

### Features of this Issue:

- The Classic Engraver - L.C. Wyon: By R. Vaidyanadhan
- Willaim Wyon, an outstanding engraver: By R. Vaidyanadhan
- NGS Slabs Sale Chart March 2012: By Rachna Dawda
- Origins & Coinages of Republic India ( I ): By Sandeep Shah
- Update on Investing in Silver and Silver Coins: By Sandeep Shah
- Glimpses of Indian Autographs: By Praful Thakkar
- First time in India - Rs. 60 Coins :By Ravi Shankar Sharma



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## The Classic Engraver - L.C. Wyon

By R. Vaidyanadhan

The man who designed India's most artistic obverse and reverse designs of Queen Victoria, which embellished Indian coinage for well over 40 years, was Leonard Charles Wyon.

The British engraver of the Victorian era most was notable for his work on the gold and silver coinage struck for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 and the bronze coinage of 1860 with the second ("bun") head portrait, in use from 1860 to 1894.

Wyon, like his father William before him, prepared many dies for coinage use in various parts of the British Empire, including those for Australia, British East Africa, British Guiana, the West Indies, British Honduras, British India; the British India Native States of Alwar, Bikanir, Dwas and Dgar; Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Jersey, Malta, Mauritius, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the Straits Settlements.

His Indian coins bore his initials L.C.W on proof and pattern coins of 1860, 61 and 67.

The eldest son of chief engraver William Wyon and his wife, Catherine Sophia, LC es Wyon was born in one of the houses in the Royal Mint in 1826, and was educated at Merchant Taylors' School. LC Wyon's father taught him art and also from his father he inherited great skill in die engraving. By the age of 16 he had already made several medals and some of his early work is displayed in the British Museum's Numismatic collection.

He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1843. From 1844 he studied at the Royal Academy Schools and in the same year, at the age of just 18, he became Second Engraver under his father at the Royal Mint.

One of his earliest medals to be widely praised was his 1846 medal of the Irish Temperance preacher Theobald Mathew. In 1850 he was commissioned by Queen Victoria to make medallic portraits of the royal children, and in 1851 he executed the reverse of the prize-medal for the Great Exhibition.

Also in 1851, at the age of 24, he succeeded his father, who had died, with the title of 'Modeler and Engraver'. In



1854 he engraved the 'William Wyon Laudatory Medal', in memory of his father, for the Art Union of London. Like his father before him, he also produced dies for postage and other stamps.

In 1860 L. C. Wyon was invited to prepare designs for the new British bronze coin denominations. It was pointed out to Wyon that on no account was Britannia to be omitted from the reverse of the new coinage. The Queen herself took a personal interest in the design for the new minor coinage and gave several sittings to him for her portrait. Wyon submitted a number of designs to the Queen for her approval, one of which she adopted. This design included a bronze Penny, commonly known as the 'Bun' Penny on account of Victoria's hair style.

Intending to give a bold relief to the designs on the new bronze coins, Wyon engraved the original dies so deeply that they were liable to fracture after relatively few pieces had been struck from them. He therefore had to start again and, after he had produced dies of less bold relief, mass-production of the bronze coinage began.

LC Wyon also engraved the dies for the gold and silver coinage struck for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. This coinage, the designs for which were prepared from life by Sir Joseph Boehm, R.A., produced a storm of disapproval, directed particularly against Boehm's portrait of the Queen.

His official medals included the South Africa Medal (1853), the Arctic and Baltic Medals, the Indian Mutiny Medal, and the South Africa Medal (1879). Among his portrait medals are those of William Wordsworth (1848), Robert Stephenson (1850), Joseph Paxton (1854), Richard Sainthill (1855), Henry Hallam (1859), and William Ewart Gladstone (1879).

On June 22, 1852, Wyon married Mary Birks (1831-1902) and the couple lived in London, first in Maida Vale and from 1856 in St John's Wood. None of their numerous offspring took up their father's profession. Leonard Charles Wyon died of Bright's disease and apoplexy at his home, 54 Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood, London, on August 20, 1891 and was buried at Paddington Old Cemetery.

## William Wyon, an outstanding engraver

By R. Vaidyanadhan



**W**illiam Wyon (1795-1851) was born at Birmingham and, after studying art, was apprenticed to his father, also an artist, at the age of 14. He grew in skill as an engraver of medals and was considerably influenced by the relief sculpture of Flaxman.

From 1828 he was the chief engraver at the Royal Mint and was responsible for some of the most iconic official portraiture in the country.

Most famous is the portrait of the young Queen Victoria that appeared on penny coins from 1838 to 1860, and which was copied to appear on the penny black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp.

Wyon was a neo-classicist artist, with his sitters appearing as if from Roman or Greek legend. Wyon also designed medals, including those awarded at the Great Exhibition in 1851.

In his prolific output between 1816 and 1851 there is much to admire in William Wyon's work: the Three Graces pattern crown of 1817, the seated Britannia of the 1820s, the Lion sixpences and shillings of George IV, and a regal Una and the Lion on the famous five pounds piece of 1839.

They are, all of them, designs of charm and distinction, but they do not by themselves explain why Wyon's contemporaries, who elected him to the Royal Academy, held him in high regard nor why modern numismatists cherish his memory with such affection.

His enduring reputation rests rather on his coin portraits of Queen Victoria. They begin early, for the Queen first sat for him as a young Princess of 13 and he produced a medallic portrait for her 18th birthday.

This was followed by a portrait in lower relief for the new Queen's coins, which began to find their way into circulation in the summer of 1838. In 1847 came a crowned bust in fashionable Gothic style, adopted for the proof crowns of that year and, later, for the controversial florins of 1849.

However, it is the portrait of the 1838 coinage that undoubtedly takes first prize. Wyon was clearly inspired by his admiration of the neo-classical style of his mentor Flaxman to create an uncluttered and well balanced portrait.

Now, lovingly known, as the Young Head, its beautiful features flatter the Queen, who was a grandmother in her late sixties before she allowed it to disappear from the coinage. "You always represent me favourably", she told Wyon.

The celebrated engraver of the Una and the Lion coin was William Wyon, the Royal Mint's chief engraver. Wyon came from a family with a long tradition of artists and engravers. At various times several other of his relatives also were employed by the Mint.

An older cousin, Thomas, also helped train the young Wyon. Wyon had been the Mint's chief engraver for about nine years when he engraved the 5-pound pattern coin that many consider to be his crowning achievement.

Wyon worked in the traditional manner, making his own wax models and cutting the designs directly into the die using tiny gravers, punches and drills.

Continued on page 3

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He was immensely talented, and had he not been continually at loggerheads early in his career with his supervisor, Benedetto Pistrucci, he might have produced even more stunning work.

Wyon was paralyzed by a stroke at age 56 and was no longer able to continue engraving. His inability to work, and not the stroke, probably is what caused his death shortly thereafter.

Wyon's St George was used on the reverse of a personal medal commissioned by Prince Albert.

### Other Coins by William Wyon:

William Wyon also was responsible for engraving many other attractive coins, including the 1835 mohurs of East India Company, also showing Flaxman's lion and palm tree.

Wyon is listed as the engraver of at least 43 different coins struck for circulation in England. He also prepared scores of coin dies for the British Territories, including the West Indies, British India, Ceylon, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Ionian Islands, Ireland, Jersey, Malta, Mauritius, New Brunswick, Penang, Straits Settlements, and New Granada.

He even designed coins for foreign countries, including Mexico, Portugal and Venezuela.

Besides coins and medals, Wyon engraved five different British stamp designs, fifteen seals and numerous embossing dies for the British government.



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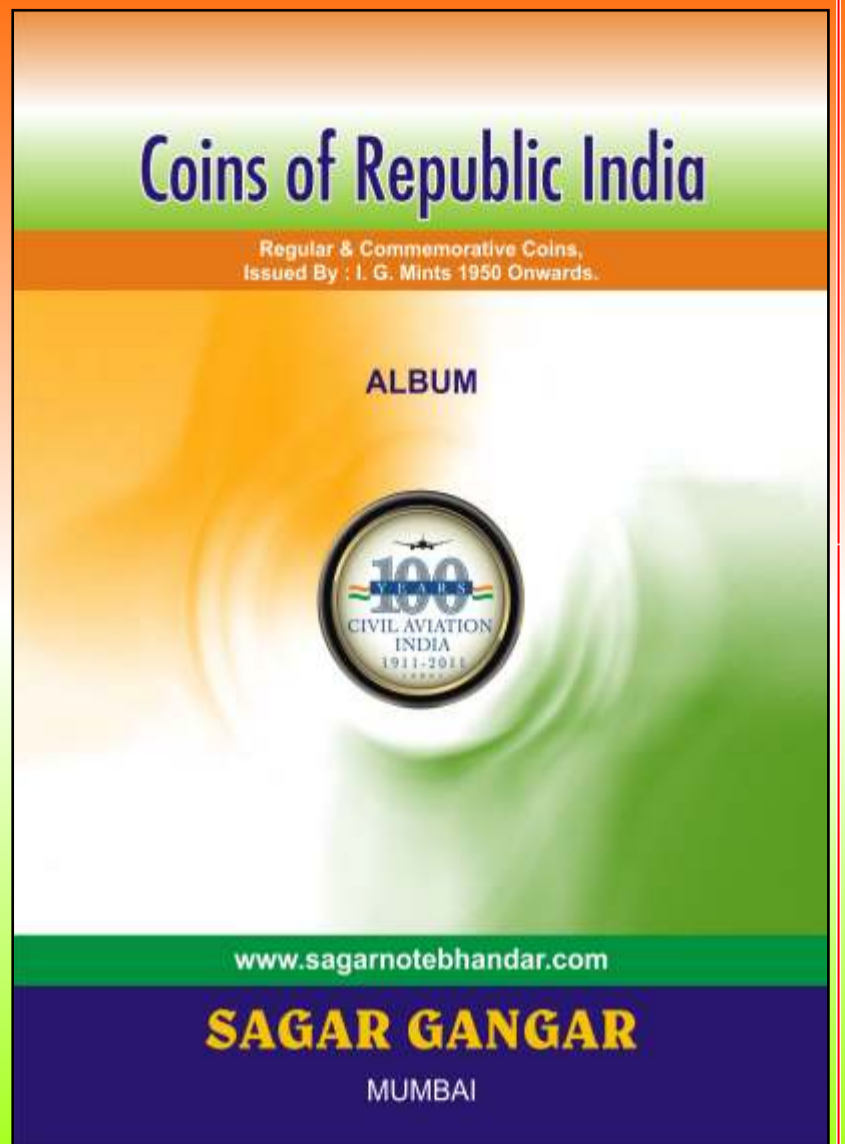
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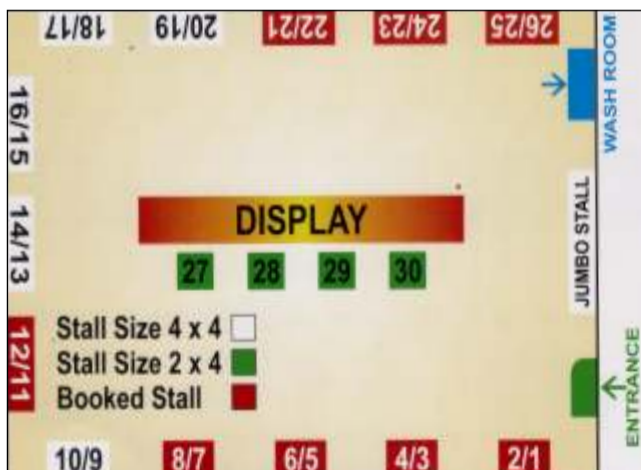
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## Origins & Coinages of Republic India ( Part I )

By Sandeep Shah

Indian Civilization is since 2500 BC, Agriculture & Commerce was developed by the inhabitants of Indus Valley. In 1500 BC the Origins of this civilization declined & the Aryans conquered & developed a Brahminic Civilization, they introduced Caste Systems. Many Empires flourished in India over the Centuries in which prominence were Mauryans, Guptas & Mughals. Portuguese were first Europeans to arrive off Calicut in 1498, followed by East India Company. By 1757 the British firmly established and acquired dominion over most of India by intrigue and force and ruled directly or through puppet Princely States.

In World War I India sent 6 million troops to fight at the side of the allies, thus Indian Nationalism was sparked and intensified. National Congress under the leadership of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi revolted against the British Authority. As Britain wanted India to participate in war against Germany in Sept 1939, the Congress demanded Independence as a condition for co-operation.

India became Independent on August 15th 1947 and was separate by the majority Muslim State of Pakistan which became independent on 14th August 1947.

However, coins of British India dated 1947 were struck until 1950. With Independence it was not possible to put a sudden break to this currency as it could have resulted in chaos in the economy. So till the country was formally declared as a Republic, no new coins were minted and currency notes of the British in the denomination of Rs 1, 2 and 5 which were already printed but were not issued to public were released in the independent country to run the economy smoothly. RED Serial number notes were used, that was the note of Republic India

### Between 1947 to 1949.

India became Republic on 26th January 1950, On the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the independence, new coins were introduced. These coins followed the earlier British coin in respect of their value, weight, metal and fabric, but the designs were drastically changed to do away with the vestiges of foreign domination. The new designs introduced represented India's glory and the hopes and aspirations of the future.

On Obverse of all the coins, right from Rupee to Pice, the effigy of the

British Monarch was replaced by the representation of the Lion - Capital of the Great Ashoka Maurya's pillar at Sarnath near Varanasi in UP. The pillar represents non-violence and peace, which the Republic of India has adopted as its insignia. The name of the king was replaced by the super inscription GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. On the reverse of the coins of Rupee, 1/2 Rupee and 1/4 Rupee, a new motif, a pair of ears of wheat, was placed on the two sides of the English numerals showing the value. The value was written in Hindi, year of the issue in English. The Rupee coins were security -edged, while the 1/2 and 1/4 Rupee coins were milled edge.

Other lower denomination coins, viz 2 anna, 1 anna & 1/2 anna adopted the figure of a bull on the reverse which was taken from the base of the Lion - Capital of Ashoka. On the coins of 1 pice, a horse was placed on the reverse which too was again adopted from the base of the Lion - Capital. All these coins were issued in continuation of the earlier standard called the Anna Series.

### Anna Series (1947 - 1957) & Decimal Currency (1957 onwards..)

Anna Series: Also called as Standard Coinage. This represented the currency during the transition phase (1957 to 1964) till the establishment of the Indian Republic. In 1947 only 30 % of Indian population was literate. Herein, One Rupee was divided into 64 pice or 192 pies or into 16 annas.

1 Anna was equal to 4 pice,

8 Anna was equal to 32 pice and

1 pice was equal to 3 pies.

**Decimal Series:** In September, 1955 the Indian Coinage Act was amended and the Country adopted the Metric System of Coinage.

8 Anna is equal to 1/2 rupee is equal to 50 paise

4 Anna is equal to 1/4 rupee is equal to 25 paise and

2 Anna is equal to 1/8 rupee.

**The Anna Series:** This series was first introduced on 15th August, 1950 and it represented the first coinage of the Republic of India. The King's Portrait was replaced by the Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar. A corn Sheaf replaced the Tiger on the One Rupee Coin. In some ways it symbolised the shift into progress and prosperity. Indian motifs were incorporated on the coins. The monetary system was largely retained with One rupee consisting of 16 Annas.



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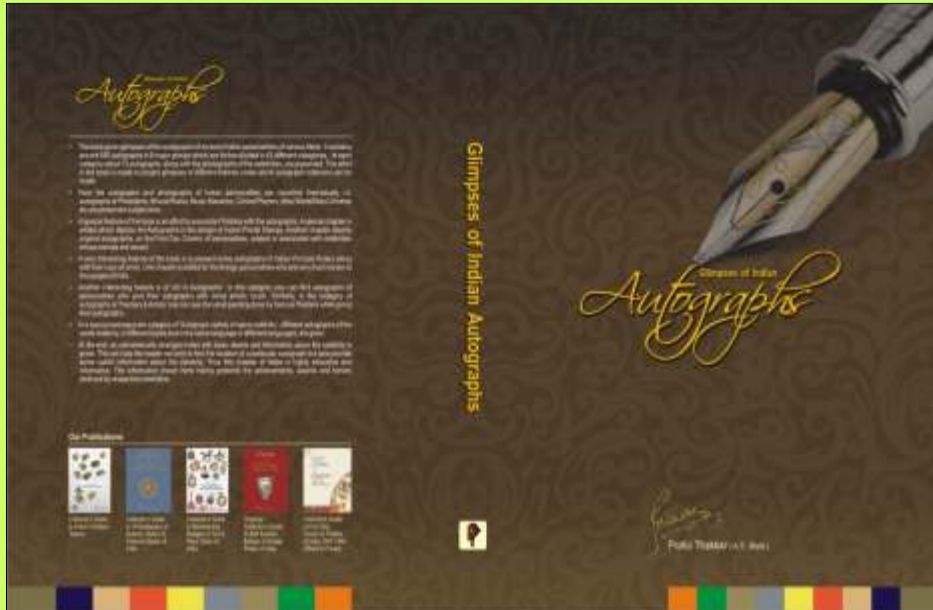
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## Glimpses of Indian Autographs

New Book by Praful Thakkar



1. This is a book that gives glimpses of the autographs of eminent Indian personalities of various fields. The book contains around 600 autographs in 8 major groups which are further divided in 42 different categories. In each category about 13 autographs, along with the photographs of the celebrities, are presented. The effort in the book is made to project glimpses of different themes under which autograph collection can be made.
2. Here one can find the autographs and photographs of Indian personalities classified thematically. This means that the autographs of Presidents & Prime Ministers of India, Indian National Leaders & Freedom Fighters, Recipients of Bharat Ratna, Magsaysay & Dada Saheb Phalke awards, Governors & Chief Ministers of different Indian States, Saints & Spiritual Masters, Indian Film Stars & Personalities, Indian Cricket Captains & Cricketers, Indian Music Maestros, Indian Painter-Artists, Indian Nobel Laureates, Indian Miss Universe / World, Indian Businessmen / Industrialists, Rulers of Indian Princely States etc. are presented here subject wise.
4. A special feature in this book is an effort to associate Philately with the autographs. A special chapter is added which depicts the Autographs in the design of Indian Postal Stamps. Another chapter depicts original autographs, on the First Day Covers, of personalities, related or associated with celebrities whose stamps are issued.
5. A very interesting feature of the book is to present some autographs of Indian Princely Rulers. In India more than 580 Princely States were there. They were ruled by the Kings. The States had their own Coat-of-Arms as their Royal Symbols. Here in this book an effort is made to put some Rulers' autographs along with their Royal Coat-of-Arms. This will reflect one facet of our Indian history.
6. Another interesting feature is of 'Art in Autographs'. In this category one can find autographs of personalities who give their autographs with some artistic touch. Similarly, in the category of autographs of 'Painters & Artists' one can see the small painting done by famous Painters while giving their autographs.
7. In a special and separate category of 'Autograph variety of same celebrity', different autographs of the celebrity, in different styles and in the same language or different languages, are given.
9. This book is meant to project the autographs of Indian celebrities. However, as an exception, one chapter is added for the foreign personalities who are very much known to the people of India.
10. In this era of Internet, chapter of Useful Links and books will be useful to all collectors and readers. Here URLs of some interesting websites created by individuals/organizations and names and addresses of some useful books are given. The collectors may make appropriate use of this information.
11. At the end, an alphabetically arranged Index with basic details and information about the celebrity is given. This will help the reader not only to find the location of a particular autograph but also provide some useful information about the celebrity. Thus this chapter of Index is highly educative and informative. The information shown here mainly presents the achievements, awards and honors received by respective celebrities.
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## Update on Investing in Silver and Silver Coins

By Sandeep Shah

**S**ilver 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 50000 Rs. As I write, silver prices are back at 50000 Rs 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 64000 Rs 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.*

### New Book:

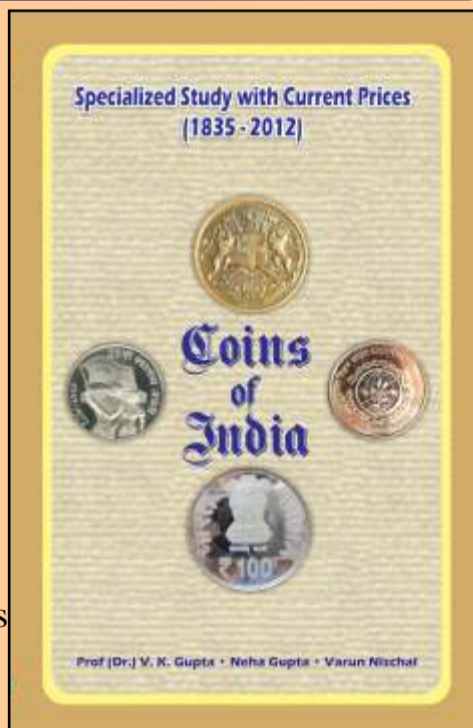
#### Coins of India : Specialized Study with Valuation (1835-2012)

By Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Gupta,  
Neha Gupta &  
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## NGS Slabs Sale Chart (May 2011 - Feb. 2012)

*By Rachna Dawda*

**I**t is a well known fact that the N.G.S. Certified Slabs of coins and notes have been getting a very good response in Indian auctions. In this column, we will keep you informed about the Appreciation the N.G.S. Slabs are receiving in the auctions.

Following is the first Chart of successful appreciation of the N.G.S. Slabs in four major Indian auctions from May 2011 to Feb 2012.

### Maru Auction, No. 2 (18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012, Bangalore)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 1120	Rs. 1400	1600	14.28 %
# 1481	Rs. 2500	2700	8.00 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 3900</b>	<b>Rs.4300</b>	<b>10.26 %</b>

### Oswal Auction, No. 23 (7<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Bangalore)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 136	Rs. 35,000	Rs. 40,000	14.28 %
# 189	Rs. 1, 95,000	Rs. 2,05,000	5.12 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 2, 40,000</b>	<b>Rs. 3,45,000</b>	<b>43.75 %</b>

### Oswal Auction, No. 25 (24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2011, Mumbai)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 189	Rs. 2, 20,000	Rs. 2, 80,000	27.27 %
# 190	Rs. 20,000	Rs. 65,000	225.00 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 2, 40,000</b>	<b>Rs. 3, 45,000</b>	<b>43.75 %</b>

### Oswal Auction, No. 26 (14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2011, Chennai)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 172	Rs. 20,000	Rs. 33,000	65.00 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 20,000</b>	<b>Rs. 33,000</b>	<b>65.00 %</b>

### Oswal Auction, No. 29 (10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2011, Pune)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 227	Rs. 1,500	Rs. 2,400	60.00 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 1,500</b>	<b>Rs. 2,400</b>	<b>60.00 %</b>

### Todywalla Auction, No. 57 (13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2011, Indore)

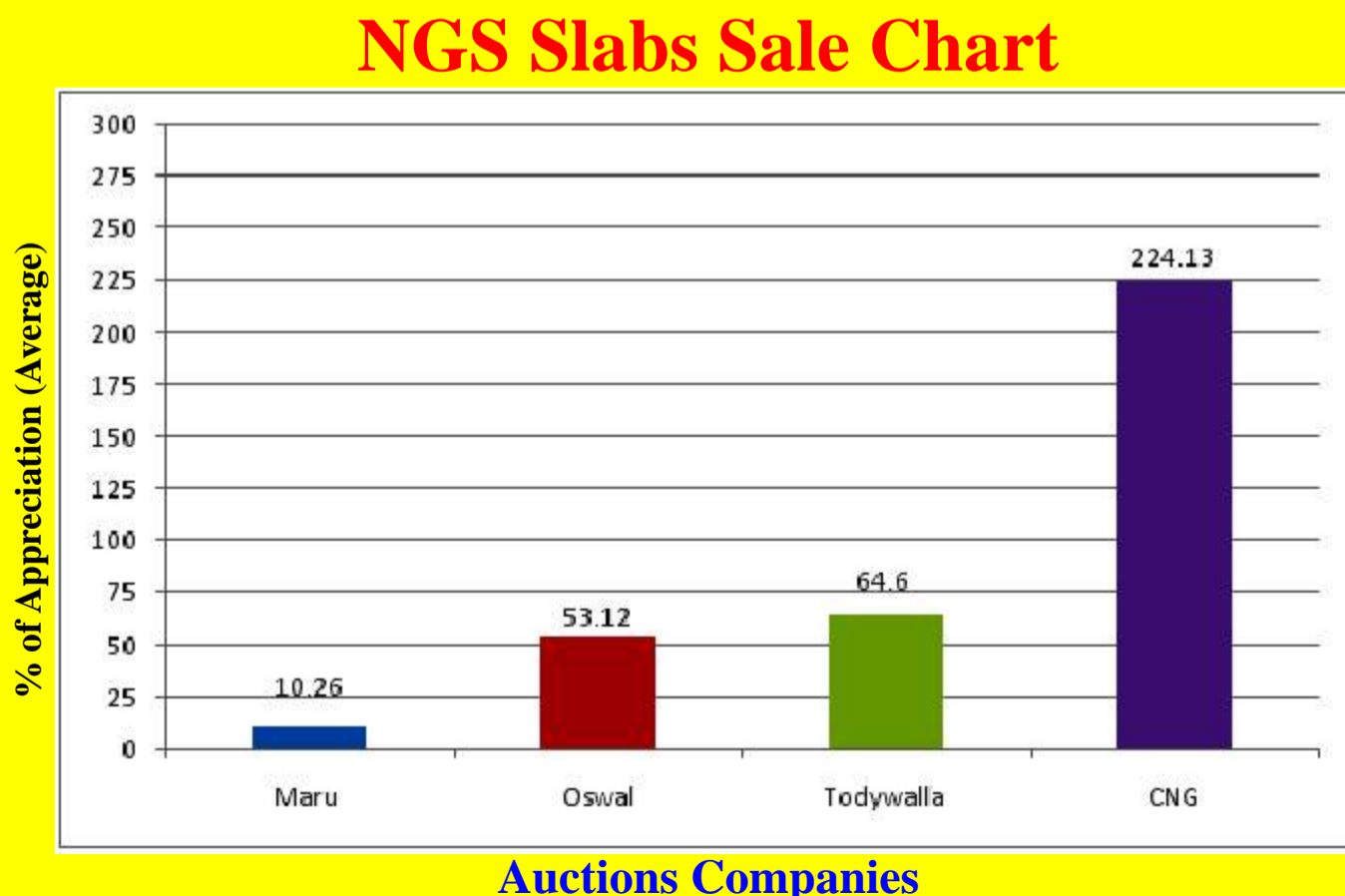
Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 287	Rs. 2,200	Rs. 4,000	81.81 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 2,200</b>	<b>Rs. 4,000</b>	<b>81.81 %</b>

### Todywalla Auction, No. 59 (27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2012, Nagpur)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 143	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 3,900	30.00 %
# 193	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 4,500	50.00 %
# 195	Rs. 1,800	Rs. 3,300	83.33 %
# 196	Rs. 2,500	Rs. 3,300	32.00 %
# 202	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 4,600	53.33 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 13,300</b>	<b>Rs. 19,600</b>	<b>47.39 %</b>

### Classical Numismatic Gallery Auction, No. 6 (28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012, Nagpur)

Lot #	Estimate	Sold at	% of Appreciation
# 392	Rs. 4,000	16,500	312.5 %
# 401	Rs. 1,800	2,300	27.78 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 5800</b>	<b>Rs. 18800</b>	<b>224.13 %</b>



*Shri Mahalaxmi*



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## Calendar of Events 2012

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
March	23-25	New Delhi	Bharatiya Mudra Utsav 2012	Bhai Veer Singh Sahitya Sadan, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Gol Market, New Delhi 110011. (contact Goga Jain)
April	20-22	Mumbai	Shukla Day	World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade (Farokh Todywalla)
May	18-20	Hyderabad	3rd national Numismatic Exhibition 2012	Maruti Gardens Convention Center 11-4-669/1, Beside Om International Hotel Lakdikapul, Hyderabad - 4. A.P • (Prakash Gupta - +91-98495 03041)
July	27-29	Coimbatore	Coinex 2012	Shree Coimbatore Gujarati Samaj Coimbatore - 6410002. (94433-25960) Organized by - Coimbatore Coin Society
December	23-25	Pune	Coinex Pune 2012	Sonal Hall, Karve Road (International Collectors Society)

### First time in India - Rs. 60 Coins

*By Ravi Shankar Sharma*



India Government is going to release a commemorative set of Rs.60 and rs. 5 on the occasion of "60 year of India government Kolkata" a new Mint was completed at New Alipore and construction was to have completed by early 1942. However World War II brought all construction to a halt. It was completed in early 1950s.

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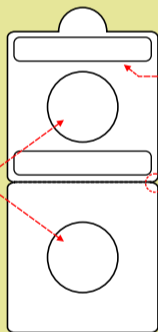
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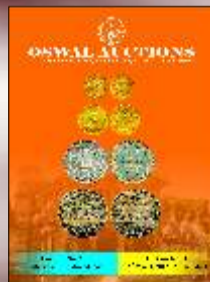
Star Items of our Ahmedabad Auction # 31 & 32



Lot # 228: Sold - Rs. 90,000



Lot # 233: Sold Rs. 1,90,000



Lot # 235: Sold - Rs. 3,75,000



Lot # 379: Rs. 75,000

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