





The Coinage of Early Sultanates of India : An Introduction

5.1 Do you know

Description	Image	Source
<p>The Amirs of the Sind were the first to issue Islamic type coins in India. Their coins are in silver, called <i>Qanhari Dirham</i>, issued in small size which weighed around 0.5 gm.</p>		
<p>Mahmud Ghazni issued his silver coins (dirham) from India. These are significant insofar as they are bilingual coins bearing inscription in Arabic and Sanskrit languages written in Arabic and <i>Sarada</i> scripts respectively</p> <p>It is interesting to note that the first occurrence of a <i>hijri</i> date (418 hijri) and mint name Mahmudpur (Lahore) on Indian coin is noticed on the bilingual (Arabic and Sanskrit) coins of Mahmud Ghazni.</p>		
<p>Like the Ghaznavids, Muhammad bin Sam also issued bull and horseman type coins. The type is generally known in billon (alloy of silver and copper), with the Devanagari legend inscribed as <i>Sri Mahamada Sama</i> on the bull side and <i>Sri Hamira</i> on the horseman side. Hamira is in fact a corruption for the Arabic word Amir (Leader).</p> <p>In the central Indian region Muhammad bin Sam issued gold coins bearing seated goddess <i>Lakshmi</i> on one side and Devanagari legend <i>Sri Mahamada Sama</i> on the other, the type then current in central India</p>		
<p>Iltutmish (1210-1235 CE) gave a definite shape to the coinage of Delhi sultanate, combining Islamic tradition with local Indian tradition. He issued coins in gold, silver, billon and copper. It was during his time the gold and silver coins of about 11gms. have been termed as <i>tanka</i> while billon coins weight of about 3.5 gms, are termed as <i>jital</i>. Iltutmish was the first ruler of Delhi sultanate who received decree of investiture from Abbasid caliph of Baghdad, whose names are inscribed on his coins both in Arabic and Devanagari scripts.</p>		

<p>Razia (1236-1240 CE); the first lady empress of India ascended the throne of Delhi in 1236 CE after the deposition of his brother Rukuddin Firuz and ruled till 1240 CE.. Her coins are known in silver and billon. Like Iltutmish and Ruknuddin she too issued coins in the name of Abbasid caliph Al-Mustansim along with her name and title</p>		
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5.2 Timeline

Timelines	Image	Description
712 CE		The first invasion of the Muslims took place in 712 CE under the command of an Arab, Muhammad bin Qasim, who defeated Dahir, the ruler of Sind. Sind, then became a part of the Arab government, and was administered by the Amir (Governor) appointed by the Ummayyid Caliph of Islam and gradually these Amirs became independent.
418 (hijri) 1025 CE		First occurrence of a <i>hijri</i> date on Indian coins is (418 hijri/ 1025CE). It was first used by Mahmud Ghazni on his silver coins from Mahmud pur (Lahore) mint.
1206-1290 CE		Foundation and expansion of Delhi sultanate. Mameluk/ Slave is first Muslim dynasty of India, founded by Qutubuddin Aibak and strengthened by Iltutmish. Razia, Nasiruddin Mahmud and Balban are some important sultans of this dynasty.
1236-1240 CE		Mameluk during this period was ruled by Razia sultan. She was the first lady empress of India ascended the throne of Delhi in 1236 CE after the deposition of his brother Rukuddin Firuz and ruled till 1240 CE

5.3 Glossary

Staring Character	Term	Definition	Related Term
K	Kalima	The basic creed of Islam: <i>Lailaha illaallah Muhammad-ur-rasul Allah</i> (there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger).	
P	Pious caliphs or great caliphs	Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman and Ali are known as Pious caliphs or great caliph. They are also called <i>Khulfa-i-Rashedin</i> .	
S	<i>Sri Hamira</i>	The termed is regularly used on the bull/ Horseman type coins of Muhammad bin Sam on the horseman side. <i>Hamira</i> is in fact a corruption for the Arabic word Amir (Leader). The type is known in billon.	
Q	<i>Qanhari Dirham,</i>	The silver coins of Amir of Sind is called <i>Qanhari Dirham</i> , issued in small size which weighed around 0.5 gm.	

5.4 Bibliography

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