

ANA, ANS, NI, ONS, CSNA, AVA

PRICE LIST N° 151 - FEBRUARY 1999

TERMS OF SALE:

All coins guaranteed genuine and correctly described.

All prices in US dollars. Payments by cheque must be drawn on any bank in the US (but not an overseas branch of a US bank), and should have US computer numbers at the bottom of the cheque. International postal money orders are recommended for smaller amounts. Payments may be made to my overseas accounts (details below)

Fifteen-day return privilege for any reason. Payments due 15 days after invoice date.

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30-day and 60-day layaway plans available to established buyers.

Foreign orders shipped at buyer's risk, unless buyer provides insurance.

ABBREVIATIONS:

en=edge nick, mt=mount, wk=weak, sl=slight(ly), cl=cleaned, lt=light, nr=near(ly), ND=no date, NM=no mint, dof=date off flan, cr=crude, ctr=center, str=strike, hbl=has been looped, oc=off center, fc=flan crack, ds=doublestruck, tm=test mark(s).

GRADING AND RARITY: Standard American abbreviations are used. Grading is by conservative American standards.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Lists are free to buyers of \$100+ per year. For others, cost is \$12.50 per year in US & Canada, \$19 elsewhere.

BUSINESS HOURS: Generally Monday to Friday, 9AM-5:30PM. Either Doug or myself is normally here during those hours. Answerphone & fax 24 hours per day.

RETURNS & PAYMENTS: Always mention the invoice number with payments & returns. Credit for returns cannot be guaranteed when the invoice number is not mentioned.

OVERSEAS ACCOUNTS: *Amsterdam:* ABN Bank, Postbus 407, NL-1000 AK Amsterdam, account n° 543070344. Please add \$7 to cover bank charges, except for payments made in guilders within the Netherlands.

Tübingen: Kreissparkasse Tübingen, BLZ 641 500 20, account n° 859581 (payment in Deutschmark only). If paying from outside Germany, kindly add DM10, as the bank now charges me that amount. Payments from within Germany need not add it.

London: I now have an account in London and will accept sterling cheques drawn on any UK bank. Since the bank does charge me for conversion and transfer of funds to the US, please add £2 above the sterling equivalent of the dollar amount (at the middle rate).

GOLD

(lots nos. 1-57 are gold)

Ancient

1. **SASANIAN: Shahpur II**, 309-379, AV dinar (6.65g), without name of mint, usual types (bust r./fire-altar flanked by attendants), Göbl 1200.2 (attributed to mint of Ktesiphon), good very fine, **RR** \$3200

2. **Khusraw II**, 591-628, AV dinar (4.58g), without mint name, year 23, bust of king r./facing bust of Anahita, Göbl 217, choice extremely fine (as normal for type), from a hoard of 30-40 pieces found in the 1960s, **RR** \$5000

Gold coins of the Islamic Dynasties

3. **UMAYYAD: temp. Yazid II**, 720-724, AV dinar (4.26g), no mint name as usual, 105, good extremely fine, **S** date \$600

4. **temp. Hisham**, 724-743, AV dinar (4.19g), no mint name, 117, very fine \$400

5. **ABBASID: al-Mu'tasim**, 833-842, AV dinar (4.12g), al-Muhammadiya 225, good fine, **R**, one of the earliest gold coins of Muhammadiya mint \$250

6. **al-Mu'tazz**, 866-869, AV dinar (4.34g), Surra man Ra'a (=Samarra) 251, good very fine, **S** \$350

7. **KINGS OF MURCIA: Muhammad b. Sa'd**, 1047-1071, AV dinar (3.92g), Mursiya 557, A407, Vives 1956, fine ornate calligraphy, good very fine, **R** \$1800

8. **MURABITUN (Almoravids): Yusuf**, 1087-1106, AV dinar (4.16g), Aghmat 488, superb extremely fine \$1200

9. **same ruler**, AV dinar (4.14g), Sijilmasa 494, superb extremely fine, finest style, neat calligraphy with broad space between marginal inscription and surrounding circles, **RR** \$2000

10. **'Ali b. Yusuf**, 1106-1142, AV dinar (3.99g), al-Mariya (=Almeria) 529, A466, Hazard #356, extremely fine, **R** \$800

11. **MUWAHHIDUN (Almohads): Abu Ya'qub Yusuf I**, 1163-1184, AV 1/2 dinar (2.32g), without mint or date, with title of *amir al-mu'minin*, A483, H495, vf-xf \$200

12. **Abu Yusuf Ya'qub**, 1184-1199, AV dinar (4.63g), without mint or date as normal, A484, superb extremely fine \$800

13. **FATIMID: al-Mustansir**, 1036-1094, AV dinar (4.31g), Sabra 440, choice vf-xf, rare Tunisian mint (though not so rare as formerly assumed, as about 25-30 specimens have recently entered the market, mostly dated 439), **RR** \$1200

14. **same ruler**, AV dinar (4.17g), Sur (Tyre in Lebanon) 444, very fine, slightly crimped, **S** \$250

15. **MAMLUK: Barquq**, 1382-1399, AV dinar (9.22g), Halab 793, A972, Balog #576, vf, light edge damage, **S** \$300

16. **Faraj**, 1399-1412, AV dinar (9.33g), al-Qahira 810, nearly vf-xf, unit of date very bold, **R** \$400

17. **Jaqmaq**, 1438-1453, AV dinar ashrafi (3.39g), (al-Qahira) 846, crude very fine, **R** with legible date \$140

18. **ZURAY'ID: in name of al-Mukarram**, ca. 1110-1132, AV dinar (2.33g), 'Adan 524, A1077, extremely fine, **S** \$550

19. **SAMANID: Nasr II b. Ahmad**, 914-943, AV dinar (3.68g), Nishapur 315, A1449, nearly extremely fine \$185

20. **'Abd al-Malik I**, 954-961, AV dinar (3.52g), Herat 350, A1460, good very fine, tiny flan crack, rare mint for ruler, **RR** \$265

21. **GREAT SELJUQ: Alp Arslan**, 1063-1072, AV dinar (3.49g), Herat 460, A1671, very fine, **R** \$200

22. **Toghanshah**, in Khorasan, ca. 1072-1082+, AV dinar (4.02g), Herat 470, A1678, very fine, 1/3 flat, **RR** \$200

23. **Nasir al-Din Mahmud**, 1092-1094, very debased AV dinar, Sarakhs 486, unpublished, type not yet in *Checklist*, without any overlord, very fine, struck off center, **RRR** and presumed to be unique \$300

24. **LU'LU'LID: Badr al-Din Lu'lu'**, 1233-1259, AV broad dinar (7.36g), al-Mawsil 654, citing as overlord the Ayyubid al-Nasir Yusuf II, A1871, very fine, **S** \$300

25. **OTTOMAN: Mehmet II**, 1451-1481, AV sultani (3.53g), Kostantaniye 883, uncirculated, fine bold strike, first Ottoman gold coin and much in demand, **RR** \$2350

26. **Süleyman I**, 1520-1566, AV sultani (3.50g), Jazayir (Algiers) 926, very fine, uneven strike \$180

27. **Selim II**, 1566-1574, AV sultani (3.50g), Jazayir 974, extremely fine, slightly off center \$260

28. **ILKHAN: Uljaytu**, 1304-1316, AV dinar (5.23g), Baghdad 715, type C, A2186, very fine \$300

29. **same ruler**, AV dinar (4.32g), al-Basra 704, type A, A2177, extremely fine, **R** \$475

30. **QAJAR: Fath 'Ali Shah**, 1797-1834, AV keshvarsetan (3.44g), Hamadan 1248, K759, extremely fine, **S** (as are all coins of Fath 'Ali of this denomination) \$185

31. **same ruler**, AV keshvarsetan (3.45g), Tehran 1246, K759, nearly extremely fine, **S** \$170

32. **DURRANI: Shah Zaman**, 1793-1801, AV mohur (10.85g), Peshawar 1215, year 8, K716, extremely fine, **R** \$750

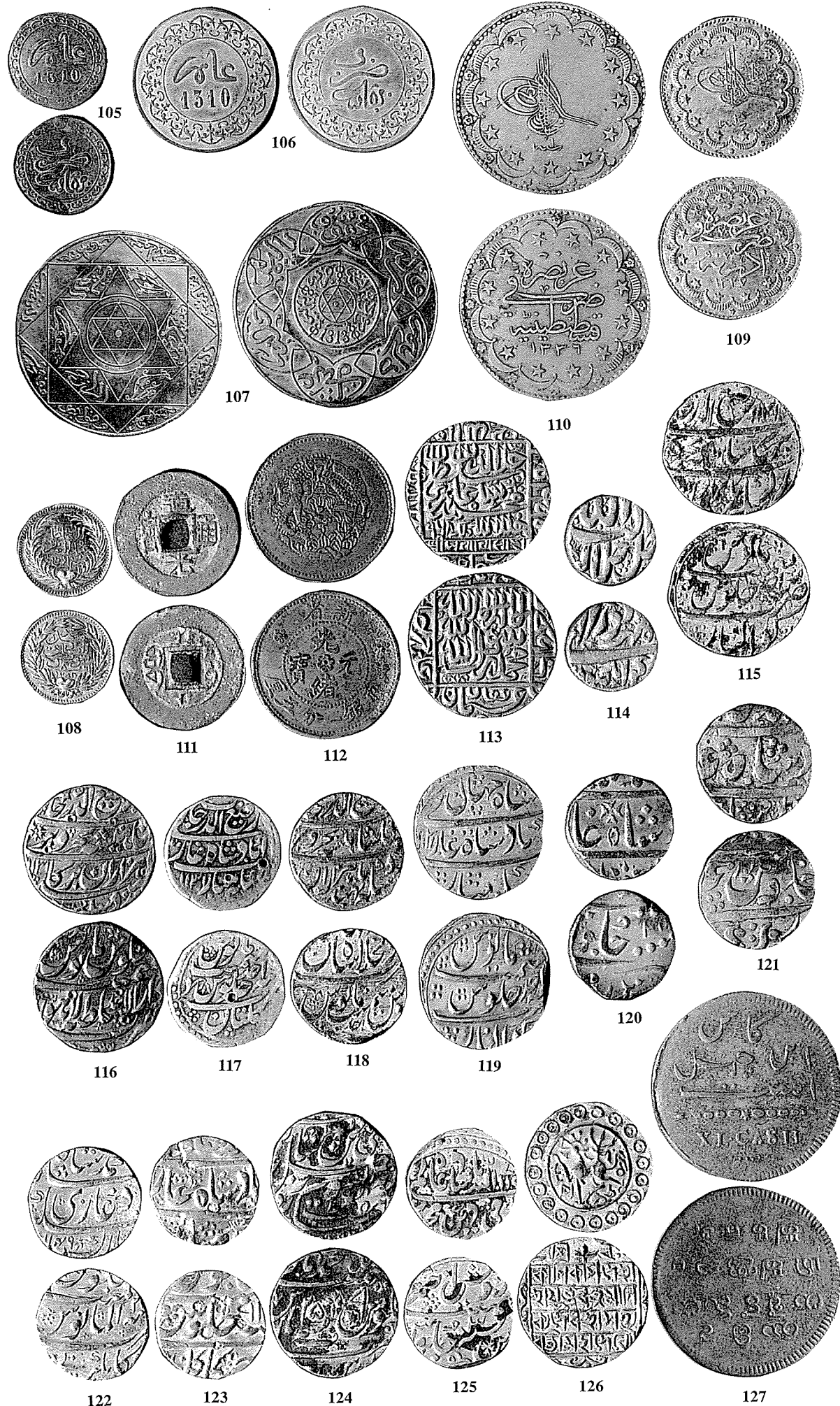
Modern & Miscellaneous Gold

33. **BUKHARA: K27**, AV tilla in name of *mir abu'l-ghazi haydar padishah* (4.60g), dated 1216/regnal year 2 (unlisted as such), extremely fine, nice for type, **S** \$250

34. **K30**, AV tilla in name of *amir al-mu'minin mir haydar* (i.e., as claimant to the caliphate) (4.58g), dated 1227 on both sides, extremely fine, **S** \$225

35. **K34**, AV tilla in name of the deceased Amir Daniyal (4.57g), dated 1231 on both sides, superb extremely fine \$240

36. **IRAN: K936 (Y22)**, AV toman (2.79g), 1310, dated both sides, good very fine, **S**, overpriced in KM \$240



37. **NEPAL:** K615, AV tola of Surendra Vikrama (12.21g), SE1780 (=AD1858), nearly unc, **R** sold
38. **TURKEY:** K758, AV 500 piastres of Mehmet V, 1327, regnal year 4, extremely fine, never mounted \$550
39. K839, AV 500 piastres of the Republic, 1927, 4011 minted, extremely fine, lightly cleaned, probable trace of mount on the edge only \$500
40. K841, AV 50 piastres, 1929, au \$100
41. K842, AV 100 piastres, 1929, unc \$200
42. K857, AV 250 piastres, 1923, year 39 (=1961), unc \$200
43. *same type*, 1923, year 43 (=1965), unc **no photo** \$200
- Gold Coins of India**
44. **MALWA:** Ghiyath Shah, 1469-1500, AV round tanka (11.08g), Shadiabad 876, Rajgor #3121, choice vf+, **R** with clear date \$650
45. **MUGHAL EMPIRE:** Kamran, 1530-1561, AV 1/4 ashrafi (0.66g), no mint or date, Badakhshan provincial series, A-H2464, fine, **RR** \$275
46. **Shah Jahan I**, 1628-1658, AV mohur (10.94g), Surat, month of Azar, year 2, K255.6, ex-Akola hoard, uncirculated, average quality strike (some minor shallowness) \$450
47. **Aurangzeb**, 1658-1707, AV mohur (10.91g), Khujasta Bunyad 1108, year 41 (unlisted combination), K315.30, nearly extremely fine \$300
48. *same ruler*, AV mohur (10.97g), Multan 1071, year 3 (unlisted), K315.35, choice extremely fine \$400
49. *same ruler*, AV mohur (10.91g), Shahjahanabad 1104, year 37, K315.42, extremely fine \$325
50. **Azam Shah**, 1707, AV mohur (10.93g), Khujista Bunyad, year one, K334.5, extremely fine, **RRR** (gold of this ephemeral ruler is all of highest rarity) \$4200
51. **Jahandar**, 1712-1713, AV mohur (10.93g), Shahjahanabad 112(4), year one, K368.6, extremely fine, nice on obv \$380
52. **Alamgir II**, 1754-1759, AV mohur (10.85g), Shahjahanabad 116x, year one, K467.10, virtually uncirculated \$350
53. **AWADH:** K322.1, AV ashrafi of Muhammad Ali (10.71g), 1251, year one, choice extremely fine, **R** \$550
54. K390, AV ashrafi of Brijis Qadr of the Great Uprising, 1857-1858 (10.71g), with pseudo-year 1229 and san 26, K390, good extremely fine, **RR** \$750
55. **JAIPUR:** K163, AV mohur in the names of George V and Man Singh (10.89g), 1925, year 4 (unlisted), unc, **RR** \$500
56. **JODHPUR:** K160, AV mohur in names of George VI and Umaid Singh (11.02g), undated, uncirculated, **R** \$500
57. **MYSORE:** K99a, AV pagoda of Tipu Sultan, Khurshed-sawad mint, AM1218, year 8, choice extremely fine, **R** \$200
- ANCIENT NEAR EAST**
58. **MACEDONIA:** Alexander III, BC336-323, AR tetradrachm (17.05g), usual type (head of Heracles wearing lion-scalp/Zeus seated on throne), Babylon mint, Price #3751, extremely fine \$425
59. **INDO-GREEK:** Philoxenos, ca. BC100-95, AR square drachm, bust r./horseman, Boparachchi 4D, nearly extremely fine, bold portrait \$150
60. **Hippostratos**, ca. BC80-60, AE 8 chalkoi (19.63g), square flan, marine monster/female deity, Bop.-12, crude very fine but some uneven patination on reverse, **R** \$150
61. **INDO-SKYTHIAN:** Azes I, ca. BC57-35, AR drachm, king standing/Pallas, Mitchiner 2206ff., choice extremely fine \$175
62. **SASANIAN:** Ardashir I, 224-241, AR drachm (3.68g), Parthian crown, two dots behind head + star on shoulder, Göbl 6, choice vf+, **R** \$1000
63. *same ruler*, AR drachm (4.22g), topknot type, G16, choice very fine, **R** \$950
64. **Shahpur I**, 241-272, AR drachm (4.43g), flowing hair type, horned symbol on altar shaft, generally as G30, very fine obverse, extremely fine reverse, very attractive, **RR** \$850
65. **Varahran II**, 276-293, AR drachm (4.22g), normal three busts type, G68, good very fine \$200
66. **Ardashir II**, 379-383, AR drachm (3.80g), normal type, G121, good very fine, **S** \$175
67. **IFRIGHID of Khorezm:** Anonymous AR drachm (3.01g), ca. 6th-7th c., bust r./horseman r., very fine, **RR** \$600
- ISLAMIC DYNASTIES**
68. **ARAB-SASANIAN:** 'Umar b. 'Ubayd Allah, 686-689, AR drachm (3.98g), ST (Istakhr), year AH 68, not in Walker, superb extremely fine, **R** \$300

69. **UMAYYAD:** Anonymous AR dirham, Balkh 114 (2.61g), good very fine but some light damage, **RR** \$475
70. **ABBASID:** al-Mahdi, 775-785, AR dirham (2.57g), Zaranj 166, citing mint official Nusayr, fine, **R** \$200
71. **al-Ma'mun**, 810-833, AR dirham (2.86g), Marw 215, very fine, **R** \$150
72. **al-Mu'tasim**, 833-842, AR dirham (2.97g), al-Muhammadiya 223, extremely fine, **R** \$200
73. **al-Muhtadi**, 869-870, AR dirham (2.86g), Isbahan 25x, very fine, **RRR** \$200
74. **al-Muqtadir**, 908-932, AR dirham (3.02g), Arrajan 300, crude very fine \$165
75. **MAHDID of Zabid:** *temp.* 'Abd al-Nabi, 1163-1174, AR dirham (1.56g), Zabid 566, A1082, xf-au, flan crack, **RR** \$200
76. **RASULID:** al-Muzaffar Yusuf, 1250-1295, AR drachm (1.83g), Hisn al-Jahili 663, extremely fine, sl. weak strike, very rare mint, **RR** \$300
77. **SAFFARID:** Tahir b. Khalaf, 999-1002, AR dirham (4.12g), Sijistan 392, citing the Ghaznavid Mahmud as overlord, A1124, very fine, **R** \$200
78. **QARAKHANID:** Ahmad b. 'Ali, ca. 994-1016, AR dirham (3.40g), Balasaghun 404, A3304, very rare mint in what is now southern Kazakhstan, crude xf \$150
79. **Nasr b. 'Ali**, 993-1012, AR dirham (2.72g), Uzkan 398, fine style with fancy borders, neat calligraphy, A3302, nearly extremely fine, **R** \$175
80. **AMIRS OF BUST:** Baytuz, fl. 359/970, AE fals (2.82g), Bust 359, A-D1478, fine, **RR** (as are all coins of this little researched dynasty) \$125
81. **Takantash**, fl. 977-979, AE very broad fals (5.38g), Bust 369, citing Mahmud b. Sebuktekin, A-E1498, very fine, choice strike, flan crack & tiny hole, **RRR**, first ever offered for sale \$250
82. **GERMIYAN:** Ya'qub, 2nd reign, 1402-1429, AR akçe (0.78g), Germiyan 808, citing Timur (Tamerlane) as overlord, A1264.1, very fine, **RR** \$225
83. **QARAMANID:** 'Ala al-Din, 1360-1398, AR dirham or akçe (1.75g), Larende ND, citing Timur as overlord, A1269, crude very fine, **R** \$150
84. **GREAT MONGOLS:** Chingiz Khan, 1206-1227, AR dirham (3.01g), no mint or date but struck at Ghazna, the most available type with his name, A1967, very fine \$400
85. **SALGHURID:** Abish bint Sa'd, Queen, 1265-1285, AR dirham (2.05g), no mint or date (presumably struck at Shiraz), citing Abaqa as overlord, A1929.x, good vf, **RR** \$200
86. **ILKHAN:** Hulagu, 1256-1265, AR dirham (3.05g), Harran 659, Rumseljuq style, only Mongol coin struck at this mint (during brief Mongol occupation after Mongol defeat at Ain Jalut in previous year), nearly extremely fine, **RRR** \$400
87. **Abaqa**, 1265-1282, AR dirham (2.44g), [Tiflis] 681, Christian inscriptions, good very fine but usual weakness of strike, **R** \$130
88. **TAGHAYTIMURID:** Pir Muhammad, 1405-1407, AR tanka (5.78g), Astarabad (80)8, A2348 (anonymous type), crude very fine, **R** \$110
89. **SHAYBANID:** Pir Muhammad II, 1598, AR tanka (4.62g), Samarqand 1007, A2998, fine, **RR**, especially with legible mint & date \$150
90. **SAFAVID:** Isma'il I, 1501-1524, AR 6 shahi (6.82g), Astarabad 1165, very fine, **RRR** \$150
91. **HOTAKI AFGHANS:** Azad Khan, 1750-1757, AR rupi (11.57g), Isfahan 1167, type C, superb vf+, **RR** \$165
92. **Khans of GANJA:** Muhammad Hasan Khan, 1160-1180, AR abbasi (3.70g), Ganja 1185, generally as type C of Karim Khan but struck to local weight standard, A-A2944, extremely fine \$100
93. **DURRANI:** Humayun, 1793, AR rupee (11.61g), Ahmad-shahi 1207, K128, choice extremely fine, finest example I have seen, **RRR** and the toughest of all the Durrani rulers \$825
94. **Kamran Shah**, 1229-1242, AR rupee (10.16g), Herat 1245, very fine, **R** (but less so than previously!) \$140
- MODERN & MISCELLANEOUS**
95. **ALGIERS:** K77, AR 1/6 budju (1.51g), 1245, toughra type, choice uncirculated, superb strike \$175
96. **BRUNEI:** K2.2, tin pitis (11.03g) of Sultan Abdul Momin, 1852-1885, date AH1285, choice vf-xf, **R** \$150
97. **EGYPT:** K232, 20 piastres of Abdulmeccid (27.75g), 1255, year 1, oval 5's in date, nearly extremely fine, **RR** \$1350
98. *same type*, 1255, year 2, very fine, **RR** \$1100





- 99. K253.1, 5 piastres of Abdulaziz, European strike, 1277, year 4, superb bu \$275
- 100. K254, 5 piastres, Cairo mint, 1277, year 3, nearly very fine, problem-free, RR \$300
- 101. same type, 1277, year 8, vf-xf, R \$375
- 102. K260, 20 piastres (27.72g), 1277, year 1, nearly uncirculated, tiny stain in reverse field (presumably a jeweler's test mark), still remarkably high grade for type, R \$1400
- 103. IRAN: K895 (Y-A15), 500 dinars, 1307, return of Shah from European trip, extremely fine, R \$325
- 104. K914, 5000 dinars, 1297, extremely fine (please note that in newest 19th century KM, the photos of 914 and A914 are reversed) \$185
- 105. MOROCCO: Y-B1, mazuna, Fès 1310, extremely fine but lightly cleaned, still unusually nice for type, RRR \$475
- 106. Y2, 5 mazunas, Fès 1310, extremely fine \$150
- 107. Y13, 10 dirhams, 1313, Berlin mint, uncirculated, R \$325
- 108. TUNIS: K160, 8 kharubs, 1282, choice bu, RR date of a relatively common type \$200
- 109. TURKEY: K792, 10 piastres, Edirne city visit of Sultan Mehmet V, 1327, year 2, good extremely fine, R \$225
- 110. K818, 20 piastres of Mehmet VI, 1336, year 1, several die breaks on obverse & reverse, very fine, R \$135
- 111. XINJIANG: C28-3.4, AE cash, Ili mint, in name of Tao Kuang (1821-50), vf-xf, R \$130
- 112. Y1, AE 1 fen, 5 li (1-1/2 fen), in name of Kuang Hsu (1875-1908), very fine, some spots of green patina (inactive), RR \$450

COINAGE OF INDIA

- 113. BENGAL Sultanate: Jalal Shah, 1560-1563, AR tanka (11.40g), Hajipur mint (extremely rare), 968, Rajgor #591, good extremely fine, RR \$300
- 114. MUGHAL: Akbar, 1556-1605, AR rupee (11.35g), Elichpur, year 48 (unlisted), month of Shahrivar, K93.10, very fine, very rare mint for ruler, RRR \$350
- 115. Rafi-ud-Darjat, 1719, AR rupee (11.27g), Gwalior 1131, year one, very fine, slightly scruffy, R \$100
- 116. same ruler, AR rupee (11.33g), Lahore 1131, year one, K405.13, very fine, R \$100
- 117. same ruler, AR rupee (10.63g), Multan 1131, year one, K405.15, good f-vf, RR \$200
- 118. same ruler, AR rupee (11.28g), Shahjahanabad, year one, K405.19, nearly extremely fine \$110
- 119. Shah Jahan II, 1719, AR rupee (11.43g), Gwalior 1131, year one, K415.9, vf-xf, flan adjusted at edge, R \$150
- 120. Muhammad Shah, 1719-1748, AR rupee (11.30g), Bidrur, year 25 (unlisted), K436.19, avf, clear mint name, RR \$325
- 121. same ruler, AR rupee (11.43g), Hukeri ND, K436 type, good very fine, S \$125
- 122. same ruler, AR rupee (11.31g), Kankarti 1149, year 11 (sic), K436.35, extremely fine, minor porosity, RR \$250
- 123. same ruler, AR rupee (11.43g), Sikakul, year 11, K436.58, very fine, many test marks \$260
- 124. AWADH: K103.3, AR rupee (10.78g), year 25, unlisted year for type, mint name given as Muhammadabad Benares, very fine, RR \$150
- 125. JHANSI: K139, rupee (11.31g), mint name Rawshan Akhtar ("Bright Star"), 1173, year 3 (unlisted combination), very fine, RRR and the only example of this mint name that I have ever handled \$400
- 126. TRIPURA: K167, rupee (10.59g) of Ratna Manikya II (1685-1712) with Queen Satyavati, SE1603, nearly extremely fine, RR \$350
- 127. MADRAS (British): K333, AE 40 cash (19.78g), undated (1807 issue), good fine, no damage or flaws, R \$180

WHOLESALE LOTS

Starter Lots: Please see list #150 (or forthcoming #152) for details.
Discount Schedule: Remaining coins from pricelists 148-150 are now available at 10% discount, except bullion-related items. Serious counter-offers for old stock will be considered.
Show Schedule: No changes since list #150. However, I am tentatively planning to attend André de Clermont's Islamic coin auction, scheduled for late March in Dubai (I believe 23 March).

Invoice number: Please be sure to mention the invoice number with all returns and payments, to assure proper credit and facilitate matters for us. Nobody enjoys paperwork.

NOW AVAILABLE !!!
Stephen Album
CHECKLIST OF ISLAMIC COINS
 2nd edition
 Santa Rosa 1998, 150 pages, softcover.
 PRICE: \$20 (postpaid in US & Canada, add \$3 overseas)

- Please request* our new 1999 book list, for many more titles.
- Some Books**
- B211. *Sylloge Numorum Arabicorum*, vol. 4a, Palestine, 19 superb plates plus text & map, the most important work published to date on the Palestinian Islamic coins, especially for the copper \$50
 - B221. —, vol. 14b, Eastern Khorasan, 39 superb plates (even better than the Palestine!), over 1100 coins listed, most important publication to date for the mints of Ghazna, Kabul, etc. \$100
 - B226. — (New!) vol. 4c, Hamah, 708 listed coins, 21 superb plates, very important for this city in Syria, virtually a complete catalog of everything ever minted at Hamah \$54
 - B227. — (New!) vol 15b, North and East-Central Asia, 616 coins on 30 superb (as usual) plates, very important, most useful single source for illustration of coins of this region \$65
 - B228. O. Boppearachchi & W. Pieper, *Ancient Indian Coins*, Turnhout 1998, 289 pp + 59 excellent plates, A4 format, card covers, NEW \$110

COMMENTARY (9 January 1999) — This is the second list I have typed this week (and two more to go, so that Doug can take care of things when I return to Oxford). First I would like to offer a solution to a problem that has been several times called to me attention regarding my *Checklist of Islamic Coins*. Because new numbers have been created with letters before or after the numeric portion, it is not immediately obvious how these can be arranged for a computer database in order that they will be sorted in the proper order. Here is a simple algorithm:

1. The numeric portion is to be regarded as a **FOUR-DIGIT** compound. Thus #4 is 0004, #38 is 0038, #420 is 0420, and #2188 is 2188. (NOTE: Not all database programs require the use of leading zeroes, but they are always necessary if you want to sort within a word-processing program.)
2. If there is a letter before the numeric portion, convert that letter to its numerical position in the alphabet, **ALWAYS** with leading zero for number equivalents 01 through 09. Thus A=01, B=02, C=03.....J=10, K=11.....Z=26. Add this as a suffix to the main numeric portion. Thus #A847 becomes 084701, #Z1651 becomes 165126, etc.
3. If there is no letter before or after the numeric portion, append **50** to the numeric. In other words, #38 becomes 003850, #2188 becomes 218850. The addition of the "50" will insure that catalogued numbers with prefixed letters always come before the plain number.
4. If there is a letter after the numeric portion, then append the numerical equivalent of that letter **PLUS 50** to the basal number. For suffixed letters, A=51, B=52, C=53.....J=60, K=61.....Y=75, Z=76. Note that no leading zeroes are needed for suffixed letters. In this manner, #38A becomes 003851, #2188N becomes 218864, and so forth. This will assure that catalog numbers with suffixed letters always come after the plain number.
5. If these are letters before and after the number, write me so that I can change the number in the Third Edition.
6. If there is a point number following the listing, place a decimal point after the numerical equivalent and add the value of the point number, **ALWAYS** using a leading zero for number 1 through 9. This #215.3 become 021550.03, #A1261.11 becomes 126101.11, #2274A.8 becomes 227451.08, etc.

With a modicum of experience, you should find this algorithm quite simple and easy to use. Feel free to photocopy these instructions and pass them along to anyone interested. And if you have any questions or run into problems that I might not have foreseen, please contact me. I've tried this algorithm with Microsoft Word, FileMaker Pro, Nisus and Excel (all are Mac programs) and it works correctly in all four environments. I would assume it will work just as smoothly in Windows.

Now back to **HOT AIR**. Since I returned home to Santa Rosa on Christmas Day there has been no rain, and the morning temperatures have dropped below freezing every day but one. The pattern is stuck here and seems not likely to change for at least a couple more weeks. This is La Niña, the opposite of El Niño. Last year's El Niño brought Santa Rosa the third wettest year in 135 years of recording. Fortunately the reservoirs are sufficiently full that we can afford one and probably two years of drought with no untoward effects. But by 2001 we may be enlisting clairvoyants to perform the rain dance.

