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Inauguration of New NGS Office & NGS Coin Mall



Padmashri Prof. Dr. Prakash Kothari inaugurating the NGS Coin Mall on 16th April 2012 at the new NGS Office



Padmashri Prof. Dr. Prakash Kothari inaugurating the New NGS Office Premises on 16th April 2012. Other dignitaries on the dias are Dr. Dilip Rajgor, Mr. Dinesh Mehta and Mr. Javerilal M. Rajgor



Advocate Ashok Shahani addressing the audience



Dr. Shailendra Bhandare delivering his lecture



Gev Kias presenting Vote of Thanks



The august audience at the function which was attended by about 125 numismatists, collectors, dealers and friends.

G. W. De. Saulles - simply 'DES'

By R Vaidyanadhan



The 1839 one rupee silver coin is the one and only coin designed by a Bombay mint engraver. "Though the correspondence did not mention the name of the engraver," Major F Pridmore (page 11 Part 4, Vol 2) says: "in 1838 one Jewram Shamji a die cutter was also employed as an engraver by the Bombay Mint." And the inference is Jewram Shamji could be the engraver of the coin, says affirmatively Pridmore who authored the two magnum opus on Indian coins.

It's price was about 28,000 pounds (Baldwin's Auctions 22, May 2, 2000, lot 197). The coin weighs 11.66, Silver, Straight grained edge, 30.5mm (Pridmore 181).

This piece was owned by the Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP, DL., Sir John Wheeler says "all the Indian coins had provenance, right from 1892 Montague (Sotheby), 1903 JG Murdoch (Sotheby), 1912 JB Caldecott (Sotheby), 1918 B Roth (Sotheby), 1922 A Nobleman (Sotheby), 1949 Dr. AB Brushfield (Glendining), 1982 and 1983 Major Pridmore (Glendining) and 1985 Virgil M Brand (Sotheby).

The previous owners of the master piece were Virgil Brand (lot 212 in 1985) and before that it was Nobleman (lot 581 in March 31, 1922).

The coin was bought by my friend Dr. David L Fore. In fact, I was also lucky to have got a few special coins, viz. William rupee in half rupee size (KM Pn1) which I think now should be with my friend Basanth Kumar Rathi. I still own 1828 Bombay pattern mohur with garter, Bengal Presidency 1809 one and half pice, unrecorded George VI edge trial in copper.

Unfortunately when the coin's image was posted in the Facebook, many commentators made nasty remarks and claimed it a "crude forgery. This obviously shows the current lot of collectors, pay no attention to reading books and cross checking the facts.

There are beautiful sites that allow to research India coins. Every auction house stores past auction realisation prices along with the images of coins. Even if it is prohibitive to buy such master pieces, at least one could see what they are and trace their history.

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The Oriental Numismatic Society Introduced by its new Secretary General Joe Cribb

In 2009 the Oriental Numismatic Society published its 200th quarterly volume, rebranded in 2006 as the *Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society*. The decision to change the newsletter's name was made in recognition of the growing status of the newsletter as an important and authoritative publication. In 2010 the Society also celebrated 40 years since its foundation by Michael Broome as a mutual association of coin collectors, curators and historians focused on the coins of Asia and North Africa. From the beginning the Society was established as an independent and informal organization, relying on its enthusiastic members to carry forward the Society's aims to promote Oriental numismatic research and collecting and improve communications between all interested in the subject.

The Society is coordinated by a central committee based in the UK, but is run on a day-to-day basis by its members around the world. There are sections based in Europe, North America, India, Pakistan and the UK. Members in East Asia and Australia belong to a General section. Meetings are organized by the local sections. The most frequent meetings are in the Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, USA, India and UK. Meetings are open and informal, non-members are welcomed and tea/coffee breaks and lunch or supper are normally involved. Those attending have the opportunity to meet and exchange views with fellow enthusiasts and to hear illustrated talks on recent collecting activity and research. Novice collectors and researchers present alongside experienced collectors and leading academics, without any distinction being imposed. At our AGM on 26 November last year, we remembered our recently deceased Secretary General Nick Rhodes, with papers on topics he had been engaged in. Amongst other our committee member Paul Stevens talked about Nick's Kashmir collection, covering a millennium and a half of coinage. We also welcomed Ujwal Saha and Akshay Jain, two members of the South Asian section, who presented a joint paper on a new hoard of Gupta coins. However, not all the talk is of coins, as everyone has good fun meeting old friends, having a laugh at our struggles to manage the technology of PowerPoint and often

sharing holiday snaps on screen during the lunch break. We are looking forward to shots of our secretary's Galapagos trip at the next meeting! At some meeting auctions are organized for the benefit of the society. The central committee's role is to keep the society in funds (donations always welcome), oversee its publications and to promote its activities.

Members are encouraged to share their news, discoveries and research in the Society's publication, which began as a one page newsletter in 1970 and is now a Journal of up to 64 pages, published four times a year, occasionally with a supplement featuring research articles. For the last twenty eight years the Journal has been edited by the Society's Deputy Secretary General, Stan Goron, co-author of the standard catalogue of Indian pre-Mughal Islamic coins *The Coins of the Indian Sultanates*, New Delhi 2001. More recently he has been joined by an assistant editor, Robert Bracey, an expert on South and Central Asian coins in the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals. Stan's predecessor as Editor was Michael Mitchiner, the author of many books on Asian coins, most recently his two volume study of *Ancient Trade and Early Coinage*, London 2004.

Recent volumes of the Journal have featured reports on Society meetings and relevant conferences, reviews of new publications, news, obituaries, articles on new discoveries and research papers. Recent issues have featured research on early Islamic coins in the Middle East, Central Asia, North Africa, India




Continued on pg 4

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and South East Asia, on ancient, medieval and modern coins of India and other parts of South Asia and on East Asian coins from China, Japan and Central Asia. The research involved took a wide range of approaches, looking at recent hoards, discussing problems of chronology, explaining coin designs, pondering the difference between obverse from reverse on oriental coins, identifying new rulers in ancient India or explaining the inscriptions on early Indonesian coins. As well as coins members also write about paper money, tokens and related topics such as seals. Whatever their area of interest members will find something to engage them. Some of the papers published have been read at members meetings, others are the result of more focused research from leading scholars in the field of oriental coins.

Just over a year ago the Journal included a supplementary volume presenting papers read at a joint two day meeting of the Numismatic Society of India, the Oriental Numismatic Society held at the British Museum in 2010 to celebrate the NSI's 100th and the ONS's 40th anniversaries. The meeting and publication were supported by donations from A.H. Baldwin & Sons, Classical Numismatic Group and Simmons and Simmons Gallery. Members from UK, USA, Netherlands and India presented papers at the meeting, which was opened by the ONS's much missed former Secretary General Nicholas Rhodes and concluded with the presentation of the NSI's award medals to leading ONS members, Nicholas Rhodes, Joe Cribb, Michael Mitchiner, Ellen Raven and Stan Goron by Paras Nath Singh, General Secretary of the NSI.

Membership of the Society is open to all. Applications are welcomed by the Society's Secretary Peter Smith, who is also Secretary of the UK section (pnsmith755@aol.com), or by any of the Regional Secretaries: North America Charlie Karukstis (charlie@charliek.com), Europe Jan Lingen (lingen@wxs.nl), South Asia Dilip Rajgor (drajgor@hotmail.com), Pakistan Shafqat Mirza (shafqatmirza@hotmail.com), General Section Bob Senior (rcsenior@yahoo.com). The cost per year at present is £25 (or 30 euros, US\$35) The Society is in process of renewing its website www.onsnumis.org and soon people will be able to join through it.

Members all receive four issues of the Journal each year, notices of meetings and access through a shared membership list to all other members. They are all welcome to attend meetings, which in UK take place on Saturdays at the British Museum, London and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The most recent meeting was at the British Museum on 17 March, on the theme of East Asia, featuring papers on the Chinese coin collections in Manchester Museum and the ancient coinage of Chinese Central Asia. The next UK meeting will be at the Ashmolean Museum on 9 June and October 20, details from Dr. Shailendra Bhandare. The meetings are still being planned, but one will focus on coins in Indian Ocean trade.

Joe Cribb

Secretary General,
Oriental Numismatic Society



ONS Members Ellen Raven (Netherlands) and Michael Mitchiner (UK) at the joint Numismatic Society of India and Oriental Numismatic Society anniversary meeting, 2010



The Numismatic Society of India Chakravikrama Gold Medal awarded to ONS members Ellen Raven and Michael Mitchiner in 2010

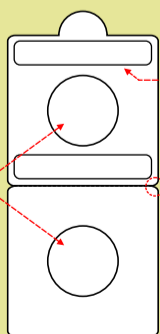


Joint meeting of UK and South Asian sections at Ashmolean Museum, 2010

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New Coins of East India Company: They made it a “Holy” Business

By R Vaidyanadhan



Though the East India Company never showed any animosity among religious faiths in India, they never issued coins with the images of the Hindu deities.

However, it has come to light people are making a fast buck, creating half annas with a crude copy of the design of East India Company original half anna issued in 1835 with the images of all sorts of Hindu gods and selling them as antiques.

The British Government was never indulged in issuing such coins. Only some temple tokens of 19th century depicting, the Hindu, Sikh and Muslim faiths come for up auction with reasonable provenience. But this is alarming. Since people do not pay any attention to the history they think these coins, which show dates like 1616, 1717 and 1818, are really antique.

To make their coins more antique than the originals they created fancy dates which has no relation with any date of issue in India like 1616, 1816 and 1818.

Other than selling them to gullible people, then even ventured into online auction sites. The price for copper coins are as high as Rs.1,400, the gold coins with Sita-Rama-Lakshmana is being offered at an astronomical price. The first two coins in the photograph are the original half anna issued by the government, while all others fancy issues.



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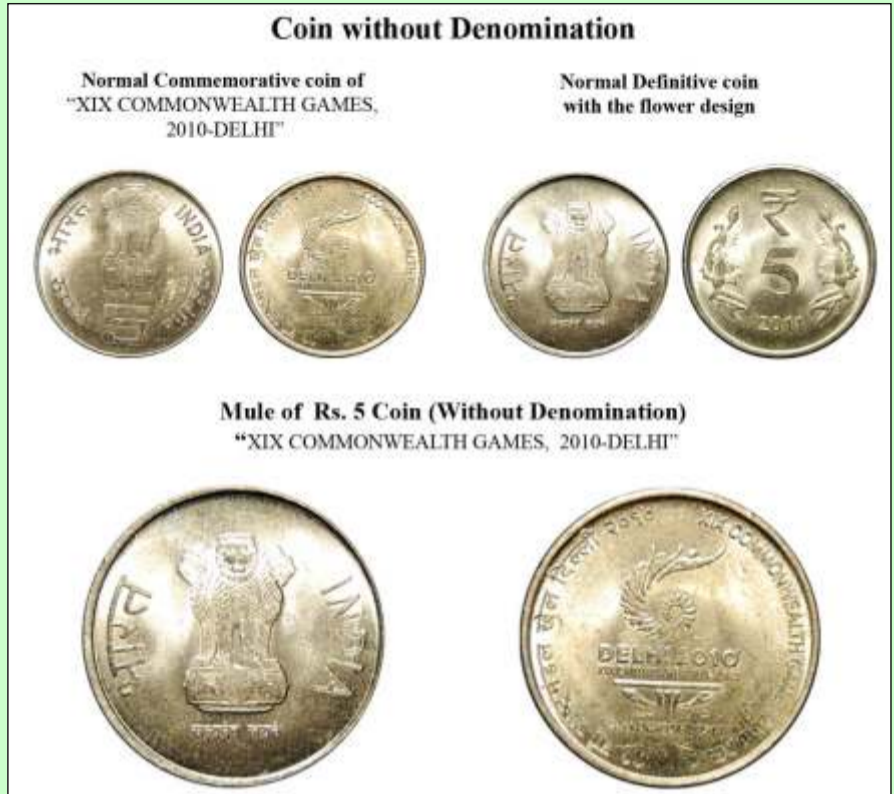
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Republic of India Coin without denomination ??

By Ravi Shankar Sharma



This is the first time in the history of Republic of India coinage a coin without denomination has been minted in the country. It has been issued recently as a commemorative coin on the occasion of the "XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi". This special coin was issued in the denomination of Rs. 100, Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 as proof and unc sets from the India Government mint, Kolkata.

The Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 denomination coins are for general circulation and are being minted from all the four mints.

The obverse of the coin bears the lion capital of Ashoka Pillar with the legend "satyameva jayate" inscribed below flanked on the left upper periphery with the word 'Bharat' in Hindi and on the right upper periphery with the word 'INDIA' in English. The denominational value "5" in International numerals is seen below the lion capital flanked on the left lower periphery with the word 'Rupaye' in Hindi and right lower periphery with the word 'RUPEES' in English.

Reverse of the coin bears the logo of "XIX Commonwealth Games, 2010-Delhi" in the centre, flanked on the left upper periphery with the words "XIX COMMONWEALTH GAMES, 2010-DELHI" in Hindi. The right periphery is flanked with the word "XIX COMMONWEALTH GAMES, 2010-DELHI" in English. The date '3-14 OCTOBER 2010' is seen below the logo in international numeral and English.

Recently, a mule coin has come to our notice in the denomination of Rs. 5 from the Calcutta mint with the normal reverse showing "XIX Commonwealth Games, 2010-Delhi" and with the obverse of a definitive coin. Lion with 15 mm without any denomination.

In normal definitive coins the denomination is struck on the reverse with the flower design and the lion capital (15 mm) on the obverse. Whereas in the case of commemorative coins the Lion capital and the denomination is struck on the obverse and subject of commemoration on the reverse.

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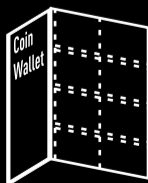
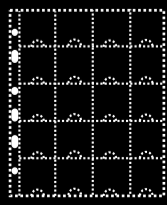
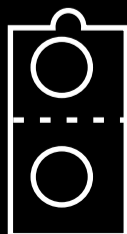
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BM and the Controversial Coinage

By R Vaidyanadhan



The famous Australian sculptor, Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal, is for some technical reasons brought out the first infamous Indian rupee called the “Pig Rupee” in 1911. The reverse design was prepared by Percy Brown.

The new rupee coin with the portrait of the King George V was put into circulation on December 12, 1911. The uproar was instantaneous. The man on the street as well as political agitators claimed that the coin shows “pig” on the new coinage. The animal shown on the collar of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire was a representation of an Indian elephant, but not a “pig”. The explanation did not went down well with the public, and a coins with revised design was out on January 23, 1912. It is claimed 7,00,000 coins were issued.

Due to the public agitation 23,60,000 one anna pieces dated 1911 with “pig” design were held back.

All the George V coins bear an unclear initial of the engraver as BM (raised) on the collar. For some unknown reasons no effort was made to prepare a clear incuse or raised initials of the designer throughout the series. The example shown along with the picture of Bertram Mackennal is from a South Africa coin. Other images are the “pig” and corrected version “elephant” and the rupee of 1911.

Bertram Mackennal was born in Fitzroy, Victoria a suburb of Melbourne. His mother was Annabella and his father was John Simpson Mackennal, a sculptor. John Mackennal provided Bertram his early training which was followed by studies at the school of design at the Melbourne National Gallery which he attended from 1878 to 1882.

Mackennal left for London in 1882 to study at the National Gallery Schools. In 1884 he visited Paris for further study and married a fellow student, Agnes Spooner.

On returning to England, Mackennal was appointed head of modelling and design at the Coalport Potteries, Shropshire early in 1886. In the same year he won a competition for the sculptured reliefs on the front of Parliament House, Melbourne, and returned to Australia in 1887 to execute these.

While in Australia Mackennal obtained other commissions, including the figure over the doorway of Mercantile Chambers, Collins Street, Melbourne. Mackennal also met the visiting Sarah Bernhardt who strongly advised him to leave Australia and return to Paris.

In 1893 he had his first success, when his full length figure "Circe", now at the National Gallery of Victoria, obtained a "mention" at the Old Salon and created a good deal of interest. Commissions began flowing in, among them being the figures "Oceana" and "Grief" for the Union Club, Sydney. Two Melbourne commissions brought him to Australia again in 1901, the memorial to Sir William John Clarke at the Treasury Gardens, Melbourne, and the sculptures for the Springthorpe Memorial in Kew.

Mackennal returned to London, and among his works of this period were the fine pediment for the local government board office at Westminster, a Boer War memorial for Islington, and statues of Queen Victoria for Ballarat, Blackburn.

In 1907 his marble group "The Earth and the Elements" was purchased for the National Gallery of British Art. In 1908 his "Diana Wounded" was also bought for the nation. This dual success brought Mackennal into great prominence, and he was elected an associate of the Royal Academy in 1909. He also designed the medals for the 1908 London Olympic Games.

In 1910 Mackennal designed the Coronation Medal for King George V and also won the important commission for the obverse design (the monarch's head) of the new coinage needed for the new reign from 1911, from which he developed the new design for the King's head on British postage stamps. This is certainly his most enduring design. His initials, B.M., can be seen on the truncation of the King's neck on the obverse of all British coins of George V. Mackennal also did statues of King Edward VII for London, Melbourne, Calcutta and Adelaide.

Mackennal was the first Australian artist to be knighted. He was created a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order in 1921, and was elected R.A. in 1922.

Sir Bertram Mackennal died suddenly from rupture of abdominal aneurysm at his house, Watcombe Hall, near Torquay, Devon on 10 October 1931; he was survived by Lady Mackennal and a daughter.



Zubayr Khan

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Calendar of Events 2012

| Month | Date | Place | Event | Venue |
|----------|-------|------------|--|---|
| May | 6-20 | Indore | Training Program in Numismatic Research | 115, Kailash Park, Manoramaganj, Indore (S. K. Bhatt - 94845 51861) |
| May | 18-20 | Hyderabad | 3rd National Numismatic Exhibition 2012 Hyderabad | Maruti Gardens Convention Center 11-4-669/1, Beside Om International Hotel Lakdikapul, Hyderabad - 4. A.P (Rajender Maru) |
| June | 3 | Coimbatore | The Ancient Times Auctions 1st Annual Day & Mini Auction # 6 | 391, 100 Feet Road, Gandhi Puram, Coimbatore - 641 012. Tamil Nadu (Swamy # 98434 48548) |
| July | 7-9 | Chennai | Tamilzhagam Numismatic Society | Community Hall, Kannapar Thidal, Sydensharms Road, Near Nehru Stadium, Old Moor Market, Central Railway Station, Chennai-3. (Palanimurugan 09094312316) |
| July | 7-9 | Tirupati | All India Numismatic & Philatelic Expo - 2012 | Sri Nehru Lalitha Kala Pranganam, Municipal Corporation Office Compound, Tirupati. (B. Chandra Sekhar 90307 00485 & Y. Arun Reddy +91 93939 39500) |
| July | 27-29 | Coimbatore | Coinex 2012 | Shree Coimbatore Gujarati Samaj Coimbatore - 6410002. (Ravichandran 94433-25960) Coimbatore Coin Society |
| August | 17-19 | Ahmedabad | Ahmedabad Coins & Currency Fair | Hotel Comfort Inn President, opp. Municipal Market, C.G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009. (079-2646 4850) |
| October | 5-7 | Nagpur | 4th National Numismatic Exhibition 2012 | Mor Bhavan, Jhansi Rani Chowk, Sitabuldi, Nagpur |
| October | 12-14 | Kanpur | 1st Numismatic Exhibition | Kanpur |
| November | 23-25 | Cochin | Coin Expo - 2012 | Kerala Numismatic Society, North Arnakalam, Near North Railway Station, Cochin - |
| December | 23-25 | Pune | Coinex Pune 2012 | Sonal Hall, Karve Road (International Collectors Society) |

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NOTICE

BOOKING FOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN SETS ON THE OCCASION OF '100 YEARS OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH' and '100 YEARS OF CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA'

India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is starting booking of commemorative coin sets (consisting of Rs. 100/- & Rs. 5/-) in Proof and Uncirculated varieties released on the occasion of '100 YEARS OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH' and '100 YEARS OF CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA'.



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- Claim after **three years** from the closure of booking will not be entertained.

For other terms and conditions of coin booking and revised terms and conditions of counter sale please visit our web site: www.mumbai mint.in

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N.G.S. No.
2120000-004370

Authority: Jaipur
Ruler: Man Singh II
Specs: Silver, 11.34 g, 37.56 mm
Edge: Plain
Denomination: Nazarana Rupee
Date: AD 1939 / RY 18
Remarks: Modern forgery



N.G.S. No.
2120012-004795

Authority: British India
Ruler: Victoria Empress
Specs: Silver, 5.74 g, 24.38 mm
Edge: Milled
Denomination: 1/2 Rupee
Date: 1881
Remarks: Modern forgery



N.G.S. No.
2120026-004255

Authority: British India
Ruler: Victoria Empress
Specs: Silver, 11.57 g, 30.58 mm
Edge: Milled
Denomination: Rupee
Date: 1887
Remarks: Modern forgery



N.G.S. No.
2120000-004371

Authority: Baroda
Ruler: Sayaji Rao III
Specs: Copper, 5.60 g, 20.10 mm
Edge: Plain
Denomination: 1 Paisa
Date: VS 1942
Remarks: Modern forgery

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Shri Gev Kias, the well-known scholar and Senior Numismatist at the NGS, got married to **Ms. Nawaz** at Pune on 30th April 2012. The Team of NGS wishes him and his wife a Happy Married Life.

Anti Forgery Bureau of NGS



N.G.S. No.
2120026-004369

Authority: British India
Ruler: George VI
Specs: Copper, 5.67 g, 24.04 mm
Edge: Milled
Denomination: 1/2 Rupee
Date: 1946
Remarks: Modern forgery



N.G.S. No.
2120000-005081

Authority: India
Ruler: George VI
Specs: Cupro - Nickel, 2.52 g, 19.17 mm
Edge: Milled
Denomination: 25 Paise
Date: 1980
Remarks: Modern Tooled forgery

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