-mulk enthroned in the fort, Muhi-ul-miat, under the title of Shah Jahan II

Immediately after the murder of Alamgir II, the Wazir's agent in this atrocious deed, Mahdi Quli Khan, silently enthroned in the fort, Muhi-ul-miat (the grandson of Aurangzeb's youngest child Kam Bakhsh) under the name Shah Jahan III (to which we know, in our numismatic list as Shah Jahan III).

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Ahmad Shah Abdali reached Delhi and appointed Yaqub Ali Khan subahdar

On 21st January 1760 Ahmad Shah Durrani reached Nizam-ud-din and the following day Old Delhi and Paharganj. His men plundered the property of the citizens by violence. On the fourth day the Shah ordered his soldiers to leave the city and dismount outside it. On 31st January, Yaqub Ali Khan, a cousin of the Abdali's Wazir, but long settled in India at the city of Shahjahanpur, was appointed subahdar of Delhi on behalf of Ahmad Shah. Throughout February 1760 the Abdali King was absent, campaigning against the Jats and Malhar Holkar in Bharatpur state and Mewat. On last day of that month, 29th February, he returned to the capital, but in a day or two crossed over to the Doab in pursuit of Malhar Holkar, while Delhi continued in charge of Yaqub Ali Khan with the puppet, Emperor Shah Jahan III sitting on the throne and receiving presents from the officials on the ceremonial occasions like the Nauroz (20th March)

Sadashiv Rao Bhau got possession over Delhi on 3rd August 1760

Maratha forces under Malhar, Jankoji Sindhia and Balwant Ganesh Mehendele, accompanied by the titular wazir Imad-ul-mulk, attacked Delhi on 22nd July 1760. Yaqub Ali Khan resisted for many days, but after Sadashiv Rao Bhau reached Delhi from Mathura and Yaqub Ali Khan finding no help from his master, he begged for terms of peace. The Bhau jumped at the proposal and allowed Yaqub Ali Khan to march out with his property and troops and cross the Jamuna to join his master Ahmad Shah. Thus Delhi fort passed into Maratha possession on 3rd August 1760. But the coveted capital of India proved a Dead Sea fruit to them. It had been emptied by the repeated spoliation of Nadir Shah of Persia and Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan, and what little remained had been taken by the Wazir Imad-ul-mulk before his fight. Imad had even stripped off a portion of the silver ceiling of Shah Jahan's 'paradise on earth' the Diwan-i-khas within the palace-fort. The new masters of the imperial city were actually starving. On 6th August the Bhau took out what remained of the ceiling of the Diwan-i-khas and coined the silver into nine lakhs of rupees.

Sadashiv Rao Bhau advanced to Panipat, deposing the titular Shah Jahan III and Proclaiming Ali Gauhar as Emperor

Leaving Naro Shankar as subahdar and qiledar, with a force for defense of the city of Delhi, the Bhau moved to the north. From his camp at Laleri (three miles south of Ganaur) he sent back Nana Purandare and Appaji Jadav Rao to Delhi, and these two agents, on Friday, the 10th October 1760 deposed the titular Shah Jahan III and proclaimed Shah Alam II as emperor at Delhi and struck coins in his name. His eldest son Mirza Jawan Bakht was installed in the Diwan-i-khas as his heir and vicar. They also conferred the Wazirship on Shuja-ud-Daulah of Oudh in absentia.

*Continued on page 5***Harish D. Shah**

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Ahmad Shah Abdali entered Delhi on 29th January 1761

After defeating the Marathas in the battle of Panipat on 14th January 1761, Ahmad Shah Abdali entered Delhi on 29th January 1761 and stayed there up to 20th March 1761. The Durrani king's parting instructions were that Shah Alam should be recognized as the emperor, Imad be reappointed as Wazir and Najib as Mir Bakhshi, and that these two ministers should bury their old hostility and work in friendly cooperation and singleness of devotion to their master's interests.

How Najib Khan become regent of Delhi

But a river of blood lay between Shah Alam II and Imad. The opportunist Najib Khan used this fact to secure his own elevation as regent of the empire for the next ten years. He wrote to the queen mother that if Imad returned to Delhi and resumed charge of the government, he would set Shah Alam II and his branch of the royal family aside and set up a crowned puppet of his own like the late Shah Jahan III. So, a rescript was issued by the heir (Mirza Jawan Bakht), calling upon Najib Khan to come and take charge to the capital. Thus, while Imad, after receiving the wazir's robe from the Abdali's agent was delaying at Mathura to assemble his Jat escort and "building castles in the air", Najib stole a march over him, came to Luni, and was brought over to Delhi by the crown prince (7th April 1761), the two seated on the same elephant. This move checkmated Imad; his sole supporter Suraj Mal, when faced with the accomplished fact, refused to install Imad in the Wazir-ship as it now meant an attack upon Delhi.

Najib became the official head of the army of the empire (mirbakshi), governor of the metropolitan district (faujdar), and regent of the imperial administration (mukhtar). In the whole city his men were installed in the offices of tax collection, control of the grain market, etc. His agent was posted at the gate of the palace-fort. Najib Khan put a garrison of some six thousand men in Delhi, and held the capital by means of a trusty lieutenant such as his brother (Afzal or Sultan Khan) or his son Zabita Khan, who governed the whole arrangements of the city. This work Zabita Khan discharged very ably and pleased everyone, especially the traders by his strict justice, suppression of robbery, and sympathy with the people in their distress.

Jawahir Singh Jat attacked Delhi in early November 1765

Early November 1765, Jawahir Singh Jat (1763-1768), successor of Suraj Mal Jat, attacked Delhi with thirty to thirty five thousand horse and foot with hundred pieces of artillery of all calibers. Najib Khan defended with the same number of men with all the guns of the capital. But 20,000 Maratha horse were expected to join the Jats in a few days. Najib had sent Wakil Meghraj to the Abdali in Qandhar via Jammu, appealing for protection from the coming storm. The first battle took place on 15th November 1765, and the total casualties on the two sides mounted up to thousand men. Malhar Rao Holkar and Sikhs also arrived to help Jawahir Singh. On 25th January 1766 a great battle was fought between Najib's men and the Sikh aided by Jats, on the hill close to the horse market (*nakhas*) and *Sabzi Mandi* (vegetable market). Though many men were slain and wounded, the result was indecisive as usual. Shortly afterwards, then thousand Naga sannyasis arrived from Oudh and were taken into Jawahir's pay through Umrogir Gosain. But no result came.

At last Jawahir Singh realized that nothing to hope for from the faith of Malhar, the prestige of Imad, or the arms of Sikhs and Nagas. His spirit was finally broken by the signs of lukewarmness and covert opposition from his own servants. Negotiations for peace were set on foot on 4th February 1766 and brought to a speedy conclusion. At last on 16th February Jawahir marched away from the city, before the walls of which he had spent a hundred and sixty lakhs of rupees and incurred a further liability of twelve lakhs (due to the Marathas) without achieving anything at all.

Najib Khan resigns his government to Zabita Khan and retires to Najibabad, March 1768

Realizing that his end could not be far off, he took counsel with his household and with his usual foresight provided carefully for the future. While on his usual cold weather march in the Hisar district with his army, he one day assembled all his sardars and in their presence declared Zabita Khan his successor and deputy, tied his own turban to his son's head as a symbol of his chieftainship, and transferred all authority over his army and territory to him, during his lifetime. He advised his heir to confirm his own authority immediately by crushing those of his generals (i.e. the partisans of Zabita Khan's stepbrother Kalu Khan) who were reported to be ill disposed towards their new master and were sure to cause trouble th

Continued on page 6



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after Najib's death. Najib now retired to Najibabad to lead a life of relief from public cares. Zabita, to whom unfettered discretion in foreign policy had been given, came to terms with the Sikhs, evidently by a money payment, near Jalabad Nahari, north of Delhi. Two of his father's high officers Ali Muhammad Kur and Sayyid Mian Asrar al-Din (popularly called Lambi Mian) who defied Zabita's order, were suppressed by force. "By these means the entire army was brought under discipline and made to recognize Zabita Khan as their supreme master."

In the light of above historical facts we can reached to the conclusion that -

1. Shah Alam II was in Bihar, when he was proclaimed Emperor of Delhi and he could not reach Delhi up to next 11 years;
2. From 29th November 1759 to 10th October 1760 the titular, Shah Jahan III was emperor of Delhi;
3. The Delhi fort was passed into Maratha possession on 3rd August 1760;
4. On 6th August 1760, Bhau took out what remained of the ceiling of the Diwan-i-khas and coined the silver into nine lakhs of rupees (Sarkar does not specify that in which name the coins were struck, most probably in the name of Shah Jahan III, the Rupees dated 1173/RY Ahad);



Fig 1: Rupee 1173/RY Ahad Fig. 2: 1/2 Rupee 1173/RY Ahad

5. On 10th October 1760 Sadashiv Rao Bhau proclaimed Ali Gauhar as emperor of Delhi, under the name Shah Alam II and struck coins in his name. It means the coin in the name of Shah Alam II of AH 1174 /RY Ahad are such coins;
6. Ahmad Shah Abdali entered Delhi after his victory in battle of Panipat, on 29th January 1761 and stayed there up to 20th March 1761. He also instructed that Shah Alam II should be recognized as the Emperor of Delhi, Imad-ul-mulk be reappointed as Wazir and Najib Khan as Mir Bakhshi. But Najib Khan created such situations that Imad-ul-mulk would not dare to come to Delhi to join his office with Najib Khan, who became the sole power of Delhi in absence of Shah Alam II;
7. In early November 1764 Jawahir Singh Jat attacked Delhi, which ended on 22nd February 1765 with the defeat of Jawahir Singh. This period coincides with AH 1178/RY 6 of Shah Alam II;
8. In March 1768 (AH 1181/RY 9) Najib Khan declared his son Zabita Khan, as his successor and transferred all authority over his army and territory to him during his lifetime;
9. It means that from 20th March 1761 i.e. AH 1174/RY 2 to 26th March 1768 i.e. AH 1181/RY 9 coins of Dar al-Khilafat Shahjahanabad were under influence of Najib Khan and coins from AH 1182 /RY 9 to 8th February 1771 i.e. AH 1184/ RY 12 were under influence of Zabita Khan; and
10. In the *Standard Catalogue of World Coins* (4th edition, 2007), p. 720, KM#709.1 coin of Allahabad (fig. No. 3), the illustration shown is actually a Rupee of Dar al-Khilafat Shahjahanabad, dated AH 1174/RY Ahad This attribution to Allahabad is obviously wrong. It is right that Shah Alam II was in Allahabad at that time, but these coins were struck in Delhi and may be attributed to the Marathas when they were in possession of the city.



Fig.3 Rupee AH 1174/RY Ahad

After doing the physical inspection of the coins of Dar-al-Khilafat Shahjahanabad (fig. 5) and Najibabad (fig. 4), we found, similar flowery sprig and similar calligraphy on both coins as shown in the picture below.



Fig. 4: Rupee AH 1177/RY 5 mint Najibabad



Fig. 5: Rupee AH 1177/RY 5 mint Shahjahanabad

The flowery sprig found on the coins of Najibabad from RY 3 to RY 7 is and from RY 7 on words and even on pseudo Najibabad Rupees, which may have been struck at Gausgarh, have a flowery sprig.

The Flowery sprigs found on the coins of Shahjahanabad from AH 1174/RY 2 to RY 7 and on the coins from RY 7 to RY 9 a sprig is replaced to the left start of the middle line on obverse which is not fully visible, may be slightly different. On RY 11 to RY 13 a new type of sprig was introduced which resembles to the later sprig on coins of Najibabad. It shows that the flowery sprig first appeared on the coins of Shahjahanabad and later on the coins of Najibabad.

On issues of Shahjahanabad 1185/RY 12, AH 1185/RY 13 and AH 1186/RY 14 also a form of a flowery sprig is present (about which I have discussed in my article "Maratha Coins of Shahajahanabad (Delhi) Mint" in *Gullak*). It is absent on the issues of 1186/RY 14 and was replaced with new mark quarto-foil. A new mark umbrella was replaced on the coins dated 1187/RY 15 onwards.

In this way we can conclude that the coins of Shahjahanabad struck during the period of Najibud-Daula and Zabita Khan in Delhi show a clear Rohilla signature, as also found on the coins of Najibabad, the hometown of these Rohilla leaders. So these issues can be attributed to Rohilla coins.



Fig. 6: Rupee AH 1174/2 RY with Fig. 7: Mohur AH 1175/2 RY with



Fig. 8: Mohur AH 1176/RY 4 Fig. 9: Rupee AH 1177/RY 5



Fig. 10: Rupee AH 1178/RY 6

In November 1764 to February 1765 i.e. AH 1178 / 6 RY Jawahir Singh Jat attacked on Delhi and there was a great disturbance, the same may be reflected from the coins as the coins of this date and regnal year are found to be crude also and some even silver coated, forged coins were also in circulation. These coins can be attributed to

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Rohillas. But the style and execution of the coins may also suggest that it was struck in a non-imperial mint with the mint-name 'Shahjahanabad'



Fig. 11: Rupee AH 1178/6 RY Crude Fabric



Fig. 12: Rupee AH 1178/6 RY Forgery (silver coated)



Fig. 13: Rupee AH 1178(Error)/7 RY Crude Fabric

After the war was over the administration become strong which reflects from the coins (figs. 14,15,16) and a new Sprig was replaced in left start of middle line. The sprig was again replaced in the further issues as in fig. 16,17.



Fig. 14: Rupee AH 1179/7 RY



Fig. 15: Rupee AH 1180/8 RY



Fig. 16: Rupee AH 1181/9 RY



Fig. 17: Rupee AH 1183/11 RY



Fig. 18: Rupee AH 1184/12 RY

In AH 1184/Ry 12 we found both Rohilla and Maratha coins. Maratha coins of AH1184/Ry12 have a whorl type Star.

Obverse Reverse



Obverse



Reverse

Fig. 19: Rupee AH 1184/Ry 12

It is possible that the whorl type Star indicates the Marathas presence at Delhi. Maratha seized Delhi on 9th February 1771. Shah Alam proceeded from Allahabad to Delhi, which the Marathas had agreed to hand over to him in return for the promised subsidy. On receiving the first installment on 2nd August 1771(AH1185/Ry 13). Shah Alam II arrived early January 1772 at Delhi (AH1185/Ry.13). But instead of taking strong hold on the administration and coinage he proceed to Gausegarh and Najibabad with Marathas only after 11 days stay in Delhi (for details please refer my article in *Gullak*).

It means Marathas issued coins for several months in AH1184/Ry 12 and continued in AH1185/Ry 12, AH1185/Ry 13 and 1186/Ry 13.

Coins of Shah Alam II after his arrival at Delhi on January 1772

Shah Alam II returned back after defeating Zabita Khan on 9th July 1772. He was unhappy with the Marathas as they did not give him his equal share of the wealth they seized from Zabita Khan. So he changed the whole administration of Delhi of Marathas to his own. 9th July 1772 was (about to the (21 days remaining)) end of RY 13. On 29th July 1772 his 14th Julus of his coronation was celebrated. Jadunath Sarkar writes (vol. III, p.43) "At Delhi the court spent the rest of the month in celebrating the first grand coronation of the restored monarch, on 29th July." This change in administration and systems is also reflected by the coins of RY 14. We find a new arrangement from RY 14. The Sprig was changed with a quarto-foil mark and later on with four dots, with changes in reverse marks also (bud near the mint and a palm leaf). In this way these coins can be said the first imperial coins issued under the administration and hold of Shah Alam II.



Fig. 20: Rupee AH 1186 / RY 14 with quarto-foil mark on obv.



Fig. 21: Rupee AH 1186 / RY 14 with quarto-foil mark on obv. Bud on rev.



Fig. 22: Rupee AH 1186 / RY 14 with four dots obv and palm leaf on rev.



Fig. 23: Rupee AH 1187 / RY 14 with four dots obv and palm leaf on rev.



Fig. 24: Rupee AH 1187 / RY 14 without any mark only 4 dots on obv.

On 20th May 1773, Mirza Najaf Khan (A Persian adventurer who escorted Shah Alam II from Allahabad to Delhi. His sister married into the family of Nawabs of Awadh. He also held the title of Deputy Wazir of Awadh.) was appointed to highest honours i. e. wazir. On 5th June 1773, he was appointed Second Paymaster-General, the titular mir bakhshi, Zabita Khan, being an absentee. Mirza Najaf set himself to raising a new army for the emperor, with his usual energy and success. His reputation drew out of veterans and ambitious young recruits from all sides. In a short time he assembled force exceeded 20,000 men. As the treasury was empty, Najaf Khan was looking to get money from the near by provinces. It was agreed that the territory and booty seized would be shared equally between the emperor and his general. Najaf Khan was also appointed subahdar of the yet to be reconquered province of Agra in addition to his deputy paymastership.

In this way Mirza Najaf Khan become strong power with very high ambitions which is also reflected by the coins. As in AH 1187 / RY 15 coins with Chhatra was issued. As we can compare it with Ashwamedh in ancient time. I would see the symbol more like Chhatra (the royal umbrella), indicating the Mughal court.

Fig. 25: Rupee AH 1187/ RY 15 with chhatra on obv.



The same Chhatra was continued in future coins (except for an issue of AH1124 (sic)/RY 31, with 'sahib qiran sani' legend, which shows only a flowerly roset. The date 1124, must be an error for 1204.) I am deeply thankful to the eminent numismatist and scholar Mr. Jan Lingen who inspired me to present this work by making valuable corrections and suggestions. Most photos are also courtesy of Mr. Jan Lingen.

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Chezian makes Sangam Age history strong

By R Vaidyanadhan



A rare copper coin bearing the legend 'Chezian' has been found in the Tamraparni river bed in Tirunelveli district.

The exact location of the find spot is unknown since the coin is said to have been found and bought by Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, President of South Indian Numismatic Society, some two decades ago from a small copper vessel merchant of Tirunelveli town and kept it in a bottle along with other coins.

Though the coin had deep encrustation, since it was lying in the fresh water river bed, without chemical pollution for more than 2000 years, there is not much corrosion. A repeated and gentle wash for a week brought the coin back into shape.

The coin (oblong in shape) weighs 0.900 g and its width is 8 mm on the wider side.

On the obverse, the legend 'Chezian' in Tamil - Brahmi script is noticed and the reverse is worn out.

In the Sangam classic "Purananuru" there are references to one Pandian king with the name 'Chezian' (Verses 18, 19).

Perhaps the king mentioned in *Purananuru* Poem and the name inscribed on this coin may refer to the same person.

According to Dr. Krishnamurthy this coin can be attributed to 2nd Century B.C.

Credit goes to Dr. Krishnamurthy to have discovered the first coin with the Tamil Brahmi legend 'Peruvaluthi', also belonging to the Sangam period in 1984 from Madurai.

His other discoveries were two portrait type silver coins with the legend 'Makkotai' and 'Kuttuvankothai' belonging also to the Sangam Age Cheras, from Karur.

Dr. Krishnamurthy is a famous numismatist and the Editor of Tamil daily, *Dinamalar*.

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Sikkim Coinage

By S. K. Bose



Sikkimese Paisa (copper coin), 1980-83 AD (obverse & reverse)⁴



Nepalese Paisa (copper coin) of the Shah Dynasty, 1796 AD (obverse)

A new addition to the family of North-East Indian states, the erstwhile Buddhist kingdom of Sikkim traditionally never had close ties with Assam but rather to Tibet and Nepal. Sikkim had no coinage other than an occasional influx of coins from India and Nepal. The revenue paid by the subjects was mostly in kind consisting of agricultural produce and also by labour services to the authority. Trade was carried out mainly through barter. In such a situation, the king had never objected to the practice of receiving the Tibetan or Indian coins by the traders in trade related transactions. In fact, people residing in the border areas paid their revenue to the king by handing over such foreign coins¹.

Money did not formally appear in the Sikkimese economy until the twentieth century, and coins were struck only on one occasion in 1881 A.D. when the Newar trader from Nepal, Lakshmidas Pradhan, applied to the Maharaja of Sikkim and obtained permission to strike Doli (also known as Dooba) pice². This Doli paisa was similar to the unstamped pice of Nepal, a square lump of copper, roughly cut by hand. These type paisas were popular in Gorakhpur areas and therefore also known as Gorakhpuri paisa. The matter was referred to the British authority by the Maharaja of Sikkim for their concurrence. An approval was accorded during the second half of 1881 A.D. However, these Dooba coins were not popular in Sikkim and in 1883 A.D. Lakshmidas Pradhan sought permission from the Chogyal of Sikkim to use copper from certain mines in Sikkim to strike coins. Permission was granted on payment of a fee, and the coins produced were very similar to contemporary copper Paisa coins struck at various mints in Nepal, although they had a legend in Nagari proclaiming them to be issues of the Sikkim Government. As a design, they closely copied the contemporary copper of Nepal, but with the legend 'Sri Sri Sri Sikkim Sarkar', rather than 'Sri Sri Sri Nepal Sarkar', in the hope that the Sikkim coins would circulate alongside the Nepalese paisa, and at the same value. Pradhan also realised that they could produce the coins at a cost of less than a Paisa, and had planned to release the coins for circulation in Nepal. As per records, minting of coins in the name of the Sikkim Sarkar was generally done in two places, located near Tuk-khani (Tuk mines) and Pachey khani (Pachey mines)³. Unfortunately the Nepalese government quickly realised this threat to the revenue generated by their own coinage, and forbade the Sikkim coins from being used in Nepalese territory. A similar ban was imposed by the British in the Darjeeling district in India. As there was no demand for coinage in Sikkim itself, minting was not a commercial success and production ceased after about two years. Thereafter, any copper extracted from the mines was sold at metal value.

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4. I am thankful to Shri Ravi Shankar Sharma, Kolkata, for providing me the related photographs.



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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)
March	2-4	Ahmedabad	Coinex 2012	Sushilaben Ratilal Hall, SDVP, Swastika Char Rasta, Opp. Choice Hotel, C G Road, Navarangpura (Gujarat Coin Society)
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